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 two 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: Well, 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 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 POWER STRUGGLE, page 6

Photo by Studio 101, Everett Herr

Nan Goldin, New York photographer, presents check to the Editors of CPR. Nan did a slide/lecture at the Maine College of Art, April 13. Nan donated her entire honorarium to support our work. See Artist Profile, page 17.

Suzanne Westenhoefer Speaks Out

by Skip Brushaber

I recently spoke on the phone with comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer while she was fogged in at the Detroit airport. Westenhoefer is a nationally known lesbian stand-up comic who has appeared on HBO, A & E, Geraldo, Joan Rivers, The Comedy Channel, etc. She will be appearing at Jonathan's in Ogunquit on May 12, 1995.

See SUZANNE SPEAKS, page 24
Maine Won't Discriminate
Chapter contacts & meeting times

Aroostook County: PO Box 853
Caribou, ME 04736
Jim Martin-207/990-3420
POBox963
POBox853
Aroostook County:
Bangor, ME 04402
UNE-Marcil Hall,
Punnie Edgerton-207/29-4930
Meeting: April 25, 6:30 PM
Barry Hom-207/286-3718
Brunswick/Bath:
12 Fortune Rocks Rd.
Scott Cowger-207/622-2708
Cheryl Ring-207/26-0818
POBox373
Hancock County:
Ruth Blackbum-207/276-0503
Meetings: 3rd Sunday, 4:00 PM
Kate Perkins-207/985-2784
Main St., Kennebunk
Roland Blais-207/84-2251
Campaign Manager: Amy Pritchard, 1-800-761-1788
P O Box 11061, Portland Maine 04104

Lincoln County (Wiscasset):
Clarks Cove Road
Walpole, ME 04573
Tom Gould-207/563-2269
Midcoast:
PO Box 622
Rockland, ME 04841
Dorothy Merriweather-207/594-7873
Portland:
PO Box 8124
Portland, ME 04104
Steve Addario/Jessica Maurer
207/761-1788
Meetings: 6:30 PM
Every other Monday
St. Luke's Cathedral, 143 State St.
April 24, May 8, May 22
Ogunquit:
PO Box 2250
Ogunquit, ME 03907
John Cavaretta-207/646-2122
Southern Maine:
Richard Scott
PO Box 737
Ellsworth, ME 04605
Peter Rees-207/667-2358
Cheryl Ring-207/26-0818
Meetings: 3rd Sunday, 4:00 PM
UU Church, Bucksport Rd.

Kennebunk: Brand New!
Interim Contact:
Kate Perkins-207/985-2784
Meeting: First Parish Church
Main St., Kennebunk
May 1 at 7:00 PM
Lewiston:
2 Canal Street
Lewiston, ME 04240
Roland Blais-207/784-2251

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.

Jeannine Crockett of Bangor is looking for 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 Hom 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 is much work to be done, according to Ring, but the volunteers have been quick to share in the work. She urged people who wished not to get physically involved to at least pull out their checkbooks.

Hancock County contact, Peter Rees responded "Boomingly" of the progress of that chapter's work. Membership is around 150 and new members are joining all the time. House parties are set to begin soon with additional fund raising plans being pursued. Rees credited a good mix of volunteers for creating the feeling of a safe space at meetings where both gay and straight are able to communicate openly. He says this is liberating for all members.

Tom Gould of the Lincoln County chapter urges people to get involved in this relatively new chapter. Current members are optimistic about the future of this chapter.

Mid-Coast chapter contact, Dorothy Merriweather, reports a mailing list of 400 with the groups focus on outreach and fund raising at this time.

The Ogunquit chapter faces a challenge with the media of its coverage area. According to organizer John Cavaretta, because people get their information from so many places, there is not one clear place to advertise. In addition, some residents are resistant with many still out of state. He said current members are getting to know each other and are working to create an educational network to get the group's message out to the community.

Janice Campbell of the Southwest Maine chapter reports success working with former/current peace-movement members, as her group of 20-25 continues to grow. She plans to approach local businesses, asking them to display symbols of support.

Carey Leach McLeod of the Waldo County chapter welcomes new volunteers to those already working for the Belfast-based chapter. She discussed fund raising ideas, such as theater parties and dances, along with doing door-to-door campaigning and educational pieces. The people of the Belfast area are fair, said McLeod, but the level of misinformation is high. She indicated that the decision not to introduce an equal rights bill this season may have fertilized volunteers.

Betsy Deniston says the Washington County chapter is trying to organize enough meetings to bridge the spread out geographical area in their county. This is a problem for many of the MWD chapters. Meetings are attended by both gay and straight who are all aware of the far-reaching effects of this referendum. "Our members are growing by leaps and bounds," said Deniston.

When I spoke to Diane Campbell of the Ogunquit/Oakland chapter, she told me that her group is still organizing. They have held one fund raiser, and have plans for house parties. The thrust of this group's work will be community coalition building, talking to clergy, the chamber of commerce and civic leaders. "There's a real ground-swell starting to happen," said Campbell.

Amy Pritchard, Campaign Manager of Maine Won’t Discriminate, said that the work of the State Headquarters is setting up physical space and working with the individual chapters. She summed up the feelings of many of the chapters that the group has come together and can now get on with its work.
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 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-equality 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. Rickett said he supported Portland's ordinance but thought it was unfortunate that we had to have it.

I asked the candidates what their positions were on late night entertainment spots for the under-21 crowd. They all agreed parking, particularly on the peninsula, is a problem. Bruce Webber suggested encouraging people to use bicycles. He said he wanted to improve public transportation and make it more appealing by building bus shelters. He said the shelters could be paid for by selling advertising in them and went on to urge the use of electric buses and electric taxis.

I asked the candidates what their position was on state-wide gay rights law. She said, "I don't like that they are there. It's 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 suggested to Rickett that there was a special gay rights referendum put forth by Concerned Maine Families (CMF) not by gays and lesbians. She replied, "I'm neutral on it. I'm not homophobic, but I fear it will fractionalize (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 leb-...
CITY COUNCIL, from page 3

agreed that there should be such places, though they differed on the details. John McDonough 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 disruptive to the residents who live around those places, particularly Congress Square. The Council's Public Safety Committee has listened to testimony on that and debated it at length, so my personal feeling on that is that when we get to the 711am 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, my own children would disagree with me."

