Power struggle emerges amongst Maine's radical right groups

Volle calls Cosby "belligerent" and says anti-equal rights referendum is unconstitutional

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

Following are interviews, one with Paul Volle, leader of the Christian Coalition in Maine and the other with Mike Heath, Executive Director of the Christian Civic League (CCL) of Maine.

Carolyn Cosby, leader of Concerned Maine Families (CMF) did not respond to the Community Pride Reporter’s (CPR) efforts to obtain comment from her.

CPR: What degree of involvement does your organization (Christian Coalition) have with Concerned Maine Families (CMF), its leader, Carolyn Cosby, and their referendum against equal rights?

VOLLE: None whatsoever.

CPR: Why is that?

VOLLE: We, the issue at hand here is a constitutional issue. Our organization believes that the referendum is the wrong way to go because the referendum, in our opinion, will be unconstitutional because it’s trying to limit the state constitution by statutory action. In other words, what appears to be happening from the referendum is that the referendum is trying to put a muzzle on the state legislature from doing its job, that it’s constitutionally mandated to do. No matter how you feel about an issue — the end doesn’t justify the means.

CPR: Aside from Cosby’s approach do you agree with her purpose?

VOLLE: Well, I agree that there should not be special rights for a number of what are called ‘minority groups.’ I think that everybody is equal under the law. There’s so many things that we could say need special attention — I’m not so sure that we need special rights for fe-

See CONTROL, page 5

Christian Civic League abandons historic support of Maine’s Hate Crimes Act

Move seen as attempt to appease Carolyn Cosby

by Bruce Balboni

"Given what I have learned, and in light of your efforts to strengthen ‘hate crimes’ statute this session, I am going to recommend that the League modify its position on “hate crimes.” I am going to recommend to our board that the League 1) request that the state remove “sexual orientation” from the Maine Civil Rights Act. . . ." — from a letter to Steve Wessler, Assistant Attorney General of Maine, written by Mike Heath, Executive Director of the Christian Civic League (CCL) of Maine, dated April 7, 1995.

With that statement Heath acceded to a demand made of him by Carolyn Cosby, leader of Concerned Maine Families (CMF) in a letter she wrote to him 12/13/94. She wrote to Heath, “Under Jack Wyman’s leadership, CCL is still on public record as supporting the addition of the sexual orientation clause in the Hate Crimes Act. It will be absolutely necessary for you to prepare a public statement refuting that.”

Heath has now done that. In the accompanying interview Heath attempted to maintain the independence of his organization, but his cave-in to Cosby tells another story.

Heath gives his reasons for this abandonment in his letter to Wessler in what can only be described as impenetrable logic. Heath writes, “With respect to your rationale for including sexual orientation in the civil rights act, I have these thoughts. This act was designed to place the power and author

See Civic League, page 5
Maine Won't Discriminate: Chapter Update
by Malcolm Smith, Staff Reporter

With the anti-gay/anti-civil rights referendum question less than seven months away, the number of chapters of Maine Won't Discriminate has grown to 17. Chapters that organized early, such as Hancock County, Bangor and Portland, are well on their way, while the more recently formed chapters are diligently working to get up to speed. I recently spoke with chapter contact persons to get a feel for where each chapter is and what their needs are. Not surprisingly, all chapters expressed a need for volunteers and funds.

Jeanie Crockett of Bangor is looking or either low-cost or donated office space. She said the chapter has formed a religion committee for outreach to the religious community.

In Biddeford, chapter contact, Barry Horn says he is looking forward to coalition building in his area, having new members join and getting to work. Punnie Edgerton of the Brunswick/Bath chapter credits the politically active people of the area for the current success of the chapter. With over 400 members, Edgerton says, "I'm really thrilled with the turnout." Many chapter members were active in nuclear and other referendums. "They just jump right in — it's fabulous," she said. Profitable house party gatherings have already been hosted.

"I think our chapter is doing splendid," Cheryl Ring said of the Capitol Area MWD chapter. Ring is the co-facilitator. There's a real ground-swell starting to the community. With over 400 members, Ring says, "I'm really thrilled with the turnout." Many chapter members were active in nuclear and other referendums. "They just jump right in — it's fabulous," she said. Profitable house party gatherings have already been hosted.

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Portland City Council elections — May 2

by Bruce Balboni

There are seven candidates for two, at-large City Council seats in this year’s municipal elections. They are Dan Foster, John McDonough, Tony Holt, Peter Rickett, Bruce Webber, Keri Lord and Paula Agopian. McDonough and Lord are the incumbents, both are on the Public Safety Committee.

There are three candidates for the one seat up for grabs in District 3 (USM area). They are Nan Sawyer, Tom Kane and Patricia Bernard. Though these elections are supposed to be non-partisan, every candidate indicated their party affiliation to CPR during wide-ranging interviews. They’re all Democrats, except Peter Rickett who is a registered Republican, and Bruce Webber who is a Green.

All the candidates indicated that they supported Portland’s equal rights ordinance which bans discrimination in Portland in housing, credit, employment and public accommodation. However, one of the candidates expressed lukewarm support and another said that she voted against the ordinance when it went to referendum. Peter Rickett said he supported the ordinance but thought it was unfortunate that we had to have it. In reference to Concerned Maine Families’ (CMF) anti-equal rights referendum Rickett said, “I can see both sides of the issue. Fundamentally, I’m against making lists. Unfortunately, we started making them years ago and once you start them it’s very hard to get away from them. I’d rather just have a system that said we’re not going to tolerate discrimination anywhere in any form, but that doesn’t seem to be a legal reality.”

I suggested to Rickett that there seemed to be a contradiction between his statement supporting Portland’s equal rights ordinance and his statement that he saw the point for CMF’s referendum. I told him that if the referendum passes the ordinance is gone.

Rickett replied, “That’s why I can see their point in what they’re doing with the referendum, but at this point in time I do not back it. I feel that there is a need for the laws that are on the books. I don’t like that they are there. It’s unfortunate that there are lists because lists keep going, which is not a good way to run a country or to run a city.” Despite these beliefs, Rickett said he would support the passage of a state-wide equal rights law in the legislature.

Patricia Bernard, who is running against Nan Sawyer and Tom Kane in District 3 said, “I didn’t vote for the ordinance when it went to a vote because in your public arguments you didn’t go beyond proving that you had problems being victimized. I don’t care that it passed, but our judicial system is so weird that I fear they’ll take that ordinance and use it to sanction abuse against rape victims and children, that’s my only problem with it.”

I asked her if she supported CMF’s referendum to deny equal rights to gays and lesbians. She replied, “I’m neutral on it. I’m not homophobic, but I fear it will fractionize (sic) the people. I wish you guys had just stood up and said, ‘We will not be a victim and the laws are made for everybody,’ and I would feel better if you had gone that way instead of a special gay rights referendum.”

Somewhat surprised, I informed her that this ‘special gay rights referendum’ was put forth by Concerned Maine Families (CMF) not by gays and lesb-

Dan Foster for CITY COUNCIL

Nationwide we’re seeing a trend toward less government — less involvement in our lives, less needless regulation. We can do the same in Portland too. City government doesn’t need to be controlling. City government should be a helper and supporter of it’s citizens, the taxpayers. As city councilor I’ll work toward this goal.

**My Goals as City Councilor Would Be:**

- To encourage new business and industry with less regulation.
- To be an enemy of wasteful spending.
- To lessen city involvement where it is not needed.
- To encourage new ideas for solving the continued parking problems of the city.
- To expect that taxpayers are receiving excellent services for their money.

**Dan Foster Is:**

- A Democrat - socially liberal, fiscally conservative.
- A community and political volunteer.
- Director of Food Service, Woodford Park Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center in Portland.
- Adjunct faculty member, Southern Maine Technical College.
- A resident of 29 Morning Street on Munjoy Hill.

For a ride to the Polls call 874-0944

Paid for and authorized by “Dan Foster for City Council,” Mark J. Doody, Treasurer
29 Morning Street, Portland, Maine 04101 • Telephone (207) 874-0944
agreed that there should be such places, though they differed on the details. JohnMcDonough said, "I support a place for underage citizens to go and dance and have a good time. I have a problem with the late night hours — 3, 4 o'clock in the morning. I think that’s disruptive to the residents who live around those places, particularly Congress Square. The City Council’s Public Safety Committee has listened to testimony on that and debated it at length, so my personal feeling on that is when it gets to be 1 a.m. people should go home. People who are out at 2 or 3 o’clock in the morning ought to be home at that hour. A lot of my young friends would disagree with me, but I own my children would disagree with me.”

John Holt took a different view. He stated, “I’m really disappointed the city has taken the attitude it has towards this place. I’ve been out there a few times, but I’ve never been in that market. It used to be used by the downtown crowd and the downtown crowds neighborhood, and I don’t think it’s well managed, no police calls out there and the property is well maintained. They are good taxpayers, so they support some of the other things we do.”

Paula Agopian added, “I think it’s bad that they’re trying to shut them down when they are conforming to the zoning requirements at this point. I don’t think they have a foot to stand on. I’m not an advocate of that kind of entertainment. I’m not the type of person who would go there — at least at this point in my life I’m not and it never really appealed to me anyway. But that doesn’t mean other people don’t enjoy that kind of entertainment or need that kind of entertainment.”

John McDonough said, “Absolutely. We’ve discussed that and I think that’s a matter of choice. If you don’t want to go to it, you don’t have to. I’ve never been in to Mark’s as Mark’s Showplace should be left alone that the candidates pretty much agreed that it should be. Some were more emphatic than others. Tony Holt said, “Strange question — it’s there and there is no constitutional way to prevent it from being there. I’m an attorney and I’m a strong first amendment kind of attorney, and I think that the first amendment protects establishments like that, and if you don’t like what goes on there, then don’t go.”

Dan Foster suggested, “Yes, they should be allowed to operate. What’s happening is direct harassment. When they start making up all these new laws, they’re targeting them specifically.”

Paula Agopian added, “I think it’s bad that they’re trying to shut them down when they are conforming to the zoning requirements at this point. I don’t think they have a foot to stand on. I’m not an advocate of that kind of entertainment. I’m not the type of person who would go there — at least at this point in my life I’m not and it never really appealed to me anyway. But that doesn’t mean other people don’t enjoy that kind of entertainment or need that kind of entertainment.”

John McDonough said, “Absolutely. We’ve discussed that and I think that’s a matter of choice. If you don’t want to go to it, you don’t have to. I’ve never been in to Mark’s as Mark’s Showplace in this city. I just don’t think the city should be in the business of regulating morality.”

Bruce Webber suggested that the citizens should decide on whether Mark’s should be allowed to exist in Portland, presumably, in a referendum. I asked the candidates to consider the removal of the benches form Longfellow Square. This action was taken because Orlando Delogu, City Councilor, decided the people who sat on the benches were “undesirable.” Most of the candidates disagreed with the decision to remove the benches but some supported it. McDonough said, “I know why they were taken away. It was because they were being used as a place for transient, homeless, young people to congregate. I’m told it was disruptive to the businesses and it was intimidating for a lot of our elderly citizens to be on the sidewalks. That may be true, I don’t know. I didn’t have anything to do with removing the benches, that was done by a couple of our City Councilors in whose district it was done. Obviously, I support their decision if they said they had enough reason to do it. I think it’s only for a trial period, so if it doesn’t work out we will take them back in.”

Patricia Bernard put an economic spin on the situation, hurting the Bill of Rights out the window. She opined, “I’m not against removing the benches to attract business. We need to project a positive image in this city because of this stupid recession. Even though they (the undesirable) are not doing anything wrong, it doesn’t look good.”

Peter Rickett said that, “undesirable” is in the eye of the beholder. It’s too open to personalization. I’d like to see a picture of Orlando when he graduated or when he’s older, maybe we wouldn’t let him sit on that park bench. Let’s look at the problems that make this a problem.”

The changes in access and use of Deering Oaks Park over the last year has had an impact on many people. Gay men in particular have been affected because Deering Oaks, known on the street as “Pickle Park,” was traditionally a night time cruising spot for meetings and pick-up.

See CITY COUNCIL, page 21
The Oakland Forum: Radical Right-0, Maine-1

by Karen Geraghty

On Saturday evening, March 25, a public forum was held at the Oakland Unitarian Universalist Church. The purpose of the forum was to discuss the upcoming referendum. The panelists who supported the referendum included three representatives of the Christian Civic League of Maine (CCL), George Thebarge, Sam Richards and Paul Madzer, and one representative from Concerned Maine Families (CMF), Dennis Daigle. Those speaking in opposition to the referendum included the Attorney General's office, Steve Wexler, the Maine Council of Churches Executive Director, Tom Ewell, and the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance represented by this reporter.

Each panelist was given 10 minutes to speak to the audience about the referendum, not all stuck to the assignment. The boys from the Christian Civic League talked about little else except sex and morality and special rights and quotas. It is interesting to note that although the Maine Times headline from June 11, 1993 says, "Civic League backs hate crime bill," this is not really the case. What they said in 1993 was that, "There must be no disagreement over the need to protect all our citizens - gay and straight minority communities against one another. CCL is going to try to pit religious groups against each other, and the tone of this debate is going to be difficult and painful for many people to hear, but especiallyqueers. In addition to the angry and hurt queers in attendance, there were community members who had been offended. From what I could gather from comments and phone calls I received from many of these community members (I passed out my card), they left feeling like we, the opponents, had tried to educate. They said we laid our arguments out clearly and that we made sense. The general feeling was that the proponents had done nothing except attack those who were different from their narrow vision of the norm. That's what we've been saying all along. This debate was the first of many that will happen between now and November 7. We must be strong in knowing who and what we are. Once you know that, no rhetoric can make you question yourself.

