

Community Pride Reporter

FREE

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

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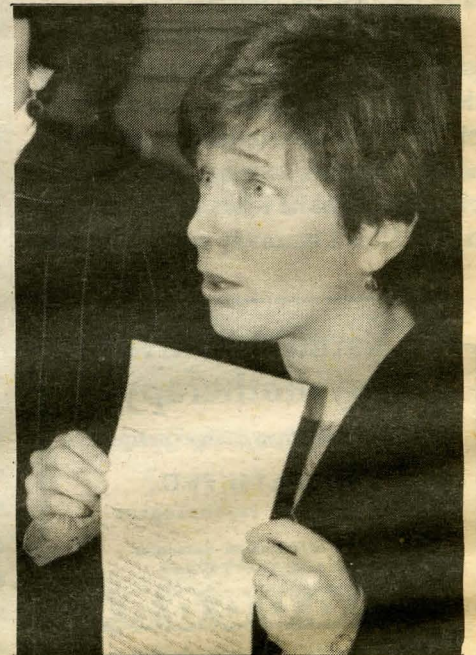
MCLU and GLAD sue Concerned Maine Families

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

Mary Bonauto, representing Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), and Pat Peard, representing the Maine Civil Liberties Union (MCLU), filed suit, January 20, 1995, against Carolyn Cosby, leader of Concerned Maine Families (CMF) and William Diamond, Maine's Secretary of State, claiming CMF has misused the initiative and referendum process in a veiled attempt to amend the Maine constitution. Bonauto said, "The referendum is a disguised attempt to rewrite the state constitution. Under the guise of this law, Mrs. Cosby, in fact, seeks to tie the hands of Maine voters as well as state and local government so that they will be required to discriminate forever. No one has the power to do that through the initiative process."

Responding to Cosby's charges that this lawsuit is "frivolous" and an attempt by "militant gays" to deny the citizens of Maine their right to decide the question of human rights for homosexuals, Pat Peard said, "Mrs. Cosby should have been expecting this lawsuit. It has always been the job of the Courts to safeguard the initiative process. Carolyn Cosby's measure is blatantly improper under Maine law." The lawsuit seeks a declaration that the anti-gay referendum, certified by Diamond's office last week for the November 1995 statewide election, is invalid, which would strike the question from the November ballot.

Peard mentioned that, at this point, Maine is the only locale in which an anti-human rights vote may occur in 1995, and if it does go to referendum, there will be a great deal of national attention focused on Maine. Peard pointed out,



Mary Bonauto of GLAD holds up Cosby's infamous anti-gay rights proposal. Cosby paid \$3,250 to a Virginia lawyer for this new "language."

Balboni Photo

in response to a reporter's question, that wherever these kinds of anti-human rights laws are proposed, they are either rejected by the voters, as in Oregon, Idaho and West Palm Beach or, where they are approved by the voters, declared unconstitutional, as in Colorado and Cincinnati.

"Lock the Voting Booth"

Bonauto, speaking at the Kennebec County courthouse in Augusta, stated, "The basic reason why we filed this lawsuit is because Carolyn Cosby has not complied with the rules set out in the Maine constitution for initiative measures. In fact, the major rule she has violated is that you cannot, through the initiative process, attempt to amend the

See MCLU, page 5

"Falsettos" on stage in Portsmouth

by Winnie Weir, Publishing Editor

In what can only be described as a courageous and ground-breaking venture given the right-wing aggression/oppression of the times, the Seacoast Repertory Theatre and AIDS Response-Seacoast bring the 1992 Tony Award winning musical "Falsettos" to the stage of the Portsmouth Academy of Performing Arts, 125 Bow Street in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

"Falsettos" confronts controversial themes with honesty and humor. It's about life and death, self-loathing and self-acceptance, loss and compromise. This poignant musical chronicles

the life of one family as they struggle with the pursuit of their individual identities. As the show begins, Marvin has left his wife, Trina, and their 12 year old son, Jason, for a man. The miracle of "Falsettos" lies in its ability to help us see Marvin's emergence as something ultimately life affirming and psychologically healthy, not only for him, but for this family. That's a tall order considering Marvin's lover, the charming but foot-loose Whizzer, who is unfaithful and by the play's end dies of complications from AIDS.

Composer-lyricist William Finn's genius is that we find ourselves not

See NEW HAMPSHIRE, page 24



The AIDS Project marked its 10th Anniversary, January 21 with a commemoration at Blue Cross/Blue Shield in So. Portland. More photos on page 19.

Balboni Photo

Gessner sentenced to 30 years

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

Judge William Delehanty sentenced Mark Gessner to 30 years, February 3, 1995, for the murder of Melvin Henderson. The sentence was handed down in front of a packed courtroom in Bath's Sagadahoc County courthouse. The sentencing drew many more people than the trial itself. At least 20 friends of Melvin Henderson attended whereas only one or two were present during the trial. Mark Gessner's family was there as they had been for the duration. With time off for good behavior Gessner may serve only 16.5 years for what the state and jury acknowledged to be a premeditated murder committed without immediate provocation.

Maine has no parole and no death penalty. Sentences are reduced through "good time" and according to the prosecutor who asked for a 45 year sentence Gessner will serve slightly more than half of whatever sentence he gets. The mandatory minimum sentence for murder is 25 years. He could have gotten life. One wonders what the sentence would have been if the victim was heterosexual and the perpetrator homosexual.

Gessner, shackled by ankle cuffs, was led into the courtroom by three plain clothes guards. He dressed casually for this courtroom appearance. At trial he wore a suit. He was wearing sneakers, black jeans, red sweater and a white turtleneck — everything looked brand new. He had a full beard (at trial he had a moustache), looked healthier and trimmer and less sedated. He made no attempts to communicate with his family.

Interested parties are allowed to address the judge prior to sentencing in the hopes of influencing his decision. It

seems that these last minute pleas for leniency or severity, respectively, are primarily for show. A pre-sentence report, meant to guide the judge, is prepared by the probation department.

Traditionally, one side requests leniency and the other severity but this case was a little different, not only because the daughter of the victim, Melissa Henderson, requested leniency but also because the allegations of mental illness and child molestation muddled the waters significantly as did the fact that Gessner has no prior criminal record (one OUI) and no history of gay-bashing. Indeed, the judge later said, just before pronouncing sentence, that this



Mark Gessner is taken to Thomaston to begin serving his 30 year sentence. He has expressed no remorse for murdering Melvin Henderson.

Balboni Photo

case was a difficult one to sentence because of these complexities.

William Stokes, the assistant attorney general who prosecuted the case, began the proceedings by summarizing what the guilty verdict actually meant. Stokes conceded the tragedy for Gessner

See Gessner, page 4

House District 31 election campaign heats up

by Bruce Balboni

There is a Republican in the House District 31 (Portland's West End) race. Normally that wouldn't matter since the District is so heavily Democratic, but there is also a Green running and that makes the election on February 28 a toss-up. CPR contacted Duncan Hopkins, Republican, and asked him about the rumor that he is a member of Concerned Maine Families. Hopkins replied, "That is absolutely untrue. Whoever you heard that from is full of shit! (pardon my French)."

Hopkins said that his support for gay rights is "uncompromising," but he declined to say that he would support a bill banning discrimination in public accommodation, housing, credit and employment until he reads it. "If the gay rights bill is a narrowly crafted bill that

really addresses the concerns of my gay and lesbian neighbors, to make sure they have access to the rights that are theirs as American citizens, then I don't have any problem with that at all." Hopkins decried the fact that the middle ground on these this issue is not "sexy." "You either have to be for Carolyn Cosby or for Queer Nation."

"My only concern in this whole process is avoiding crafting things so that all of a sudden we're in an affirmative action situation, which I think is really destructive for both parties. My interest is in insuring that all of my constituents, all of my neighbors, have complete access to the full expression of their constitutional rights, and that includes protection from unjust discrimination. The goals I envision for necessary legislation in this area are exactly the same as the goals envisioned by many activists, but we may disagree on how those goals need to be accomplished."

"If you look in the past where there's been a specially created, protected group, and then you see the animosity that exists even now, and the ineffectiveness particularly when we look at African-American access to the mainstream, I don't know if that approach is all that effective."

Hopkins said that although the legal remedy for discrimination is through legislation, he said, "We can't legislate people's hearts and minds. In some ways



Duncan Hopkins, Republican candidate for House District 31.

we need to go back to basic Civics — everyone who is an American citizen is equal before the law and should not be subject to irrational firing."

Hopkins said that he is surprised that his pro-choice and gay rights stands are seen as not conservative, when these privacy issues are, in his opinion, matters that the government should stay out of. He sees himself as a new kind of Republican who wants to hold conservatism to its basic beliefs — fiscal restraint and hands off the individual.

Hopkins said he differs from Saxl, the Democratic candidate, in that he is older, 37, (Saxl is 27) and, "much more experienced in the ways of the world. I was a Naval aviator for almost 9 years, I worked in business before that. I'm not beholden to an entrenched political position. A Democrat in District 31... it's almost a sinecure... I do offer a fresh perspective and a fresh vision. I am not coming on with 'tried and lacking' old-time Republicanism. I've always had numerous gay friends even when I was in the Navy. I have gay relatives. What's the big deal... it's something I'm accustomed to."

In relation to Herrick, Hopkins said all he knows is what he's read in Herrick's campaign literature. Hopkins said that Herrick has left himself plenty of "wiggle room" when he states that he supports 'social justice.' Hopkins said, "so do I."

Hopkins said he's concerned with how the different candidates would approach solutions. He sees the Republican method of limited government and fiscal austerity coupled with local control as the answer. In reference to local control he said, "That's the biggest problem I have with the referendum — that Cosby is saying 'the state will take control of this matter and the rest of you can go to hell.'"

CPR asked Hopkins what other concerns he had about CMF and he said, "I've met Mrs. Cosby and I admire her and respect her a lot. Just from a political standpoint she knows how to get stuff done. I admire their tenacity but I really question how that tenacity contributes to the overall public good."

CPR asked Hopkins if he thought Cosby's efforts did harm to the public good and he said, "No I don't, because it's going to go to the voters. At least it gets to be shaken out."

CPR pushed and asked if he thought there even should be a referendum and he hesitated, then said, "Yeah,

I think there should be. I think the results are going to be surprising in that I think a lot of Mainers don't want that. I think they will go against the referendum." Hopkins said that as far as a legal referendum goes Cosby has proceeded legally.

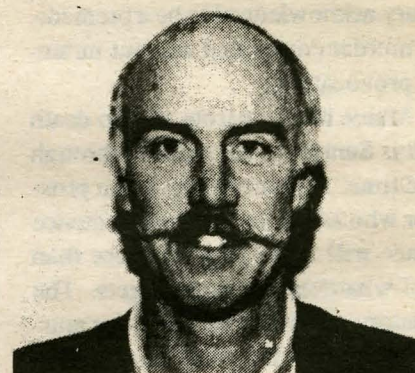
Hopkins said, "My personal hope is that more and more gays and lesbians come out and take their full place in society to be seen. I know that takes a lot of courage because you might become exposed to dangers that I wouldn't, being straight... It's going to take time, probably a few generations for things to get where people would like them to be now." Hopkins is divorced and has no children.

Robin Lambert, activist, gay Republican, contacted CPR to let us know that he is endorsing the Hopkins candidacy. Lambert was a prominent official in Susan Collins' campaign for governor.

Lambert said, "Duncan has a libertarian philosophy which is a belief in limited government, but he is clearly someone who respects the rights of all citizens including gays and lesbians. I believe that Duncan would support the type of gay rights legislation that passed in the last legislature. In addition, Duncan is opposed to the referendum supported by Carolyn Cosby and Cosby has informed Duncan that she cannot support him because he is pro-choice and pro-gay rights."

John Herrick — Green candidate

CPR asked John Herrick to comment on the candidacy of his Republican opponent. Herrick said, "I don't know enough about him. I did see a brochure of his which didn't really say much of anything about issues, so I don't know where he's coming from. I think he's trying to figure out his platform."



John Herrick is the Green Party candidate.

Herrick said the race is going fine for him. He announced his candidacy two weeks ago and the media coverage, including television, was extensive because he was the first to announce officially. He said, "Last weekend a group of us got out to do canvassing and that was a very positive experience. All of us came back feeling very upbeat because so many people are aware of the election and who is in it."

Herrick said he hasn't seen any of Saxl's literature and only just met him, February 13, at the Dirigo Alliance, where they were competing for that

See DISTRICT 31, page 7

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GESSNER, from page 1

and his family but reminded the court that Mark Gessner had been convicted of premeditated murder, that he knowingly and intentionally murdered Melvin Henderson. Stokes said Gessner had driven to the greenhouse that day and parked his vehicle in such a way so as to conceal his getaway. He said Gessner went into the greenhouse to locate Henderson and having done so went back outside, around to the back door of the greenhouse and shot Henderson once in the back of the head and then fled.

Stokes appeared to be reminding everyone that the actions he was describing could not be those of a man who did not know that what he was doing was wrong. Stokes went on saying that Gessner went home and tried to leave his house later that day with the same gun so that he could "shoot the other

queer." When Britt Gessner, Mark's wife, stopped him and told him to leave the gun at home Mark then went to Darrell Ricker's house to borrow a gun so that he could shoot David Robinson who was identified at the trial as "the other queer."

Stokes emphasized that the murder was deliberate, there was no immediate provocation and Gessner wanted to kill again.

Despite these facts Stokes said he would not ask for the life sentence that could be imposed. Instead Stokes asked for 45 years and listed the mitigating factors that encouraged him to ask for a lesser sentence. He noted Gessner's youth (30), the lack of a criminal record (one OUI), his mental instability—there had been no dispute during the trial that Gessner was deeply troubled and finally, the existence of his wife and family.

Stokes listed the aggravating factors which included the fact that Gessner still has no remorse for what he did. Indeed, in the pre-sentence report Gessner is quoted as saying, "I was molested 15 years ago so I killed the bastard." Gessner also said that it was his father and his friend Darrell Ricker who told him to kill Henderson and then they turned on him. This new and bizarre allegation was not explained. Stokes underlined that Gessner's only regret is that he was caught.

Stokes concluded by saying that in his opinion the mitigating and the aggravating factors cancel each other out. He came up with the figure of 45 years. Later, outside the courtroom Stokes acknowledged that the figures 40, 45 etc. are arbitrary.

Sewall said he knew Melvin for 71 years and that Melvin Henderson's character and ethics were beyond reproach. Sewall said that Melvin's work ethic was phenomenal, that he was generous and thoughtful and kind and would have up to 25 elderly people over his house for Thanksgiving.

He mentioned that Henderson was a self-made man who started with nothing but was able to build beautiful houses and then to have a flourishing greenhouse business. He said Melvin "had superlative taste" and was fun to be with that he lightened things up. Sewall said that his parents thought of Melvin as one of their own as did his grandmother and his wife. He said it was difficult to understand how a man so opposed to violence could be taken by such violence by simply exploding his head.

He added, "In view of the fact that the allegation by Gessner was not even close to being proved I would like to recommend the maximum sentence." Sewall returned to his seat amongst the dozen or so elderly people who were friends of Melvin Henderson. None of them had attended the trial.

Melissa Henderson says, "My father was very cruel."

Melissa Henderson, the victim's daughter spoke next. She strayed from her written statement and began by saying that what Bill Sewall had said was true, but that Melvin Henderson was a homosexual and a very cruel man, that a person's life is not black and white. At that point David Robinson got up and noisily left the courtroom. Robinson had lived with Henderson for 21 years and in the interview with Melissa in CPR's December issue she claimed that Robinson had done everything he could to turn her father away from his children.

Following is the text of her statement:

"Your Honor:

I find myself in an uncomfortable and an ironic position. While my father was guilty of many gross misbehavior, I do not believe that he molested Mark Gessner. The reasons are too numerous to mention here. However, based on what I saw and heard at trial, I feel very strongly that Mr. Gessner's damage (from whatever sources) were very real. This is not a case of indiscriminate vio-

lence or murder. In Mr. Gessner's mind, there was his own private hell that needed vindication. If you out Mr. Gessner in the general population, his accusation will most likely become a self-fulfilled wish. I am asking that you use whatever powers you have to put Mark away from those who would harm him, preferably, in a psychiatric setting to serve out his time. Sincerely, Melissa Henderson"

When I asked for a copy of her written statement (of which she had several) during a brief court recess she verbally attacked me for the article I had written about the trial in CPR's December issue. She said I had no right to interview that "meddlesome bitch" Shirley Shaw without interviewing her. (Shaw was seated two people away.) I reminded her that I had interviewed her. Indeed, the CPR was the only paper in which Melissa Henderson was given an opportunity to speak her mind unedited. Nevertheless, Melissa said I had "fucked up."



Bill Sewall, Melvin Henderson's friend of 71 years, said Melvin had "superlative taste."

Anger exists between friends of Melvin Henderson and Melissa. Melissa believes the friends didn't know the real Melvin Henderson and the friends believe Melissa was an ungrateful and wayward daughter who hurt her father. I think many people can sympathize with the difference between the way in which friends and neighbors know someone and the way in which family members know each other. Often both impressions are accurate.

Now it was Gessner's family's turn to speak and Mark's younger brother Andrew started. Andrew is in the Marine Corps. He said people have insisted that there is no proof of the molestation and that the crime is based on hatred of homosexuals but that there is no history of gay-bashing on Mark's part or any anti-homosexual activity. He said he didn't want to dwell on those aspects of the case and pointed to Mark's mental state. He said he sympathized with the Henderson family loss but said that Mark would never have done what he did if he wasn't mentally ill. He asked for the minimum sentence.

Britt Gessner, Mark's wife, dressed elegantly, and spoke very emotionally. She expressed sorrow to Henderson's family and said she neither condoned nor understood what Mark did. She said Mark was not a bad person, that he's intelligent and caring and with proper counseling and medication he'll be better.

See GESSNER, page 22

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MCLU from page 1

constitution. That is exactly what she's done here, and its incredibly obvious if you look at the question that will be asked of the voters. She is proposing to limit future state and local laws and, for that reason, this is an impermissible attempt to amend the state constitution. You cannot forever lock up the voting booth. You cannot impose on future generations a rule that says there should be no new civil rights laws, unless you amend the constitution, and that's what she's doing here. She's not playing by the rules. We filed this suit because the

stitution of the state of the Maine."