John McDonough had a different view. He stated, "I'm really disappointed the city has taken the attitude it has towards Congress Square. It is a good time. I have a problem with places, particularly Congress Square. I'm people, should go home. People who are out on that is that when it gets to be 11pm people, should leave. People who are involved, and, of course it can't be being disruptive. I'm not the type of person who would go there at all. I'm not and it never really appealed to me anyway. But that doesn't mean that other people don't enjoy that kind of entertainment or need that kind of entertainment."

John McDonough added, "Absolutely. We've discussed that and I think that's a matter of choice. If you don't want to go out, 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. More were emphatic than others. Tony Holt said, "Strange question — it is 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're 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."

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The Oakland Forum: Radical Right-0, Maine-1

by Karen Geraughty

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 Thebarg, 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. The panelists 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.

Mike Heath, Executive Director, Christian Civic League

The Christian Civic League, speaking in opposition to the referendum, asserted that the CCL, which was established in 1993, was a quadrophenic from Brunswick who warned us that elderly and handicapped people in Maine will suffer if this referendum doesn’t pass. The reason, you ask? Well, it seems as though "truly disabled minorities" (as defined by CMF) such as the elderly and handicapped will have to split the "pot of rights" with the queer population and there aren’t enough rights to go around. So... don’t allow anyone else protection from discrimination under the Maine Human Rights Act because too many people already have protection. Have you ever heard anything so crazy?

Once the panelists were finished giving presentations, we took questions from the audience. The most important thing I can tell you about the question and answer period is it became evident to me (as the only woman and the only queer on the panel) that we have to prevent the lies of the radical right from invading our thoughts and feelings about ourselves. I saw and heard so many gay people in the audience struggling to feel like decent human beings after they sat through that two-hour discussion. We have to help each other construct ways to deflect their lies and go on about the business of living our lives, fighting for our rights, and opposing this referendum.

It is quite clear that the anti-gay rhetoric is already at an alarming and unacceptable level and it is only going to get worse. CMF is trying to pit different minorities against one another. I have never heard anything so scary.

If a group is trying to pit different minorities against one another, the tone of this debate is going to be difficult and painful for many people to hear, but especially queers.

In addition to the angry and hurt queers in attendance, there were community members who were not here to get educated. 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 CMF’s political campaign. Fein told Cosby in a letter dated August 18, 1994 that their political campaign must avoid “unequivocally opposing” any of CMF’s initiatives. 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 wrote in this most recent press release, "This campaign will not be a bait and switch campaign. Having begun our campaign as a debate regarding gay 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?” and the “Judge” includes the following passages: “… gay 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 brochure goes on to say in this vein. 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 Malmunde, recently appeared with her on the WMPI-FM radio talk show “Big Talk.” Malmunde, a professor at St. Joseph’s College in Standish is quoted as saying to Cosby, just after the show, “Have a great day, take care of yourself.” Cosby thought that Cosby and her benchmarks sat in private before their public statements. So much for Cosby’s “commitment to take the moral high ground.”
male or special rights for a lot of various groups. That’s not the issue that I’m concerned about. My concern is that there is equal protection under the law and that we’re following the law.

CPR: There’s been an equal rights law introduced into the legislature for the past several years which would ban discrimination in housing, employment, credit and public accommodation on the basis of sexual orientation, what would be your position on that?

VOLLE: Well, that seems like it’s somewhat of an ambivalent law because my sexual orientation happens to be heterosexual. How do I prove that they are discriminating against me because I’m 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 homosexuals 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 ability to work with her?

VOLLE: Well, I ran for state legislator in 1988 for District 30 in Portland. I won the primary and right after, my campaign manager resigned for personal 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 Lambert. There was no secret what Robin’s sexual orientation was or anything of that nature. Apparently, a flyer came out just a short time before that primary election (regarding Lambert’s sexual orientation) and I was contacted by Tony Payne, Robin Lambert’s campaign manager, who asked me what I knew about the flyer (the flyer attacked Robin Lambert) because at that time I was the Cumberland County Republican Chairman. 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 authority to do… the court supported me. Six months later a father and son named Harrigan said they were ones who put out the flyer.

Well, Carolyn’s approach on that was very belligerent, and my approach was to try to be co-operative. I had nothing to do with the flyer. I thought it was a late hit. We varied on approach there, so later on there were some challenges to leadership and some other things that happened, and finally I told Carolyn, ‘I choose not to work with you. Our styles are different. Develop your own fellowshiphip. If you want to be a leader, develop your own group.’

CPR: Do you think the referendum will be successful in Maine?

VOLLE: Personally I don’t think it will survive the court challenge.

CPR: But if it did?

VOLLE: But if it did — I don’t think they’ve gotten off to a good start with it, to be honest with you. I would say it’s a flip of the coin at this point.

CPR: Can you confirm the story that the National Christian Coalition planned to give money to Carolyn Cosby but you objected to that so they withdrew their offer?

VOLLE: Carolyn Cosby approached a couple of my Board members and tried to get support out of my Board. They refused to give support.

CPR: Why?

VOLLE: Our Board had talked with her lawyer, Bruce Fein. We did some other things and researched and came to the conclusion that their position is a losing constitutional one, and it would be spending good money after bad. So Carolyn said to one particular Board member that if you’re not going to support it, you would make an inquiry to the National to see if we can get some funding out of Ralph Reed (The Executive Director of the National Christian Coalition). My Board refused to do that, and so Carolyn Cosby called up a number of times and tried to get hold of Ralph Reed, and in fact, got a hold of D.J. Dribbins, who is a Field Director, and an inquiry was made to me about what was the referendum about, and what were the issues involved because there had been a change in National Field Directors.

Guy Rogers had been a National Field Director and was up to speed on this, and D.J. Dribbins was a new Field Director and he really wasn’t up to speed. So Robin Lambert and I spent a couple of hours together and I went over the wording of the referendum and what our Board’s position was, and they concurred with us and so they denied any funding.

