Community Pride Reporter, 10/1995

Community Pride Reporter

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Police misconduct alleged in wake ofporno shop crackdown

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

A young man came into the offices of the Community Pride Reporter, Monday, August 7, 1995, and recounted the following events which allegedly occurred, Saturday, August 5, 1995, at 10:30 pm outside Video Expo, Congress Street, Portland:

“Me and a friend were sitting in my pick-up parked legally in front of Video Expo. Two officers came out of their cruiser, told us to get out of the vehicle, asked us for ID, threw me against the truck, threw my friend against the other side of the truck, searched us, didn’t tell us anything, didn’t tell us why they were bothering us, they just attacked us, stepped on my heel, they roughed up my friend a lot.”

See MISCONDUCT, page 5

Maine Won’t Discriminate ‘officially’ launches campaign

by Winnie Weir, Publishing Editor

“No one should have their job taken away because of who they love,” said Delores Holody, the nurse affected by the reports she made about her employer. She was the first person to file a complaint about a care-giver who received a suspension for neglecting patients. Holody was also the first care-giver to receive a call from the Board of Nursing to verify her report.

The common thread weaving through the speeches that afternoon was the professionalism, competency and total dedication of Titus to the needs of her patients. “I can’t tell you what I’ve learned from Sandy Titus professionally and personally,” said Ann Marie Melendez, a care-giver who has worked with Titus. “She is just an awesome lady.”

Anthony Spotton, a former Maine resident who found himself in a hospital bed in New York not getting any better after seven weeks, called his sister there in Maine saying it was time for him to return home. Spotton’s sister called Titus, who in turn called Spotton to assure him that the wheels were already turning to get him home. “We’ve done this before,” said Titus. Spotton said he felt “safe” for the first time in a long while. He added, “We must not allow care-givers to be spooked by the investigation.”

See TITUS, page 6

Investigation of AIDS caregiver ongoing -

"I believe the complaint from Ms. Wolters is meant to be vindictive and bears very little on the truth." R. Bezwick to Board of Nursing, 7/12/95

News & Analysis

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

Community Pride Reporter (CPR) was the first media organization in the state of Maine to break the story (June-July issue, 1995) of serious problems at Peabody House on its feet. The two nurses had worked together in Minnesota, where they did not return our calls. Ironcally, it was Titus who received Wolters telephone number in Minnesota toadan and called her. Wolters had filed a complaint against Sandy Titus, who in turn called Spotton to assure him that the wheels were already turning to get him home. “We’ve done this before,” said Titus. Spotton said he felt "safe" for the first time in a long while. He added, “We must not allow care-givers to be spooked by the investigation.”

See AIDS, page 8

Maine Legalizes Discrimination

Gov. Angus King, flanked by representatives of all MWD chapters in the state, said, “It’s Maine’s decision to limit the Maine Human Rights Act to its present form. King said, “I think it’s a shame that this question is on the ballot because it’s going to divide us...”

继续,“ Maine people know who their neighbors are and, I think Maine people fundamentally subscribe to the philosophy of ‘live and let live,’ and that whether or not you have a job, you’re entitled to work for a living no matter what you do in your private life that’s lawful. It really is as simple as that.”

King called attention to the diversity of the groups against the referendum question, saying “This isn’t a partisan issue. This is an issue about people, and it’s also an issue about the message that Maine sends to the rest of the country.” He rhetorically asked, “Do we want to send a message that we are going to discriminate, that we are going to legalize discrimination?” King surprised those gathered by projecting the New York Times headline the day after the election, should this question not be defeated. “Maine Legalizes Discrimination” said King forcefully. “I don’t want to see that headline. That’s why I’m here.”

See CAMPAIGN, page 24

Signs of love and support greeted Sandy Titus at Monument Square rally

by Winnie Weir, Publishing Editor

On Thursday afternoon, August 10, a crowd of approximately 100 people gathered at Monument Square in Portland. Most were friends and supporters of nurse Sandy Titus, who had been accused of negligence in providing medical care to AIDS patients residing at Peabody House. TV cameras and reporters with their microphones followed Titus and others seeking comment and capturing on film the tender and supportive embraces being given to Titus by just about everyone there.

The common thread weaving through the speeches that afternoon was the professionalism, competency and total dedication of Titus to the needs of her patients. “I can’t tell you what I’ve learned from Sandy Titus professionally and personally,” said Ann Marie Melendez, a care-giver who has worked with Titus. “She is just an awesome lady.”

Anthony Spotton, a former Maine resident who found himself in a hospital bed in New York: not getting any better after seven weeks, called his sister here in Maine saying it was time for him to return home. Spotton’s sister called Sandy Titus, who in turn called Spotton to assure him that the wheels were already turning to get him home. “We’ve done this before,” said Titus. Spotton said he felt “safe” for the first time in a long while. He added, “We must not allow care-givers to be spooked by the investigation.”