"But it's the statutory language that would be applied to the law not the question. They're two separate things, right?" inquired a reporter.

"They are two separate things, but I think we cannot ignore the fact that what the voters are going to see, the only thing that the voters are going to see, is this question, and, frankly, this question is consistent with the statute. The statute also intends to limit present and future lawmakers. That's the problem here," responded Bonauto.



Mary Bonauto, left, Carolyn Cosby, and Cavanne Howard, right, outside Kennebec County courthouse.

Balboni Photo

courts have the duty to safeguard the integrity of the initiative process."

One of the reporters present asked, "The Attorney General dealt with that question in an opinion last year, and he said that Cosby's original wording did attempt to tie the hands of the legislature. He said that's impermissible — you can only do that by amending the constitution, so she came back with new wording which only amends the statute, so how can it be a veiled attempt to amend the constitution?"

Bonauto responded, "First of all the question is what it is. This question is what is going to be put before the voters if this measure is actually on the ballot in November 1995. It says quite plainly that this is an attempt to limit future state and local laws. That's what it says and that is what the voters are going to be voting on. If you're going to try to do that, . . . it is an attempt to amend the constitution. And I agree the Attorney General has already opined that that is, in fact, impermissible, but that is, in fact, what this question does."

A reporter asked, "Then why is it on the ballot? Why would the Secretary of State, who has actually come out against this referendum, allow it to go on the ballot?"

Bonauto answered, "Because the way the initiative process works here is that, of course, citizens are allowed to propose legislation, and that is what Carolyn Cosby and Concerned Maine Families (CMF) did when they put together this statute.

"The Secretary of State's job then was to take this statute, as CMF had drafted it, and to write a question that reflected that statute, whether or not the Secretary of State agreed with it. What we are saying is that the kind of statute that Cosby put together, which is accurately reflected in this question, is an impermissible attempt to amend the con-

(Editor's Note: The process is that Cosby has proposed a piece of legislation for the voters to decide. In order for the voters to either approve or disapprove the proposed legislation the Secretary of State is required by law to write a question that reflects the effect of the legislation. Cosby has agreed to the wording of this question as composed by the Secretary of State. The question that will go to the voters in November, unless the Law Court declares it unconstitutional, reads as follows:

Do you favor the changes in Maine law limiting protected classifications, in future state and local laws to race, color, sex, physical or mental disability, religion, age, ancestry, national origin, familial status, and marital status, and repealing existing laws which expand these classifications as proposed by citizen initiative?

A 'yes' vote would mean that you approve this question. If a majority of Maine voters vote 'yes' on this question, the law that would be enacted in the wake of that 'yes' vote is as follows:

Section 4552-A. Limitation of Protected Class status

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter or any other provision of law, protected classes or suspect classifications under state or local law human rights laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, charter provisions or policies are limited to race, color, sex, physical or mental disability, religion, age, ancestry, national origin, familial status, and marital status. Any provision of State or local law, rule regulation, ordinance, charter provision or policy inconsistent with this section is void and unenforceable.

This section being necessary for the welfare of the State and the inhabitants of Maine shall be liberally construed to accomplish its purpose and is not to be interpreted or applied as a limitation

or restriction on authority as enumerated in the Maine constitution.

Pat Peard, President of the MCLU, said, "I would like to add that the Maine Civil Liberties Union has become involved in this because this measure has only one purpose and one intent, and that is to promote discrimination in the state of Maine against gay men and lesbians. The MCLU is determined to take every step possible not to permit Carolyn Cosby to define who shall and who shall not have civil rights in the state of Maine, especially when she seeks to do it in violation, we believe, of the constitution of the state of Maine."

"Are there any other cases you can use going into court that point exactly to you case?" challenged one reporter.

Bonauto said, "Yes, in fact there are several. As I said earlier, courts have the duty to safeguard the integrity of the initiative process so that people will continue to believe in the initiative process and want to participate in democracy. That's why they have rules set out in the constitution. I can tell you that Maine courts and courts nationally strike measures from the ballot when they fail to play by the rules and that's what we have here."

CPR (Community Pride Reporter): "Which court will review your lawsuit?"

MB (Mary Bonauto): "Initially, the Superior Court here in Kennebec County and we expect the case to go to the Law Court (Maine's Supreme Court) in the state of Maine."

CPR: How long do you think this

process will take?

MB: It could take anywhere up to 60 days. We believe we'll get a hearing before 60 days.

CPR: Assuming that you get into the law court in 60 days, and the legislature doesn't take action, is there any way to stop this from going on the ballot in November?

PP: If we are successful in this court challenge, it will not be sent to the legislature at all and, therefore, it would not go on the ballot in November 1995.

CPR: If you're denied in the Superior Court will you appeal it to the Law Court?

PP: Our intention at this time is, if we should get an unfavorable ruling here in the Kennebec County Superior Court, then we would appeal to the Law Court . . . whoever loses will appeal . . .

Reporter: How come you've waited until now to file suit, the language has been around for awhile now.

MB: That's easy. The main reason for that is that we weren't certain if she was going to gather the minimum number of signatures to actually have this question certified, and that question was answered a week or so ago when the Secretary of State certified the question for the ballot in 1995, so we filed suit quite promptly within five business days.

One of the reporters asked Bonauto what the legal precedents were to support GLAD's position and she ticked off

See MCLU, page 21

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- Never run out of strawberry shortcake!
- Enjoyed the variety - had a hard time choosing. I'll have to come back!
- The best food we've had in ages. Savored everything. We even ate the beets.
- I like the way you season your food. The herbs make the food so tasty.
- Excellent! Huge portions!
- Our family always insists on coming here and here only when visiting my brother and me.
- A 3/4 bottle of wine was a wonderful option!
- The bluefish and scallops were better than excellent!
- The half-sized portions are an excellent idea.
- The martinis were presented in grand fashion!
- Soup: Can you order by the vat? Superb!
- Roast pork dinner (Blue Plate) was unbelievable. Don't tell my Mom, but it was even better than hers!
- Everything was great! Excellent Caesar Salad!
- I love your crabcakes! Any chance I could get the recipe?
- Enjoyed biscuits; novel veggie mix (beets, squash and parsnip very good.)
- The chocolate mountain was very, very, very, very good.
- Fish chowda super - always a good meal here!
- Oyster appetizer very imaginative and successful!
- The raspberry peach cobbler was wonderful!
- Nice to have vegetarian selections and good service.
- Not too creamy in the sauces - just right!
- I had the london broil and my husband had the crabcakes. Delish!
- Excellent! Huge portions - can't wait to come back

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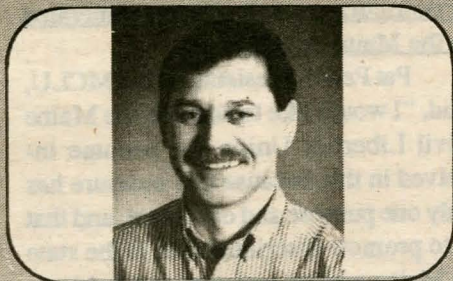
The boardwalk is still under construction and some trails are in need of blaze markings, but Maine's newest Nature Conservancy reserve is open and ready for exploration. It's called Saco Heath Preserve and is just a three-mile drive from exit 5 off the Maine Turnpike.

With some 587 acres of land, Saco Heath Preserve offers many diverse natural environments in a relatively small area. From marshy heath and bog to dense forest, the area allows a large variety of animals and birds to co-exist in very different worlds, yet within short walking distances for humans.

A heath, which makes up the majority of the preserve, is an environmental zone in which plant life derives its nutrients, not from soil, but from rain-water only. As a result, the plant root systems are actually above ground, causing a dense bedding of sponge-like earth, that is actually compressed plant material, not soil. As one might expect, this eco-system is fragile and can be easily damaged by frequent foot travel, which is why the boardwalks are constructed.

As you enter the heath from the woodlands, many of the transitional plants and trees are actually rooted on the upper surfaces of the spongy peat layers. One of the transitional plants is the tamarack tree which is a conifer, or needle tree, like pines. The tamaracks lose their needles in the fall and in the heath, because the roots are not receiving the same nutrients as in soil, the trees are scrawny and unhealthy. Otherwise, throughout the heath, a healthy variety of shrubs and grasses stake out their own patches, sometimes distinctly separate, sometimes intermingled.

The brochure available in the parking area on Route 112 is a guide for both the trail system and a fun way to pick



Michael Rossetti

out some of the wild plants mosses. The brochure illustrates a self-guided one-mile loop hike.

The heath is scarred by years of RV traffic and may not repair itself for decades. The Nature Conservancy has picked this location because of its unique natural characteristics and because it encompasses so many natural environments and diversity of plant and animal life. With the preserve status, such scars will not re-occur and a beautiful and safe sanctuary will be saved for both its natural occupants and for its human visitors.

The preserve is reached by going north from downtown Saco on Route 112, also known as the Buxton Road. About 2 miles from the Maine Turnpike overpass, on the right hand side, you'll find the small parking lot nestled in a stretch of trees. Expected walk time for the full loop of heath and woodland is easily under an hour. But take your time, enjoy the quiet and serenity of one of nature's most delicate worlds.

The Nature Conservancy is an international organization dedicated to preserving plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life. Since 1950, the Conservancy has been involved in protective reclamation of over 7 million acres of land in the western hemisphere. The Maine chapter has reclaimed over 100,000 acres. For more information on the Maine Chapter you can call 207/729-5181 (Fort Andross, Brunswick). For a ride or group hike of the Heath, come with TIME OUT on Sunday, March 12th by calling 207/871-9940. ΔΔ

THE PRIDE CORNER: Update on 1995 event

by Michael Rossetti

With the unexpected success of Portland's 1994 Community Pride Festival, this year's committee is larger and representative of over a dozen community groups and businesses. It's a committee intent on providing a Pride celebration comparable to Boston's or any other large community's event. The exact goals for 1995 are to double attendance to 3000, enhance the quality, variety and number of events, and to broaden the scope of Pride committee work with a permanent education effort called "Visibility Works."

The committee has sketched out the general makeup of the June 17th weekend, allowing for yet more events. The Parade will be much the same route as the '94 parade, but the block party and security will be beefed up. The festival stage and crafts area will have twice as many performers and vendors. The Gay Men's Chorus concert will increase seating that Saturday night by opening the State Theater's balcony, adding some 600 seats over last years concert. This year's Friday night rally will be followed by a pier dance on the waterfront. Several other proposals in the works include a teen dance, a women's event or theater performance on Sunday afternoon, an inter-faith worship service, a film night and a Sunday brunch along with the availability of hotel accommodations with special "Pride discounts" for the weekend.

Visibility Works, the educational part of Pride, is working on a series of projects that recognize the need to bol-

ster community support mechanisms for those who are out or are newly coming out. In March and April, Visibility Works will be presenting Sunday afternoon "shows" at bars across Maine featuring free buffet, entertainment, and Q & A sessions with local bias crimes officers. These events will be accessible to gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning youth as well.

In April, Visibility Works will hold Forum II of "Constructing Our Visibility," a three-hour forum to share success tactics of gay and lesbian community groups. Perhaps Visibility Works' most controversial proposal is to hold "Free State Shopping Days" each month, days where gay and lesbian couples will target specific stores around Maine and simply shop as a couple, but at a prescribed time.

Finally, Visibility Works is compiling an annual almanac of gay and lesbian, bisexual, transgender, AIDS and women's service organizations which will update contacts, volunteer opportunities, meeting times and provides a functioning calendar for coordinating events.

The Pride Committee consists of a general committee, the Parade sub-committee and the festival sub-committee. Organizers have the freedom to develop proposed events. Volunteer are needed for publicity, graphics, security and stage and vendor set-ups. Committee meetings are friendly, open to all and held monthly. To contact us about volunteering or to offer ideas, call 772-7325 or 871-9940. ΔΔ

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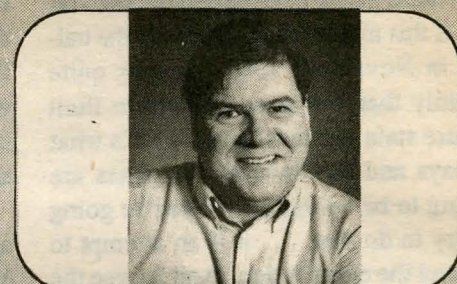
OUT! of Town-"Angels in America"

Well, here it is - the event of the year - Angels in America comes to Boston. The gay play of the past three years is coming to Boston for a limited engagement. The play, written in two parts by Tony Kushner, runs from March 3rd-15th and March 27th-April 10th at the Colonial Theater in Boston.

The play opened in 1992 at London's Royal National Theatre, with major productions in Los Angeles and a two year run in New York. Angels in America won the 1993 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, received four 1993 Tony Awards and three 1994 Tony Awards, and was the only play in history to win a Tony for Best Play two years in a row.

Angels in America is a two-part comedy/drama which charts the parallel break-ups of two relationships: a "married" gay male couple and a married Mormon couple. The play is set in New York during the Reagan years, and the play touches everything from sex to politics to religion to life and death. The play is a fictional account, with actual historical characters such as Roy Cohn.

People have asked me questions about the two parts. Is it necessary to see both parts? No, each part is a play unto itself and each runs about 3.5 hours. Another frequent question is whether it



Paul T. Bernard

is a musical. Again, the answer is no. It is a drama/comedy.

Adventure Tours has purchased a block of tickets for the March 12th showing of "Angels in America - Millennium Approaches" (Part I) and for the April 8th showing of "Perestroika" (Part II). For the March 12th show, there are two options, both of which include round-trip transportation and an orchestra seat: 1) an overnight stay in Boston on March 11th - this costs \$155 per person; and 2) down and back on March 12th for \$90 per person. The Part II show on April 8th will cost \$85 per person and includes round-trip transportation and rear mezzanine ticket. For more information, please call 885-5060 or 800-234-6252. Tickets are limited and are available on a first come-first serve basis. ΔΔ

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AIDS from page 3

Jane O'Rourke, Support Services Coordinator at The AIDS Project spoke later, advocating that money for case management, which is really what most agencies use Ryan White funds for, represents "the best bang for the buck." O'Rourke urged that funding not just continue, but that more funding for case management be considered.

A spokesperson for the Maine Community AIDS Partnership (MCAP) read a statement to the hearing concerning its recommendations to the state. Included in MCAP's recommendations was the need for leadership in the state on the issue of HIV/AIDS, expansion of the Drug Program, helping persons with HIV/AIDS keep their own private health insurance, implementing a state-wide standard for case management, and urging the state to advocate reauthorization of Ryan White funding in the future (as Ryan White funding officially ends this year.) MCAP also announced that it would be making grants to various (but not specified at this time) AIDS groups in the neighborhood of \$150,000 for 1995, with more grants in future years and for more money.

Diana Carrigan, a case manager at The AIDS Project, also spoke at the hearing. She there was never enough money for case management and asserted that case managers provide valuable assistance to persons with HIV/AIDS.

An advocate for the Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition urged funding for their organization. They had hoped to receive funding last year, but cost overruns in the Ryan White program left them without any funding from the state. They are a small organization, but cover a large geographic area. Their request for \$12,000 was the smallest of the proposed allocations. Kate Perkins of MLGPA urged the state to ask the federal government to renew Ryan White funding

in the future. The Ryan White program is in its last year of authorization and Congress will have to act if it is to continue.

A client and advocate for Dayspring in Augusta urged that their organization receive more money for case management, as they can only afford 3 part-time case managers, as opposed to a full time case manager(s). He also asked for more money for direct client care, and for strong action by state officials to ensure the continuation of Ryan White funding.

A letter was read from a person with HIV/AIDS from southern Maine urging greater funding of the Drug Reimbursement Program, and that less money go for case management and more for direct client care.

A representative for Maine Advocacy Services encouraged people who felt discriminated against because of their disabilities (and HIV is an ADA certified disability) to contact that program at 1-800-452-1948. Confidentiality observed.

And a person with HIV spoke to the hearing about his difficulty getting direct client care from one agency when he needed dental care and was broke. He was distressed that he was turned down by a case manager even though dental care had been paid for by the agency in other cases. He said it would have been around \$40 and he was very unhappy with his treatment concerning this issue.

The hearing was scheduled to last from 1:00 - 4:00 PM, but by 2:30 PM everyone had spoken. Tom Bancroft of the DHS planned to stay until 4:00 in case any other people showed up to comment. About twenty people attended the hearing and perhaps a dozen spoke. Some agencies in line for funding did not send representatives. There were about five persons with HIV/AIDS who spoke. ΔΔ

On the side: My view of the hearing

by Mike Martin

My own experience at the hearing comes as a person with HIV and as a concerned person. I attended the meeting as a personal matter and was only later introduced to Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor of the Community Pride Reporter, who asked me if I would write about the hearing for the paper.

I do not claim to be a disinterested party, although I have tried to report on the hearing in a fairly objective manner. I do have some thoughts, however, on my impressions of the hearing.

The DHS seemed genuinely interested in hearing comments and encouraged people to speak or to submit written comments. I don't know, however, if much will change with the already proposed uses of the Ryan White funds. I would guess the \$6000 categorized as 'undecided' will go into the Drug Reimbursement program, and that other proposed uses of the funds will stay much as proposed. Many attendees urged the state to forego their own 10% share of the funds and to allocate those funds elsewhere (other than administrative costs) - not likely in this year of

tough budget constraints in Augusta.

It did seem to me that there was a lively sense that two sides stood out at the hearing. There was one group strongly advocating and praising case management, and another side urging more direct care to clients and less case management, though not eliminating case management. The MCAP spokesperson recommended statewide standards for case managers, and several persons with HIV/AIDS agreed that case management seemed to be quite disparate. Standard procedures and policies for case managers seemed a welcome idea to the persons with HIV/AIDS. I would certainly welcome that.

While I am not a case management client of TAP, although I attend a support group there and edit the client newsletter at TAP called, "In The Affirmative," I do care deeply about the organization and its clients, many of whom are my friends. As the state ponders how to allocate the limited money of Ryan White funding, the debate in southern Maine is about how whatever money is available to TAP (from the state and other resources) is spent to help those

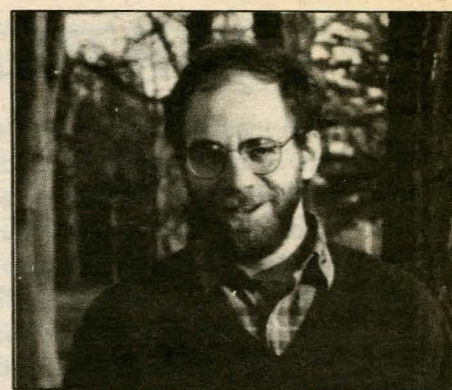
DISTRICT 31, from page 2

group's endorsement. At 49 Herrick is the self-described "Old timer of this election . . . the eminence grise."