Christian Civic League moves to form broad coalition in support of anti-equal rights referendum

Mike Heath is the Executive Director of the Christian Civic League (CCL) of Maine.

CPR: Mike, is it true that you have formed a task force to end so-called ‘special rights’?

HEATH: We have a task force of our Board of Directors which is working on defining the League’s support of the referendum, and that’s as far as I’m able to go, given what the task force has provided to me for guidance.

CPR: What is the task force’s purpose?

HEATH: To define what our support is going to look like and how we are going to be engaged publicly. The CCL came out at the end of last year and said that we are actively going to support the referendum. There’s nothing that has changed about that, except that the task force has met a few times since then to continue its private discussions about what that support is going to look like, and we’ve not made any final decisions about that, other than publicly calling for the formation of a coalition. We are discussing a name for the coalition and are pretty close to finalizing that but we’re not ready to make that public.

CPR: Will this coalition of groups in support of the referendum include CMF?

HEATH: It could, if...

CPR: Does the task force have a name?

HEATH: For our internal purposes we just call it the ‘gay rights task force.’

CPR: Is it true that Carolyn Cosby objects to the formation of your own ‘gay rights task force’?

HEATH: She hasn’t articulated

See POWER STRUGGLE, page 7
POWER STRUGGLE, from page 6

any 'upset' emotions to me but she has
issued a press release entitiled, "State­
ment of Principles." Some have con­
trasted that document as having some
kind of concern about what we're do­
ing.

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

HEATH: Yes, and I think she said
in there that CMF won't be part of any­
thing that makes certain arguments in sup­
port 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 CMF, 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
CMF team and proceed under their
banner, another way is to proceed inde­
dependently, alongside, making the argu­ments that we feel need to be made in sup­port of the referendum, notwithstanding what
CMF would or would not say about those
arguments.

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

HEATH: The Christian Civic Leage
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 let­
ter to Steve Wesler 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 po­
sition 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: 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 or­
der for you to work with CMF 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 or­
ganization, our own entity. We are not
going to take leadership cues from any­
body.

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 con­
sistent with our principles, and part of
that is calling for the formation of a
broady 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 in 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 lead­
ership as a condition for a relationship
with CMF -- no, that's just not an issue
for us.

CPR: There seems to be a real dif­
ference 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 her­
self on that issue. What we're saying is
that we're going to support the referen­
dum 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 ant­
icipate 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 po­
sition on the referendum, which is a po­
sition 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 rela­
tionship with them the same way I have
a working relationship with any num­
ber of other groups. It's not a unique
relationship. I'm not sure what your
driving is.

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 refe­
rendum 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 in­
clusion 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.
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Portland
207/789-1342

CPR — April - May, 1995 Page 7

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PROGRESSIVE CARDS, GIFTS + WRAP
To Your Health: Chlamydia—A Concern for Lesbians, Part I

by Peaches 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 (kblul-MID-e-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 as 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 tests 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

See HEALTH, page 27

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 resplendent with self-respect, a zeal for life, 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 located as the first of its kind in the nation. 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 Scott Tarkey 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, 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.”

Chew on This

by Rose Mary Dessman

Spring is finally here! On Saint Patrick’s Day weekend, I went to Rhode Island to visit relatives. Their front lawn was ablaze with the purples, yellows and whites of daffodils, hyacinths and crocuses. As my cousin asked me how spring was coming “up there in Maine,” at least I could tell him that the snow was all melted! (At least in Portland!) You know, by the time 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 spuce 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 succulent...
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 date women throughout junior/senior high school because 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.

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 fliers, 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-athons 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 its 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 Winthrop 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 insert 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.

JOHANNA’S OGUQUIT PRESENTS . . .

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Michael Musto, New York Daily Times

SUZANNE WESTENHOEFER

Comedian

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2 shows: 8:00 and 10:00 pm

advance show tickets $15.00
for tickets call Johnathan’s Restaurant, 207-646-4777

CPR — April - May, 1995 Page 9

Talent abound at AIDS Response Seacoast

by Frank DeSarro

An eclectic group of seacoast entertainers ranging from Flamenco dancers to country singers will perform in “Sharing Our Talents,” a benefit for AIDS Response Seacoast on Monday, April 24 at 8:00 PM. The performance will be held in the Unitarian Universalist Church on State Street in downtown Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

The evening of entertainment, presented by Seacoast Gay Men and sponsored by local merchants, will feature the premiere performance of “I Think of Little Else Than of Them,” a lyrical tribute to Paul Monette, the nationally acclaimed author and poet who recently died of AIDS. The piece will be sung by the composer, Robert E. Grant, and accompanied by Emily Haggerty, organist of the Unitarian Universalist Church.

Other performers include Dan Williams, pop/country singer; Veronica Schwinder and Ralph Hamilton of the Ballet of New England; Lance Gunderson, Flamenco guitarist; Conor O’Brien, singer/songwriter/guitarist; Bobby Gautreau, comedian; Roger Kent, pianist; Dante, exotic dancer; James Haller, author/storyteller and a number of other vocalists, dancers and musicians.

A raffle to benefit ARS will cap the program. Tickets for the performance are $5 donation and may be obtained from ARS, Members Club, Karen’s Restaurant, members of Seacoast Gay Men and at the door.

For more information, contact Frank DeSarro (207) 439-4633. 

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EDITORIALS

April - May, 1995

Dear Editor,

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Cordially yours,

Marvin Ray Gardner

(EDITOR'S 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 endowed. 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

Kentucky State Penitentiary

PO Box 128

Bddyville, KY 42038-0128

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SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Please enter my one year subscription to Community Pride Reporter! I will receive 12 issues, delivered in a plain envelope. The cost for a one year subscription is $25 (more if you can, less if you can't). Please make checks payable to CPR and mail to 124 High Street, Suite #623, Portland, Maine 04101.

NAME: ________________________________

ADDRESS: ________________________________

PHONE: ________________________________

Please print legibly.

CPR MAIL BAG

Dear Editor,

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 work is trying to put out, and it's almost comical.

