On Saturday, July 1, 1995, Stephen Dobson, Rick Mitchell and another man as yet unnamed, are alleged to have attacked and beaten William Clark and another man. Dobson and Mitchell have been charged with aggravated assault, a felony, and harassment.

Gay bashing: Two men attacked and beaten outside Blackstone's

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

by characteristic, a misdemeanor. They also have been served with a civil suit which seeks a permanent injunction against them.

Mark Dion, spokesperson for the Portland Police Department, said, "We're alleging that this person (Clark) was attacked because he was perceived to be a homosexual. When you combine the slurs, the fact that the defendants identify Blackstone's as a locale for the gay community and that there doesn't seem to be, at this point, any provable relationship preceding the attack between the parties, I think it's safe for the court to infer that this was provoked simply by association with a par-

Photo by Everett Here

William Clark, 28, was savagely beaten the night of July 1, 1995 outside a Portland gay bar.

More Pride photos pages 4, 5, 8, 22; Bangor Pride, page 24.
Maine Won’t Discriminate
Chapter contacts & meeting times

Aroostook County: PO Box 853
Caribou, ME 04736
Dick Harrison-207/896-5726

Bangor: PO Box 963
Bangor, ME 04402
Jim Martin-207/990-3420
Meetings: 1st Sunday, 6-6 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-Marlci Hall, Rm 216

Brunswick/Bath: PO Box 245
Brunswick, ME 04011
Ponnie Edgerton-207/729-4930
Tina Phillips-207/729-4930

Capitol Area:
Maple Hill Farms
RR #1, Box 1175
Hallowell, ME 04347
Scott Cowger-207/622-2708
Cheryl Ring-207/26-0818
Meetings: 6:30 PM-Apr. 26,
May 10 & 25, at Maple Hill

Hancock County:
PO Box 373
Ellsworth, ME 04605
Peter Rees-207/667-2358

Ruth Blackburn-207/276-0503
Meetings: 3rd Sunday, 4:00 PM
UU Church, Bucksport Rd.

Kennebunk Area:
Meeting: 6:30-8:00 pm.
2nd & 4th Mondays
Christ Church, Diane Street
Steve Burr - Contact
Info Line-207/985-9793

Lewiston:
P.O. Box 3485
Auburn, ME 04212-3485
Enter Turner-207/778-9694

Campaign Manager: Amy Pritchard, 1-800-761-1788
PO Box 11061, Portland Maine 04104

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

Midcoast:
PO Box 622
Rockland, ME 04841
Dorothy Mertweather-207/754-7873

Portland:
PO Box 8124
Portland, ME 04104
Steve Addario/Jessica Maurer
207/761-1788
Meetings: 6:30 PM-
Every other Monday
St. Luke’s Cathedral, 143 State St.
April 24, May 8, May 22

Ogunquit:
PO Box 2250
Ogunquit, ME 03907
John Cavaretta-207/646-2122

Southwest:
Box 6542, RR #2
Hiram, ME 04041
Janice Campbell-207/625-3689

Waldo County:
7 Congress Street
Belfast, ME 04915
Cary Leah MacLeod
207/338-4194

Washington County:
RR #1, Box 177
Millbridge, ME 04658
Betsy Dennis-207/246-2007
Tom-207/546-7505

Waterville/Oakland:
RR #3, Box 2209
Oakland, ME 04963
Diane Campbell-207/465-7574

Western Maine:
62 High Street
Farmington, ME 04938
Gay/straight Peoples’ Alliance
207/778-7380

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August 25, 26, 27 and Optional Retreat 27 - 28th

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Saturday, August 12: day long
Maine Street Art Connection, Brunswick. Connections Gallery,
Wyler Gallery, O’Farrel Gallery, Icon Gallery and others will
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Sunday, August 20th: 7:00 pm
Catie Curtis in concert at Cape Elizabeth United Methodist Church,
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Look for separate ad to find out about Monica Grant performing in August!
Anti-gay Coalition forms to support referendum
Cosby shunned as national groups take center stage in referendum battle

by Bruce Balboni

Paul Madore, failed candidate for the state legislature from Lewiston, and leader of the successful fight against Equal Protection Lewiston, has been chosen to lead the newly formed Coalition to End Special Rights (CESR - pronounced "Ceez-surr"). Their first meeting was held Monday, June 19, 1995. The Christian Civic League (CCL) of Maine is the parent of this coalition with support from Focus on the Family, based in Colorado Springs, Colorado and the Family Research Council, based in Washington, D.C.

The emergence of this coalition is a reflection of the fading star of Carolyn Cosby, Chairperson of Concerned Maine Families (CMF) as a leader in the anti-gay political movement. Cosby has been unable to obtain any funds from national groups and is being investigated by the Ethics Commission in Augusta as a result of a complaint by one of her own supporters - Linda Bean.

Ominously, Bob Knight, who holds the absurdly oxymoronic title of Director of Cultural Affairs for the Family Research Council, attended the June 19th meeting in Lewiston. The Family Research Council is a Washington, D.C. based radical right organization which supports the referendum and opposes any legal reforms regarding the civil rights of homosexuals.

Knight is the author of, "Homosexual Agenda" a series of pamphlets whose "emphasis is given to disputing the 10% figures and other faulty research claims, as well as exposing the homosexual agenda in schools."

Knight was the keynote speaker at the first meeting of CESR. According to, "The Record," newsletter of the Christian Civic League, "Knight indicated that the president of the Family Research Council, Gary Bauer, is very supportive of the referendum." Knight also told CESR that their coalition had received a strong endorsement from Tom Minnery, Vice president of public policy at Focus on the Family.

"The Record," went on, "Knight is convinced the referendum can be won with hard work and the kind of sincere devotion demonstrated in the successful Lewiston campaign of 1993. Paul Madore closed the productive meeting with a promise to commit himself fully to the task of organizing a statewide grassroot effort and the administrative infrastructure to create a "Yes" vote in November. The initial budget for the Coalition is $100,000.

The Community Pride Reporter (CPR) spoke to Madore and asked him what involvement, if any, CMF would have in CESR. He said, "I was approached by representatives of principal organizations, both state and national and I was asked to head the coalition and I'm just delighted that they gave me that opportunity. I'm very close to this issue and I share their concerns as well, mainly because I believe I understand the message and I'll be able to bring to the state effort something similar, if not identical, to the results in Lewiston."

When pressed to answer why Concerned Maine Families (CMF) is not included in this coalition and why they were not approached to lead the referendum battle, considering that it was they who gathered the signatures for the petitions to force a referendum, Madore would not answer. He said, "We're going to be very hard at work in the next few months and I expect to work on behalf of the referendum, that's what has been delegated to me."

Paul Madore of Lewiston heads up CESR, a new coalition supporting the anti-gay referendum.

He did offer the following observation, as to why there may be a problem between Cosby and other supporters of the referendum, "I hope that we all have an opportunity to speak freely on the issue and to maintain the kind of respect that all parties deserve. If there is a problem at all I think it's that we don't do that. We fail in that effort. I want to maintain a mutual respect for all people involved and beyond that point I have a plate of fried chicken I've been attempting to get to. Let's talk in the future."

Christian Coalition resists pressure to join CESR

Paul Volle, Executive Director of the Maine Christian Coalition, told CPR that Paul Madore has asked him to join CESR but Volle does not believe the referendum is constitutional and that the ends do not justify the means. Volle added, "I'm not willing to compromise my principles because they say the issue is so burning and we have to deal with it. I don't believe that at all. There has been a lot of pressure put on us from national groups and state groups, but we will maintain the position we've had since 1993, which is hands off."

The national Christian Coalition has been receiving pressure from Bob Knight of the Family Research Council, which in turn has been applied to Volle. Knight has called Volle. Madore recently spent two hours trying to get Volle to join CESR.

Volle said Madore wants the referendum taken away from Cosby because Madore feels that Cosby is not a credible person. Volle added, "If you really stop and think about it they (CMF) have some real ethical problems going on with their finances and how they got the signatures from the standpoint... they were trying to tell the general public and the media that it's not a gay rights issue but when they were going out and collecting the signatures they were saying, 'Stop the gay rights in the state and overturn the gay rights in Portland.' So it was one way to one group and another way to a different group. I don't think that's an honest perspective. When is she lying? I don't want to be associated with an effort like that."

Commenting on the most recent death threat Cosby received Volle said, "It's another way to get media attention." Volle said that years ago, when Cosby was involved in standing legislature candidates Robin Lambert, she claimed to have received a death threat. CPR asked Volle if he has had any personal experience with gay men or lesbians. Volle said that he had a cousin, Steve, a homosexual, who died of AIDS.

MLGPA survey "important tool" in equal rights battle

by Wannie Weir, Publishing Editor

According to Karen Geraghty, President of the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance, surveys similar to the one inserted in this issue of CPR, "have been done before, but "opponents of equal rights for sexual minorities have always found fault with some aspect of the information gathered." Accusations of multiple surveys being filled out by the same person seem to be the biggest stumbling block to overcome.

This particular survey has a space at the end for survey participants to fill out their name, address and phone number. Geraghty reiterated the guarantee of anonymity which is printed on the survey, saying "We know this is a hard thing to fill out, but we must have something in the way of identification, even if it's a phone number and address, first name and phone number or address. We won't give it out to anyone."

If you belong to any one of the sexual minority groups in Maine, please consider participating in this survey. CPR will print the results of the survey as soon as they are available. If you have any questions or concerns, call MLGPA at 207/761-3732.

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Thousands celebrate...
"I don't think it had anything to do with 'gay.'" claims anonymous victim

PREJUDICE from page 1

known to police the night of the attack. CPR asked why the police delayed in arresting him. Dion explained, "If the police establish that there is probable cause against a particular individual for the commission of a felony, then you, as a police agent, can make what we call a PC arrest, a probable cause arrest. You feel there is sufficient evidence and you act. The more common process is, if you reach that point, you gather up your material, you make an appointment with the District Attorney's office, an Assistant District Attorney reviews the material and then a warrant is issued."