See TITUS, page 6

Sandy Titus and Frannie Peabody are longtime allies in the fight against AIDS
CHANGING MAINE

Maine Won't Discriminate
Chapter contacts & meeting times

Changecounty: 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, 4-6 PM
359 Main St, Bangor

Biddeford: 12 Fortune Rocks Rd.
Biddeford, ME 04005
Barry Horn: 207/286-3718
UNE-Marcil Hall, Rm 216

Brunswick/Bath: PO Box 245
Brunswick, ME 04011
Punnie Edgerton: 207/729-4930
Tina Phillips: 207/727-4930

Capitol Area: Maple Hill Farms
RR #1, Box 1175
Hallowell, ME 04347
Scott Cowgill: 207/622-2708
Cheryl King: 207/26-0818
Meetings: 6:30 PM, at Maple Hill

Hancock County: PO Box 373
Ellsworth, ME 04605
Peter Rest: 207/667-2358
Ruth Blackburn: 207/276-0503
Meetings: 3rd Sunday, 4:00 PM
UU Church, Bucksport Rd.

Kennibunk Area: Meeting: 6:30 - 8:00 pm.
2nd & 4th Mondays
Christ Church, Dane Street
Call MWD York County
Info Line: 207/985-7973

Lewiston: PO Box 3485
Auburn, ME 04212-3485
Ester Turner: 207/73-6964

Lincoln County (Wiscasset):
Clarke Cove Road
Walpole, ME 04573
Tom Gould: 207-263-2269

Midcoast: PO Box 622
Rockland, ME 04841
Dorothy Merleweather-
207/594-7873

Portland: PO Box 8124
Portland, ME 04104
Steve Adderio/Jessica Mauser
207/761-1788
Meetings: 6:30 PM-
Every other Monday
St. Luke's Cathedral,
143 State St.

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 Lea MacLeod
207/738-4194

Washington County: RR #1, Box 177
Millbridge, ME 04658
Betty Demontain-207/54-2007
Tom-207/54-7503

Watershed/Oakland: RR #3, Box 2299
Oakland, ME 04963
Diane Campbell: 207/465-7574

Western Maine: 62 High Street
Farmington, ME 04938
Gat/Straight People's Alliance
207/778-7380

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

A chance to both educate and be educated through panels and discussions.
Larry Dansinger, convener, promises "No new groups; no new commitments. A day for ideas, insights, and support."

GOALS FOR THE DAY are:
*Learning from others.
*Renewing enthusiasm.
*Identifying/re-identifying ourselves as educators.
*Identifying/re-identifying the importance of our work.
*Finding the support to keep on doing this work.
*Examining how to do the work more effectively.
*Looking at the big picture of what's going on with social change work locally, in Maine and beyond.
For more information and a registration form, contact INVERT, PO Box 776, Monroe, ME 04591, or call Larry Dansinger at 207-525-7776. AA

CMF Fund-raising Banquet
by David O. Cook
On Friday, October 6 at 6:30 PM
at the Italian Heritage Center, you can hear the "fascinating story of how some very ordinary people stood up to the powerful and wealthy nationally organized militant gay lobby."
The event is promoted in a recent CMF mailing which includes a lengthy memo from the desk of Larry Lockman (CMF's Vice-Chairman) reiterating the dangers of gay rights and the duplicity of the "militant gay-rights lobby." In addition, the Lockman memo discusses CMF's "principled stand" which states that behavioral issues relating to homophobia will not be discussed. See CMF, page 4
Legal ramifications for Maine if referendum question passes

by Winnie Weir, Publishing Editor

A legal information sheet was enclosed in a press release packet issued recently by Maine Won't Discriminate (MWD). Also enclosed was a list of individuals and organizations opposing Question #1, (there are some very heavy hitters listed), newspaper editorials and the ‘alist of in-...’

Question #1, (there are some very heavy individuals and organizations opposing the majority. The Maine Human Rights Act "unintended consequences," vs a more "..."

Closed in a press release packet issued between the Maine Human Rights Act and this researched document makes the connection be-

cations in future, state and local laws
tal disablUty, religion, age, ancestry,

mental disability, religion, age, ancestry, national origin, familial status, and marital status, and repealing existing laws which expand these classifications as proposed by citizen petition?

THE QUESTION
The following wording will appear on the ballot in November, 1995:

Do you favor the changes in Maine law limiting protected classifications in future, state and local laws to race, color, sex, physical and mental disability, religion, age, ancestry, national origin, familial status, and marital status, and repealing existing laws which expand these classifications as proposed by citizen petition?