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 future. Many of the volunteers who help with CPR will be on hand from 5-7 PM. We hope you will be there too.

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Please print legibly.
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 bill that would have made it illegal to discriminate against anyone based on their sexual orientation. Instead, we now face a bill that would enact a second (run-off) referendum if no answer got more than 50% 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. Unfortunately, only 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 must act before the referendum date so that we can move on to seek protection of basic rights through the legislature next year.

The pending referendum seeks to overturn the Maine Human Rights Act and keep gay men and lesbians from ever having basic protection against discrimination. The referendum would also repeal the existing Portland Ordinance. It could also repeal hate crimes 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 legislature now has to vote whether to enact the question presented in this bill brochured by these petitions or to reject it and send the issue out for referendum.

There will be a hearing on May 2 at 2 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 Dony-Anna Tomazin. Richard and Hartwell are 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 my 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 all 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 clinics 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 is 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 said, "The gay student needs to know there's a world out there." Waxman said, "I think Diversity Day at both high schools is essential to our society and to our children. Discussing and covering the bases of homophobia and homosexuality is important. Lesbians and gays, like heterosexuals, should be recognized in the community for who they are, and not what their sexual preference is. We're all here together. Homosexuality is not abnormal."

Roland said, "We should teach about the student's real experiences including gay and lesbian experience. "Normal" doesn't enter into it."

Tomazin said he'd rather not get into the issue. Hartwell said he's afraid of getting into a discussion with the student's real experiences including gay and lesbian experience. "Normal" doesn't enter into it.

On the issue of supporting and initiating programs to address the needs of gay and lesbian students Richard said, "I think we should initiate 100% inclusive curriculum and I support healthy and complete education for every student whether they're gay, lesbian, religious minorities, ethnic minorities or even majorities — every student should be offered education and the same programs and be offered it in equal manner. Gay, lesbian and questioning youth need to have these 100% included in the curriculum, which means that when teachers talk about explicit sex in 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 being 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 carring a weapon to school, or having drugs in school, or fight fighting, and it should be treated the same way, but I also think suspending a kid because 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. Poor gay students for gay 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 students. Roland had 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 address the needs and said he is running to improve the quality of education.

Submissions Welcome

As a reader-submitted article, the material submitted for publication must be legally signed and include address and phone number for verification. Please keep letters to the CPR Mailbag to 300 words or less. Slightly longer and more composed submissions may be accepted with the Publisher's discretion. If requested, the Publisher may agree to withhold the name of an author for appropriate reasons.

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Community Pride Reporter

142 High Street
Portland, ME
04101

Suite #231
Phone 207/879-1342
**APRIL - MAY CALENDAR**

**Wednesday, April 12:**
\( \Delta 7:00-9:00 \text{ PM} \) - Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center Drop-In and Open House, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI (207) 498-2088.

**Thursday, April 20:**
\( \Delta 8:30 \text{ PM} \) - Chord on Blue, a percussive, eclectic band appearing at CTTI, 145 Kennebec St., Portland. Tips. FMI (207) 772-JOYY.

**Friday, April 21:**
\( \Delta 7:00-9:00 \text{ PM} \) - (ME.) - Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center Drop-In and Open House, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI (207) 498-2088.

**Saturday, April 22:**
\( \Delta 7:00-9:00 \text{ PM} \) - (ME.) - Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center Drop-In and Open House, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI (207) 498-2088.

**April 26:**
\( \Delta 7:00-9:00 \text{ PM} \) - The Gathering, USM Campus Center, 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.

**April 27:**
\( \Delta 7:30-9:00 \text{ PM} \) - Malovich Has A Makeover with Ferrante and other Portland Divas showing how it's done. Join us for a "backstage" look at drag performance as we discuss the whys and wherefores of drag. Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St, Portland. Accessible to mobility impaired; free hotel parking.

**April 30:**
\( \Delta 7:00-9:00 \text{ PM} \) - Yagotawanna, acappella trio, appearing at CTTI, 145 Kennebec St., Portland. FMI-773-772 JOYY.

**Saturday, April 30:**
\( \Delta 7:00 \text{ PM} \) - "Take Back the Night Rally & March" sponsored by Greater Portland NOW, The Family Crisis Shelter and the Rape Crisis Center, Inc. Monument Square. Featuring several speakers and an opportunity for audience speak outs, a women's march through downtown Portland and a vigil for men in support of Take Back the Night. Anne Marie at (207) 799-9020.

**Monday, May 2:**
\( \Delta 2:00-4:00 \text{ PM} \) - "Come Home to Our Bodies," a workshop for same sex couples about improving their bodies. Belfast Dance Studio. Workshop is open to both men and women, led by Ellen Oak. Call New Hope for Women, (207) 954-2128 or (207) 338-5659 to register. No charge for workshop. Enrollment limited to 40 participants. Enrollment limited to 40 participants.

**Wed., May 9:**
\( \Delta 7:00 \text{ PM} \) - Matlovich Society, sponsors a hike/walk activity. All women welcome. FMI (207) 846-5233.

**Wednesday, May 9:**
\( \Delta 7:00-9:00 \text{ PM} \) - (ME.) - Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center Drop-In and Open House, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI (207) 498-2088.

**Thursday, May 10:**
\( \Delta 7:00 \text{ PM} \) - Portland area PFLAG at Woodfords Congregational Church. FMI (207) 288-1518 or Sue-774-3441.

**Saturday, May 12:**
\( \Delta 8:30 \text{ PM} \) - Lynne Drees, Val Bennett, Erika Gilbert perform at CTTI, 145 Kennebec St., Portland. FMI call (207) 772 JOYY.

**Friday, May 12:**
\( \Delta 7:00-9:00 \text{ PM} \) - (ME.) - Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center Drop-In and Open House, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI (207) 498-2088.

**Saturday, May 12:**
\( \Delta 7:00-9:00 \text{ PM} \) - "Growing Up Gay" sponsored by Out on MDI and Northeast Regional Conference, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. "Serving in Silence," the story of Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer, will be shown. Free admission. Free popcorn. BYO beverage. FMI call (207) 498-2088.

