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Community Pride Reporter, 03/1995

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**Community Pride Reporter**

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

**FEBRUARY - MARCH, 1995**

**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, 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 law-suit 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 Maine constitution based on an anti-human rights law."

Bonauto told the court 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."

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**“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-acceptance and 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 seeing NEW HAMPSHIRE, page 24...
House District 31 election campaign heats up

by Bruce Baldoni

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 District 31 (Portland's West End) race is 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 issues 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 anomaly 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 through legislation, he said, "We can't legislate people's hearts and minds. In some ways 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 behelden 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. Have gay relatives. What's the big deal... it's something I am 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 fry 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 danger and 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 candidature. 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."

**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.

Duncan Hopkins, Republican candidate for House District 31.

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**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."

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**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 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...
The purpose of the hearing was to hear of Health and Human Service’s (OHS) at the University of Maine at Augusta around the state was held January 30th White Funds to AIDS organizatiorui AIDS. to the state from the federal government held in accordance with a law concern­

ator of the OHS, outlined the proposed party, Tom Bancroft, the AIDS Coordi­

public comments about the Department for use in helping persons with HIV/ AIDS. It was a very informal hearing and comments ranged from off-the-cuff re­marks to prepared speeches to the read­

of a letter from a person unable to attend the hearing due to illness. Speak­ers were heard in the order of their ar­

I spoke first. I had two major items I wanted to address. One was a request that more money be put into the Drug Reimbursement Program, as persons with HIV/AIDS are often in need of drugs and are often unable to pay for them by any means other than this program. Medicines are often expensive for persons with HIV/AIDS and these people are often unable to get insurance reimbursement or pay for them out of their own pockets. My second item concerned my dis­
tress that The AIDS Project of Portland had just announced it had a $750,000 budget for 1995 (in a story carried in the Portland Press Herald concerning TAP’s 10th Anniversary) and that only $30,000 was budgeted for direct client care. The $30,000 figure was told to me by Deborah Shields, the Executive Di­

The proposed use of the Ryan White Funds went like this:

OS: Right, that’s what Tom Bancroft said, “As persons like. These needs are not met by the state, and that, to me, seemed less than equitable. I urged the state to encour­

gage greater use of funds for direct client care, such as help with dental care, rent, insurance, alternative therapies, and the like. These needs are not met by any other federal or state program. [See sidebar interview with Deborah Shields.]

The AIDS Project responds...

by Mike Martin

A public hearing on how the State of Maine will distribute federal Ryan White Funds to AIDS organizations around the state was held January 30th at the University of Maine at Augusta. The purpose of the hearing was to hear public comments about the Department of Health and Human Service’s (DHSS) proposed use of some $28,000 coming to the state from the federal government for use in helping persons with HIV/ AIDS.

In a letter sent to any interested party, Tom Bancroft, the AIDS Coordi­

ator of the DHSS, outlined the proposed allocation of the funds. The hearing was held in accordance with a law concern­

public hearings, and Bancroft made it clear that any and all persons interested in attending the hearing were wel­

At the hearing Bancroft made sure that everyone knew they were wel­

come to address the hearing.

The proposed use of the Ryan White Funds went like this:

$91,425 for The AIDS Project of Portland 
$16,049 for the Downeast AIDS Network in Ellsworth 
$21,432 for the Eastern Maine AIDS Network in Bangor 
$17,840 for Dayspring in Augusta 
$12,000 for the Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition 

$22,837 towards the administrative costs at the DHSS 
$40,000 toward the state Drug Reimbursement Program 

$6,782 left over with no proposed use decided.

This represented a 10% increase for all the above agencies, with the ex­

ception of the Waldo Knox AIDS Coalition, which hopes to receive funding for the first time.