"We scheduled that interview and it appeared that we were going to have to wait quite a few days before someone was going to talk to us about the case and we were prepared to do that. But we also developed information that Dobson was intending to leave his address and that he had shaved his moustache and begun to alter his appearance so we expected flight. I made the decision that the detectives arrest on probable cause and not wait for this appointment."

Police response time has become an issue in this case. Ralph Cusack, owner of Blackstone's said the police were called three times and he remembers that it took 27 minutes for the police to get there. Cusack said Portland Police Chief Michael Chitwood checked police records and he said it took 17 minutes.

Contradicting statements made by the man who helped Clark, Cusack said the attackers did make anti-gay statements. He heard, "How many cocks did you suck today?" and statements like, "Are you going to get your boyfriend to beat us up?" These statements were also confirmed by an employee of the bar.

Cusack commends Clark for having the guts to pursue this case publicly. He said he knows gay people who have been attacked but who are afraid to come out and say so. Cusack acknowledged that Clark had been shut off that night, but was not asked to leave the bar. He added that they do not have trouble with Clark as a bar patron.

After the fight, before the police came, Cusack recalls the odd occurrence of the attackers trying to shake hands with the sober patrons of the bar who were outside. One eyewitness recalls Mitchell saying he was sorry and that he didn't have anything to do with the attack. At this point the attackers were accompanied by a young woman who is reported to be a sister of one of the alleged attackers.

An employee at the bar remembers one of the attackers, Stephen Dobson, from high school, and immediately identified him for the police.

Arraignment

Dobson was arraigned July 12. Court was scheduled to start at 9 am. Judge Cote strolled in at 9:20 am. During the 20 minute wait, the court staff was overheard grumbling about the consistent tardiness of this judge and that arriving at 9:20 am was his "common practice."

A probable cause hearing date was set for September 8, at 1:30 pm. The judge then asked if there was an issue with respect to bail. The state asked for $5,000, single surety, 10% cash bail. The state asked for cash because of the seriousness of the assault.

For the purposes of setting bail the defense conceded that there was not an issue of probable cause. As to bail the state said the crime appears to have been motivated by hate, there is a broken nose, facial cuts, an eye injury and assault by as many as three people against one. There has been an indication of flight and even though Dobson does not have a criminal record as an adult, he does have a juvenile record (sealed).

Dobson's attorney, James Bushell, argued for release on personal recognizance. See PREJUDICE, page 7

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"Get off the steps, fag!"

Interview with William Clarke

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

William Clark suffered broken nose, fractured eye socket & severe bruises.

William Clark was savagely beaten by three men outside Blackstone's, a popular Portland gay bar, the night of July 1, 1995. He has courageously gone public with his story. Mr. Clark consented to an interview with the Community Pride Reporter (CPR), July 10, 1995.

CPR: You were sitting on the steps of the apartment building next to Blackstone's. Three young men came walking by. Do you remember what the first words exchanged were?

WC: They said, "Get off the steps, fag."

CPR: When they first walked by did you say or do anything to get their attention?

WC: No. No. I remember saying to friends of mine, as they were cleaning the blood off my face, while I was crying, that, "All I was doing was just sitting there. I wasn't doing anything. I was just sitting there."

CPR: Were you drunk when this happened?

WC: Yeah. They had just cut me off at the bar and told me to go outside and get some air.

CPR: Describe what happened.  
WC: They said, "Get off the steps, fag," and some other derogatory statements and I really didn't want a confrontation so I got up to leave and the next thing I know - it happened really quick. I'm on the ground getting kicked in the head. I remember "A" ("A" is the other victim who chooses to remain anonymous) coming over and helping out and then the three guys left. Two or three minutes later, they came back and then the five of us went at it again and then the people from the bar came out and then the three guys left again. That was basically it. There were two confrontations. The whole thing lasted ten to twelve minutes from beginning to end.

See CLARK, page 7
time the fight broke out. Can you describe what happened that night?
A: I was locking my bike outside Blackstone's and a friend of mine was sitting on the stairs, a black guy (William Clark), he was just sitting there. He was drunk. I guess they had just shut him off at Blackstone's and these three guys were walking up the sidewalk as I was locking my bike up. I don’t know what was said but next thing I know, one of the guys had William down on the ground and was kicking the living shit out of him. They were kicking him in the face, getting him down on the ground ... all three of them were just kicking him.

CPR: As they were kicking him were they making anti-gay statements?
A: No, no. I don’t think it had anything to do with “gay.” Know what the paper (Portland Press Herald) said but they're wrong.

CPR: Explain why you claim this beating was not a gay-bashing.
A: Because they didn’t say anything. Usually they say “faggot” and stuff and that’s what the paper said, and it’s not right to say that. I saw the whole thing.

CPR: They never once said anything about William or you being gay?
A: They never said anything. They never said “faggot” — nothing.

CPR: Do you remember what the first words that were exchanged before the fight actually started were. You said, “I don’t know what was said.” Do you have any recollection of those first words?
A: From what I saw they were just kicking him saying, “C mon, get up, you punk” and they just kept on kicking him.

CPR: Wouldn’t “punk” be considered another word for being gay?
A: No! I’m a punk and I’m not gay.

CPR: Right ... so you don’t know what started it?
A: No Idea.

CPR: Did they speak to him or did he speak to them?
A: From what I hear, he said some words to them as they were walking by, but I don’t know that for sure.

CPR: OK, so during the beating they weren’t saying any anti-gay things?
A: No.

CPR: What happened next?
A: I got done locking my bike up ... I’m watching the fight. I’m about ten feet away. At first it was on one and then all three just started kicking him. They were kicking him as hard as they could - just kicking him, and when I saw that I walked up to all three of them and I said, “Look, why don’t you pick on someone fucking sober.”

CPR: Do you know them?
A: No, I never saw them before in my life.

CPR: When you said “pick on someone sober” did they stop beating him and start on you?
A: Well, they said, “What are you getting at ... you want us to fight you?” And I said, “Well, you can either take a walk or we can go on one on one. I ain’t going to go three on one.” And the next thing I know, the biggest guy out of the
New York City, birthplace of the modern gay liberation movement where 220,000 people celebrated Pride '95
The Dream Part of Our Journey

by Rock Chobard

The Dream Part of Our Journey was featured in the June issue of The Community Pride Reporter. This month, I offer suggestions on improving dream recall and how to make the best use of a dream journal.

Everyone dreams... but, not everyone remembers what they dream the next morning. In order to experience some of the benefits of dreaming, one must pay attention to our dreams, integrating their messages into our lives, it is important to find ways to improve our ability to remember and keep a record of the dreams we have. Below are twelve suggestions aimed at making the job easier and more satisfying.

Twelve Tips for Improving Dream Recall:

1. Develop a relationship with your "unconscious." When you tell your unconscious ("psyche") that you want to hear what it has to say... it speaks! Sometimes, a simple interest in the dream world will stimulate dream recall.

2. Go to bed early. Getting a full nights sleep and having a clear head in the morning will help with dream recall.

3. Before going to sleep, affirm: Tonight, I will remember a dream.

4. Have a paper, a pen, and a subtle light by your bed. This minimizes the obstacles you may experience upon waking to record, minimizes the movements you must make, and makes the job easier. A subtle light will not fully wake you. Date your entry, title your dreams and write the dream in a journal in the present tense. (This allows you to reserve the past tense for when it really happens.) Also, at the bottom of the page, make a few notes about what is going on in your life at the time. This can help you later see patterns.

5. Let yourself wake up in the middle of the night. Drink extra water, the night before, to assure that you will have to get up in the middle of the night, where you can often catch yourself dreaming.

6. Set aside quiet time between "waking up" and "getting up." Savor the twilight. That space one teeters between when they are half awake and half asleep.

7. No alarm clocks. Alarm clocks can decrease recall because they allow you no "twilight time." You are suddenly thrust into an awake state. Instead, try going to bed earlier so you wake up and savor the quiet time before the alarm goes off. Meanwhile, hopefully, memories of the dream images will surface in your silence.

8. Do not move upon awakening. Dreams are best recalled by lying still and letting the dream images surface. Ask "psyche" to let whatever you dreamt come to your conscious mind.

9. Record just a key word or an image. If you cannot remember the whole dream, write down a fragment, a mood, a feeling. You can certainly discover meaning in dream snippets and fragments.

10. Tell your dream to a trusted other or write down a fragment, a mood, a feeling. You can certainly discover meaning in dream snippets and fragments.

11. Develop a relationship with your "unconscious." When you tell your unconscious ("psyche") that you want to hear what it has to say... it speaks! Sometimes, a simple interest in the dream world will stimulate dream recall.

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EDITORIAL

The attack on a gay man, July 1, outside Blackstone's is another sad episode in the history of human relations. This paper's involvement with William Clark, the target of the attack, has been rewarding and reassuring. Mr. Clark's forthright manner in dealing with such senseless violence is inspiring.

There is, however, someone very important to this story who is, perhaps by his own choice, overlooked. We want to pay tribute to a man who risked his own safety to help someone else. The anonymous man who stepped into the breach, not knowing what might happen, gave the lie to the phrase, "discretion is the better part of valor." Had he been discreet, Mr. Clark may well not have been here to thank him as he intended to do at the City Hall rally, July 13.

Mr. Clark has said that this man not helped him, he might have been killed. As he lay on the ground feeling the kicks to his head from three, strong young men, he wondered if he would survive.

The anonymous man didn't know if these three hoodlums had weapons, he didn't know if there were more of them nearby. Quite simply, he risked his life to save someone he barely knew. He is a white man, he is straight. Mr. Clark is black. Mr. Clark is gay. Those are the facts. In our self-righteousness we'd say those facts shouldn't matter, but we know that on the street they do. There is only one word to describe the action taken by the anonymous man. After all the lofty talk about constitutional rights by dignitaries subsides, a simple truth emerges. We are witness to heroism.

This summer issue of Community Pride Reporter marks the beginning of our third year in existence serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities in Maine and seacoast New Hampshire. We are going to take some additional time off to relax, catch up on some office-type work, maybe get away to the beach or read a book! Novel concept. Anyway, we will see you in September. We hope the remainder of your summer re-creates you in the way you need most.

