State Senator Dale McCormick (D), Monmouth, said, "Legislative support has never been stronger..." for the anti-discrimination bill.

Introduction of anti-discrimination bill postponed

Bill seen as "competing measure" under Maine's Constitution

by Winnie Weir, Publishing Editor

In a move that is sure to prompt a myriad of emotions among not only the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered communities, but among our heterosexual supporters as well, Patricia Ryan, Executive Director of the Maine Human Rights Commission, and Senator Dale McCormick, (D) Monmouth, announced jointly last week that a bill to make it illegal to discriminate against anyone in housing, public accommodations, employment and credit based on their sexual orientation will not be introduced in this legislative session.

Concerned Maine Families Press Secretary, Lawrence Lockman, announced no time issuing a press release, in which CMF Chair, Carolyn Cosby, stated "This decision is an absolute victory for the people of Maine..." Cosby also went on to renew her challenge to Maine Won't Discriminate, through Karen Geraghty, President of the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance, (MLGPA) to publicly debate CMF's referendum. Referring to Geraghty as "leader of the opposition to CMF's referendum," Cosby noted that March 9 was "day 22 since CMF called for a debate..."

According to Ryan and McCormick, the decision not to introduce the bill in this legislative session was reached after extensive consultation with the MHRC's Counsel as well as several other lawyers. The consensus is that if the Legislature were to pass an anti-discrimination bill this year, it would likely be considered a "competing measure" under the Maine Constitution, and would appear on the ballot with the MHRC's Counsel as well as several other lawyers. The consensus is that if the Legislature were to pass an anti-discrimination bill this year, it would likely be considered a "competing measure" under the Maine Constitution, and would appear on the ballot.

Maine Foster Parent Association embarks on recruitment campaign

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

"Our attitude is — a gay parent, a gay couple, who makes a wonderful foster parent is going to be better than a biological parent who is physically, sexually or emotionally abusing a child," said Kathy Chonko, Recruitment Specialist with the Maine Foster Parent Association (MFPA).

Chonko contacted the Community Pride Reporter (CPR) on behalf of the MFPA in an effort to "promote awareness of the great need for more licensed foster homes throughout the state of Maine and the vast misconceptions of foster care." Nearly 2200 Maine children need foster care every year, but the need is greater than ever. See MFPA, page 4

CPR obtains documents proving out-of-state leadership of CMF

Cosby acknowledges leadership of Bruce Fein and Tony Marco

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

At the outset of the signature gathering campaign to place an anti-gay referendum question on the 1995 ballot, Carolyn Cosby, chair of Concerned Maine Families (CMF), stated vehemently that CMF is an organization "made in Maine," i.e. conceived of and led by Mainers as opposed to "those outsiders." She has criticized, just as vehemently, Maine Won't Discriminate (MWD), the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA), and the Maine Civil Liberties Union (MCLU) for enlisting the help of Gay/Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) based in Boston, to help in this battle.

In a letter to the Christian Civic League (CCL), dated December 13, 1994, Cosby, in responding to the League's offer of assistance, laid out what CCL has to do in order to join CMF. Cosby writes, "We (CMF) underscore both Marco's and Fein's significance because we believe their genius is absolutely critical to future success. And, as we consider a working relationship, the depth of that relationship will depend on our ability to mutually agree on their leadership."

Tony Marco, founder of Colorado Family Values, is "the architect of Colorado's Amendment 2" and Bruce Fein is the right-wing, constitutional lawyer from Virginia who wrote Cosby's See CMF, page 3

"They've [the so-called gay militants] taken the bait we hoped they would, are convinced we made a colossal blunder -- now let's make 'em pay for it big time! Carry on..." Marco to Lockman

Lesbian Health Project offers cancer screening clinic

by Winnie Weir

The Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine (LHP/SM), in conjunction with Tri-County Health Services of Lewiston, is offering a cancer screening clinic for lesbians Saturday, May 20 from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

"According to several research reports," states Tania Jo Hathaway, Coordinator of the LHP/SM, "the two primary reasons lesbians do not seek necessary health care are lack of financial resources and lack of access to lesbian-knowledgeable health care providers. The cancer screening clinic is designed to address both of these issues."

The clinic will be staffed with lesbian and lesbian-knowledgeable health care providers. Hathaway says, "Tri-County Health Services is moving out and letting us move in for the day. It is an appropriate and generous offer which allows the Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine to provide services we otherwise lack the space and equipment to provide."

The services are offered free of charge. Donations are accepted, and will help the LHP/SM provide future health services for lesbians.

The services include pelvic and breast exams, pap smear, information on lesbian gynecological needs and referral. "[Lesbians] are notorious for not getting regular gynecological examinations," cites Hathaway. "Many of us have horror stories about our experiences..." See HEALTH, page 22
Maine’s twenty-first statewide conference scheduled for Memorial Day Weekend

The Marionettes, a twelve voice ensemble of the Maine Gay Men’s Chorus will be our Saturday evening entertainment.

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

“Coming of Age” is the theme of Symposium XXI. It will both be a celebration of the 21st anniversary of this event in Maine, as well as look at how the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered communities in the state have matured, both politically and personally. Symposium planners have finalized most conference details including arrangements for two keynote speakers. Mary Bonauto, counsel with the Boston-based law firm, GLAD - Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, will address the opening plenary session of Symposium. Mary is instrumental in the fight to defeat the pending anti-gay referendum.

Tuma (pronounced “Duma”) Young is a Mic Mac and activist, with the Atlantic First Nations AIDS Task Force based in Halifax. He will speak on “The Fine Line Between Spirituality and Sexuality.”

Karen Williams, “The funniest woman on the comedy stage today!” and McCormick stated, “We have been working to pass this bill for 18 years. Legislative support has never been stronger and the Governor will sign it. In fact, it is the likelihood of success that raises the issue of this bill being a competing measure.”

In an article appearing in the “Bangor Daily News,” Geraghty acknowledged that the strategy of MLGPA working to pass this bill for 18 years.

"Ibis issue is still relevant today," she added. "Although we have the pending referendum. We will change. "We'll talk less about the anti-discrimination bill and more about Maine Won't Discriminate (MWD) and we want them to have a clear shot at that issue," she added.

Legislative support has never been stronger and the Governor will sign it. In fact, it is the likelihood of success that raises the issue of this bill being a competing measure.

Maine Won’t Discriminate Chapters

Fourteen out of the sixteen counties in Maine now have chapters of Maine Won’t Discriminate. Below is a listing of the chapters and their contact people with phone numbers.

Aroostook County: Contact person is Dick Harrison (498-0900).

Bangor: Contact people are Jim Martin (990-3420) and Jeanine Crockett (223-5630).

Biddeford: Contact person is Barry Horn (286-3718).

Brunswick-Bath: Contact person is Punnie Edgerton (729-6429).

Capitol Area: Contact person is Cheryl Ringle (626-0818).

Franklin County: Contact person is CASGPEA at UME, Farmington (776-7380). Meeting Tuesday evenings. Call Flannel County: Contact people are Ruth Blackburn (276-0503) and

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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 organizers to have table space for selling fundraising items, and for non-profit groups to distribute literature.

The new campus center in Presque Isle will be the center of activities during the Memorial Day weekend conference. Symposium XXI will provide tables in the campus center for those vendors and organizations who wish to sell items and/or distribute literature. Organizers anticipate from 125-150 registrants, 50-50 women and men, and circa 1500 people to attend this weekend. Symposia to northern Maine. NLN’s membership is drawn from Aroostook County, Maine as well as the neighboring New Brunswick counties. Occasionally, close relationships have been established between Americans and Canadians. Historically, when Symposium meets in Presque Isle, one-third of the participants are from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, which adds to the international flavor of the weekend.

One of the two keynote speakers in Presque Isle has always been a Canadian activist; this tradition will continue at Symposium XXI.

Since 1986 when Northern Lambda Nord first hosted Symposium XIII, the annual conference has rotated around the state from Presque Isle to the Bangor/mid-coast region, then to the Portland area and back to The County. Because there was no Symposium in southern Maine during 1994, this year’s organization wishes to initiate a large conference.

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

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

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

Plan D is meals and registration for $65.

Registration only (Plan E) is $25.

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

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. Organizers in northern Maine are seeking help from members of our community in other parts of the state to suggest topics for discussion and for qualified individuals to agree to facilitate workshops.

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 Workshop Council, POB 990, Caribou ME 04736-0990. Include your name and a contact telephone number, a brief explanation of what you have to offer, and your availability.

Remember to keep it going.
CMF, from page 1

referendum language for $3250. Cosby paid Marco $3900 for a lengthy document he wrote which purported to be an analysis of gay rights. Marco's document is an attack on homosexuals and CMF derives their 'ideology' from it. Cosby copied verbatim quotes from this document in their literature. For example, "Protected Class Status for Gays: Civil Right—or Uncivil Wrong?" This statement is a chapter heading from CMF's "book," and it is the title of one of CMF's brochures.

These revelations are important because Cosby has asserted that hers is an in-state, grass-roots effort and she has repeatedly criticized the gay and lesbian rights movement in Maine for having out-of-state ties.

For example, in reference to the lawsuit filed against CMF by the ACLU and GLAD Cosby said, "This unconstitutional action, driven by out-of-state interests ... " and yet, CMF is wholly directed and substantially funded by out-of-state, right-wing radicals by Cosby's own admission.

Aside from the fact that this letter deals mainly with out of state leadership, Cosby also revealed her negative attitude toward Maine and its inhabitants when she states in her letter that the very word, "Christian," in the name of "Christian Civic League" will make their work against gay rights difficult because of "the intensely liberal and amoralistic culture of Maine."

**Marco controls Lockman**

On January 9, 1995, Tony Cosby sent a letter to Lawrence Lockman, Vice-Chairman of CMF in which Marco tells Lockman how to respond to the Maine Diversity Commission's findings. It is Marco who chooses to focus on the September, 1994 draft report of the Diversity Commission rather than the Commission's final report issued in December. Cosby and Lockman held a press conference in Augusta after they received this information from Marco and they repeated word-for-word what Marco told them to say about the Diversity Commission.

For example, Lawrence Lockman included a letter in CMF's fund-raiser mailing, February 9, 1995, in which Lockman uses phrases like, "... gay militant 'Thought Police' brigade empowered to investigate and harass Maine people for any expression of alleged 'homophobia.'" In Marco's letter of January 9, 1995 (written to Lockman) he writes, "... a gay militant-dominated 'politically correct' virtual 'Gestapo' charged with monitoring every thought, word and action." There are numerous other examples of Lockman either copying Marco's text or only slightly paraphrasing it.

Lockman concludes his letter by writing, "They've [the so-called gay militants] taken the bait we hoped they would, are convinced we made a colossal blunder — now let's make 'em pay for it big time! Carry on ..."

**Marco writes for Christian American**

Marco also quotes verbatim from Fein in various other pieces of CMF literature. For example, in the letter of August 18, 1995, Fein writes, "... there is no plausible argument that the initiative is anti-gay. It is not. It is pro-democracy." A CMF handout contains the statement, "... the Maine campaign is entirely pro-democracy without being anti-gay." There are numerous other examples in this CMF document that are lifted verbatim from the Fein letter.