Michael Saxl, Democratic candidate

Michael Saxl, the Democrat who beat out three other Democratic rivals for his party's nomination to run for the House is, at 27, the young man of the race. He declined to comment about his opponents' candidacies, but he did say that he is a longtime activist in the area of gay rights and an active voice for Maine Won't Discriminate (MWD). He said, "I will be more than a good progressive voice in the legislature. I will be a progressive advocate for the gay community and for all of the West End."

Saxl said he takes the other candidates seriously and he is running very hard and diligently "because I think it is



Michael Saxl, Democratic candidate for House District 31.

very important that this community be represented well." He emphasized, "I will continue to walk door to door and do the hard work necessary to win this campaign. I've developed a vast volunteer network. We've got people working in all segments of the community and we're going to continue to work hard until election day."

Saxl has the support of activists Betsy Sweet, Dale McCormick, Marvin Ellison, BJ Broder and Ed Suslovic.

The election in District 31 is February 28. Voting will be at the usual places in that District — Harbor Terrace, Wayneville, Reiche School and City Hall. ΔΔ

Full Circle of Women Conference

by Winnie Weir, Editor

Billed as a radically different, politically incorrect exploration of what it means to be a woman, this conference has the potential of changing forever the way women identify, define and view themselves in society. Challenging all who identify as women to leave genderphobia behind and take a step toward an expanded vision of who women are and where feminism is going, planners of this weekend say it is time for a reformulation of feminism, for a philosophy that embraces all women, not just those who are politically correct, not just those with a certain sexual orientation, not just "genetic" women, and not just those with vaginas.

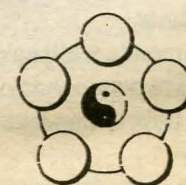
The Conference is planned for March 31 through April 2 at the Essex Conference Center and Retreat in Essex, Massachusetts, a 45 minute drive from Boston. The center is secluded with two modern buildings set on 18 acres of peaceful woods adjacent to 250 acres of conservation land within walking distance of the ocean. Mainly vegetarian meals are prepared and special diets can be accommodated. Children are welcome.

This is the second Full Circle of Women Conference. Participants at the first event called it "an amazing experience, a major turning point." For those who have been excluded from women's

See FULL CIRCLE, page 9

with HIV/AIDS. It is a debate as old as the organization itself, and a debate that will continue as long as The AIDS Project is around.

On a positive note: The AIDS Project is convening a Client Advisory Board on February 16 at 1:30 PM at the Project's office (right after TAP's regular open Thursday lunch) to give clients a greater voice in the practices, procedures and policies of the agency whose mission is to serve the needs of anyone in southern Maine who is HIV positive or who has AIDS. If you are interested, call the Project at 774-6877 and let them know you'll be attending this meeting.



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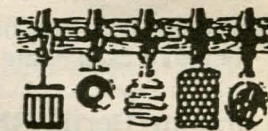
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TO YOUR HEALTH: The Lesbian Health Care Consumer-Part I

It's hard enough seeing a doctor, a chiropractor or nurse practitioner for routine preventive care. It's expensive; it's uncomfortable. Will you find out something's wrong? Will she ask questions you can't, or don't want to answer? Will you tell her you're a lesbian? If you do, how will she respond? If you don't, will you get the proper care?

And when you don't feel well and need to see a health care provider, it can be even more difficult or anxiety-provoking. You may have to go to a specialist, or a new provider you're not familiar with. If you're ill or injured, you're probably worried about your condition. Concern about how you'll be treated in general, and as a lesbian, can add to your worry.

It doesn't matter whether it's acupuncture, mental health therapy, a routine physical, a back adjustment or an operation. Health care is a service. And like anything we buy, we'd like to get the right service and be treated with dignity. It doesn't matter if you're getting routine care from a competent, supportive provider or emergency care from an unfamiliar specialist. There are ways to improve your skills as a lesbian health care consumer.

This month, we'll cover what to do if you receive poor or homophobic treatment, and how to improve the care you receive.

If a health care provider has offended or insulted you because you're a



Peaches Bass

lesbian or for any other reason, fire her as your provider. If she is licensed by a professional Board of Registration, you can register a formal complaint with that Board. If the provider is a member of a professional trade association for example, the Maine Dental Association, register a complaint with that association's Ethics Committee. If this provider works for a clinic, hospital or group practice, complain to the management. The provider doesn't have to commit malpractice or an illegal act for you to complain.

A problem we run into in rural areas or in managed care insurance programs, like HMO's is that we're more limited in our choice of health care providers. It's all the more important to voice your dissatisfaction. A doctor who alienates patients will cost an HMO money. A rural clinic that maltreats lesbians and gays helps fuel the AIDS epidemic. Remember, the customer is always right, and you're the customer.

A more common problem for us is that our health care providers are good,

caring, expert people who just don't know much about lesbians and lesbian life. Sometimes, this lack of knowledge or sensitivity can adversely affect our health care. A lack of awareness on lesbian sexuality may lead to inadequate treatment for a sexually transmitted disease. A well-intentioned provider might not recognize the signs of domestic violence on a lesbian.

The best way to be an advocate for yourself in a health care setting is to be open about your sexuality, and to ask your health care provider how much knowledge she has on lesbian health and sexuality. If you think your provider lacks expertise, bring in some educational material, or suggest some resources to her. In Maine, health care providers can get information and training from Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center's Lesbian Health Project in Bangor, or the Fenway Community Health Center in Boston. Either organization can provide written material, such as articles, brochures, etc.

Don't be surprised if even a lesbian health care provider doesn't have much lesbian-specific knowledge. Sexuality is usually ignored in the schooling of health care professionals. There is virtually no useful medical research to date on lesbians, and providers' awareness of the connections between sexuality and health is pretty limited overall.

Community involvement and organizing can also improve your health care. Ask your lesbian friends who they recommend for health care providers. Let your friends know if there's a provider who is NOT recommended. If there's a community-wide complaint about a specific provider, practice or clinic, request a community meeting with a facilitator.

On the other hand, if there are providers in your community who are exemplary in their treatment of lesbians, recognize them for their good work; write them a letter; refer your friends to them, and let gay, lesbian and AIDS organizations know that these are good health resource people.

Another way to insure that you receive good health care is to organize your own local lesbian health project, or support such projects in your community. In addition to Bangor's Lesbian Health Project, a southern Maine project is beginning to form. These kinds of projects provide health care services and health education to lesbians. They train health care professionals, and they advocate on policy issues affecting lesbians' health.

If being an open advocate is not your cup of tea, there is still much you can do in your role as a patient or client that will maximize the quality of your health care. Next month's column will cover what to do when you visit the provider. $\Delta\Delta$

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CHEW ON THIS --- Think for yourself

A new year . . . a new semester for me and my students at school . . . new faces in the classroom staring back at me wondering what torture I have in store for them this time around.

I'm especially struck by students in my Developmental Psychology classes. It seems that most people coming to class simply want me to give them all the information they need to learn so they can memorize it, take the tests, write the term papers, get the grade and go on to the next course. It's such a prominent attitude that I have taken to adding the following statement to my syllabus: "You are here to learn how to think, not what to think." We're usually half way through the semester before my students begin to take this statement seriously.

All this causes me to wonder what education is becoming in our country.

Are we really prepared to simply regurgitate information as it is given to us rather than to think about it, process it through our own values and experience of life, and formulate our own ideas? Do we really want to think what and how someone else has told us to think?

The other issue I am constantly coming up against in class is students being almost afraid to broaden their way of thinking. Often a student will stand by his or her view with the argument: "cuz that's the way I've always thought about it" or "cuz that's the way it's always been." Scary, huh?

I try, gently, when I'm in a good space and feeling magnanimous, and maybe not so gently when I'm feeling overwhelmed, to help my students to look at another viewpoint. I tell them that I encourage them to disagree with me or the text, but that when they do, they had better have some clear thinking and reasoning to back them up.

I encourage them to research the issues about which they have disagreement, and to come back and present their argument again. Few do. Yet, when a student does take the time to think things through, when he or she cares enough about an issue to put some time and thought into it, my heart soars, and I know this is a person who will probably never take the status quo answer again!



Rose Mary Denman

In all of this, I am reminded of the times when I have taken the "party line" answer rather than trust my own thinking process. I swallowed the "party line" when my parents, the Church and my community defined me as being heterosexual. This leads me to wonder if there is a gay or lesbian "party line." Sometimes I think there is. Sometimes, I think there are those in the gay/lesbian "community" who want to dictate what is "politically correct." This can be especially scary because, when you are already considered an outcast by a large segment of the population, which may even include your family, you don't want to be an outcast in the "community."

So . . . maybe one of our resolutions could be to be more tolerant of one another . . . to allow for diversity of thinking and being in our own community . . . and to realize that there are lots of ways to be in this world. What do you think?

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AIDS risk reduction: Guidelines for healthier sex

These guidelines are for people, regardless of their sexual orientation, who are making decisions about sexual activity and/or drug use in the midst of the AIDS epidemic. Only you can decide what risks you are willing to take.

NO RISK:

Most of these activities involve only healthy skin to healthy skin contact, thereby avoiding exposure to blood, semen, pre-cum, and vaginal secretions. Healthy skin means there are no breaks in the skin. Healthy play means no drugs, alcohol, or other decision impairing substances.

1. Social kissing.
2. Body massage, hugging, holding.
3. Body to body rubbing (frottage).
4. Light S & M (without bruising or bleeding - safe, sane, consensual).
5. Using one's own sex toys.
6. Mutual masturbation (male or external female).
7. Solo masturbation.

Care should be taken to avoid exposing the partners to blood, pre-cum, ejaculate or vaginal secretions. Seminal, vaginal and salivary fluids should not be used as lubricants. Instead commercial water based lubricants should be used if needed. Oil based lubricants should never be used because they destroy latex.

LOW RISK:

In these activities small amounts of certain body fluids might be exchanged, or the protective barrier might break causing some exposure risk. Avoid the use of decision-altering substances. Many people report being unable to maintain protected sex practices after getting high.

1. Anal or vaginal intercourse with latex condom.
Risk is incurred if the condom breaks or if semen spills into the rectum or vagina. The risk is further reduced if one withdraws before climax.
2. Sucking or blow jobs with latex condom.
Risk is low unless breakage occurs.
3. Mouth-to-mouth kissing (French kissing, wet kissing).
HIV is present in saliva in such low concentration that salivary exchange is unlikely to transmit the virus. Risk is increased if sores in the mouth or bleeding gums are present. Vigorous brushing of the teeth or flossing should be avoided before sex.
4. Oral/vaginal, or oral/anal contact with protective barrier.
(e.g. a latex dental dam, Saran wrap, or a cut open latex condom)
Do not reuse the barrier.
5. Manual/anal contact with latex glove (fisting with latex glove).
If the glove does not break, virus transmission should not occur if adequate water based lubricant is used and fingernails are trimmed and filed smooth. However, significant trauma can still be inflicted on the rectal tissues leading to other medical problems.
6. Manual/vaginal contact with latex glove. See above.

HIGH RISK:

These activities involve tissue trauma and/or exchange of body fluids which may transmit

HIV or other sexually transmitted disease. Avoid decision altering substances.

1. Sucking or blow jobs (stopping before climax) without condom.

Pre-ejaculate fluid may contain HIV and therefore the head of an uncovered penis should be avoided. The passive partner should warn the active partner before ejaculation to prevent exposure to semen. If mouth or genital sores are present, risk is increased. Likewise, action which causes mouth or genital injury will increase risk. Vigorous brushing of the teeth or flossing should be avoided before sex.

2. Fellatio (sucking to climax without latex condom).

Pre-cum and semen may contain high concentrations of HIV and if absorbed through mucal tissues, open sores in the mouth or digestive tract could pose risk.

3. Oral/anal contact (rimming).

HIV may be contained in blood-contaminated feces or in the anal/rectal lining. This practice also poses high risk of transmission of parasites and other gastrointestinal infections.

4. Cunnilingus (oral/vaginal contact).

Vaginal secretions and menstrual blood have been shown to harbor HIV thereby causing risk to the oral partner through mucal tissue absorption, or if open lesions are present in the mouth or digestive tract.

5. Manual rectal contact (fisting).

Studies have indicated a direct association between fisting and HIV infection for both partners. This association may be due to concurrent use of recreational drugs, bleeding, pre-fisting pre-cum and semen exposure, or anal intercourse with ejaculation.

6. Sharing toys.

Keep your toys to yourself to avoid risky exchanges. Remember, one person, one toy. If you share dildos, vibrators, or other sex toys, use a new condom each time, or clean toys with hydrogen peroxide or soap and water.

7. Ingestion of urine (water sports).

HIV has not been shown to be transmitted via urine; however, other immunosuppressive agents or infections may be transmitted via urine.

VERY HIGH RISK:

These activities have been shown to transmit HIV, especially with the use of drugs, alcohol, or other decision-altering substances.

1. Receptive anal intercourse without latex condom.

All studies imply that this activity carries the highest risk of transmitting HIV.

2. Insertive anal intercourse without latex condom.

Studies suggest that men who participate only in this activity are at less risk of being infected than their partners who are rectally receptive; however, the risk is still significant. It carries high risk of infection by other sexually transmitted diseases.

3. Vaginal intercourse without latex

condom.

4. Intravenous Drug Use.

Don't share your works (needles, syringes, droppers, spoons, cottons, or cookers!) Use clean needles. As of October 1993, clean needles can be purchased in Maine over the counter without a prescription.

Sex is an important part of our lives. We owe it to ourselves, our community and to our partners to use protection during sexual activity, to make healthier sex a positive choice, and to build skills in setting boundaries on what we will or will not do. Good nutrition, lots of rest, exercise, and non-abuse of alcohol and other drugs may help you fight all illnesses, including AIDS.

For more information, call the MAINE AIDS HOTLINE: 1-800-851-AIDS or 775-1267. And if you are a man who has sex with men and are concerned about your behaviors, call MAN TO MAN, Thursdays, 1-5 p.m., at 775-1267 or 1-800-851-AIDS.

This information is provided by The AIDS Project, Maine's oldest AIDS service organization. TAP provides Case Management and HIV Risk Prevention Education in York, Cumberland, Androscoggin, and Oxford counties. As the AIDS epidemic continues, it's up to each of us to act responsibly.

PLAY SAFE/ USE PROTECTION

(Editors Note: This information is provided as a public service to our readers. Information was provided by John Holverson, Coordinator of Prevention Education and HIV Prevention Educator at The AIDS Project, based on standards developed by Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights.)

FULL CIRCLE from page 7

events, this is a chance to be included in women's space. For those who have taken womanhood for granted, it will challenge all your assumptions about gender. Possible workshops include *Self-Esteem in a Gendered World*, *Feminist Process*, *Sexuality and Gender*, *Elitism in the Gender Community*, *Male Energy—What is It?*, *Prejudice in the Women's Community*, *Body Image and Is There Life Beyond Labels?*

Cost for the Conference is \$250 which includes double or triple accommodations, all meals from supper Friday through lunch on Sunday, use of the hot tub and sauna and all workshops. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is requested at the time of registration. For more information, call 508/386-7737 or write Janis Walworth, POB 52, Ashby, MA 01431. Space is limited, so call now. ΔΔ



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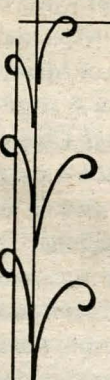
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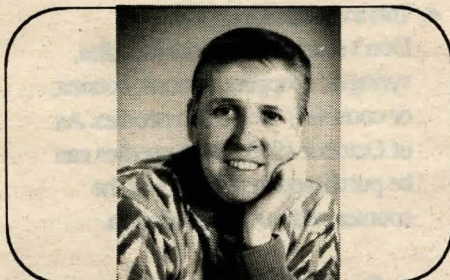
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The Community Pride Reporter is printed on recycled paper using soy-based inks. This practice reflects our commitment to responsible use of our earth's resources. Using recycled paper sometimes results in the paper having a toned down or grayish tinge.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

EDITORIALS



Winnie Weir, Publishing Editor

It seems we generated a bit of confusion last month with the new front page banner 'January-February, 1995.' My apologies. Time for an explanation and an update, if you will, on our rationale. CPR will now have two months listed in the banner because we are going to acknowledge what has been true for sometime now. We come out more toward the middle of the month, not the first of the month. In order to assure our advertisers of a full 30 days exposure, having January-February or February-March (as is this issue), on the front means distributors will not remove copies from their racks at the end of the month.

As you will notice in the calendar, we list events from mid-month February to mid-month March. Our deadline for receiving ads, both display and classified, is now the first of the month in which you want the ad to appear. The same holds true for calendar listings. If possible, submit dates earlier, and we will make every effort to give it two months listing. There now. I hope that

clears up the confusion.

As for our rationale; over the last 18 or so months, it seems to us that the end of the month and the first week or so of the beginning of the month are busy news weeks. We've been consciously delaying publication in order to pick up on late breaking stories, particularly as they pertain to the referendum and Concerned Maine Families. With two other publications (Apex and 10%) coming out around the first of the month and CPR coming out more toward the middle of the month, our community will be able to have news in a more timely manner. That's our opinion. We welcome yours. . . .

CHANNEL CHANGE: Once again this month the question of self-censorship has reared its ugly head in the CPR office. The first question I asked myself was, "Why are you even questioning what news you print?" The answer was more infuriating than the question. A by-product of the tactics used by the radical right is self-censorship. Subtly, these extremists are infringing on the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities' first amendment right to free speech.

How so? For me, as the publisher of this newspaper, I am keenly aware that anything printed in these pages is read by Carolyn Cosby and her followers of Concerned Maine Families. We know for a fact that the 'art' of proof-texting is alive and well in her organization and

taking information out of context has been elevated to an art form. So, do I print stories that may show division or disagreement within our community? Do I print sexually explicit material such as the guidelines for practicing safer sex which TAP's Coordinator of Prevention Education and HIV Prevention Educator, John Holverson provided to me? Frankly, my question is, "How is Cosby going to use this against us?"