**Wednesday, May 16:**
\( \Delta 7:00-9:00 \text{ PM} \) - "Community of Our Choice" workshop for community service groups. Unitarian Universalist Church, Pleasant St., Auburn. FMI 871-9940.

**Monday, May 17:**
\( \Delta 9:00 \text{ AM-12:30 PM} \) - "Constructing our Visibility" workshop for community service groups. UU Church. Speakers Karen Harbeck and Jan Platner (Exec. Dir. of Youth Issues, Jan Platner (Exec. Dir. of Youth Issues, Nashua, NH, Pilgrim Congregational Church. Speakers Karen Harbeck (Lawyer & Teacher) on legislative & youth issues, Jan Platner (Exec. Dir. GLAD) on the status of an equal rights marriage law and the work being done to promote the passage of this law in Hawaii. FMI, write Wren Dieth of 18 Hobs Rd. Kensington, NH 03833.

**Sunday, May 17:**
\( \Delta 10:00-3:00 \text{ PM} \) - Gulf of Maine Books
FOR RENT
\(\Delta 879-7864\). A Portland apartment you can call home! Sunny, spacious, energy efficient. Remodeled. \$575 plus utilities. 2 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms. Features: washer/dryer hookup off street parking. A must see! Ready and available for immediate occupancy. Walk to Old Port and Pr. (907) 787-7864. \(\Delta\)

A crisis 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 (907) 382-2725 FMI. \(\Delta\)

\(\Delta\) BDDEFFORD: 2nd floor bright, sunny, 3 bedroom apartment (2 rooms), wall to wall carpeting, ample storage, off street parking, private entrances, large outside porch. \$540 per month. Call (907) 282-9502 weekdays or (907) 498-1798 Monday through Sunday evenings. Available May 1. \(\Delta\)

\(\Delta\) SO. PORTLAND: 1 bedroom in Meetinghouse Hill area; sunny. $425/month utilities included. Available May 1st. Call (907) 767-0703. \(\Delta\)

TRAVEL/VCATION
\(\Delta\) LESBIAN PARADISE! 20 charming, rooms, 100 mountain acres, pool, hot tub, hiking/skilling trails, yummy breakfasts, peace and privacy. You're our perfect vacation choice year round! Week-long and midweek discounts. HIGHLANDS INN, Box 1180P, Bethel, ME 04217, (907) 869-3978. \(\Delta\)

\(\Delta\) BACKPACKING, canoeing, x-country skiing, Native American cultural trips, youth trip. Wilderness skills and environmental awareness. Small groups. Great food. Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, Maine, Quebec, Newfoundland. Contact Earth Treks, Dept. C., RFD 2, Box 785, Thornville, ME 04966, 1-800-589-4770. \(\Delta\)

\(\Delta\) YELLOW BIRCH FARM: Romantic, season cottage or year round studio on working organic farm in Down east Maine, 20 minutes from Eastport. Absolute peace and quiet.

Beautiful, remote, unspoiled Cobscreek Bay, B & B or weekly rental. Brochure, reservations: (907) 726-5807. \(\Delta\)

\(\Delta\) 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. Call (907) 836-2908. Bethel, Maine. \(\Delta\)

HELP WANTED
\(\Delta\) Part-time jobs for gay-owned landscape company. You must be willing to get dirty and do dirty work. Must work in greater Portland. We work hard but also have fun. Experience helpful, but will train right people. Call Brad at (907) 773-4252. \(\Delta\)

\(\Delta\) 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 (907) 773-4252. \(\Delta\)

NH LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP FORMING
\(\Delta\) 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, 7:30-9:30 PM. Beginning May 5. LEADER: Susan Lager, MSW. CALL: (603) 431-7131 for more information. \(\Delta\)

PERSONALS
\(\Delta\) GWF, 26, intellectual, healthy, rugged, outdoors man, seeks men (19-35) who loves nature, quiet nights, adventure and travel. Reply to: Box holder, RR 01, Box 57, Bradford, Maine 04410-9703. \(\Delta\)

\(\Delta\) Small endowed? Short in stature? Like us? Tired of guys searching for only tall or well hung? Finally stories, advice and personal stories devoted to the small man and our admirers. 100's of stories, comic strips, reviews of gay events/interest. Check out our list of Confidential Gay Men's Support Groups: Email address, phone, address, yearly membership. Gay-owned and operated. \(\Delta\)

MISCELLANEOUS
\(\Delta\) Battered Lesbian Project forming for W.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 discreetly. Call Gabriella at (907) 761-8118. If you are a woman who wishes to help, please call (907) 431-7131 for more information. \(\Delta\)

ANNOUNCEMENT: Boston's Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Freedom Trail Wind Ensemble and Marching Band is always looking for new members. We need "blowers" and "bangers" (aka winds and percussion) and flag carriers and "band-aider" and supporters who can make 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.
A group of gay, bisexual and transgendered people working to build an inclusive and supportive community. For information and support, call 883-6608.


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Mountain Valley Men (MVM): A group of gay men of all ages in the western Maine, lakeshore, NH area who get together for potluck dinners, hiking, canoeing, skiing and other activities. FMI: write to Box 36, Center Conway, NH 03813-0036 or call Paul at 207-774-5205.

“Let’s Do Brunch!” Potluck social gathering from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm on the third Sunday of the month at the Country Lodge. Meet new people, see old friends, exchange news, and information. FMI: (207) 985-2784.


Drop-In Lesbian Discussion Group: Meets Mondays, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm (except school vacations & 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, times and places write GLD 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 adopting. Meets monthly in the greater Portland area. FMI: write P.O. Box 2235, South Portland, ME 04106.

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

Youth Support

OUTRIGHT/Central Maine: Weekly, confidential meetings for gay, lesbian, & questioning youth 22 years and under. Call “First Call” at 785-6677 or 1-800-339-4042 and ask about OUTRIGHT.

OUTRIGHT/Portland: Meets every Friday from 7:30-9:30 pm at Williston West Church, 2 Thomas St., Portland. Safe and supportive discussions with and for gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning young people. FMI: call 771-TALK or 771-HELP or write to P.O. Box 5077, Portland, ME 04101.