CONTROL, from page 1

would elevate CCL's voice to a cooperative partnership role in the Maine campaign would mean a coordinated campaign. And that we believe, necessitates agreeing on central leadership." The Christian Civic League refuses to accept Cosby's demand that CCL recognize the control of their movement by Tony Marco and Bruce Fein. Marco is leader and founder of the Failed, Colorado Amendment 2 and Bruce Fein is the high-priced lawyer from Virginia who is running CCL's political campaign. Fein told Cosby in a letter dated August 18, 1994 that their political campaign must avoid, "evoking passions.

Cosby quickly abandoned her attack on homosexual behavior and tried to elevate her efforts to the plane of a "debate regarding civil rights issues." She writes in this most recent press release, "This campaign will not be a bait and switch campaign. Having begun our campaign as a debate regarding civil rights issues, we will not now switch to a campaign of disgust regarding gay sexual behavior." As usual, however, in this denial lies the truth. CMF did indeed begin their campaign as an attack on gay sexual behavior and only recently switched to a legalistic approach on the advice of Fein. If one examines the CMF brochure distributed throughout Maine during the signature gathering phase of their campaign (spring and summer of 1994) one clearly sees the attack on behavior. Cosby's brochure entitled, "What's Wrong with Special Gay Rights?, You Be the Judge" includes the following passages: "...gays engage in deviant sexual behaviors like anal intercourse, fisting (inserting a fist or entire arm into a partner's rectum); urinating or defecating on partners; sadomasochism; even ingesting feces and urine." The CMF's brochure goes on to say this is vicious. The CMF campaign is a bait and switch campaign in reverse.

Perhaps the most outrageous of all of Cosby's absurd statements is her infamous, "Resolution in Support of Principled Debate" in which she calls for "the highest standards of political discourse." A member of her Board of Advisors, Jonathan Malmude, recently appeared with her on the WMPI-FM radio talk show "Big Talk." Malmude, a professor at St. Joseph's College in Standish is quoted as saying to Cosby, just after the show, "Have a great day, you b*tch." Cosby and her henchmen say in private their public statements. So much for Cosby's "commitment to take the moral high ground."
POWER STRUGGLE from page 1

males or special rights for a lot of vari-

somewhat of

erosexual. How do I prove that they are

credit and public accommodation on the

concerned about. My concern is that

a heterosexual. For example, let's say I

was going to get a mortgage or a loan

from an institution and the guy that's the

loan manager is a black person and I'm a

white person — do I say, "geez, the

reason I didn't get the loan is because I

was white and he was black" or maybe

I'm heterosexual and maybe somebody's

 bisexual or whatever the case may be.

It seems like it can't be well-defined.

CPR: The Maine Chronicle is the

newspaper for the Christian Coalition of

Maine. I read the March 1995 issue and

didn't see any reference to homoseux-

ald or the equal rights struggle. Why is

that, especially since its so topical in

Maine right now?

VOLLE: There are others who are

speaking about that and there are other

constitutional issues that we're really

concerned about right now and it's just

not on the front burner as far as our

newspaper is concerned.

CPR: Can you comment on your

relationship with Carolyn Cosby in

terms of leadership style and your abil-

ity to work with her?

VOLLE: Well, I ran for state leg-

islature in 1988 for District 30 in Port-

land. I won the primary and right after,

my campaign manager resigned for per-

sonal reasons, so Carolyn Cosby became

my campaign manager, and we worked

together very closely through 1990, for

the next two and a half years. We had a

different style in leadership, we had a
different style in how we approached

some problems.

She was, at one time, the campaign

manager for Karen Evans when Evans

ran for State Senate against Robin Lam-

bert. There was no secret what Robin's

sexual orientation was or anything of

that nature. Apparently, a flyer came out

right before that primary election

(where Lambert's sexual orienta-

tion) and I was contacted by Tony

Payne, Robin Lambert's campaign man-

ager, who asked me what I knew about

the flyer (the flyer attacked Robin Lam-

bert) because at that time I was the

Cumberland County Republican Chair-

man. I said, "I'll investigate." Tony and

others believed that the genesis of that

flyer was myself and Carolyn Cosby,

and, in fact, we were subpoenaed to

appear before the Governmental Ethics

and Campaign Practices Commission, and I

did appear before them and Carolyn Cosby

appeared and Carolyn got ejected from

that.

I told the commission I would

share all the information I had, but they

wanted me to testify under oath which I

refused. They found me in contempt of

the commission which they had no au-

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POWER STRUGGLE, from page 6

any 'upset' emotions to me but she has issued a press release entitled, "Statement of Principles." Some have construed that document as having some kind of concern about what we're doing.

CPR: Is she concerned about there being too many separate groups working on this issue?

HEATH: Yes, and I think she said in there that CFM won't be part of anything that makes certain arguments in support of the referendum.

CPR: Do you know what those are?

HEATH: Just get a copy from her. (see side bar, page 1, left)

CPR: Quite frankly, she doesn't supply us with anything. (Ed. note: In fact, Carolyn Cosby did not return our phone call in which we asked her for comment on this story.)

CPR: Is one of the reasons for your forming a task force of your own that you disagree with Cosby's leadership?

HEATH: The CCL decided that we would support the referendum on our own. The way we view it is that there is now, because of the work of CFM, a public referendum on this issue and we, like any other group, may choose to support it in any number of different ways. One way would be to become part of the CFM team and proceed under their banner, another way is to proceed independently, alongside, making the arguments that we feel need to be made in support of the referendum, notwithstanding what CFM would or would not say about those arguments.

CPR: CPR has a copy of a letter written by Cosby to you, dated December 13, 1994, concerning 'Developing a Working Relationship.' The P.S. on that letter mentions the fact that your organization supports the inclusion of sexual orientation in Maine's Hate Crimes Act and that if CCL wishes to work with CFM you must, as Cosby writes, 'prepare a public statement refuting that.' What is your position on that request?

HEATH: The Christian Civic League continues to be consistent with its position of three years ago under Jack Wyman's leadership. Officially, we still support that. I am, as of Friday (April 14), going to be recommending in a letter to Steve Weslter and CCL's Board of Directors, that we change our position on that and that we urge the state to remove sexual orientation form the Maine Civil Rights Act. That's my position at this point, that's not the League's position.

(Ed. note — The terms "Maine Civil Rights Act" and "Maine's Hate Crimes Act" are used interchangeably.)

CPR: How can the CCL support sexual orientation in the Hate Crimes Act and also support the referendum?

HEATH: My letter addresses that. I'll send it to you. — (see side bar, page 1, right)

CPR: Referring again to Cosby's letter of 12/13/94, she states that in order for you to work with CFM you will have to accept the leadership of Tony Marco and Bruce Fein. Comment?

HEATH: The guiding light of CCL is the 40 member Board of Directors which is made up of people form all over the state of Maine. We are our own organization, our own entity. We are not going to take leadership cues from anybody.

CPR: Is that part of the problem you're having in working with Cosby?

HEATH: We did not address the issue of Marco and Fein in her letter. We, in fact, haven't addressed those aren't issues to us. We haven't responded to them. What's an issue to us is supporting the referendum in ways that are consistent with our principles, and part of that is calling for the formation of a broadly based coalition to support the referendum, and making arguments which are sensible and which are going to help the people of Maine make a wise decision. November. It hasn't been about whether or not Marco and Fein can bring some good arguments, probably they can. As far as accepting their leadership as a condition for a relationship with CFM — no, that's just not an issue for us.

CPR: There seems to be a real difference between Cosby and you in terms of leadership. In the December letter she calls for 'central leadership' and yet you want to be independent.

HEATH: She can speak for herself on that issue. What we're saying is that we're going to support the referendum the way that we feel that we need to do it.

CPR: How do you plan to support it?

HEATH: We're not prepared to say publicly because we haven't debated it internally yet as fully as we need to.

CPR: One of the ways people anticipate that you're going to support the referendum is through the churches with which you are affiliated.

HEATH: We will be talking with our membership which includes some churches and we will be articulating, as we have for one hundred years, our position on the referendum, which is a position in support of it.

CPR: What is your relationship with the Christian Coalition of Maine and its leader, Paul Volle?

HEATH: I know Paul and I know what you know about them, and you may know more about their inner workings than I do. I just know him, that's all. They don't have representation on our Board. We don't have representation on their Board.

CPR: Why can't your two groups work more cooperatively?

HEATH: How do you mean?

CPR: It would seem that two Christian groups such as yours would have a lot in common and would be able to have a working relationship.

HEATH: Well, I didn't say we didn't.

CPR: Right, but, do you?

HEATH: We have a working relationship with them the same way I have a working relationship with any number of other groups. It's not a unique relationship. I'm not sure what your driving at.

CPR: I'm just wondering why you're not more unified. Why is there a need for two Christian groups that have similar political agendas?

HEATH: Well, just as America has all sorts of groups who come at things in different ways so do we. I think we agree on most issues. I can't think of any big disagreements.

CPR: Paul Volle thinks the referendum is unconstitutional and that it is a waste of money. Can you comment on that?

HEATH: No.

CPR: Do you expect the Board of Directors of your organization to go along with you in your request that CCL abandon its position supporting the inclusion of sexual orientation in the Maine Civil Rights Act?

HEATH: I expect that, but our Board is kind of big.

CPR: Why are you urging this change?

HEATH: I'll send you my letter.

OFFICE WARMING

Community Pride Reporter has new office space, and we are anxious to show it off to the community.

On Friday, May 12 we are hosting an open house and you're invited. 5:00-7:00 PM Refreshments and beverages will be available. Come and meet the CPR staff and volunteers.

142 High Street Suite #623
Portland
207/79-1342

Ken Drake, owner of The Bar

Invites you to come see him soon.

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Sunday 2:00 PM until close

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Requests Friday & Saturday
Dancing 9:00 PM - 2:00 AM

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10 FROM EACH SHIRT SALE WILL GO TO MAINE WON'T DISCRIMINATE
PROGRESSIVE CARDS, GIFTS + WRAP
To Your Health: Chlamydia - A Concern for Lesbians, Part I

by Pesche Bass

Here's a "Rainbow Family of the 1990's" scenario:

A lesbian who's interested in getting pregnant charts her menstrual cycles and diligently uses insemination by donor at her time of ovulation. After a year and a half of monthly inseminations, she is still not pregnant. Her health care provider refers her to an infertility specialist.

What's wrong with this picture? The answer could be simple — Chlamydia.

Chlamydia (kluh-MID ee-yuh) is a classification of several infections that are caused by a sub-bacterial organism called chlamydia trachomatis. Until the mid 1980's, this organism was chiefly known as the cause of trachoma, a disease that is a leading reason for adult blindness in developing countries. Chlamydia is also a major cause of blindness, pneumonia, and death among infants.

It is only within the last 10-15 years that larger numbers of health care providers have realized that chlamydia is also a sexually transmitted disease, and largely responsible for non-gonococcal urethritis (NGU) in men, pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) in women, and sterility in both men and women.

While chlamydia is seen as a major health concern for heterosexuals, women who have sex with other women should be aware that we, too, can contract this sexually transmitted disease (STD). As with most STDs, lesbians are, statistically, at lower risk for chlamydia, but bisexual women and lesbians who have sex with men are at the same level of risk for heterosexual women.

Nationally, there are an estimated 3-5 million cases of chlamydia annually. In women, it causes one million cases of PID, of which 200,000 will require hospitalization. 11,000 cases annually result in female sterility.

There are other problems with chlamydia. It can be asymptomatic in 50-80% of infected women and 10% of infected men. Thus, people can be actively infected and not know it, and they can unwittingly infect their sex partners. (A pregnant woman who is infected can unknowingly pass the organism to her baby during childbirth.)

Until the mid-80's, it was expensive and complicated to test for chlamydia infections. Now, manufacturers produce test products that are easy to perform and fairly inexpensive, making chlamydia screening more routine and affordable.

Chlamydia commonly coexists with other STDs. For example, it can be asymptomatic in women and men. Women are more likely to be asymptomatic than men. Men can be asymptomatic in 50-80% of cases, while women are asymptomatic in 20-50% of cases. The antibiotic clarithromycin may be used to treat both men and women.

Brian and friend visit Lady Liberty
Flaunting It

by Brian Kaufman

Choosing a title for a column is hardly a task to be taken lightly. After listening to a recording of Tom Wilson Weinberg’s 1987 off-Broadway show, Ten Percent Revue, I decided upon the title of one of the show’s catcher tunes. “Flaunting It.” I like the simple truth of the song. To make a long song short, it says that if living with integrity is flaunting it, then let’s flaunt it! Let’s show affection, question the candidates, and ask our employers for domestic partner benefits. Yes indeed. Let’s flaunt it.

No matter how hard some of us may try to be discreet, those who insist upon hating us will continue to say that we are flaunting “it” simply by existing. So let’s really flaunt it, and enjoy lives replete with self-respect, a zeal for living, and the recognition of that special joy we feel for our same-sex loves. I created this title for the column: Free-thinking, Loving & Uncompromising Natural Tendencies Inspire Noble Gains — It’s Terrific! Of course, “Flaunting It” is a far easier way to remember this simple maxim for modern living. We should all enjoy flaunting it! It is my hope that this column will serve as a guide for flaunting it safely and with an awareness of associated risks and rewards.

Some readers are already mortified just by the title of this column, and wish I would go away. “Does he really have to write about this?” Please bear with me and remember that whatever we do as a community to procure equal treatment in our society is regarded by conservatives as “flaunting it.” Flaunting it, of course, is a continuum. It ranges from quietly placing your loved one’s picture on your desk to showing up at your employer’s holiday party in drag that makes Tammy Faye Baker look drab.

Educators in New Jersey aren’t exactly flaunting it, but many parents are incensed about a “prejudice reduction” program which doesn’t specifically address sexual minorities, but permits open discussions among students relating to their stereotypes and fears of homosexuality. The program, incorporated into almost all of the state’s 595 school districts, places prejudice reduction instruction in the curriculum alongside traditional subjects and requires that teachers weave prejudice reduction into all subjects that they teach.

New Jersey Governor Christine Whitman has been outspoken in her support of her state’s Office of Bias Crime and Community Relations, which is treated as the first line of defense.