THE STATUTE
If the referendum passes the following statute will be enacted as Maine law:

AN ACT TO LIMIT PROTECTED CLASSES UNDER MAINE LAW
Section 4552-A Limitation of Protected Class Status

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter or any other provision of law, protected classes or suspect classifications under state or local human rights laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, charter provisions or policies are limited to race, color, sex, physical or mental disability, religion, age, ancestry, national origin, familial status, and marital status. Any provision of State or local law, rule, regulation, ordinance, charter provision or policy inconsistent with this section is void and unenforceable.

This section, being necessary for the welfare of the State and the inhabitants of Maine, shall be liberally construed to accomplish its purpose and is not to be interpreted or applied as a limitation or restriction on authority as enumerated in the Maine Constitution.

THE CURRENT STATUS OF GAY MEN AND LESBIANS UNDER THE LAW
Currently, gay men and lesbians are not protected from discrimination under either the state or federal constitutions. The Attorney General, Andrew Ketterer, has stated that this is the case. The only laws under which gay men and lesbians currently have protection in Maine are as follows: 1) the Portland Human Rights Ordinance; 2) the Maine Rights Act.

2. Whistleblowers: 5 M.R.S.A. § 4552. These individuals are currently protected under the Maine Human Rights Act. The Whistleblowers’ Protection Act (26 M.R.S.A. §§ 833 et. seq.) will also be repealed as would protec-

tion for whistleblowers under the Chemical Substance Identification Law (25 M.R.S.A. §1723).

3. Individuals who testify before the Maine Human Rights Commission: 5 M.R.S.A. §§ 4633, 5 M.R.S.A. §4572(E) and 39-A M.R.S.A. §354. All of these statutes which protect individuals from discrimination if they make a charge, testify, appear before or otherwise assist in any hearing before the Maine Human Rights Commission would be repealed.


6. Low income: 5 M.R.S.A. §4581. Maine’s Fair Housing law prevents discrimination in housing based on income and this law would be repealed.

7. Public assistance: 5 M.R.S.A. §4582. Maine’s Fair Housing law prevents discrimination based on the receipt of Federal, State or local public assistance, including medical assistance and this law would be repealed.

8. Hunters: 12 M.R.S.A. § 7541. The statute that insures Mainers’ basic right to hunt without interference would be repealed.

9. Residents of long term care facilities: 22 M.R.S.A. § 7925. Residents of long term care facilities are now protected from discrimination if their source of payment changes and this would be repealed.

10. Citizens: 5 M.R.S.A. § 7051(1). The current preference for United States citizens in appointment or recruitment in classified service would be repealed.

11. Active duty military personnel: 5 M.R.S.A. §7051(4). The current protection for civil service employees who enlist or enroll in military service during a time of war, impending war or national emergency would be repealed.

12. Veterans: 30-A M.R.S.A. § 4743(b). The veteran preference which currently exists in housing projects would be repealed.

13. Veterans: 5 M.R.S.A. §7054. Currently veterans and their wives, husbands, widows, widowers, mothers and fathers have preference in competitive positions in the civil service and this

See LEGAL, page 4

THE EFFECT OF THE REFERENDUM
Although the intent of the referendum is clear, it is so poorly written that it will have far broader consequences than mere gay and lesbian protection. If the referendum passes, the protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation under the Portland Human Rights Ordinance and the Maine Hate Crime Act will be repealed. That section of the University of Maine System's anti-discrimination policy, which includes protection based on sexual orientation, will be rescinded.

Hate Crimes Act; and 3) the University of Maine System anti-discrimination policy. Even when we defeat this referendum in November, gay men and lesbians will still not have protection from discrimination in the areas of employment, housing, credit and public accommodations.

Pat Peard, Chair of Maine Won't Discriminate Executive Committee, talks to reporters after recent press conference.

Ballot photo
CMF's founder page 2

sexuality will not be used in CMF's campaign. Lockman also mentions the personal sacrifices made by CMF's founder and Chairman, Carolyn Cosby, and refers to alleged death threats against her. Pointing to CMF's success to date—having triumphed over various legal challenges—CMF's anti-gay initiative will be on Maine's November ballot, and warning of the lengths that "gay militants" will go to prevent passage of the measure, the Lockman memo reminds supporters that success on November 7 is not a sure thing; he ends by soliciting contributions to help the cause.

Since its founding, CMF's tactics have sparked controversy, in part because the principles stand mentioned above is in some variance with public CMF pronouncements, including a pamphlet on "Myths and Facts" of homosexuality, which attacked homosexual character and behavior. In addition, CMF posed that it was a homogay organization. Maine grassroots initiative were called into question when it was revealed that the organization was receiving ideological (and consulting) support from right-wing Christians outside of Maine. More recently, stories surfaced in the media relating to possible CMF financial problems and alleged indiscretions with respect to Ms. Cosby's personal finances.

