Community Pride Reporter, 07/1995

Community Pride Reporter

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Former volunteer of Concerned Maine Families tells what it was like in Cosby's inner circle.

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

The Community Pride Reporter (CPR) recently spoke to a former employee of Concerned Maine Families (CMF) who worked as a secretary for Carolyn Cosby, CMF's leader, but decided she disagreed with CMF's drive to deny civil rights to homosexuals.

Suzen shared her views of the organization and some of its members with CPR.

Q: How did you get to know Carolyn Cosby?

A: I first met Carolyn through her son, Mark, became we went to the same church and were good friends and I would go over to her house to visit Mark.

Q: How did you get involved in CMF?

A: I guess it was my last year in school that I began my involvement with CMF. I had a gay teacher and I never had one before. I remember calling Carolyn because she was really active in the gay issue.

Also, I had met Jonathan Malmude at Carolyn's and I knew he was a professor so I asked them what freedom a teacher had in class to teach their own opinions and so forth. It started out as a curiosity thing and then they really picked up on it and tried to make it bigger than it was.

At the time, I was really naive to that... and after awhile I realized, in listening to them, the extent of their animosity towards people just because they were gay, no other reason, in the same way people judged Rosa Parks - just because she was black. Later I thought there was something I could do to stop Carolyn. I decided I wanted to help stop the referendum because I realized the evilness behind it. They were judging people on stuff that had nothing to do with who someone really is.

Q: Give me an example of the kind of things they would say that would show judgment.

A: They'd say stuff like, "They're disgusting, they're evil."

Q: Why? Why were "They disgusting?"

A: Just because they wanted to show affection to someone of the same gender, that's it, that was it. They would make all these comments that were not true. It was their perception, but it wasn't reality. That's what really started opening my eyes to the negativity that was behind it all, and I wanted to do something to change it but I wasn't sure how. I knew I was real close to them and that they had asked me before to volunteer at anytime.

At first I started volunteering because I wanted to know more about what the gay issue was and to find out for myself if I was thinking the wrong way.

See CMF, page 20

SYMPOSIUM XXI - a huge success

by Bob Coffey

Maine's 21st Lesbian and Gay Symposium came off with nary a hitch over the Memorial Day weekend. Hosted by Northern Lambda Nord and held on the campus of the University of Maine at Presque Isle, Symposium XXI attracted over 125 people, drawn from regions as far-flung as Portsmouth, New Hampshire and Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. They were attracted by an ambitious program of speakers, workshops, social events, films and the promise of down home Acroostook cooking. The organizers of this year's gathering hoped to mark the occasion of Symposium's 21st anniversary by calling on conference participants to reflect upon the history of our community as it has evolved over the past two decades. Tagging the conference with the theme "Coming of Age," organizers drew analogies between Maine's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered communities to that of a person reaching adulthood. Given the political turmoil that Carolyn Cosby and her right-wing extremists have thrust Maine's gay community into, what better time to pause and take stock.

Comedian, Karen Williams taught the crowd how to snap in rhythm.

Kate Schrock-See Artist Profile, pg. 16

See Symposium, page 8

A House Divided

Peabody House. Is the house that love built headed for a divorce? Conflict in Peabody House

We have seen the house lose its vision says volunteer

Controversy and confusion surround philosophy of care

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

"He'd call my mother from Peabody House in the middle of the night saying, 'I can't get the nurse, she's down stairs in the kitchen but she won't come up and see me.' He had to go to the bathroom or something and he'd ring and ring and ring and no one would show up," said Peter Bernier about his twin brother, Paul Bernier, who died May 31, 1995, at the South Portland home of former Peabody House volunteer, Caroline Greenleaf. Paul had left Peabody House three weeks earlier. He was 39 years old.

Paul Bernier came home to Maine from San Francisco to die. He

See House, page 2
Maine Won't Discriminate
Chapter contacts & meeting times

Arroostook County:
PO Box 853
Caribou, ME 04736

Dick Harrison-207/896-5726

Lincoln County (Wiscasset):
Clarks Cove Road
Walpole, ME 04573
Tom Gould-207/563-2269

Bangor:
PO Box 963
Bangor, ME 04402

Jim Martin-207/990-3420

Meetings: 1st Sunday, 4-6 PM
359 Main St, Bangor

Biddeford:
12 Fortune Rocks Rd.
Biddeford, ME 04005

Barry Horn-207/286-3718

Meeting: April 25, 6:30 PM
UNE-March Hall, Rm 216

Brunswick/Bath:
PO Box 245
Brunswick, ME 04011

Punnie Edgerton-207/729-4930

Tina Phillips-207/729-4930

Capitol Area:
Maple Hill Farms
RR #1, Box 1175

Hallowell, ME 04347

Scott Cowger-207/622-7208

Cheryl Ring-207/26-1018

Meetings: 6:30 PM, Apr 26, May 10 & 25, at Maple Hill

Hancock County:
PO Box 273
Ellsworth, ME 04605

Peter Reese-207/667-2358

Ruth Blackburn-207/276-0503

Meetings: 3rd Sunday, 4:00 PM
UU Church, Bucksport Rd.

Kennebunk Area:
Interim Contact:
Steve Burr 207/585-1468

Meeting: 6:30 pm

2nd & 4th Tuesdays
Call for location

Lewiston:
PO. Box 3485
Auburn, ME 04212-3485

Ester Turner-207/783-6964

Campaign Manager: Amy Pritchard, 1-800-761-1788
PO Box 11661, Portland Maine 04104

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House from page 1
entered Peabody House, March 3, 1995 and left, May 8, 1995 never to return. He then went to Mercy Hospital, for two weeks and it was then that he and his family decided the best place for him was not Peabody House. Paul went to Caroline's home on May 20, 1995 and died there of complications from AIDS, 11 days later.

The Bernier's dissatisfaction with the care Paul received at Peabody House is not a matter of negligence. It is the result of a difference of opinion between Administration, support staff and volunteers regarding the definition and application of a client-centered model of care.

The recent resignation of Sandy Titus, founder and Board member of Peabody House, reflects the deepening conflict over the type of care model used with people who are in the final stages of HIV disease.

Peabody House, located at 14 Orchard Street, Portland, was founded by Sandy Titus, Franennie Peabody, Chris Behan, Mallory Marshall and Peter Haffnerferre. These founders, with the recent resignation of Sandy Titus, reflect the continued search for a model of care that will allow the provider to work as part of a decision making team with the doctor, the nurse and the social worker.

In a meeting in April, the Board of Directors, in session for three years in hospice care, Wolters was recruited from Minneapolis. Wolters accepted a six month contract in January to set up Peabody House opting instead to die at the port of his advocate, Caroline Greenleaf.

Paul Bernier returned from San Francisco to die at Peabody House. He left in a medical emergency but chose not to return to Peabody House opting instead to die at the port of his advocate, Caroline Greenleaf.

Wolters said the care they provide is, "client-centered, which is defined by the individual who is ill participating in the total care plan." Peter Haffnerferre, President of the Board of Directors and one of the original five founders of Peabody House, endorses this definition. Bill Toth, AIDS activist, new Board member, and a person with AIDS (PWA) for seven years also agrees with this definition. CPR met with and interviewed those three people, May 31, 1995.

On the other hand, Chris Monahan, an AIDS case manager interprets the definition of client-centered care differently. He said, "I don't think people realize how radical a truly client-centered philosophy is. If treatment is really client-centered, the client is not a part of the care, the client directs the care team. The doctors, the nurses, the social workers are part of the care team. Their job is to make sure the client has the data to make informed choices. I know from experience that this can be a very difficult model for the provider to work with."

Monahan felt uncomfortable discussing the split at Peabody House publicly but he said, "I think everyone involved with the HIV community is very concerned that Peabody House be successful. The community desperately needs Peabody House but no program is above criticism nor should it be. What is sacred here is the mission to serve the people regardless of their type of care model used.

"The disagreement in emphasis on this client-centered mission statement that has divided the staff and volunteers of Peabody House. Quite simply, one school of thought sees the client as the director of his care, and that the job of caregivers is to give the best information possible and then follow the client's wishes, whether staff likes them or not. The other school of thought suggests that the client is part of a decision making team. When asked what happens when the client disagrees with the team's decision Marg Wolters, Executive Director of Peabody House said, "We don't have that."

Titus recruited Wolters from Minneapolis. Wolters accepted a six month contract in January to set up Peabody House Home Health Care Services, that job is nearly accomplished. Mallory Marshall, who is no longer on the Board of Directors, said that Wolters is likely to move on in July.

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The disagreement in emphasis on this client's role in his/her care may seem like so much hair-splitting, but these differences have very real consequences.

Peter Bernier said dealing with Peabody House, "became very frustrating because it seemed like the care they were trying to provide did not sync up with the same type of image we had in mind."

See House, page 4
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House from page 2

tially expected, which was client-centric. Paul was very emphatic about basic things such as going to the bathroom on his own. He didn't want to be catheterized or use a bedpan. He wanted to get out of bed and go to the bathroom - those things were important. It seemed like there was an issue with the people providing the care they didn't want to. They wanted to have him catheterized and they never even consulted me. I was his power of attorney."

Caroline Greenleaf was a volunteer at Peabody House. She became Paul Bernier's advocate and his primary caregiver. Paul chose to go to Caroline's house to die rather than return to Peabody House. Greenleaf describes her experience as an advocate by saying, "In our volunteer training we were told to be advocates for our clients and I feel I was discouraged from doing that. I am a very strong advocate and I admit that. I feel that ultimately I was punished for it and Paul was punished for it. I don't know what my status is at the House, nobody has ever called me. I know that a third party called the Bernier family and told them that if Paul should return to the house that I would not be allowed in the house even though I was his primary caregiver, that was amended 45 minutes later to say that I would not be allowed in the house as a volunteer but if Paul insisted on his presence they couldn't prevent that. Nobody has ever contacted me to let me know where I stand as a volunteer at the House."

In a letter to the Peabody House Board of Directors, April 29, 1995, Caroline Greenleaf wrote, "As a volunteer, I have worked at the House since our first resident adopted it as his final home. The time I devote to this organization is now averaging between fifteen and thirty hours a week. I am there every day not just medical needs; in fact, I am there five hours a week. I am there every day not just medical needs; in fact, I am there five hours a week. Because I have nothing else to do (I am self-employed and a single parent) but because I have come to deeply care about the people I have encountered at Peabody House, and because I am not convinced that this organization has as its primary goal, the care of the incredibly wonderful individuals who reside there. The word "care" encompasses not just medical needs; in this case, it must mean love, concern, support, honor. What Peabody House is not right now is a place with heart. It has become a sterile, unfeeling, unresponsive business. The residents and their families and loved ones who look to Peabody house as a "home" soon find that it is a unilateral concept that is only given lip service by the administration."

The backbone of the House is the group of volunteers that devotes time, energy and brings to the House immeasurable quantities of love. Without exception, the direct care volunteers I have spoken with are there because of Sandy Thitus and Frannie Balboni. I know that if I may represent that we, the direct care volunteers, share the vision first seen by these two women, and, again without exception, we have seen the House lose the vision. Some of the most dedicated volunteers are already declaring that they will no longer be involved. The struggles and frustrations have become too overwhelming, and a severe morale problem has developed. As one volunteer so aptly put it, we feel that our major job as volunteers has become 'to protect the residents from Peabody House.' I hope you find that shocking."

In an interview, June 1, 1995, "Greenleaf re-confirmed these statements, adding, "I would never go there (Peabody House) to live out the last weeks of my life and I would never let anybody I love go there to live out the last weeks or months of that. To me it says it all."

Frannie Balboni, longtime AIDS activist responded, June 6, 1995, stating "Any new organization has trouble to start with and there are some people who've blown it way out of proportion and that just makes it hard for us." The view that whatever problems there may be at Peabody House are the result of "growing pains" is shared by a number of people.

Marg Wolters emphasized, "Peabody House exists to serve PWAs, if there are situations that develop, that's only a natural, normal process - we're all working together for the same goal. What's happening is that Peabody House is developing its structures so that we can work in the community and fulfill our vision - these include following rules and regulations for licensing. Plus, we need lots of people to support what we're doing and we need to develop policies and procedures to achieve our goals. In that process there may be disagreements."

Bill Toth took me on a tour of Peabody House, May 31, 1995. The first time I had seen it was at the groundbreaking when it was a shell. The renovations are beautiful. The second floor consists of several client rooms. Each room is separately designed, maintaining decorative integrity. Each room has a sink, bureau, bed and other furniture suitable for a bedroom. There is a central bathroom. The second floor also has a meeting room, office/library and administrative space. The library is well stocked and there is a picture of the Pope on the See House, page 5
The third floor, which I did not see, is the apartment for a live-in staff. Sandy Titus did live there. It is now unoccupied.

The first floor has a front living room, several client rooms, central bathroom and a beautiful wrap-around kitchen which opens on to a porch leading into a gorgeous backyard garden. The basement has a unique sitting area which faces the garden. Large windows here break that basement feeling and give it more of a greenhouse effect. There is an elevator to all floors rendering the facility fully wheelchair accessible.