**Cosby's claim that the CMF initiative is not anti-gay is blew in her six-page fund-raising letter. In that document Cosby raises all the old stereotypes about homosexuals and Boy Scouts, and homosexuals and schools.

(Editors' Note: All materials were provided by anonymous sources.) Δ
presently there are only 900 licensed foster homes.

Chonko said that there is no discrimination against gay or lesbians in the application process to become licensed foster parents, and that individuals, as well as couples, are invited to apply. There is no preference for women over men and all applicants are evaluated individually. Chonko said there are more married couples who are foster parents rather than single men or single women. She does not know what the ratio of single women to single men is.

Community Pride Reporter simply applies. There are more married couples who are foster parents rather than single men or single women. She does not know what the ratio of single women to single men is. Chonko said that she is concerned that publicity around gay and lesbian community is irrelevant. CMF's leadership reads the Community Pride Reporter with closer interest than anyone else in Maine.

Chonko said that there is no question on the licensing application that asks sexual orientation. She said that DHS wouldn't know someone's sexual orientation unless the people told it themselves. She explained, "We (MFPA) are a liaison group working with foster parents and DHS. Sometimes foster parents will call in and ask us for advice on this and that. For example, we've had gay foster parents call and say, 'I am gay and I want to tell my foster child. How do you recommend going about doing that?' We will help them find the best way to deal with this situation."

Chonko said her current recruitment campaign is motivated by a desire to change the whole perception of foster parenting throughout the state. She said, "One of the problems is that a lot of people think foster parents are in it for the money and that is simply not true because they don't get paid much money, not enough to make it a living, which is what a lot of people think. The starting reimbursement for a 'normal' child (not special needs) is $9.72 per day, and it goes up form there, depending on handicap or need.

"I think a lot of people growing up always thought that the foster family on the block was the poor family, and that these kids were not special, not normal, somehow weird, and the truth is these are just normal kids, just like anybody else. They've just had bad luck with their mom and dad," explained Chonko. She wants to eliminate such popular misconceptions.

Chonko complained, "The media only focus on the negative foster parents. There are problem foster parents, don't get me wrong, but in general, the majority of foster parents are wonderful people, kind, loving people who are concerned about children's safety and child welfare issues, and we just don't hear about them because nobody's interested. There are so many kids who need families and if we could just change the image of foster care we wouldn't have to move kids from Biddeford to Aroostook County because that's where the only available foster parents are. It's bad enough when a kid is removed from their biological home, let alone their school, their friends and their grandparents," said Chonko. She appealed for more people to come forward to be foster parents.

Lesbian foster parents speak

Kimberley and Cassandra are a couple. They agreed to talk to CPR about their experiences as foster parents. Kimberley has worked in human services for several years. She has experience in direct care with clients and has been a group home manager. She also has been a special needs teacher in ele-

Cassandra and Kimberley are foster parents who happen to be lesbians.

Kimberley and Cassandra have been together for 6 years, one is 28 and the other is 36. They stressed that the confidentiality of the child is paramount. No identifying information will be given.

I asked them what the most important reality was for them, as lesbian foster parents. Kimberley said, "One of the most important things, if a gay or lesbian couple does choose to become foster parents, is that they really have to be open about who they are." Cassandra agreed saying that trying to fabricate a heterosexual lifestyle would jeopardize your license (as a foster parent), and your own well being. She pointed out that part of the ongoing relationship with DHS requires total disclosure and the resulting stress from dishonesty would be harmful to the child.

Both women thought this factor for the money and that is simply not true because they don't get paid much money, not enough to make it a living, which is what a lot of people think. The starting reimbursement for a 'normal' child (not special needs) is $9.72 per day, and it goes up form there, depending on handicap or need.

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was important to stress because some gay or lesbian people who might want to be foster parents might think they have to conceal their sexual orientation, but they do not. There is no specific question in the application process as to one's sexuality. Cassandra and Kimberley presented themselves as a couple. There was no doubt as to who they were. Both women said DHS had no problem with this aspect of their lives.

Cassandra underlined this point by stating, "You sign a declaration at the beginning of the application process promising to be truthful, and if you lie, you are automatically disqualified, and beginning of the application process..."

Cassandra said that in order to make the decision to be a foster parent you need to know what you’re getting into, you should have some experience living with children and some knowledge of what traumatized children can do. Some of these kids have seen or experienced trauma. You have to be able to set boundaries with the child and yourself.

Kimberley said, "It’s not like parenting your own child, there are a lot of people who come with the child — social workers, therapists, case managers. It’s a major invasion of your personal life. We have people coming in our home everyday — that’s part of the support services. We have team meetings in foster parenting rather than the support from DHS and other agencies they also have support from their families, landlord and neighbors. She said, “Between us we have huge amounts of family. Kim has two brothers and three sisters, giving us a total of five nephews and two nieces, the oldest of which is 7, and there’s two more on the way. And I have three brothers and a sister, and we all get together for holidays and other family type functions. Our parents (the child’s grandparents) are supportive as well.”

I asked them if they would recommend foster parenting to others. Kimberley said, “Consider it and make it’s what you want to do. The application process is very lengthy, it takes a lot of time. I have had some experience living with children with special needs, and I have a lot of positive experiences with people.”

I wondered why one or both of them simply didn’t have their own children. Kimberley answered, “It’s something we talked about but put off, and being lesbians, there is a financial aspect to actually conceiving a child.”

Cassandra said that she chose foster parenting rather than conception because of her work with children and families. By working day to day with children and families I was looking for the intensity of the child who hasn’t had a lot of positive experiences with people.”

She said that if parental rights have not been terminated DHS would make a veto over a placement decision. She said, “Veto is an accurate word, but the policy has the same effect. If the birth parent objects to such a placement then we would not do it — a veto.”

She said that if parental rights have been terminated DHS would make the placement without regard to the sexual orientation of the prospective foster parent(s).

Anyone interested in getting more information about foster parenting, please call Kathy Chonko, Recruitment Specialist at MFPA at 1-800-734-7909 or 848-7537 or write to MFPA, Aspen Ridge, 11 Liberty Drive, Bangor, ME 04401.
PRESQUE ISLE: The Patten. "Acts of hate against minority charges against Robert L. Tozier, 35, of Northern Maine Technical College in bally attacked, prodded into provoking dents, the victim, identified by state of­

galty for each charge against Doe's civil

I should have killed him," Tozier alleg­

and banishment from

would you like a faggot riding with you
cruiser?"

Abortion Update

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A Christian congregation which claims a primary ministry with gay and lesbian people and strives to be inclusive of all persons.

gay referendum developments in a "Bangor Daily News" article helped feed into the myths of Concerned Maine Families' propaganda without mentioning the group's use of misleading tactics and outright lies.


His description of the opposition brought into the 'powerful, well-fi­
nanced' gay lobby myth which Con­
cerned Maine Families and Cosby continu­

ally spoof.

"From her plush quarters in the Portland law offices of Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer and Nelson, Patricia Peard has been directing the legal attack on Caro­
lyn Cosby's anti-gay rights referendum," Hale wrote, introducing the opposition one-third of the way into the article.

CMF has said they want a public dialogue, but officers often refuse inter­
view requests, choosing instead to use newspaper editorial pieces and other means in which they cannot be ques­tioned. Hale's interview is one of the few they have done.

Hale mentioned a concern that groups would turn to out of state sources, but did not mention national contribu­tions listed on CMF's PAC reports. He failed to mention CMF's use of misleading date and outright lies in its brochures.
To Your Health: The Lesbian Health Care Consumer - Part II

by Peaches Bass

Surveys have demonstrated that lesbians avoid seeking routine health care, especially from physicians. Other surveys, similarly, indicate that health care providers lack comfort and expertise in treating lesbians. Last month's column discussed ways to advocate at the individual and community level, for both the health care provider, you should prepare surveys, similarly, indicate that health care providers can do as a patient or client to get the best possible health care service.

This month, we'll cover what you can do as a patient or client to get the best possible health care service.

Before you even need to see a health care provider, you should prepare our medical 'history. You can ask a clinic to give you a blank copy for a guide, or you can usually find a medical history guide at the local library or relatives-parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, siblings. What chronic illnesses exist in your family? What did your relatives die from? What injuries have you had? Any surgery? Childhood illnesses, immunizations, allergies, use of medications, and use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs are also part of a medical history. Give as much detail as possible. Bring your medical history with you to your health care provider.

Even as a lesbian, expect your health care provider to ask if you've ever used birth control, have been pregnant, etc. A good provider won't assume anything, but will ask you open-ended questions to allow you to provide accurate answers.

If you have a health insurance policy, read it. You should know what is covered, what isn't, what your deductible is, what your co-pay is, requirements for a second opinion or to contact your insurance company before you receive health care. If there's anything about your policy that you don't understand, call the Consumer Service Department at your insurance company, your insurance agent, or your employer's benefits office. You'll need to show proof of insurance at most health care providers' offices, so remember to bring that with you. The same goes if you have government insurance, like Campus, Medicaid, or Medicare.

When you call for the appointment, ask if you've ever had? Any surgery? Childhood illnesses, immunizations, allergies, use of medications, and use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs are also part of a medical history. Give as much detail as possible. Bring your medical history with you to your health care provider.

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You'll need to show proof of insurance at most health care providers' offices, so remember to bring that with you. The same goes if you have government insurance, like Campus, Medicaid, or Medicare.

If you don't have insurance, be prepared to pay at the time of your visit. When you call for the appointment, ask what the fee will be. If they can't tell you, ask for at least a range or 'ballpark' figure. If they fail to tell you what the visit will cost, consider going to another provider. If you are going to have to set up a payment schedule to pay the bill over time, you should let them know that. Most providers will be willing to make arrangements with you.

When you call for an appointment, write down any special instructions you're given. Ask any questions you want. What will the visit cost? Where are you located? What information should I bring with me? Can a friend come with me? Will I be able to drive myself home?
BUSINESS FEATURE: The Stone Wall Bed & Breakfast

by Winnie Weir

"There were two reasons for us to decide on naming B & B and the surrounding mountains was picture-perfect," said Suzi Peterson, one of the owners of this just-opened-for-business B & B in Lovell, Maine. "There's the obvious gay-association, and the fact that we actually do have lovely stone walls that border our property.

Cathy Beals, the B & B's other owner agrees. "After six months, we decided to name the Stone Wall B & B bugs are active in the Chilmark Mountain Club and hope to meet more of its Maine members," a vision took shape and has now become a reality.

For more information and to receive a brochure, write Stone Wall Bed & Breakfast, RR 41, Box 26, Lovell, ME 04051 or call 207/915-1080. Suzi Peterson and Cathy Beals, innkeepers, look forward to welcoming you.

Suzi was born in Providence, Rhode Island where she attended Providence College. She then went on to Simmons College in Boston and received her B.S. She's been a librarian for the past 17 years and he said, 'I don't remember how I got on it. I'm totally open-minded.'

Unlike Paul, Carr is aware of CMF's referendum. Carr said, "I have not taken any full position on that (the referendum) yet. I want to see how it's worded." Carr said that when the gay rights bill came before him during his one term in the House he "took the position opposite to what the gay and lesbian society wanted me to take." He continued, "I am in favor of equal rights for everybody, but I am not in favor of granting any special rights or special interest to the gaylesbian community, only those that have protection under the civil rights law now - the minorities, female and handicapped, under the affirmative action plans as they are now ordained. I did not favor adding gays and lesbians to the civil rights statutes.