OUTRIGHT/Sunday: Meets every Friday from 7 to 9 pm at the United Church annex building adjacent to the fire station, 206 Court St., Portsmouth NH. FMI call Teensline at 1-800-639-6095 or write P.O. Box 814, Portsmouth NH 03801.

F.A.T.E. Fast Aids Transform Education: A project of ACT UP/Portland whose purpose is to demand better HIV/AIDS education and combat homophobia in all Maine public schools, to form empowering groups for teens by teens and to create a context in which pro-testers, pro-gay groups are able to change the educational policies in their individual school districts. Straight or gay, boy or girl, HIV+, black, brown or white. All welcome. FMI: on who to contact or how to organize in your school district, contact F.A.T.E., P.O.Box 1931, Portland, ME 04104.


HIV Related Support Meetings
Portland
Monday: HIV negative partners of people living with HIV, 6:30-7:30 pm.
Tuesdays: People Living with HIV, 6:00-9:00 pm.
Tuesdays: People Living with HIV and all friends, families, lovers, and caregivers. 10:30 am-12 NOON.
2nd & 4th Tuesdays: Living Well focuses on quality of life and empowerment for those living with HIV/AIDS.
At Wednesdays: PAWS (Paws Are Wonderful Support), 5:30 pm. FMI: 777-PAWS.
Charles Wynott, Program Coordinator.
Thursdays: Women Living with HIV meet from 1:15-2:45 pm. Men Living with HIV meet 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.

LeWArk: Information & support meetings for People Living with HIV. Call 786-4697.
FMI: AIDS Coalition of Lewiston-Auburn.
Brunswick: Meetings for family and friends who have loved ones with HIV/AIDS at Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services, 8 Lincoln Street. FMI: on meeting days and times call Brisa 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 2038, Bangor, ME 04401. Call 334-9000.
Community Task Force on AIDS Educ.: P.O. Box 941, Naples, ME 04055. Call 583-6500.
Dayspring: 32 Whipple St., Augusta, ME 04330. Call 626-3432.
Eastern Maine AIDS Network: P.O. Box 2038, Bangor, ME 04401. Call 990-3626.
Merrymeeting AIDS Support Serv.: P.O. Box 7977, Lewiston, ME 04243-7977. Call 725-4955.
Names Project/Maine: P.O. Box 10248, Portland, ME 04104. Call 774-2198.
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): 22 Monument Square, Portland, ME 04101. Call 775-PAWS.
St. John Valley AIDS Task force: h/o NMMC, 143 E. Main St., Fort Kent, ME 04743. Call 843-3355.
Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: P.O. Box 956, Belfast, ME 04915. Call 338-1427.

What are you doing to protect your civil rights? Call Maine Won’t Discriminate. Get involved!

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"... the goddess loves us when we laugh!"
Out on the Town
by Skip Brushaber

Black & white photography

Black & white artwork

We strongly encourage written submissions of poetry and prose be on Mac compatible disc. Any questions, contact the CPR office.

Deadline is May 22, 1995.

What's going on around town:

"Nunsense II-The Second Coming" at the Chocolate Church in Bath

"Entertaining Mr. Sloan" at the Oak Street Theater, Portland

"Under The Skin" at Madhorse Theater, Portland

"Collecting For A College" at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art.

Again, we want to hear from you, the reader, about A & E events in your area and we welcome book reviews and video reviews to be kept 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


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 subjects range from his dog Packy 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 strongly that this hate and ignorance exists at a time when priests are being charged with molesting members of their flocks.

The essay "3275" takes the reader on a trek through cemeteries around the world. It is marvelous commentary on the beauty and about a man coming to Portland in 1993. Monette uses his own sleep dep-ravation to unleash a tongue toward everything from the American Family to the "Nazi All-Stars": Falwell, Robertson, and Sheldon. He also takes on the New Age, Dan Quayle, and the Pope.

In "Mortality Things," Monette relates an experience in childhood of saving bottle caps for money to be used at an auction. The young Paul Monette comes woefully short with his one hundred fifty-seven.

Monette goes on to write about his love of books and their value in his life.

Paul Monette was a powerful and beautiful writer. His words calm, ignite, disarm and offer hope to the reader. This collection is not always easy to get through, but it is empowering if the reader perseveres.

Paul Monette wrote three collections of poems and two novels. Also among his other works of nonfiction, "Borrowed Time, an AIDS Memoir" and "Coming a Man; Half a Life Story.

The Murrow Report'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 it 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 Furie's 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 Amato's role of Lavern, complete with a wig that the B-52's would be proud to sport, was perhaps the most memorable. Lavern, a sexually spoon waitress 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, 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-honorble 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, Tally Jefferson and Marina Mares 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

See LAVENDER, page 19
Artist Profile: Nan Goldin - Photographs from the heart

by Bruce Balloni

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 everyday 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 SCAFLO. 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, a project with the BBC about her life. Because of our friendship, and her concern, she agreed to do a slide lecture 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 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. That 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 unlikelihood of the forces that divided them. After the battering and a long time of not seeing the man she ran into him 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 underlie 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 its 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 her only way to get out was to lie 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 possibilities."

See GOLDIN, page 20
"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 about this when he asked Cole to accompany him on his recent WOMAD tour, not as the opening act, but as his duet partner. With an honesty not unlike the music of Tori Amos, Cole wrote about anger, intimacy, and power. Peter Gabriel be like a ride.

From her stretched out, sleepy voice, a hideous wooden shoe for a year, SO I found a piano and started writing songs, "here's the price of some of his parts to the score the meaning - time's not the play at the same time. 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, then 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 ear 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 louts, aping their betters, greedy 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 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 glittering 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 a shiv 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, blistering 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 shuffled to the floor, vixenish with her teeth out, blithely 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, Nettwerk, 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 NETTWERK the single to the song "Steaming" and hear McLachlan's live recording of Peter Gabriel's "So.

Sarah McLachlan and Paula Cole play The State.