The hearing was a chance for in­

terested persons to comment on the pro­

posed use of the funds. Attendees in­

cluded persons representing some of the agencies in line to receive funds as well as persons with HIV/AIDS wanting to

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Tickets are $28 per person or $2 for $50 Work exchange tickets are available on a limited first come basis. Please make reservations by February 27, 1995

Any questions or special requests, please call Mary Dorazio at (207) 756-2500

The AIDS Project responds ...

by Winnie Weir, Editor

CPR asked Deborah Shields (DS) to comment on some of the issues raised in Mr. Martin’s article regarding the percentage of Ryan White money applied to di­

rect care. Shields said, “The total Ryan White money we receive is $83,114. These Ryan White Title II funds are the only federal or state funds we can use for financial assistance directly to clients so when you take $30,000 out of $83,000, it is actually 36% of the possible funds that could be used in this way.

CPR: Is $91,415 the new figure for next year?

DS: Right, that’s what Tom Bancroft is proposing for this year. Actually, that’s what the hearing was about, which is an increase of $8,500.

CPR: The rest of that Ryan White money is used for what?

DS: Case management, which is one of the allowable costs, Ryan White’s guide­

lines are very broad and they include case management, direct financial assistance to clients, all kinds of things, and it’s up to the AIDS Service Organizations to decide this. We’ve been level funded for the last 4 years in Ryan White money so the issue for us in how on earth do we get more Ryan White money into this state as well as into this agency.

CPR: Jane O’Rourke asked for more dollars for case management. Can you comment on that?

DS: Not every client needs case management, but many do. Many clients are completely disempowered and need the help case managers provide, which is ev­

erything for hooking people up to medical providers to being an advocate for them in medical settings, to getting them alterna­tive therapies such as massage, acupunc­

ture or herbs, to helping them get into sup­port groups, helping them apply for Med­

icaid or SSI and SSDI and getting them free legal services.

Our case loads are huge. We have five people delivering client services and we have around 230 clients, so each case manager has far too many clients. We con­

sider all of them that goes to case management to be client-directed money.

Whether we are providing the service or the direct financial assistance, it’s still cli­

ent directed money.

CPR: Define case management ver­

sus direct care.

DS: Direct care is not the term we use. The $30,000 is direct financial assis­tance to clients for medical or dental needs. Case management is resource support. It’s everything imaginable to make a client’s life work a little better.

For us the bottom line is how do we work together to get more Ryan White money in the state, because of course, there’s not enough money for direct care or case management. It’s about 60% of the other issue is, with our HOPWA Grant (Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS), we will be giving more than $100,000 a year directly to clients in rental assistance. So in essence, we will be giving $130,000 a year total. That figure is important to add in there.ΔΔ
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 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 stayed 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) was very real. This is not a case of indiscriminate vio­

ence 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 acclamation 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 "ticked 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. 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 Melissa 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
constitution. That is exactly what she's done here, and it's 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 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. It's an attempt to prevent you from going to vote on it. 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 was then 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 constitution 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.

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

(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 under state or local law human finances. charter provisions or policies are inconsistent with state or local law: rule regulation, ordinance, charter provision or policy inconsistent with the statute. The statute is consistent with the statute. The statute also intends to limit present and future lawmakers. That's the problem here," responded Bonauto.

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constituency. That is exactly what she's done here, and it's 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 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 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. It's an attempt to prevent you from going to vote on it. 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 was then 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 constitution 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.
The boardwalk is still under construction and some trails are in need of blaze markings, but Maine's newest Nature Conservancy preserve 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 rainwater 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 boardwalk is considered "not soil." 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 out some of the wild plants mooses. 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 natures 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 207/759-5181 (Fort Androscoggin, Brunswick). For a ride or group hike of the Heath, come with TIME OUT on Sunday, March 12th by calling 207/871-9940. 

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-April10th 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 then switches 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 is a musical. Again, the answer is no. It is a drama/comedy.
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 the organizational funding issues 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, to continue the more grants in future years and for more money.