Carr said he has no official association with CMF and he does have gay and lesbian friends. He said that gay rights, CMF, the referendum etc. have not been a point of discussion with these friends. The election is March 28.

Special Election in Sanford for House District 9 — March 28

CPR obtained a partial history of Mr. Paul's voting record on gay rights legislation and it is as follows: In 1985, 1987 and 1991 he voted "No," and in 1989 he voted "Yes." "Some of the nicest people I know..."

CPR asked Paul if he knew any gay and/or lesbian people. Paul replied, "Yes, I do. They're some of the nicest people I know, gay and lesbian. But that doesn't shut the door, as far as I'm concerned, they're human beings."

He claimed to be unaware of Concerned Maine Families and the anti-human rights referendum they are sponsoring that may be on the ballot in November, 1995.

Paul added, "I have my own feelings on the matter, but we've got to be careful about discrimination. In trying to eliminate some of this discrimination we don't want to discriminate in doing so." Asked if he was opposed to the idea of civil rights protection for homosexuals Paul said, "No, I'm not, I'm not until I sit down and see what I have before me and then I'll make the best judgment I can possibly make on it. I'm totally open-minded.

Unlike Paul, Carr is aware of CMF's referendum. Carr said, "I have not taken any full position on that (the referendum) yet. I want to see how it's worded." Carr said that when the gay rights bill came before him during his one term in the House he "took the position opposite to what the gay and lesbian society wanted me to take." He continued, "I am in favor of equal rights for everybody, but I am not in favor of granting any special rights or special interest to the gaylesbian community, only those that have protection under the civil rights law now - the minorities, female and handicapped, under the affirmative action plans as they are now ordained. I did not favor adding gays and lesbians to the civil rights statutes.

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Outreach is the key - Maine Won't Discriminate has a new campaign manager

by Bruce Balbin

"I think it's important to be as inclusive as possible. We need to do a lot of outreach beyond the gay community. If there is fighting within the gay and lesbian community we're in trouble. In terms of strategic decisions, I don't expect everyone to be happy all the time, but I can't spend my time worrying about divisions within the gay community. I have to go beyond that."

— Amy Pritchard

Maine Won't Discriminate has hired a campaign manager. Amy Pritchard is from Boston. She is 28 and graduated from American University in Washington, D.C. where she maintained a 3.9 GPA. She spends most of her time working in political campaigns around the country. She managed the successful campaign for Lynn Rivers' (D) Congressional Race in Michigan. Rivers was one of only 13 new Democrats elected last year.

Pritchard has worked as an organizer, on a consulting basis, for the American Psychological Association out on the west coast. She taught psychologists how to do lobbying and grass roots organizing. This work was a very specific project in response to proposed reform legislation on national health care. She worked to build coalitions on the west coast. She taught psychology reform legislation on national health care. She worked to build coalitions on the west coast. She taught psychology

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Q: What is your role? A: I've only been here a week so I've been running around meeting people and doing a lot of listening. A lot of work has already been done, and I'm reading up on EPP's work and I'm trying to put together a structure. Great work has been done already, some money has been raised, but there is no formal structure to this campaign which I hope we can right away.

Q: Are you going to be focussed on media? A: Certainly focussed on media but initially I will be focussed on raising the money necessary to defeat this referendum. It's going to be an expensive campaign.

Q: Will you be involved in all aspects of the campaign? A: Absolutely. I'll be putting together a strong field program down the line. I'll be trying to do as much outreach, outside the gay community, as possible.

Q: What is the current structure of Maine Won't Discriminate (MWD)? A: There's a board. At this point it's an interim board. It is made up of 10 people from around the state who were responsible for bringing me on and picking our pollster, Celinda Lake. She has tremendous experience polling on this issue and soon we'll be choosing a media consultant.

Q: You know that out-of-state involvement is controversial. How do you answer the charges made by Concerned Maine Families (CMF) that MWD's effort is not "made in Maine"? A: Concerned Maine Families has a lot of help from out-of-state. MWD is only responding to what they're doing. But certainly, most of the people involved in this campaign are and will be from Maine.

Q: Do you accept the implication that there is something wrong with using out-of-state help? A: No. I think it's important to draw upon the experiences of other campaigns, both from their successes and their failures. We need to make sure we learn how to do this right.

Q: Are you able to forecast the most difficult element of the task ahead of you? A: Educating voters and raising the money necessary to educate them. And that's why we need to do a lot of outreach beyond the gay community.

Q: Have you any comment on factionalism in the gay and lesbian side of this fight? A: I think it's important to be as inclusive as possible. We need to do a lot of outreach beyond the gay community. If there is fighting within the gay and lesbian community we're in trouble. In terms of strategic decisions, I don't expect everyone to be happy all the time, but I can't spend my time worrying about divisions within the gay community. I have to go beyond that.

Q: Have you encountered any divisiveness so far? A: No.

Q: What is your message to the lesbian and gay community? A: We need your help, we need your support, we need your energy because it's going to be a long eight months. We need your financial support and we need their time. I want to actively discourage any kind of infighting because that's counterproductive. The important thing is to defeat this referendum, excluding other groups, which is one of the ways we will be able to build a coalition. This is not just discrimination against gays and lesbians but it has the potential to discriminate against worker's comp victims, whistle blowers, veterans. There are any number of groups that are not defined within the language of that referendum who have the potential to be discriminated against in the future. I don't think that was their intent. They clearly want to prevent gays and lesbians from having the same protections that everyone has.

New running club in Portland area

PORTLAND: Maine Frontrunners is a new chapter of the worldwide federation of gay and lesbian running clubs, International Frontrunners. Sharing a desire to promote athleticism and camaraderie within the local lesbian and gay community, some of the Team Maine Frontrunners at the Gay Games in New York City resolved to start up a running club.

Some of the participants were in the gay and lesbian bicycling club, Outriders, which met for a while in the early 1990's on Thursday nights in Portland. Some participants have run with New York, Boston and Seattle Frontrunners. From these experiences and with advice from International Frontrunners, we hope to create a viable running club, offering regular runs that will be worthwhile to runners of varying speeds. Join us on Saturday mornings, at 9:00 am at the start of Back Cove Walkway (corner of Baxter Boulevard and Preble Street Extension in Portland), beginning April 1, 1995. For more information, call Jim at 761-2059 or John at 828-4896.

Our Customers Comment on the Food:

• Your food is super - always have a good meal here!!
• Excellent flavor all around, good texture & visually appealing.
• Your chocolate pudding cake is very imaginative and successful.
• The half-sized portions are an excellent idea.
• The raspberry peach cobbler was wonderful!
• Roast pork dinner (Blue Plate) was unbelievable. Don't tell my Mom, but it was even better than hers!
• Oyster appetizer very imaginative and successful!
• Everything was great! Excellent Caesar Salad!
• Enjoyed biscuits; novel veggie
• The chocolate mountain was very, very, very, very good.
• The sauces - just right!
• I love your crabcakes! Any chance I could get the recipe?
• The chocolate mountain was very, very, very, very good.
• Your chocolate pudding cake is very imaginative and successful.
• I didn't have to come back!
• The best food we've had in ages. Savored everything. We even ate the beets.
• The raspberries on the cake were wonderful!
• I enjoyed the variety - had a hard time choosing. I'll have to come back!
• The best food we've had in ages. Savored everything. We even ate the beets.
• The chocolate mountain was very, very, very good.
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• Everything was great! Excellent Caesar Salad!
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EDITORIALS

Spring in the air - thank the universe! While it hasn't been a particularly bad winter, this first half of March seems to have made up for it. I long to see the sun for more than just a few fleeting minutes. The only sounds of spring I hear are the seagulls beginning to build their nests outside my office window. If you've called me during the spring, you know what choruses they are. Never mind, if it means spring, I'll take the racket they make.

Another sign of spring looming on the horizon is the increase in activities and events being offered to lure some of us out of our winter hibernation phase. The "Spring for Life" Art Auction is just around the corner (minus the stray blizzard that will never be forgotten, we hope!). The Spring concert of the Maine Gay Men's Chorus, the Daedalus Project for the benefit of AIDS Action in the Waterville area, the AIDS Walk, Save Deerings Oaks clean-up day, and Symposium XXI are just a few of the events being offered.

Of course, plans for Pride Day and weekend celebrations are in full swing around the state. What a great celebration of PRIDE we are going to have this year. As a community of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people, this has been a difficult time for us and it's not over yet. But in the midst of the struggles we go through, I would urge us all to take time to smell the spring flowers, to romp and play, to savor the fullness of what life has to offer besides the battles. As Brian Kaufman points out in his Guest Editorial, there have been the depressing events, the continuous struggles to live our lives on an equal basis with those who would deny us equality, but there have also been the gains, the glimmers of hope, the joy of being.

There are those in our community who are working very hard on our behalf in direct action positions. Let's thank them and offer our help to lighten their load. Then let's go for a run or a walk or a drive. Or have a candlelight dinner with the special someone we sometimes take for granted. I guess I'm trying to say here is let us not forget to savor the very gaiety we are struggling to protect, namely our right to be who we are in joy and harmony. Ahh, I can smell those flowers now and, oh is that the sound of a child's laughter? Yes, I think my inner child just got the message. Who said editorials were for the masses?

In celebration...

Hey, we were hooked up to the Information super highway now. Bruce is on Compuserve: 76275.1372@compuserve.com and I am at CPRPRIDE@AOL.COM - so you can send articles, letters, comments, etc. whenever you wish.

Trans Forum
by Darynl S. Maxwell

I like to check out the chicks, to use the vernacular of my youth. To my staff I seem to be just another homo member of the service industry. I have, however, a vastly different agenda.

In my line of work I am exposed to a vast cross-section of the female population. Through this, I am able to see exactly how women dress, make-up, carry themselves and deal in a relatively alien situation. All the while appearing enviously luscious to my cohorts.

We all aspire to achieve that certain look that, if we can't exactly pass, at least allows us to kid ourselves for a few hours that we really are what we strive for. To the dedicated cross-dresser, the illusion (form) needs to be fairly precise or else you merely have a masquerading male. To the transsexual, the need to exist (substance) becomes vital to the goal of passing through that final portal to femaleness.

In either case, not having all of your facts straight severely limits your ability to succeed. Equally important in this effort, we as transgenderists, cannot get bogged down by trivial details and must focus on the big picture. If I spend all of my time assuming that your basic genetic female always applies her lipstick just so, never chooses the wrong shadow color, and has the perfect outfit for any occasion, then I completely miss the core issue.

A woman is a woman, good, bad or indifferent. She may stroll gracefully or stump like an also-ran at Saratoga. Every human being on the planet may or may not have their own endearing qualities, but they are divided only by male or female. What happens after that is fate (or kismet, in my house).

My search for balance and fulfillment does not hinge on imitation which, while flattering, is not real. My femininity is an extension of my human traits for any occasion, then I completely miss the core issue.

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Subscription Form

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

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

NAME: ___________________________  ADDRESS: ___________________________

PHONE: ___________________________  work ___________________________

Editor's Note: Welcome to TRANS FORUM, a new column joining the CPR family. This column will feature articles written by people self-identified as transsexuals, cross-dressers, transgendered, etc. in an effort to give voice to the entire range of our many ways of being human beings. We encourage submissions of 500 to 600 words and welcome photos.