I know I'm not alone in asking these questions. From time to time I get calls from those in the community who have similar fears. It's a dilemma, to be sure. I am choosing, with the support of my Managing Editor, Bruce Balboni, to adhere to the mission statement of this paper to provide information, news and ideas that contribute and inform our lives and not to shrink from airing controversial subjects. We are not any more a perfectly harmonious grouping of people than the heterosexual population. We are not any less harmonious, either.

If I, or any of us, begin to bow to the culture of subtle suppression of free speech, the likes of CMF and Carolyn Cosby will, on some level, have won. I'm sure I will have to wrestle with this question many times before we win this round in the struggle for our human rights. But at least you, the readers of CPR, can be assured that we take our responsibilities seriously as we seek to serve our communities.

In solidarity,

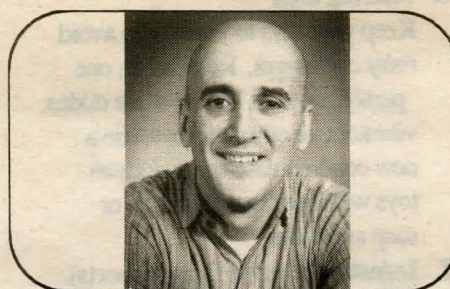
Winnie

Liar, liar, pants on fire!

Concerned Maine Families (CMF) has begun its fund-raising campaign in earnest. Appeals were mailed, February 9, to hundreds of Mainers. The envelope contained a 6 page letter from Carolyn Cosby, CMF Chairperson, a letter from Lawrence Lockman, CMF Vice-chairperson, and an envelope for people to send donations. They are raising money for the upcoming political campaign for their referendum to deny human rights to homosexuals.

Both letters contain statements that Cosby and Lockman know are vicious lies. In an attempt to gain the offensive, Cosby has, in her letter, accused so-called gay militants "of some of the most bald-faced lies imaginable." Cosby claims that "60% of gays and lesbians vacationed overseas last year." She says this to prove that gay people earn \$40,000 a year and that we are "rich extremists muscling in on the status and benefits of the poor."

It would seem there is greater 'status' in being rich than poor, but most of the people I know do not earn that much . . . and as for overseas vacations, does Canada count? Cosby never indicates where she gets these figures. Does CMF have undercover operatives in all the travel agencies who inquire as to sexual



Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

orientation?

These, and other charges in her letter are so absurd, it feels pointless to even answer them, but that is part of the strategy. Leaving them unanswered allows people to believe them, and as CMF rants about the "Big Lie," they are indicating that they are employing this strategy themselves.

CMF's "Big Lie" is that their "purpose in proposing this referendum initiative is simple and straightforward: to preserve, protect and defend traditional civil rights law . . ." Since when has Cosby or Lockman, who wrote that nonsense, been involved in civil rights struggles. I don't recall any African-American civil rights leaders thanking CMF for their help in preserving the sanctity of protected class status.

Cosby and Lockman don't care

about civil rights law. Their game is all about power, the currency of politics. CMF is trying to use hatred of homosexuals to gain power so that they can further a radical right-wing, Christian agenda. They are directed by out of state forces in Colorado and Virginia and are part of a national conspiracy to create a theocracy, a Christian fundamentalist government. They are the American version of the fanatics in Iran.

Lockman and Cosby harp that gay rights legislation and the Diversity Commission will establish gay affirmative action and job quotas. They know these claims are false. The Diversity Commission's final report does not contain any of these provisions. Lockman is referring to a draft report issued months before the final report and he knows that the items he is talking about are no longer in the report — so who's lying?

CMF paid a Virginia lawyer, Bruce Fein, over three thousand dollars to write their referendum proposal. CMF's irrational commitment to their new "language" becomes clear when you realize how much they paid for it. This "language" is supposed to be immune to court action. The Maine Supreme Judicial Court may prove them wrong.

Carolyn Cosby

GUEST EDITORIAL

When I reflect on some of the grotesque things I have read and heard from those who would deny equality to lesbians and gays, I am impressed not only by their fear and hatred, but also by the distortions in their thought processes.

When they think of homosexual love, they are so fascinated by what they imagine "those people" are doing in bed that they forget about all other aspects of loving relationships. Would self-righteous heterosexuals approve if we said that genital acts are the only significant thing about heterosexuality? What a perverted view of love! What I have heard from these critics are, I think, *their* homosexual fantasies. They list, with leering fascination, selected behaviors of a small minority of homosexuals and use those to characterize all gays. And they ignore that every one of the things they describe with disgust is also done by some heterosexuals (plus one more!)

Their fantasies bear almost no similarity to the love which I see among

my gay and lesbian friends. And they ignore that in this country we do not discriminate against behavior just because somebody finds it distasteful. It has to be shown to be harmful to others (like public smoking).

At the same time, they deny that molesting of girls by men, marital infidelity, sex clubs, promiscuity, unsafe sex practices, rape and other sometimes distasteful and/or harmful behaviors done by some heterosexuals are due to their heterosexual orientation. I agree with them on that half, but they can't have it both ways, blaming all gays for the ways of some.

On the other hand, Concerned Maine Families (CMF), with its strident anti-gay statements, purposely stirs up public intolerance. If that gets expressed in hateful acts, some of the moral responsibility for those acts is theirs, because they have intentionally thrown gasoline on the fire of others' hatred. Of course, they deny this. Perhaps they are really

that blind about themselves.

Gordon Allport, the great sociologist student of prejudice, defined it as, "Being down on something you're not up on." Bigotry and prejudice cannot survive without such distortions of thought, including actively maintained ignorance. If one of the out-group does wrong, it reflects on the whole group, while if one of the in-group does wrong, it reflects only on the individual. By focusing on others' (real or imagined) faults, we can stay comfortably blind to our own. In plain fact, of course, every one of the accusations of harmful behavior that prejudiced people make against homosexuals is equally applicable to heterosexuals - plus one more - inappropriate pregnancies. But I guess that is another topic. ΔΔ

Peter Rees is co-chair of the Hancock County chapter of Maine Won't Discriminate. He is a social worker in private practice.

An open letter to CPR readers

Dear Reader,

In my first term as a State Legislator six years ago, I made an effort to meet and come out to as many legislators as I could. I spoke to them, one at a time when possible, about the need for civil rights for gay men and lesbians in Maine. Several of my fellow legislators had the following sorts of reactions at first:

"You're the first one I've ever met."

"I don't have any in my district. That's a Portland issue."

"I support civil rights, of course, but I don't believe there is a real problem with discrimination against gays in Maine."

After a few years, I found almost no legislators making such statements. They had heard from their gay and les-

bian constituents, friends and relatives. They knew better. Many long term legislators, however, have not returned to the State House for the current session.

This year 46% of the 186 members of the Legislature are newly elected. Who knows what they have been told or may believe about the anti-discrimination bill, about the anti-gay referendum, about the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community? We need to make sure that this year all legislators have accurate information, so they know the error of the above views; so they are informed about the reality of discrimination in Maine.

As a lawyer, as a lesbian, as a citizen, I think that passage of the anti-discrimination bill is very important. The bill will prohibit discrimination based on



Susan Farnsworth, former State Rep.

sexual orientation in employment, housing, credit and public accommodations. It assures equal, not special, rights for all, regardless of one's sexual orientation.

1. Have you ever experienced discrimination, based on your sexual orientation, in employment, housing, credit or public accommodations?
2. Do you know personally of someone who lost a job or opportunity for promotion, was denied credit, evicted or denied an apartment, etc. because of their sexual orientation?
3. Do you know anyone who didn't report a hate incident directed at themselves for fear they might lose their job or apartment if it were known that they were gay or lesbian?

4. Do you think gay men and lesbians in Maine are discriminated against? If so, why do you think so?

5. Are you a gay, lesbian or bisexual person born and raised in Maine? Do you live in the community you grew up in? If not, do your experiences as a gay, bi or lesbian person have anything to do with why you are not living where you grew up?

6. Would you talk about your experiences to your legislator, or speak to the legislators of the community where you grew up? Will you write letters to your

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM CMF'S VICE CHAIRMAN, LAWRENCE E. LOCKMAN

Dear Friend of CMF,

I want to take just a moment to let you know how vitally important CMF's ballot initiative is to the future of the Maine we all know and love.

You may have heard news reports about the prevalence of "hate crimes" in Maine. These stories are based on bogus statistics cooked up by the state Attorney General's office. At taxpayer expense, attorneys working out of the AG's office have encouraged homosexuals to file anonymous complaints about non-criminal acts such as name-calling — and even published letters to the editor, if a letter is deemed to be "homophobic." These so-called "bias incident" complaints are then rolled in with reports of alleged hate crimes. The result is grossly exaggerated statistics implying that Maine is a hot-bed of anti-gay violence and bigotry.

These inaccurate and misleading statistics are the basis for gay militant claims to "victim" status in Maine. Now they want to force their ideology of gay liberation on every family, school, business, and church in our state.

Can you imagine having a state-funded, gay militant-dominated "Thought Police" brigade empowered to investigate and harass Maine people for any expression of alleged "homophobia"? (Gay extremists and their allies in state government have already published a detailed blueprint for muffling any written or spoken opposition to their agenda.)

Their master plan calls for a sweeping new program of gay affirmative action, including taxpayer subsidies to homosexual-owned businesses.

These shocking radical proposals are outlined in the reports of the Commission to Promote the Understanding of Diversity in Maine. If enacted by the Legislature, the Diversity Commission's recommendations would grant protected minority status based merely on how people say they have sex. Any business claiming to be gay-owned or managed would be eligible to apply for the proposed minority "set-asides" of Community Development Block Grants.

The Diversity Commission proposals are nothing less than a colossal scam to help one of America's richest and politically powerful special interests steal from hard-pressed Maine taxpayers.

CMF has taken the lead in exposing the fraud and duplicity of the gay-rights movement, including the outrageous money and power grab outlined in the Diversity Commission report. Frankly, our Maine initiative is the last best hope for blocking legislative enactment of special status and affirmative action based on sexual orientation. We can close the door on the selfish demands of this selfish special-interest group. But we can't do it without your help.

Your generous contribution will enable CMF to reach thousands of Maine voters with our expose of the Big Lie of gay extremists. Please accept my personal thanks for your support.

Sincerely,
Larry Lockman

P.S. So much depend on Maine! Gay militant lawyers have stated publicly that CMF's language is the most formidable challenge they've ever faced — one that could undo 45 years of gay activist gains — one that could set the terms of debate nationally. Please be as generous as you can. So much depends on us!

This letter is part of CMF's fund raising effort. Read it and weep. What isn't an outright lie is a gross exaggeration.

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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legislators or testify on the bill before the Judiciary Committee? Can you help MLGPA [Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance] work on the bill?

Governor Angus King recently said, in a very different context, "We are all in this together." That statement applies here too. Please call 1-800-55-MLGPA right now if you can help. We need you.

Sincerely, Susan Farnsworth

(Susan was a State Representative from 1988-1994. She is currently a lawyer in private practice in Hallowell and a member of the Maine Lesbian Gay Political Alliance [MLGPA].)

FEB.-MARCH CALENDAR

Thursday, February 16th:

•**Δ 10:00 AM** - Human Resources Committee Confirmation Hearing in Augusta for Melodie Peet, nominated to head the Department of Mental Health.

•**Δ 1:30 PM** - Client Advisory Board of The AIDS Project will meet for the first time at 22 Monument Square, 5th floor. Call TAP, 774-6877 if attending. People living in southern Maine with HIV/AIDS welcome.

•**Δ 7:30-9:30 PM** - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Maine St., Topsham. Meditation Group for women & men. FMI, 207/725-7632.

Friday, February 17th-Monday, February 20th

•**Δ Womensphere Winter Retreat**- Call 603/942-9941. Music, dance, discussions, play, good food and concert and dance with Justina and Joyce.

Friday, February 17th:

•**Δ 7:00-9:30 PM** - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham. Drop in time. Informal and casual. A time to meet new friends, share thoughts & ideas or kick back and relax. FMI, 207/725-7632.

Δ**Δ 7:00 PM** - Women's Night at the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI, call 207/498-2088.

Saturday, February 18th:

•**Δ 1:00-4:00 PM** - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham. Bead making Just For Fun: learn several techniques using "back in the oven" clay to make our own jewelry. Fee: \$15, \$10 for members. FMI, 207/725-7632.

•**Δ 7:30 PM** - The Women's Center in Belfast presents Venus' Coffeehouse, a benefit cabaret-style celebration by and for women only, featuring Venita Robertson of Libana fame and Oriental dancer Patti Luchetti. Abbott Auditorium at the Belfast Free Library, 46 High St., Belfast. \$5 cost. Refreshments available. FMI, 207/525-7715.

Δ**Δ 8:00 PM to Midnight** - Women's Valentine's Dance, Chem-free, Smoke-free, refreshments. DJ is BCN & Company. United Methodist Church, 129 Miller Ave., Portsmouth, NH.

Sunday, February 19th:

•**Δ 4:00-6:00 PM** - Maine Won't Discriminate/Ellsworth Chapter. Meets at the UU Church on Bucksport Road. FMI, call Peter Rees, 667-2358 or Ruth Blackburn, 276-0503.

Tuesday, February 21st:

•**Δ 2:30-3:30 PM** - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Maine St., Topsham. Teen parenting group sponsored by CHANS. All teen parents and their children are welcome to come and talk with other teens and facilitator. FMI, 207/725-7632.

Δ**Δ 7:30-8:30 PM** - Gay and Lesbian AA meeting at Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI, call 207/498-2088.

Wednesday, February 22nd:

Δ**Δ 7:00-9:00 PM** - Northern Lambda Nord Open House and Drop-In. Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207-498-2088.

Thursday, February 23rd:

Δ**Δ 7:30-9:00 PM** - The Matlovich Society presents Tania Jo Hathaway, Project Coordinator of the Lesbian Health Project of So. Maine. TOPIC: "Towards a Lesbian Health Agenda: The Lesbian Health Project of So. Maine." Come hear about and give input to this pilot project's agenda for lesbian-focused medical and educational services, health issues advocacy and health-profession education. Holiday Inn By-The-Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Accessible to the mobility-impaired; free hotel parking.

•**Δ 7:30-9:30 PM** - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Maine St., Topsham. Meditation Group for women & men. FMI, 207/725-7632.

Friday, February 24th:

•**Δ 7:00-9:30 PM** - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham. Drop in time. Informal and casual. A time to meet new friends, share thoughts & ideas or kick back and relax. FMI, 207/725-7632.

•**Δ 4:00-8:00 PM** - Food/Bake Sale to benefit Community of Hope congregation in Portland. Sale at Wal-Mart in So. Portland. FMI, write Community of Hope, PO Box 1671, Portland, ME 04104-1671.

Saturday, February 25th:

•**Δ 1:00-3:00 PM** - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham. Help Out Session: Please stop by and help with miscellaneous tasks that need to be done (clean up, mailing, organizing, filing, etc.). FMI, 207/725-7632.

Sunday, February 26th:

•**Δ 6:00-9:00 PM** - Auditions for "Edward the Second" to be produced by Puck and Pan Theatre Company. 500 Congress St., Portland. FMI: Tim Grover-207-766-5759.

Monday, February 27th:

Δ**Δ 6:30-8:30 PM** - The Rainbow Business & Professional Network meets at a Portland location. FMI, 775-0015 or 879-1342. Note change in date this month.

•**Δ 7:00-8:30 PM** - Maine Won't Discriminate/Portland Chapter. Meets at St. Luke's Episcopal Cathedral, State St. across from Mercy Hospital. Parking in lot behind church on Deering.

•**Δ 7:00-9:00 PM** - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham. Book Group meets. Reading and discussing "Women Who Run With Wolves." FMI, 207/725-7632.

Tuesday, February 28th:

HOUSE DISTRICT #31 Special Election. VOTE!

•**Δ 2:30-3:30 PM** - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Maine St., Topsham. Teen parenting group

sponsored by CHANS. All teen parents and their children are welcome to come and talk with other teens and facilitator. FMI, 207/725-7632.

Δ**Δ 7:00-9:00 PM** - The Gathering, USM Campus Center, Portland, Rm. B & C. Topic: Survivorship:Partnership. How does surviving incest affect relationships? Anita Landino, presenter. FMI, Faith Worthley, 207/774-4919.

Δ**Δ 7:30-8:30 PM** - Gay and Lesbian AA meeting at Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI, call 207/498-2088.

MARCH

Wednesday, March 1st:

Deadline for CPR ads, classifieds and calendar listings.

Δ**Δ 6:30-8:00 PM** - Maine Won't Discriminate/Capitol Area Chapter, Maple Hill Farm Bed & Breakfast, Hallowell. Call the B & B at 207/622-2708 for directions.

Δ**Δ 7:00-9:00 PM** - Northern Lambda Nord Open House and Drop-In. Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207-498-2088.

Thursday, March 2nd:

•**Δ 7:30-9:30 PM** - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Maine St., Topsham. Meditation Group for women & men. FMI, 207/725-7632.

Friday, March 3rd:

•**Δ 6:00-9:00 PM** - Auditions for "Edward the Second" to be produced by Puck and Pan Theatre Company. 500 Congress St., Portland. FMI: Tim Grover-207-766-5759.

•**Δ 7:00-9:30 PM** - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham. Drop in time. Informal and casual. A time to meet new friends, share thoughts & ideas or kick back and relax. FMI, 207/725-7632.

Δ**Δ 8:00-11:00 PM** - Northern Lambda Nord Open House and Drop-In. Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207-498-2088.

Saturday, March 4th:

Δ**Δ 5:00-Midnight** - Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance 10th Anniversary Dinner/Dance & Awards Banquet. Augusta Civic Center. Tickets are \$28 and you may still order them. Call Mary Dorazio-207/756-2500. (This is the event that was scheduled for February 4th and postponed because of the blizzard.)

Sunday, March 5th:

•**Δ 4:00-6:00 PM** - Maine Won't Discriminate/Bangor Chapter. Meets at the Peace and Justice Center, 359 Main St., Bangor. FMI, call Jim Martin at 990-3420.

Monday, March 6th:

Δ**Δ 6:30-8:30 PM** - The Rainbow Business & Professional Network meets at a Portland location. FMI, 775-0015 or 879-1342.