Yes, Maine does have a Hate and Bias Crime unit which operates (unfunded) within the jurisdiction of the Attorney General’s office. Assistant Attorney General Susan Wiskan has taken his show on the road to gay bars and school assemblies when invited, but without the support staff or services that made it possible for his New Jersey counterparts to actually write the Prejudice Reduction Education Program (PREP). New Jersey Deputy Attorney General Robin Parker, head of the Bias Crime and Community Relations unit, claims the results have been instructive in making schools safer from violence and harassment. Conceding that “we can’t be attitude cops,” Parker notes that 40% of hate crimes are committed by juveniles aged 10 to 17, and that after introducing the program, not one hate crime has been reported in participating communities.

Opponents of PREP are calling the anti-bias initiative social engineering. I prefer to think of it as flaunting it. I encourage Governor Kean to convene a task force on sexual minority youth, following in the footsteps of Massachusetts Governor Weld, and then to heed the example of Governor Whitman by “flaunting it.” AA

You read this, you may be telling all your friends about the lovely flowers growing in your yard.

When I think of spring, I realize that with the freshness of the earth, the renewal of creation, I feel encouraged to renew myself... to somehow spurn myself up physically, emotionally and spiritually. It feels something like waking up after a long slumber.

Physically, it’s time to shed the old down jacket for a lighter version. Perhaps it’s time for some of us to shed an extra pound or two as well. Nature helps us with this resolve by providing the most wonderful fresh vegetables like asparagus so thin, firm and tender.

See CHEW, page 25
Homosexuality and disability: a personal perspective

by “Christopher Ryan”

It is hard enough to belong to one minority group. However, I belong to two. I am a gay man who also uses a wheelchair. Neither status did I ask for, but I continue learning and growing because of them.

I first started feeling attracted to guys around the age of thirteen. These feelings seemed natural to me, so I felt pretty comfortable with them. At the same time, I was also attracted to women, but I felt many times that I forced these feelings on myself. I did not want to pretend to be straight; I would not even consider dating men in high school because I was afraid of being harassed at school if I did.

I started coming out of my shell a little when I went to college. Being away from home, getting used to a new wheelchair, new classes, and living in a residence hall, was enough to keep my mind occupied for many months. The sexuality part of my life took a back seat. College was the first place I ever met people who were “out of the closet,” and comfortable with themselves. Even though I was sometimes shocked and surprised with what they had to say, I was shown people who dealt with life head-on, and I will always admire them. (As college went on, I was also surprised to learn how many people were still in the closet, like me.)

My sexuality as it relates to my disability is kind of a tricky issue. Throughout junior/senior high school, I was considered to be a real nice guy, but not a person to date (read, I was a dork). I thought it would be many years before I had a date. I was also afraid of people not finding me sexually desirable because of my wheelchair. I know this sounds like a cliche out of THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW, but it took being in my first relationship to realize that it was not so much about the other person, it was about me feeling comfortable with myself. I had more hang-ups about my disability than my partner did. This is an issue I still think about often.

I am a little more out of the closet than I was when I was in college. My immediate family, and my friends know, and thankfully they still love me. I am still really afraid to come out to people I do not know. In fact, it took a lot for me to write this article, but I am glad I did.

Maine AIDS Walk ’95

by Winnie Weir, Publishing Editor

On Sunday, May 7, hundreds of people across the state of Maine will participate in the Maine AIDS Walk ’95, a fund raising event to benefit many of the AIDS service organizations in the state. Participation is not restricted to walkers. Sponsors for walkers, sponsors for placing ads in local newspapers, organizing employees to walk as a group, post flyers, distribute pledge sheets and/or volunteering the day of the walk to help with any number of tasks, are but a few of the ways in which you can help.

The Chairperson of the Hallowell/Augusta Maine AIDS Walk Committee, Michel F. Lussier, told CPR recently that, “Of the nine Maine AIDS Walk-a-thons occurring in the state on May 7, two benefit Dayspring AIDS Support Services which has offices in Augusta and Waterville.” Lussier added, “As with all agencies which care for people with AIDS, Dayspring has seen a frightening increase in it’s case-load, about 100% over the past three years.” Dayspring serves five central Maine counties: Kennebec, Franklin, Lincoln, Sagadahoc and Somerset, and covers an area from the Canadian border to the north and the coast to the south.

The Hallowell-Augusta walk is 10K with an optional 5K and begins at the Hallowell City Hall on Winnthrop Street, loops into Augusta, and ends at the Hallowell town gazebo. The Waterville walk is also 10K and begins and ends at the Unitarian Universalist Church at the intersection of Spring and Elm Streets. Registration begins at noon in Hallowell and 12:30 PM in Waterville.

The Portland Walk is a 5-mile walk around Back Cove. The beginning and ending point is Cheverus High School where walkers will be treated to entertainment and refreshments before, during and after the Walk. Registration is from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM, with opening ceremonies scheduled for 12:30 PM. The Portland Walk benefits The AIDS Project, People with AIDS Coalition of Maine, The AIDS Lodging House, The NAMES Project/Maine, Peabody House and PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support).

At 1:00 PM an anticipated large crowd of enthusiastic, well sponsored walkers will step off for Maine AIDS Walk ’95 all across Maine. The Walk will take place rain or shine. The entry enclosed in this issue of CPR can be used to gather your pledges. Just be sure to turn the money over to the agency/geographical location you are representing in the Walk. Sign up sponsors and dust off those walking shoes.

JONATHAN'S Ogunquit PRESENTS . . .

"A center stage Diva who bursts out of her closet with little explosions of outspoken bemusement that could make even Bette Midler blush."

Michael Musto, New York Daily Times

SUZANNE WESTENHOEFER

Comedian

In concert, Friday, May 12, 1995
2 shows: 8:00 and 10:00 pm

SUZANNE WESTENHOEFER

Comedian

In concert, Friday, May 12, 1995
2 shows: 8:00 and 10:00 pm

add-on show tickets $15.00
for tickets call Jonathan's Restaurant, 207-646-4777
EDITORIALS

What happens when you move your entire base of operations from one over-stuffed office into a suite of five offices, two of which you need to find tenants for quickly, take a three day trip to Washington, DC for an intense dose of diversity training the same weekend of the move, participate in a fund raiser being held for you, and are one of the subjects of a BBC movie documentary being filmed in your home and your office by one of the most respected photographers of the century? On top of that, throw in a printer who is off to inspect and supervise the moving of a new printing press into his business space which is being renovated around the work he's trying to put out, and it's almost comical.

Not really! What happens is your editors are frazzled, exhausted not having slept in the last 40 hours, and the April/May edition is later than usual.

We are suffering from growing pains of the highest order it seems. While our expansion into New Hampshire has been a dream with some footwork being done, suddenly we are beginning to hear from folks in New Hampshire who want to be included in CPR. They are suggesting more distribution sites and potential advertisers. This is good news on the one hand and overwhelming news on the other hand. As CPR comes up on its second birthday in a few weeks, we are going to be looking at some ways to save wear and tear on us.

We would welcome suggestions and comments from our readers and we would love to meet some of you at our open house/office warming on May 12th. Stop by and let's talk about our futures. Many of the volunteers who help with CPR will be on hand from 5-7 PM. We hope you will be there too.

CPR MAIL BAG

Dear Editor,

I am so proud that Maine now has a dedicated group of gay men who perform as our Gay Men's Chorus. That pride was diminished, however, by the distress and discomfort I felt during their recent concert in which the chorus performed a series of operatic and show tunes portraying heterosexual love. I am not homophobic, but there was something just too awkward about watching self-acknowledged gay men proclaiming romantic love to a female soprano while I was holding hands with dozens of people in the audience like myself who have finally stopped buying into the heterosexual version of "happily ever after," and painful chords were struck as we watched these opposite-sex love songs being performed under the guise of the Maine Gay Men's Chorus. It would have been hilarious to see the group belt out "I Feel Pretty" instead of "Maria," and how appropriate 'There's a Place for Us" would have been given Maine's forthcoming anti-gay referendum. Is the Maine Gay Men's Chorus suffering from internalized homophobia? I'll want to check the program before supporting them with my ticket money in the future!

Sincerely,
Ira T. Consumer (name withheld on request)

Dear Editor,

I am presently incarcerated in the Kentucky State Penitentiary. This correspondence is in hope that you will consider assisting me in an attempt to meet new friends via a published ad within your publication. Due to the great distance I find myself from home, difficulty in meeting new people and the loneliness sometimes becomes unbearable. For this reason I gracefully request that you will do me honor and place my ad that is listed below. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter and anything you are able to do is highly appreciated.

Cordially yours,
Marvin Ray Gardner

(Editors note: Because this letter arrived just prior to going to press, it could not make it into the personal this month. We are printing the ad in the CPR Mail Bag and encourage readers to consider becoming a Pen Pal.)

LONELY. INCARCERATED

G.M.- I am incarcerated and will soon be released. I can definitely relocate. I'm young, healthy, clean, disease free, honest, romantic, educated, well-dowered. I am seeking someone who will appreciate my erotic nature and strong desire for a loving and caring monogamous relationship. So if you are out there and looking for real love, please write. I will answer.

Marvin Ray Gardner #99621
Kentucky State Penitentiary
PO Box 128
Bddyville, KY 42038-0128

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 #623, Portland, Maine 04101.

NAME: __________________________

ADDRESS: __________________________

PHONE: __________________________

Home work

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

by Susan Farnsworth

Dear Reader,

A few months ago, I wrote a letter asking for your help with the effort to pass a civil rights anti-discrimination bill that would have made it illegal to discriminate against anyone based on their sexual orientation. Thank you, to those who have responded, but instead we face a pro-discrimination scenario. The anti-discrimination bill will not be heard this year, but instead we face a pro-discrimination scenario. The anti-discrimination bill that would have banned discrimination based on a person's sexual orientation. But it was recently enacted in the legislature could ultimately make it illegal to discriminate against everyone in the community for who they are, regardless of the vote.

As a result of this ballot issue, a decision was made by legislators, folks from the Maine Human Rights Commission, and others, not to introduce our anti-discrimination bill this year. Given the scenario just described, we could enact a bill for the first time ever. We've only got a "none of the above" vote in the fall. Everyone would lose if that happened.

Instead, we are set now to focus all our attention on the referendum. We may not win it this time, but we must move on to seek protection of basic rights through the legislature next year.

The pending referendum seeks to enact a civil rights Act and keep gay men and lesbians from ever having basic protection against discrimination. The referendum will also repeal the existing Portland Ordinance. It could also repeal hate crime protections for gay men and lesbians.

Concerned Maine Families got enough signatures to bring the referendum question to the legislature in the form of a legislative document, L.D. 310, titles "An Act to Limit Protected Classes under Maine Law." The legislators now have to vote either to enact the question presented in this bill brought to you by these petitions or to reject it and send the issue out for referendum.

There will be a hearing on May 2 at 7 p.m. at the Augusta Civic Center on L.D. 310, before the legislature's judiciary committee. Then the bill goes to the House and Senate for a vote. Of course, we do not want this bill enacted by the legislature!

What next? If you have experienced or witnessed discrimination in Maine based on sexual orientation it employment, housing, credit or public accommodations, please call 1-800-55-MLGPA to testify or to help with the hearing on L.D. 310. AND 2) If you can walk, dance, sing or breathe, join "Maine Won't Discriminate." Fight the unfairness of the referendum.

Call 1-800-55-MLGPA to find out about the next meeting of a "Maine Won't Discriminate" Chapter near you. Bring a friend.

Sincerely,

Susan (Farnsworth)

Portland set to elect three School Committee members

by Bruce Balboni

There are two at large School Committee seats available in the May 2 election. Four candidates are vying for them. One, Carl Mike Roland, is the incumbent. The other three candidates are Scott Erik Richard, Davis Hartwell and Rickey (Rick) Tomazin. Rolling unopposed for the District 3 School Committee seat.

The School Committee candidates are split, roughly, into two groups. Richard, Roland and Waxman support condom availability in the high schools while Tomazin and Hartwell do not. (This split was uniform on our other questions as well.) Richard's and Waxman's support on the condom issue is unequivocal. They both say what has been done is inadequate. They are referring to the new, current policy which states that — condoms will be made available in school-based clinics, but only to low-income students. Roland also wishes the policy was more inclusive, but he cites the financial burden that would be imposed if condoms were made available to everyone in both high schools.

Tomazin is firmly opposed. He said he thought it was inappropriate for schools to be doing that and that $30,000 for the clinic was too much money. He thinks it's not an education issue, that kids know where to get condoms and that regardless of income, the schools should not be making condoms available.

Hartwell was somewhat more flexible. He said he was willing to be convinced otherwise, but that the information presented by the various committees and sub-committees was inadequate. He said the reports were lacking in scholarship and that they distorted the results of their own survey in order to support their conclusions.

I asked the candidates if they would support diversity education and in that context, the presentation of homosexuality as normal. Richard, Hartwell and Tomazin said it is not the school's job to talk about explicit sex, sex education and how to protect yourself, then they need to talk about explicit sex between two men and two women.

Waxman said, "My campaign manager and I are going to address those problems after I'm elected, but I think sexual harassment is happening to those who are gay. I haven't heard that much, but when I went to the public hearings at PRVC there were gay kids there who said, 'We're getting harassed at school,' and that's because there is so much ignorance out there. I think calling someone a name like 'fag' is just as bad as carrying a weapon to school, or having drugs in school, or fist fighting, and it should be treated the same way, but I also think suspending a kid for cause he's angry and ignorant, because he hasn't been educated enough is wrong... I think to be educated about what it is to be gay in America is something that should be a part of our health curriculum. Peer groups for gay students is a good idea, where you have someone come in and say this is what it feels like when you say that to me. I think teenagers need a lot of support. The world is spinning really fast."