(Trans Forum)
by Brian Kaufman

By the time this goes press, sup­porters of civil rights will still be coping with the recent decision to temporarily abrasive and endless lobbying and would have added sexual minorities to those classes protected from discrimination un­der Maine’s human rights laws. As any­one could have predicted, Carolyn Coles may be claiming this news as yet another vic­tory in the battle to preserve bigotry in our state.

Coming so closely on the heels of the troubling rise to power of the RepubliK.Kan party in last November’s election, many in our community are reel­ing from the emotional deflation that comes from repeated disappointment. Does anyone remember how confident we all were after the Pentagon spent $27 mil­lion to study the impact of placing gays and lesbians in the armed forces, concluding that there is no rational reason to exclude us? What about the elation we felt during the 1992 presidential campaign? Do you remember how heady feeling so many of us had while being courted by Billary, who assured us that one of his first presidential missions would be to end the ban on gays in the military?

Indeed, many of us believed that our arduous work had finally paid off right at home in Maine two years ago, only to have our civil rights victory annulled by the hateful pen of former governor McKernon. So it is not surprising when many of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgen­dered family and our friends who love us wonder what has become of decency and fairness in this last decade of what has cer­tainly been the most literate, educated and democratic millennium.

Are fairness and decency simply obsolete? Of course they aren’t! Many of us, blinded by disappointment and fear­ing the anti-gay referendum in November, are increasingly willing to believe that we just don’t have a chance. We wonder, who will advocate for us after we’ve spent our energy and money fending off radical con­servatives who lament the decay of the family? It even makes us wonder if the contagion of homophobia has spread to the brink of hysteria, as our community becomes the last which can be legally scapegoated whenever needed to raise money for the radical right.

With increasing frequency we hear references to the similarity between 1955 America and 1935 Germany. Though I am hardly comfortable with the current political climate, the eternal optimist deep within me sees some fantabulous signs of hope and strength for our future.

Several bright spots are glowing on the horizon. Our community has become stronger and more politically involved than ever before as we rise to the referendum challenge. After years of endless efforts to get Mainers interested and involved in passing pro-gay legislation, it is apparent that an old advertising adage is true. People will act to defend themselves against a clear danger far more readily than they would act simply to prevent the dan­ger in the first place. The hope represented by pro-active legislation is just unable to match the excitement that has been gener­ated by the fear of having our rights at­tacked outright by the referendum process. Okay, so we’re human. And as much as I personally wish that people would have felt compelled to be actively involved in pro-active legislative reforms, I am increden­tly grateful for this evil referendum that has so mobilized our community.

The fact that there are now more than a dozen chapters of Maine Won’t Discrimi­nate shows that we truly are everywhere, and the consciousness raised throughout our state will continue to promote under­standing, tolerance, and perhaps even dign­i­ty for sexual minorities. Another bright spot glowing on the horizon is coming from an unlikely source: members of Gen­eration X. Yes, I read Newsweek and know that Generation X’ers are supposed to be detached and uninvolved with issues of substance, but young people in Maine are looking homophobia in the face and de­claring that enough is enough!

Certainly, today’s young people are more sophisticated about sexuality than ever before. While macho teens in Texas continue to harry gay men for sport, some teens in Maine are showing their disinter­est in maintaining dangerous provincial attitudes. Maybe with so many other real issues to deal with, they don’t have the energy to invest in pretending that they are repulsed by homosexuality when in fact they are simply fascinated by it. In May, I will be bringing a program on homopho­bia to an assembly at Kents Hill School. Imagine my surprise when I learned that I was being contracted for by a student and not a guidance counselor! This young woman started a group there called S.H.A.P.E. (Students Helping Achieve Personal Equality) because she and others felt they wanted to do whatever possible to increase dialogue and understanding in matters of racism and other forms of preju­dice.

Every day, more bright spots are shinning across Maine as gay men, les­bians, transgendered, and our supporters became involved! I can remember when months would lapse between reports that so-and-so had just come out or had at­tended their first support group meeting. Is it my imagination, or has the coming-out rate taken off with exponential force? And am I mistaken, or are people having an easier time coming out? It’s been a long time since I’ve heard about young people being thrown out on the street or losing their best friends after announcing their sexual identities. I’ve listened to such a succession of coming out stories of late, and each one has ended on a warm and wonderful note. I think this tells us that people feel years of lobbying for a civil rights bill *are* making a difference in the quality of life for those in our community.

Homophobia is a curable disease. Visibility is the antidote. You are the cure. Alright. We can look in the newspaper or turn on the tube and learn about countless attacks on our community. It’s depress­ing. But, on the brighter side, at least we are fighting. And when we are fighting we are visible. That is important. This is a big change, a momentous difference be­tween this era of gay civil right struggles and those that have gone before us. We are making up for lost time. For the year of our most important campaigns that we didn’t exist (not in their backyards), or that we existed but were mentally ill, or that there just weren’t enough of us (whether 2% or 10%) to justify amending state and fed­eral legislation to give us equal protection. If we look at what’s happened because we have been sustaining the fight! Now, in­stead of claiming that we don’t exist, our opponents claim there are so many of us scattered about that they must take great measures to ferret us out. They are raising money to enact legislation to make sure that we are not in the schools, or behind the pulpit. We are raising these bills and the consci­ence raised throughout our state will continue to promote under­standing, tolerance, and perhaps even dign­i­ty for sexual minorities.

We are fighting. And when we are fighting we are visible. That is important. This is a big change, a momentous difference be­tween this era of gay civil right struggles and those that have gone before us. We are making up for lost time. For the year of our most important campaigns that we didn’t exist (not in their backyards), or that we existed but were mentally ill, or that there just weren’t enough of us (whether 2% or 10%) to justify amending state and fed­eral legislation to give us equal protection. If we look at what’s happened because we have been sustaining the fight! Now, in­stead of claiming that we don’t exist, our opponents claim there are so many of us scattered about that they must take great measures to ferret us out. They are raising money to enact legislation to make sure that we are not in the schools, or behind the pulpit, or in the house next door. They see us everywhere, and they want us to oil our hinges and quietly slip back into our closets. Yes, it was disappointing when Oklahoma’s RepubliK.Kan Congress­man Steve Largent told a group of lesbigay activists that he did not support civil rights legislation. On the other hand, it was a milestone, being the first-ever meeting between an Oklahoma congressman and gay rights advocates.

Yes, it is frustrating that conserva­tives who lament the decay of the family only refuse to endorse same-sex marriages. The good news is that it is being discussed in South Dakota, Alaska, and Utah. The dis­concerting news that many gay men who once felt hopeless and worthless are no­ting that they can’t survive if they are not loved, and many are coming out! Yes, I was disappointed when Oklahoma’s RepubliK.Kan Congress­man Steve Largent told a group of lesbigay activists that he did not support civil rights legislation. On the other hand, it was a milestone, being the first-ever meeting between an Oklahoma congressman and gay rights advocates.

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The hateful and divisive venom spewed by the likes of Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, and Donald Wildmon is powerful, but now people are learning the truth from the gay ghostwriter who has done the right thing by taking a pro-gay activist’s stance in denouncing his own work as a campaign of hate that promotes violence.

It is frustrating that gays and lesbi­ans will not be permitted to march in Boston’s St. Patrick Day parade, but heart­ening that the cloak of righteousness has been ripped away. In previous years, the parade was promoted as a religious event, supposedly justifying the ban on homo­sexual participation. This year, organiza­tors are actually confused about their pur­pose by registering not as a religious event but as an anti-gay protest.

CLOSER TO HOME, while some high school students continue to consider sui­cide to be a more desirable fate than the taunting of their peers, the students at Kents Hill are taking leadership and do­ing their part to end sexual prejudice. Let us learn from you, young people. Be part of the cure. Inject yourself into your community. If you are closeted there are all kinds of things that can be done to help those of us who are not. If you are not closeted, remember that you are a vital resource capable of ridding our culture of a horrible disease.

Speak out, stand up, and fight back against the oppression of small­minded homophobia! "*"
**MARCH - APRIL CALENDAR**

**Wednesday, March 15th:**
ΔΔ 6:30-8:00 PM - Maine Won’t Discriminate/Capitol Area Chapter, Maple Hill Farm Bed & Breakfast, Hallowell. Call the B & B at 207/622-2708 for directions.

**Thursday, March 16th:**
ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Open House and Drop-In. Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207-498-2088.

Δ 5:30-8:00 PM - Safe Space Women’s Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham. Fund raising meeting. FMI, 207-725-7632.

**Thursday, March 16th:**
ΔΔ 7:30-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women’s Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham. Meditation Group meeting for women & men. FMI, 207/725-7632.

Δ 8:00 PM - Live music at Citi, 137 Kennebec St., Portland. Featuring women performers, Lynne Deeves w/ Victor Leclerc. Long time musical setting.

**Friday, March 17th:**
Δ 5:30 PM - St. Patrick’s Day Parade in the West End, Portland. Sponsored by Shoe String Theatre. Call all lesbian, gay, bi and trans. Irish people. Meet at the Good Day Market by 2:45 the latest for a fun parade.

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

Δ 7:00 PM - Building Inclusive Community presents “Places in the Heart: No Room for Shame” Parenting our gay and lesbian children in the 90’s presented by Andy Valley PFLAG. UU Church on Bucksport Rd., Caribou. Free admission.

ΔΔ 7:00-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women’s Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham. Teen parent group sponsored by CHANS. All teen parents and their children are welcome to come and talk with other teens and facilitator. FMI, 207/725-7632.

ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM - The Gathering, USM Campus Center, Portland, Rm. B & C. Topic: “Queer Aging” Bobbi Kepal discusses ideas and strategies addressing the complexities of being gay and growing older. FMI, Faith Worthley, 207/774-4919.

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

**Wednesday, March 22nd:**
ΔΔ 6:15-8:00 PM - Discussion Series at The National Political Scene: What’s Happening and What It Means to Our Community. “If you missed her at last year’s MLGPA Banquet, you’ll want to make that mistake again!” Holiday Inn By-the-Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Accessible to the mobility-impaired; free hotel parking.

ΔΔ 7:30-8:30 PM - Safe Space Women’s Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham. Meditation Group for women & men. FMI, 207/725-7632.

Δ 8:00 PM - Live music at Citi, 137 Kennebec St., Portland. Featuring women performers, Lynne Deeves w/ Victor Leclerc. Long time musical partners on N.E rock scene. Tickets $3. FMI, 774-2242.

**Friday, March 24th:**
ΔΔ 6:30-7:30 PM - Safe Space Women’s Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham. Drop in time. Informal and casual. A time to meet new friends, share thoughts & ideas or kick back and relax. FMI, 207/725-7632.

ΔΔ 6:00-8:00 PM - The Maine Gay Men’s Chorus presents MGMT on Stage. Catherine McCauley H. Auditorium, 631 Stevens Ave., Portland. $10 advance, $12 door.

**Saturday, March 25th:**
ΔΔ 6:00-9:00 PM - The Maine Gay Men’s Chorus presents MGMT on Stage. Catherine McCauley H. Auditorium, 631 Stevens Ave., Portland. $10 advance, $12 door.