CPR MAIL BAG

Dear CPR,

Thank you for your generous help in promoting the Pride Pier Dance and all of this year's Pride events. Without the support of the press, our Pride Weekend would not have been so hugely successful.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all those who made our first Pier Dance the biggest and best party of the year. Special thanks go to our outstanding sponsors: Faith Worley and all the off from Citi for hosting the cash bar, Katabah restaurant for the balloon arch, Greg Powers Entertainment and Ken Newton for the sound system, Dunbar Lighting and David Jury of Jeryk Space Body Optics for the lighting, Casco Bay Weekly for donated advertising space, Blackstone's bar and Redhook Ale for cash contributions which help pay for insurance and promotion. The support and generosity of our sponsors made the Pier Dance possible.

I encourage all members of our community to thank our sponsors through supporting the businesses which support our Pride.

Special thanks also to our four fabulous DJ's: Lisa Vaccaro, Kris Clark, Michael Giller and Laree Love who doted their time and talent to the event. The help and support of the Portland City Council, the Police Department and all the city officials and employees who were involved in the permit process is greatly appreciated, as is the assistance of former Mayor Peter O'Donnell.

Thanks to Drop Me A Line for handling advance ticket sales, Johanna Amato for help with promo graphics, Crystal Rose for her 'nock out performance of "Over the Rainbow," Annette Dragon who photographed the event for us, Shawn Walsh for loaning rainbow flags, Vic Morrow for arranging the loan of tables, and Michael Wormwood for being Michael Wormwood.

Saving the best for last, I would like to thank all the exceptional people who volunteered for set up and security, especially Kevin Geel who saved the day on set up and Michael McKenzie who trained and directed the security crew. The volunteers who gave their time and energy to this event made it possible for nearly 2000 people to celebrate Pride safely and without incident. They all deserve our thanks.

Beyond presenting a great party to kick off Pride Weekend, the Pier Dance was created as a major fund raiser for the Pride Committee to finance all of the weekend's events. Between the gate receipts and Pride's percentage of the bar receipts we are able to cover expenses for this year and have sufficient seed money to insure that Pride '96 will be bigger and better than ever. Thank you to all who attended and made the Pride Pier Dance a great success.

Sincerely,
Scott T. Hanson, Portland Pier Dance Organizer.

Dear CPR,

I have internalized the depression long enough. I am appalled at the direction that presidential politics has taken, and am at a loss for a solution. Obviously there isn't a single Republican who I would trust to walk my mother's cat. Imagine the cesspool we would be in if they got more deeply entrenched?

The only option to me is to stick with President Clinton though he has let us down on more than one occasion, e.g. gays in the military, Jocelyn Elders, and his declaration during his campaign that "AIDS will be my passion." Although he did say the "A" word in connection with a slam on Jesse Helms, Phil Gramm's twin sister.

Rosa Perot to me is another southern redneck who would say anything to get elected. Another gem is Pete Wilson. I was living in California when he first ran for governor. Always, the Sneaky Pete, he proclaimed loudly that if the legislature would pass a gay and lesbian rights bill, he would sign it. The legislature did so, and Wilson waited until 5:00 p.m. on Friday (when the press was gone) to veto it. Obviously the gay and lesbian community was incensed.

I'm willing to give Clinton another chance if we convince him to remember us in 1996. As far as I can see, it's the only choice we've got.

Thank you for listening to my rambling. If you don't agree, I hope that you will at least give my points some consideration.

Yours in solidarity,
Ben Moore, Northport
GUEST EDITORIAL

Portland Pride '95: How much success can you take!?

by Michael Rossetti
Prize Director

Without doubt this year's Portland Pride celebration was the biggest and best so far. Pictures and words cannot fully express the fun and support people experienced, so I will not dwell on them, except to say that we have video.

I will, however, give the well deserved thank you to the supporters and workers for this year's Pride.

Thanks should first go the City of Portland for being the sort of place where diversity is not only protected, but may comfortably flourish to the benefit of City life. City Manager, Bob Galney, deserves note for his support of the Pride '95 Festival proposal that went before the Public Safety Committee and the City Council. Councilors Charles Harlows, Keri Lord, and John McDonough and the members of the Public Safety Committee deserve thanks for their trust in the Pride Committee to fulfill the obligations of our proposal. The new Portland City Council deserves appreciation for granting this year's celebration official "Declaration of Festival." Former Councilor and former Mayor, Peter O'Donnell deserves thanks for his support and guidance in getting our proposal through the process.

Thanks to the many City employees who freely and graciously gave advice and support.

Thanks is especially expressed to the Portland Police for their support, protection and assistance throughout the weekend. The fact that no incident occurred during the entire weekend is attributable to their presence. They are Stars!!

When it came to raising the initial costs of the celebration, three groups should be recognized. The drag community was instrumental in getting Portland Pride '95's fund-raising off the ground. I have come to believe that their commitment to the confidence, diversity and visibility of gay and lesbian people is without equal. Also, the bars of Portland, especially Blackstone's were stellar in their assistance. Thanks also to National distributors and their Red Hook Ale supplier who were the primary financial backers of our first Pier Dance.

Finally, thanks to all members of the Pride '95 committee and their volunteers. Each was uniquely matched to their event and all were committed and diligent workers. Although they deserve to be better known, the satisfaction of a service well done is its own reward.

This year's celebration was better received by the general press, but the gay/lesbian press can not be thanked enough for their interest and support.

The philosophy of the Pride Committee is that a healthy community does not happen at the State House or the White House, but in our own houses. We have worked hard this year to provide a focus for all our community on the joys of mutual support and open, free lives.

We tried hard to showcase our community in the best of light, informing not only each other, but the non-queer community as well. We believe that visibility works only if we work together.

1996 is Portland Pride's 10th anniversary. We are already planning to make it a perfect 10. The Pride Committee meets twice monthly, all year, with a place at the table for everyone.

We have no closed meetings and allow the disabled, the non-white peoples to be part of our discussions. Each is your friend. This is the most important truth because it provides the foundation for the revolution that is gradually transferring power from the poorer majority to an oligarchy of the already rich and powerful.

The second lie is that America is a free country. This in spite of the fact that there is little real public dissent, that the two major political parties are virtually undistinguishable from each other, that Congress and the Presidency seem locked in an endless self-defeating struggle for the moral high ground, and that the same parties, therefore, are able to accrue Americans in the political process is so low now that the U.S. does not even qualify as a democracy by international standards.

The third big lie is that Americans are just good-hearted, kindly people living in a bewilderingly hostile world. This lie works together with our obsessive fear of world terrorism to perpetuate an isolationism born of our very real ignorance of the dangers and political incentives for other people and ourselves. It is also a convenient excuse for any kind of military adventure that we might "need" to undertake for the preservation of our "national security" (like waging a terrorist war against Nicaragua, for example or supporting fascism in El Salvador).

The fourth big lie is that America's stubborn economic malaise is the result of evil machinations from beyond our shores, rather than the inevitable product of nearly two decades of unremarked greed on the part of big business with the collusion of our increasingly corrupt political leaders. This lie leads us to seek foreign scapegoats for our troubles rather than honestly examining the very real cultural and structural issues that have got us where we are.

The fifth big lie is that, because the disabled, the non-white peoples are the cause of much of America's troubles — they are the enemy. This lie underlies much of the Contract With America and the "Contract On America" (The Nation Magazine) and is the excuse for so-called welfare reform and other measures designed to eviscerate the already-rotting corpse of the great society.

The last big lie is that, only through a return to what we are told are fundamental values — the supremacy of the two-parent, heterosexual family, Christianity as the dominant metaphysical belief system, and the disemboweling of government — can the US return to its former splendor and take back its rightful position as biggest, strongest, richest country in the world. This is probably the most galling lie in that it is precisely behind the screen afforded by these values that the most appalling behavior has and is taking place — physical and sexual abuse, oppression of woman and gay people, and an unnecessary and destructive class war. What is especially ironic about all the sanctimonious bleating on the subject of Christian values is that, if ever I saw the nature of the Antichrist, it is on the Contract With America.

[Introducing RANT, a commentary column by David O. Cook, about broad issues affecting all of us. Opinionated, left-wing, and provocative, RANT aims to tell it like it is. The opinions expressed in RANT do not necessarily reflect the opinions of CPR its owner, editors, or writers — but they are probably not too far off either! To react to RANT, or any other column in CPR, please address your comments to Community Pride Reporter, 142 High Street, Suite 623, Portland, ME 04101. Attention: (Column name).]

by David Cook

In the days of the Cold War, there was a one-liner that went "What's the difference between a Soviet citizen and an American citizen? Answer: The Soviet citizen knows his government is ly­ing to him."

America was founded on the principles of the Enlightenment, which resulted in the truths enshrined in the Declaration of Independence and the basic structures in the Constitution. Now a new America is being founded and it is being built on big lies. The first of these, the isolationism born of our very real ignorance of the dangers and political incentives for other people and ourselves, is your friend. This is the most important truth because it provides the foundation for the revolution that is gradually transferring power from the poorer majority to an oligarchy of the already rich and powerful.

The second lie is that America is a free country. This in spite of the fact that there is little real public dissent, that the two major political parties are virtually indistinguishable from each other, that Congress and the Presidency seem locked in an endless self-defeating struggle for the moral high ground, and that the same parties, therefore, are able to accrue Americans in the political process is so low now that the U.S. does not even qualify as a democracy by international standards.

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SUMMER '95 CALENDAR

JULY EVENTS

Thursday, July 27:
ΔΔ 7:30 - 9:00 PM - The Matlovich Society, Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland, presents "Safe Care in the Face of Hatred." Vivian Wadas, formerly of Womanspace Counseling Center, will facilitate a program about living with the chronic stress of homophobia and lead us to reflect on ways to alleviate that stress.

Saturday, July 30:
ΔΔ 3:30-6:00 PM - The Rights of Summer, GLAAD's 13th Annual Summer Party, The Provincetown Inn. Introducing GLAAD's new Executive Director, Amelia A. Craig. ΔΔ 8:00 PM - In concert at First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland: disappear fear with special guest, Kate Schrock. MWD benefit. Tickets $10. FMI: 775-2378.