Tomazin would not discuss this question. He said he wanted good programs for the kids, but pediatricians have nothing in particular in mind for gay and lesbian students but said he sees a need for it. Hartwell said such programs are not appropriate for schools because it would send a message. He suggested that private efforts could cover educational needs and said he is running to improve the quality of education. AA

Submissions Welcome

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

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**APRIL - MAY CALENDAR**

**Wednesday, April 12:**
- **9:00 AM-12:00 PM** - Women's Center in Belfast Discussion Series. Topic: "How sexuality affects working relationships." 9A Main Street, 2nd floor, Belfast. FMI, 774-1429.
- **9:00 AM-12:00 PM** - Women's Center in Portland. Topic: "Working with the public school to implement AIDS education: A personal account of the 5 year journey in Old Orchard Beach." FMI, 774-4919.

**Wednesday, April 26:**
- **9:00 AM-12:00 PM** - Women's Center in Portland. Topic: "Implementing AIDS education: A personal account of the 5 year journey in Old Orchard Beach." FMI, 774-4919.

**Friday, May 2:**
- **10:00 AM-12:30 PM** - Northeast Bisexual Community 2nd Annual Meeting, focusing on Empowerment and Outreach to Rural Bisexuals.

**Tuesday, May 9:**
- **7:00 PM** - The Gathering, USM Campus Center, Portland. Topic: "Survivorship/Partnership: How does surviving accent affect relationships?" FMI, 774-4919.

**Wednesday, May 10:**
- **6:15-8:30 PM** - Women's Center in Belfast Discussion Series. Topic: "How sexuality affects working relationships." 9A Main Street, 2nd floor, Belfast. FMI, 774-1429.

**Saturday, May 20:**
- **6:00 PM** - Wild Iris presents Heather Bishop in concert. First Parish Church, 425 Congress St. Portland. Tickets $13.50 advance, $15 the day of the show.

**Sunday, May 21:**
- **11:00 AM-12:30 PM** - Registration for Maine AIDS Walk '95. Cheverus High School, 267 Ocean Ave., Portland.
- **12:30 PM - 5:00 PM** - Opening ceremonies for the Maine AIDS Walk '95 at Cheverus High School, 267 Ocean Ave., Portland.

**1:00 PM - MAINE AIDS WALK '95** steps off from many locations across the state. Check with your local AIDS service organization for details.

**Wednesday, May 25:**
- **7:00 PM** - Portland area PFLAG at Woodfords Congregational Church. FMI, 872-6158 or Sue-774-3441.

**Thursday, May 25:**
- **8:30 PM - 10:00 PM** - GLAD on the status of an equal rights referendum. Come and bring 5 friends, family members or co-workers. FMI, Karen Geraghty at 1-800-55-MILGA.
- **8:30 PM** - Portland Rally & March sponsored by Greater Maine Families "pro-discrimination" Referendum. Come and bring 5 friends, family members or co-workers. FMI, Karen Geraghty at 1-800-55-MILGA.

**Friday, May 26:**
- **8:00 PM (ME), 9:00 PM (N-B)** - Gay & Lesbian AA Meeting at NLN's Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207-498-2088.
- **8:30 PM - 10:00 PM** - Gay & Lesbian AA Meeting at NLN's Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207-498-2088.

**Monday, April 24:**
- **8:00 PM** - Sea coast Gay Men presents "Sharing Our Talents" an evening of entertainment to benefit AIDS Response Sea Coast. UU Church, State St., Portsmouth. $5 donation. FMI, Frank DeSarro (202)439-8655.

**Tuesday, April 25:**
- **8:00 PM - 10:00 PM** - Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center Drop-In and Open House, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. Smoke/Chem Free. FMI, Sheila (207) 764-7838.
FOR RENT
Δ $879-7684. A Portland apartment you can call home! Sunny, spacious, energy efficient. Remodeled. $575 plus utilities. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Rooms - washer/dryer hookup - off street parking. A must see! Ready and available for immediate occupancy. Walk to Old Port and F. Prom. (207) 879-7684. Δ

Bdrm area: Male couple seeks roommate to share sunny, spacious, fun home. Easy interstate access to Portland, Brunswick, Freeport, L/A; convenient to Western/Central Maine. CATV, W/D, off-street parking, large yard/garden, storage, many other benefits. $250/month + 1/3 utilities. Call (207) 382-2725 FMI. Δ

BBDIEFORD: 2nd floor bright, sunny, 3 bedroom apartment (7 rooms), wall to wall carpeting, washer/dryer hookup, stove and refrigerator, ample storage, off street parking, private entrances, large outside porch. $540 per month. Call (207) 282-9502 or (207) 729-1798. Monday nights and Tuesday evenings. Available May 1. Δ

SO. PORTLAND: 1 bedroom in Meetinghouse Hill area; sunny. Hardwood floors, large closets. Lot may be OK. $425/450 utilities. Available May 1st. Call (207) 767-0703. Δ

TRAVEL/VACATION
Δ LESBIAN PARADISE!: 20 charming, rooms, 100 mountain acres, pool, hot tub, hiking/skiing trails, yummy breakfasts, peace and privacy. We're your perfect vacation choice year round! Week-long and midweek discounts. HIGHLANDS INN, Box 1180P, Bethel, ME 04924, (207) 869-3978. Δ

BACKPACKING, canoeing, X-country skiing, Native American cultural trips, youth trip. Wilderness skills and environmental awareness. 5 small groups. Great food. Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, Maine, Quebec, Newfoundland. Contact Earth Treks, Suite 349, 6 Appian Way, Cambridge, MA 02138. Δ

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

SPECKLED MTN. RANCH: Located in Maine's White Mountain foothills. Come stay at our beautiful B & B and horse farm. We have two rooms available, with delicious vegetarian breakfast. Ride horses, hike, enjoy nature. (207) 836-2908. Bethel, Maine. Δ

HELP WANTED
Δ Part-time workers for gay-owned landscape company. You must be willing to get dirty and do hard work. Must work in greater Portland. We work hard but also have fun. Experience helpful, but will train right people. Call Brad at (207) 773-4252. Δ

Δ Part-time Appointment telemarketer to set appointments from company leads. Potential for $20 per hour or more on commission basis. Engaging telephone manner and persistence required. Complete training. Perfect for the home-bound or someone unable to work full time. Call Brad at (207) 773-4252. Δ

Δ NH LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP FORMING
Δ 30 week group for gay women, late 20's through 30's who want to bring their full selves into more satisfying, balanced relationships. Focus is on recognizing and "rewriting" relationship patterns in the context of a sometimes invalidating environment. Attention given to themes of homophobia, vulnerability, trust, power, authenticity, and commitment. PLACE: Portsmouth, NH. TIME: Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 PM. Beginning May 4, 1995. LEADER: Susan Lager, M.S.W. CALL: (603) 431-7131 for more information. Δ

PERSONALS
Δ GWM, 26, intellectual, healthy, rugged, outdoors man, seeks man (30-35) who loves nature, quiet nights, adventure and travel. Reply to: Box holder, RR 01, Box 57, Bradford, Maine 04410-9703. Δ

Δ Small endowment? Short in stature? Like us? Tired of guys searching for only tall or well hung? Finally stories, advice and persons devoted to the small man and our admirers. 100's of persons: 5X4 P O Box 610294, Bayside, NY 11361-0294. Δ

Δ BBF, 18 years old, looking for a friend, or that special someone. No drugs/smoke. Looking for a female who enjoys art, movies, cuddle, and loves to love. Drop me a line! AMR, 32 Winter St., Lisbon, ME 04250. Δ

MISCELLANEOUS
Δ Battered Lesbian Project forming for W.I.L.D., Women Igniting Love and Diversity. Volunteers needed. Seeking to connect with battered and formerly battered lesbians to assess community needs and provide assistance. If your partner/lover is verbally, emotionally, or physically abusive to you, we can help you get free. All inquiries strictly confidential and all calls returned discretely. Call Gabriella at (207) 761-8138. If leaving a message, specify full name and best time to return call. Or write to W.I.L.D., c/o Community Pride Reporter, 142 High St., Suite #34, Portland, ME 04101. Δ

Δ Call for info on paper: Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgendered People and Education. Deadline for optional proposals is May 1, 1995. Deadline for papers is September 1, 1995. To receive a Call for Papers contact: Harvard Educational Review, Gutman Library Suite 349, 6 Appian Way, Cambridge, MA 02138; phone (617)945-3432; fax (617) 496-3384. Δ

ANNOUNCEMENT:
Boston's Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Freedom Trail Wind Ensemble and Marching Band is always looking for new members. We need "bloowers" and "bangers" (aka winds and percussion) and flag carriers and "band-aides" and supporters with any of the above! We rehearse every Tuesday at the Lesley Ellis School in Arlington, MA from 7:00-9:00 PM. This site may change as we move into marching season. Call for direction and join us for Pride season! For more information, call Diane (617) 926-9730 or Jon (617) 423-7698.
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April - May, 1995

COMMUNITY PRIDE RESOURCES

GENERAL
MLGPA is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the general public, politicians, and media on L/G/Q issues. Primary goals are to inform Maine citizens in Maine's political process, promote civil rights, develop and review legislation, and support Maine's gay and lesbian community. Meetings are the 3rd Saturday of every month in August. FMI call 1-800-55-MLGPA.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) is a community group that brings people together to enhance social tolerance and diversity in the greater Portland area, as well as affirm the gay/bisexual experience with creative and lively musical entertainment. FMI call 883-8091 or write G.M.C.C., P.O. Box 1091, Portland, ME 04101. Call 883-4452 for appointment only. Clinic open Tues. & Thurs., 3:30 to 6 pm at Portland City Hall Rotunda, 101 Carlisle St., Portland, ME. FMI call 883-5196.

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England: Serving men and women, offering annual exams, pregnancy testing, birth control information, & supplies (free condoms). For testing and treatment for infections and STD's, mothers & couples receive counseling, free. Every hour, affordable services, and comprehensive STDs. 116 Forest Ave., Portland. FMI call 474-1095.

Identity Support
New Hampshire PFLAG Meetings.
Concord: Meets 3rd Sunday from 3-5 pm at 1st Congregational Church, Washington & Main Sts. (use Washington St. entrance), call FMI 603/427-4944.
Seacoast: Meets 1st Tuesday from 7-9 pm at Stratham Community Church, Emery Lane, Stratham (1st right of Rt. 101 center), call FMI 603/377-5196.

Maine Community of Hope: Serving gay & lesbian people and strives to he inclusive of all persons. Worship on Sundays at 11:00 am at Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI write Community of Hope, Shawn Smith, Interim Pastor, P.O. Box 7944, Portland, ME 04101. Call 775-1041.

Lavender Women: Lesbian/bisexual women's discussion group. Meets Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm, First Universalist Church, 301 antidepressant, Portland, ME. FMI call 783-0461.

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

Gay Lesbian Bisexual Bieta Get-Together: 1st and 3rd each month, 6:00 pm, First Universalist Church, 345 Broadway, Rockland, ME. FMI Larry Godfrey, 794-2957.

O-Squad: Support group for lesbians, gay men, and all who are involved in gay communities. Meets at the Baptist Church on Franklin St., based at UM Farmington. FMI call and leave message, 778-7843.


Community; an out-reach, network of resources open to all. We are exploring ways to meet sex and sexual orientation.

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG)

Parents and Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) provides support and educational group meetings.

Contacts in Maine
Augusta: 27 Main St., (over 18), support and educational group. FMI call 774-2970.
Bangor: Orono, 6th Avenue Community AIDS Coalition, 1000 High St., (over 18), support and educational group. FMI call 774-2970.

Lewiston: Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition, 1000 High St., (over 18), support and educational group. FMI call 774-2970.

Contact in New Hampshire
Nashua: 25 Main St., (over 18), support and educational group. FMI call 773-0350.

Contact in Ohio

e-reach at 874-2970.

Meetings in Portland, Lewiston, Brunswick.

Community of Hope: A Christian congregation which claims a primary ministry with gay and lesbian people and strives to be inclusive of all persons. Worship on Sundays at 11:00 am at Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI write Community of Hope, Shawn Smith, Interim Pastor, P.O. Box 7944, Portland, ME 04101. Call 775-1041.

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Mountain Valley Men (MVM): A group of gay men of all ages in the western Maine, Lakes Region, NY area who get together for pot luck dinners, hiking, canoeing, skating and other activities. FML, write to Box 36, Center Conway, NH 03813-0036 or call Paul at 207/774-9345.

"Let's Do Brunch": Potluck social gathering from 11:00 am-2:00 pm on the third Sunday of every month at Mountain Valley Lodge. Meet new people, see old friends, exchange news and information. FML (207) 985-2784.


Drop-In Lesbian Discussion Group: Meets Mondays. 11:30 am to 1:00 pm (except school vacation & holidays) at USM Campus Center, Room C. (Next to the Computer Lab) Portland. Bring your lunch.

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

Mothers and Kids Group: Social events and group support for lesbians and their children. Emphasis on inclusion of lesbians in the process of becoming pregnant or adopt­ ing. Meets monthly in the greater Portland area. FML write: P.O. Box 2235, South Portland, ME 04104.

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

Youth Support
OUTRIGHT-TO:Q: Sundays, 6pm at Mabel Wadsworth Women’s Health Center, Harlow St., Bangor. Support group for lesbian, gay, bisexual youth ages 16-22. FML, call 285-7131.

OUTRIGHT-Central Maine: Weekly, confidential meetings for gay, lesbian, & questioning youth 22 years and under. Call "First Call" at 785-6677 or 1-800-393-4042 and ask about OUTRIGHT.

OUTRIGHT-Portland: Meets every Friday from 7:30-9:30 pm at William West Church, 2 Thomas St., Portland. Social and supportive discussions with a gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning young people. Call 744-TALK, or 744-HELP or write to P.O. Box 5077, Portland, ME 04101.

OUTRIGHT-Scarborough: Meets every Friday from 7 to 9 pm at the Unitarian Church annex building adjacent to the fire station, 206 Court St., Scarborough. FML call Teenline at 1-800-639-6095 or write P.O. Box 342, Portland, ME 04301.