**Sunday, March 26th:**
ΔΔ 6:30 PM - An evening of women’s music presented by MLGPA and Maine Won’t Discriminate. Sisters, 45 Danforth St., Portland. Lynn Deeves, Val Bennett, Erika Gilbert are special guests for this “fun”draiser.

**Monday, March 27th:**
ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM - Safe Space Women’s Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham. Teen parent group sponsored by CHANS. All teen parents and their children are welcome to come and talk with other teens and facilitator. FMI, 207/725-7632.

Δ 7:00-8:30 PM - Maine Won’t Discriminate/Portland Chapter general meeting. Meets at St. Luke’s Episcopal Cathedral, State St. across from Mercy Hospital. Parking in lot behind church on Deering. Newcomers are welcome at 6:30 PM. Get involved!

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

**Tuesday, March 28th:**
ΔΔ 6:30-8:00 PM - Safe Space Women’s Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham. Teen parent group sponsored by CHANS. All teen parents and their children are welcome to come and talk with other teens and facilitator. FMI, 207/725-7632.

Δ 7:00-9:00 PM - The Gathering, USM Campus Center, Portland, Rm. B & C. Topic: “Devaluation of the Male” Freed, presenter. FMI, Faith Worthley, 207/774-4919.

**Wednesday, March 29th:**
Δ 6:30-8:00 PM - Maine Won’t Discriminate/Capitol Area Chapter, Maple Hill Farm Bed & Breakfast, Hallowell. Call the B & B at 207/622-2708 for directions.

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

**Thursday, March 30th:**
ΔΔ 6:30-9:00 PM - Safe Space Women’s Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham. Meditation Group for women & men. FMI, 207/725-7632.

Δ 8:00 PM - Live music at Citi, 137 Kennebec St., Portland. Featuring women performers, Val Bennett with Dustin Ladale. Rhythm & blues. Tickets $3. FMI, 774-2242.

**Friday, March 31st:**
ΔΔ 7:00-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women’s Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham. Drop in time. Informal and casual. A time to meet new friends, share thoughts & ideas or kick back and relax. FMI, 207/725-7632.

ΔΔ 7:30 PM - Up With People presents “World In Motion” at The Portland EXPO. Tickets $12 adults, $10 Students & Sr. Citizens.

**Saturday, April 1st:**
Deadline for CPR ads, classifieds and calendar listings for the April-May edition.

**Saturday, April 1st:**
ΔΔ 8:00 PM - April Fool’s Day Video Dance sponsored by Northern Lambda Nord at private home in Van Buren. FMI, 207/498-2088.

**Sunday, April 2nd:**
ΔΔ 4:00 PM - The Maine Gay Men’s Chorus Benefit Concert for Eastern Maine AIDS Network (EMAN), Center for Performing Arts, UMO Campus. FMI, 945-5446.

ΔΔ 4:00-6:00 PM - Maine Won’t Discriminate/Banger Chapter. Meets at the Peace and Justice Center, 359 Main St., Bangor. FMI, call Jan Martin at 990-1430.

**Tuesday, April 4th:**

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

**Wednesday, April 5th:**
ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Open House and Drop-In. Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207-498-2088.

**Thursday, April 6th:**
ΔΔ 8:00 PM - Live music at Citi, 137 Kennebec St., Portland. Featuring women performers. Daren Braham with her band. Rock. Tickets $3. FMI, 774-2242.

**Friday, April 7th:**
ΔΔ 8:00-11:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Open House and Film Night. “The Color Purple” at the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207-498-2088.

**Saturday, April 8th:**
ΔΔ 5:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord monthly meeting at the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.

**Tuesday, April 11th:**
ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM - The Gathering, USM Campus Center, Portland. Rm. B & C. Topic: S/M: Dispelling the Misconceptions. Tracey Woods.
FOR RENT

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

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Northern Lambda World is an educational, informational, social and service organization serving lesbian, gay, bisexual and all persons of color in northern Maine and New Brunswick. Meetings are 2nd Sunday of every month at 1 pm (ME), 2nd Wednesday (NB), at the Day's End Community Service Center, 398 S Main St., Caribou, and can be reached every Wednesday by The PhoneLine. Call 207-498-2088.

The Mallovich Society is an educational and social organization of gay, lesbian, bisexual, men and women, committed to sharing our history as well as providing programs addressing these issues. Call 207-774-6877. Located at 222 Monument St., 5th floor, Portland 04101. For information and support group meetings in Portland, Lewiston, Brunswick.


HATE CRIMES & BIAS INCIDENTS: Have you or someone you know been a victim? Call the Civil Rights Section of the Maine Department of the Attorney General 207-626-8844.

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

Citizens Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights (CAGLR), New Hampshire's oldest progressive gay/lesbian civil rights organization, welcomes all those interested in these goals to weekly meetings, programs, social events and writing to the Newsletter. Call Info-line (603) 223-1866 or write to PO Box 730, Concord, NH 03302-0730.

MUSIC & ART

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

Maine Gay Men's Chorus is a community chorus which brings men together to enhance social tolerance and diversity in the Greater Portland area, as well as affirming the gay men's experience with creative and lively musical entertainment. FMI call 883-6809 or write M.G.M.C., P.O. Box 10391, Portland, ME 04104.

The Maine Gay Visual Artist's League will meet on the third Wednesday of every month. The League is a non-profit, creative support network for Maine's gay & lesbian visual artists community. For meeting place, call 773-3420.

PHONE SUPPORT

Region by region


The AIDS Project: 774-6787. Located at 22 Monument St., 5th floor, Portland 04101. For information and support group meetings in Portland, Lewiston, Brunswick.


Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG) have been instrumental in the growth of support for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. They have been in existence since 1982 and are now a national organization with hundreds of chapters across the country. Their purpose is to educate, provide resources, and lobby legislators on issues involving gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and strives to be inclusive of all persons. Worship on Saturdays at 9:00 AM at Immanuel Baptist Church, 506 High Street, Portland. FMI write Community of Hope, Shawn Smith, Interim Pastor, POB 1671, Portland, ME 04104.

The Appollite Society: an out-reach, networking and social organization for New England's gay and lesbian atheists, free-thinkers, agnostics, and humanists. Free speech/civil rights advocacy group offering freedom-from-religion support, meeting once a month. FMI, 773-5726 or P.O. Box 5301, Portland, ME 04101.

The Appollite Society: an out-reach, networking and social organization for New England's gay and lesbian atheists, free-thinkers, agnostics, and humanists. Free speech/civil rights advocacy group offering freedom-from-religion support, meeting once a month. FMI, 773-5726 or P.O. Box 5301, Portland, ME 04101.

Community of Hope: A Christian congregation of non-denominational primary ministry with gay and lesbian people and strives to be inclusive of all persons. Worship on Saturdays at 9:00 AM at Immanuel Baptist Church, 506 High Street, Portland. FMI write Community of Hope, Shawn Smith, Interim Pastor, POB 1671, Portland, ME 04104.

Lavender Women: Lesbian and bisexual women's discussion group. Meets Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm, First Universalist Church, Pleasant St., Auburn, ME. FMI, 783-0454.

Central Maine Gay Men's Support Group: Meets Tuesday at 7-8:30 pm, FMI call 622-1888 or 622-4234.

Gay, Lesbian Bisexual Pizza Get-Together: 1st and 3rd Fridays each month. 6:00 First Universalist Church, 345 Broadway, Rockland, ME. FMI, Larry Darby, 207-363-2956.


TransSupport Group: Meets regularly, providing confidential support, education and social activities for women, cross dressers, transsexuals, their families, friends, & others interested in gender dysphoria issues. FMI write TransSupport, P.O. Box 17622, Portland, ME 04104.

Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse: A support group for survivors of childhood abuse, 5:30-7:30 pm. Monday from 1:30 to 3 pm. Free, confidential, safe, facilitated. For more information and location call 874-6593. Sponsored by UMM's Women's Forum.

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

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

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

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

Seacoast Gay Men: Meets Mondays (except holidays), 7 pm at the Unitarian-Universalist Church, 292 State Street, Portsmouth NH. Support, speakers, events. FMI, 774-0461 or 774-6575. PO Box 1394, Portsmouth 03802-1394.

Lesbian/Apron: A new gay, lesbian, bisexual support group for the Lewiston/Auburn area. Meets Mondays at 7:30 pm at the Unitarian-Universalist Church on Spring Street in Auburn.

Bangor Lesbian Support Group: This Bangor Support Group welcomes any woman who self-identifies as a lesbian. They seek to create woman-only, lesbian-positive space to explore issues and affirm themselves and others. Confidentiality, open-mindedness and respect are required. Meets 1st and 3rd...
OBITUARIES

Donna D. Tennant

Donna D. Tennant, 52, of Palmer Ave., died at Mercy Hospital on February 17, 1995 after suffering a heart attack while at work. Tennant was a licensed insurance agent and broker, and at the time of her death was the assistant vice president and account executive with the Segwick Health Care Division. Her career spanned 34 years.

Her life partner, Carolyn A. Jarbett, said of Tennant, "She was a mentor to many people. A real rock. Donna was a visionary. She could see promise in something before anyone else could attach a concrete meaning to it. She felt there were far too few professionals and mentors in business to world today to help people learn a new career path," said Jarbett. "She would stay after work, she would go in early. She was not afraid to share her talent and her knowledge."

In addition to a demanding career, Tennant enjoyed gardening, working with computers, woodworking and co-parenting Jarrett's three sons, Christian, Kurt and Gregory. "She was that one talented woman. You made me do it. When it came to my kids, she went out and took a course on how to coach tee ball. They worshiped the ground she walked on."

In addition to coaching for Portland North Little League, Tennant's community service extended to Save the Children, and Native American Running Strong for America. She was also involved in the recently organized Rainbow Business and Professional Network out of Portland. Tennant is survived by her life partner, Carolyn A. Jarbett and her sons Christian, Kurt and Gregory, Tennant's son, Timothy S. of Pap Air Force Base, and a sister, Lula M. Smith of Washington State.

Jon M. Piefer

Jon M. Piefer, 36 of Brackett Street died on Wednesday, March 8 of complications from AIDS. Piefer died at home. He was born in Chicago and attended schools there. Piefer was an AIDS activist and volunteer and along with his partner, Charles N. Wynnott, he founded the Portland Chapter of PAs, PAs Are Wonderful Support, an organization dedicated to helping people with AIDS keep their pets by providing support services.

The Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance awarded Piefer the Cameron Duncan Award at their March 4th 10th Anniversary Award Banquet. Survivors include Piefer's father and stepmother, Donald and Eugene Piefer, and a daughter, Jennifer, all of Chicago; a brother Lawrence of Denver, maternal grandmother, Ann McGinnis of Chicago; and an aunt, Edith Viverito in addition to his partner Charles Wynnott.

A funeral was held at First Parish Church, 425 Congress Street in Portland on March 13. He is buried in Brooklawn Memorial Park, Portland.
Out on the Town

by Skip Brushaber

March came in like a lamb be­
ing chased by a lion. Spring be­
gins this month, so it is time to think about polishing off those poems and short stories we wrote down in the depths of winter.