Theatre Review: "Entertaining Mr. Sloane" by Alexander Wallace

Vintage Repertory Theatre

by Kenneth Luc, Ph.D.,

Clinical Psychologist

Author of "Humanistic Economics and Adam Smith's Muddle

Sensitive Psychotherapy

Problem-solving from a larger perspective

Karma Sensitive Psychotherapy

Setting: 1930s Hollywood

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 beheaded to death by his lover, so I guess he could be called a gay artist. And very dead, way before his time. But his plays seldom deal with homosexuality, be it.

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

See SARAH, page 23

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The Whitney Biennial

by Bruce Balboni

The Whitney Museum of American Art, Madison Avenue at 75th Street in Manhattan, New York City, opened its 68th Biennial Exhibition, March 23. It will run until June 4, 1995. 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 comprise 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 real 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 I had never been to 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 the more rewarding for David because that work is a departure from his usual subject matter.

He has sold 18 large format prints of landscapes and buildings taken in Europe while he worked in Berlin with Nan Goldin on their book of photography, "A Double Life."

Greer is a sculptor. I met her in the late 70s when she was a student at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. She was a pre-op transsexual then. She has lived as a woman for many years now. Her earlier work was soft sculptures, with figures inside of larger figures which could cascade out at her discretion. Her four pieces in the Biennial were characteristic busts with an attitude.

In 1989 at the Artists Space Gallery in New York City when the National Endowment for the Arts created a furor by withdrawing funding (they later restored it), Greer exhibited her sculpture of "Jesus Mary" — a smirking, effeminate Jesus with a red cross burned into his chest. Her sculpture in this show of Candy Darling has an open chest in which one sees Candy's heart, but next to that is Candy's dressing table. Nan's entry consists of a solid wall of color prints in a grid — all photos of friends in Japan. The images range from tattooed boys to sex workers to people to workers 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 photos 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 too many artists and pieces to discuss here. Nevertheless, some of the more remarkable are worth noting. — Nancy Rubins exhibited an enormous mass of 150 old mildew-smelling mattresses which hung from the ceiling. They were held together with iron-banding and smeared with all kinds of cakes and desserts.

Nearby was a Cadillac hearse, cut in half and smeared with thick grease inside and out. The hearse was inside a cage over which were thousands of destroyed carrots. The hearse rested on hundreds of crushed mufflers and tail pipes — artist, Nari Ward. On a different floor one could see an installation which consisted of a working mini-domino making factory.

Some of the more famous artists involved are Brice Marden, Richard Serra and Cy Twombly. This year's Biennial is a profound array of images and impressions. It took a few days to see it all, but the experience was well worth the acting legs.

One could get into a discussion of the meaning of modern art and where it is all going, but viewing each artist's work separately and allowing oneself to deal with what at first can be confusing. I must confess, however, that witnessing the success of friends is such fun that I may be a little biased. ΔΔ

See Biennial Photos, page 21

LAVENDER, from page 16

certain ideals and constraints in the lesbian community. I think it certainly achieved this. Although I found the show to be too long, it was memorable, hysterical and certainly interesting. We aren't exposed to too much actual original work here in Portland.

You can catch a revival of the Furies first production "Intreat Me Not to Leave Thee," which features Hoffman and Amato, at the Oak Street Theater in May. The Furies, piloted by Marilee Ryan's scripts and vision, have an important and good thing going here in Maine. Support local arts.

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 Choir's "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 overheard as I left the auditorium) scratching my head. Neil Anderson, as often happens in musical theater, did not seem to be comfortable with weighty dramatic scenes. Rhee's vocal interpretations were well-chosen, but I had a problem with the program. The operas and musicals and operettas chosen were well-chosen, but again I had personal preferences in this review. The program was well-put together with guest soloist Rhee Michelle, whose voice is lovely.

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. ΔΔ

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Oak Street Theatre in Portland
bilities 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 lifelong friend, David Armstrong. David, Nan and I lived together and were friends together for the past 21 years. David’s and Nan’s photo history parallels their lives together, so in this book many of the facing pages are photos of the same people, one by David the other by Nan.

They both wrote introductions to this book which are brief histories of their relationship. They each assured me that they wrote them away from each other, without telling the other what they would say. That makes it all the more interesting to read these short pieces to see how they approached their task so similarly. Incredibly, they end up with the same conclusion about their relationship — that of, as David writes, “an old married couple now who have never met, at least not with each other.”

The photos in this book are the most difficult for me because they do document an era gone and a group of friends thinned by the ravages of AIDS. The unprecenend 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 wonderful 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, then the Biennial and, most recently, Nan’s visit to Portland. None of our relationships have been without their difficulties and separations, 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.)

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 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-attired people to stare at. Governor King and Mary Herman were in attendance in 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. Chadburn, 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 superfluous, excess baggage along as previous generations carried.” Another artist, Helen Damon of Cape Elizabeth observed, “The arts, above all, have suffered 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 beat 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 precarious, Balanced cocktails into uncomfortable proximity and resulted in a lot of claustrophobic milling around.

Second, although there was something 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 artist’s 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 bids 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 minimum 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 Satrybur, the auctioneer, seemed surprisingly 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

Tokyo Love by Nan Golden

Closeup of Candy Darling by Greer Lankton

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

Self-portra11t/Perver, 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 sort which was specifically directed in Tony Holt's words, "shameful." Dan Foster nodded to do it all the time. If I was to change it, I'm glad it's more money from the tax rate, or at least what I'm doing about it."

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

It sounds like a homophobic reaction. If people are engaging in sexual activity there, the police should stop it, but if they are just meeting to go elsewhere then it should be OK. If there was a beach in Portland straight people could do that." 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 and regulations and ordinances 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 it's gone. I'd like to see a gentler festival and see the park used more frequently. In fact, we're planning an event called Portland Picnic with games, and people will play music — what you're supposed to do in a park, swing on the swings, roller skate."

Dan Foster said, "If I want to mention anything about the Oaks, it's that we gave something away to South Portland again. It's just amazing (laugh), a little bit of stomped on grass and people give a tradition away to the park- ing lot of the Maine Mall — it's just amazing."