•**Δ 7:00-9:00 PM** - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Maine St., Topsham. Support Group meeting every other Monday. Focus is on healing, recovery and self-esteem. Newcomers are always welcome. FMI, 207/725-7632.

Tuesday, March 7th:

•**Δ 2:30-3:30 PM** - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Maine St., Topsham. Teen parenting group sponsored by CHANS. All teen parents and their children are welcome to come and talk with other teens and facilitator. FMI, 207/725-7632.

Δ**Δ 7:00-9:00 PM** - The Gathering, meeting tonight at Powers House (across street from Campus Center). Topic: The Alliance for Sexual Diversity: Who are they? What do they do? How can we work together? FMI, Faith Worthley, 207/774-4919.

Δ**Δ 7:30-8:30 PM** - Gay and Lesbian AA meeting at Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI, call 207/498-2088.

Wednesday, March 8th:

Δ**Δ 7:00-9:00 PM** - Northern Lambda Nord Open House and Drop-In. Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207-498-2088.

Thursday, March 9th:

Δ**Δ 7:30-9:00 PM** - The Matlovich Society, TOPIC: Places of Peace:Sources of Spirituality." Holiday Inn By-the-Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Accessible to the mobility-impaired; free hotel parking.

•**Δ 7:30-9:30 PM** - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Maine St., Topsham. Meditation Group for women & men. FMI, 207/725-7632.

Friday, March 10th:

Δ**Δ 7:00-9:30 PM** - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham. Drop in time. Informal and casual. A time to meet new friends, share thoughts & ideas or kick back and relax. FMI, 207/725-7632.

Sunday, March 12th:

Δ**Δ 1:00-3:00 PM** - Northern Lambda Nord monthly meeting at the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.

Monday, March 13th:

•**Δ 7:00-9:00 PM** - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham. Book Group meets. Reading and discussing "Women Who Run With Wolves." FMI, 207/725-7632.

Tuesday, March 14th:

•**Δ 2:30-3:30 PM** - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Maine St., Topsham. Teen parenting group sponsored by CHANS. All teen parents and their children are welcome to come and talk with other teens and facilitator. FMI, 207/725-7632.

Δ**Δ 7:00-9:00 PM** - The Gathering, USM Campus Center, Portland, Rm. B & C. Topic: Coming Out To Children.

Linda Huston, presenter. FMI, Faith Worthley, 207/774-4919.

ΔΔ 7:30-8:30 PM - Gay and Lesbian AA meeting at Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI, call 207/498-2088.

Wednesday, March 15th:

ΔΔ 6:30-8:00 PM - Maine Won't Discriminate/Capitol Area Chapter, Maple Hill Farm Bed & Breakfast, Hallowell. Call the B & B at 207/622-2708 for directions.

ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Open House and Drop-In. Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207-498-2088.

•Δ 7:30-9:00 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Maine St., Topsham. Fund raising meeting. FMI, 207/725-7632.

Thursday, March 16th:

ΔΔ 7:30-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Maine St., Topsham. Meditation Group for women & men. FMI, 207/725-7632.

Friday, March 17th:

ΔΔ 7:00 PM - Women's Night at the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI, call 207/498-2088.

BUILDING A NEW CONSCIOUSNESS

one being at a time

That's the mission of the

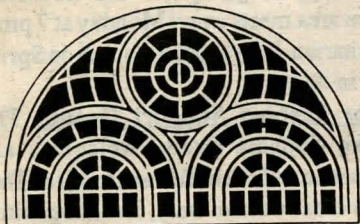
ODYSSEY

Maine's Holistic Newspaper

The Odyssey seeks to inform people everywhere who are awakening to an awareness of the need to see life in a new way. Like the target market it serves, it is tolerant of all paths, positive in focus, adventurous in nature, and willing to change in order to grow. 12,000 copies monthly, free at newsstands in over 80 locations!

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Classified Advertising

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

ΔΔ "Incubator" space in historic, unique Fort Andross building, Brunswick (on Androscoggin River). 435-550 square feet. Inexpensive and ideal for new businesses. Common area with shared conference room and possibility for shared copier, fax, etc. Call Tina Grant for more information. (207) 729-7970. 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

•Δ Wanted-Persons to fill vacancies on HIV Prevention Priority Review Task Force. This task force advises the Maine AIDS Plan on HIV Prevention Strategies. Meetings are held once a month. Not a paid position but limited compensation is available to cover time and expenses. For an application, call the Maine AIDS Plan, 207/622-2962. Completed applications are due by March 1st.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

ΔΔ Be your own boss. Run a Shaklee business out of your own home. Set your own goals and achieve financial security without stress. Earnings depend upon your efforts. Rewards include unlimited income, travel, and cars. Prosper by helping others to succeed. Shaklee nutritional, personal care and household products are in harmony with nature and good health. FMI, please call Judy Souviney, Roger Wilson: 207/725-9790.

TRAVEL/VACATION

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

ΔΔ BACKPACKING, canoeing, X-country skiing, Native American cultural trips, youth trip. Wilderness skills and environmental awareness. Small groups. Great food. Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, Maine, Quebec,

Newfoundland. Contact: Earth Treks, Dept. C., RFD 2, Box 785, Thorndike, ME 04986. 1-800-589-4770.

ΔΔ YELLOW BIRCH FARM: Romantic, seasonal cottage or year round studio on working organic farm in Downeast Maine, 20 minutes from Eastport. Absolute peace and quiet. Beautiful, remote, unspoiled Cobscook Bay. B & B or weekly rental. Brochure, reservations: (207) 726-5807. ΔΔ

PERSONALS

ΔΔ GWM - 35 years old, new to Portland. Wish to meet others for a friendship or whatever might transpire. Write POB 5031, Portland, Maine 04101. ΔΔ

ΔΔ LF Friends, more? Let's travel, create, share love of nature, animals, human rights, spirit/metaphysics, arts, horticulture, imagination, humor. Explore Italy, France, Lesbos, etc. No drugs/smoke, minimum alcohol. N.H. LF, 42. DSPYLE, POB 185, Cape Neddick, ME 03902-0185. ΔΔ

ΔΔ HIV+ couple: seeks other HIV+ couples or singles for friendship and support. Call anytime and ask for Paul. 207/777-1036. ΔΔ

WORKSHOPS/ TRAININGS

ΔΔ Women's Voices Rising: Ongoing women's writing workshops. Break through your inner editor. Trust the voice that cuts through (and is shaped by) our personal lives. Using poetry, music, visual art and mythology as points of departure, we create and share our writing. Supportive, fun atmosphere. Beginners and experienced writers welcome. Portland location. FMI, Marti Lay, 207/892-5375. ΔΔ

ΔΔ Discover Avatar®, a course in personal evolution. Avatar® is a powerful, speedily effective course based on the simple concept that your beliefs will cause you to create or attract situations and events which you experience as your life.

The Goal of the three-section course is to guide you into exploring your own

belief system and to equip you with the tools to modify those things you wish to change. The Avatar course opens a window on the inner workings of your own consciousness.

Create the reality you prefer. Acquire the ability to: discover and explore your secret-most beliefs; perceive reality without judgment, distortion or separation and modify personal reality; change body sensations, interpersonal conflicts, dependencies, limitations, persistent conditions (mental, emotional, physical), self-sabotaging beliefs and compulsions. Become Source over your life.

Since their introduction in 1987, over 35,000 people in forty countries have experienced the Avatar® materials. Now you can too! Courses are on-going in Blue Hill. We will also come to you and your group of friends or co-workers for our introductory one-day workshop (Resurfacing) or the complete Avatar® course (7-9 days). Please feel free to call or write for additional information. Rick Traub, P.O. Box 176, Blue Hill, ME 04614, 207/374-5348. ΔΔ

MAIL ORDER CATALOG

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

BUSINESS ORGANIZATION

ΔΔ The Rainbow Business & Professional Network has expanded its membership to welcome gay men and persons not necessarily business owners. We welcome dreamers and visionaries. We 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 network. We also are planning to have social times together. FMI, call Vicky Zavasnik, 775-0015 or Winnie Weir, 879-1342. ΔΔ

Subscription Form

Please enter my one year subscription to Community Pride Reporter. I will receive 12 issues, delivered in a plain envelope.

The cost for a one year subscription is \$25 (more if you can, less if you can't.) Please make checks payable to CPR and mail to 142 High Street, Suite #634, Portland, ME 04101.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

home

work

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 the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 S. Main St., Caribou, and can be reached every Wednesday by The Phoneline. 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.

Building Inclusive Community: A group of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people working to build an inclusive and safe community in Lewiston-Auburn and outlying areas. We are exploring ways to achieve this goal through social gatherings, educational events, support groups, topic meetings and forums open to sexual minorities, friends and supporters. FMI, write POB 3184, Auburn, ME 04212-3184.

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

Francetown: 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.

Community of Hope: A Christian congregation which claims a primary ministry with gay and lesbian people and strives to be inclusive of all persons. Worship on Saturdays at 4:00 PM at Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI write Community of Hope, Shawn Smith, Interim Pastor, POB 1671, Portland, ME 041014.

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.

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 & women healing from sexual abuse by clergy of any denomination. Meets in Portland location on third Friday of the month. FMI, call 207/774-5025.

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 Coalition of ME.: 696 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101. Call 773-8500.

Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS): 22 Monument Square, Portland ME 04101. Call 775-PAWS.

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

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

Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: P.O. Box

TV? TS? TG? CD?

by Winnie Weir, Editor

Are you all dressed up with no where to go? Well, despair no longer. A major event for the transgendered community is planned to provide you with not only a place to go, but with a wonderful time once you get there. Whether you label yourself as transvestite, transsexual, transgendered or cross-dresser, novice or veteran, this event will provide opportunities for learning, fun and self-esteem building.

Atlanta Action '95 is a leadership development convention for the transgendered community, scheduled for March 12 through 19 at the Sheraton

See TV, page 24

CPR Personals

Central ME BI CURIOUS CD?

5'11, 215, bi curious male, looking to meet discreet gentle, men like myself, into CD, if interested pls call- #23341

Bangor **TV AND TICKLING:** truck driver, iso TV's into tickling and other fun stuff- #24151

Waterville OLD FASHIONED

GUY: 39, GWM 5'10, 155, slim build, 29w brn blu must iso other 25-35 slim only, not into bar life, looking for friends poss rel love to dance, smoke drink, bowl, theatre arts and movies, will travel- #24702

Central ME OUTDOOR ROCKER:

Kevin 32 into outdoors, 70s -80s rock and roll, like a good time, work out, into running- give me a call- #21720

Sanford RUGGED AND HAIRY:

Single guy, 39 5'11 155, dk hair/eyes must iso best friend, masc rugged and hairy guy, lkg for you and you can call me- #21861

Portland SNUGGLE UP:

Greg, 39, GWM 5'11, 155, brn/blu, must iso a young BM or AM slim, into horseback, candlelight dinners, sports, movies, theatre bowling, skating, country music, dance, like to snuggle- not into bar life, give a call- #10238

GRAB THAT PHONE!

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

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

A busy signal = Men on the line. Call again later.

Questions Call: 1-415-281-3183

Bangor **CHAD, 21**, dk brn/brn 5'9, 180, dk exion, 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

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.

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

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, brn

iso some tops, if ur int lv a message-

#19052

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 #17870

Portland SPECIAL NEEDS:

Joe,

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- #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, call- #15935

Taunton STEADY PARTNERS:

Jason, bi WM 34, 5'7 150 brn/brn

in grt shape like to get together on a

reg basis, 25-35 give me a call-

#23002



Boston MASCULINE MARRIED

GUY: Tom, 27, work out reg

blnd/blu married iso another masc

married guy under 30 who's looking

for discreet fun- #23791

Boston MOUNTAIN CLIMBER:

Bob, 28, 5'6, 165, blnd/blu, looking

for that special person who likes

quiet eves special dinners and go out

to clubs, get away on wknds as well,

min climbing, horseback riding, like

to paint, crafts, #23814

Springfield MUSCULAR AND

HAIRY: Bill, 6' 200, musc and

hairy, bi, like to meet a guy in my

area for a long term relationship, like

to go out, quiet times at home, thats

about it give me a call- #24361

Manchester MAGAZINES AND

VIDEOS: Jack, 22, 5'11, 170, brn

beard, smooth body iso another male

in my area who is attr, for friendly

get togethers enjoy each other

company, look at magazines and

videos and take it from there-

#24623

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

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Arts & Entertainment

Out on the Town

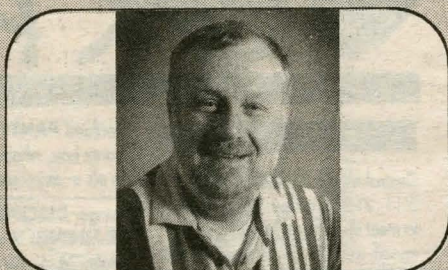
It's February and the depth of winter or the height of winter depending on how you feel about the season. Personally, I love winter and I always have. It may have to do with growing up outside Buffalo, New York, the snow capital of the world. Winter, for me, is a time for celebration, reflection, and community.

I'm suffering from a severe case of writer's cramp. As you can see by these pages, I and a very few other individuals covered Arts and Entertainment this month. May I again emphasize, CPR welcomes and encourages submissions. Let's hear from the hinterlands! There is a lot going on in your community, so let us know for our calendar and write about it. With the attack on the arts raging in Washington and elsewhere, we, as a community, need to give our support more than ever.

February has "The Crucifer of Blood" at the Penobscot Theatre in Bangor.

Ibsen's "Ghosts" will be at the Oak Street Theatre in Portland.

Women's Valentines Dance at the



Skip Brushaber, A & E Editor

United Methodist Church, Portsmouth, NH.

The Seacoast Repertory Theatre in Portsmouth, New Hampshire is bringing "Falsettos" to the stage at the Portsmouth Academy of Performing Arts, February 23 through March 26.

The second annual Women's Film and Video Festival is on for the first weekend in March.

There is a new theatre company called Puck and Pan. They are holding informal auditions for Christopher Marlowe's dramatic play, "Edward the Second." See calendar. We wish them good luck and support from our community. Until next time. ΔΔ

"Boys on the Side" - Review

by Rose Mary Denman

Seen any good movies lately? "Boys on the Side" has got to be one of the best movies of all times, right up there with "Fried Green Tomatoes," "Thelma and Louise," and even "Philadelphia"!

Whoopi Goldberg, Drew Barrymore and Mary-Louise Parker team up to bring us a great film that is about love, what it is to be family to one another, and learning how to do life with honesty and guts.

As I sat watching this film with some friends, I wanted to be alone with the characters, to be still with the picture, to laugh, to

cry, to wonder.

It isn't a pretty movie, but anyone would be up against it if they had to put this film into a particular category. Is it a comedy? Well... yes, but it will also make you cry. Is it a drama? Yes... but you will do lots of belly laughing too.

Who's the star? All three women bring depth and intensity to the work. Some say this is Whoopi's crowning glory to date. She's simply incredible. Drew Barrymore, for all of her nineteen year, is superb. And Mary-Louise Parker brings an even richer personality to "Boys on the Side" then she did to her role as Ruth in "Fried Green Tomatoes."

This is definitely a must see, and as far as I'm concerned, this is a must own! ΔΔ

"Jesus Christ Superstar: A Resurrection"

So, there I was the other day looking to find the soundtrack to "Boys on the Side," which wasn't out yet, and I accidentally stumbled upon something which has left me feeling that there is a special goddess up in the sky who makes musical moments such as this happen. This is a goddess that I will start praying to. The music I am referring to is a double compact disc titled "Jesus Christ Superstar: A Resurrection." The reason I am losing my mind over this, is because Amy Ray is Jesus Christ and Emily Saliers is Mary Magdalene. My all-time favorite musical and two of my favorite musicians (the Indigo Girls) all on the same album!

For a long time now, "Jesus Christ Superstar," the masterpiece rock opera by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice has held a high position on my list of music I would want with me if ever I was stranded on an island. Now, in 1995, a group of Atlanta musicians, led by Michael Lorant, have released the music all over again, adding new layers of passion, emotion and intensity while respecting the musical genius they were working with. And maybe giving all the people who aren't familiar with JCSS another way to hear it. "It was the unlikely rock feast that offered singers and musicians of my generation a variety of elegant dishes from which to choose. It did rock. I'm not crazy. I'm not crazy," said Lorant in the disc's liner notes.

This album, recorded last year in Atlanta, contains dozens of musicians from that area who all came together to breathe new life into a timeless classic. Although I'm not familiar with many of these artists, this album does do the



Aimsel L. Ponti

original justice and I give the whole lot of people involved with this project an enormous amount of credit.

Getting back to the contribution made by the Indigo Girls; I read a brief mention of this project in Deneuve magazine a few months ago, which was quite skeptical. It was obviously written by someone who hasn't heard Emily sing "I don't know how to love him" and Amy's fiery vocals on "Poor Jerusalem" and "Gethsemane." Musician Gerard McHugh, a Daemon records artist, is great as "Pontius Pilate" and Michael Lorant's "Judas" works well also.

Speaking of Daemon Records, Daemon is the independent Atlanta-based label owned by Amy Ray, and it is this label, as well as Long Play Records, that released "JCSS- A Resurrection." All proceeds from this album will be used to end gun violence.

From "Heaven on their Minds" to "King Herod's Song" to the final "Crucifixion" this reworking of JCSS is compelling and a must have for fans of the original, fans of the Indigo Girls or fans of both like myself. As for the soundtrack of "Boys on the Side," which features Indigo Girls among many other notables, it was released on January 31st and I wonder what other treasure I may stumble upon when I go shopping to pick it up. I'll let you know. . . ΔΔ

Video Review: Savage Nights

by Skip Brushaber

"Savage Nights" was written and directed by the late Cyril Collard. He is also the star of the film as Jean, the ultimate hedonist. Early in the film, it is established that Jean is a gay man who has relationships with women and is also HIV positive. This is pivotal to the story because Jean uses his HIV status as a weapon, a manipulation, and an excuse for his behavior.

Jean, a filmmaker/cameraman living in Paris, pushes the boundaries of life. He drives his red Fiat too fast and recklessly. He drinks too much and uses drugs, especially cocaine. Jean also engages in anonymous, and probably, unsafe sex in a subterranean wasteland along the Seine.