F.A.T.E.: Fight AIDS Transformation Education: A project of ACT UP/Portland whose purpose is to demand better HIV/AIDS edu­ cation and combat homophobia in all Maine public schools, to form empowering groups for teens by teens and to create a context in which pre-teen, pro-gay groups are able to change the educational policies in their indi­ vidual school districts. Straight or gay, boy or girl, HIV+, black, brown or white, all welcome. FML on who to contact or how to organize in your school district, contact F.A.T.E., PO Box 1931, Portland, ME 04104.

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

HIV Related Support Meetings
Portland:
- MVM: HIV positive groups of people living with HIV, 6:30-7:30 pm.
- Tuesdays: People Living with HIV and friends, families, lovers, and caregivers, 10:30 am-Noon.
- 2nd & 4th Tuesdays: Living Well will focus on quality of life and empowerment for those living with HIV/AIDS.
- At Wednesdays: PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support), 5:30 pm. Call 775-PAWS
- Thursdays: Women Living with HIV meets from 1:15-2:45 pm. Men Living with HIV meets from 5:30-7 pm.
- The above Portland support groups meet at The AIDS Project, 22 Monument Sq., 5th floor.
- Call Jane O’Rourke at 774-6877 or 1-800-851-2477 for more information.

Leavings: Information & support meetings for People Living with HIV. Call 786-4697.

FMI AIDS Coalition of Lewiston-Auburn.

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

Maine AIDS Alliance
Member Organizations
AIDS Lodging House: P.O. Box 1820, Portland, ME 04101-3820. Call 874-1000.

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

Community AIDS Awareness Program: P.O. Box 941, Napa, CA 94559.

Community Task Force on AIDS Educ.: P.O. Box 941, Napa, ME 04050. Call 583-6509.

Dayspring: 32 Winthrop St., Augusta, ME 04330. Call 626-3432.


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

Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services: P.O. Box 7977, Lewiston, ME 04243-7977.

Names Project/Maine: P.O. Box 10248, Portland, ME 04104. Call 774-2198.

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

Peabody House: 14 Orchard St., Portland, ME 04102. Call 774-6281.

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

Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS): 21 Monument Square, Portland, ME 04101. Call 775-PAWS.

St. John Valley AIDS Task Force: 60 NMCC, 143 E. Main St., Fort Kent, ME 04743. Call 834-3355.

The AIDS Projects: 22 Monument Square, 5th floor, Portland, ME 04101. Call 774-6877.

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

SAPPHO’S SISTERS
Celebrating our diversity
July 1-7, 1995

This conference creates a space where lesbian and bisexual women focus on our own growth in a safe, nurturing environment. In keeping with our goal of inclusivity, we welcome transgendered people who identify as lesbian or bisexual women.

This summer, Sappho’s Sisters VIII will focus on diversity in our community through workshops, rituals and book discussions. Friend­ ships form and community builds in small group and full conference settings. There will be lots of time for fun, laughter, relaxation and beach walks. An Sappho’s Sisters, senseless and stillness find a balance as we all lean to love ourselves as we are.

Make your vacation with a circle of women-loving women who will support and challenge you in your growth as an individual.

WHERE:
Ferry Beach, a Unitarian Universalist camp and conference center on the beach in Saco, Maine.

COST:
$276 to $358 depending on choice of accommodations. Included in fees are the conference, three wholesome days and a accommodations in a fully equipped camping or dormitory style rooms. Partial scholarships are available.

For more information, contact either of this summer’s coordinators: Elaine Fadden - 508/797-0466 or Judy Tator - 607/432-7769, or call Ferry Beach Park Association at 207/282-4489.

"... the goddess loves it when we laugh!"
Out on the Town
by Skip Brushaber
Spring is here and the calendar is full. Many of us are busy supporting local artists. In our area and throughout the state, we are being charged with molesting members of their flocks. Plan to keep on file for future use. In addition, if there is a play or concert in your area you wish to review for CPR, call us. 

Book Review-Last Watch on the Night
by Skip Brushaber
Gay poet and writer Paul Monette died from complications of the AIDS virus February 10, 1993. Monette had fought a valiant fight with the disease which is chronicled in his last book of essays, "Night," published by Harcourt Brace and Company. This group of essays was written over a year and a half from 1992 through 1993. Having already buried two lovers, Monette was in the final stages of his disease when he wrote these powerful commentaries. The subject range from his dog Pack to his friend Gert, who was the companion of Katherine Cornell, the first lady of the American Theater. This essay contains some great dish on those two icons of the silver screen, Garbo and Dietrich. Monette's rage is unleashed at the Roman Catholic Church and the Pope for their homophobia and ignoring the AIDS crisis in "My Priests." He points out strongly that this hate and ignorance exists at a time when priests are being charged with molesting members of their flocks.

The essay "3757" takes the reader on a trek through cemeteries around the world. It is marvelous commentary on the beauty and story tied with our awareness about death. Monette states he wants, "Died of Homophobia, Murdered by his Government" as his epitaph. He ends this essay by stating emphatically, "Grief is a sword, or it is nothing!"

In "The Politics of Silence," Monette takes on religious fundamentalism everywhere. His criticism is especially strong toward Reagan, Bush, and Clinton's reluctance to do anything about AIDS and reaching up to the religious right.

"Mustering" talks about the most recent gay/lesbian march on Washington. Monette was too sick to be an active participant, although he was in Washington. Again Monette criticizes the Clinton Administration and the empty, unfulfilled promises made to the gay/lesbian community. He ends by reminding us, "There is no America without you.

"A One Way Fare " speaks of Monette's love of travel and about a man coming to terms with his mortality. The essay "Getting Covered" is about struggle to be a writer. Monette waxed eloquently about criticism, call-in radio shows, the media, and again, homophobic fundamentalists. It speaks about the great loss to American culture caused by AIDS. This essay also explains a controversy which Monette was involved in with Newsweek a couple of years ago. Monette vindicates himself of any wrong doing.

"Sleeping Under a Tree" tackles the importance of supporting local arts, can be. What's going on around town:

Lavendar Land Utopia, the only safe-haven for lesbians and their value in correctness in a way that's funny, yet gets you thinking about things, like stereotypes within our own community. Lavendar Land Utopia's recent stint at the Oak Street Theater will be revived for Portland Pride at an unconfirmed location. So, if you missed it the first time around, try to catch it during Pride week. With eleven characters, you are sure to have a few favorites by the time the lights come back on.

This play, which actually was a musical, is about a war-torn land in which the only safe-haven for lesbians is in the "wasteland" at a bar bearing the play's title. There the women were immunized with the M.C.'s secret toxic-waste formula, and they left any sexual guilt at the door. In Lavendar Land Utopia, sex and diversity are celebrated. "It's a spoof on the whole notion that lesbians would create a kind of utopia, and would really be any more ideal and any less sexist than the society in which we already live," said Eddie Hoffman, one of the Furies.

Hoffman, who made her theatrical debut in the Furies' last production, "I Guess My name is Scrooge," again had a stage presence that clearly shows she belongs there. In her role of The M.C., complete with a Marlene Dietrich type accent, Hoffman kept things moving and kept the audience in stitches with her facial expressions, off-the-cuff comments and her ease at being on stage. "I definitely feel more comfortable on the stage than I do in real life," said Hoffman.

Joanna Amano's role of Laverne, complete with a wig that the B-52's would be proud to sport, was perhaps the most memorable. Laverne, a gorgeously spoon-waist turned gun-toasting revolutionary was hysterical without even speaking, with blazing fingernails and two-foot high hair. Add to that a Long Island Queens inspired accent as an excellent script and interactions with Shirl, her girlfriend and partner in dramatic hysteria. Shirl, played by Mahlia Carey, was equally dramatic and funny. Let us not forget that this was a musical. The music, composed by Cathy Poole, and written by Poole and Ryan, added yet another layer of humor to Lavendar Land. Numbers such as "Dis-honorable Discharge" and the show's theme song of sorts "Love is Sorta Sad," were well-crafted, yet wacky songs. Cathy Poole's keyboards, drumming, and guitar added an effective touch to the evening.

A somewhat smaller role, that of "Pam," played by Jane Martin, was made memorable by her "you have to hear it to believe it" delivery of lines and her character's questions such as, "Do you think I look sexy in my boots?"

Kristi Stotts, Connie Valliere, Michelle Gagnon, Marcia Dinger, Kate McVey, Talty Jefferson and Marina Maros made up the rest of the Lavendar Land Players.

It was the hope of the Furies that Lavendar Land Utopia would make you laugh and perhaps make you question the importance of supporting local arts, can be. See Lavender, page 19
Artist Profile: Nan Goldin - Photographs from the heart

by Bruce Balfour

I first saw Nan at the Other Side, Boston's premier gay bar of the 1970s. She was with David and Tommy, all three dressed in black. We soon became friends and have been ever since. She was taking pictures then and over the years it was easy to forget her camera because Nan never did much before taking a picture. Her camera was like an extension of her arm and a part of our every lives. Roommates, friends and lovers — the party moved from Boston to Provincetown to New York and then scattered. Nan now belongs to the world.

She has six published books of her photography. These include, "The Ballad of Sexual Dependency," published by Aperture, "The Other Side," and, "A Double Life," both published by SCALO. Her slide show, "The Ballad of Sexual Dependency," which led to her first book, has been seen in museums and galleries from Japan to Berlin to Mexico and, last week, to Portland, Maine. Nan was in town working on a film project with the BBC about her life. Because of our friendship, and her concern, she agreed to do a slidelecture at the Maine College of Art. She donated her entire honorarium to the Community Pride Reporter.

Nan's generosity is in keeping with her life-long devotion to her art. As she explained to the rapt audience at MECA she considers her photos, "a caress" — images of friends taken in a loving way. Nan drew a distinction between her and Diane Arbus saying that Arbus meant to expose and in so doing risked humiliating her subject. Nan said she wanted to show what was real, but insisted you could do that without that sense of "exposing."

Nan has had her tragedies. Her sister committed suicide and as she has said, her family was not one that prized girls. She has fought all her life to establish her own identity, to define herself, and in so doing, she has held to high principles with fierce determination and great integrity.

I thought I could write this profile without really interviewing Nan. An interview seemed too phony for us, but I find myself bombarded with memories and feelings that are hard to sort out. I've had to refer to the introductions to her books in which she writes about herself. In so doing, I allow her to speak for herself.

In her first book, "The Ballad of Sexual Dependency," 1986, she writes that her photos are the diaries that she lets people read. And so I remember that Nan is a diarist. But just as with her picture taking, her diary writing is so unobtrusive and so much a part of her that it goes unnoticed. (I hope I'm not around when they're published.)

Nan deals directly with a charge that is often leveled at photographers and at her in particular — that she is a voyeur. Someone will always ask her at her slidelecture, "Do you really know these people?" I think this charge is so popular because most photographers are indeed voyeurs. Nan is not. The photographs are of her life. A life that she lives in. She doesn't visit that life and then go home to the penthouse or the suburbs. Those who photograph the homeless, the poor, people of color, the sick and dying, must feel some guilt because they are stealing images from a world that is not theirs. This is not true of Nan's work. She is her work.

Nan writes that her work is about the nature of relationships, the need to couple, the difficulty in doing so and "the struggle between autonomy and dependency." In the 80s she was involved with a man for a few years who battered her severely. She writes about the obsession of that relationship, the need to be together, but the unalterability of the forces that divided them. After the battering and a long time of not seeing the man she ran into on the street. She writes, "We said hello. I looked into his eyes. Later I was able for the first time to remember my real desire for this man and I understood how intense that bond was. Despite all the destruction, I could still crave that love. I had to face the irreconcilable loss."

A sense of loss runs through Nan's work. A sense of loss is experienced by many of us who view her work. We have the image to remind us, to provide us with the palette for remembering, but the emotions triggered by recall can serve to undermine the loss — the loss of a time, a place, a scene, a special feeling of shared excitement, that awareness — so highly charged — that what is happening is so cool, so great, you just can't stand it, and then, of course, that real loss of people, especially difficult if you actually know them, but often Nan's friends can represent someone else and in so doing her images travel from the intensely personal to the universal.

One of the defining losses of Nan's life happened early and, though tragic, may have helped liberate her. Nan was eleven when her sister, Barbara Holly Goldin, committed suicide. Nan writes, "I was very close to my sister and aware of some of the forces that led her to choose suicide. I saw the role that her sexuality and her repression played in her destruction. Because of the times, the early sixties, women who were angry and sexual were frightening, outside the range of acceptable behavior, beyond control. By the time she was eighteen, she saw that she had no way to get out so she lay down on the tracks of the commuter train outside of Washington, D.C. It was an act of immense will." Nan tells us that in the week following the suicide she was seduced by an older man. She felt guilt, but also the obsession of her desire. She writes, "My awareness of the power of sexuality was defined by these two events. Exploring and understanding the permutations of this power motivates my life and my work."

Barbara's psychiatrist predicted that Nan would also commit suicide by the time she was eighteen. Nan knew she had to leave to survive. She ran away at age 14.

Nan started to take photographs when she was 18. She writes that her obsession with taking pictures and writing a diary has to do with capturing and preserving "real memory," particularly that of her sister. She concludes these introductory remarks by writing, "I don't ever want to be susceptible to anyone else's version of my history. I don't ever want to lose the real memory of anyone again." She dedicated this book to, "the real memory of my sister, Barbara Holly Goldin."

Her next book, "The Other Side," published in 1993 is, as Nan writes in the introduction, "... a book about beauty. And about my love for my friends." This book is a collection of photographs of drag queens and transsexuals from Nan's early days in Boston, in the 1970s, through New York and Berlin and Asia, to the present. In reference to her obsession with queens Nan writes, "During that time (the 70s) I looked in the library for anything written about women who fall in love with drag queens. I found one chapter in an abnormal psychology book form the 1950s which said that we are so perverse as to be unclassifiable."