A volunteer who spoke to CPR on condition of anonymity said, "They're (the Board) doing what they think is right for those clients, but they want to have it all neat and tidy and scheduled, so it'll be all neat and it isn't that way for people who are dying, it just isn't, and things aren't always on schedule and you don't eat when you're supposed to and they're trying to make an institution out of it rather than a home and it is like an institution, it's like a nursing home and that's not what we want."

Bill Toth added later that, "The people need to know that we're really trying to alleviate the problems there are at the house and like any new organization there are bound to be situations that come up. With every new person moving in there are a host of new challenges. Everyone has an individual personality. For example, they don't like fish or they don't want someone touching them or they do want people touching them. It's a unique situation every time someone moves into the house."

He concluded by saying, "We really need to trust the Board. I honestly feel we can make the necessary changes. I want to get on with the business of taking care of people who are dying of AIDS. The really important issue is, yes, some of these people over the last few months maybe didn't get the kind of care some thought they should have, but I believe they did. I believe it will be a fantastic organization when it's finished."

Peter Haffenreffer, President of the Board at Peabody House said, "Any start up thing is not always going to be an easy street whether it be a business, a health care facility or whatever it is. We're always learning, there's a learning curve."

Sandy Titus who has championed client-centered care and who now prefers to call it client-directed care submitted the following letter to the Peabody house Board of Directors, mid-May, 1995. "We are here to affirm the vision and mission we have promised people living with the virus, the community who has been so supportive, and ourselves. I believe we all agree that the present situation is untenable.

The primary issue for me is our commitment to client-centered care, and what we could further state, is whole-person care. That is, the care of the soul and of the heart is every bit as important as care of the body. The Peabody House dream came out of the community, people with AIDS were not meeting their basic needs.

The most basic of these in my view is psychological safety, the reassurance that someone is really there for you, is truly present to you, will value you needs above their own. The most outstanding theme in the lives of the scores and scores of people living with the virus that I have been privileged to know intimately, is the need to have people LISTEN to them.

In fact, we have had people at Peabody House already who have not been meeting their needs for a long time. AIDS is a disease of losses. We may experience acting out around requests or demands for systems or things or food to be a certain way. It is a challenge to remember what is really going on and for some, to find joy in meeting that need. Caregivers need support for a paradigm shift in how they might see things.

Is a man asking for strawberries to be cut a certain way or for meat loaf or for Shepherd's pie trying to be difficult or desperately trying to remember foods that taste good to halt the wasting disease which is ravaging his body and taking his life. And couldn't there be a component of testing to see if anyone is really there for him?"

In addition to affording them safety, I believe we have an obligation to people coming to us to offer them sanctuary, a place where they will be affirmed for being who they are, loved and valued as incredible individuals who happen to have a virus in their bodies. This is far more than being sure they have meals and baths and beds changed. Just as Peabody House is meant to be a beautiful, people and systems need to be very well organized to make life in it as peaceful and serene as possible.

Volunteers, Board and staff alike need to have mentoring, leadership and support to accomplish all of the above. Not very many people have had the opportunity to view life in this way, much less live it out in the work setting.

That leads to another issue, is Peabody House a home or an institution. It was founded as a home which does not infer it should not be a very well run business, with heart. People with AIDS, almost without exception want to be at home as they get sicker and sicker but for some, since there is no primary caregiver, they need a new home where they have that support. That is how Peabody House becomes their family. Family is about relationships and I believe healing of the heart and spirit comes out of that, if it is authentic.

Another issue, I believe is AIDS..."
expertise, and informed comment. The constellation of illnesses and conditions associated with AIDS is very complex and requires a great deal of expertise, and I would say, investment. Gay men with AIDS have been the leaders in challenging the medical system with their knowledge and expertise and demand that they receive what they need. Unfortunately, in this epidemic, advocacy is an essential component, not only for basic care but for the team approach or client-centered model. Health care providers are on the team only by invitation of those with the disease, and I believe have an obligation to creatively problem-solve with the person, offering information of benefits and consequences of any treatment modality or medication, and then supporting the personal decision of the person with HIV. This concept is difficult for physicians and nurses, often requiring again, a paradigm shift from the medical model in which they are trained. I know this well as I have been a leader in that cause and am considered a “problem” as a result of some health care providers in the community.

Another issue is homophobia and AIDS phobia. I cannot avoid the feeling that much of what is happening at Peabody House may be just that. It can be very insidious and takes open-ness, education and support to overcome. We have staff without diversity training or support around their fears and prejudices and largely without life experience in the gay community and culture.

In addition to the above issues, I believe we have a crisis of care in the house and a public relations crisis in the community. I would like to propose the following immediate solution: That rather than be an Executive Director at this time, Marg be made the Director of Peabody House Services to set up the Home Health Agency which is deemed necessary to financially support the house, or, if on assessment, that is not feasible at this time, to spearhead fundraising efforts.

I propose that because of the depth of my expertise and experience in hospice, AIDS care, this community and Peabody House, and my understanding of all of the above issues, I be made Interim Director of Peabody House itself and be given the authority to address the above and the following priorities (in no order):

- Boarding home rules and regulations spelled out clearly with tight paper compliance, waivers of some rules obtained if necessary. This done with the help of volunteers and Board Members and myself. Being a well run efficient business in no ways need to conflict with the vision or concepts outlined above.
- The house be rendered physically functional to support care, which includes at a minimum, in each room, linen shelves, bureau for clothes and surfaces for personal and medical supplies, shelf above sink, paper towel and glove holders, two large wastebaskets. Also essential is systems, such as laundry and kitchen, telephone and others. The house needs to be efficiently organized in order to do the work.
- Mentoring in loving compassionate client-centered care and an attitude of service, with affirmation replacing divisiveness, role protection, and condescension.
- Rejection with the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA), The AIDS Project (TAP) and other community organizations.
- Offer to live on the third floor with my support system in order to be “house mother” of the family, guarantee continuity of care, to be present for teaching and leadership and for crisis intervention and support. My room and board will serve as my compensation until such time as we can calm down the present crisis and have the opportunity to pull back and evaluate the reality of what we have embarked upon. I see this as an immediate endeavor, not to make me more important than I am or indispensable but to build a solid core of people to do the work and to include others in the ever widening circles.
- I always have been and am intensely loyal and committed to everyone living with the virus, to the founders, to all of you and to Peabody House. For me, it is a way of life. I gratefully share it with any and all, excluding none. From the beginning, I have never asked or expected others to have the same level of expertise or to expend the same amount of time and energy as I do. I ask now that I value the gifts all of you bring that you value mine and give me the opportunity to live out our vision, which means all of us coming together committed to client affirmation and love and the belief that within this, all of us together can learn to be more of who we are meant to be as human beings. We need each other.

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Frannie Peabody and Sandy Titus. Frannie wants Sandy involved in Peabody House. Frannie said, “It’s her dream, too.”

Sandy Titus
Titus claims she has not received an official response to this letter. Haffenreffer said, “She (Titus) has already sat in on a meeting where we have talked to her . . . the demands in her letter are something that probably wouldn’t work.”

Any organization needs several months to iron out its bumps but the question is, what kind of an organization will it be when that process is finished. According to Sandy Titus, she was asked by the Board to move out of Peabody House in mid-March. She said they did this because, “I told them I was very tired and not feeling supported, the house wasn’t finished, the nurses aides weren’t trained. I was crying out and they decided that the problem was that they had asked me to move into the house but I said that isn’t the problem at all and there’s obviously differences between Marg and myself and from the time the house opened I was there working on call - if you’re going to take health care personnel who are trained on the medical model you need to model for them and train them and teach them. First of all its client-centered care but then why don’t we talk about HIV and AIDS care.”

Haffenreffer said Titus was not told to move out, but concedes that, “Maybe she feels that’s what happened.” In mid-April Titus stopped going to Peabody House altogether because of further breakdown in communications with other staff regarding medications. Rumors regarding an investigation by the Board regarding Titus was not confirmed. Bob Steinberg, Assistant Director of the Division of Licensing and Certification for Boarding Homes said he is unaware of any such investigation, adding that if the Board of Nursing was conducting such an investigation, he would know. Titus’ absence from Peabody House had a direct impact on the Bertners.

Bernier family dissatisfied
Peter Bernier said, “While Paul was in the hospital we discussed several options and that’s when Caroline offered...”
to have him at her home. I agonized over that, quite a lot, I want to tell you because that was a pretty tough decision to make. “Paul had a big say in that because he wanted Caroline and Sandy Titus directly involved in his care and that was not going to happen at Peabody House, Nan Murphy (filling in for Marg Wolters) had already told us that they were not welcome there anymore.”

Peter Bernier described the circumstances of Paul’s not returning to Peabody House from Mercy Hospital — “He wanted out of the hospital, the IVs had done such a wonderful job with him and also Caroline, because they had done such a wonderful job with him and they did. It was unbelievable the amount of love and compassion and care that they gave him. It was unreal, we were just totally flabbergasted as a family, the level of care these people who didn’t know him gave to him.

“Nothing had changed in terms of philosophy at Peabody House. I didn’t see any big changes, they still only had one person there on duty. I talked to Lee Urban, Chris Behan (Board members) and a number of others on the Peabody House Board, I explained all of this to them in detail, how we felt about what was going on. Some of the Board members were new to the Board and they didn’t realize what was going on. This is a very clear picture of an organization that hasn’t been fully developed and does not understand what their vision is. I think they know what they want to do, but to put it in motion, they just were at the beginning stages and were not really experienced enough as a group to facilitate it, in my eyes. I don’t think it’s that they weren’t trying, I think it’s just they didn’t know how.

The Board members were compasionate. I was not trying to make trouble but to do what was best for my brother.”

Marg Wolters responded to the Berniers specific complaint that she was unavailable to them by saying, “I can only say that I spent many hours with the Berniers, with Mrs. Bernier sitting in my office, so there is a contradiction to that statement. It’s all in perception and its based on need. When somebody is really overwhelmed, they’re going to believe their needs aren’t met.

“That family was so overwhelmed, there were many issues regarding family dynamics. It’s their perception to say I wasn’t available to them, but I was available to them, so it’s a quandary. I understand where they’re coming from because they were really overwhelmed with what was happening to their son and a lot had to do with relationships and a lot had to do with past issues.

“I encouraged them, if we were not going to meet their needs they could take Paul home, I would do that with families in my own hospice, or if I was working in any other organization. Sometimes you’re really not able to meet the need, you’re not the service that is meant for them. They need to move on because I don’t want to interfere with what needs to be done, because they’ve only got one chance. Their son is not
SYMPOSIUM from page 1

of where we’ve been, where we are and where we’re going.

Appropriately enough, Symposium XXI began with an address by Mary Bonauto, the intrepid Boston attorney leading the legal challenge against both Cosby’s ghastly “Concerned Maine Families” and against the antievolution organizers of Boston’s St. Patrick’s Day parade.

Bonauto effectively outlined the legal history of the American lesbian and gay civil rights movement, touching on key victories and failures in its slow, jerky march towards societal equality.

She posited that, no matter how bumpy the ride, legal battles ultimately play a crucial role in the gay rights movement, as they provide lesbians and gay with an opportunity to air their grievances in a habitually hostile social and political environment. Responding to one aggrieved gay teen’s testimonial of peer abuse in school and the lack of response from the school’s administration, Bonauto advised the youth to take down her phone number, earning her spontaneous applause from the audience.

After Bonauto’s keynote address, Symposium participants scattered across the nearly deserted university campus, bound for sessions on sexuality, political organizing, women’s health and the inevitable P-FLAG, complete with kindly and supportive parents; enough to wrench a tear from even the most jaded Queen National. Conference-goers came together again in the evening for a one-two punch of entertainment on stage at UMPI’s Weiden Auditorium, renamed “Noel Coward Auditorium” for the occasion by organizers. A contingent of chorus members from the Maine Gay Men’s Chorus, dubbing themselves “the Maritones,” offered up a far-ranging selection of music to a clearly delighted audience, who seemed to enjoy the stage-whispered banter between individual Maritones nearly as much as the concert itself.

Following the Maritones, Karen Williams, a fiercely funny African-American lesbian comedian, took to the stage in a brilliant hour-long performance that left audience members gasping for breath between each guffaw. Skewering cow after sacred cow, Williams took on the lesbian predilection for camping, dental dams (which she labelled a conspiracy foisted on lesbians by dentists anxious to empty their store-rooms of the odd little latex squares), and even conducted the briefest of workshops - how to map in rhythm, for the benefit of several amused Maritones.

At the conclusion of her remarkable tour de force, Williams answered questions from appreciative audience members, which led into a poignant narrative on Williams’ coming out story, her experiences working in the black comedy circuit, and her recent reunion with her, whom she gave up for adoption over two decades ago.

Symposium revelers capped the evening’s festivities with a dance in UM-Preque Isle’s sleek campus center. At times, with a dapper bartender busily taking drink orders, steady traffic to and from an attractive balcony and a floor packed with enthusiastic dancers, it appeared at times as if a gay bar had crashed, fixtures intact, in the middle of Preque Isle. Judging from the delirious grins spotted on many faces (many of whom habitually travel several hours to reach gay night spots), it apparently felt like that as well.