Laura, who says she is eighteen, enters Jean's world at a video shoot. The camera loves Laura, played by newcomer Romane Bohringer. Her obsession with Jean becomes apparent soon after their first meeting. Laura is puzzled by Jean's lack of sexual interest. Having lost her

virginity to a surgeon at thirteen, Laura says most guys want to have sex with her after the first five minutes. Laura's obsession only becomes more intense when Jean tells her he also "likes boys," and they then have unprotected sex. Jean finally divulges his HIV status to Laura, which initially devastates her. Laura's action during their next sexual encounter is suicidal in the long-term.

Also in Jean's life is Samy, a "straight" rugby player. Played intensely by Carlos Lopez, Samy is constantly walking on the edge. He is loving, brutal, and totally erotic. His journey into S&M and bondage leads to an entanglement with neo-Nazi skinheads. Jean quietly and stubbornly pursues Samy until Samy finally surrenders. We are never quite sure of the nature of the relationship. It appears to be based on the pursuit of higher and higher thrills coupled with intense head games.

Although brilliantly crafted, Savage Nights is not always an easy film to watch. Laura's obsession leads eventually to mad-

ness and Jean remains totally egocentric. Throughout the film, various characters assure Jean nothing will happen to him. Both Laura and Samy tell Jean that they love him, which is impossible for him to comprehend.

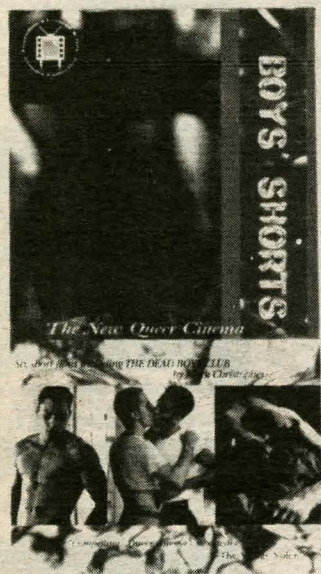
Savage Nights is about deceit, deception, and degradation. The underside of Paris is explored rather than the beauty. The cinematography is extraordinary, conveying the depths of despair against the city of light.

The resolution of the film seems to be Jean's acceptance of his mortality. Played esoterically against a sunset and sunrise, Jean says "It's no longer my life. I'm part of life."

Cyril Collard is said to have died tragically three days before his film won four Cesar Awards, the French equivalent of the Oscar. The awards included best picture.

Savage Nights is in French with subtitles and is available at Videoport. ΔΔ

VIDEOPORT
Your Movie Store



773-1999
Open 7 days

Lower Lobby
151 Middle St., Portland

Artist Profile-Toni Wolf

by Skip Brushaber

Toni Wolf is a thirty-five year old painter living and working in Portland. She is a graduate of the Portland School of Art (now the Maine College of Art) and she has been part of the Maine art scene for over ten years. A show of Toni's recent work was exhibited at the Dead Space Gallery in December and January. These works were a series of large, bold, and colorful nude studies of women. The stark realism bordering on the abstract, coupled with their strong spirituality, gave this viewer the feeling that each piece was an emotional landscape.

CPR spoke with Toni Wolf on a sunny Friday afternoon in Portland. She is a soft spoken, friendly and enthusiastic woman with a ready smile. Her speech becomes more animated and intense when she speaks about her art, which obviously is very much her life.

Growing up in a farm house, the typical art Toni had around were copies of pieces by Norman Rockwell and Andrew Wyeth. As a child, she thought Norman Rockwell was the greatest thing in the world and she names him as an early inspiration.

Toni remembers drawing all through her childhood. She did not start painting until much later, entering PSA to study printmaking.

Toni Wolf painted a large volume of self-portraits early in her career as an attempt to teach herself to paint. She also did not have access to a model after leaving art school. Very literal in her thoughts at the time, Toni felt the only way to get her emotions across was to use herself as a model. She feels if she had listened to the titles she gave those early paintings, she would be more emotionally advanced today.

A few years ago, Toni Wolf's stu-



Painting by Toni Wolf

dio on Congress Street was destroyed by a fire while she was visiting Oregon. After finding out everyone was safe, she felt somewhat cleansed and renewed by the fire. Something new was happening for her and she would no longer be surrounded by a lot of old stuff.

In her latest work, Toni painted a series using her friend and her mother as models. Painting the series of her friend first, Toni feels the paintings of her mother explore the external mother to get to the internal mother. She is emotionally tied to this entire body of work and it may be causing her to have an artist's block. Toni did learn more about color and form with this series.

Toni was basically trapped in her studio with a broken foot last winter when she painted this large volume of work. She states between her broken foot and the fire two years ago, she is looking at gifts in different packages.

Feeling a woman painting a picture of a nude woman is secondary, Toni does not feel she should be viewed solely as a lesbian artist. She is surprised by the shock her recent paintings caused some viewers and critics. Toni feels her paintings are her voice and those offended by her work are reacting to something within themselves. She feels her latest works were real human beings, and

sexuality is part of it. These paintings reflect more of the total female experience.

Toni is starting to work on smaller pieces, exploring new areas, using her imagination, feeling her earlier work used her imagination in a more naive way. It used to take the large size of the canvasses to suck her in. Categorizing her style as realism, because that is what people are comfortable with, part of Toni wants to put a different word to it now. She wants to start responding to her imagination in her work and not what is real in the moment. That may bring more of the abstract into her work. Toni feels some of her past work was too still and needed more life.

Toni uses music for inspiration and although not proud of it, she watches a lot of television. She is constantly thinking of images as she watches TV.

Toni Wolf has fantasies and dreams of making an impact on a large number



Painting by Toni Wolf

of people. She has had a vision since childhood of becoming famous. Stating that she does not speak or write well, she has a gift that is dying to come out. She is sending out the slides to New York and getting the rejections. Toni remains positive about her rejection and her work being scrutinized. Her open response to criticism comes from

a new found security. She wants to take the criticism and go for it.

Toni Wolf does not consider herself a political person and she once felt guilty about that. Now she feels her work is her personal response to the world and how she views it. She says she can appreciate what the loud people are doing for the gay and lesbian community, but she is sorry it is not always heard. Toni sometimes feels self-indulgent when she realizes someone is out there laying it on the line.

Toni Wolf is at a turning point in her life and her art. She hopes her hard work will pay off. It appears to have paid off already as Toni Wolf is a well respected artist and member of our community. ΔΔ

TV Review: "Serving in Silence"

by Rose Mary Denman

If you're one of those folks who missed seeing "Serving in Silence: The Margarethe Cammermeyer Story" aired on NBC on Monday night, February 6, you missed a winner . . . and I strongly suggest that you find someone, anyone, who taped it. Beg to borrow it with the promise of a speedy return, and give yourself a real treat by watching it with a bowl of popcorn, a box of tissues and a good friend.

Glen Close stars as Colonel Cammermeyer, an Army Reserve nurse with more than twenty years experience in the military, many commendations and nine promotions. At the opening of the film, she has just arranged to be transferred to Seattle, in order to be closer to her four sons who live with their father. She has bought a home near them and has begun work on a Doctorate.

As the story unfolds, Margarethe

meets Diane, an artist and teacher from Los Angeles, and she begins to realize her lesbian identity.

The rest of the story is Margarethe's fight with the military to continue to work and serve. It is the story of one woman's struggle to be an authentic, honest, real human being in the face of judgment and persecution. For anyone who is struggling with their sexual identity, or who can remember those times when they were, for anyone who has ever wrestled with whether or not to come out of the closet, for anyone who has ever had a friend or family member suffer from the self-serving hatred of others, this is a must see.

And . . . for anyone out there who thinks that gays and lesbians are perverted sinners who have nothing of value to give to humanity, do yourself a favor. If you can, put your prejudice aside so that you can witness the depth of heart and soul of one woman who is unwill-

ing to accept that she is anything less than a person of worth and honor. ΔΔ

(Editor's Note: On Tuesday morning, CPR learned that right-wing extremists were calling WCSH, Channel 6, Portland, registering their objections to the airing of this movie. On Wednesday afternoon, I spoke with Fred Thompson, President of WCSH TV, and asked him to comment on the number of calls and their flavor. He said the number of calls were remarkably high and "overwhelmingly in support of the program. We've passed the numbers on to NBC in New York and they appreciated receiving them.")

Carolyn Cosby of CMF will be on WMPG 91.9 FM "Big Talk" Thurs. 2/16/95 7:15-8 pm Call In! 780-4909



609 Congress St.
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Thursday, February 23

On a Winter's Night

with John Gorka, Cheryl Wheeler
Patty Larkin, Cliff Eberhardt

Saturday, February 25

Paula Poundstone

Cabaret \$20 plus \$10.50 Entree ticket
G/A \$16. Doors open 6pm, Show 8pm

Sunday, March 5

Natalie Cole

G/A \$26.50

Doors open 6pm, Show 8pm

Saturday, March 18

Dayton Dance Company

Monday, March 20

Sarah McLachlan

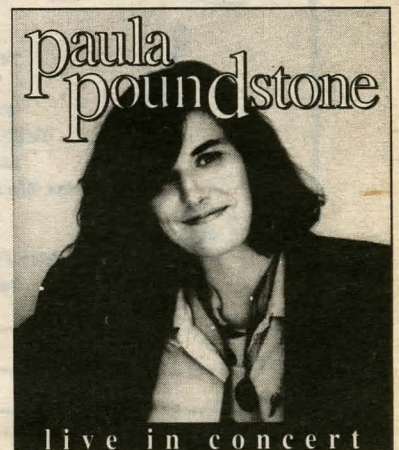
Cabaret \$22.50 plus \$10.50 Entree ticket
G/A \$18.50 Doors open 6 pm, Show 8pm

Saturday, March 25

Children's Museum Art Auction

Thursday, March 30

Bobby McFerrin's Hard Choral



live in concert

Saturday, February 25

Cabaret \$20 plus \$10.50 Entree Ticket
G/A \$16. Doors open 6pm. Show 8pm

For tickets call: (207)879-1112
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Film and Video Festival highlights weekend of women's work in Portland

by Winnie Weir, Publishing Editor

The second annual Women's Film and Video Festival will be held at the Portland Museum of Art, March 3, 4, and 5. The three-day festival is being sponsored by the Portland Museum of Art, the Maine Women's Fund and the Women's Studies Department of the University of Southern Maine. Tickets for this annual event are available at Amadeus Music, Drop Me A Line, and the front desk of the Portland Museum of Art. Weekend passes are available for \$25.

The opening reception, March 3 at 6:00 pm is followed at 7:00 pm with the film "Hard, Fast and Beautiful" directed

by Ida Lupino, one of the first woman directors of a major motion picture. The film's lead character, played by Claire Trevor, is willing to ruin her daughter's life by driving her to tennis stardom, thus supplying Mom with the financial security she seeks. The film will be preceded by Betty Boop cartoons. Reception and film is \$10.

"Anchor of the Soul," a sixty minute documentary telling the inspiring story of a small group of African Americans struggling to create and sustain a church in Portland will be shown on Saturday, March 4, from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm. Narrated by Barbara Jordan,

the soundtrack features gospel music including a performance by the choir of Green Memorial Church.

Following "Anchor of the Soul," a 30 minute production, "Defending Our Lives," will be shown. This powerful, often disturbing, academy-award winning best short documentary presents the stories of women who survived their abusive relationships by ending them with their own violent acts. Produced by Stacy Kabat and Margaret Lazarus, its straight-forward approach to its controversial subject has made it a source for discussion throughout the country. Cost for both films is \$5.

On Saturday afternoon, from 3:00 to 5:30 pm, four selections ranging from 15 to 90 minutes will be shown for \$5. "The London Story" is a 15 minute lively, accessible spy spoof that revolves around the unlikely alliance of three eccentric characters and their mission to uncover government foreign policy duplicity. This is followed by "Talk 16," a 90 minute film following the lives of five girls from vastly different cultures as they turn 16. This film is "hilarious, absorbing, moving, and terrifying." With a poignant wit, "Talk 16" reminds us of the way we all looked before our masks hardened.

"Women Unlimited," directed by Penny Pollard, is a 30 minute look at women from across the state of Maine who are charting the course for future professionals. Proceeds go to support the Maine Women's Fund work with women in non-traditional careers.

"Who We Are" rounds off the afternoon's films with a 15 minute short, the result of a workshop designed for women of all ages to document the role of women in our community. The workshop will be held at the Children's Museum of Maine on Saturday, March 4 with a "world-premiere" of the workshop's results to be previewed at the Film Festival.

On Saturday evening from 7:00-9:00 pm, another set of films will be shown for \$5. "The Quilt Movie" is an animated fable of the relationship between scissors and fabric as their effort to make a quilt becomes an increasingly frenzied dance. This 4 minute film features a big-band musical score provided by Harry James and his Orchestra. It is produced by Amy Lawrence of Norwich, Vermont.

"A Pagan Place" is a 22 minute film produced, written, directed and edited by Kate Kaminski of Portland. It is

described by its filmmaker merely as the story of a "Girl on a Road Trip."

Saturday evening ends with a 60 minute presentation, "Greetings from Out Here." Videographer Spiro traveled for one year on the back roads of the southern US gathering footage for this mobile video project. Accompanied only by her dog Sam and a video camera, she travels from Virginia to Texas and back. Her van serves as office, apartment, editing suite and runabout. From the many insightful portraits of small town gay and lesbian southerners to the celebratory events of the Texas Gay Rodeo, a gay Mardi Gras ball, and a Rural Fairy Gathering, Spiro's witty eye and spectacular footage capture the richness, vitality and courage of "out" gay southern life.

On Sunday afternoon, March 5th, "Sesame Street Shorts" at 1:00 pm begins the last segment of this annual film and video festival, scheduled to end at 5:00 pm. Admission is \$5. The first of three films is a delightful short drama exploring the perils of coming out as it follows a day in the life of one young girl. "Came Out, It Rained, Went Back in Again," portrays wide-eyed innocent Jane Horrocks as she travels to the big city under the illusion that "they're all gay in London." Her enthusiasm, conviction and wicked grin see her through.

"Just Another Girl on the IRT" is a 96 minute film featuring newcomer Ariyan Johnson in this poignant film about a young girl's struggle in the projects while sustaining her desire to go to college and become a doctor. In the tradition of Spike Lee, director Leslie Harris brings together the humor, energy and drama that made this one of the most talked about films of its genre.

Following up on Saturday's showing of "Talk 16," "Talk 19" re-visits the original 5 teenagers, charting their change, their maturity and their new concerns as they head out of their teens and into adulthood. The film is 48 minutes.

Capping the weekend is "In Her Own Words" which is an opportunity to join the filmmakers featured in this year's festival in a discussion of their work. Guests for the discussion include Stacy Kabat, Producer; Amy Lawrence, Animator; Karine Odline; Shoshana Hoose, Kate Kaminski, Penny Pollard, Adrienne Mitchell, and Janis Lundman, Directors/Producers.

All of the films will be shown in the auditorium of the Portland Museum of Art. ΔΔ

NH PRIDE Committee needs \$\$\$

by Winnie Weir, Editor

With all the snow on the ground and the bitterly cold temperatures of winter right in our faces, remembering NH Pride '94 might not be easy. Pride events were held on June 17 and 18. For the first time the event took place under incredibly sunny skies and hot weather. According to Flora Piterak of the New Hampshire Pride Committee, NH Pride lost \$3000 on last year's event.

"When the temperature reaches 106 degrees in the mountains, you know it's hot!" Piterak said. She continued, "Gay games opened on that weekend, Stonewall 25 was the next weekend and resources were limited. We did not have the turnout we normally have... Most Pride Committees experience 'weather deficits' at some time. A year ago it was Atlanta with a \$60,000 debt due to rain. Thankfully, we don't have that much to make up!"

Because of the debt, the NH Pride Committee has been unable to publish their newsletter, The Pride Reporter. Consequently, they have been unable to let their friends and supporters know that they are short on funds and need help. Two recent donations enabled the group



Flora Piterak is working hard to erase last year's NH Pride debts

to put out a limited mailing to supporters apprising them of the situation and asking for support for their fund raising events.

Two events are scheduled thus far. The first is the annual Valentine (aka Winter Ball) Dance on February 25 at Alpine Grove from 8:00 pm until 1:00 am. (See ad) The second is the annual April Auction, scheduled for April 8th. More details will be forthcoming. These events are always fun and give our community opportunities to socialize while supporting a good cause. For more information or to volunteer, call Flora Piterak at (603) 382-9308. ΔΔ

New Hampshire Pride
Presents

the Annual Valentine Dance
and
Winter Ball

February 25, 1995
Alpine Grove
8:00pm - 1:00am
Tickets \$15.00 in advance
\$18.00 at the door
Creative Black Tie (dress up/dress down)

NH Pride PO Box 396 Danville, NH 03819
Telephone 603 382-9308

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Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone (specify day or evening) _____

Number of tickets Amount enclosed

Please send Self-addressed Stamped Envelope

BOOK REVIEW

Title: Sister & Brother

Edited by: Joan Nestle and John Preston

by Rose Mary Denman

Who is my family? This is the thematic question of "Sister & Brother," an anthology of some thirty narratives edited by Joan Nestle and John Preston.

"... for years we gay men and lesbians were told that we had no stories what-

soever that were worth telling, no lives worth writing about," says Philip Gambone in his story titled "The Kids I Already Have."

"Sister & Brother" is the telling of stories, the writing about lives - gay and lesbian lives. Each story is a deeply personal account of what it is to be family to another; not family by blood, but family by choice. Each is a sharing of what it is
See BOOK, page 19

The AIDS Project commemorates ten years of service

Blue Cross/Blue Shield hosts tribute



Mickey Greene, President and CEO of Blue Cross and Blue Shield said, "I've been asked, as CEO of Blue Cross, by lots of people, why we do this. It's really very simple -- because it's the right thing to do. If you're unaware of this, the first person to die of HIV and AIDS was a Blue Cross and Blue Shield employee."



Denise & Dawn Gay were charming hosts for the night's events, and yes, they are related.



Deborah Shields, Executive Director of The AIDS Project said that TAP relies on the help of over 200 volunteers who help by, "cleaning homes, preparing meals, driving clients to medical appointments, do office work at TAP and staff the hotline. Hundreds more assist at special events."



The Maine Gay Men's Chorus sang several songs at the anniversary, among them the beautiful, "How can I keep from singing," and "Heroes," written by Rita Kissen.



State Representative, Herb Adams presents a Proclamation to Frannie Peabody, one of the founders of TAP, from the Legislature commemorating The AIDS Project's 10 years of service.