CPR is proud to announce that we will be printing an arts supplement with the June/July Pride edition. It will be called "Pride, Poetry and Prose." We encourage fiction submissions of fifteen hundred words or less. These encourage fiction submissions of fifteen

When Paula Poundstone walked out onto the State Theater's stage with her 101 Dalmations tie, one part of an entirely wacky outfit, we knew we were in for a fun evening. "I have weird hair," said Poundstone right off the bat, adding that the clothes were just to match the hair.

This being my first real evening of live stand-up comedy, I was amazed at how quickly two hours goes by, and how terribly funny one woman can be talking about life, oh, and twinkies too. It's a very different experience than a musical concert, and a very refreshing one.

Paula Poundstone, 35, is no stranger to New England. Although born in Alabama, and now residing in Los Angeles, she grew up in Sudbury, Massachusetts, and she used to canoe on the Saco river. "Not exactly The River Wild, more like a treadmill in a bathtub."

Commenting at length on the "elderly crossing" sign she claims we have here in Portland, Poundstone wondered if that means old folks have to walk two miles down the street so they can cross near one of these signs.

Also early on in the show, she bantered back and forth with an L.L. Bean employee named Sherri, who jokingly claimed she does "everything" for them. Poundstone wondered if her employers were aware of this fact. Although I heard afterwards that some people had a tough time hearing both ends of the conversation, from where I was sitting, it was very funny. Poundstone was relentless, and she often talked with the audience members throughout the show.

See PAULA, page 19

"Naked Man!" - Interview with Jamison Selby

by Alexander Wallace

In Keith Curran's, "Church of the Sole Survivor," which had its world premier at Portland Stage Company last month, five 'perfectly normal' types - an internationally famous Talullah Bankhead-Ellaine Stritch-novelist-­
dict, throatily played by Anne Swift; her aged, lonely, gay, English agent, haughtily enacted by Michael Tilton; the novelist's daughter, whose husband and baby have both died, Deidre Lovejoy;

...their dotty aunt, Lucy Martin, who keeps her late husband's room as a shrine; and valley-boy par-excellence, Southern California to feel sorry for themselves and trade traumas.

Into this soapy stew swims - and I do mean twists - a 6'4" tall, very white, guppy-like, totally naked, hairless 'man' named Pamela, as in, "What a lovely gown, Pamela!" The Naked Man, by forcefully intervening in each trauma, sets the damaged characters on the path to recovery. It is an hilarious, if unfinished play, given a brilliant staging by Director, Greg Leaming.

Pamela both anchored the play and set it soaring skyward with a breath-taking comic performance, well-worthy of the proverbial gold star! I interviewed the actor who played Pamela, Jamison Selby, over coffee at my home. He is a 25-year-old, tall, gaunt, bony, exceedingly attractive young man, with a great crooked smile, intelligent blue eyes and no hair.

AW: Now, here is this nice respectable young man from upper New England, running around stark naked in front of 300 strangers a performance, 28 performances - that's approximately 8400 total strangers! Why are you doing this?

JS: I'm getting paid! Besides, Pamela, as a new character, has no boundaries, you're not bound by previous interpretations ... he's also free of traditional responses ... the nudity is a pure nonsexual fact ... trying to create that character, I was salivating to do it!

AW: What do you do under the porch?

JS: Freeze to death!

by Alinsel Ponti

Paula Poundstone on Stage

also welcomes black and white photography and art work. All work will be returned by mail if accompanied by a stamped self addressed envelope. Otherwise, work can be picked up at the CPR office.

Deadline for all submissions is May 1, 1995. No submissions will be considered after that date.

We welcome all submissions be on Mac compatible disc. Any questions about this, please direct them to the CPR office.
Listen to Your Heart
A review of Andres Verzosa’s Ceramic Meditations on the Sacred Heart
by Rose Mary Deeman
Rarity has art spoken to me as poignantly as "Listen to Your Heart," a collection created by Andres Verzosa. "Listen to Your Heart" was Verzosa’s senior project at Portland College of Art. There are seven ceramic pieces to the collection, a work which beautifully interweaves three separate themes so that they come together with one clear and powerful message—a call for compassion and understanding toward those living with and dying from AIDS.

For one night and full day, "Listen to Your Heart" was available to the public in the Emmanuel Chapel at the Cathedral of St. Luke in Portland. I went to see the exhibit on Saturday afternoon, and was at once struck by the solemnity of the atmosphere and reverent silence of those who had come to view the work. Candles lit the way from the main sanctuary to the chapel. The seven ceramic pieces had been placed on the altar, and small votive candles stood in front of each of them. As I circumbulated the altar, it was easy to see the metaphor in the work. Each of the seven ceramic pieces is shaped in the form of a heart, above which is a crown of thorns from which springs a circle of flames. A cross rises out of the flames. This is the classic depiction of the "Sacred Heart" of Jesus, sometimes referred to as the "Bleeding Heart." Its symbolism for the Church is to communicate the love that was the catalyst for Jesus’ sacrificial act on the cross.

Both the Roman Catholic and Episcopal Church use the symbols of "Stations of the Cross" to be representative of the condemnation, crucifixion and resurrection. That is to say, the pain, the suffering, the death, the sorrow and, finally, the joy of love. The suffering of Jesus is the suffering of a man, but it is also the suffering of all of us as individuals and as a part of a larger whole. The joy that comes after suffering is also the joy of a united Christ.

Verzosa’s Ceramic Meditations on the Sacred Heart.

"Vibrantly Alive" was included in the Portland Video Festival. A humungous film about a young woman and discrimination. Verzosa’s photographs are sensual, erotically charged. His use of light and contrast is key to his exploration of the nude male form. His use of color palettes and videography is bold and daring, making the work engaging and passionate in equal parts.

What I liked most about this video was its reality, its light-heartedness, its powerful message that we as queers are everywhere and proud to be out even in the face of danger and discrimination. We do what we want when we want. It is our reality, our lightheartedness, our power that we are queers everywhere.

This video is a must-see for anyone interested in the intersections of identity, art, and activism. It is a powerful reminder of the importance of standing up for ourselves and for each other.

Women’s Film and Video Festival
by Jennifer Libby
The second annual Women’s Film and Video Festival held at the Portland Museum of Art, March 3-5 was a fabulous hit. All of the shows were nearly sold out.

The festival included a wide array of topics, issues and just plain fun. They ranged from work, religion, politics, poetry, body image, abuse, sexual identity and more.

The video I most enjoyed (it made me laugh, cry and on occasion even made me angry), was called "Greetings From Out There." It is about a young woman named Spote traveling the back roads of the south from Virginia to Texas in her van with her small dog and video camera. She made frequent stops along the way talking with various friends about their perceptions of what it is like to be "out and queer" in the south. All of them had something different to contribute and discuss. Some talked of AIDS. One talked of churches and some about a rural fairy retreat (a place I would love to visit).

The festival’s work was presented in a variety of formats, including video, film, photography, mixed media, and performance art. The exhibits ranged from the experimental to the more traditional, with a focus on women’s issues.

The Spring for Life Auction was a huge success, with all the proceeds going to support important AIDS-related programs. The Art Auction was also a success, with a variety of works on display.

The festival was a wonderful gathering of talented artists and activists, and a testament to the power of art to both inspire and challenge. It was a truly remarkable event.
BOOK REVIEW: “Breaking the Surface”
Written by Greg Louganis with Eric Marcus
by Bruce Balboni

I remember how I felt when I first heard the rumor about Greg Louganis being gay. It’s the same feeling I get when anyone famous is found out or comes out — a mixture of pride, satisfaction and snappiness. The snappiness is the attitude to the straight sitting on the field at Columbia do, and we are everywhere — so there.”

This is why I’m not with you tonight in person to celebrate the start of Gay Games IV, but I’ll be there in a couple of days, back on the diving board joining the other gay and lesbian athletes from around the world.

“I’m real excited to be part of an event that’s all about true Olympic ideals. This is our chance to show ourselves and the world how strong we are as individuals and as a community. Welcome to the Games! It’s great to be out and proud.” And so it was — a moment sublime.

Reading the Louganis autobiography was a trip down bad memory lane. I identified with the indifferent father, being called “nigger” because I had dark skin, the low self-esteem, the fear, being lost in hopeless relationships and, ultimately, with a certain measure of self-acceptance. The occasional Stuart Smalley-like, pop psychology aside, I found the message of his story to be uplifting and worthwhile.

Nevertheless, it was frustrating, at times, to read how weak he was and how many opportunities he missed in not coming out sooner, but it is unfair to judge him on that. Coaling out, for all of us, is something we have to do over and over, in so many different situations and not in all situations. Given his inhibitions, I was amazed at the step he gave to the U.S. Olympic Committee following his appearance at Gay Games IV. The USOC had awarded him the prestigious Robert J. Kane Award for excellence and dedication in his sport. Louganis accepted the award and dedicated it to Dr. Tom Waddell, founder of the Gay Games. Louganis went on to denounce Cobb County, Georgia (outside Atlanta), site of the ’96 Olympics as the site for the volleyball competition in the upcoming Olympics because of the adoption of an anti-gay resolution by the local government. The volleyball competition has been moved (Note: this book, but like it or not, Greg Louganis is a hero, a role model, and now, a force for change. I wish him luck and all the time he needs to accomplish the changes he hopes to make.

(Editing note: I watched Barbara Walters interview Greg Louganis on 20/20. The absurdity of this story under which or not he put people at risk for HIV in the same story that is just — hysteria. The fact that Walters chose to scold him for not telling the truth that he was HIV positive is shameful.)

Northern Lights
Metropolitan Community Church
Now gathering for worship at Senior Spectrum Building Gardiner, Maine
Sundays at 4:00 PM
Northern Lights MCC is an inclusive Christian congregation with an outreach to those who have felt alienated or separated from the Church, including gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons.

Bill Gordon, contact person
207/453-9750

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Theatre Review: "Ghost" By Henrik Ibsen

by Alexander Wallace

Ibsen's 1881 High Victorian old potboiler is a wonderful metaphor for AIDS and that is the way THE VINTAGE REPETORY COMPANY, under Skin Emerson's astute and witty direction, played it during their February run. Back in the 'good old days,' even doctors and scientists believed that the sins of the father could be visited on the sons, and a 'curse' duly followed the unhappy Alving family through the generations. You must accept that premise to go with "Ghosts," but it's interesting to note that it is a Judeo-Christian concept. Medicine was much more advanced under Heilmanism, the pro-gay culture destroyed by Christianity. The Greeks and Romans believed that Aesopius, the deity of healing, sent cures in answer to prayers, but the J-C god, Jehovah was a vengeful type and cures were more his style.

"Ghosts" is also a feminist manifesto. Mrs. Alving, the surviving widow, struggles to make her way alone in a male-dominated society. Left a widow early, impoverished by her philandering husband, she works to recoup the family fortunes while hiding the truth from her artist son, Oswald; he needs a father, even a missing one, to look up to. She does very well, becoming awfully in her own right, bestowing on an orphanage, in her dead husband's memory, on her home town.

It's time to dedicate the home and all the 'shto' and 'cursed' come home to roost. First in the door is the pompous Pastor Manders, Mrs. Alving's spiritual (and financial advisor) who still lusts after her, but is still frightened off by his best friend, the widow Alving's dead husband. He convinces her that it wouldn't "look right" to insure the orphanage. Parishioners might think the Pastor was deficient in his trust in god.