The following morning brought with it the second keynote address. Tuma Young, a charismatic Mi’kmaq from Eskasoni, Nova Scotia, recounted her experiences as a self-described “punoi,” or “two-spirited” person, as a means of comprehending the integral relationship between spirituality and sexuality as it is understood by the Mi’kmaq. Young called upon clearly moved audience members to recognize and cherish both sides of themselves - male and female - and to disallow one from dominating the other. His highly personal narrative also revealed the history of oppression imposed upon the Mi’kmaq people by European missionaries, who labeled their attitudes towards sexuality sinful, and murdered many of Young’s two-spirited antecedents.

Lured by a near-perfect spring day, many conference-goers defected from afternoon workshops in favor of frisbee-tossing, sun worshiping or shopping in Preque Isle’s gleaming new mall. Those that chose to remain had the option of participating in a cancer-screening clinic offered by Bangor’s Mabel Wadsworth Women’s Health Center, several workshops, and even a Clinton-era “town meeting”, in which panel members from all over the region debated and discussed the future of Maine’s gay rights movement. After dinner, local volunteers donned tuxedo shirts and staffed games of chance for Symposium’s “Casino Night”, a fund-raiser originally intended to offset the cost of a toll-free statewide hotline; but, in the wake of the last minute loss of grant monies, proceeds were hastily redirected to paying off the costs of the conference itself. A handful of casino chips earned players any number of chances to win prizes donated by various individuals and businesses.

After the glorious sunshine of the previous day, Monday disappointed. While not the best weather for a send-off, the cold, monotonous rain sufficiently motivated conference participants, who hurriedly vacated dorm rooms and packed cars, anxious to begin the journey home. Led by Tuma Young, folks participated in a closing circle, which officially concluded Symposium XXI. After numerous hugs and good-byes, people streamed out of the campus center in twos and threes, bound for the parking lot, legging note-books crammed with e-mail addresses and telephone numbers.

Will we meet again? It’s hard to say for sure, but depending on who you talk to, you might very well start looking for news of Symposium XXII sometime soon, perhaps hosted by Bar Harbor’s College of the Atlantic, or Unity College in Unity. In any case, whichever group decides to shoulder the responsibility for hosting this truly marvelous event, they are going to have a hard act to follow.

Thank you / Merci, Northern Lambda Nord. ΔΔ
AROUND THE STATE & NATION

by Malcolm Smith

BANGOR: The judge who presided over the 1984 trial of Charlie Howard’s three killers was disbarred by the Maine Supreme Judicial Court May 22.

Former District Court Judge David Sheehan, who was criticized by some gay activists and others for treating the three youths as juveniles rather than adults during the trial, issuing them shorter jail sentences, was disbarred for illegal real estate practices.

As sophisticated as we think we have become, it is horrifying to realize that we have failed in the past, and we will continue to fail in the future in emphasizing the value of human life, the value of human rights so that our teaching might curb these irrational acts," Cox said in his Bangor courtroom before sentencing Howard’s killers almost 11 years ago. The 63-year-old Cox, now retired with a medical disability, had no comment on his disbarment. ▲

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.: The wardrobe of some unruly prisoners in Alabama are about to get more colorful – hot pink to be exact.

Fifty of the loud-colored uniforms have been ordered by that state’s prison system to use as punishment for male prisoners who expose themselves to female guards.

Prison officials hope the heeling from other inmates will change offending prisoner’s attitudes, they said, because nothing else has worked. ▲

Where There’s a Will, There’s a Way

by Peter Callahan

How many of us put off the drafting of a Will? I would hazard a guess that many do. In my work as a financial planner the reasons I usually hear include, "I don’t own anything of value," and "I'm too young now. I'll do it when I'm older." The fact is that Wills aren’t only for wealthy or elderly people. The purpose of a Will is to let your survivors know what you would like to have happen with your possessions (estate) after you’ve died. A Will is defined as a legal declaration which provides instructions for the distribution of property after death. It will relieve your survivors of the responsibility for determining what you would have wanted to be done. You should consider contacting a qualified attorney to assist you in drafting your Will.

What does it take to do a Will?

In the State of Maine something as simple as a hand written one (a holographic Will) can suffice. It must be signed, dated and witnessed in your own handwriting. It should state that it is intended to be your Will and if possible, witnessed by someone. Those are the basic requirements, not too hard to meet.

See WILL, page 25

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PRIDE PIER DANCE

The Biggest Party-Maine has ever Seen!

Friday, June 16th 9pm - 1am

Maine State Pier Commercial St., Portland Maine

$5.00 Cash Bar 21+ Vaid ID required

D.J.s: Jack Clark, Lisa Vaccaro, Micheal Giller, Leigh Lane. Lighting by David Jury of Jersey Shore Man Operations.

For more info and/or to volunteer, please call 207/288-1152.

Tickets for a Week-end long Festival of Pride! Rally - Pride Interfaith Service - Block Party - Parade - Festival - Art Show - Gay Men’s Chorus & Fittalongs - Irene Theater - Name’s Quilt & Harbor Cruise - Miss Gay Maine Pageant & More!

For admission to advance ticket holders only.

Get your Tix at any Hortorizon Box Office Location at CIT 145 Kennebec Street 772-5696.

ADMISSION TO ADVANCE TICKET HOLDERS ONLY.

PRIDE PIER DANCE

11 am - 2 am

Saturday, June 17th

Maine State Pier from 1295 - Franklin St easter to e.

For advance info and/or to volunteer, please call 207/773-4252.

MAINE GAY PRIDE WEEKEND

June 16th - June 18th

PRIDE PIER DANCE

The Biggest Party-Maine has ever Seen!

Friday, June 16th 9pm - 1am

Maine State Pier Commercial St., Portland Maine

$5.00 Cash Bar 21+ Vaid ID required

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Saturday, June 17th

Maine State Pier from 1295 - Franklin St easter to e.

For advance info and/or to volunteer, please call 207/773-4252.

Benefits:

The International Network is to generate prevention, research and treatment of AIDS. It has a mission that says, "The mission of U.N.I. is, to provide, in the United States and the world, a network of benefits and services to the gay community with an information hub. We have the information that says, "The mission of U.N.I. is, to provide, in the United States and the world, a network of benefits and services to the gay community with an information hub. We have the information that they need and want to make that happen. The U.N.I. is a 501(c)(3) organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. There is a 24 hour toll free national and international line with operators to provide members with information on any number of issues. There is discount shopping, dental program, discount vision service and student grant program available.

If you are interested, or if you are skeptical, the company asks, 'Let’s talk.' They will send you information. Ask tough questions. My impression is that they want the tough questions, they want people to make an informed choice about joining the U.N.I. family.

The way you do that is by getting involved in the network. There are over 500 different organizations that are now calling U.N.I. to give us real discounts — and even donate a portion of their profits to our needs."

According to Kerr, major companies are now calling U.N.I. to be included in the U.N.I. benefits and services package.

Our members, while realizing substantial personal savings on their daily expenditures, are contributing directly to the fight against AIDS."

In a letter from William Sheehan, President and founder of U.N.I., he says, "Eighteen months ago, secure in my own little world, I had the idea of providing the gay community with an information hub. I knew there were publications out there that provided information on bars, clubs, etc., but I wanted to create a database of every company and establishment that was gay owned or gay friendly." His letter goes on to say how his research led him to the realization that he was proud to be gay and angry about the treatment our community receives around civil rights. He also began to feel rage against AIDS and the problems of insurance cancellations, hugy medical bills, and the fear he overheard every day in our society's PWA’s face.

What began as "...a business of my own and something I could run from the safety of my home," turned into a strong desire to do something that would make a difference - a real difference. "Using an idea from a credit card company offer he received to join their club and save on hotel/motel accommodations, Sheehan realized the credit card company could offer discounts because of their "clout." His supposition was that with millions of people in the gay community, we can have "enough clout to get major companies to give us real discounts - and even donate a portion of their profits to our needs."

According to Kerr, major companies are now calling U.N.I. to be included in the U.N.I. benefits and services package. Days Inn, Hertz, Avis, Howard Johnson, Alamo Rent A Car, Thrifty Car Rental, IGTA (International Gay Travel Association), MFT Life Insurance, plus many more companies are part of the network of benefits and services offered by U.N.I. to its members.

Annual membership rates are $99 for an individual, $159 co-habitant, and $79 for students. Of the membership fee, $40 is donated by U.N.I. to the U.N.I. Charitable Foundation for the research, prevention and treatment of AIDS. The Foundation is a qualified charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. In addition, several of the companies have arrangements where a percentage of what you purchase goes to the Foundation.

There is a 24 hour toll free national and international line with operators to provide members with information on any number of issues. There is discount shopping, dental program, discount vision service and student grant program available.

If you are interested, or if you are skeptical, the company asks, 'Let’s talk.' They will send you information. Ask tough questions. My impression is that they want the tough questions, they want people to make an informed choice about joining the U.N.I. family. Their number is 1-800-468-5864. ▲
Well, when we weren’t looking, summer arrived. Okay, okay, a tantalizing hot day or two came and went. It reminded me of how many activities are available in Maine and surrounding areas and how little time I’ve given myself to enjoy them. In July, Community Pride Reporter will be two years old and we will have published an edition each month for those two years. This year, we are taking a month off. Bruce and I have worked very hard all year without any significant time away from the office. All of our contributors have been faithful to their tasks as well. In mid-July we will put out a truly summer issue, July/August and then relax a bit from deadlines and typing and ad sales and all the other things that go into making CPR a newspaper. Publication will resume again in early September. Be thinking about dates for coming events, articles you are longing to write, etc., etc. And—have some fun.

June 16 and 17 is Pride weekend with a host of things to do. Get together with friends and really show your Pride! Celebrate who we are as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. See the complete schedule of activities on page 13.

I want to take a moment to thank Skip Brushaber for his service to the community and this paper. Skip did a great job with our Arts & Entertainment pages as Editor. It was a great deal of help to both Bruce and me. We wish Skip well in his new adventures whatever they might be, and we are grateful that he shared his talent and wisdom with us and with the community through these pages. He will be missed. I also want to publicly thank Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor of CPR, for the commitment and hard work he brings to us all. His investigative aptitude has produced many fine stories for CPR and this month is no exception. His piece on Peabody House and the young man whose obituary is on this page is outstanding. Thanks, Bruce. I love you. Celebrate PRIDE. We have much to be proud of!

In Solidarity, 

Winnie

OBITUARY

Paul E. Bernier
Artist, dancer, model

SOUTH PORTLAND: Paul E. Bernier, 39, formerly of Westbrook and San Francisco, died on Wednesday, May 31, of complications of AIDS at his residence on Pleasant Street.

He was born in Portland, a son of Edward Jerome and Lucille A. Bernier. He graduated from Westbrook High School in 1974. He later graduated from the Portland School of Art and studied the following year in Paris.

After Mr. Bernier completed his art studies, he moved to San Francisco and worked as an artist, sculptor and clothing model. He was a gifted dancer and competed extensively in dance competitions.

He recently moved to South Portland. Survivors include his parents of Peabody House and the young man whose obituary is on this page is outstanding. Thanks, Bruce. I love you. Celebrate PRIDE. We have much to be proud of!

In Solidarity, 

Winnie

GUEST EDITORIAL

Why Pride?
by Flora Piterak,
NH Pride Committee Chair

Did you go to the March on Washington in 79? How about '87 or maybe '93? Did you attend Stonewall 25? Where were you for the last seven marches on Concord, NH? Why PRIDE—what’s it all about? It’s about us, you and me. It’s about going from Silence to Celebration. It’s about closets and knowing that there’s something wrong about having to live, love and celebrate behind closed doors.

PRIDE is: A sense of one’s own proper dignity or value; self-respect.

When we march, we are no longer rendered invisible. We are making a statement. We are here, and we’re not going back into a closet or a dimly lit bar in a back alley. We are marching for ourselves, for those still in the closet, for our own dignity.

It is so important to be visible and active right now. The political and religious right are working as hard as they can to make us feel that we should be invisible, and ashamed of who we are.

Another definition of PRIDE is: A company of Lions.

A lion is brave and ferocious. Come be a Lion. ∆∆

These comments first appeared in the New Hampshire Reporter, June 1995 Edition and are reprinted in CPR with the gracious permission of the author.
BUSINESS PROFILE: The Dream Part of Our Spiritual Journey

by Winnie Weir, Publishing Editor

Rick Bouchard is a dreamer and he wants to assist and support other dreamers. His business is called The Dream Part of Our Spiritual Journey, and I asked Rick how he would describe himself and what he does with groups.

"As facilitator, I see myself as teacher, support, and spiritual guide. The leader and group members offer dream theory, techniques for working with dreams, and a space for the feelings that arise during dream work. Experiential classes and groups give students an overview of the "process of dreaming," of dream recall, journaling, and dream symbol interpretation and the various tools and techniques to approach the dream."