Diana Carrigan, a case manager at The AIDS Project, also spoke at the hearing. She 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 been without any Ryan White 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 part-time case managers, as opposed to full-time case managers. 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.

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 citizen, 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 impression of the hearing.

The DHS seemed genuinely interested in hearing comments and encouraged people to speak to or 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 funding will stay as 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 people with HIV/AIDS. The need to fund case managers 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 774-8877 and let them know you’ll be attending this meeting.

Full Circle of Women Conference

by Winnie Weit, Editor

Billed as a radically different, politically incorrect exploration of what it means to be a woman, this conference had 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 reformation 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 “generic” women, and not just 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 situated 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 society’s view of Full Circle, see FULL CIRCLE, page 9

Susan Reed, L.Ac.

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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 the 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 our money's worth. It doesn't matter if you're getting familiarized with the current and out-of-print books in stock.

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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: "Our that's the way I've always thought about it" or "Our that's the way it's always been." Scary, huh?

I try, gently, when I'm in a good mood, to help my students to look at another viewpoint. I tell then that I encourage them to disagree with me or the text, but that when they do, they had better have some clear thinking 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!"
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 HIV/AIDS epidemic. Only you can decide what risks you are willing to take.

NO RISK:
Most of these activities involve only healthy skin in healthy skin contact, thereby avoiding exposure to blood, semen, pro-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 brutalizing 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, pro-cum, ejaculate or vaginal secretions. Seminal 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 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. Suckling 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 saliva 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 barriers.
   (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 (flattening 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 tissue leading to other medical problems.
   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 uncircumcised 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 tissue, open sores in the mouth or digestive tract could pose risk.
3. Oral/anal contact (stimming).
   HIV may be contained in blood contaminated feces or in the anal or rectal lining. This practice also poses risk high of transmission of parasites and other gastrointestinal infections.
4. Cummingual (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.
   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-cum and pro-cum semen exposure, or anal intercourse with ejaculation.
   Keep your toys to your self to avoid contamination. 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 least risk of being infected than their partners who are sexually 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, dropppers, spoons, cottons, or cookdans)! 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 behavior, 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. "We provide Case Management and 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 Heberlein, Coordinator of Prevention Education and HIV Prevention Educator at The AIDS Project, based on standards developed by Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights.)
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-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 classified. 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 infiltrating on the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender 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 vultures of subtle suppression of free speech, the likes of CMF and Carolyn Cosby will, on some level, have won. I 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 community.

In solidarity.

Winnie Weir, Publishing Editor

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 a fact of the ongoing 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 refer to a '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 deny protection to gay and traditional civil rights law ... ." Since when has Carolyn Cosby, or Lockman, who wrote that nonsensical 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 "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.
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, "imagine "those people" are doing in those to characterize all gays. And they ignore that every one of the things they some heterosexuals (plus one more!) tor six years ago, I made an effort to meet could. I spoke to them, ooe at a time when possible, about the need for civil netet."

When they think of homosexual when they think of homosexual public intolerance. At the same time, they deny that thought, including actively maintained 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

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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

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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 3:30 PM - Client Advisory Board of The AIDS Project will meet for the first time at 22 Monument Square, 5th floor, Call TAR: 714-6877 if attending. People living in southern Maine with HIV/AIDS welcome.

Friday, February 17th:
• Δ Women's Winter Retreat - Call 603/942-9941. Music, dance, discussion, writing, fun and concert, and dance with Justina and Joyce.

Friday, February 20th:
• Δ Women's Winter Retreat - Call 603/942-9941. Music, dance, discussion, writing, fun and concert, and dance with Justina and Joyce.

Saturday, February 21st:
• Δ 1:00-4:00 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, 207/775-7632.

Sunday, February 22nd:
• 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, call 207/498-2088.

MARCH

Wednesday, March 1st:
Deadline for CPR ads, classifieds and calendar listings.

Wednesday, March 2nd:
• Δ 7:30-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham. Meditation Group for women & men. FMI, 207/775-7632.