These photos are simply beautiful. Nan writes movingly in the intro about her love, respect and admiration for these friends. She states, "The pictures in this book are not of people suffering gender dysphoria, but rather expressing gender euphoria. This book is about new possa-

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"Drawn to their rhythm"—Sarah McLachlan and Paula Cole play The State

by Aimel Ponti

It's nice to be able to write a review when I can honestly say that the opening act was excellent. Not since seeing the Indigo Girls open for R.E.M. in 1989, have I been more impressed. I am referring to the evening of March 20 at The State Theater.

So, I need to rant and rave about Paula Cole for a spell. Like McLachlan, Cole is 26, and her music is compelling, intimate, and powerful. Peter Gabriel knew all she hopes music should do, "Music should company him themed R.E.M. in 1989, have "Jolene." Paula Cole - remember her name. Sarah McLachlan was here last September as well as a few weeks ago. In fact, she was on tour for about two years now off and on. Her music hits me like a ton of bricks while also calming some raw nerves. If you've never heard her before, perhaps you will embrace her music, which is contained on several releases. At 26, McLachlan has already accomplished more, musically, than seems possible.

Sarah McLachlan ignores trends, does things her way, and has a rare passion for music. With her latest offering, "The Freedom Sessions," she gives us the seeds of some of 1994's "Fumbling Towards Ecstacy" music; stripped down, early recordings that have a life of their own. McLachlan's musical journey began as a child. She has studied classical guitar for twelve years, and at 17 was in a band called "The October Game." Another Canadian band, MOEV, wanted her to sing.

Theatre Review: "Entertaining Mr. Sloane"

Vintage Repertory Theatre by Alexander Wallace

Joe Orton is the perfect illustration of why it is impossible to define "Gay Art." All of his plays were immensely successful, their genius was self-evident and their humor could only have come from a "gay sensitivity." Then he was bludgeoned to death by his lover, so I guess he could be called a gay artist. And very dead, year before his time. But his plays seldom deal with homosexuality, per se. It's always an element, it's always there, but the plays deal with larger issues, and if it was his "gay nature" that made the plays great, yes, be it.

Such are the contretemps Orton deals with so beautifully and so hilariously. He takes the 'normal situation': woman wants boy, woman gets boy, woman gets baby she don't want, and turns it to completely on its arse that you're not sure what was normal to start out with. Normal. Did he say normal? Well, in this play, man also wants boy, man gets boy, boy gets man and it's the same boy the man's sister wanted and got. So 'normal' would confound a Baptist minister. And the characters are all so scuzzy to begin with! Low class English loots, aping their betters, gredey as Donald Trump with the morals of Mick Jagger. Aye, there's the rub.

Oscar Wilde, Orton's predecessor at this kind of thing once said, (heating Newt Gingrich to the punch by a hundred years) "Really, if the lower orders don't set us a good example, what on earth is the use of them?" They seem, as a class, to have absolutely no sense of moral responsibility. Yes, Orton's plays, in their own perverse, very homosexual way, are about moral responsibility - not that of The Nobility - but of us common folk. For if we have no morals, what are we to expect of our leaders? And he sticks it to his audience with wild, catty, deliberate abandon.

Vintage Rep's production, under the direction of Company Artistic Director Jane Bergeron, scores every Ortonian point in the play. This is a great ensemble piece for four actors that rides on an innate sense of Orton's rhythms and speech patterns to score the meaning - there's not an extra word in the play - and Bergeron gives us every glinting morsel.

Heading the cast is Skip Emerson as Ed, a fast rising tycoon with a slipping toupee who's out to get his, at all costs. And he does get the boy, even if he has to share him, and the knowledge that the kid might stick ashiv through his ribs at any moment. Ed is often played as the quintessential D.O.M., and Orton can always be played totally on the surface and just as successfully. But Emerson gets deep inside Ed, where he grovels and sins and gives us a fully fleshed portrayal that's as frightening and funny as it is real. It's the best work of Emerson's I've seen.

Matching him is Elizabeth Guest as Kath, Ed's flustered, bustling disaster of a sister who winds up with the other half of the desirable young Mr. Sloane, and a baby she didn't want. Guest is a marvel: coquettish slumped to the floor, vixenish with her teeth out, bilithe indifferent to murder, mayhem, and unwanted preg-

The first album McLachlan recorded was in 1988, and it is called "Touch." I remember listening to this record in December of that year in a studio of the college radio station I was involved with. Not since Sinead O'Connor's 1987 album "The Lion and the Cobra" was I more struck and captivated with someone's music. The album sold very well in Canada; in fact, it went Gold, so McLachlan and her label, Netwerk, an independent Canadian company, sent the recording of "Touch" to about every major label in the United States in search of distribution and a contract. Arista offered the best deal, and "Touch" was released in the USA in April of 1989. McLachlan told me during an interview in January of '89 that she had never written songs before and that this album was "a whole bag experiment." She was 19 when this album was recorded, and says she really hadn't experienced a whole lot, yet this album contains some beautiful songs, including the title track, which is layers and layers of gorgeous vocal sounds. You can order from NETWERK the single to the song "Sleeping" and hear McLachlan's live recording of Peter Gabriel's "Solsbury Hill.

McLachlan's audience grew dramatically with the release of 1991's "So...
The Whitney Biennial

by Bruce Balboni


The Whitney Biennial is the Museum’s signature exhibition of the most significant developments in American art, film and video over the past two years. It is curated by Klaus Kertess, adjunct curator for drawings of the Whitney Museum. All of the Museum’s galleries are devoted to the exhibition, which comprises painting, sculpture, drawing, photography, installation, film and video. Eighty-nine artists are included and, for the first time, artists from Canada and Mexico are represented.

I went to New York to see the opening of David Armstrong’s photography at the Matthew Marks Gallery on Madison Avenue, and stayed that week to cover the protest by the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization (ILGO) of the St. Patrick’s Day Parade (see photos p. 7), from which their group was barred, and to attend the opening of the Biennial.

Several friends and acquaintances were in the Biennial this year. There was a feeling of celebration amongst us, and what was public became personal.

Nan Goldin, David Armstrong, Greer Lankton and Jim Jarmusch are old friends, and David and Greer it was their first time in the Biennial.

David’s photography consists of black and white portraits of people he has known, worked with and loved and, though they are posed, there is an immediacy and a sense of interaction with the subjects.

His show at Matthew Marks has been a huge success — all photos of friends in Japan. The images range from tattooed boys to sex workers to people at home. I find that I always see something new and previously unnoticed when I look at Nan’s work — even when I’ve studied the photo before.

Jim Jarmusch, filmmaker, writer and director of Stranger than Paradise, Down by Law, Mystery Train and others entered a short film, entitled “Coffee and Cigarettes,” starring Iggy Pop and Tom Waits. Waits appears in many of Jarmusch’s films. Waits and Pop sat together in a coffee shop, talking nervously at first, then it got friendlier, but finally turned sour as Iggy left in a cloud of insecurity and self-doubt. The scenario was uncomfortably familiar.

Since the entire museum was devoted to the Biennial there are altogether more than 200 artists and pieces to discuss here. Nevertheless, some of the more remarkable are worth noting — Nancy Rubins exhibited an enormous mass of 150 old midtw-smelling mattresses which hung from the ceiling. They were

MGMC On Stage!: A Tribute to Opera, Operetta and Musical Theatre

Winnie Weir, Publishing Editor

It was bound to happen. Sooner or later any performing group gives a less than inspired performance and, in my opinion, the Maine Gay Men’s Chorus’ Tribute to Opera, Operetta and Musical Theatre of March 24-25 fell into that category. It might have been opening night jitters. I have a suspicion it was the program.

Opera does not generally appeal to me, so I had attempted to get past personal preference in this review. The program was a challenging one, with selections from Gilbert and Sullivan, Verdi and Puccini in the first set. My particular favorite was the Anvil Chorus, complete with two anvils being intoned at precisely the right moment. The Chorus seemed to have some fun with this piece as did the audience. The remainder of the pieces were unremarkable.

As a former choral director, I was dismayed at the number of men who didn’t know the words to many pieces. Yes, I do know there is a great deal of music to be memorized, but if it can’t be done, changes need to be made.

The second set, A Night on Broadway, featured excerpts from “West Side Story.” Again, words were being lost, timing was off and the balcony scene with guest soloist Rhee Michelle and Neil Anderson left me (and others, judging from comments overhead as I left the auditorium) scratching my head. Heterosexist as it sounds, I was as astounded to hear “Maria” sung with words intact, by a gay man to a heterosexual woman. Except me, but I see this every day. I expect gay/bisexual/trans affirming material from MGMC, and I’m not alone in that expectation.

The Maritones followed the Intermission with Charles Grindle making his debut as the Maritones’ Director. The Maritones segment was somewhat stilted and ‘new director’ jitters may have played a part in that. The selections were well-chosen, but again I had to notice the lips moving to a different, who knows what tune.

The Operetta, “Trial by Jury,” by Gilbert and Sullivan, was the redeeming portion of the evening. Even though a heterosexual theme was being portrayed, the bridesmaids and Edwin’s other love (a male), for whom he leaves Angelina, was wonderfully funny and provided some much needed laughter.

The acoustics at the McCauley Performing Arts Center are terrible. It was difficult to hear the solos, particularly guest soloist, Rhee Michelle, whose voice is lovely.

All in all, I came away from the performance with a gut feeling that the chorus was not fully prepared and had not ‘bought into’ the program. It happens and then we move on.
Thalities and transcendence. The people in these pictures are truly revolutionary; they are the real winners of the battle of the sexes because they have stepped out of the ring."

In her most recent book of photographs, she shares the spotlight with her best friend, David Armstrong. David writes, "an old married couple now by the ravages of AIDS. The unprec-

tended format is extraordinary. The viewer gets to see the same subject from two complementary, but entirely different perspectives. 'Nan and David,' that phrase has become one word, it's simply won-
derful to see them together, in their work, and, in their lives.

This past month or so has been an

exciting time for me. Visiting New York for Nan's opening, then David's, the Biennial and, most recently, Nan's visit to Portland. None of our relationships have been without their difficulties and separa-
tions, but it seems as if we have come full circle. Recovering not only from our addictions, but from the ghosts that haunt our past. A rare second chance is offered.

Maybe only an outsider could have known, but none of us knew, at least not while we were in the midst of it all, that Nan would succeed as fabulously as she has — but the struggles she has endured and the grace with which she lives her life makes her success all the more brilliant. I'm so proud of her.

(Other books include, "Desire by Numbers," with text by Klaus Kertes, published by Artspace, available through D.A.P. It is a collection of photos of Asian sex workers. And, "Cookie Mueller," a photo catalog published by Pace McGill.)

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TAP's Spring For Life Art Auction
by D.O. Cook & C.J. Sullivan

This year is The AIDS Project's 10th year of operation, which is being commemorated by a series of events that began in January and continue until the end of November. CPR was present March 18 at the 9th annual Spring For Life art auction to benefit TAP and the people it serves.

 Held at Holiday Inn by the bay, the auction's appeal is a combination of good cause, commerce, and aesthetics, and obviously a fairly successful one as it attracted nearly 1,000 people and raised some $73,000, $65,500 of it by the sale of nearly 150 works of art.

And there was something for ev-

everyone: the food, drinks and service were excellent, there was enough variety in types of art to appeal to a spectrum of potential buyers, and there were lots of interesting and/or interestingly-attried people to stare at. Governor King and Mary Herman were in attendance in

Auction photo by DOC

what marked the first appearance by a
Maine governor at the auction; Mr. King, however, has been a traditional presence at the auction even before his ascent to the seat of power.

The attractive auction catalog with a cover painting by Alfred C. Chadbourne, contained both biographical material and a quotable quote from each artist about their reasons for participating in the auction and/or their connection to HIV/AIDS. The most common sentiment was a desire to help fight AIDS and a sense of connectedness with people suffering from AIDS, a belief that we are "all in this together." Loss of a friend, relative, or loved one to AIDS was also a strong theme in the artists' reasons for their participation in the event.

Jacqueline Howett of Biddeford, who contributed "Social Structure, Theme 9," writes in her bio about the state of heterosexual AIDS consciousness and says, "Future survival means we cannot afford to take any superflu-
ous, excess baggage along as previous generations carried." Another artist, Helen Damon of Cape Elizabeth ob-

served, "The arts, above all, have suf-

fered the greatest loss from AIDS." One of the simplest sentiments was expressed by Olga K-Pastuchiv of Richmond who wrote, "I am an artist, so this is how I can best support the AIDS Project." It seems to us that some technical issues detracted from the event. First, although a valiant attempt had been made to deploy the artwork attractively and in a manner that would allow bidders
to evaluate it conveniently during the preview showing, the combination of poor lighting and crowding made it difficult to see (let alone evaluate) the works. A maze of partitioned entrances/ exits forced art, spectators, and precari-
ously balanced cocktails into uncomfort-
able proximity and resulted in a lot of claustrophobic milling around.

Second, although there was some-
thing called an "artist's reception," there were no artists in evidence and even auction officials were unable to locate
any for your CPR reporters to interview. The whole point of an artists' reception is to let the buyers hobnob with the artists, which helps to create excitement and expectation and also gives serious bidders a chance to ask questions about particular works. This year's reception seemed like a missed opportunity.

In addition, at the silent auction, minimum bid increments of $25 or even $50 may have resulted in lower than necessary final bids. We've been to other non-profit art auctions and mini-

mum bids are rarely ever set higher than $5 or $10, allowing bidders plenty of freedom to keep nudging up the price. Last, during the live auction, Tom Satu-

rely, the auctioneer, seemed surpris-
ingly willing to drop the minimum bid on a piece at the slightest indication that
More pictures from the Whitney Biennial

(See article, page 19)
Photos by Bruce Balboni

Close-up of Candy Darling by Greer Lankton.

Tokyo Love by Nan Goldin

Hi, Hon; More Morphine; Blue Babe, and Candy Darling by Greer Lankton

Self-portrait "Perve", Catherine Opie

David Armstrong's portraits are a highlight of the Biennial.