I believe a dialogue with the "unconscious" can enhance one's spiritual journey. It lends itself to decision making, empowerment, comfort, entertainment, and challenges you...", explains Bouchard.

According to Bouchard, there is usually at least one dream group going on at any time. Currently, they are taking shape as a new group, potentially two, will be starting in mid-June. He anticipates offering one group in the evening and one in the daytime (weekends) which will meet once a week. Groups members are asked to make a commitment for purposes of confidentiality and continuity, as well as trust.

"Knowing the same people are going to be in group each week allows people to get deeper in their work and develop the trust to open up and to do the inner work they come to do," he adds.

Workshops are offered throughout the year. They are open to the public, short-term, time-limited, and the contents of the workshops vary. Examples of workshops include: A Year End Dream Journal Review (taking place during the Christmas/New Year holiday season), The Jungian Approach to Dream Work, The Gestalt Approach to Dream Work, Dream Sculpting (or Dream Choreography), Dream Incubation, The Sand Tray, Dream Work and Spirituality, Holiday Dream Work, Exploring Dreams Through Art Projects.

"I have hopes of offering future workshops on Lucid Dreaming, Family and Couple's Dream Work, Dream Work and Terminal Illness (such as AIDS and Cancer), and a workshop exploring the dynamics of the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender community," says Bouchard.

The Dream Part of Our Spiritual Journey will be offering The '95 Summer's End Weekend Dream Intensive. This will offer members an opportunity to enjoy nature and a cabin weekend of dream telling around a campfire, experiential workshops (day and night!), demonstrations and optional interviews with the facilitator(s), followed by a one-day retreat with newly found dream friends.

"Fee for workshops and classes vary, are suggested only, and a sliding scale can be made available. "My own spiritual journey has led me to be more flexible and trusting in the area of commerce. Because this work is important to me, I do not want money to become an obstacle. I invite dreamers to call inspired and no one will be turned away due to difficulty to pay. This is in alignment with my own spiritual principles and The Dream part of my Spiritual Journey," said Bouchard.

Bouchard attended the USM where he received a BA in philosophy, and the University of New England where he received an MSW. Much of his work has centered around therapy with adolescents and their families. He was Executive Director for the AIDS Lodging House for approximately three years. "I am moving on to do psychotherapy with families and groups," says Bouchard. "My approach is systemic, Jungian, and homoeopathic."

Bouchard concluded, "I believe the dream world has much to teach us. I invite anyone to join the journey of exploring and honoring these gifts! Pleasant dreams."

For more information or to be placed on his mailing list contact Rick Bouchard, P.O. Box 303, Portland, Maine 04112, or call 207/828-2031. ΔΔ

CMF summoned to appear before Ethics Commission

Commission Director recommends full audit by Commission

Winnie Weir, Publishing Editor

Carolyn Cosby and Concerned Maine Families (CMF) have been summoned to appear before the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to answer questions from the Commission regarding two complaints filed by Linda Bean Folkers against CMF.

Folkers alleges in her complaint that 'a person may apply in writing for legal services is still outstanding. CMF did file an amended report containing the correction. However, Folkers filed a second complaint alleging that Cosby did not reverse all of the $3500 error in her amended report. Folkers points to an entry in CMF's October 1994 report listing her as the source of a $500 contribution. Folkers denies contributing that amount and has given the Commission copies of her cancelled checks showing $250 in contributions. In this second complaint, Folkers also says that "she received a fax from Mrs. Cosby" asking her to "contact the Ethics Commission to affirm CMF's version of a single donation of $500" last summer. Folkers, according to Director Canavan, says she instead urged Cosby to do a simple, straightforward correction. After reviewing several relevant documents and the complaints, Director Canavan issued the following recommendation: "1-1 A M.R.S.A. Section 1001(2) states that "a person may apply in writing to the commission requesting an investigation concerning the registration of a . . . political action committee and contributions by or to and expenditures by a . . . political action committee. The Commission shall review the application and shall make the investigation if the reasons stated for the request show sufficient grounds for believing that a violation may have occurred." Subsection 3 states that the "state auditor . . . shall assist the commission in making investigations and in other phases of the commission's duties under this chapter . . . ." While Ms. Folkers has not asked for an investigation, she has pointed to two entries which she claims are inconsistent with the facts; and she has furthermore produced evidence to support one of those claims. Hence, the Commission staff recommends that the Commission, pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. Section 1003 (3), ask the State Auditor to assist the Commission in conducting a thorough audit of CMF's campaign finance reports to ensure their accuracy; and, further, that the Commission ask CMF to produce cancelled checks, receipts, invoices and any other documents that may be relevant to expedite the conduct of that audit. ΔΔ
JUNE - JULY '95 CALENDAR

Thursday, June 1 thru Wednesday, June 7:
Δ 12:00 noon-5:00 PM: Dead Space Gallery, 11 Avon St., Portland. Photography of Morgan Cohen and Peter She llenberger. FMI, 207/828-4637.
Δ 3:00 PM (ME), 4:00 PM (N-B) - Northern Lambd a Nord's monthly meeting at Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.

Monday, June 12:
Δ 6:30 PM - Rainbow Business and Professional Organization monthly meeting. Katabin Restaurant, corner Spring & High Streets, Portland. This is a group of gay and lesbian community professionals and business owners organizing, networking, and promoting gay owned businesses and professionals. Speakers from Boston's gay/lesbian business and professional organization will join us. FMI, Victoria Zanok, 207/775-0015, or Carolyn Jalbert 207/878-3755.
Δ 6:30-9:00 PM - So. Maine Internet User's Group (SMUG) meets at the Maine Aquaint, Rt. #1, Saco. $1.00 donation at the door. FMI Tim Cook, 207/282-7749 (day) or E-mail smug-committee@biddeford.com.

Thursday, June 15 thru Sunday, June 18:
Δ Maine-ly For You Women's Campout at a private campground on a lake in western Maine. Cabins and camping, supporting and promoting gay rights. Includes bonfires, open mic, BYO BBQ, dance, softball swimming, fishing and more.
FMI, 207/583-6980 or 207/782-2275.

Friday, June 16:
Δ 6:00-9:00 PM - Informal auditions support group for Park and Pan Theatre's latest summer and fall performances. FMI, Tim Grover 207/766-5023.
Δ 7:00 PM - New Hampshire Pride kick-off March and Rally, Main St., Concord.
Δ 7:00 PM - Women's Night at Northern Lambda Nord's Community Services Center, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI, Sheila-207/647-7853.
Δ 10:00 AM - NH Pride Celebration Pat's Peak, Henniker, NH. Vendors, entertainment, comedy, workshops, a wedding service and more. FMI, Jim - (603)546-4011 or Flora - 603/852-9308.
Δ 8:00 PM - NH Pride Dance at Pat's Peak, Henniker, NH. $5 with bracelet.
Saturday, June 17:
Δ 6:00-9:00 PM - Informal auditions support group for Park and Pan Theatre's latest summer and fall performances. FMI, Tim Grover 207/766-5023.

Tuesday, June 20:
Δ 7:30 PM (ME, 8:30 PM (N-B) - Gay & lesbian AA meeting at NLN's Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 So. Main St, Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.

Wednesday, June 21:
Δ 7:00-8:30 PM (ME.), 8:00-10:00 PM (N-B) - Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center Drop-In and Open House, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI (207) 498-2088.

Thursday, June 22:
Δ 7:00-8:30 PM - Support group for advocates and supporters of lesbian & gay civil rights. Drop-in, facilitated support group, free of charge. Service provided by Wom enspace Counseling Center, 236 Park Ave., Portland. FMI, Vivian Wadas, 207/774-2403 or Joanne Clarey, 207/871-0377. Continues weekly until referendum vote.

Friday, July 7:
Δ 8:00 PM - Live in Concert at the State Theatre - Sandra Bernhard.
FMI, call 207/846-5233.

Monday, June 27:
Δ 7:30 PM (ME), 8:30 PM (N-B) - Gay & lesbian AA meeting at NLN's Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 So. Main St, Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.

Tuesday, June 27:
Δ 7:00-9:00 PM (ME.), 8:00-10:00 PM (N-B) - Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center Drop-In and Open House, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI (207) 498-2088.

Thursday, June 29:
Δ 7:00-8:30 PM - Support group for advocates and supporters of lesbian & gay civil rights. Drop-in, facilitated support group, free of charge. Service provided by Wom enspace Counseling Center, 236 Park Ave., Portland. FMI, Vivian Wadas, 207/774-2403 or Joanne Clarey, 207/871-0377. Continues weekly until referendum vote.

JULY PREVIEW

Saturday, July 1 thru Friday, July 7:
Δ Sa ppors' Sisters - A conference where lesbian, bi, and transgendered women who identify as lesbian or bi can focus on their own growth in a safe, nurturing environment. In this 8th year of meeting, the theme is diversity within our community. Lots of time for fun, laughter, relaxation and beach walks. Ferry Beach Conference Center, a UU affiliated facility. FMI or to register, call 207/282-4489.

Sunday, July 9:
Δ 1:00 PM (ME), 2:00 PM (N-B) - Regular monthly meeting of Northern Lambda Nord. Community Services Center, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.

Thursday, July 13 thru Sunday, July 16:
Δ 1:00 PM - Out Among Friends "CALL YOUR TRAVEL NEEDS!" - An International Gay Travel Association sponsored activity: softball. OAF sometimes has to turn down story lines for Puclc and Pan Theatre's late summer and more.
Δ 8:00 PM-NH Pride Dance at Pat's Peak.
Δ 7:00 PM - Support group for advocates and supporters of lesbian & gay civil rights. Drop-in, facilitated support group, free of charge. Service provided by Wom enspace Counseling Center, 236 Park Ave., Portland. FMI, Vivian Wadas, 207/774-2403 or Joanne Clarey, 207/871-0377. Continues weekly until referendum vote.

KEY TO CALENDAR
= not exclusively gay
Δ gay event/Interest

Meeting dates & times for Maine Won't Discriminate can be found in the box on page 2 of each issue of CPR.
**Monday, June 12:**
6:00 PM - Rainbow Business & Professional Organization dinner.
Speakers from Boston's gay business organization will discuss the "how to's" of success. Reservations required. Call 207/775-0015.

**Tuesday, June 13:**
7:00 PM - P-FLAG meeting. Psychologist, Lee Nicoloff discusses "Finding a supportive therapist for coming out issues." Woodward's Congregational Church, Woodford's Street, Portland.

**Wednesday, June 14:**
6:00 PM - Pride Pet Picnic at Payson Park at W. Kiddie St., Portland. Sponsored by Time Out & PAWS. "Stupid Pet Tricks" and other competitions. Registration: 871-9940.
8:00 PM - GAYME NIGHT Fund-raiser to benefit Gay Press. CITI, 145 Kennebec St., Portland. FMI: 772-JOYY

**Thursday, June 15:**
7:30 PM - Portland Film: "Stone-wall 25: Global Voices of Pride and Protest" at Sisters, 45 Danforth St. (ALL welcome). Rich/Boole & Big Star Video Production.
6:00 PM - Women's Chem-fre Tea & Social at Womanspace Counseling Center, 236 Park Ave., Portland (across from Hadlock Field). FM1: 207/774-2403.

**Friday, June 16:**
4:00-6:00 PM - Pride at the Maine State Pier. CITI, 772-JOYY.

9:00 PM - PRIDE PIER DANCE - Maine State Pier, Commercial St., Portland. Only the biggest party the Portland waterfront will ever see with DJ's Michael Giller, Lisa Vacarro, Lance Love, and Kris Clark. Lights by David Jury of Jerky Space Body Optics. Only $5 admission. Valid 21+ ID required. No parking available at the Maine State Pier. Secured parking available at the "Fish Pier" 4 blocks west on Commercial St. (Rain location: CITI, 145 Kennebec St.)

**Saturday, June 17:**

**PRIDE DAY:**
9:00 AM - Blackstone's Block Party on Pine Street. Beverages, eats, music. Dykes on Bikes lineup and float review. (Floats must be registered).


11:30 AM - Parade Line up begins. Please note: all are welcome, but groups registrations are required. ALL VEHICLES & ALL FLOATS must be registered prior to Saturday, and will be inspected for valid state vehicle registration and insurance. For assistance, call Laurie at 878-0546.

12:00 noon - PARADE begins at Longfellow Square, downtown Congress St. to Exchange St. and down Exchange St. to Tommy's Park (Rain or shine).

**Rain Dance Festival:**
Stage: Tommy's Park - 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Entertainment: Martin Short, Darin Braham, Martin Singer, Boogie 2 Shooz, Michael Wormwood and many more. Plus Pride Committee awards.
Vendors: Post Office Park - 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
For space call Deb: 871-0154.
Names Quilt Display: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Temple and Middle Streets. Maine Gay Visual Artist Show: 2:00 - 6:00 pm
Exhibitors: Jeff Carpenter, Shannon Perry, Melanie Thompson, Mark Levesque, Leslie Bailey, Maria Costellano. Maine Gay History Exhibit & Vintage Auto Exhibit: plans pending at press time. For verification call 871-9940.

(Rain location for the Festival is Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland.)

4:00 PM - Patio Party & Barbecue at Sisters, 45 Danforth St.