Leo Laplante, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of TAP. He gave a brief history of TAP's founding noting that the 1st two AIDS deaths in Maine were in 1984. He also noted that Frannie Peabody lost her grandson, Peter, to AIDS in 1984.

Photos by Bruce Balboni
Processing by Studio 101

Music Review-Women in Harmony

by Skip Brushaber

Women in Harmony presented their annual concert "Let There Be Music," on January 28, 1995. It was an evening filled with joy and harmonious celebration.

Although only together for eighteen months, the fifty member chorus showed great energy and commitment coupled with a love of music. Women in Harmony is led by Sonja Dahlgren Pryor with genuine enthusiasm and obvious love. Ms. Pryor, known as Sonny, stated that the chorus is committed to celebrating and honoring diversity.

The program was divided into four parts; songs about music, songs to inspire, songs of beauty in nature and songs for fun. Songs about music began with the inspiring "Let There Be Music." Among the five selections in

this part of the program, "How Can I Keep From Singing" and "When I Hear Music" were especially strong. "When I Hear Music" was written by feminist composer Libby Roderick and it celebrated the joy of music in women's lives.

The second program of inspiration began with "We Are Women In Harmony" by chorus member Bev Banville. It is a delightful song about the experience of being a Woman in Harmony. This entire part of the program was delightfully beautiful with "Lift Up Thine Eyes" by Mendelsohn sung by a trio composed of Donna Jean Hurd, Beth Sturtevant, and Nancy Cunningham. "Twenty-third Psalm" by pop composer Bobby McFerrin, with gender switches

in the language, was moving and haunting. This part ended with Cris Williamson's "Song of The Soul" with the audience joining in a joyous sing-along.

Following intermission, the third part devoted to the beauties of nature may have been the strongest of the four programs. It was certainly the most lovingly nostalgic, and the harmonies of the chorus were the strongest. "The Rainbow Connection" was very sweet. Donna Jean Hurd's solo on "Look to The Rainbow" paid wonderful tribute to the musical, "Finian's Rainbow." Women in Harmony closed this part with a nice rendition of the gay/lesbian national anthem, "Over The Rainbow."

Although it was quite good, the last

program may have been the weakest. The choice of material did not match up with the top quality of the previous three parts. Sometimes mixing choreography with a choral program does not come off successfully. Christine O'Leary's "I Enjoy Being a Girl" was a lot of fun and she was a favorite of the audience and chorus members.

An encore of Holly Near's "We Are Singing For Our Lives" ended the concert on a poignant and moving note, reflecting the times we live in.

Women in Harmony put on a professional and thoroughly enjoyable show. The community deserves to hear them more often and they deserve the added praise that more exposure will bring them. $\Delta\Delta$

BOOK, from page 18

for a gay man and a lesbian to go beyond the bonds of friendship and become sister and brother to one another.

In "Old Squirrel Head, Mama, & Me," Lisa Davis tells how, when her aged mother was hospitalized, she called Paul, "my real family - a gay man who had been my friend for upwards of thirty years." Lucy comforted Danny on the night he was raped by her college roommate's boyfriend. A lesbian writes how, in her youth, it was a gay teacher who served as a positive role model and life preserver in a world that would have preferred to render her

useless and invisible.

Many of the stories are warm, gentle tales of relationship. Others address tough issues. William Mann admits, in his story, "One of Us," that "bashing lesbians, and women in general, has always seemed to be an unfortunate rite of passage for some gay men as they break down their closet doors."

"Sister & Brother" is a delightful compilation of musings and memories. In a world torn apart by hatred and judgment, it is good to be reminded that "love equals tolerance and respect, and is the only family value that matters." $\Delta\Delta$

MONEY TALK

FILING AN INDIVIDUAL INCOME

TAX RETURN - PART I

It's that time of year again. The W-2's, 1099's, 1098's, business receipts and expenses need to be gathered and organized so the tax return can be prepared. It's also time to do the annual review of tax forms and related schedules. Filing the wrong form may not allow you to take all of the deductions available to you.

For purposes of my discussion, I will be reviewing Form 1040 (Long Form) which is the most encompassing. The other shorter forms available are the 1040EZ and 1040A which may be appropriate to you if your tax situation is



Peter J. Callnan, CPA

less complex.

Don't presume the form you filed last year is the correct form to file this year. Take some time to review the filing requirements and be sure to use the correct one. Form 1040 is divided into various sections. In the series of my next three articles I will be discussing each section briefly.

See TAXES, page 20

TAXES, from page 19

Section 1: LABEL Here is where the IRS identifies the individual(s) who is filing the tax information by their social security number, name and address. To avoid errors, they will even provide a label on the booklet mailed to you containing this information. It can be placed in the label section on the Form 1040. This is important information. If the IRS cannot identify that you have filed a tax return they will send you a notice asking for it. Be careful to fill in your social security number correctly.

Section 2: FILING STATUS Your filing status on December 31, 1994 determines what set of tax rates or which table applies to you. These in turn determine how much tax you will owe. If you are uncertain which status you should file under take a few moments to review the instructions.

Section 3: EXEMPTIONS You are allowed to claim an exemption deduction of \$2,450 for yourself and every person that qualifies as your dependent. A dependent is generally any person that was alive during the year and qualifies under five tests. The tests are:

#1 Relationship - which includes a person unrelated to you that lived with

you the entire year,

#2 Married Person - they cannot be married to someone else,

#3 Citizen or Resident - They are a U.S. citizen, Canadian or Mexican resident or an adopted child,

#4 Income - generally, their gross income must be less than \$2,450,

#5 Support - you generally must provide over 50% of their total support.

Section 4: INCOME The type of income to report is indicated on each line by the description. I will review this section by line number. The * indicates areas where I believe you should consider seeing a tax professional. These areas can be very complex.

Line 7 is Wages, Salaries, Tips etc. which is basically all the income reported in Box 1 of your W-2. The W-2 should be received by January 31, 1995 and if not, call your employer. Keep in mind all tip income should be reported even if it isn't included on the W-2, and it's subject to social security taxes.

Line 8a & b is Interest Income both taxable and tax exempt reported to you on Form 1099-INT and 1099-OID. If your interest income is more than \$400 fill out Schedule B. If you are uncertain whether the interest reported to you is taxable or not call the issuer of the 1099.

Line 9 is Dividend income reported on Form 1099-DIV. Again, if over \$400, fill out Schedule B. Capital Gain Dis-

tributions reported on the 1099-DIV in box 1c get reported on line 13, not here. Only box 1b is reported here.

Line 10 is Taxable refunds, credits, or offsets of state or local taxes and are reported to you on Form 1099-G. Generally, if you claimed these taxes as a deduction in a prior year and a portion were refunded in the current year, that refund is taxable as income in the current year.

Line 11 Payments received as Alimony are taxable. Payments received as child support are not taxable.

* Line 12 is Business income or loss determined on Schedule C. Schedule C - Profit or Loss from Business is not simple and can involve several other Forms and Schedules. Schedule C-EZ is a simplified version for individuals with gross receipts less than \$25,000 and total expenses less than \$2,000.

* Line 13 is capital gains or losses. If you have any capital gains or losses other than those reported on Form 1099-G you will need to fill out Schedule D. If you sold any capital assets, determining their basis and the related gain or loss can be difficult and involve filing several other forms.

* Line 14 is Other gains or losses from Form 4797 Sales of Business Property can also be very complicated.

Line 15a & b is Total IRA (Individual Retirement Account)

Distributions reported on Form

1099-R to you. The taxable amount will be indicated in Box 2a.

Line 16a & b is Total Pensions and Annuities from other sources. These are also reported on Form 1099-R with the taxable amount indicated in Box 2a. If these have income tax withholding they should be attached to Form 1040.

* Line 17 is income from Rental Real Estate, Royalties (Form 1099-MISC), Partnerships (Form 1065 K-1), S Corporations (Form 1120-S K-1), Trust (Form 1041 K-1) and requires filling out Schedule E - Supplemental Income and Loss.

* Line 18 is Farm income reported on Schedule F - Profit or Loss from Farming which is very similar the Schedule C.

Line 19 is Unemployment Compensation reported on Form 1099-G.

* Line 20a & b is Social Security Benefits reported on Form SSA-1099 or RRB-1099. There are new rules on how much may be taxable.

There is a worksheet but it is not simple.

Line 21 is all other types of income not reported elsewhere.

Whew! That brings us to Line 22 Total Income. I realize its a lot of information to absorb. Where there is an * consider seeing a professional. Next month we will review Adjustments to Income and the Tax Computation sections. Good Luck! ΔΔ

Northern Lights Metropolitan Community Church

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*Northern Lights MCC is an inclusive
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outreach to those who have felt
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Church, including gay, lesbian,
bisexual and transgendered persons.*

Bill Gordon, contact person
207/453-9750

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Bangor observes Roe v. Wade 22nd anniversary

by Malcolm Smith
Orono correspondent

The city of Bangor marked the 22nd anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade verdict with a powerful show of support for choice from the pro-choice community. A different group marked the anniversary with yet another incident of violence at a frequently targeted women's health clinic.

"We need to reaffirm our commitment to this cause," Sharon Barker, a founder of the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center (MWWHC), said at a rally and march sponsored by the National Organization for Women, January 22. "It's in our own best interest, all of us, as a society."

Speakers addressed a cramped audience at the Peace and Justice Center on Main Street in Bangor before the crowd began marching down Main Street toward State Street.

Women and men, children and dogs marched two and three abreast, accompanied by Bangor Police in cruisers. While curious onlookers peered out of storefront doors, the crowd of about 150 sang both meditative and raucous songs.

Marchers carried signs reading, "Forcing a woman to have an unwanted child is slavery," and, "Keep your rosaries off my ovaries."

The march proceeded without incident to an office building at 78 State Street which houses AAA Pregnancy Resource Center, which NOW officials say is an "anti-choice clinic."

A participant knocked on the outside door, but the office appeared empty, with



Pro Choice marchers in Bangor observe 22nd anniversary of Roe v. Wade with a march down Main Street. Geyerhan Photo Courtesy "The Maine Campus"

a sign reading "Sorry, closed..." hanging in the darkened doorway.

A few words were spoken before marchers sang and chanted peacefully. One woman spit angrily outside the building. She then proceeded to join loudly in song. Within a half hour the protest disbanded.

Although officials did not know what to expect in the way of counter-demonstrations, none had materialized by the end of the march.

JoAnne Dauphinee was pleased at the turnout for the event, which was organized at the last minute, and felt its success might be in response to the recent violence at the MWWHC as well as at other health clinics.

"An outrageous amount of activity has gone on, and it's clearly orchestrated. There are documents, there are booklets on how to firebomb. It couldn't be more obvious that it's an organized conspiracy

to close abortion clinics and to deprive women of access," Dauphinee said.

Violence at MWWHC has continued over the past few months. A man was arrested after allegedly making a shooting motion with his thumb and forefinger at a clinic employee and volunteer in November. Friday night, two days before the march, a window was broken by an undisclosed object. Bangor police continue to investigate.

Ruth Lockhart, executive director of the MWWHC said she is often asked if she is scared.

"My answer today is 'yes,'" she said. Her fear is that access to reproductive health care experienced by women is diminishing. "That lack of care equals decreased quality of life," Lockhart said.

"This [broken window] is another in a series of threats and violence that we have to endure," she told the supportive crowd.

MCLU, from page 5

several, but the most important one occurred in Florida. Bonauto said, "A very similar question was proposed as a constitutional amendment in the state of Florida. We actually think that she used the Florida constitutional amendment as her model and the Supreme Court of Florida struck that measure from the ballot because they said, 'We have a single subject rule in this state. We're not allowed to roll different kinds of measures into one, as you have done here, and we really see this as being about the power of state government, the power of local government. We see this as being about civil rights laws, we see this measure as being about each of the classifications named. Frankly, that's one of the things that we intend to pursue here as well, since Maine also has a single-subject rule."

Reporter: When was that?

MB: That was in 1993, it was removed from the ballot. It did not reach the voters because it was not proper.

CPR: How will you respond to Cosby's charge that you're filing this suit in order to deny the citizens of Maine the right to decide this question?

MB: I think we should both take a crack at that one because we both have pretty strong feelings. What we think is that she is not playing by the rules. People are allowed to invoke the initiative process, but if she's going to, she must play by the rules, and she cannot masquerade what is a constitutional amendment as a simple, ordinary piece of legislation.

CPR: Do you have a comment on whether or not these kinds of things should even be a matter of voting.

PP: I think one of the issues here is when we're talking about what are the basic principles of democracy, the fundamental principle that my organization (MCLU) stands for, is the notion that at the very basis of our beliefs, is that the rights of the minority should not be subject to the vote of the majority, and that's been something that's been true since this country was founded, and therefore, we're talking about what is democratic. We believe that it is not democratic to subject a minority to this kind of vote in order to substantiate their civil liberties.

Reporter: There are those, like Carolyn Cosby who say there is no need for civil rights guarantees for homosexuals. There's no problem here in Maine. What do you say to that?

MB: What I say is that she's not talking to the right people. And I also say that she knows better and that's a cynical attempt to prey on people's fear. One of the beautiful things about American constitutional democracy is that minority rights are supposed to be preserved, and she's cutting against that principle with this kind of measure.

MB: I want to add that I think all of this, all these technicalities in some ways miss the real heart of the question, and the heart of the question is what kind of society do we want to live in? Do we want to have a society where people can say, 'You and you and you will never have rights,' where we're going to lock the voting booth and throw away the key? This measure tends to create that kind of society, and if we had that kind of society, women would never have the vote. You'd still have a



Pat Peard, President of MCLU. Balboni Photo

system where only white men were allowed to own property. We'd have a very different world, and that's the world Carolyn Cosby wants to create.

"Cosby receiving an extraordinary amount of help from outside Maine"—Peard

CPR: I wonder if you could comment about Cosby's claims that Concerned Maine Families is an instate grass-roots organization with no outside ties, and that human rights advocates in Maine get the bulk of their financial support from outside of Maine.

PP: That simply isn't the case. We don't have all kinds of financial support from out-of-state. Our intention is to have a largely grass roots campaign.

CPR: Do you see her organization (CMF) as having outside connections?

PP: Oh, there's no question. She clearly has connections. It's right on her PAC (Political Action Committee) report. She clearly has connections with the Colorado Ministries, getting materials from the Colorado Ministries. Her entire question was written by a constitutional lawyer in Virginia. She's receiving an extraordinary amount of help from outside the state and I'm sure it will increase.

(Editor's Note: GLAD is a New England wide public interest law firm advocating for civil rights for lesbians, gay men and persons with HIV/AIDS. The Maine Civil Liberties Union, the state affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union, defends constitutional rights in Maine.

UPDATE

GLAD and CMF met, February 2, 1995, in Kennebec County courthouse to dispose of a procedural matter. Count 3 of GLAD's 3-count lawsuit against CMF was dropped without objection from either side.

MCLU-GLAD will file for summary judgment soon. At that time each side gets to tell the court what their interpretation of the relevant law is. The judge then renders a decision. It is expected that whoever loses at the Superior Court level will appeal to the Law Court (Maine's Supreme Judicial Court).

Steven Whiting, an attorney from Portland, represents Carolyn Cosby and Cavanne Howard is the lawyer representing the Attorney General's office. Ironically, the state is on CMF's side in this lawsuit despite the fact that both the Attorney General, Andrew Ketterer and the Secretary of State, William Diamond, publicly oppose Cosby's assault on human rights. This is because the Secretary of State has certified the petitions and written the question for the referendum. ΔΔ

IN THESE TIMES: Living with homophobia

As I sit by my window wondering what to write for this column. I am reminded that this is, for me, the most dead part of the winter. A time when I begin to feel the effects of not enough light, not enough fresh air that I can spend time in. I call it the winter blues and it's a time when I need to be careful. As I was thinking about this, I thought about how many others (gay and non-gay) suffer from winter blues.

I was led to look at the similarities that we share with non-gay people. An important issue in understanding homophobia is to understand that the phenomenon of homophobia itself creates some of our reality. What that means is that if we are looking to find out who we are as gay people, to answer the questions, "What is the social purpose of lesbians and gay men? - or even just make our way in our own life - we need to understand that our experiences at the hands of cultural homophobia are the strongest bonds gay men and lesbians have with each other. These bonds draw us into our tribe - but why a tribe? Conversely, the aversion to homosexuality is the strongest bond non-homosexuals have in a patriarchal, heterosexist society.

Are we different because of our innate natures as gay people, or are we different only because we have been discriminated against so brutally and inexhaustibly in our world?

Is there a special purpose for gay men in society? For lesbians? Or do we make too much of this because our oppression blurs our vision and we cannot see how similar we are to other, non-gay people? I believe that the crux of the debate about homophobia that rages within each of us pivots on this very point.

"Why are people attracted to those of the opposite sex?"

"So that we can have babies, silly, and so that we will not become extinct."

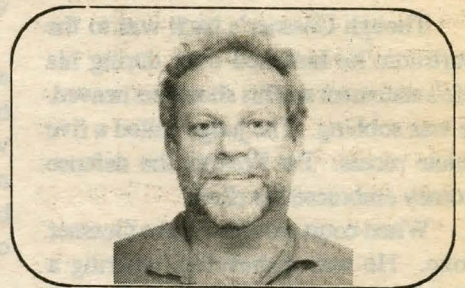
This simple argument has dominated our thought for too long. It prevents us from seeing clearly.

Certainly just populating the globe and having babies has gotten us no where. Just look around at overpopulation and the abuse of natural resources.

In our hearts we know that not all people should be parents. In fact, we know that probably very few should. Yet as a culture we still insist on child bearing/raising as the premier role of people. People are still forced to have children whether they want them or not. Women are seen as failures and not complete if they are not mothers.

If parenting is a role for some people in a society, what are the other roles? Who are the seekers of knowledge? Who are the people who stand on the edge of culture and run back and tell the rest of us what is happening? Who are the people who transform the ordinary into works of art? Who are the storytellers who give form and vision to our past and our future? Who are the healers - those who help us to be born and help us to die? Who are the teachers, who protect wisdom for all to experience?

By focusing on a myth of the patri-



David Smith

archy, that having children is the central fact of life and most important role of a culture, we miss the other roles that are critical to any society. Do we share some roles with non-gay people?