AUGUST EVENTS

Tuesday, August 1:
ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM - Seacoast Chapter PFLAG meets. Viewing "Silent Page 12 CPR ....,..__/

Wednesday, August 9:
ΔΔ 7:00-8:30 PM - Support group for Advocates and Supporters of Lesbian & Gay Civil Rights. 236 Park Ave., Portland. Facilitated free by Vivian Wadas, (774-2403) and Jewel McHale (773-4211). FMI: call.

Thursday, August 10:
ΔΔ 7:00 PM - The Matlovich Society's annual iawn party. Bring something to share, plan to eat hearty. Watch the sunset. Beverages and grill provided. 104 North St. Portland. If lost, call 761-2059.

Saturday, August 12:
ΔΔ All day: Maine Street Art Connection. Several galleries in Portland will donate 15% of days proceeds to MWD. Art raffle, food sale and entertainment from 3-6 PM. FMI: 207/729-3703 or 207/729-6406. ∆ MWD state-wide chapter meeting and summer potluck cookout competition. Searsport, Maine. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. FMI, directions and time: 1-800-761-1788.

Monday, August 14:

Sunday, August 20:
ΔΔ 7:00 PM - Cape Elizabeth United Methodist Church, Rt. 77. Cate Curtis in Concert sponsored by the Religious Coalition Against Discrimination. FMI: 799-8396.

Monday, August 24 thru:

Sunday, August 27:
ΔΔ Maine-ly For You Festivals presents for all ages throughout the shopping day event. FMI: 1-800-761-1788.

SEPTEMBER

Friday, September 1 thru:

Saturday, September 4:
ΔΔ Portland Round Up sponsored by local gay community within AA. University of So. Maine Campus.

Saturday, September 2:
ΔΔ 9:00 PM-midnight - Chem free dance sponsored by Portland Round Up at Williston West Church, $5 at the door. FMI: 207/729-7403.

Bias Crime Task Force holds rally to condemn attacks on minority groups

Portland City Hall gathering draws 500 people, July 13, 1995

William Clark stands with Attorney General Andrew Ketterer at the "No Room for hate" rally. Clark is the victim of the gay bashing July 1st outside Blackstone's. Ketterer said, "Bigotry is a disease of ignorance and ignorance is nothing to be proud of." He added that the AG's office pledges to protect the civil rights of all Maine's citizens.

Portland's Police Chief, Michael Chitwood stands with Moses Sebunya, President of the Maine's NAACP. Chitwood said, "We have gathered together to send a powerful message that hate and violence will not be tolerated within our community." He added that "an attack on one of us is an attack on all of us." Sebunya criticized Mayor Dawson of Portland and the City Council for their silence regarding the racist attacks on Somalis in West Bayside.

About 500 people attended a rally, July 13, 1995, on the steps of Portland City hall. The rally was sponsored by the Bias Crimes Task Force in response to a series of hate crimes the most recent of which was a gay bashing July 1, 1995, outside Blackstone's.

William Clark stands with the man who came to his defense when he was attacked outside Blackstone's, July 1. This man, who is not gay, chooses to remain anonymous. He suffered personal injury to help Clark. Clark had planned to speak at the rally but because of a misunderstanding did not. He wanted to thank the man for coming forward to encourage others to help out if they are witness to violence. He also wanted to thank the Portland PD, the AG's office and Chief Chitwood in particular for their support.
TRAVEL/VACATION

ADERICAN PARADISE! 20 charming rooms, 100 mountain acres, pool, hot tub, hiking/skiing trails, yummy breakfasts, peace and privacy. We're your perfect vacation choice year round! Week-long and midweek discounts. HIGHLANDS INN, Box 1180P, Bethel, NH 03744, (603) 869-3798. AD

AD BACKPACKING, canoeing, X-country skiing, Native American cultural trips, youth trip. Wilderness skills and environmental awareness. Small groups. Great food, Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, Maine, Quebec, Newfoundland. Contact: Earth Treks, Dept. C, RFD 2, Box 785, Thorndike, ME 04986, 1-800-589-4770. AD

YELLOW BIRCH FARM: Romantic, seasonal cottage or year round studio on working organic farm in Down east Maine, 20 minutes from Eastport. Absolute peace and quiet. Beautiful, remote, unspoiled Cobscook Bay. B & B or weekly rental. Brochure, reservations: (207) 728-5807. AD

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

BUSINESS ORGANIZATION

AD The Rainbow Business & Professional Network has expanded its membership to welcome gay men and persons not necessarily business owners. We are developing a directory of gay lesbian/bi owned or friendly businesses. We plan to conduct seminars on issues related to being a business & professional network. We will have social times together. FMI, call Vicky Zavasnik, (207) 775-0015 or Carolyn Jalbert, (207) 878-3755. AD

HELP WANTED

AD ADVETORIAL/ADVERTISING Publishing Company is looking for articulate, outgoing individuals. Telemarketing and sales experience a definite plus! Good reading, writing, grammar and people skill a definite must! If you're self-motivated, eager to learn, earn and be part of a team effort publishing business biographies in regional newspapers, call Gail Moffat at (207) 761-8138. If leaving message, specify full name and best time to return call. Or write to: W.I.L.D., c/o Community Pride Reporter, 142 High St., Suite #634, Portland, ME 04101. AD

SUPPORT GROUP


Gay/Lesbian Travel

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Gélineau, Director, AIDS Coalition of Lewiston-Auburn, P.O. Box 7977, Lewiston, ME 04243. AD

PERSONALS

AD Small endowed? Short in stature? Like us? Tired of guys searching for only tall or well hung? Finally stories, advice and personal stories devoted to the small man and our admirers. 100's nationwide. SASE P.O Box 610294, Bayside, NY 11561-0294. AD

AD Sex with an older man? Why not? GWM, unconventional Dad, 50s, seeks trim young man to share good times, travel, outdoors, antiques, yard sales, leather, deep, dark adventures, etc. Possible long term. "Share my golden years." Ron, P.O Box 1169, Sanford, ME 04073. AD

AD GWM young 40s, HIV+ with positive healthy attitude. Live in NYC and southern coastal Maine. Professional antiques dealer and interior design consultant. I enjoy "arranging things," the theatre, travel to Europe and sharing the "good things in life." I'm looking for a "sweetheart" of a guy for a friendship, adventure and romance. Must be fun-loving, have a positive attitude and healthy, with plans to stay that way! If that sounds like you, write me a letter about yourself and why you think we should meet. My best regards. David C. Frost, P.O. Box 350, Moody, ME 04054. AD

MISCELLANEOUS

AD Battered Lesbian Project forming for W.I.L.D., Women Igniting Love and Diversity. Volunteers needed. Seeking to connect with battered and formerly battered lesbians to assess community needs and provide assistance. If your partner/lover is verbally, emotionally, or physically abusive to you, we can help you get free. All inquiries strictly confidential and all calls returned discreetly. Call Gabriella at (207) 761-8138. If leaving message, specify full name and best time to return call. Or write to: W.I.L.D., c/o Community Pride Reporter, 142 High St., Suite #634, Portland, ME 04101. AD

Classified Ad Rates:
$10 for first 40 words
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SUPPORT GROUPS

Medical Support
Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic: Confidential-screening and treatment for STDs for women, men and non-residents at a walk-in clinic. Low cost, medical aid accepted. Confidential, anonymous, confidential HIV testing by appointment only. Clinic open Tues. & Thurs. 5-30 to 6:30 Portland City Hall Room 303. FMI call 874-8784.

Planning Parenthood of Northern New England: Serving men and women offering sexual exams, pregnancy testing, birth control info. & supplies (free condoms), testing and treatment for infections and STDs, menopause support and more. Evening hours, affordable services, and complete confidentiality. Medicaid welcome. #70 Forest Ave., Portland. FMI call 874-1095.

Identity Support
New Hampshire PFLAG Meetings Concord: Meets Sunday from 3-5 pm at 1st Congregational Church, Washington & North Main Sts. (use Washington St. entrance), FMI call 603/472-4944. Seacoast: Meets 1st Sunday from 7-9 pm at Stratham Community Church, Emery Lane. Stratham, 1st floor of (right of Elev of 101 circle), FMI call 603/772-5196. Monadnock Region: Meets 4th Monday from 7-8:30 pm at The Place to Go, 40 Community St., Peterborough. FMI call 603/547-2545 or 603/623-6023.

Nashua: Meets 3rd Thursday at 7:30 pm at Unitarian-Universalist Church, Lowell & Canal Sts., FMI call 603/880-0910. Plymouth: Meets first Sunday, 7-9 pm, Plymouth Congregational Church, FMI call 603/968-7254 or 603/786-9812.

Upper Valley Region: Meets second Monday, 7 pm. Hanover FMI, call 603/543-8339.

Maine PFLAG Meetings
Portland: Meets 2nd Tuesday 7-9 PM at Woodford Congregational Church, 202 Woodford St. FMI, 766-5158 or 774-3441.

Women's Center - Belfast - Weekly meetings, 9 A.M. 2nd floor (above Jiffy John), FMI, 318-7072. Group meeting every Wednesday, 6:15 pm. Women's Spirituality Gatherings, Mondays 7-9. NASS: Just for Today meetings every Wednesday, 8:15 PM, at St. Luke's Cathedral, State & St., Portland. Use Park St. entrance in rear. Also Friday meeting, 8:00 PM, Immigrant Baptist Church, corner Deering & High St., Use entrance off Deering St.

Out and About - a lesbian support and educational group, meets 1st & 3rd Wednesdays monthly, 7 pm., United Methodist Church, 129 Miller Ave, Portsmouth, NH. FMI: P.OB 5691, Portsmouth, NH 03092, or 603/772-8040.

Out Among Friends: Meets Thursdays 7-8:30 pm, in the downstairs club room of the Portland YWCA, 87 Spring St. lesbian support/group. Free or $1 donation to help wreet.

Out on MIDL: For gays, lesbians, bi's and our friends. Very social support/social group. Meets Tuesdays, 8:00 PM, Thompson Library (right of the main entrance), FMI. Please call 207-874-6593 for location.