9:00 PM - Teen Dance held at and sponsored by Gotta Dance. 657 Congress St. Admission free. 21+ please bring a date.

**Sunday, June 18:**
11:00 AM - Time Out's Presuppsocan Canoe Brush, limited to 20 canoes. Participants must register. For registration, rental info or for a spare canoe seat, call 871-9940 by 6/16.
2:00-4:00 PM - Karoake Dance Cruise on Casco Bay. Leaves Maine State Pier. Tix $10. Available at CITI, 772-JOYY.
4:00-9:00 PM - Beer Bash w/Dinner Buffet (5-8 pm) & Boogie 2 Shooz performs at 8:30 pm. Tix: $3. All at CITI, 145 Kennebec St.
9:00 PM - Miss Gay Maine Pageant, the Maine drag community's premier event at The Underground, 3 Spring St., Portland.

**PRIDE CONTACTS**

Pride '95 has extensive volunteer needs. To inquire, to volunteer or for further information on any event, call the following contact persons who will be glad to help you.

**General Information:** 871-9940
Michael Rossetti, Director
Volunteer Coordinator: 871-1650
Sheldon Hartman

**Parade Registration:** 878-0546
Richard Freed, Coordinator
Laurie Fortman, Coordinator

**Festival Entertainment:** 772-JOYY
Faith Worthley, Producer
Vender Opportunities: 871-0154
Laurie Fortman, Coordinator

Interfaith Service: 874-1140 ext. 358
Glen Richards, Dignity Rep.

**Festival Security:** 874-0399
Michael McKenzie

**Block Party Information:** 775-2885
Ralph Cusack, Treasurer
**Movie Night:** 773-7393
Rich Poole Productions
**Maine Gay Visual Artists:** 775-3420
Jeff Carpenter, Organizer

Vehicle/Float Registrations: 878-0546
Laurie Fortman, Coordinator

PRIDE '95 is going to be our best celebration ever. Pride's Pier Dance is the only Pride Pier Dance in New England. It's a great new addition to our schedule. Not only will it be our primary fund-raiser for the following year (to be our 10th), but it will also be the biggest and best party Portland will ever see, with great lighting, fantastic setting and four fabulous local DJ's.

This year's Pride is also looking to lend deserved recognition to individuals and groups within our community whose example of community service are notable. We will be giving a Citizenship Award, selecting our Community Service Organization of the Year, as well as offering thank you's to our staff and supporters with the Director's and Committee's Awards.

The 1995 Grand Marshals are the former members of the Maine Gay Task Force. The Task Force; now disbanded, was the earliest activist organization in Maine for gay and lesbian civil rights. As early as 1974, far ahead of much of the country, the Task Force was publishing a newsletter and lobbying for basic human rights for our community, including submitting Maine's first Gay Rights Bill.

The Committee salutes the Maine Gay Task Force for their courage and enterprise. We are honored by their presence.

This year's theme is "Visibility Works." It reflects the belief that visibility dispels stereotypes and misrepresentations. It is our hope that through our visibility we can stand a greater chance of attaining the goal of equal protection under the law.
GENERAL

MLGPA is a statewide, non-partisan organi-
zation formed to educate the general public, politicians, and media on L/G issues. Pri-
may goals are to increase the L/G community's visibility, to educate and inform the public and government about the rights, develop and review legislation, re-
cord candidates, build a coalition, and oppose anti-gay legislation and referenda. Meetings and informational sessions are held in Augusta. FMI call 1-800-55-MLGPA.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) - A support group consisting of parents and friends of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Come and celebrate our children and friends just the way they are. (See listings for Maine & New Hampshire under PFLAG SUPPORT and SUPPORT GROUPS.

Northern Lambda Nord is an educational, informational, social, and service organization serving lesbian, gay, and bisexual people in northern Maine and New Brunswick. Meetings are 2nd Sunday of every month at 1:00 p.m. (at the Gay Lesbian Community Center, 666 St., Caribou, and can be reached every Wednesday by the PhoneLine: Call 207/ 453-7755.

The Mallovich Society is an educational and cultural organization of lesbians, bisexuals, gay men, and friends to share our bonds as a group and provide persons-affirming presentations and discussions in a supportive environment. Meetings on the second and fourth Thursday every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St. Portland. Free parking and accessible to the mobility-impaired. Call 207/776-3480.

National Association of Social Workers, ME Chapter, Sexual Minority Issues Committee. Welcome newcomers each social work worker. Our purpose is to educate, provide resources, and lobby legislators on issues involving sexual minorities in Maine. Meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 5:00 p.m. at the Community Counseling Center, 666 St., Caribou.

Building Inclusive Community: A group of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people working to build an inclusive and safe community in Lewiston-Augusta and outlying areas. We are exploring ways to achieve this goal through social gatherings, educational events, support groups, topic meetings and forums open to sexual minority friends, and supporters. FMI, write PO Box 514, Auburn, ME 04211-3184.

Citizen's Action Committee for Gay and Lesbian Rights: (CAGLR), New Hampshire's oldest progressive gaylesbian civil right organization, welcomes all interested in these goals to attend meetings, support the organization, and get involved in its various social and other events. Newsletter. Call info-line (603) 224-1664 or write to PO Box 730, Concord, NH 03302-0730.

MUSIC & ART

Women in Harmony is an eclectic choir ensemble open to all women regardless of age, race, or sexual orientation. If you are interested in becoming a member or volunteering organizational skills, send SASE (including your phone number) to P.O. Box 5136 St. A, Portland, ME 04101, or call 207/774-6940.

Meetings are the 3rd Saturday of every month in Augusta. FMI call 1-800-55-MLGPA.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic. Confidential screening and treatment for STD's, menstrual and non-sex related problems at no charge. Low cost, medicaid accepted. Anonymous, confidential HIV testing by appointment only. Clinic open Tuesdays 6:00 to 8:00 pm. FMI call 297-3400.


Identity Support

New Hampshire P-FLAG Meetings Concord: Meets 3rd Sunday from 3-5 pm at 1st Congregational Church, Washington & Main Streets. (Use Washington St. entrance), FMI call 603/472-4944.

Seacoast: Meets 1st Monday from 7 pm at Spiritual Community Church, Emery Lease, (right west of 100 circle) FMI call 603/772-5196.

Moshupreek: Meets 3rd Tuesday from 8 pm, The Place to Go, 670 Forest St., Portsmouth, FMI call 603/247-2545 or 603/623-6023.

Nashua: Meets 3rd Thursday from 7:30 pm at United Nations-Universal Church, Lewiston. FMI call 603/580-9010.

Plymouth: Meets first Sunday, 7:30 pm, Plymouth Congregational Church. FMI, call 603/583-7524 or 603/583-0608.

Upper Valley Region: Meets second Wednesday, 7 pm. Hanover. FMI, call 603/ 583-7524.

Maine P-FLAG Meetings Portland: Meets 2nd Tuesday 7-9 pm at Woodfords Congregational Church, 207 Woodford St. FMI, 766-5156 or 774-5441.

Women's Center - Belfast - Weekly meetings, 9A Main St., 2nd floor (above Jaret & Cohn) FMI, 338-5782. Group meeting every Wednesday, 6:15 pm. Women's Spirituality Gatherings, Mondays and Thursday evenings, affordable services, and combined confidentiality. FMI call 784 Forest Ave., Portland. FMI write P.O. Box 1124, Keene, NH 03431.

Trans Counseling: Qnfirm Counseling Assoc., PO Box 1124, Keene, NH 03431, 603/677-5544.

Women's Survivors of Childhood Abuse: A support group for survivors of childhood abuse and/or sexual assault meets Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3 pm. Free, confidential, safe, facilitated. FMI and location call (207) 784-6593. Sponsored by USM's Woman's Forum.

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

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

Lesbians/Bisexual Support Group: Meets every Thursday, 7 PM, at Women's Resource Center 101 Fernald Hall at UM Orono. FMI call (207) 581-1425.


Seacoast Gay Men: Social group meets Mondays (except holidays), 7 PM Utopicia Utopia Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH. FMI call (603) 430-4052, or write PO Box 1394, Portsmouth 03802-1394.

Lewiston/Auburn: A new gay, lesbian, bisexual support group for the Lewiston/Auburn area meets Mondays at 7 pm at the Utopicia Utopia Church, State Park Street, Auburn.

Bisexual Support Group: This Lesbians Support Group welcomes any women who self-identifies as a lesbians. They seek to create women-only, lesbian-positive
CONCERT REVIEW: Songweavers

New Hampshire group stirs the soul

by Winnie Weir

The beautiful Old South Congregational Church in Concord, New Hampshire was the setting for the Songweavers Spring Concert on May 19. It was a stunning performance to a sold out audience of over 350. Songs of Russian, Hebrew, African, Native American and traditional African-American spirits comprised the hour and one-half program.

Songweavers is a group of 180-200 women, including 20 drummers, who weave the magic of music, words and unique arrangements with love and then present their gift to the New Hampshire community (and anyone else who happened to be fortunate enough to be around at concert time!). Founded five years ago by Director, Carolyn Parrott, Songweavers presents two concerts each year. In addition to being a chorale director, Parrott gives instruction in banjo, fiddle, voice, is a dance caller and folk musician. According to Parrott, Yasaye Barnwell, composer and arranger, is her teacher and mentor. It was not surprising, therefore, to find several songs with Barnwell's touch. Among them were "Breakfast," which encourages us to listen more often to things than to being. "Tis the ancestor's breath when the fire's voice is heard. "Tis the ancestors' breath in the voice of the water . . ."

"Opening," was performed. It is, in a way, another of Barnwell's songs, captures the fragility and uncertainties of life in a haunting melody. The words of the chorus, in stating the obvious, call us back to reality. “Can't no one know at sunset how this day is going to end. Can't no one know at sunrise if the next day will begin.” Verse two says, "Troubles of the world fill our hearts with rage from Saweto to Stone-wall, Birmingham and L.A. We're searching for hope that lies within ourselves, as we fight against misogyny, race, hatred and AIDS."

Two Songweavers had debuts at this performance. Kathy Lowe's song "Opening," was performed. It speaks of being one with the earth, hearing the hum of the earth, the wind and the rain, opening to the world and the world opening to us. It delivered a powerful message.

The second debut was Peg O'Neil of Portsmouth as featured soloist singing "The Waters of Babylon" a la "Sweet Honey in the Rock." This shy, unassuming young women, sent currents of electricity through the audience as she sang. "The wicked carried us away to captivity, required of us a song. How can we sing our holy song in a strange land?" The arrangement included the 180 voice chorus and drummers. Peg's passionate rendition was captivating. So much so, "that the Waters of Babylon" was performed as the encore, to the delight of the audience, who gave Peg and Songweavers a standing ovation. Here's hoping we hear more from this talented woman.

I was impressed with the beautiful harmonies produced by so many voices. The best sound was during the ending when every voice knew their parts and enunciated their words. Some of the arrangements were complicated, but Parrott guided the chorus through each time with a mastery that approached an art form. There is a great deal of mutual love and respect between director and chorus. We were all privileged to see and hear the outstanding results.
CONCERT REVIEW: Women in Harmony

by Skip Brushaber

"Women in Harmony" kept alive the tradition of the women's choral groups with their Spring concert on May 20 at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Portland. A second concert was held May 21 at the Unitarian Church, Kennebunk. The theme of the concert was "Relationships" (Songs of Love and Friendship).

The concert opened with the lilting "Oh Eyes of My Beloved" by Orland Di Lasso and "April is in My Mistress Face," a sixteenth century song. "Tell You" was a moving four line simple song sung with dignity by the chorus. "We Are Women in Harmony" sang the stirring "Singing for Our Lives" with the audience joining in. "How Could Anyone Ever Love a Woman and a Man" was a moving song sung with dignity by chorus member Cobie Smith.

The second part of the program featured songs made famous by five famous women: Dionne Warwick, Ethel Merman and Barbra Streisand. "What the World Needs Now," "La Vie en Rose" and "The Rose" felt a bit weak. "You're Just in Love" and "Evergreen" were good choices and "Best Friend (The Unicorn Song)" was pleasing, with a solo by Sara Foster. She has a very sweet voice and it worked very well.

Women in Harmony" turned Paul Simon's "Bridge Over Troubled Water" into a rousing spiritual. They concluded the program with "Brothers and Sisters," which they dedicated to the Maine Gay Men's Chorus.

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TheRep's production of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" deserves an unqualified two thumbs up. I've seen four different stagings of this monumental work over the last fifteen years and The Rep's is in the top two (along with a version done on film for PBS by The American Playhouse). In fact, I'm sorry this review will appear in print so close to the play's final performances and wish the run could be extended indefinitely!

"Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" deals with classical themes of love, hate, and repression, but, unlike classical drama, Williams spends little time on the vicissitudes of fate, concentrating instead on the illusions that human beings construct (or perhaps accrete would be a better word) in order to keep on living. Myth, illusion, or lie, Williams characters use the word "mendacity," which rolls off the Southerner's tongue with a kind of honed gentility that exemplifies the concept itself — people who wouldn't say "shit" if their mouth was full of it. (More strictly speaking, mendacity means dishonesty and, in this play, there's plenty of it.)