Everyone said that the tax situation was unfair, burdensome, regressive and, in Tony Holt's words, "shameful." Dan Foster said, "We haven't had a tax raise in Portland in 4 years. I still think the issue is that we need to get more money from the state for education if we plan to cut taxes, or at least not raise them. Also, you always can look for waste, no matter what. I'm Food Service Director at a nursing home, and when they tell me I have to make cuts, I find creative ways to do it without hurting anyone, I don't change food quality when I make cuts. That's an example of how I operate. You can always find ways to make cuts through eliminating wasteful spending. There's CITY COUNCIL, see page 22
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. ΔΔ

**TAP plans move in July**

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 207/774-0877 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 landlord, 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. ΔΔ

**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 organization 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, RFD #1, Box 3320, Frankfort, ME 04438 or Michael Emerson, RFD #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 considered 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.

Lesbian Avengers

Target Cameron

Cameron gained national attention a few years ago by insisting that the virus which causes AIDS is airborne, thus requiring the quarantine of all suspected homosexuals. The American Psychologi­cal Association, responding to un­scientific research practices and claims made by Cameron in the past, has since censured and prohibited him from participating in their annual meetings, which attract a national audience.

As an Assistant Professor of Psych­ology at the University of Maine at Farmington, I was one of many concerned conference participants who discovered Cameron's listing in abstracts of the proceedings which were distrib­uted several weeks prior to the confer­ence.

Dr. Murray Benimoff, Executive Officer of the Eastern Psychological Association, told this reporter that unlike APA, smaller regional conferences just don’t have the legal resources to re­spond to the challenges which could have arisen if Cameron was denied ac­cess to the conference. According to Benimoff, the program committee is responsible for selecting presenters for each conference. Had it been my decision, I would have a “private right of access.” However, closer reading of the law indicated that the remedies that the court could offer were again different for lesbians and gay men. Whereas other protected classes can obtain a remedy of reinstatement and back pay, the provision of the law that deals with homophobia says the court may remedy the situation by in­junction or other means. So, if I won the case, I might just get a letter of apol­ogy.

I continue with this struggle in my daily life. What about you? Have homophobia and the virulent movement originating in the radical religious right affected you? Have you become more careful or more blatant? What are your fears, thoughts and concerns about homophobia in your community? We would love to hear from you. Please volunteer to write a column on your experiences Living with homophobia in Maine. Thanks.

Susan Reed, L.Ac.

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

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 comedy 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 that took classes hanging my bag 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 talk shows on television, late night shows. I won't get on unless they have all the time if they do a clean three.

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. 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 on stage, we stay backstage between. Sort of borderline cruel stuff about disease and death.

CPR: What makes you cry?

Suzanne: Fear. The four inside of me. Like why am I doing this? Should I have stayed a bartender. I’ve been in the Detroit Airport for three hours. I miss my girlfriend.

CPR: You’ve been described as the fem glamour queen of lesbian comedy.

SW: Imagine! Oh, whatever blows your skirt up. I think the media, in order to make a flat picture come to life, jump into labels. So the person reading the article gets a certain picture. That is not how I would describe myself. We know what we are.

CPR: A few years ago your ad campaign had a picture of you wearing a towel. What was the response?

SW: I think it was mixed. When I did that two years ago a lot of people were really into it. They got it. A lesbian doing a mish was a little funky and wild. Trust me, you don’t want to see me without the towel. I noticed after a while 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 an 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 say to Newt Gingrich?

SW: Well we can’t print that! My girlfriend described him as a paping, flag waving commode hugging asshole. You must see picture. I abhor him and his crimes—the Bob Dolec, 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 thinner. I want to be taller. Career wise, I’d like to have more power. Maybe television work. More power than women in Hollywood get. I have an agenda for getting 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 Hae 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 12th?

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 Jalbert

The Rainbow Business and Professional Organization is thegrass roots business networking branch of Carolyn Jalbert and the late Dona D. Tennant, formed in October of 1994. Carolyn and Donna there was insufficient support for gay and lesbian community professional and business owners. Portland has a Chamber of Commerce, so why couldn’t we organize, support and promote our gay business, 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 and professionals 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 Dona D. Tennant Memorial Scholarship Fund to benefit gay and lesbian youth, offering a mentorship program for gay and lesbian youth, establishing a Maine lesbian and gay credit union, gay and lesbian SCORE, producing a Business character. Whether they are right or not, nobody knows. It’s going to take someone 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 12th?

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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.

ΔΔ
The Pride Corner: Take Action

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 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 momentary compared to the result of such events.

Along with encouraging visibility, concern is the possibility of providing safety and education to deal with the resultant homophobia, particularly this year, when statistics show that biased crimes against gay and lesbians increase 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 groups, and those who may wish to start one, on what succeeds.

What ever your intent, the ride 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 project. We need interested cyclists should make contact ASAP by calling 671859-8282. 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 Chiltem Mountain Club. It features about 200 cyclists from 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 announcement has been known to iritate some of the more relaxed participants.

CHEW, from page 8

it could almost be a meal in itself. Somehow, that idea of cheese feels more 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, beat 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.

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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 Women's 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 Deeves 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.
OUT OF TOWN!
by Paul T. Bernard

I thought that this month I would go on a cruise, but the weather was not cooperating. I decided to go to Europe instead. I chose to visit several cities in France, Italy, and Spain. The weather was sunny and warm, and the food was delicious. I loved the architecture and the art. It was a great trip!
DONATION SHEET
Maine AIDS Walk '95
Sunday, May 7, 1995
1:00 p.m.
RAIN OR SHINE

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

| Walker's Name:                  |
| Address:                        |
| City/State/Zip:                 |
| Telephone (day):                |
| (eve.):                         |
| Team Name: (if applicable)      |

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  CPR
GENERAL INFORMATION
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
Belfast -- 338-1427
Brunswick -- 725-4955
Ellsworth -- 667-3506
Hallowell/Augusta -- 626-3435
Waterville -- 873-1127
Lewiston/Auburn -- 786-4697
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 NAMES Project/Maine

Portland Walk proceeds will benefit:
The AIDS Lodging House People With AIDS Coalition of 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 or 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 Bahamas 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 Bahamas Give-Away Prize Package.**