Thursday, 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.

Thursday, March 9th:
• Δ 7:30-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham. Meditation Group for women & men. FMI, 207/775-7632.

Thursday, March 19th:
• Δ 7:30-9:00 PM - The Gathering, USM Campus Center, Portland, Rm. B & C. Topic: Survival/Partnership. How does surviving incest affect the link between identity and relationships? Anita Landino, presenter. FMI, Faith Worthley, 207/774-4919.

Thursday, March 23rd:
• Δ 7:30-9:30 PM - Gay and Lesbian AA meeting at Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI, call 207/498-2088.
FOR RENT: OFFICE
\(\Delta\) 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 tours, keys and scheduling. 773-0205. \(\Delta\)

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

HELP WANTED
\(\Delta\) 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. \(\Delta\)

\(\Delta\) 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. \(\Delta\)

\(\Delta\) 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
\(\Delta\) 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 Souvney, Roger Wilton: 207/725-9790.

TRAVEL/VACATION
\(\Delta\) 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) 699-3978. \(\Delta\)

\(\Delta\) BACKPACKING, canoeing, x-country skiing, Native American 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 04983, 1-800-589-4770. \(\Delta\)

\(\Delta\) 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. \(\Delta\)

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

\(\Delta\) 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. DSYPLE, POB 185, Cape Neddick, ME 03902-0185. \(\Delta\)

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

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

\(\Delta\) Discover Avatar®, a course in personal evolution. Avatar® is a powerful, speedy 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 Traup, P.O. Box 176, Blue Hill, ME 04614, 207/374-5438. \(\Delta\)

MAIL ORDER CATALOG

BUSINESS ORGANIZATION
\(\Delta\) 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/bisexual 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 Zavamik, 775-0015 or Winnie Weir, 879-1342. \(\Delta\)
MUGPA is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the general public, politicians, and media on LG issues. Primary goals are to involve the LG 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-MUGPA.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is a support, advocacy, and educational organization for parents, families, and friends of lesbians, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. See complete list under PHONE SUPPORT for contact numbers.

The Matlovich Society 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 (NB), at the Gay-Lesbian Center for Humor, 338 S. Main St., Caribou, and can be reached every Wednesday by The PhoneLine. Call 207-498-2088.

The Maitlovich Society 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 (NB), at the Gay-Lesbian Center for Humor, 338 S. Main St., Caribou, and can be reached every Wednesday by The PhoneLine. Call 207-498-2088.

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FMI, AIDS Coalition of Lewiston-Auburn.  
Brewer: Meetings for families and friends who have loved ones with AIDS at 
Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services, 8 Lincoln Street. FMI on meeting days and 
times call Brian at 725-4955.

Gardiner: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays: People 
Living with HIV meets from 1:30-3 pm at the 
Physicians Building behind Kennebec 
Regional Health Agency. FMI. Call Brian 
in Mass at 725-4955.

Runford/Mexico/Arizona: Mondays: 
Groups Support Phone line 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/ 
AIDS - their families. 7 pm, 70 Court St., 
Second floor. FMI: 785-4697.

Maine AIDS Alliance 
Member Organizations 
AIDS Coalition of Lincoln County: P.O. 
Box 421, Damariscotta, ME 04543-0421. 
Call 563-5693.

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

AIDS Coalition of Lewiston-Auburn: P.O. 
Box 1377, Lewiston, ME 04241. Call 734- 
4697.

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

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

Community Task Force on AIDS Educ: 
P.O. Box 941, Naples, ME 04055. Call 858- 
6508.

DaySpring: 33 Winthrop St., Augusta, ME 
04330. Call 626-3435.

Down East AIDS Network: 114 State 
Street, Ellsworth, ME 04605. Call 675-3506.

Eastern Maine AIDS Network: P.O. 
Box 2034, Bangor, ME 04402. Call 701-3625.