Four characters are essential to this

Movie Review: "Priest"

by Rose Mary Denman

The first time I saw this movie was the first night it was playing in Portland. I went with a friend and sat in a puddle of tears through most of the second half of the film. Two weeks later, I went to see it again. I had to, there was just too much in it to absorb in one viewing.

It's been two weeks since my second viewing of the "abomination" condemned by Rome, and I can fully understand why the Roman Catholic Church, and probably close to 100% of fundamentalists, doesn't want their members to be within viewing distance of "Priest." Quite possibly it would make them think.

For those who are under the impression that this film is just a movie about a young priest who is torn between his homosexuality and the laws of the Church regarding celibacy, well — dig deeper, my friends. "Priest" addresses some of the toughest issues facing the Church: celibacy for both heterosexual and homosexual priests, the "seal" of the confessional (a priest may not divulge or act upon any information he has obtained while administering this sacrament), the duplicity of those who are in positions of power (bishops up), and perhaps even more importantly, the willingness of the laity to overlook some "stains" while riding rough-shod over those who may have committed one of the more socially unacceptable offenses.

The Roman Catholic Church does not hold the corner on its market in its need to address the issues brought up by "Priest." Just about every religious institution, with perhaps the exception of the Unitarian/Universalists and the Friends (who seem to be an awfully sane and accepting lot), must either face these very complicated and important questions or run the risk of eventually going down in the archives of antiquity because they will have lost every woman and man who could have made a difference.

When institutions who claim to live by the mandate to "love one another" spend much of their time and efforts judging and condemning, it is time to give them a wake-up call. "Priest" is sounding the trumpet.

See MOVIE, page 21

Theatre Review: Cat On A Hot Tin Roof

"Appearance of Respectability"

by Tennessee Williams

Vintage Repertory Company at the Oak Street Theatre May 22 - June 10

by David Cook

If you are reading this review to see whether the play's worth attending, I won't keep you in suspense. Vintage Rep's production of "Cat On A Hot Tin Roof" deserves an unqualified two thumbs up. I've seen four different stagings of this monumental work over the last fifteen years and The Rep's is in the top two (along with a version done on film for PBS by The American Playhouse). In fact, I'm sorry this review will appear in print so close to the play's final performances and wish the run could be extended indefinitely!

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Set MOVIE, page 21

THEATRE, page 21

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Set MOVIE, page 21

THEATRE, page 21
**POETRY with**

---

**H.I.V.**

by Jen Steele-Betta

Pale white face and dark straight black curls
He said he did not care
Now his problem is HIV
And all the people stare
She's pregnant and infected to
Parents forgot her name
They have nothing to do with her
Nothing will be the same

We must end this HIV craze
Let's find a solution
Put an end to this dumb madness
End this sick confusion

They make their will and count their days
They're always asking why
He bows his head and starts to weep
"O God, don't let me die."

She calls up, asks how he's doing
He says, "I guess okay."
'"We will have to stick together
We might have one last day."

---

( Editor's note: Jen Steele-Betta, the 14 year old daughter of Jim Betts, well-known political organizer and political campaign manager. As a student at Yarmouth Middle School, Jen volunteered at The AIDS Project. This poem was written at the conclusion of her community service.)

---

**TRADE, II**

**JANUARIUS 14, 2747**

by Alexander Wallace

They talk such nonsense about
"Stonewall."
Drag Queens fighting cops?
Wasn't like that at all.
"Gender-Fuck" was new,
but we saw our queens -
Davis, Dietrich
on stage
or at
Saks.
Stonewall
was a
"trade bar"
one of those in the wrong part of the Village where we went slumming to pick up tricks you didn't talk about at the office the next day.
Drag Queens at Stonewall?
They would have been set on fire.
The creme de la creme?
We were
Uptown
safe at
Regent's Row
murious warming Martinis in our one good suit and
our Paul Stuart tux while thighs grew cold, waiting.

---

**Decameron**

by David J. Callan

Winking Richard ticked dead queens off his fingers, as if their bodies had been bitten comments tossed off in bed between kisses and breaths of air. I rolled the kielbasas over

with the black-tipped tines of the barbecue fork.
The magnolia cones piled among the brown stains of fallen leaves: the yellow sky might go black or shake its shiver

any moment. The old man could have touched me, but he fiddled with the garnish on the macaroni salad, sucked his Kent. "You're chasing ghosts, those boys slumping down tequila at the bar's edge, they're gone already.

My father used to tell me: "If there's one thing that I've learned, son, it's a light load. Wash it by hand."

Then, young men crowd around the licking flames with plates.

---

**SONNET**

by Allan Watson

Now will you swear before Almighty God with many friends and relatives around, that what you do has not a sense of fraud
But of this woman love you do expound?

And he, if to a woman gives this vow
would not another oath be made to give, as from this testament would church allow
A loving marriage for these two to live.

But if that vow be made by man to man
then somehow churches feel the right to say,
"Your kind of love is not within the plan
For we declare that this is not God's way!"

Yet it be true that God is of all love
So stay your path, it is from God above.

---

**PRIDE in 1995!**
Yearning
by Skip Brushaber

Birds chorus in the trees
Staying in bed for just five more minutes
Musty barn small
Dawn breaking on the horizon while
struggling with chores.
Shitting in the outhouse
Contemplating the seasons change
by the day.
Sharing meals
Tea in the kitchen on a rainy afternoon
Swimming naked
Working to exhaustion in the heat
to get the hay in
Dancing under stars
Sex in the meadow covered by a
clear blue sky
Grow you own
Kneeling in warm soil with hope
and anticipation
Hugging a woodstove
Snowbanka halfway up the window frame
Lying beside you
Warming cold feet in bed on a
January night
Peace and quiet
Taking the time to watch a sunset
from beginning to end
Tree frogs and crickets
When you turn off the lights
it's dark

A Dysonian Victory
by Dylan Cook

The moon rises over a battlefield
It is a shining, ancient norse shield
Rising silently as an owl
Or death's skull covered with a dark cowl
The moon rests atop balanced branches
Gleaming with the sun's light from
behind
On unfortunate circumstances
Caused by an unbalanced, tipped mind
See what that has done
In the light of an unborn sun

It Is Like...
by Dylan Cook

... leaves that walk across the sky
that
leave no trace
As the face,
covered in a cowl.
Reveals no features
Its eyes are of the owl.
Or a lion on the prowl.
It is like night and night's creatures;
No one knows where its secrets lie

Celebrate Pride 1995

with POETRY

Rumors of AIDS Reach the Mall
Where Massachusetts Shops
by David J. Callan
for Bill Taormino

I remember when it had no name, but it had
its purposes, its frivolous directives: the gay cancer,
a handful of withered faggots shrinking against
starched sheets in San Francisco. Nothing
of monkeys, Liberace's chauffeur, Rock Hudson's
infamous on screen kiss. I folded the unprecented
clipping quietly between the jock shots of Jim Palmer,
the occasional letter to Dear Abby. I gathered
any clues about my life: it wasn't indicative
of my involvement that the stacks of Rolling Stone
outweighed the small packet of yellowed newpint
rubber banded, stashed in the bottom of my
hollowed-out victrola.

I came out to the players in my band;
in the roar and thump of my drunken screaming
was saturated with rages I secreted from the more
frequent reports, in knowing every friend
I'd had was an enemy on the other side of me.
Some boys loved me through furious sorrow, sorrowed jokes.
Only laughter left the young fag strong enough to scream
again too late: beer slurred vocal chords into nonsense,
my poems twisted and circled, abstract flowers scattered
on the surface of the ocean. I snap a beer, rent a tuxedo
for the prom at which the boy I love will feel too much
for me and leave. My fathers bents at the joy of dating
and I flinch. I drink,
and shout above the voices of the others:
My lovers and friends were dying without me.
The love of my life died without having known me.
GARDEN SPACE FOR RENT
at I.O.O.F. Hall
145 New Gorham Rd., Westbrook
Call 207/854-4558

Northern Lights Metropolitan Community Church
Now gathering for worship at
So. Parish UCC
State Street, Augusta
Sundays at 4:00 PM

FOR RENT
State Street, Augusta
Sundays at 4:00 PM

Northern Lights MCC is an inclusive Christian congregation with an outreach to those who have felt alienated or separated from the Church, including gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons.

Bill Gordon, contact person 207453-9750

CMF from page 1
I started volunteering the fall of '94. I went over to Carolyn's a couple of times. I wanted to find out what the truth was for myself. I figured the only way to know was to volunteer to find out what they were up to.

They use the Bible behind closed doors, but they won't in public because they don't want to make their opposition to gay rights a moral issue. They fear that will get them into the religious type stuff and they are trying to keep away from that, even though that is their basis.

When I went in I started listening to their attitudes. It was just so negative... they're pompous a lot of times... I don't know that many homosexuals, but the ones I do know are very kind and nice. They don't have a hostile attitude toward other people because they are different.

Q: How long were you a CMF volunteer?
A: I volunteered for 3 1/2 months.
Q: What was it like being there? Give an example of what you're talking about.
A: Well, whenever they talked about the Community Pride Reporter (CMF) it was always negative. They printed the pictures in the paper and they made crude comments about them.

In reference to Winnie (Winnie Weir, CMF Publishing Editor) they'd say, 'here's this woman who's supposed to love other women and, she is a woman, and she supposedly hates men, but she's trying to look like a man... mean things like that, but it wasn't only the words, it was the tone of voice and the body language.

Q: How would you describe the tone of voice?
A: Sarcastic, making fun, judging. Carolyn's favorite response was that everyone needed to be mothered. If everyone was mothered properly, then nobody would be gay.
Q: What other kinds of statements would she make about homosexuality?
A: She would say that if lesbians have hang-ups about being with men, then why do they want to look like men. What's funny about that is that not all lesbians have short hair and that's what her thing was - short hair. And that was part of my rebellion. I went and cut my hair off and she didn't like it at all. She was very concerned, she wanted me to put a ribbon in my hair, a bow on the back of my head... something to make me look more feminine. I would tell her that having short hair doesn't mean you're gay.

Q: Are you a lesbian?
A: Yes, while examining my own understanding of homosexuality, I came to the realization that I am a lesbian.
Q: Was she really hung up on someone's appearance? (President of the Maine Civil Liberties Union (MCLU) and attorney for Maine Won't Discriminate (MWD)) who, they said, resembled a man. They laughed a lot about the cartoon showing Angus King, "Looking Faggy."

She doesn't want to make it a cause why else would they be going to the religious ceremonies and be on the homosexual's side. She sees it as a moral issue. She says it's immoral, it's against God's word. She quotes the Bible, Romans, Chapter 1, and a passage in Leviticus. People who work for her, even if they are not churchgoers themselves, must agree with her way of thinking or she won't have them.

They would have these hideous laughing sessions in which they would make jokes about 'fags' and 'homos' and lesbians, often referring to Pat Peard (President of the Maine Civil Liberties Union (MCLU) and attorney for Maine Won't Discriminate (MWD)) who, they said, resembled a man. They laughed a lot about the cartoon showing Angus King, "Looking Faggy."

One time during a dinner with Carolyn, David and Jonathan Malmude, they started talking about children who act like sissies. David Cosby remembered a boy he had gone to school with who was a sissy and because of that he was picked on by the others. They tried to 'shape him up,' but since he wasn't like them they made him an outcast.

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Q: Her daughter like? Carolyn's favorite response was that everyone needed to be mothered. If everyone was mothered properly, then nobody would be gay.
A: Tracy Cosby is an icon of her mother. She's a very strong-headed person.
Q: What is Carolyn's husband's role in all of this? He's a strong-willed person, but he defers to Carolyn. He does work with her at all levels of the campaign. He doesn't like gays or homosexuality - period. There's no gray area whatsoever. He says it's evil, it's wrong.
Q: What other public figures has Carolyn commented on as far as their being gay or gay-friendly or appearing to be gay? She's commented on Chief Chitwood (Portland Police Chief, Michael Chitwood) and Assistant Attorney General Steve Weisler (prosecutes hate crimes) saying there was evidence of a conspiracy between them to beef up the bias crime statistics.

Q: She has said that in public. What has she said in private?
A: She once said she wouldn't be surprised if Chief Chitwood was gay or at least bisexual.
Q: What did she say about Weisler?
A: She pretty much said the same thing about all those public figures because why else would they be so gung ho and be on the homosexual's side. She would imply that people who are for the gays must be gay. She thinks Governor King is evil.

Q: What was it like being there?
A: Ninety per cent of the time it was Carolyn, her husband David, John and Jonathan Malmude.
Q: Who is John?
A: I don't know his last name.
He was there to give his insight. One time John, Carolyn, Jonathan Malmude and I went to Malmude's office at St. Joseph's College and they made an unter-connected call to Colorado for their radio interview out there, February 22, 1995. They called KVOR radio in Colorado Springs, Colorado to be interviewed by Chuck Baker for a program
except for a "ll's ole spastic colon."