Town Meeting: For people interesting in being a member or volunteering organizational skills, call SASE (including your phone number) to P.O.Box 5136 Sta. A, Portland, ME 04101, or call 207/774-4940.

Maine Gay Men's Chorus is a community group which brings together men to enhance social tolerance and diversity in the Greater Portland area, as well as affirming the gay/lesbian experience with creative and lively musical entertainment. FMI call 883-1099 or write M.G.M.C., P.O. Box 10391, Portland, ME 04104.

The Maine Gay Visual Artist's League will meet on the third Wednesday of every month. The League is a non-profit, creative support network for Maine's gay & lesbian visual artists. FMI call 775-3420.

PHONELINE

Rita, Gays (P-FLAG) is an eclectic choral ensemble open to all women regardless of age, race, religion, 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 730, Concord, NH 03302-0730.

Music & Art

Women In Harmony is an eclectic choral ensemble open to all women regardless of age, race, religion, 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 4728, NCLR, Boston, MA 02113-4728.

Women of Salt consists of women working to build an inclusive and safe, facilitated. FMI and location call (207) 874-6593. Sponsored by USM's Woman's Forum.

Artists for Social Justice: A bi-sexual/straight network of artists working to affirm in all a positive nature of bisexuality. Meets Fridays from 2:30 to 4:30. FMI call 207-773-5726 or P.O.BOX 5301, Portland, ME 04104.

The Appollo Society: an out-reach, networking and social work organization for New England's gay and lesbians activists, free-phone hotline for human rights and legal questions. Free speech/civil rights advocacy group offering freedom-from-religion support, religious de-programming, and fun! FMI: 773-5726 or P.O.Box 5501, Portland, ME 04101.

Community of Hope: A Christian congregation open to all people working to build an inclusive and safe, facilitated. FMI call 603/772-5196. Serving gay and lesbian people and strives to be inclusive of all persons. Worship on Saturdays at 4:00 PM at Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St, Portland. FMI write Community of Hope. POB 1671, Portland, ME 04101.

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

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Pizza Get-Together: at 6:00 pm. First Universalist Church, 345 Broadway, Rockland, ME. FMI, Larry Goodale (603/547-2545) or call 775-3420. O-Squad: Support group for gay, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered. Serving Franklin County, based at UMF Farmington. FMI call and leave message. (207) 774-7380.

Trans Support Group: Meets regularly, provides confidential support, education and social activities for cross dressers, transsexuals, their families, & others interested in gender dysphoria issues. FMI write Trans Support, P.O. Box 1762, Portland, ME 04112.

Gender Talk North: P.O.Box 211, Kennebunk, ME 03901.

Trans Counseling: Counselling Counselling Assoc., P.O. Box 1124, Kenne, ME 03431. 603/557-3544.

Women Surviveors of Childabuse Affair: A support group for survivors of childhood abuse and/or sexual assault meets Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3 pm. Free, confidential, facilitated. FMI and location call (207) 874-6593. Sponsored by USM's Woman's Forum.

Bisexual People's Network: Meets to affirm in a positive nature of bisexuality and work towards greater acceptance in the bisexual, gay, lesbian, and straight communities. Support and referrals available. FMI write the P.O.Box 1018, Portland, ME 04104.

Wilde-Stein Club: Meets every Thursday at 8:30 pm at Memorial Union, Satter Lounge, UM at Oro. 

Lesbian/Bisexual Support Group: Meets every Tuesday, 7 PM, at Women's Resource Center 101 Fernald Hall, UMO at Oro. FMI call (207) 581-4125.

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

Seacoast Gay Men Social group meets Mondays (except holidays), 7 PM at Unitarian Universalist Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH. FMI call (603) 430-4052, or P.O.BOX 1394, Portsmouth 03082-1394.

Lewiston/Auburn: A new gay, lesbian, bisexual support group for the Lewiston/Auburn area meets Mondays at 7 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Spring St, Auburn.

Banger Lesbian Support Group: This Lesbian Support Group welcomes any woman who identifies as a lesbian. They seek to create woman-only, lesbian-positive

The Maine Gay Lesbian & Gay Men's Network for Maine's gay & lesbian youth info. FMI, 603/880-0910.

(Region by region)

Bisexuals, Gays (P-FLAG) is an eclectic choral ensemble open to all women regardless of age, race, religion, 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 4728, NCLR, Boston, MA 02113-4728.
space to explore issues and affirm themselves and each another as lesbians. Confidentiality, open-mindedness and respect are required. Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 pm, Mabel Wadsworth Women’s Health Center, 334 Harlow St., Bangor. FMI: (207) 947-5397.

Gay Parenting Discussion Group: Meeting 2nd Monday of month in Bangor Hall, University College Campus in Bangor. We discuss parenting issues. Open to gay men and lesbians. FMI, call 207/947-5397.

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OUTRIGHT/Portland: Meets every Friday from 7:30 to 9 pm at The People’s Building, 155 Brackett St., 2nd floor, Portland. Safe and supportive discussions with and for gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning youth. FMI call 774-TALK, or 774-HELP or write to P.O. Box 5077, Portland, ME 04101.

OUTRIGHT/Maine: Weekly, confidential meetings for gay, lesbian, & questioning youth 22 years and under. Call “First Call” at 795-6677 or 1-800-339-4042 and ask about OUTRIGHT.

OUTRIGHT/Portland: Meets every Friday from 7:30 to 9 pm at The People’s Building, 155 Brackett St., 2nd floor, Portland. Safe and supportive discussions with and for gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning youth. FMI call 774-TALK, or 774-HELP or write to P.O. Box 5077, Portland, ME 04101.

OUTRIGHT/Central Maine: Weekly, confidential meetings for gay, lesbian, & questioning youth 22 years and under. Call “First Call” at 795-6677 or 1-800-339-4042 and ask about OUTRIGHT.

OUTRIGHT/Portland: Meets every Friday from 7:30 to 9 pm at The People’s Building, 155 Brackett St., 2nd floor, Portland. Safe and supportive discussions with and for gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning youth. FMI call 774-TALK, or 774-HELP or write to P.O. Box 5077, Portland, ME 04101.

OUTRIGHT/Maine: Weekly, confidential meetings for gay, lesbian, & questioning youth 22 years and under. Call “First Call” at 795-6677 or 1-800-339-4042 and ask about OUTRIGHT.

Gay Related Support Meetings:

Portland

Wednesdays: People Living with HIV disease and all friends, families, partners & caregivers, 6:30-8:00 PM.

Tuesdays: People Living with HIV disease and all friends, families, lovers, and caregivers, 10:30 am-Noon.

2nd & 4th Tuesdays: Living Well focusing on quality of life and empowerment.

1st Wednesday: PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support), 5:30 pm. Call 775-PAWS.

Charles Wynn, Program Coordinator.

Mondays: People living with HIV meet from 5:30-7 pm. The above Portland support groups meet at The AIDS Project, 22 Monument Sq., 5th floor, except the Tuesday group, Living Well.

FMI on that call Sandy Tins at Stratton Health Care. Call Jane O’Rourke at 774-6877 or 1-800-851-2437 for more information.

Auburn: People living with HIV disease, Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00 pm at Auburn Family Planning. Call Diana Cargian, Androscoggin and Oxford Case Manager and Support Services Coordinator for TAP at the Auburn Building, 783-4031.

Bideford: People affected or infected by HIV, Mondays, 5:30-7:00 pm. So. ME. Medical Center classroom opposite cafe on 2nd floor. Call John Bean, York County Case Manager, 774-6877.

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

Gardiner: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays: People Living with HIV meet from 5:30-7 pm at the Physicians Building behind KVRHA Annex. Call MASS at 725-4955.

Rumford/Mexico: Mondays: AIDS Support Group/Phoneline meets from 7:45 pm at Mexico Congregational Church, Main Street, Mexico. Call 364-8603.

AIDS Coalition of Lewiston & Auburn: Thursdays: Support for people with HIV & their families. 7 pm, 70 Court St., 2nd floor, Auburn. FMI call 786-4697.

Maine AIDS Alliance

Member Organizations

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

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

Community AIDS Awareness Program: c/o Mexico Cong. Church/UCC, 45 Main St, Mexico, ME 04257. Call 364-8603.

Community Task Force on AIDS Education: P.O. Box 941, Napa, ME 04055. Call 583-6608.

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


Eastern Maine AIDS Network: P.O. Box 2018, Bangor, ME 04401. Call 990-3562.

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

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


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


Yahoo! AIDS Project: 22 Monument Square, Portland, ME 04101. Call 775-PAWS.

St. John Valley AIDS Task Force: c/o NMMC, 143 E. Main St., Fort Kent, ME 04743. Call 834-3355.


Wallo-Knot AIDS Coalition: P.O. Box 956, Belfast, ME 04915. Call 938-1427.
Three Shows, 3 women, 3 venues...

by Ainsel L. Ponti

It's hard to know just where to begin with this piece as the music was so great and I am overwhelmed with wanting to tell you about all three shows all at once.

Well, I guess I'll go in order. Going back to a Tuesday night in early June, the 6th to be exact. The first time seeing any artist usually stands out most in my mind. Such is the case with Bonnie Raitt. Having never seen her live before, I took the stage, the evening was great. The first time seeing any artist usually stands out most in my mind. Such is the case with Bonnie Raitt. Having never seen her live before, I went in with an open mind, and an open pair of ears. Before Raitt even took the stage, the evening was great because of the opening acts Raitt had on tour with her. There's nothing quite like classic blues to get your blood flowing. Charles Brown and Ruth Brown, both old enough to be most of our grandparents, performed what Ruth refers to as "coffee grindin' music" to a nearly sold out audience. Ruth Brown's "Love Letters" was gut-wrenching and wonderful. When Bonnie Raitt took the stage, she immediately established a comfortable rapport with us. Despite her semi-recent success, Raitt was sincere and seemed to enjoy playing for us. It did, however, take the crowd about two-thirds of the show to really start to move around and groove to the music. Raitt received quite the crowd more enthusiastic, but I have it on good authority that the local bars had a dramatic increase in attendance from beginning to end. The Chorus held us all in the palm of their hands doo-wop classics pushed fond memory notes of "Diversity" filled the theatre. sharing the stage with our own fabulous Chorus of "Our Time!" with an added Brother," and "There Comes a Time," touched different places in all our hearts. Following a welcome intermission, which found Congress Street awash in people trying to catch a cool reprieve from the heat of the theatre, the fabulous Flirtations took center stage and mesmerized us with their rapid fire humor and singing. They were great, pure and simple. What a coup to have them sharing the stage with our own fabulous Gay Men's Chorus at Pride '95.