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

Names Project/Maine: P.O. Box 4519, 
Portland, ME 04101. Call 774-2198.

Oxford Hills Community AIDS Network: 
P.O. Box 115. 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 773-8500.

St. John Valley AIDS Task Force 
c/o NMTC, 141 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 Winne Weir, Editor

Are you all dressed up with no where to go? 
Despair, well, despair not.

A major event for the transcendental 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, transgender, transsexual or gender 
crosser, 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 
transgender community, scheduled for March 12 through 19 at the 
Sheraton

See tv page 24

MEET THOSE PERSONALITIES 

by Patty Jordan, Editor

For men & women healing from sexual abuse by 
clergy of any denomination. Meets in 
Portland location on third Friday of the 
month. FMI: 207-977-9250.

Parent

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

Maine and Rhode Island AIDS Task Force: 
Events and group support for lesbians and 
their children. Emphasis on inclusion of lesbians in the process of becoming 
growing or adopting. Meets monthly in the greater Portland area. 
FMI: write: P.O. Box 2235, South 
Portland, ME 04106.

Gay/Lesbian Support/Information 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 662-2916.

Youth Support

OUTRIGHT: Sundays, 6pm at Mabel 
Wadsworth Women's Health Center, Harlow 
St., Bangor. Support group for lesbian, gay, 
bisexual youth ages 16-22. FMI: call 285- 
7180.

OUTRIGHT: Mondays: Weekly, con- 
fidential meetings for gay, lesbian, 
and 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 discourses and forums for gay, 
bisexual, questioning & young people. FMI: call 
774-TALK, or 774-HELP or write to P.O. Box 
5077, Portland, ME 04104.

OUTRIGHT: Rockport: Meets every 
Friday from 7 to 9 pm at the Unitarian 
Church annex building adjacent to the fire 
stations, 206 Court St., Portland Maine. FMI: 
write: P.O. Box 842. Portsmouth NH. 03031. 

E.A.T.E. Right: Education and 
Trainign: A project of ACT UP/Portland 
whose purpose is to fight HIV, AIDS, and 
homophobia in all Maine public schools; to 
form empowering groups for teens and queer 
and to create a context in which pro-teen, 
pro-queer groups are able to exist and 
proliferate in more space. Straight or queer, 
boy or girl, HIV+, black, brown or white. 
All welcome. Meets first and third 
Fridays of each month at 5:30 pm, 
YWCA, 87 Spring St. Portland ME 04101. 
Call 774-7900, FAX: 774-2027.

Collage: Support group run by 
and for the children of gay, lesbian 
& bisexual parents. FMI: COLLAGE, 
2300 Market St., 615, Dept. P, San Francisco, 
CA 94114.

H.I.V. Related Support Meetings

Portland: Mondays: HIV negative 
partners of people living 
with HIV. 6-30-7:30 pm. 
Tuesdays: People Living with HIV and 
disease and all friends, families, 
lovers, and caregivers, 10:30 am-Noon.

2nd & 4th Tuesdays: Living 
Focus welcomes people living with HIV to 
focus on quality of life and empowerment 
for those living with HIV/AIDS: 
1st Wednesdays: D.A.W.S. 
(Pets Are Wonderful 
Support), 5:30 pm. Call 775-PAWS.

Charles Wynton, Program Coordinator.

Thursdays: Women Living with HIV 
meets from 3:30-5:30 pm. FMI: 
Living with HIV from 5:30-7:30 pm. 
The above Portland support groups meet at 
The AIDS Project, 22 Monument Sq., 5th 
floor, Portland 04101. Call 773-8500 
or 774-3355 for more information.

Lewiston: Information & support meetings for 
People Living with HIV. Call 776-4697
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 here 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 Crucifier of Blood" at the Pabavac Theatre in Bangalore. Also in "Boy's Side" will be the Oak Street Theatre in Portland.

Women's Valentines Dance at the United Methodist Church, Portsmouth, NH.