Appearing only sporadically in the play, but central to its workings are Gooper, the other son, and Mae, Gooper's fecund wife; together they have five children (who Maggie refers to as "ll's no-neck monsters") and a sixth on its way. It is Big Daddy's 65th birthday and the clan is gathered to see whether he will live or die and, if the latter, who will inherit the estate.

Mae and Gooper dwell in the myth of a respectability born partially of their unending ability to procreate and the "click in my head that makes me peaceful," but it can't be denied that of a respectability born partially of their failure to form, to die and, if the latter, who will inherit the estate. The theatre, from page 17

The Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine presents:
A Conference on Lesbian Health and Sexuality
October 6 & 7, 1995 (Fri & Sat)
Two nationally recognized keynote; workshops on health, wellness, sex; much, much more!

Holiday Inn By The Bay
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THEATRE, from page 17

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Long leaf, provides... a refreshing time to see the film, identifying with a gay man as the protagonist.

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Movie Review:
"Strawberry and Chocolate"

by Barbara West

The award-winning Cuban film, "Strawberry and Chocolate," the first film from Cuba to go into general release in the United States since the revolution of 1959, and the first major Cuban film in which the central character is gay, ran for a week in May at Portland's independent theater, The Movies at Exchange Street.

The film portrays the growing friendship between two men from widely different spheres of Cuban society. David, an intense young student who is a rigid Communist, meets Diego, a sophisticated writer who is considered suspicious because he is gay and has extensive contacts with foreigners. Initially, both are somewhat stereotyped: David as a shallow and rigid "automatic" Marxist, Diego as effeminate and simply looking for sexual conquests. But, very quickly, Diego becomes the more sympathetic character, compassionate, well-educated, witty, and broad-minded. Ultimately, David is deeply affected by the power of his passion for art and life. It was delightful to imagine Cuban audiences, who waited in long lines to see this film, identifying with a gay man as the protagonist.

Senel Paz's screenplay is a critical look at Cuban society in 1979, a time when cultural/social policy in Cuba was still dogmatic. (Some homosexuals were sent to detention camps in the 1960's, artistic expression was still governed by socialist realist standards in the 1970's, and in the 1980's people with AIDS were quarantined.) It also offers a refreshingly honest, if occasionally simplistic, portrayal of the tensions many Cubans feel between taking the steps needed to survive in a hostile world, and still allowing for individual freedom.

For Paz and director Tomás Gutiérrez Alea, Diego may be a symbol of all those who are different or outside the mainstream of society. If David symbolizes the revolutionary majority of Cuban society, his ability to learn and change seemed to me to offer hope for the future and for the vitality of a revolutionary society that can look openly at its mistakes and correct them. The film could also be seen as a plea for tolerance. Director Alea was quoted in the "New York Times," saying, "It's not strictly a film about homosexuals. It is about the intolerance and incomprehension of those who are different."

It's easy to see why "Strawberry and Chocolate" won most of the awards at the 1994 Latin American Film Festival: best movie, director, script, actor and supporting actress. For us in the U.S., it is a rare opportunity to see Cubans as they present themselves to themselves. AA

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called, "On the Carpet." The call was made from 4:00 to 5:00 pm our time, it was 2:00 to 3:00 pm their time.

Q: From Malmude's office at St. Joseph's?

A: Yes I don't know if St. Joe's paid for that or not. I got the impression the College paid, but I don't know.

Q: How did you come to the decision to start giving information to CPR?

A: They expressed hateful attitudes about gay people and I realized that what they were doing was wrong. They were hurting a lot of people, and I realized I was in a very unique position, that no one would know what I know, and that I could get the word out about what they were doing. I was hoping that the information I gave would be helpful to the gay community so I stayed and contacted CPR. It was a hard decision, but hopefully it will do some good.

I dreaded going there. I was there for 40 to 50 hours a week, and every time I arrived she had to hug me and the same thing was, "Men shaped like this are going to be a victory for us, it's really going to move us ahead" and I would really feel sad inside because I would be thinking how this could hurt a lot of people. I got to a point where I didn't even want to hear her voice anymore because everything she was saying was just so negative, what damage she wanted to do next, her 'plan of attack.'

I wondered why anyone would want to attack people on the basis of their sexual orientation. That's what this is all about. I remember one time I got to a place where I just couldn't stand it anymore and I asked her, I said, "Carolyn, being a woman you don't think that we shouldn't have gotten our rights where we hadn't have gotten our rights where do you think we'd be right now?"

Her comment was, "Men shaped up and gave them to us.

"And I thought, 'No they didn't, We had to fight for our rights, we had to really fight for them.' The comparison between women's rights and rights for homosexuals didn't sink in with her because of the moral issue.

Q: What does Carolyn think about AIDS?

A: Reap what you sow - she said it was God's punishment to those who dwell in things they shouldn't be dwelling in. It's God's way of punishing gays. She quotes Sodom and Gomorrah. She doesn't feel sorry for anyone who gets AIDS except for the innocent people, like the wife of the husband who didn't tell her or hemophiliacs, people like that, it's not their fault. She blames the gays for giving it to the innocent people. In her opinion the homosexual lifestyle is evil.

Q: What did you do for her?


Q: Tell me more about the day to day operations at Cosby's house.

A: One thing that happened involved that gentleman who told Carolyn he was taking the Community Pride Reporter from Shop'n'Save [Ed. note: Cosby has denied any knowledge of the removal of CPR from Shop'n'Save]. He is active in CMF and he used to come over and do Carolyn's dishes for her to help her, and one Monday we were sitting there talking, and he was just raving on gays and homosexuals and saying all this stuff about a woman, a lesbian, very negatively. I asked him who she was, and he said that she was his ex-wife. So I thought, I wondered, if this guy was just angry because his wife left him for a woman. Is that why he's against gays and is that why he's working here, or does he really think all homosexuals are bad and they shouldn't have a voice in this world like he does. I think he's just angry because of his personal experience.

Q: Describe the interaction between Carolyn and this man who went around dumping copies of CPR.

A: Carolyn never discouraged him from anything, but at the same time she wasn't encouraging him either. He was quite blunt about it - take the law into your own hands - he'd say if he saw any CPR he'd throw them away or say they made good firewood or fire starters. He justified his actions by saying that gays needed to be stopped at all costs, that they were heathens and must be stopped.

What really frustrated me a lot was that Carolyn and the others at CMF would use Christian ethics and the Bible to their own liking. They would judge people; they wanted everyone including Jews, Buddhists and Catholics to think and live and feel like they did.

I remember one day I was typing away on the computer and she had gotten this phone call from the National Christian Coalition. She just came out and she was ecstatic and it was ten o'clock at night. She wanted to go out and celebrate and I couldn't believe it. It was a work night for her husband and she said like, 'OK, we got to stop and we got to celebrate.' First she wanted to pray and thank God for what the Coalition was going to do...

Q: But they're not...

A: I know. But at that time she was under the impression that they were going to help her financially and this was the break they'd been waiting for and all that kind of hoopla. I guess after that phone call everything started to fizzle.

Q: What do you know about CMF's financial situation?

A: I don't think they are reporting all their financial stuff. [Ed. note: As a Political Action Committee, CMF is subject to certain state financial disclosure requirements.] I went to the printers once with Carolyn in Lisbon or Lisbon Falls. The printer wasn't charging her the general fee. I'm not sure if he was charging them all, because I never saw money go back and forth, but I'm not sure he was supposed to.

Also, I remember sitting in the kitchen with Carolyn, Jonathan Malmude and John one day. Jonathan and John said they had some money for Carolyn, but I don't really know what it was, but I know that it made Carolyn very uncomfortable that I was hearing this and in fact she said, 'Gentleman maybe we should not talk about this now.' She said it was nothing against me, but there are some things that are more inner office than the inner office stuff. I said 'OK,' but it made me wonder what they were doing.

There was something about the way they were talking that made me think it was a substantial amount of money and, unfortunately, I don't know anything more about that except that Jonathan and John have some money that they are going to be giving to CMF.

This was after the National Christian Coalition had reneged on their offer. Jonathan and John told Carolyn, 'If you need the money you can have it,' but I don't know where it came from and I don't know if they were planning to report it.

Q: What was Carolyn like as a person? What were the kinds of things that made her laugh or cry?

A: I never saw her cry. She was very concerned with appearances. Once when I was going to be in public at a press conference. She told me not to wear a male power dress, not anything that would make me look like a man, no two-piece dress suits.

Her idea was to be more subordinate and to appeal to people to feel sorry for her and to capture their vote that way and have them say, 'Oh, you're just those lovely Christian people and you're right and look at these other people, the way they are dressed and their attitude.'

She did not want to dress like Pat Peard in any way, shape or form. Her idea of well-dressed was a flower dress with a sweater or a jacket over it. She told me to look like the ideal student type with my book bag and not to come across authoritatively or as someone with power, but as someone others would have sympathy for. The men are to be in suits and ties, which is what they did.

Q: What was the thing you hated most about her?

A: I don't want to say it that way, but the worst thing was her attitude. I say this with caution, but it was such a
Flaunting It!
by Brian J. Kaufman, Ph.D.
I want to congratulate the brave travelers who blazed a trail to "the County" to become the participants of this year's Symposium in Presque Isle. Trail blazing! Brave? Am I writing about the last century's westward-ho pioneers or modern-day Maine? Okay. Thanks for the reality check. I most certainly am talking about Maine in 1995.
I mention trail blazing as a way of acknowledging the effort that so many folks from the Portland area made in getting to Symposium. Portlanders don't readily ever need to leave their (literally) city limits when wanting to be immersed within the safety of a caring community. Those of us who live north of the "big city" are familiar with the reluctance of our folks in the southern city to venture out into the wilderness to the north.

Day weekend on the University of Maine campus at Presque Isle. So many of us around the state look to you for leadership and inspiration. You guys fought a referendum and won. You're fun to be with! Thanks for blazing your trail north.

I mentioned bravery also. Sure, it requires a measurable amount of courage to "come out," and to then make a commitment to spend three days immersed in queer culture. Bravery was required for a seventeen-year-old man from western Maine who was determined to get to Symposium this year. After Symposium organizers offered him a full scholarship for the weekend, "Van" (not his real name) could not find transportation and contemplated staying home for the weekend with his abusive father. Instead, "Van" telephoned me and told me of his intention to hitch-hike the entire way. Suddenly feeling fatherly, I recounted an inventory of the possible dangers associated with hitch-hiking. He seemed undaunted. Finally, I asked him if he thought that it was worth risking his life to get to Presque Isle.

"Van" arrived at Symposium after about six rides and eight hours had elapsed. When I saw "Van" upon his triumphant return, he looked as if he would never come down from the "high" of the community he became a part of at the event. Tears came to his eyes when he told me how he felt that he had finally found his "family." Next year he's planning a workshop for other youths. As a suicide survivor, "Van" considers himself something of an expert on the subject. This weekend, he became acquainted with so many more reasons to fight the fatal urge. You know who you are. Thank you for welcoming "Van" the way you did. For those of you who have not yet been participated in one of Maine's Symposia, you won't want to miss it. Ask "Van." See if you can keep him from flaunting it! And look for him at Maine's Pride events this month!

Last month I described the eagerness with which some corporations are signing up to train managers in the fine art of terminating "unwanted" employees. The training is designed to get rid of "ninnies," shirkers, and loudmouths who have "bad attitudes." Of course, the pioneers of our modern labor movement in the United States were among the kinds of troublemakers targeted in this movement when they heroically fought for safe-working conditions and child labor laws.
The lesbian and gay movement has its heroes too. Of one them was Ed Mckeen, who recently succumbed to AIDS-related complications. He was the publisher of "Working it Out: The Newsletter for Gay and Lesbian Employment Issues," and the author of "The 100 Best Companies for Gay Men and Lesbians." It was his assertion that "employers who do well addressing gay and lesbian issues are the ones that will excel in the years to come." McKeen himself alone would not enable companies to flourish, but that organizations who recognize the concerns of lesbian and gay employees as valid ones show a willingness to listen and respond to the concerns of all their employees. According to McKeen, "anti-gay policies repel not only lesbians and gay men, but also non-gay people of talent who can hear what that says about the organization, its overall beliefs, and where it's not-going."

If you look at it from his approach, when we demand domestic partner benefits, we are actually helping to assure the profitability of the company! Next month, more on flaunting it to help our employers!


Chew On This
by Rose Mary Desmarais
Three friends and I have recently begun a two-year program sponsored by the American Holistic Nurses Association called "Healing Touch." This program is based upon the premise that if one intends one's touch to be healing to another, that intended healing energy is channeled from the Universe, through the "healer" to the patient. During our first weekend intensive, I was aware of how many of us were experiencing some very deep and tender emotions as we "worked on one another" under the guidance of our instructor. Several times over the weekend, I could hear gentle weeping coming from one of the treatment tables. Gazing in the direction of the sound, I would often witness the student healers holding the weeping patient. As the weekend progressed, an energy of love and well-being intensified in our space, and at times, simply walking into the room was enough to experience and absorb this wonderful energy.