Their irreverent lyric rewriting of doo-wop classics pushed fond memory buttons for me, not only of the original songs, but of previous flirt performances I've seen. You could hear a pin drop as the first notes of "Everything Possible" drifted out over the audience and covered us like a baby blanket. The words of this renowned lullaby strike a direct hit to the heart. "You can be anybody you want to be, you can love whom ever you will." Now there's an affirming thought for a youngster growing up hearing. The audience finally leap out of their seats as the song ended with "And the only measure of your words and deeds, will be the love you leave behind when you're gone."

The Chorus returned to the stage to join the Flirts in three concluding numbers, "On Children," "Home," and "This Little Light" on which we had audience participation as well. This section was somewhat disappointing in that the Flirts overpowered the Chorus. I'm sure it was due to some technical difficulty with mikes and monitors. The concert provided a pride filled conclusion to a splendid day. Although I have it on good authority that the local bars had a dramatic increase in patrons following the concert!, Thank you to everyone connected with the Chorus for your gift of singing! ΔΔ

Three Shows, page 17

Melissa Etheridge performing during her last visit to Portland.

by Winnie Weir, Publishing Editor

Pride '95 weekend was a series of high points culminating with a stirring performance by the Maine Gay Men's Chorus of "Our Time!" with an added bonus of special guests, The Flirtations.

Sitting in the packed State Theatre, the air felt electric with anticipation as performance time drew nearer. You could see the pride emanating from concert goers as they strode around the theatre greeting friends and family and calling out "Happy Pride." We were ready when the curtain went up and the first notes of "Diversity" filled the theatre.

The program was pure entertainment from beginning to end. The Chorus held us all in the palm of their hands as presented their gifts of song, dance and humorous antics. The Maritones' version of "What Shall We Do With A Drunken Sailor?" evoked ripples of laughter. "Deep River," a personal favorite, with Timothy Bate ably performing the solo, was very moving and ended the section entitled "Songs of Freedom."

Following these heavier selections, the chorus moved into lighter fare with "Reel A Bouche," "Pineapple Rag," and "Hit Me With A Hot Note." Kady Tardy was responsible for choreography and staging and did an outstanding job as did Eugene Balboni,

Our TIME! The Maine Gay Men's Chorus with The Flirtations

The Fabulous Flirtations pose for the camera during Pride '95 Festival.

by Matthew Kelly

First let me say that I hope this gets me out of hot water with anyone who reads my November review of Melissa Etheridge's show at The Civic Center, which I still say isn't THAT critical. I love who the hell they want!" She later added that she hopes that Maine Won't Discriminate can "get the damn thing off the ballot once and for all."

One of the musical highlights was when Raitt did a cover of the Talking Heads classic, "Burnin' down the house" which blended into "Love sneaking up on you." One of her last songs was "I can't make you love me." It was chilling. The show could have perhaps been louder and the crowd more enthusiastic, but Bonnie Raitt is definitely a performer not to be missed. The very next night, Wednesday the seventh, I found myself in the front row of the lower balcony of one of my favorite venues, the State Theater. Again, I was seeing an artist I had never seen before. Shawn Colvin was absolutely amazing. She wore together music, humor and spontaneity into one of the best performances I've seen. One minute she'd have us breathless singing "Cry like an angel," and the next she'd be poking fun at artists like Sheryl Crow, "Stranded," have us breathless again, "Reel A Bouche," "Pineapple Rag," and "Hit Me With A Hot Note." Kady Tardy was responsible for choreography and staging and did an outstanding job as did Eugene Balboni.

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Three Shows, from page 16

Three Shows, from page 16

Social gathering for gay men in Portland area

by Winnie Weir, Publishing Editor

In recent months, several gay men have come together to participate in social events in the Portland area. Dubbing themselves the Walt Whitman Dinner Club, "it's an experiment just to bring gay men together to meet in a positive, social setting," said David Garrity, one of the early 'members.'

When asked about the nature of those gatherings, Garrity replied, "Some of us have no interest in bars anymore, that's it." Garrity was quick to add, "I asked Garrity what the overall goal is. He replied, "Our overall goal is to experience ourselves as community. That's about it, if there is any goal. The only rules we have are no agenda, no politics, no speeches. It's a chance for gay men to get to know each other. That's it.'"

The group held its first gathering at the Portland Club in April with about 50 men attending. Their second get-together was a barbecue held in mid-July at Diamond Cove. Over 75 men attended and "it seems as though it's going to grow," concluded Garrity.

Movie on Review: "Lie Down With Dogs"

by Frank Girolamo, Provincetown

The last time Provincetown was in wide release on movie screens across the country was in Norman Mailer's.entitled "Dead Men Don't Dance." Everybody owes us a good laugh. "Lie Down With Dogs" is an independent coming-of-age movie shot on location in Provincetown. The movie will open at the Art New Cinema on Friday, June 30. (Provincetown shares the movie's premiere with New York and Los Angeles.) Production notes say "Dogs" is a "spirited comedy about one gay man's pursuit of romance and happiness." According to writer, producer and director, Wally White, it is "very loosely based" on the summer of 1991, the summer he escaped from New York and came to Provincetown.

Any movie about Provincetown has many juicy possibilities. People come here primed. A traffic sign once marked the spot where route 6A and 6A split in North Truro. It read, "Provincetown either way." Imagine those coming over that hill, reading that sign and eager to believe every word of it. The sign was considered too racy to stay. It's gone, but the message remains. And people still arrive here ready to go. Summer in Provincetown is one day prom night after another, a second adolescence, a theme park for the libido.

"The market for gay themes is very strong," according to White. "The gay audience is now clearly recognized as a niche market."

Other movies with gay or lesbian themes due out this summer are, "Heaven's A Drag," "Jeffrey," "Wigstock," "Sister, My Sister," and "The incredibly True Adventure of 2 Girls in Love," (a movie better than its title).

"Lie Down With Dogs" is not just another boy meets boy meets boy story, and White says that seeing the film in Provincetown gave him the freedom not to focus on gay issues. The twenty-eight-year old director says, "That's in stark contrast to many other gay movies, which make homosexuality their centerpiece rather than their backdrop. We were in the environment; we didn't have to deal with it. It wasn't an issue."

The film has been shown out of competition at gay film festivals in New York, Dallas and Berlin. There was a sold-out screening in early June at the 1500-seat Castro Theater in San Francisco. They like it.

The film was paid for with nine bulging credit cards for just over $40,000. Hollywood chicken food. Production costs were cut with production placement agreements: there will be Coca-Cola. Provincetown businesses also pitched in by providing free lodging, location sites, transportation, copying services and even gym memberships. White estimates the value of services rendered at around $63,000. The film was shot off-season. "We were lucky," he said, "the timing was right."

Unlike Jonathan Demme and "Philadelphia," White was not interested in making a crossover movie, one that would appeal to general audiences. He says his film is "for gay men and their admirers." And besides, "Homophobes don't pay eight dollars to see a gay movie. It just doesn't happen."
TIPS FOR LONG TERM SURVIVORS OF HIV

by Terry J. Dubios, Staff Accountant
The AIDS Project

A healthy sense of humor never dies. It never gets sick. It is always immune. After having been in my second decade of infection for approximately two years, I am firmly convinced that my T-cells laugh and chuckle and guffaw. In this vein I offer the following helpful hints for long termers on how to proceed in the second decade. Your own unwavering sense of humor will be necessary as you read the following tips. May your T-cells slap their knees and hold their heads back and really laugh.

TO DO BEFORE YOU DIE
1. Keep your closets clean and sorted (not sorted). Have an arrangement with a friend to pick up that "special box" in the dark corner of your closet the minute you go unconscious. I understand from a case manager that Family will usually start snopping and pawing at this time. You never know when a strange rain forest virus could catch you and kill you. I mean, do you want to spend your last moments at the memorial service and be sure you had when you actually had the dream.

2. Keep an "IN CASE OF DEATH" folder, an ICOD for short. Your ICOD should include pet adoption papers, a copy of your most recent portrait (right, sure, get it, done, shrub) and specific instructions to your mother on your last outfit. Said outfit should be both stunning and dramatic. After all, it is your last appearance, so make it look good. (And be sure to pick the outfit from your thin clothes.)

3. Keep yourself clean, clipped, packed and ready to go. Clip toe nails, clip nose and ear hairs, trim pubies, color your hair your fav shade, etc. Remember, exhaustion is right around the corner. And we all know, these preening and primping exercises will be the first to go (when you’re bedridden, sick, etc.)

4. Start a memorial service packet. And get those "wailers" planted. Forget that "Oh, he would want you to be happy..." crap. Way, reader. We long-termers want you to be hummed, mega-bassed, and we want you to wail big time. There's nothing so sad as watching someone else wail, so get your wailer plants signed on early.

5. Plant perennials periodically. There's nothing like a pretty garden to keep you hanging on for one more summer. Do start a rigorous regimen of re-potting all your house plants. A big, healthy plant in a good clay pot will make a great parting gift for your last visitors, particularly because the plant will keep growing, long after your fingernails and hair have stopped growing. Give the gift of life as you die.

6. Process those photos pronto, Mister Mapplethorpe. And yes, you are bad for letting your photographs of special times with dear friends and family lay around like old discarded files. Remember, you'll need a classic yearbooky snapshot for the obit. And you can tastefully display tons of those special Kodak moments at the memorial service and perhaps even later at the chosen disposal/burial service. (Maybe a small park in the environs.) Or you could do one last show at the local community theater company. That's always good for a reliable head shot. And get some pretty albums to sort your pics into. These will make a great consolation prize at the right moment, really...

7. Tell everyone you're HIV+, infected, or slowly dying. Whatever. Just get the word out. You don't want people to be surprised at your funeral; you want them to cry.