We meet Regina, a young woman working as Mrs. Alving's maid. She plainly feels she's better than that, but her father, the scrofulous Engstrand, wants to put her back in her place, running the board of a brothel that she wants to open. And last, the posturing prig, Oswald, home from college, smokin' dad's old pipe and possessing of a dare secret. Mrs. Alving must treat them all and in the way they demand to be treated. She's flirty and girlish with the Pastor, conning with Engstrand, natterly to Regina and motherly to Oswald, while still trying to remain true to herself.

And if you think that orphanage doesn't burn down, you don't know your potboilers! But first, the curse of the Father! Not only has Oswald inherited 'madness,' but it takes exactly the same "degenerate" form as his father's. Oswald, believing he's "doomed," pursues Regina, hopelessly. Only her blind female devotion can 'save' him. She, of course, sees Oswald as her ticket to respectability and an escape from her father. Mrs. Alving sees the truth as the only way to stop the madness; she burns her husband's reputation. But Oswald has syphilis, not a 'curse' from god. Alas, this was before penicillin, and, apparently, brains. And is history always 'doomed' to repeat itself? Soema so. As long as there's a New Gingrich to play the Pastor Manders role:

David Blair, Michael Rowan and Michelle Mills in Vintage Reps production of Ibsen's "Ghosts"

The production was A-One, all the way. Those of us who have winced through some of Vintage Rep's barebones efforts were delighted with the full, Nordic Kraftwerk antique-filled set, lavish period costumes and the evocative lighting, which the program attributes to Emerson, Jane Bergeron, Michael Levine and new-comer, Stuart Cook. Hope this quality continues.

Company Artistic Director, Jane Bergeron, in her Elizabeth Taylor mode, held the hurricane still in the middle while still projecting Mrs. Alving's strength. She was stunning. I thought David Blair's Engstrand was much too bland at first, but the character's daffy, deadly unconsciousness more than warranted an over-the-top performance. Michael Howard's posturing, perspiring Pastor Manders, doing his great fur-lined coat like the cares of the world, was just superb. Jerry Falwell needs to take lessons. Less rewarding were the two juveniles: Michelle Mills' Regina, a little too light for an unrewarding role and Rodney Hoel too whiny to garner the sympathy needed to make Oswald's tragedy human. But Ibsen's premise carries the production and Emerson's direction covered the bare spots admirably. Ibsen was sold on most funny, but there is irony in the unfortunate longevity of such deadly concepts as 'the sins of the father.' It's an idea whose time is going.

NOTE: Next up for Vintage Rep is Joe Orton's insanely funny "Entertaining Mr. Sloane." The very gay Orton had a way of turning the English totally on their 'arrears,' and this is one of the best! Call: 775-5103 or 774-1767 for more information.

HEART, from page 17

Be a purr-fect friend, help PAWS

PORTLAND: Nine months ago, Charlie Wynott and the late Jon Pieter started Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS), a program that helps PWA's keep and enjoy their pets. Because of the program's non-profit status and its reliance on volunteers, help with veterinary cost and money for pet food are minimal. Many PWA's facing high medical cost, must struggle just to meet their own needs.

However, Charlie has been able to involve a couple of veterinarians to work with PAWS. Pets Are Wonderful Support provides free pet food, walks dogs, cleans kitty litter boxes and provides referrals to reduced cost veterinary services throughout the state of Maine. PAWS will be expanding their services to include public speaking, providing information on "Safe Pet Guidelines," a publication available through our education department. PAWS will be sponsoring several fund-raisers to help defray the cost of pet care and vet cost. Pet food and supplies can be donated at the Pet Food Donation Campaign at Pet Quarters through the week of March 18 from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm. PAWS will also have a team in this years AIDS Walk '95 scheduled for May 7. If you would like more information, call PAWS at 207/775-PAWS.
by Peter J. Callinan, CPA

How can I save money on my taxes? This becomes a very popular question during February, March and April. Last month in my discussion of the Form 1040 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return we reviewed the Label, Filing Status, Exemptions, and Income sections of the form bringing us to Line 22 Total Income.

Fortunately, this is not the amount on which our income tax liability is determined. In this month's article I will be reviewing the Adjustments to Income and Tax Computation sections where deductions are taken to reduce total income to taxable income and understanding these sections is the key to reducing your tax liability.

Section 5: ADJUSTMENTS TO INCOME

The IRS allows several adjustments to reduce total income. One of my personal favorites is the IRA (Individual Retirement Account) contribution. An individual that is NOT covered by an employer sponsored retirement plan can contribute $2,000 of their EARNED income to an IRA and get a deduction for it. However, if you or your spouse are covered by an employer plan, the amount you can contribute is reduced and at some income levels eliminated. IRA contributions have limitations and restrictions but should be considered as a method of sheltering income from taxes. Other retirement plans such as KEOGH and SEP-IRA for self-employed and other individuals are also allowed adjustments to income.

Exemptions incurred in relocating over 50 miles for employment which last at least 39 weeks of the following 12 months are now allowed as an adjustment to income. This amount is determined on Form 3903 Moving Expenses and generally includes costs of travel and lodging while moving to your new home and transporting your house hold goods or personal effects there. Read the instructions to this form carefully to determine what your deduction is.

Some of the other adjustments allowed include the following:

- Standard deduction is allowed for income tax purposes for single and married individuals using their single tax status. The Standard deduction is calculated on Form 1040 Schedule A.
- Work related expenses are allowed as an adjustment to income but amounts paid for child support are not. Many penalties reported to you on Form 1099-INT or 1099-ODI for early withdrawal of savings can be taken as deductions. Presently, no adjustment is allowed for self-employed health insurance and it's unclear if Congress will reinstitute it for the time being ignore line 26.
- Self-employed persons should review the Adjustments section for opportunities to reduce income considered for taxation. After all the adjustments to Total Income have been taken Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) is determined on Line 31.

This amount becomes important for other calculations. The next section is Tax Computation and actually involves reducing AGI by Itemized Deductions or Standard Deduction and the Personal Exemption amount I discussed last month.

Section 6: TAX COMPUTATION

In this section I will focus on a review of the Standard Deduction and the various Itemized Deductions. The other items such as the Exemption deduction and actual tax calculation are important. If you have questions on them review the instructions provided in the booklet or contact a tax professional.

The Standard Deduction is an amount calculated by the IRS and dependent upon your Filing Status. If you believe this would result you should Itemize. By itemizing the taxpayer is allowed to reduce personal income taxes. The advantage of itemizing is the flexibility it affords. Itemizing is allowed for personal interest like charitable contributions or certain federal tax preparation fees and other items such as investment fees are deductible up to 50% of AGI. Good Luck!

Our Filing Status: A deduction is allowed for state & local income taxes, real estate taxes and personal property (excise) taxes. Sales taxes or Federal income tax are not allowed as deductions.

Out of Town!

by Paul T. Bernard

The month of February will go down in history as the time when the travel industry was turned upside down and changed forever! I'm sure all of you have heard or seen the reports on the news about how travel agents have had their commissions cut.

Well, here's the whole story. On February 14, Delta Air Lines announced that they were placing a "cap" on commissions cut. Their brilliant reasoning was that business people pay more for tickets (which are generally the prices that business people pay) whereas fares that business people pay (before taxes). That is translated to Now only yield a $50 commission. Their fares have followed Delta's lead, what about the other major airlines? You've probably seen the reports on the news about how travel agents have had their commissions cut.

What Delta announced was that they were placing a $50 cap on commissions for travel and lodging while moving to your last 39 weeks of the following 12 months. This amount is determined on Form 3903 Moving Expenses. The formula is as follows:

Income tax liability is reduced by the amount of the adjustment as shown on Form 1040 Schedule A.

The book can be a valuable resource for anyone considering travel for business or pleasure. It contains everything from "how to get a deal on a ticket" to "how to use frequent flyer miles" to "how to avoid hidden fees." This book is a must have for any travel agent who wants to make an active interest in their government.

There are biographies of the constitutional officers at the end.

Interest You Paid: A deduction is allowed for qualified home mortgage interest and points, home equity debt (subject to limits) and investment interest (subject to restrictions). NO deduction allowed for personal interest like auto loans or credit card debt.

Sorri.

Gifts To Charity: Cash gifts to qualifying tax exempt organizations are deductible up to 20% of AGI (excess can be carried over three years). Gifts of $250 or more must be substantiated by a receipt from the organization. For non-cash gifts see Form 8283.

Casualty and Theft Losses: A deduction is allowed for losses from casualty or theft of personal property subject to limits. See Form 4684 to calculate the deduction.

Job Expenses and Most Other Miscellaneous Deductions: Un-reimbursed employee expenses incurred in the performance of their job (See form 2106), tax preparations fees and other items such as investment fees are deductible to the extent that they exceed 2% of AGI.

Other Miscellaneous Deductions: See the instructions for this line. These miscellaneous items are not subject to the 2% of AGI excess.

If the total of four itemized deductions exceeds the standard deduction amount it use to determine taxable income on line 37. Next month I will discuss the final sections on Form 1040. Each of the items I briefly discussed can become complicated. If your tax situation is complex seek a professional. Good Luck!


by Bruce Balloni

The "Citizen's Guide to the 117th Maine Legislature" is an invaluable companion to the Fortunetell and the novice alike. It is a 120 page booklet containing everything you ever wanted to know about the legislature and a variety of groups on a percentage basis. If someone gets a 60% rating from the APL-CIO what does that tell me about specific legislation? That point aside, this book is a must for any citizen who wants to take an active interest in their government.

There are biographies of the constitutional officers at the end.

(Assistant General, Secretary of State, etc.) Floor plans of the State house, descriptions of citizen groups and many other useful tables and glossaries.

The book can be obtained by calling the Maine People's Resource Center at 761-1881. Or write to them at 65 West Commercial Street, Portland, Me 04101. Cost: $13.20.
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Central ME Blu CURIOUS DTL: 215, 15, curious male, looking to meet discreet gentle man, like myself, into CD, if interested pick a number - $2341
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Central ME OUTDOOR ROCKER: Ken, 32, mclean, 70's rock and roll, like a good time, work out, with an interest in you, if interested give me a call - $2170
South RUGGED AND MARYING: Single guy, 39, 311, 155, dk hair/eyes must be best friend, music, hugged the day before, big for you and can you call me - $2181
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ME FANTASY DRESS UP: 25, 160, iso someone who enjoys costume party, like to be a woman, if interested give me a call - $2184
ME LAW STUDENT: 22, new to area, iso a pass to play with someone 18-24, at 5'1, 165, if ur int leave me a mesage - $3876
ME OUTDOORS PERSON: Marc, 27, bm/s, 180, camping, fishing outdoors, person, walking and hiking, if interested give me a call - $2094
August DINNERS AND A MOVIE: Fred, 175, 5'10, 198, iso 18-35 int in romantic movies, dinner, free if give me a call - $1813
ME FANTASY BOY: Bobby subma party boy, who's free and free to play & always enjoy playing you - $2175
Bergen DISCIPLINE AND TRAINING: Will sell if married & balance 24, 6', iso a sub boy in or out of males and couples need discipline and training, sometimes animal - $2111
August 2ND MAN TENANT: Paul, looking for GWM 18-25, sports, movies, camping, like int in me to a message - $1813
Bergen RUN DOWN BELOW: bm/bki, 27, 5'7, like anything from early 70s, music, kids to new country, I'm straight and looking for a good time - $1800

ME WANT TO TALK: are you someone like me that someone to attend to your needs, if you feel I'm talking give me a call - $1910
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ME DOOD: 19, y/b, BlkD h/b, iso some tops, if ur int in a message - $19052
ME MY PLACE FOR INTIMACY, Conversation, music, movies, video, cuddling, much more, young find me easy, to get to know, for fun only, ur the type of fun to Spice up ur night, with older men will NH - $20952
Central ME NEW TO SCENE: Steve, 30, 5'9, 165, for 18-35 BM for some good times basic fun, couple would be good, new to some like to get to know and more so int in music & lot more - $2667
NH FANTASY DRESS UP: All WM music duo type that like to play with men, like fantasy dress up, car workers etc, locker room, showers, if u like to play a role - $2415
Oxford Co. ATHLETIC GUY DIGS:

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

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Portland Special Needs: Jim, WM int a monogamous build with special needs - 5'9, 150, b/f/w, fills, height shpe, music build, lots of art, hiking, sports, looking to meet a buddy, prefer married, older type - $18379
5 L LEFT FOR FINDING: 5'10, 170 iso, same as last, if ur int a messge - $18161

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Have you ever had one of those days, or weeks, when you wished your kitchen table was home plate and you and keep them within respectable numbers. You can eat as much as you want, NOT!!! Like it or not, fat grams count and so do calories. How unfortunate.