CITY COUNCIL, from page 4

ups. I asked all the candidates if they thought the changes made there were intentionally designed to end that colorful history.

Most evaded the question and talked about the environment. However, Keri Lord said, "People were concerned about it, no secret. We changed the traffic flow to stop the cutting through. We want to quiet the park and make it quiet at curbing an activity of a specific sexual orientation that was otherwise totally legal. There's nothing illegal about what gay men do. Men and women do it all the time. To single them out and make rules specifically directed at curbing an activity of a specific population was unfair, burdensome, regressive and, I don't change food — that's just plain wrong."

Tony Holt stated, ... but specifically about gay cruising — I would oppose government sponsored restriction, prohibition, ordinance or anything of that sort which was specifically directed at curbing an activity of a specific population that was otherwise totally legal.

Tony Holt stated, ... but specifically about gay cruising — I would oppose government sponsored restriction, prohibition, ordinance or anything of that sort which was specifically directed at curbing an activity of a specific population that was otherwise totally legal. There's nothing illegal about what gay men do. Men and women do it all the time. To single them out and make rules specifically directed at curbing an activity that heterosexuals do all the time and every place is wrong, just plain wrong."

Dan Foster, the only openly gay candidate in the City Council race, refused to discuss this issue.

All the candidates were sorry to see the Deering Oaks Festival go, except Keri Lord. She said, "I won't miss it. I have always thought that the Festival was too large and that the rides were bad for the park. It was abusive to the park. If they can't change it, then I'm glad its more money from the Maine Mall — it's just amazing."
bidding was slack. With 150 pieces of art to sell, it seems pretty clear that an average price in excess of $650 would have been necessary to reach $100,000 or $10,000 for every year of TAP’s existence. By the halfway point, very few pieces had sold for more than $500. Mr. Saturday, who did a very professional and workmanlike job (and was also great fun to listen to) probably felt that, with 150 works in the time allotted, there was simply no way to spend the needed time on each work to get its top dollar.

In spite of the aforementioned problems, there is no question that we all had a great time and that the sense of community action and common purpose was alive and well at the 9th Annual Spring For Life Auction. 

Deborah Shields, Executive Director, announced, April 18, that The AIDS Project will be moving to the 6th floor of 142 High Street by July 15th. She said, “We’re so happy to be neighbors of the Community Pride Reporter.” She added that they had run out of space in their current location and they would have more room for support groups at the new address. She said TAP plans a fall house warming party. Shields concluded, “We’d love to have help with the move. We also need donations of office furniture.” Call TAP at 207/774-6877 if you can help.

CITY COUNCIL, from page 21, got to be waste out there.”

Nan Sawyer offered the most comprehensive answer, “I have a lot to say on Portland taxes. I am a homeowner, a business owner and a realtor, so everyday I am aware of the importance of taxes on the individual homeowner, and I feel it is vital to keep those taxes within range so that all the burden of all our services and cultural offerings does not fall on the shoulders of the individual homeowners. I have 4 ways to do that: 1. Monitor how we are spending our money. 2. Attract business to broaden the tax base. 3. Look to our suburban neighbors who use our city for cultural centers, social services and businesses. And 4. We need to be heard better in Augusta so that Portland does not get short-changed. We need to get the school funding formula fairer for Portland. There’s no question that it’s not fair.”

All the regular polling places will be open for voting, May 2, 1995, from 6 am to 8 pm.

Unity College organization calls for conference

UNITY: With the fast approaching referendum to legalize discrimination against homosexuals, those of us in the Unity College group Outreach: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Educational Support Group, decided that it was time we tried to unify the gay, lesbian, bi and transgender groups of Maine’s secondary educational institutions.

What we envision is a conference to discuss the issues important to secondary educational students. We would like to embrace issues that affect us today as well as in our futures. It would encompass the idea of education for ourselves and the larger community. Our goal is for this to be the first of such conferences growing out of a strong student coalition.

We would like to have organizations take place over the summer and place the conference held as soon as possible in the 1995-96 school year. We welcome responses from individuals as well as school groups. Please write: Jennifer Day, RDF #1, Box 3320, Frankfort, ME 04438 or Michael Emerson, RDF #1, Box 858, Burnham, ME 04922.
IN THESE TIMES: Living with homophobia
by David Smith

Since last summer, I have been thinking about homophobia in our lives as lesbians and gay men. I have read many examples from my own life and will bring up to date on my lawsuit in this issue. However, all of us at CPR would like the column to be more than just one person’s view and experiences in dealing with homophobia in these turbulent, yet still hopeful times.

There ought to be many people who have had to deal with homophobia in their daily lives. With Carolyn Cosby and Concerned Maine Families attacking us so blatantly, the effects must be painful, distressing and very varied.

Write down your thoughts, feelings and experiences and submit them to the paper for publication. Many of you have also thought carefully about the origins of homophobia and tried to analyze the conditions and realities that move our enemies to hatred and violence. We could all benefit from your wisdom and experience. We would like you to contribute to the paper. Our plans for the future are to have this column continue with me writing several columns a year and readers writing the rest. Please give this some serious thought and submit columns and limited experiences. Winnie Weir.

Now, on to my latest struggle in living with homophobia. I’m still trying to win my job back at the Connecticut State Department of Education. Over the last few years, I’ve tried to get a new job in the field, but I’ve had many rejections.

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Suzanne: (SW) Here I am speaking to you from my beautiful home in the Detroit Airport.

CPR: How long have you been doing stand-up?

Suzanne: Four and a half years.

CPR: How did you get started?

Suzanne: It's so hard. It's a long story. I was going to be an actress, an entertainer, and all that. I went to college and got a BFA in acting. I moved to New York and not much happened. I was working as a bartender and my girlfriend at the time signed me up for a comic class. I went, but I didn't perform. I didn't think I was a comic. Then I thought if I was indeed going to be a comic, I wasn't going to be in the closet. I mean I'd been to ACT UP meetings and marched in the parades. I spent about a year after I took classes banging my head against the wall. Should I be out or should I be in? People said if I was out as a comic, I'd never get any jobs. I decided to go against their advice.

CPR: Has anybody ever told you to tone down the lesbian aspect of your act?

SW: I don't think anybody has ever told me to tone it down. Some of the talks show on television, late night shows. I won't get on unless they perceive the world to change or I change. Even though comics who are incredibly racist, homophobic, and misogynistic with incredible vulgarity in their acts get on all the time if they do a clean three minutes.

CPR: Who were your role models in comedy?

SW: Kate Clinton. Absolutely. I like most comics. I enjoy comedy. I'd also say Lily Tomlin, although she doesn't do stand-up. Probably when I first started I looked to people like Elaine Boosler, Paula Poundstone, and Ellen DeGeneres. And the Dennises, Dennis Leary and Dennis Miller.

CPR: What makes you laugh?

SW: Something good. Something original. Stuff from out in left field makes me laugh. I also tend to laugh at silly, but not like the Three Stooges.

CPR: I love the Three Stooges!

SW: It's a male thing. Guys do, girls don't.

CPR: If you could figure that out, you could answer all the questions of life. I like silly humor. I also like dark humor. Things that you would never say in everyday society. How does that make you laugh?

SW: It's the Three Stooges! I also have a thing about a year after I took classes. I had a girlfriend described him as a gaping, flaming, commode hugging asshole. A little punky and wild. Trust me, you don't want to see me without the towel. I noticed afterward a lot of lesbian comics came out with glamour poses. Low cut and lipstick. I didn't think of it in terms of success. It was kinky, it made me laugh.

CPR: What's the best time you have had on the road?

SW: This is the worst time. Being stuck in the airport. The best time is when my girlfriend gets to come along. She makes me laugh hysterically.

CPR: Who is your dream date?

SW: My girlfriend. If she's not available, then Martina. CPR: What would like to see New Gingrich?

SW: Well we can't print that! My girlfriend described him as a paping, flag-waving comedic hugging asshole with a pretty picture. I abhor him and his cronies—The Bob Doles, the Pat Robertson. Mean spirited, fat white boys. They hate us.

CPR: Where do you want to be in ten years?

SW: I want to be taller. I want to be in television. Career wise, I'd like to have more power. Maybe television work. More power than women in Hollywood get. I have an agenda for [straight] people to see gay people in a positive and normal way. I'd like huge success so I have power to say, "Hey let's make a movie of Heather Has Two Mommies!"

CPR: Have you been approached about doing a TV pilot?

SW: That's what I have doing for the past five weeks. I leave Madison, Wisconsin tomorrow for LA to audition for a part. There are people writing who are writing stuff for me. That's going to be very tricky because the corporate heads don't think mainstream America is ready for a gay person to play a gay character. Whether they are right or not, nobody knows. It's going to take some one risking it. It's a crap shoot, but I do have all those things in the works.

CPR: You're appearing at Jonathan's May 12?

SW: Wait let me check. Yeah, that's right.

CPR: Have you played Maine before?

SW: I've never been in Maine. It's one of the last states I haven't been in. I want a rainbow flag at the airport.

Lesbian and gay business and professional organization formed

by Carolyn Jabbert

The Rainbow Business and Professional Organization is the grass roots business networking branch of Carolyn Jabbert and the late Donna D. Tennant, formed in October of 1994. Carolyn Jabbert and Donna D. Tennant were insufficient support for gay and lesbian community professionals and business owners. Portland has a Chamber of Commerce, so why couldn't we organize, support and promote our gay business community and professionals? Do we know who we are? If we know who we are, we can then better support each other, increase our community visibility and become a resource to the community.

The organizational goals include sharing of gay owned business knowledge and supporting worthwhile efforts that would benefit not only members of the organization, but would serve to educate the community at large. Approximately 40 members strong, the organization has adopted a Mission Statement which says, "The focus of the Rainbow Business and Professional Organization is to support and network gay, lesbian and transgender business, professionals and trustees through education and cultural endeavors. Gender equality will be guaranteed."

Dues are $15 per year and a donation of $1 per meeting to help defray mailing, supplies, and support related events. Meetings are scheduled every second Monday of the month at 6:30 PM. Their next meeting is May 8.

Many long and short term projects are already in progress. Raising money for the Donna D. Tennant Memorial Scholarship Fund to benefit gay and lesbian youth, offering a mentoring program for gay and lesbian youth, establishing a Maine lesbian and gay credit union, gay and lesbian SCORE, producing a Business Professional Guide, hosting a gala Halloween Ball, Oktoberfest and a number of summer social events are among the exciting ideas already taking shape.

Efforts will be made to structure the Donna D. Tennant Memorial Scholarship Fund in a way that will encourage funding from large companies as well as private donations. Donations may be sent to the scholarship fund in care of Carolyn A Jabbert, 1605 Palmer Avenue, Portland, ME 04103.

Some meetings will be held at gay and lesbian owned restaurants with dinner and guest speakers. Business and Professional organize and will be welcomed. Guest speakers and meeting programs will be established for all meeting dates. Check this newspaper for upcoming events.

Interested business owners and professionals who would like to attend meeting or inquire for more information, are welcome to contact any of the following members: Victoria C. Zavatski, Leadership Team Chair, 207/777-0125; Carolyn A. Jabbert, Trustee of the Donna D. Tennant Memorial Scholarship Fund, 207/878-3755; Joy Knight, Task Coordinator, 207/797-5404; Al Nickerson, Membership Coordinator, 207/774-5882; or write Rainbow Business and Professional Organization, PO Box 975-526, Portland, Maine 04104.
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Zones will continue past their Pride weeks and works by the simple distribution of stickers and an information sheet by members of this committee. The sticker has both a pink and black triangle and says, “Safe Zone.” (Pink and black triangles were worn by gays and lesbians in concentration camps.) The accompanying sheet explains the origin of the triangles and requests that everyone contribute to an open and safe climate on campus for everyone by displaying the sticker on dorm doors or, if university staff, office doors, desks or cubicles. It places emphasis on the dangers to and discrimination of gays and lesbians on campus and in the community as large, while giving everyone, both gay and straight, a chance to show support for gay, lesbian, bisexual or questioning students (and staff). It is a project that could work in a larger community.

The flyer, however, does carry a disclaimer request that if you are not supportive of gay and lesbians, to please not put the sticker. The sticker of the Sticker is an ominous reminder that amidst a greater feeling of community support, it may only take one act of childish mischief to create fear and suspicion. Conversely, it takes everybody working together creatively and openly to create a community that can overcome bigotry. ΔΔ

Project Empowerment comes to Maine

PORTLAND: “Project Empowerment,” a weekend retreat for lesbian, gay and bisexual educators, will be held in Southern Maine June 2-4, 1995. A project of the Equity Institute of California, Project Empowerment provides an opportunity for educators to empower and support each other, and teaches leadership skills for interrupting and dismantling homophobia.

Project Empowerment workshops have been held across the country since the program began in 1986, and have trained hundreds of educators in cutting edge strategies for meeting today’s most challenging diversity issues. The 2-1/2 day retreat includes workshops on legal and equity issues for sexual minority educators, exercises on developing realistic strategies to take back to schools, and suggestions for identifying and nurturing relationships with heterosexual allies.

PE is open to all lesbian, gay and bisexual teachers (pre-k-12), administrators, guidance counselors, librarians and other educational staff. The cost of the 2-1/2 day program, including all meals and lodging, is a sliding-scale fee of $125-250, to be determined by the participant. A limited number of scholarships will be available. A $75 deposit is required with initial registration.

Rita Kiezen, Associate Professor of Teachers Education and Portland site coordinator for Project Empowerment in Maine, is the local site coordinator for PE and would be happy to provide more information about the retreat, including information about how to register. You can reach Rita by leaving a message at her voice mail, 780-5376, or by writing to her at 500 Bailey Hall, USM, Gorham, ME 04038. All inquiries and registrations are completely confidential. ΔΔ

The Pride Corner: Take Caution

by Michael Rossetti

This year’s Portland Pride celebration is Saturday, June 17. It will be like nothing held so far, and Bangor’s Pride celebration will follow on July 8. In addition, by June most of Maine’s universities and colleges with have had Awareness/Pride weeks. All will enhance gay and lesbian visibility at a time when negative focus is high on anything our community does which calls attention to it.