8. Get a job at an ASO (AIDS Service Organization). Be careful, this is truly a tricky tip. It could backfire and kill you quicker than ebola or e. coli. But, on the other hand, it keeps you plugged in, and should you start to fail, what better place to be? Plus, you can keep a watchful eye out for all the handouts.

9. Get your name on all the exclusive homosexual mailing lists, like the fancy Walt Whitman Dining Society ("discriminating gentlemen only"), Maine Won't Discriminate, Mafoevich, etc., and do it at once! These memberships can literally double the length of a good obituary AND they make you look busy and important, AND they can be used by just about anyone for just about any farewell or good-by speech, really...

10. Join a gym, Jim. Your lean body mass is a good thing to keep up. Instant Death if you fall below a certain threshold. Do try to get your membership donated. Remember, you are a FWA and people should treat you as such. Hint: If the thought of working out makes you quiver, you can always go with Plan B: Stock up on candy bars, chips, and ice cream. The goal is to put on fifty extra pounds. I'd like to see you ever try to waste away with a gut like that.

Extra Bonus Hint: For you men, grow a beard, if you can. This will make your face look more full, and help you avoid that gaunt "death" look. (And you know all too well what I mean.) And for God's sake, keep some bronze in your death bedside dresser. Watch your tan get deeper and more golden (while your pale pallor persists underneath).

11. Talk to Fred Lipp about a free service at 1st Parish Church. The less money you can spend on your death the better. Remember, size is so important to many. Your estate must be the biggest it can be. Get your family and friends to pitch in for "death things."

Hint: If you have anything left to leave after you pay the medical machinery, do hold your estate over the heads of local ASO's. Tell one that you're leaving it all to another. This will assure that all AIDS businesses will be extremely helpful to you (kiss my ass) up until your last hours (especially your last hours).

12. Take long, hot baths, exhaust yourself doing fun things - bike adventures, water aerobics, gardening, etc. - and live your life just like negative people do.

DREAMS, from page 9
what a dream means for you.
11. Tape recording dreams can help you get closer to the experience and feelings you had when you actually had the dream. It reflects back to you what you sounded like, and perhaps were feeling, (in the middle of the night) as you recorded the dream.

12. Experiment with how you remember, record, analyze, and explore your dreams; try drawing, poetry, clay, and so on. Weave them into your day. Dreams can be the source of much inspiration, wisdom, and joy. Have fun and ... pleasant dreams!

This article was adapted, in part, from the writings of my own teachers: Barbara Hare Noonan and author Jeremy Taylor. My work is guided and influenced by these wonderful teachers.

Rick Bouchard is a Portland-based dream practitioner and the founding director of The Dream Part of Our Journey. For more information, my brochure is available upon request. (See display ad in this issue, page 2.)

LESBIAN HEALTH IS EVERYWHERE!
(At this conference, anyway!)

The Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine presents:
A Conference on Lesbian Health and Sexuality
October 6 & 7, 1995 (Fri & Sat)
Workshops on health, wellness, sex, much, much more!
Holiday Inn By The Bay
Portland, ME
For registration information call our NEW number (207) 657-5864

Rare Birds: Two male storks that took up nestling in the same German zoo enclosure have hatched a wayward penguin egg, and are now raising the offspring as their own. "Pingu" is being bottle-fed a mixture of fish juice and vitamins six times a day by the zoo staff in the western German town of Osnabruck. They fed the egg in the storks' nest after it had been thrown out by its parents, hoping the "childless" couple would adopt the hatching. Pingu's two fathers took turns sitting on the egg for 14 days until it began to break out of its shell.
The revitalization legislation expanded the state on: deficiency virus, and education relative to persons related to LD321. other persons providing care and support rules or legislation; and

wrote the Ryan White CARE Act. There was a big flap in Washington about the CARE Act recently, with Jesse Helms saying that he didn’t think there should be any funding for services for persons with HIV. Were you involved with that?

KP: Absolutely. The Ryan White CARE Act has been a lifeline to PWHIV in Maine. This year CARE Act funding will fund case management services and the AIDS Drug Program for more than 600 PW HIV across the state. If Senator Helms succeeds in killing this legislation, Maine, and every other state will be in big trouble. Fox 51 ran a very good piece on the topic, as did the Bangor Daily News and Bangor’s channel 7. Unfortunately, all the other media outlets ignored the story.

CPR: How has Maine’s Washington delegation been on HIV issues.

KP: It’s too early to say for sure, but so far it’s a pretty mixed bag. Sena
tor Cohen has been on the CARE Act authorization early on and deserves our thanks. Senator Snowe didn’t sign on and wouldn’t even commit to voting for it—so we launched a broad letter-writing and phone call campaign and finally, on June 28th she finally came on board. It’s too early to know how things will go in the House, but I’ve been glad to see Rep. Baldacci taking an interest in the topic, though I think he needs some educating. I don’t hold out much hope for Rep. Longley, but maybe he’ll surprise me.

CPR: What is the status of the CARE Act now?

KP: We have 61 co-sponsors in the US Senate, which is enough to pass the legislation and enough to overcome a filibuster. Unfortunately, Senator Dole won’t let it come forward for a vote—so we really need folks to call or write to Senator Dole. The House has said it won’t take any action until the Senate takes action and time is running out.

CPR: What happens if the CARE Act doesn’t pass?

KP: Maine would lose $228,365.

CPR: You were just named Chair of the Maine HIV Advisory Committee. What do you see happening in the coming year?

KP: I was truly honored when the Committee recommended, and the Gov
er appointed, me Chair for the Maine 1995 - May 1996 year. I’ve been volun
teering or working in HIV since 1985 and I’m very excited about taking on this kind of role. This year the Committee has decided to focus on a few different areas: the impact of the Health Care Commission report (and any resulting actions) on PWHIV; HIV Testing Issues—which continue to be a major source of disagreement; and state operations, such as a review of how they assure consistency and quality between programs.

In addition, the Committee will take positions on a variety of issues and prepare to bring forward legislation to complete our work on LD321. The Committee also functions as the “first step” for individuals and organizations interested in starting new programs or submitting legislation. We’ll be working to reinforce this role and hopefully not be “caught off guard” by HIV legislation. The way we see it, the Committee can be a useful sounding board and screening mechanism to provide feedback, and if it’s a good idea, support.

CPR: Any other comments?

KP: I hope your readers will take an active interest in the Committee and it’s activities. The meetings are the sec
tond Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at the State Office Building. Trish Maconner proved a great support for the committee and she can be reached at (207) 874-1092. Folks with e-mail are welcome to contact me at KEPKerrins@aol.com.

CPR: Congratulations, and good luck this year. AA.
CPR, from page 7

High School with two of them. He said the school told him to get the name of another. The one that they have a name and address for will be served with civil papers today. The civil complaint seeks a permanent injunction which says that they must stay away from the bar and stay away from me.

CPR: Have you seen these three men since the beating?

WC: Yes. Three nights after the attack, I walked past one of them, just about shoulder to shoulder, on Congress Street. He didn’t have anything to say. He didn’t look at me, he was just staring at the sky but he knew who I was. They are still out wandering around town. The one they don’t have an address for hangs around town a lot, he’s like a street kid. He’s maybe 18 or 19. The one that they do have the address for is the ring leader.

(Ed. note - Stephen Dobson was arrested, July 16, 1995. He is charged with aggravated assault and harassment by a public authority. Rick Mitchell turned himself in, July 18, 1995. He faces the same charges. Both are out on bail. Both have voluntarily signed the permanent injunction to stay away from their former friends and from Blackstone’s. The third attacker remains unnamed and at large.)

CPR: What are your feelings about the police response time?

WC: It was 4:01 or Blue Moon they would have been there in 5 to 10 minutes. Part of the reason that it took so long is that it was shift change. And if that meant that from 11 pm to 12 am we all have an hour to run loose and do whatever the hell we want then that needs to be looked into. I asked Chitwood about that and he said that’s the way it is.

CPR: “Adie form” did anyone try to help you?

WC: No, and there was a whole bar full of people. That kind of pissed me off. I’ve been hit before and have seen the cops try to help me.

CPR: Were the bar patrons out there watching the fight?

WC: At first they had no idea it was happening but then somebody went in and said somebody is getting beat up. Ralph (the bar owner) didn’t try to do anything either. I have called them from the bar didn’t try to help me. Most of them were halfway in the bag themselves. If “A” hadn’t been there they probably would have killed me or it would have been much worse.

CPR: What was the beating actually like?

WC: I was on the ground wrestling with one of them and then he got up and the others managed to keep me down, two of them were doing most of the kicking and beating.

CPR: To where, what parts of the body?

WC: To my head and face.

CPR: Did they try to kick you in the balls?

WC: No.

CPR: Where were you taken that night?

WC: The owner of the bar had taken me to his house, you know, and took care of me and everything ‘cause I was in no condition to go to the hospital. I was pretty messed up. I have a lot of bruises, things before my eyes, and I was pretty hard of hearing. The next morning I got up. He took me to the hospital. They took X-rays and gave me a shot of pain killer and made an appointment for an eye, nose and throat specialist. He said that my nose was broken and there is a fracture just above my eye. But basically, I was fine. I was going to live. You know, but it was pretty painful. And I checked out my nose and mouth and made sure I still had all of them.

CPR: What else can you tell me that you want the public to know?

WC: First of all, people in Maine aren’t going to tolerate this kind of behavior anymore. Gay people are too people. You don’t have to tolerate us, but the only thing that is different about us is our sexual preference. We all have jobs, we pay taxes, we have families. If you see someone getting beat on don’t just watch - do something. I am glad “A” was there helping - not just watching things.

CPR: “Adie form” did anyone try to help you?

WC: No, and there was a whole bar full of people. That kind of pissed me off. I’ve been hit before and have seen the cops try to help me.

The National Gay/Lesbian Task Force is offering Richard a partial scholarship to enable his attendance. This leaves just over $500 to be raised within the next two weeks. Any contributions to assist this community-minded gay youth to participate in this training can be sent to: S. Erik Richard, c/o Community Pride Reporter, 142 High Street, Suite #623, Portland, Maine 04101.