The Seaforth Repertory Theatre in Portland, New Hampshire is bringing "Falletto" to the stage at the Portsmouth Academy of Performing Arts, February 23 through March 6.

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

There is a new theatre company called Pack 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. 

---

"Boys on the Side" - Review

by Rose Mary Denman

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

Whoops 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 am going to see 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 Whoopie's crowning glory to date. She's simply incredible. Drew Barrymore, for all of her nineteen years of age, 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 definitely is a must see, and as far as I'm concerned, this is a must own!

---

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 terribly 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 madness and Jean remains totally epicentric. 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 erotically 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.
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 of escape.

On the abstract, coupled with their strong large, bold, and colorful nude studies of January. These works were tense when she speaks about her art, but there’s a steady when she speaks about her art, but there’s a steady

Toni remembers drawing all through her childhood. She did not start painting until much later, entering P.S.A. 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 tittles she gave those early paintings, she could be more emotionally advanced today.

A few years ago, Toni Wolf's stu-
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 herself and her feelings for women. The stark realism bordering on the abstract, coupled with their strong spirituality, gave this viewer the feeling of escape.

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 canvases 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 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 slide to New York and getting the rejections. Toni remains positive about her work is her personal response to the rejection and her work being scrutinized. Her open response to criticism comes from sex.

Doors open 6pm, Show 8pm

GIA $26.50
Doors open 9pm, Show 8pm

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

TV Review: “Serving in Silence”

by Rose Mary Dennan

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 turn on the tube and see it. The film is about a woman, 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 unwilling 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 WCSS, Channel 6, Portland, registering their objections to the airing of this movie. On Wednesday afternoon, I spoke with Fred Thompson, President of WCSS 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
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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

609 Congress St.
Portland, Maine
State Theatre

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 $25.50
Doors open 9pm, 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 6pm, Show 8pm

Saturday, March 25
Children’s Museum Art Auction

Thursday, March 30
Bobby McFerrin’s Hard Choral

Children’s Museum Art Auction

7:15-8 pm

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, oftentimes sobering, 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 straightforward approach to its controversial subject has made it a source for discussion throughout the country. Cost for this film 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, sometimes outrageous 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 tilt, “Talk 16” reminds us 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 film’s selection, with a 15 minute short, the result of a workshop designed for high school girls from vastly different cultures as they head out of their school years and into adulthood. The film is 45 minutes.

On Saturday evening ends with a 60 minute presentation, “Greetings from Out Here.” Videographer Spiri traveled for one year on the back roads of the southern US gathering footage for this richly informative film charting the course for future professionals. Proceeds go to support the Maine Women’s Fund work with women in non-traditional careers.

Capping the weekend is a screening of “Sister & Brother.” Written, directed, and edited by Kate Kaminski, “Sister & Brother” 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.

Capping the weekend is “In Her Own Words” which is an opportunity to meet 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 House, 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. 

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BOOK REVIEW

Title: Sister & Brother
Edited by: Joan Neste and John Preston

by Rose Mary Denman

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

… for you gay men and lesbians were told that we had no stories what—described by its filmmaker merely as the story of a “Girl’s A Ritual Shop.”

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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 Ria Kisen.

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

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 Barney. It is a delightful song about the experience of being a Woman in Harmony. This entire part of the program was liltingly beautiful with "Lift Up Thine Eyes" by Mendelssohn 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 joyful singalong.

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, "Overture 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.

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 Darny 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."  

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 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
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 from storefront doors, the crowd of about 150 sang meditative and rousing songs.

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

Violence 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 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, 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-demands, no one 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," she said. "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.
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 invite the majority to vote, 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 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 that the nation 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.

CPR: Are you a minority?

MB: No, we are a society where people have a right to be different, to have a different world, and that's the world Carolyn Cosby wants to create.

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

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 got 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

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 FLAC (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."