Since this first weekend, my friends and I have gotten together on a weekly basis to practice Healing Touch on one another. We have also been practicing on any friends willing to help us work on our new skills. This has been an exciting time for each of us, and as we have shared our experiences with one another, the same theme continues to surface ... namely, how good it is to be touched. We are learning that money is coming from Angus.' She thinks the governor shouldn't be supported on one side of this debate and they shouldn't be taking sides.

Q: What was the thing you liked most? A: I admire talking about Angus' character. It's OK for them to assault people's character, but they take great offense when outsiders do it to one of their own.

Q: What was the thing you thought he was a constitutional monarch? A: She just doesn't want him to be against her, but she did get McKernan to do her bidding because McKernan was so wrapped up in Olympia Snow's future, so he massed those days. She realizes that game doesn't play with King so she wants to assassinate his character. It's OK for them to assassinate his character. It's OK for them to assault someone's character, but they take great offense when outsiders do it to one of their own.

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good at the known and I get to the unknown. I let go, which is difficult.

I do believe, because of the compassion and loving help of all the volunteers who worked with us that we accomplished the goal of providing him a peaceful death. He made the decisions on his own, and I think of his courage. He was a model yet he was a rebel and she's a radical. I don't think she sees that there is any vision more correct than love nor that there is a model better than a client-centered model. Would she be likely to yield to another type of model? I don't think so.”

Peter Bernier said, “Sandy played an important role in that facility. I see her as an angel of mercy, she has so much compassion and loves people, to cut someone like that out of the picture doesn’t make any sense to me at all, particularly when she’s very experienced, providing care for these people. Unless they have someone like her or her at Peabody House I don’t think it’s going to get any better.”

Bill Toth observed, “Sandy is much more hands on, right in there working with the person right through the end. Sandy and I share the same place; my apartment and Sandy - I’ve had to call her and say, ‘I need you here right now’ and she’s more of a really hands on operations person. She wants to be there while it’s happening.”

Mallory Marshall said, “All the people involved have great respect for Sandy Titus, Chris Monahan and Bob Renwick. These are the finest people in our community.”

When Marg Wolters was asked about Sandy Titus’ work performance, she said, “I have no comment on Sandy Titus’ performance, that would be unfair to her . . . I respect her.”

Peabody House hopes to solve its problems. Many of those involved consider these problems temporary, the stuff of humor and personality. Others consider them more systemic. An expanded Board of Directors, two of whose members are PWAs, look forward to the challenge of full implementation of Peabody House’s mission statement.

Peter Haffnerfeffer said, “We’re not 100% and maybe we never will be but we’re going to get better and better and better. Peabody House is needed and it may make us uncomfortable. But the outcome is to pitch in, to reach our goal, but we will reach it because there is a need, a determination and a will.”

Mallory Marshall said the Peabody House story is interesting because it’s a story of how things grow. It’s a family going through a process of inevitable growing pains. It requires the founders to let go, which is difficult.

Peabody House has the original purpose of Peabody House was to provide hospice care in the home so people could stay in their own residences and that Peabody House itself would serve as a refuge for those with no place to go. She said, “damn, I’m not going to have a bunch of squabbling get us to lose sight of that.”

Peter Bernier eulogized his brother, he said, “Paul had such a tremendous dynamic personality, he had so much charisma. He spent his whole life loving other people and giving of himself to others. We as a family tried to make this process as dignified as possible, and we did. He was an artist, a sculptor and painter an excellent dancer, he made mosaics. He was a model yet he was very simple. I didn’t believe in having a lot of money. He loved people and enjoyed life.”

“I do believe, because of the compassionate and loving help of all the volunteers who worked with us that we accomplished the goal of providing him a peaceful death. He made the decisions on his own, and I think of his courage. He was a model yet he had that special sense of loss because we were twins, but I am at peace with his death. He’s in God’s hands now.”

TAP plus Portland Public Library equals Southern Maine AIDS Information Network

by Doreen Merrill

I am the AIDS Project’s Internet specialist. I say that tongue in cheek because I am on the information highway learning curve and sometimes get the feeling my car is going in reverse. The Internet is seen as a huge beast to people like me, the computer cautious. I can back away at the keyboard with confidence, but take me away from the known and I get nervous. The Internet, the Net for those into the latest lingo, demands that I let go of my fears and dive in. It seems to wear my surfboard.

The AIDS Project was awarded a grant in collaboration with the Portland Public Library to connect our organizations to the Internet. The grant allows Internet connections at The AIDS Project and the Portland Public Library. Together, our agencies form the Southern Maine AIDS Information Network. The Library staff involved with this endeavor know their stuff and are willing to share what they know with others still trying to catch the Internet wave. The Library has a terminal already set up for people to search the Internet. We at The AIDS Project have a terminal as well but are not ready yet to serve our public, namely clients. We are in the process of training our case management and office staff members as to the nuances of searching the World Wide Web, a multi-media hyper text experience.

The World Wide Web (WWW) is a small part of the huge and ever growing Internet, but it is what’s hot. It is software that allows people to read books, newspapers, magazine articles and other sources on the computer screen. While searching for information in the WWW, words that appear in hyper text (bolded or in a different color) can be clicked on with a mouse, sending you automatically to its topic. The benefits of WWW are: it’s easy to use, it’s pretty to look at and more and more items are being added every day. There are Home Pages, or brief synopses, on the WWW that typically have colorful graphic and explanations for whatever it is offering. To help people search the WWW, both The AIDS Project and the Library have installed gopher software. Gophers take key words and search the WWW for a match. Related articles appear on your screen offering you choices of what to read and where to continue along each step of the search. Netscape, which is a favorite of mine, is a gofer that keeps a bookmark of where your search took you, so you should get lost or decide you need to begin your search from scratch again, you can easily retrieve your steps.

Ease of extracting pertinent and timely information is crucial to people researching HIV/AIDS information. Through the grant award, both The AIDS Project and the Portland Public Library have access to the National Library of Medicine’s databases. We also have free links to the Center for Disease Control National AIDS Clearing House and the National Institute of Health databases. Clients can access something called “AIDS Frequently Asked Questions” to answer basic questions about HIV and AIDS. Biology; nutrition, protected sex, drug trials, etc. can be accessed via the Internet. News groups on the Internet contain articles on various topics as well. Readers can search and read any article that interests them and can respond either to the entire news group or to the author of a specific article. The drawback to this service is that these articles are not verified for validity. There are some agencies that post to news groups that we as readers can assume have credibility, such as the New York Times, but there is no monitoring of who is posting or what they can say. The best advice I can offer when reading on a news group is to use your own best judgement when reading what is posted. There is a lot of information, but as always, we need to be cautious as to when and where we use that information.

As The AIDS Project moves into the future with technology, it is also moving its office space. The AIDS Project is moving into the State Theater building at 606 Congress Street in downtown Portland to accommodate our growth as an agency. Once we move, we will have a terminal with access to the Internet in a semi-private room. Case managers will be well versed in retrieving information, so clients not comfortable with going on line themselves will be encouraged to ask their case managers for the information they need. I will be available to clients to train and answer questions as well.

After we move, and we are unpacked and ready to accommodate surfers, The AIDS Project will notify our clients and the general public. Until our move date, clients and the general public who wish to gain the latest information via the Internet are welcome to go to the Portland Public Library at 5 Monument Square in Portland. Happy surfing.  

Look us over, don’t overlook us!

Center in Caribou serves g/lesbian/bi community

by Bob Coffey

One of Maine’s gay community’s most significant accomplishments can be found in a rather unassuming building along Maine Route 164 in Caribou. There, overlooking the state highway as it meanders south to the Aroostook and gay community of Brunswick. To the casual observer, this nondescript building is intriguing enough to attract a second, a third look.

Maine’s first gay and lesbian community center is one that Lambda Nord’s cramped office, to local folks bilingual name is a tip-off to the distinctiveness of the community it aims to represent. 

OUT OF TOWN!

by Paul T. Bernard

I got a call the other day from someone asking about frequent flyer programs worked. It brought to mind that I might try to educate people about them.

First, a frequent flyer program is a system to reward loyal customers. Basically, the more you fly on a particular airline - the more rewards you earn. So, just why do airlines offer free flights to frequent flyers? Because, in order to earn a free ticket, it means that you have to fly 20,000-25,000 miles. This averages out about 5 round-trips to the west coast, or 10-12 round-trips to Florida. And don’t think that the free tickets are free - you don’t have to pay them - but the costs are built into the 5-12 ticket that you have to buy to earn them.

This means that somewhere between 5-10% of the cost of the tickets that you purchase goes towards the frequent flyer program. Regardless, if you fly on a regular basis, you are crazy not to join a frequent flyer program. There is that mean that you have to make some changes in how you travel. It would mean that you now should pick an airline and take all of your trips on that one.

Each airline’s frequent flyer is different in the sense that each one has different mileage requirements for free tickets and even different ways that they compute the actual mileage. For example, if you were to fly from Portland to Orlando on Delta Air Lines, you would fly from Portland to Boston to Atlanta to Orlando. Because Delta counts the shortest leg of your trip as the domeserial, American Airlines would court your frequent flyer program. Moins than 250 miles. If you fly first class, most airlines give you double mileage credit for your flight.

Which airline has the most frequent flyer program? That’s a hard one to answer - mainly, because they all differ in many ways. As far as the gay/lesbian community goes, there are some major differences that you need to be aware of. Delta Air Lines recently changed its program so that you could give your free tickets to someone else - a lover or anyone. Until May 1, you could only give your free tickets to family members.

The recognized leader in gay/lesbian travel is undoubtedly American Airlines. Their frequent flyer program was the first in existence. Their awards are transportable and easily obtained. In addition, American Airlines has actively pursued the gay/lesbian market. They even made a sales manager to gay/lesbian travel market - a first for any major airline. Northwest Airlines is a new airline that has been active in pursuing the gay/lesbian community and their frequent flyer program is rated as one of the best.

You can also build mileage in a number of other ways. You can earn mileage by using your American Express Card, by having MCI long distance service, by renting cars from airline partners or staying at hotel chains that are airline partners. Actually, you can earn a free ticket without ever having flown anywhere - just rack up the miles with these partners.

The down-side to frequent flyer programs is that it is becoming difficult to use your free tickets when you want to. A friend of mine wanted to come home sometime this summer from San Francisco and wanted to use his free ticket on United. He finally had to settle on dates that were not that convenient for him, because all of the other dates he wanted were not available. The airlines restrict the number of seats available for free tickets, making it difficult for frequent flyers to arrange trips. After his frustration with his summer vacation, he immediately scheduled his Christmas vacation flights - had he waited another 3-4 weeks, he probably wouldn’t have been able to use his free ticket.

Despite the restrictions, frequent flyer programs are a good deal. Even if you fly just once or twice a year, eventually you will earn a free ticket - so why not take advantage of it. All you have to do is sign up - and it doesn’t cost anything to join. From that point on, every flight that you take on that airline will earn mileage toward a free ticket.
Lesbian Health Project ends 1st Year with Clinic; Survey is Next

by Tania Jo Hathaway

Picture this: You walk into a medical office for your annual gynecological exam. Maybe this is your first-ever exam, or your first since you came out as a lesbian, or your first exam in several years. Apprehensive as you are, you know that at least it will be assumed by this medical office that you are a lesbian. In addition, you know that you will be treated by a lesbian health care provider or someone else who is very knowledgeable about lesbian-related issues.

You have arrived at the office with your partner/lover/girlfriend and maybe your child. You are there as a family and the staff treats you as such, or you have arrived alone. Either way, you are greeted in the waiting room and encouraged to "browse the lesbian literature" on the coffee table. There, in plain sight, are glossy lesbian magazines, the latest issue of "Community Pride Reporter" and several books covering topics like lesbian sex and lesbians in mid-life.

Soon it is time to see the health educator. She gives you literature on lesbian health issues (!), and talks easily with you about the everyday issues lesbians face. Next, you see the nurse practitioner for THE EXAM. The nurse practitioner brings up the topic of health risks that are specific to lesbians!

To top it all off, you are offered these services free of charge, you donate whatever money you can afford. You leave the appointment having been treated as the whole person that you are, and knowing you have a resource should you need further care.

On Saturday May 20, the Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine (LHP/SM) offered the clinic described above. The goal of the clinic was to provide cancer screening services for lesbians who may not receive routine health care due to financial reasons and/or the lack of lesbian-safe, lesbian-knowledgeable practitioners. The Clinic was made possible by a generous donation from Tri-County Health Services, who lent LHP/SM their space for a day; and the volunteers who staffed the Clinic. LHP/SM is looking for a site and volunteers to offer similar services in other parts of the southern Maine area.

The Cancer Screening Clinic capped one year of organizing activities for LHP/SM. To start its second year, LHP/SM is developing a survey of lesbian health needs. The survey is designed to assess general, gynecological, and mental health needs in order to assist organizers in developing the second year of health related programming.

In addition to the survey, LHP/SM is sponsoring a two-day conference on lesbian health and sexuality October 6 & 7, 1995. If you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive the survey and other mailings, call or write: (207)772-2699, LHP/SM PO Box 11048, Portland, ME 04104.
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