Security is playing a big part in the Portland celebration planning. We need volunteers to walk the buffer zone at the pier dance. We need traffic marshals, festival guards and parade facilitators. We need people to supply participants at all public events person to person advice on street safety. Yet all this security is only momentarily compared to the concerns for the safety and security of those who are out or come out as a result of such events.

Along with encouraging visibility, concern for the possibility of providing safety and education to deal with the resultant homophobia, particularly this year, when statistics show that biased crimes against gays and lesbians increases during anti-gay referendum.

Portland Pride’s education campaign, “Visibility Works,” and the UMO’s Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian Concerns committee’s “Safe Zones” project, two programs for community support and safety, crossed paths in early April.

Visibility Works has been holding bar parties to help educate our most vulnerable group on reporting and avoiding biased crimes and homophobic assaults. Since March, parties have been held in Augusta, Bangor and Portland. Along with teaching safety through games and small talk, local biased crimes officers were present to acquaint the bar crowd with law enforcement efforts on our behalf. Attendance varied, but in every case, bar staff and regular patrons were educated and will provide a word of mouth source of knowledge should the need arise.

Visibility Works’ second project is to strengthen Maine community by focussing the energies of community support and social services, and those groups who may wish to start one, on what succeeds.

What ever your interest, the pride ends in a weekend of events which include a dinner, smaller local rides and a beach party.

The third event is just in its inception, but may actually be a series of rides alone the Maine coast as a function of Maine Won’t Discriminate. The intent is to reach a wide range of cyclists, including those clubs outside the gay community, to take part in a relatively easy bike ride along one of Maine’s more picturesque coastal bike routes. The need is now for a few volunteers to help organize and put down the initial planning logistics. This is a chance to start a possible Maine Wide Bike Coalition, or to create a more intimate project of visiting the Maine community. The bike ride will be held in early July.

The last event is Time Out’s First Spring Bike ride, which will be on Sunday, April 30. It will start from downtown Ogunquit, excuse (the phrase) along the shore road to York and circle back with a stop at Mt. Agamenticus. It’s a novice ride, but a beginner can do the ride if they’re willing to take a slower pace that will take most of the day. For contact, interested riders can call me at 207/879-1634.

Remember, when bicycling there are some items you shouldn’t be without: a helmet, a small ID information package, a water bottle, a rain parka, a tire pump and a tire repair kit. See you on the road.

TIME OUT!: Cycling

by Michael Rossetti

It’s bicycle season again, which thanks the improvement of the weather, the casual cyclist, is ever extending into early spring and late fall, if not longer.

This year there are four major cycling events which area gay and lesbian cyclists may want to plan now on taking part in.

The first is an AIDS fund-raiser ride from New York to Boston in September. The route is not expressible for the expert, nor is it advertised, but over 2000 cyclists will leave New York for a three day, two night, 250 mile trek up the coast to Boston. Much of the registration and preparation for this already happened, so interested cyclists should make contact ASAP by calling 617/859-8282. This ride could be the most incredible experience of camaraderie and sportmanship of a lifetime.

The second is the Boston to Provincetown bike ride sponsored by Chiltern Mountain Club. It features about 200 cyclists across the country, mostly Massachusetts. The ride is about 130 miles and takes some riders from 6:00 AM till noon, while most arrive later in the day. It is not a race, but the finish position announcements have been known to irrate some of the more relaxed participants.

CHEW, from page 8

it could almost be a meal in itself. Somehow you don’t feel you’re eating, just inviting when there isn’t two feet of snow and near zero temperatures. And Grandma knew all about that renewed feeling when she threw the open window down, boat the rugs out on the clothesline and scrubbed every surface of the house during her “spring cleaning.”

Spiritually, as we see the earth renew herself, we are also encouraged to seek our own renewal, for some of us, this is marked by the observance of the Spring Solstice, Passover or Easter. These are occasions when we can, through ritual, remember the great possibilities that lie dormant within each of us, and be spurred on to bring these possibilities to life.

Emotionally, spring is a good time to “clean house” too… to let in the fresh air and sunshine of anticipation and preparation for new growth. Retreats, journaling, long walks in the warming air… these are all means of self-renewal.

For me, this spring is especially symbolic of personal rebirth and renewal. I have recently returned from a trip to Florida to see my son for the first time in three years. And, I will celebrate Easter for the first time in ten years. I am also in the process of seeking a "new" part-time job which will enable me to be renewed both financially and professionally. I am preparing for a move to a "new" living space. And, as always, I continue to work at the renewal of my body with healthy eating and the promise to myself that I will be more diligent with exercise.

As you read these musings, my hope is that you feel the stirrings of renewal within yourself, that you will find a way to celebrate spring so that it truly feels like a time of newness in your life. HAPPY SPRING! ΔΔ
Maine-ly For You Womens' Campout

On the weekends of June 15-18 and August 24-27, Maine-ly for You Women's Festivals presents Maine-ly For You Womens' Campout. The entire campground, located on a pristine lake in western Maine has been reserved for a fabulous weekend of camping, bonfires, open mics, softball, volleyball, boating, swimming, fishing and lots more fun. A DJ will provide your favorite dance music.

Camping space and cabin space are available for rent. Campsites are $18 - $25 nightly. Call (207) 782-2275 before May 15th and (207) 583-6980 after that date for more details and to make reservations. Spread the word to your friends and plan on two great weekends of fun.

MLGPA & MWD fund raiser at Sisters

Lynn Deves and Erica Gilbert sing to raise money for equal rights.

HEALTH, from page 8

Chlamydia often has no symptoms, the only way many women realize that they have it is if a sex partner tells them they've been exposed. It can be transmitted to bisexual and heterosexual women by vaginal and anal intercourse with a man.

Chlamydia can also be transmitted from woman to woman. Next month, we'll take a look at lesbian risk for chlamydia, including prevention.

Tom Kane
City Council District 3

Raising Kane . . . Raises Everybody

“A candidate worth supporting!”

- Calien Lewis & Martha Mickles

She's working to make Portland a great place to live, work and play...

* Advocate for a responsible City budget
* Ally of neighborhood voices
* Promoter of a sound economy with meaningful jobs
* Proponent of Equal Rights for ALL
* Supporter of our parks & trails

Keri Lord
City Council At Large
SHE'S GETTING THINGS DONE...

RE-ELECT KERI LORD
MAY 2, 1995

Paid for by Friends of Tom Kane.

Joseph R. Mazziotti, Treasurer
Out of Town!

by Paul T. Bernard

I thought that this month I would gaze into my crystal ball and try to predict what travel would be like 5-10 years from now.

Well, the first part is easy—lots already are experimenting with Ticketless Travel. In fact, United Air Lines hopes to be the first major airline to offer Ticketless Travel worldwide by the end of 1995. What does "Ticketless Travel" mean? Well, as the name implies, you travel without a ticket. Everything else is still the same. You call your local travel agent who will then make arrangements for your flights and take your check or credit card for payment. Instead of issuing you a ticket, you will be given a confirmation number. In reality, the agent will still issue a ticket. You will be given a confirmation number. You show up at the airport and check-in at the counter as usual. But instead of handing the agent a ticket, you will give the agent your confirmation number. The agent will punch this into the computer and you will receive your boarding pass.

I also predict that in the next 5 years, we will see at least one of the major carriers go bankrupt or be bought out by a competitor. There are several airlines (Continental, TWA, USAir) having serious financial problems. As a matter of fact, there are only two carriers who are making a profit at this time, America West and Southwest Air. All of the others are losing money and have been for about 3-5 years. They all have given up on trying to increase revenues (through price hikes and increased traffic) and are now trying to control expenses.

Until the economy straightens itself out, you will also see a continuation of "sale wars" among the airlines. Generally, these are sales that are triggered by a "cash-starved" airline trying to drum up business during non-peak travel periods. This is a definite plus for the consumer. However, the drawbacks are that you never know when fares will go on sale, what time period they will cover, and if you can change your travel plans to suit the dates of the sale.

Once you are on a plane, you will see many new improvements. On long distance and international flights, you will see individual TV consoles which can provide electronic games and movies—you pick the movie you want to see from a menu. You will also see more business related services—faxing, video conferencing, etc. available for the business person on the move.

I foresee the day when the airlines close up their reservation centers and everyone will buy tickets through a travel agent. (Currently, travel agents account for 85% of the air tickets sold). This may well be a plus for the consumer. Travellers are much better served by travel agents, who will give you unbiased information and the best deals possible. I get calls from people each week who tell stories of airline ticket agents who don't always give them the best deals or information.

Another prediction is a continuation of "sale prices" for cruises. This has a lot to do with that old economic theory called "supply and demand"—when supply is high and demand is low—prices are low. In the next 5 years, there are 25 new cruise ships coming into service—but creating the supply. For instance, the Disney Company just announced plans to market cruises on 2 ships currently under construction. In addition, Carnival Cruise Lines and Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines are building new ships. This will create an over-abundance of cruise ship cabins for sale. And to fill those cabins, I foresee a continuation of last minute sales. This is good for the consumer.
DONATION SHEET
Maine AIDS Walk '95
Sunday, May 7, 1995
1:00 p.m.
RAIN OR SHINE

Walker's Name: ____________________________
Address: _________________________________
City/State/Zip: _____________________________
Telephone (day): __________________________ (eve.): __________________________
Team Name: (if applicable) __________________________

A 5-mile Walk to benefit AIDS care and education in Maine.

Please ask sponsors to pre-pay. Make checks payable to Maine AIDS Walk.

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TOTAL PLEDGES: $ __________
AMOUNT TURNED IN: $ __________
AMOUNT DUE: __________

Register by April 28, collect at least $50.00 and receive a free t-shirt! Please complete the information below, sign the waiver on the back, tear it off, and send it to:
The AIDS Project, 22 Monument Square - 5th Floor, Portland, ME 04101. Thank you!
DO NOT SEND MONEY! PLEASE TURN IN MONEY AT THE WALK ON MAY 7.

Name: __________________________________
Address: __________________________________
City: ______________ Zip: __________ Phone: __________________________
Team Name: (if applicable) __________________________

T-shirt size: (please circle) Small __________ Medium __________ Large __________ X-Large __________ XX-Large __________
The Maine AIDS Walk - Portland is a five mile walk coordinated by the Maine AIDS Alliance and local AIDS service organizations to benefit HIV/AIDS education and care in central and southern Maine. Proceeds from the Walk are used by local organizations for direct care, support, and education. HIV/AIDS affects all Maine citizens. It's important that we all work and walk together in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Maine.

BEFORE THE WALK
Sign up as many sponsors as you can - friends, family, co-workers. Set yourself a goal of raising at least $100.00. (10 sponsors at $10.00 each!) Please ask sponsors to pre-pay, and make checks payable to the Maine AIDS Walk. Avoid collecting cash.

TO THANK YOU
Each person who pre-registers by April 28 and collects at least $50.00 will receive a free, commemorative Maine AIDS Walk t-shirt! Individuals and teams collecting the most money will be awarded prizes.

WHAT IS A WALK TEAM?
A Walk team is a great way for a group of people representing a school, church, club or business to join together and show their support by registering and walking together! Teams who pre-register by Friday, April 28 can have their team name printed on the back of their t-shirts for a nominal fee. To receive a team packet, which includes everything needed to form a team and t-shirt information, please call 774-6877.

IMPORTANT!
The Walk takes place in nine different locations around the state, including Portland. If you are unable to walk in Portland, please contact one of the Walk sites below for information regarding their Walk. You might be able to use this donation sheet regardless of where you walk, but local Walk rules and prizes do vary so please keep this in mind and call the site nearest you for more information.

Bangor/Orono -- 990-3626  Hallowell/Augusta -- 626-3435
Belfast -- 338-1427  Waterville -- 873-1127
Brunswick -- 725-4955  Lewiston/Auburn -- 786-4697
Ellsworth -- 667-3506  Rumford -- 364-2616

>>Portland Walk Information<<
5-mile Walk around Back Cove, Portland starting at Cheverus High School, 267 Ocean Avenue
Registration from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Opening ceremonies begin at 12:30 p.m.
Walk begins at 1:00 p.m. sharp
>>RAIN OR SHINE<<

For more information, call 774-6877.

The AIDS Project: The AIDS Lodging House: People With AIDS Coalition of Maine
The NAMES Project/Maine: Peabody House: PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support)

Parking alert!: Limited, free parking will be available at Cheverus High School. IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE CAR POOL WITH OTHER WALKERS!

********************************************************************

Waiver for Maine AIDS Walk - Portland '95:

I, ________________________________, hereby waive all claims against the Maine AIDS Alliance, its members, sponsors, volunteers and directors, for any injury I might suffer in this event. I attest that I am physically fit and prepared for this event. I also consent to permit emergency treatment in the event of injury or illness. If the participant is under 18, waiver must be signed by a parent of guardian.

Signature: ___________________________ Date: _______________
Announce

Grand Bahama Give-Away

Win a Four-Day/Three-Night package for Two to The Club Fortuna Beach Resort on Grand Bahama Island - May 19th-22nd.

The package for two people includes Round-trip airfare from Boston, transfers to/from the airport in Freeport to the hotel, 3 nights accommodations at Club Fortuna Beach Resort, breakfast, lunch & dinner each day and unlimited non-alcoholic drinks with meals.

**Contest Rules:**

- On Friday and Saturday nights, each time you purchase a beverage (excluding Schnapps), you will receive an entry blank.
- Fill out the entry blank and deposit in the Grand Bahama Give-Away Box.
- At 12:30 each night, 25 lucky entries will be pulled from that night's entries. These 25 entries become "qualifiers" for the Grand Bahama Give-Away Drawing to be held on Saturday, May 13th.
- You may qualify only once per night, but you may qualify on each night until the drawing. **You must be present to win the Grand Bahama Give-Away Prize Package.**