Pat Pears, President of MCLU. Babboni Photo

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 more, 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. We'd have a very different world, and that's the world Carolyn Cosby wants to create.

"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 nature 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 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 patriarchy, that having children is the central fact of life and most important role of culture, for us, misses 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 patriarch. 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. It is 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 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 and still ours to find.

Amnesty International recognition reveals international injustices

by Michael Rossoni

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 well as those 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-
Threw Gessner's back was to the courtroom he hunch over during his 
wife's statement and his shoulders hunched. He was sobbing. The 
court called a five minute recess. Pat Perrino, the defense 
attorney embraced his client.

When court resumed Luke Gessner spoke. He was disheveled, wearing a 
suited T-shirt and leather jacket. He said he though the court was forgetting impor-
tant facts which included the assertion by five psychiatrists that Mark was mentally 
il. Luke said his brother was lathargic now because of his medication. He said there 
has also been 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 dras-
tic change. That's all I have to say." 
It appeared that Mark's father wanted to reintroduce the idea that Mark had jus-
tification for what he did and that the un-
pronomenalednette against charge against Melvin Henderson was indeed true.

Pat Perrino, Mark Gessner's defense 
attorney, then addressed the court. As 
petitioned he requested the mini-
imum sentence. He used Stokes' own 
words to support his call for leniency. He 
reminded the judge that Stokes said he was 
sadden and troubled by the case, that 
there was no question of mental instabil-
ity regardless of the fact that it did not rise 
to meet the legal threshold of insanity. 
Perino said he was "disturbed" by the se-
verity of the 45 year sentence Stokes had 
asked in light of the several mitigating 

Perrino said that with a 25 year sen-
tence (13.75 years with "good time") 
Gessner, now 30 years old, could be pro-
ductive again. Perrino offered a statement 
from Gessner's boss at Bark Iron Works 
(BIW) which said that prior to Mark's in-
jury he had been an excellent worker. 
Perrino listed the factors in Gessner's fa-

cial history (one OUI), no sub-
stance abuse record, he liked the outdoors , 
he hunted and fished, a family man and 

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 sen-
tence without saying one word in his 

Perrino stated that the mitigating 

circumstances were "clear cut" and at 
least neutralizing the aggravating 

The judge retired to deliberate say-
ing he would be back with the sentence 
shortly. Court recessed. An argument soon 

in the courtroom between Melissa 
Henderson and some of Melvin 
Henderson's elderly friends. Melissa 
smiled at one woman and shouted, "You 
didn't even say, you didn't say, you didn't 
don't do bad work." to which one of 

"Melissa, you believe he was molested by 
Melvin Henderson?" asked a reporter. 
Perrino answered gravely, "I hon-

try, I was molested. I base that 
on what I've been told or what I've 

Another reporter asked, "There were 
two apparent sides to Melvin Henderson, 
Melissa, even his own daughter got up there and 
said he was a cruel person and yet in the 
community he was well liked, well 

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 here, and I think Mr. Henderson's background I think there 
was a hidden side to Mr. Henderson." 

"I think there was a hidden side to Mr. Henderson." Perrino said, "I pleased 
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 

Having finished with Perrino and 
setting their sights on the prosecutor, the 

"I'm hopeful he'll go back to a 

Another reporter asked, "You said he 
don't show any sign of remorse do you 
feel he can be rehabilitated and be 

"In terms of remorse, the judge said he didn't see any, the prosecutor said he didn't see any. How 
you do feel, has he ever talked to you about it?" Herb answered, "I think of it has 

dos to do with him being a paranoid schizo-

"In your mind, clearly, this is not an 

"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 

"I believe he's a paranoid schizophrenia," 

"Yes, yeah," Herb agreed. 

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

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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 setting 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 XX/; Vendors, POB 990, Caribou ME 04736-0990. Include a brief explanation as to what will be sold.

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.

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 Tirona’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 and 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 603-443-5377. Tickets are $50, $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 1-800-659-7650.