Once this was no problem. Just use fake stuff, right? Nutra Sweet instead of sugar, make believe chocolate, even make believe bread! Wow! Home plate doesn't make believe chocolate, even make it look so bad after all!

The only sane way to go; really ... would we're all hooked, the news is -being leaked that the artificial this and make that is not good for us. Bet grandma knew that all along.

Well, there is a problem. All health food store has become food? -I kid you about something as serious as pasta, soy flour), organic eggs and vegetables (canned beans or veggies)

Wrap airtight and store 24 hours before serving. Enjoy!

HEALTH, from page 1

concessions, or at the very least, are invisible as lesbians to our gynecological health care providers.

The Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine is a satellite project of the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center in Bangor. Organizers are working to establish a permanent health project for lesbians living in southern Maine. This spring, along with the cancer screening clinic, the LHP/PSM is offering a workshop on health-related legal issues.

"Protecting Ourselves: Health Care Provider of Attorney" is a workshop scheduled for Tuesday, April 11 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm, which will explain the legal options lesbians must consider in order to protect ourselves in case of a medical emergency. Topics include power of attorney and living wills. Participants will be provided with the documents which can be completed privately and later notarized. A list of providers knowledgeable about lesbian legal issues will also be available. This workshop will be presented by Lise R.

CARE, from page 7

During your visit, ask any questions you want. Ask to watch the procedure, if you're so inclined. Write things down so you won't forget what you heard. Ask the provider if she has any material you can take home to read. Ask to see your medical record, if you'd like, and ask questions about anything in it that you don't understand.

If your health care provider wants to run any tests or perform any procedures, you should ask a lot of questions. Marchelle Briers, writing in the November 1994 issue of the Mautner Project newsletter, suggests the following:

- What is the test/procedure called?
- When and where should I have it done?
- What does it measure?
- What are the risks of this test/procedure? How common are they?
- Is there any other way to get the information intended from this test? If so, why is this a better way to get that information?
- Are there alternatives to this procedure? If so, is this procedure better?
- What does the test measure? What is the normal range of results? What do abnormal test results mean?
- After the test or procedure, note the results in writing. If your provider prescribes a drug or treatment, Briers suggests getting the following information:

- What is the name of the drug/treatment?
- What dosage am I getting?
- What does it look like? (Pill, powder, tea, ointment, etc.)
- Is it a generic or brand-name drug being prescribed? If brand-name, how is it better than generic?
- How much does it cost?
- How long should I take it?
- How does it react with other medications I'm taking? Are there any foods I should stay away from while I'm on this treatment/medication?
- Does it have any side effects, especially harmful ones that should be reported to the provider?
- What should be done if these side effects occur?
- If it's a prescription, can it be refilled? How often?
- Can this drug/treatment cause addiction or dependence?

Are there alternatives to this drug/treatment? If so, why is this better?

Remember, write down the answers. Always let the provider know if you're worried or concerned. If you aren't getting better when you should, or if a prescribed medication is causing side effects (nausea, blurred vision, rash, headache, whatever), call your provider without delay.

Health care and healing are a partnership between you and your health care providers. You will always do best if you have confidence in your provider. Sometimes we don't have a choice and have to make do; that's when a personal support system is especially needed.

Being a health care consumer is an active function that makes its own contribution to well-being. If you want to get more involved, or want information, contact the Lesbian Health Project at Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, PO Box 20, Bangor ME 04402, 207/947-5337. In Southern Maine, contact Tania Jo Hathaway, Lesbian Health Project coordinator at 207/772-2699.
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TIME OUT!
The Scarborough Marsh
by Michael Rossetti

The Scarborough Marsh is one of the most accessible expanses of salt marsh in the state, and is the location for Time Out's April 9 bird and marsh watch.

Scarborough Marsh in spring is the some of profuse bird nesting. Large flocks of Canada geese stake out nesting areas and brood or simply make stopovers on route to other sites. Throughout the warmer days of spring and summer, occasionally, large heron, whose nearly fifteen foot wing span is as graceful and astounding as the sight of the large bird itself, nest here. Even flocks of snow geese have been known to make spring stopovers. These are splendid, large birds with snowy white feathers except for the black just at the tips of their wings. At low tide, especially in the summer, the Marsh can have an offensive "clammy" smell on humid days. The small occur because decaying matter at the bottom of the wet areas becomes exposed as the tide goes out. This offensive smell is perfume to those who care about the health of the world's oceans, because the smell indicates that the natural cleansing of the earth is at work. Salt marshes are elemental to ocean life in that much of the flora and fauna that grows in the marsh washes out to the Atlantic along with decaying matter to become the initial building blocks to the ocean's food chain. From microscopic, one celled creatures to insect larva, the richness of the life of the salt marsh gets deposited without rest into the oceans with each turn of the tide.

Humans have left their mark on the marsh, but fortunately for the marsh, what has been built is either abandoned or increases accessibility for interested preservationists. Route 1 and the Payne Road cut across the upper portions of the marsh, while Black Point Road cuts its eastern side. All of these roads are sinking in the liquid soil of the marsh, just as the ancient Kings Highway did back in the 1700's. The railroads were more intrusive than the highways, building the abandoned road bed in the central area and the Boston and Maine bed on its southern parts with tons and tons of sand and rubble. The industrial parks on its western and eastern edges pose far less a threat to the Scarborough Marsh than do summer traffic, inconsolable tourists and housing developments, all of which contribute to the contamination of the marsh's delicate ecosystem.

Scarborough Marsh has great accessibility and an educational center on Route 9 (the Pine Point Road) where maps and information, as well as canoe rentals are available. On the western side of the marsh, starting from the education center, a nature trail meanders through the upper parts of the marsh area. Also on the western area, just off Route 1 is the Industrial Park, where roadside parking will allow access to the open areas of the marsh.

TIME Out's hike will start from the old railroad access just down from the Oak Hill area. This access point leads through forested areas, allowing us to travel on dry ground, but able still to observe the entire set of zones associated with the marsh. Later this spring, Time Out will explore the eastern side of the marsh by canoeing along the Nonesuch River, on the marsh's eastern side, allowing a closer and more undisturbed look at the bird and wild life of the area.

For an excellent book on understanding the value of the salt marsh, and one of the earlier and important works on conservation, check out "Life and death of the Salt Marsh" by John Teal. Scarborough Marsh is mentioned frequently in this book. Written back in the 60's and published by Little Brown, Boston, it will give you information about the interdependence of life on earth and its very fragile nature.

Local Musicians to host benefit concert

PORTLAND: To help raise money for the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance and Maines Won't Discriminate, three popular local musicians are joining forces for a benefit concert. Lynn Deave, Val Bennett and Erica Gilbert are donating their time and talent to bring us a wonderful, music-filled evening of friends, frolic, and, of course, "Fun"raising. Please join us on Sunday, March 26, 7:00 pm at SISTER'S in Portland. There will be door prizes, raffles, even a prize for the group having traveled the farthest. Bring friends and money. Everyone is welcome. See you at SISTER'S! ΔΔ

The Pride Corner

by Michael Rossetti

Highlights of this year's Portland Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Pride Celebration are shaping up to include the Pier Dance, the Festival Stage, the Friday Rally and a Saturday parade with a target attendance of 3,000. It's not possible to give a detailed update on all the planning, as some plans are only in the proposal stage.

Fund raising has allowed us to pay off last year's security bills to the City and have put us on the way to getting this year's parade into the streets. The next fund raisers are March 26 at the Underground with the Divas production of a show called "Free Your Mind." On April 18, Citi will be presenting a Chef's auction, where you can sample food from some of the best restaurants in the Portland area, just off Route 1, includes Blackstone's donates a portion of their proceeds. People intending to visit Boston during their June 10th celebration are encouraged to carry banners and join other Mainer's at the Portland Pride float. The float will not be ready for Portland's St. Patrick's Day Parade invitation, but we hope to be part of the Maine State Parade in Lewiston. We also plan to bring the float to Bangor for their July celebration.

The emphasis this year is on Community Festival and various community groups have come forward with proposals that will extend the dates of Portland's Pride Festival to potentially 6 days of events. Groups are requested to register, with fee, to help with the planning and insurance costs of the parade. Speakers for the Friday, June 16 rally are being approached, their selection is based on providing diverse representation of community life. Metropolitan Pride, setup help and security for the parade, the Pier Dance and several other events are needed. Entertainment and vendors are being sought for the Saturday, June 18 Festival. A detailed brochure will be available May 15, with further scheduling announcements in the May-June issue of CPR.

Visibility Works, as Pride's educational arm, will be hosting "Survival Parties" to be held at PJ's in Augusta, Sunday, March 19, the Bar in Bangor, March 26 and at the Underground in Portland, April 9. The "Parties" are always from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, allowing gay youth to attend. Parties feature a free buffet, skits and "gaymes" with prizes, gift certificates, T-shirts and vacations, along with a more serious question and answer session with local Bias Crimes officers.

Visibility Works aims to provide support for those who are out and those who are coming out by helping to maintain the health of community groups through resource networking. The next Visibility Works, "Constructing our Visibility," workshop will be held Saturday, May 6 at the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Auburn from 1:00 to 4:00 pm with lunch provided. The workshop will examine the successes of community groups in building membership and in running a strong organization.

Current contacts for Portland's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community Festival are: Michael Rossetti, 677-9940 for general information; Deb Stevens at Blackstones, 775-2885 for vendor information; Richard B. Ford, 772-7325 for parade registration; Brent at Citi, 774-2242 for festival entertainment and stage help; State Theatre, 879-1112 for Maine Gay Men's Chorus with the Flirtations.

Look for this column each month for more information on Portland's Pride Festival. ΔΔ

 Absolutely! At Springfield College's School of Human Services where:

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The school of human services is fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, the Vermont State Department of Education, and the Council for Standards in Human Services Education.

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