We must move away from the notion of family. Even though we wish to define the family differently, *it is the anthropological building block of the patriarchy*. It is a place where men own women and men and women own children. Power is passed from a man to his son in this system. This system is killing all of us and the earth. Is it so hard to let go of the control and ownership of children? Cannot children be seen as a blessing for all of us, to be nurtured by all and not owned by just two?

It takes courage to throw off the uncomfortable parts of the patriarchy as we demand our civil rights. But, for us, it is dangerous to cling to the comfortable pieces of the patriarchy, because much more is at stake here. The definitions of culture and the roles of human beings, to begin with. If so much was not at stake, we would not have been routinely oppressed and murdered for the past 6-10,000 years for our same sex love.

The answers to who we are are still ours to find.

Amnesty International recognition reveals international injustices

by Michael Rossetti

Amnesty International is a non-political organization seeking to free prisoners of conscience from jails and torture throughout the world by bombarding government bureaucrats, both at home and abroad, with faxes and letters of appeal. The proven record of its successes lies in the release of prisoners, even after decades of imprisonment.

Recently, Amnesty International (AI) has recognized gay men, bisexuals, lesbians and AIDS workers, as people who are in jeopardy of death, torture or jail for their beliefs, organizing, work and/or sexual orientation. As a result of this AI recognition, more and more international injustices are coming to light.

A recent AI bulletin has highlighted the plight of Wilfredo Valencia Polacios, an AIDS educator in El Sal-

See AMNESTY, page 24

GESSNER, from page 4

Though Gessner's back was to the courtroom he hunched over during his wife's statement and his shoulders heaved. He was sobbing. The judge called a five minute recess. Pat Perrino, the defense attorney embraced his client.

When court resumed Luke Gessner spoke. He was disheveled, wearing a soiled T-shirt and leather jacket. He said he thought the court was forgetting important facts which included the assertion by five psychiatrists that Mark was mentally ill. Luke said his brother was lethargic now because of his medication. He said there has already been one loss, we don't need another one and he asked for the minimum sentence saying he believes that would be best for all. He left the courtroom crying.

Herb said, "I don't know if Melvin Henderson molested my son. But 15 years ago, my son went through a drastic change. That's all I have to say."

It appeared that Mark's father wanted to reintroduce the idea that Mark had justification for what he did and that the unproven molestation charge against Melvin Henderson was indeed true.

Pat Perrino, Mark Gessner's defense attorney, then addressed the court. As could be expected he requested the minimum sentence. He used Stokes' own words to support his call for leniency. He reminded the judge that Stokes said he was saddened and troubled by the case, that there was no question of mental instability regardless of the fact that it did not rise to meet the legal threshold of insanity. Perrino said he was "disturbed" by the severity of the 45 year sentence Stokes had asked for in light of the several mitigating factors.

Perrino said that with a 25 year sentence (13.75 years with "good time") Gessner, now 30 years old, could be productive again. Perrino offered a statement from Gessner's boss at Bath Iron Works (BIW) which said that prior to Mark's injury he had been an excellent worker. Perrino listed the factors in Gessner's favor — no prior record (one OUI), no substance abuse record, he liked the outdoors, he hunted and fished, a family man and someone who is "truly rehabilitative."

Perrino concluded by saying that Gessner had wanted to address the court but, "just couldn't do it." Gessner went through the entire process — trial and sentence without saying one word in his own defense. Perrino stated that the mitigating circumstances of this case outweigh or at least neutralize the aggravating circumstances.

The judge retired to deliberate saying he would be back with the sentence shortly. Court recessed. An argument soon erupted in the courtroom between Melissa Henderson and some of Melvin Henderson's elderly friends. Melissa was snarling at one woman and shouting, "You didn't know my father so shut the fuck up," to which one of Melvin's friends answered, "Yes, but I know you . . . I know you." No courtroom personnel interfered in this altercation apparently because the court was in recess.

Judge imposes 30 years

The judge returned after about 20 minutes. Mark Gessner and Perrino stood and faced the judge. The judge spoke in a

decisive and yet compassionate tone of voice.

The judge said the Supreme Court asks judges to establish a base sentence but that he had considerable flexibility within a certain range (25 year mandatory minimum) and in order to determine that base sentence he had to look at other cases of similar gravity.

The judge listed the various factors he weighed in coming to his decision. He said we have an intentional, knowing killing without immediate provocation, and whether or not Mark Gessner was molested is not for the court to determine.

Judge Delehanty said Gessner does have mental health problems and if we look at his background we see he is a veteran who received an honorable discharge from the military. Delehanty said sentencing would be easier if Gessner were not mentally ill and as far as directing the type of care Gessner gets in prison, the court has limited authority once the prisoner is turned over to the Department of Corrections.

The judge said the sentence must fit the crime and be adjusted to fit the individual. The sentence must not diminish the gravity of the offense and it should deter this individual and others. He said he needed to take into account the minimization of jail time to prevent further criminality (so much for the rehabilitative environment of prison) and in fitting the sentence to the individual we must look at his age. Sometimes youth is an aggravating factor but here Delehanty said, it is mitigating, and that with appropriate care Gessner does have the possibility of being a productive citizen again. (After all, he was a hard worker.)

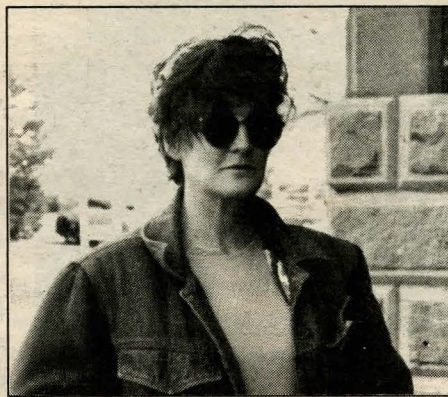
Delehanty said that in some cases a murder may fall below the norm and in this case it does. He then imposed the 30 year sentence, only 5 more than the mandatory minimum. He told Gessner that he can appeal the sentence and/or the whole trial in 20 days.

Melissa tells Melvin's friends to "shut up"

After the sentencing everyone moved out into the parking lot. The reporters were trying to solicit reaction from the various interested parties. The argument between Melissa Henderson and Melvin's friends spilled out there as well and once outside it erupted further. It was as if the cold air and bright sunlight ignited the smoldering dispute. Melissa turned to her tormentors and shouted, "You didn't know him . . . so keep your mouth shut." Cooler heads hustled away those who would do battle with Melissa.

Reporters asked Luke Gessner for his reaction to the sentence. He said, "Uhhh, I knew it wasn't going to be more than 35, uhhh, we were all hoping for 25 but . . . you know, you can't always have what you want."

Herb Gessner said, in response to a question about the change that he said took place in Mark at age 15, "He (Mark) started drinking at 14 or 15, that I didn't know about until just recently. I didn't know about the change in him until later on." A reporter asked, "Is 30 years fair?" Herb responded, "Actually, I was hoping for the insanity plea and going to AMHI (Augusta



Melissa Henderson, Melvin's daughter fought with friends of her father during and after the sentencing. Balboni Photo

Mental Health Institute) but I looked into the AMHI thing and they said if he goes to AMHI there's a possibility he'll be medicated and stuck in a room and forgot about, so . . . I don't know, it's the lesser of two evils, he goes to jail and maybe receives some help. In Thomaston he'll receive the help we wanted for the mental part of it, also, he's a wood-carver so there is a wood shop."

Another reporter said, "In terms of remorse, the judge said he didn't see any, the prosecutor said he didn't see any. How do you feel, has he ever talked to you about it?" Herb answered, "I think a lot of it has to do with him being a paranoid schizophrenic and you have to understand the mental health part of people's personality before you can judge 'em and that's one thing about the whole case — nobody has judged him on his mental incompetency."

"In your mind, clearly, this is not an incident of gay-bashing, this is an incident of a guy who's a paranoid schizophrenic," offered one reporter.

"Yes, yeah," Herb agreed.

"What are you hoping for 30 years from now?" quizzed another reporter.

"I'll be dead," Herb said stoically.

"For your son?"

"I don't know, I just hope he can get out and start some sort of life, maybe he'll serve 15, they say half of what the sentence is, so, that's what we're hoping for," said Herb.

CPR asked, "When you said that you noticed a change in him 15 years ago what did you mean?"

Herb answered, "I think he became more withdrawn, he became angry he started to fight which I never knew about at that time. He was aggressive throughout the rest of his life, he was angry so . . ."

Pat Perrino, Gessner's defense attorney told the assemblage of reporters, "any remorse he may or may not have is directly attributable to his mental illness. I don't think anyone who was here at trial has any question that he was mentally ill. The question was, 'did it rise to the level of criminal responsibility,' obviously the jury found otherwise. I think the judge was troubled by that too and as to the remorse issue that was probably directly affected by his mental illness."

"Do you believe he was molested by Melvin Henderson?" asked a reporter.

Perrino answered gravely, "I honestly believe he was molested and I base that on our investigation of stuff we couldn't obviously attribute in the courtroom. But I honestly believe he was molested."

Another reporter asked, "There were two apparent sides to Melvin Henderson.

I mean, even his own daughter got up there and said he was a cruel person and yet in the community he was well liked, well loved."

Perrino answered philosophically, "There's two sides in every story, look at the O. J. Simpson case on television. We see one guy, then we see another guy. I think there are two sides, and, especially, given Mr. Henderson's background I think there was a hidden side to Mr. Henderson."

CPR asked, "So the judge wouldn't allow you to introduce information that he had been molested?"

Perrino said, "There was evidence that we had that we couldn't get into court and I knew that we couldn't get it in."

Asked for reaction to the sentence itself Perrino said, "I was pleased with the sentence, it was on the lower end and I think the judge put it very well when he gave his reasons for giving it on the lower end because of the mitigating circumstances."

Having finished with Perrino and setting their sights on the prosecutor, the swarm of reporters abandoned the defense attorney like vultures leaving a barren carcass and set upon William Stokes as if he was freshly fallen prey. "At some level in this sentencing business you're really talking about numbers and it really depends upon what number. When you get up into the range of 30, 35 40, 45, 50 you're talking picking the number and where you place the emphasis. I think 30 is a fair sentence, that's the judge's call and I respect his call," said Stokes in reaction to the sentence.

A reporter asked, "Why were you so convinced all along that this was premeditated, intentional, that he knew what he was doing, when the family and the defense was saying no, he's a paranoid schizophrenic?"

Stokes answered, "No question that he was very disturbed, the jury knew he was very disturbed, but the fact that he was very disturbed doesn't mean he can't act deliberately or intentionally and know precisely what he's doing. He may do it for a reason, that may explain the reason why he's done what he did and in fact we may never know what the true reason is but it doesn't necessarily negate . . . the fact that he is mentally ill, which I think we all agree he is, doesn't negate the fact that he engaged in an act which is punishable as a crime."

Another reporter asked, "You said he did not show any sign of remorse do you feel he can be rehabilitated and become a productive member of society?"

Stokes answered wistfully, "I hope so. . . I hope so. I think he needs to comply with his medication and I think he'll get that, whether he'll get the type of therapy and counseling or whether he'll be receptive to that I'm not sure, but the judge has given him the opportunity to have a substantial portion of his remaining life. I'm hopeful he'll go back to a happier Mark Gessner. You can only hope."

After the trial CPR contacted a member of the jury who insisted that at no time did any juror suggest that Gessner was justified in killing Melvin Henderson. The juror maintained that there was no trace of homophobia in their deliberations. ΔΔ

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By Dick Harrison

CARIBOU, ME: Maine's twenty-first gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered conference will be held at the University of Maine campus in Presque Isle from May 26-29, 1995 (Memorial Day Weekend). Symposium XXI will be hosted by the members of Northern Lambda Nord, Maine's oldest community-based group.

"Coming of Age" is the theme of Symposium XXI. It will be both a celebration of the 21st anniversary of this event in Maine, as well as a look at how the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered communities in the state have matured, both politically and personally.

Symposium planners are finalizing conference details including arrangements for two keynote speakers. Saturday evening entertainment will include a noted lesbian comic and a men's choral group. Due to the pending statewide anti-gay referendum on the November ballot, an important "town meeting" will be held during the weekend.

This year marks the fourth time Northern Lambda Nord has brought Symposia to northern Maine. NLN's membership is drawn from Aroostook County, Maine as well as the neighboring New Brunswick counties. One of the two keynote speakers in Presque Isle has always been a Canadian activist; this tradition will continue at Symposium XXI.

The new campus center and remodelled dining hall of the University of Maine at Presque Isle offers modern facilities for Symposium's Memorial Day weekend events. Dormitory housing provides all linen, blankets, pillow, towels and soap. Registrants may choose from several weekend "packages":

Plan A includes 3 night's lodging, all meals, and registration (which allows admission to all events) for \$109.

Plan B is two night's lodging, meals and registration for \$95.

Plan C is one night's lodging, meals and registration for \$80.

Plan D is meals and registration for \$65.

Registration only (Plan E) is \$25.

Registrations received after May 1 will be higher. A limited number of reduced-price "work exchange" registrations, as well as child care are available if requested in advance.

To receive a registration form, send a stamped self-addressed business-size envelope today to Symposium XXI, P.O. Box 990, Caribou ME 04736-0990, or call the Gay-Lesbian Phoneline of Maine at 207/498-2088 Wednesdays between 7:00 and 9:00 PM. Leave a message at other times. The Phoneline is TTY-accessible.

Maine's twenty-first statewide conference scheduled for Memorial Day Weekend

SYMPOSIUM Seeks

vendors & organizations

Symposium XXI has set aside space for vendors to sell their wares, for organizations to have table space for selling fundraising items, and for non-profit groups to distribute literature.

Table space MUST be reserved in advance. Please send requests for table space to Symposium XXI/Vendors, POB 990, Caribou ME 04736-0990. Include a brief explanation as to what will be sold/distributed.

Call for artists to display

Planners of Symposium XXI have set aside space during the Memorial Day weekend conference for an exhibit of works by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered artists.

Symposium hopes to have access to the new gallery space in the campus center. Both two and three dimensional work is sought.

Display space is limited. Symposium organizers would appreciate notification of artists' intent to exhibit. Please send a note to Symposium XXI/Exhibit, POB 990, Caribou ME 04736-0990. Include a brief explanation as to what will be displayed: 2-D or 3-D, dimensions, etcetera.

Workshop topics, discussion leaders sought

Symposium XXI is looking for people to lead workshop discussions during the Memorial Day weekend conference.

ence.

Workshops play an important role in the success of the Symposium weekend. One workshop which has been confirmed is "Small Business Owners", a networking opportunity for people who are small business owners to meet and discuss issues such as how they integrate their personal and business lives within their communities.

Workshop facilitators will receive a reduction in the cost of their registration at Symposium. Please send your suggestions for workshop topics and names of individuals who are interested in leading a workshop to Symposium XXI/Workshops, POB 990, Caribou ME 04736-0990.

NEW HAMPSHIRE, from page 1

condemning Whizzer or hating Marvin, but grieving for both. Finn has wisely woven Whizzer into Jason's and Trina's lives to the point that their grief is as genuine and heartfelt as Marvin's. The result is four characters who have many reasons to hate each other end up loving each other.

The opening night's performance on Thursday, February 23 at 8:00 PM will be a benefit for AIDS Response-Seacoast. Reservations may be made by calling ARS at 603/433-5377. Tickets are \$50,

TV, from page 15

Colony Square Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. It is sponsored by the International Foundation for Gender Education located in Wayland, Massachusetts. It is hosted by friends and supporters of Southern Comfort Conference and Magnolia Transgender Alliance, and is the ninth annual IFGE Coming Together-Working Together Convention.

"There are countless numbers of people in the world who need our help and leadership," says Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Founding Director of IFGE. "Their lives and their futures depend upon our actions... Atlanta Action '95 will be unlike any other transgender conference you have ever attended, focused solely on mature leadership and activism," adds Merissa.

For more information about this convention call 617/894-8340. For information on any aspects of various transgender issues, call IFGE at 617/899-2212 or write to them at POB 367, Wayland, MA 01778.

\$40, and \$30 and include a champagne and gourmet banquet with the cast after the show. This is the second annual Theatre Night Benefit of the Seacoast Repertory Theatre. Don't miss this chance to see a riveting musical journey through life and to help support the work of AIDS Response-Seacoast.

"Falsettos" will be on stage from February 23 through March 26 on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8:00 PM and Sundays at 3:00 PM. Call Seacoast Repertory Theatre for information about cost and group rates. 603/433-4472 or 1-800-639-7650. ΔΔ

AMNESTY, from page 21

vador. Polacios has been targeted by a new type of death squad whose sole function is to kill and intimidate gays and lesbians in El Salvador. On repeated occasions, Polacios has been threatened while distributing condoms. He has been repeatedly beaten and told that if AIDS didn't kill him, they would. On more than one occasion he has had to flee pistol firing assailants. Polacios has gone into hiding as a result and his necessary and good work has been suspended.

A letter or fax can help to get the death squad off Polacios' back and get important AIDS information to the people of El Salvador. Letters calling for an investigation of assaults and death threats against Wilfredo Valencia Polacios should be sent to President of the Republic, E.E. Dr. Armando, Calderon Sol, Casa Presidencial, San Salvador, El Salvador. Faxes may be sent to +5032 71-0950. Copies of your letters should be sent to CODEFAM, Lic. Emilia Guerra, Colonia Centroamerica, Calle Gabriele Mistral No. 614, San Salvador, El Salvador. ΔΔ

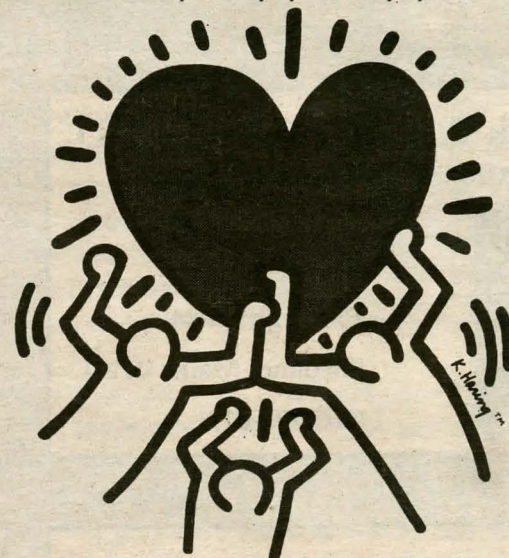
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