The goal of this training is to enhance youth leadership and offer educational resources for localized projects. Richard has already submitted a list of possible Maine-based projects to be started, but is also “willing to take any suggestions seriously.” According to Richard, Alan Stearns, Esq. will act as his mentor, offering guidance and support for the next year.

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Out of Town!

Paul T. Bernard

In this issue, I thought I would offer a collection of travel tips to save you time, money, and aggravation.

BEFORE YOU TRAVEL: 1) Do as much planning for your trip as possible. Contact the local Chamber of Commerce for information on the area you plan to visit. They will send you information on their area. 2) Check with your insurance agent to see if you are covered under your insurance policy for car rentals - this can save you up to $15 a day on insurance coverage. 3) Arrange for a telephone calling card. This can save you lots of money over making calls from your hotel room. 4) If you belong to an auto club like AAA, pick up maps and tour books for the areas you will be visiting. 5) Contact your travel agent to arrange for foreign currency and/or foreign traveler's checks - this can save money by getting better exchange rates with low exchange fees. 6) Check with your local bank to find out if your ATM card can be used where you are travelling and how much it will cost to use it. 7) Call your local postmaster to arrange for your mail to be held at the post office. 8) Notify local police that you will be away and they will do periodic checks on your house. 9) Pack any valuables and medicines in your carry-on, never in your checked luggage. Also pack a few essentials, like a change of clothes, in case your luggage gets lost or delayed. 10) Call the airline a couple of days before departure to double-check your reservation, seat assignments, and check for any schedule changes.

WHILE TRAVELLING: 1) If travelling by air, put tags with your name and address on each piece of luggage - even carry-on. If a piece is missing, notify the baggage claim agent. They will start a tracking process to find your luggage. When your luggage is found, the airline is responsible for getting your luggage to you - even if you are 100 miles away. If your luggage isn't located within 24 hours, the airlines are responsible for providing you with money to purchase necessary items like clothing, etc. After 72 hours, they are responsible for paying for the contents of your luggage up to a maximum of $1200. 2) When you go to the car rental agency, don't be pressured into renting the next larger car - their agents earn a commission for "selling up" - and often times it means that the size car you reserved is sold-out, and that you will be given the next larger car for the same price automatically. 3) When you get to your hotel, use the hotel's safe deposit boxes for any valuables. 4) When you get to your room, check out the fire exits - find the nearest one. Check out the alternate route. 5) Don't open your door for someone you don't know personally. If you have any questions, call hotel security. 6) When out sight-seeing or exploring, don't take valuables with you. Men - carry your wallet in your front pocket. Women - carry purses with short straps close to your body. Don't wear expensive jewelry or flash money openly. 7) If you are "mugged," don't leave it for more than two minutes and it was gone. 8) When making calls from your hotel room, be sure to use your calling card - hotels charge outrageous amounts for long distance calls. Also, be sure to tip your long distance company - not theirs. These are just a few tips to make your trip more enjoyable and safe.

MONEY TALK: Do you want to retire? Give some consideration to the activities which you will want to be able to do when you retire. A goal of your retirement may be to allow more time in the day to pursue other interests such as painting, writing or even go back to school. A friend of mine wants to be able to travel around in a Winnebago. Each of these things will require an outlay of money and should be considered when developing a retirement plan, so let your imagination run and envision the life you want to have.

How much money will you need to live on? A basic component to a successful retirement plan is a budget for what you will be after you retire. It may be that some costs will decrease and others will increase. Many people do not have a mortgage payment in retirement, but real estate taxes will still continue, and home maintenance costs could even increase. Medical expenses will probably increase, possibly even to the point where you may need to reside in a nursing home. Give some consideration to what life-style changes will occur as you grow older and what the related costs may be.

Where will your income come from during retirement? After you have considered what you want to do in retirement, consider your current expenses and try to project what they will be after you retire. It may be that some costs will decrease and others will increase. Many people do not have a mortgage payment in retirement, but real estate taxes will still continue, and home maintenance costs could even increase. Medical expenses will probably increase, possibly even to the point where you may need to reside in a nursing home. Give some consideration to what life-style changes will occur as you grow older and what the related costs may be.

See MONEY, page 22

OUT (and Proud) on MDI!

by Paula Stockholm

On the Fourth of July, 1995 as America celebrated itself, with its parade fanfare or rancor, the Maine community of Bar Harbor took an unprecedented step towards celebrating all of itself in its traditional Independence Day parade.

For the first time among the ninety-four contingents representing the broad diversity of life in this Mount Desert Island town was a proud float belonging to the Bar Harbor gay/lesbian/bi community, "Out on MDI!"

The float was primarily the brainchild of Deb Cooper and Rick Henry, with help into the wee hours of Monday night and the morning of the Fourth from other Out on MDI members and friends, Chanda, Beth, Larry, Trevor, Tom, Heather, Linda, Peggy, Lynn, Rosemarie, and Paula.

In the party-like atmosphere of Rick's apartment, the scenes of the fifteen-foot rainbow flag were folded, ironed, pinned, and stitched in a remarkable elbow-to-elbow cooperative assembly line. There were the tense moments when it appeared that the chicken-wing mountains adorned with three thousand purple and lilac paper flowers might not quite fit down the stairs as planned. It made it with only a few rumpled petals.

Bar Harbor is a small town. Those who would march behind the Out on MDI banner and under the rainbow flag would be absolutely new to friends, neighbors, and employ­ ers—giving rise to a few butterflies. But, as we waited for the parade to begin, the flag also became a gathering point for queer friends: two women visiting from Austin, Texas, friends from around New England and Canada, stopped-by to mar­ vel and celebrate. A local woman temporarily came out of the group of members while we waited in the park.

More than twenty Out on MDI and Hancock County Maine Won't Discrimi­ nate members marched behind the next, carrying signs and passing out MWD but­ tons.

In this week following the Supreme Court ruling upholding the ban on gays and lesbians in Boston's St. Patrick's Day parade, Bar Harbor spectators cheered and shouted. "Your life is much more time!" as the Out On MDI float passed. Good friends darted from the sidewalk - or to the sidewalk - exchanging hugs and greetings.

Deb Cooper was the only woman driving in the parade while drag queen, Lexie Love, and the others riding on the float threw kisses and candy. Subtle state­ ments of the unique character of our com­ munity. There was no "bad moment." This was truly a celebration; an acceptance of diversity in the context of a family values holiday. Hearts soared and faces beamed. It felt like a Pride march, as well it was in many ways. But the no-big-deal status of a gay float in this parade may have been its most lasting legacy.

OUT (and Proud) on MDI!

by Peter J. Callinan, CPA

If the answer to this question is "YES," then you probably need to do some planning to insure your financial se­ curity after you stop working. Planning for retirement does involve more than just putting money aside for later. There are a series of questions that need to be consid­ ered, like:

What do you want to do while you

A basic component to a suc­ cessful retirement plan is a budget for what will be after you retire. It may be that some costs will decrease and others will increase. Many people do not have a mortgage payment in retirement, but real estate taxes will still continue, and home maintenance costs could even increase. Medical expenses will probably increase, possibly even to the point where you may need to reside in a nursing home. Give some consideration to what life-style changes will occur as you grow older and what the related costs may be.
PORTLAND: Fighting oppression is hard work. Sometimes the stress and strain of confronting discrimination, righting wrongs, advocating for those who are not yet able to advocate for themselves takes a toll on us. Even supporters need support.

Womenspace Counseling Center recognizes the wonderful work that those of you in the front trenches are doing and get nurtured before going back to the battle.

**Free support group offered**

This group will meet on Wednesday evening, beginning August 9 and will meet again on August 23. The group will meet weekly starting September 6 through September and October until the November vote. Meetings are from 7:00-8:30 pm at Womenspace Counseling Center, 236 Park Avenue, Portland and will offer on-going, drop-in, facilitated support group, free of charge, for anyone who is working to support civil rights for lesbians and gays.

For more information, call either co-facilitator: Vivian Wadas, 774-2403 or Jewel McHale, 773-4211. ΔΔ

**MONEY, from page 21**

Post retirement planning is a key to ensuring a comfortable lifestyle later in life. Retirement planning is the process of determining and planning how your money will support you through your retirement years. It's a plan that takes into account the costs of everyday living, taxes, health care, and other important factors.

**OBITUARY**


During his life Taormino produced numerous literary works, including poetry, non-fiction, personal essays and film reviews. In the earliest days of the AIDS pandemic, he worked as an advocate for people with AIDS in Provincetown, Massachusetts. Later wrote, directed and produced the play, "AIDS: The Writing On The Wall," which was performed in Provincetown and Seattle, Washington.

In lieu of funeral services, there will be a private family gathering. Memorial donations may be made to the AIDS Project, 615 Congress Street, Portland, Maine 04101. ΔΔ

**March across Maine for equal rights being organized**

Deb Cooper of Bar Harbor, activist and member of Out on MDI, is in the beginning stages of organizing a statewide march in October to highlight the important issues for gays and lesbians in the November referendum vote. The plan is to have local coordinators for various regions who will "gather the troops" and make local media and celebrity connections.

Columbus Day weekend can mark the beginning of a month-long relay march north from Kittery and south from Fort Kent. A mile at a time, a day at a time, we can walk, sing, dance, and campaign our way to Augusta. This march, like the Unitarian Universalist Church's Speakout Maine project, may be one of few opportunities to bring lesbian gay voices and concerns to public attention. The march is separate from, but supported by, the MWD campaign.

Expand the vision — organize your piece of this historic event! Invite local celebrities! Stage media events! Make it as big a production or as low-key as you like. Just do it!

For more information or to coordinate/participate in the March to Augusta, contact Deb Cooper (207) 276-5916 (dmc@aretha.jax.org). Let's show our neighbors and the nation that the citizens of Maine won't support legalized discrimination and hatred. Remember, it's YOUR LIFE that's being voted on in November!
Support our advertisers. Let them know you saw their ad in CPR. It helps all of us.

Life is tough enough!

And, there are special issues for lesbians and gay men.

Help is available through individual, couples and group therapy.

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