In spite of obvious connections to out-of-state religious conservatives, national conservative organizations have kept their distance from CMF (a fact alluded to in the Lockman memo) possibly out of fear that CMF's tactics may do their cause more harm than good in the long run. Indeed, both inside and outside Maine, Ms. Cosby is not considered a serious conservative voice. In this context, the October 6 event may be another attempt to bail out a financially ailing organization and also a way to demonstrate solidarity with anti-gay movements elsewhere.

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preference would be repealed.

14. Congressional Medal of Honor winners: 12 M.R.S.A. § 707(65). This group currently has a preference in receiving hunting licenses and

Cumberland County Grand Jury defies District Attorney—Charges alleged gay bashers with misdemeanor assault

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

Cumberland County Assistant District Attorney, Andrew Bloom, presented evidence to the Grand Jury, September 7, 1995 regarding the attack on

Portland's Standing Ovation has new manager

by Bruce Balboni

If you smell the intoxicating aroma of exotic foods wafting out of Standing Ovation, a restaurant near the corner of High and Congress Streets, Portland, you are the lucky beneficiary of the delicious West Indian cooking of the new manager, Elvis Gammon Frank.

Elvis was born on St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, and raised on St. John, but because of Puerto Rican relatives, he says, "My background is definitely Puerto Rican, with a splash of the islands."

Elvis plans some changes at the deli. He intends to introduce new menus "which will include a very great part of the Caribbean and West Indian, along with Puerto Rican dishes." Elvis suggested that, "these foods will take your appetite for a long journey around the world and back in one place."

Elvis Gammon Frank

William Clark, victim of a savage beating outside of Blackstones, a Portland gay bar. Grand Jury terms it a misdemeanor.

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

Cumberland County Assistant District Attorney, Andrew Bloom, presented evidence to the Grand Jury, September 7, 1995 regarding the attack on

William Clarke outside Blackstone's, a Portland gay bar, July 1, 1995. Bloom presented the evidence expecting the Grand Jury would return an indictment for aggravated assault, a felony. They did not.

Without explanation and despite the savagery of the attack, the Grand Jury indicted Stephen Dobson and Rick Mitchell with simple assault, a misd

Stephen Dobson, 19, indicted by Grand Jury on simple assault charges.

Elvis picked up his flair for cooking from his mother and grandmother both of whom had him help around the kitchen. He enjoyed what he was learning and doing and says, "I knew the kitchen would be one of my many destinations in the future."

He has lived in Portland since 1982. In addition to his cooking, Elvis also enjoys singing, interior decorating, sewing, cleaning and meeting people. He is presently a promoter, tailor and designer for the Miss Teen Virgin Islands Pageant.

Elvis is a hard worker who is dedicated to making Standing Ovation a unique and successful restaurant. His confidence to that end is well founded on years of experience. He also has a helper in whom he places great faith, he says, "With God, I know, all things are possible."

CONCLUSION

This proposed statute was written by Bruce Fein, an attorney from Virginia who was also involved in the anti-gay campaigns in Oregon and Colorado. The language is deliberately misleading and confusing and it will wreck havoc on Maine law if it passes. Maine communities do not need an out of state lawyer to tamper with Maine law and to tell them what laws they can pass in their own cities and towns. Concerned Maine Families proposes to insure that discrimination will be a permanent part of Maine law.

Maine religious, political, and business leaders, including Governor Angus King, Attorney General Andrew Ketterer; and Buzz Fitzgerald, CEO of Bath Iron Works, have joined with 70 groups and organizations, including the Maine State Bar Association, the Maine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Maine Education Association. All have recognized that this measure is flawed and bad for Maine and have come out in opposition to this measure. Join with these leaders and Vote No on question #1 in November.
BUSINESS PROFILE: SisterSpace

by Winnie Weir, Publishing Editor
(SisterSpace Women’s Resources, came into the world on June 1 at 337 Water Street in Augusta, and the world hasn’t been the same since. Here’s what owner J. M. Nickerson had to say about the center, its goals, and its offerings.)

CPR: What is SisterSpace anyway?

JMN: SisterSpace was created with two goals in mind: to provide a safe environment for women to explore new ways of thinking, feeling, and being, and to create a community where women can be both teachers and learners. The Center is a retail area, including books, music, cards and gifts, incense and oils, and many consignment items by local women artisans; we’re also setting up on-going groups and workshops. Some of the groups are already up and running.

CPR: What’s happening in those groups?

JMN: We have a Wednesday evening Women’s Discussion Group which meets from 6:45-9:00 pm and is open to anyone who wants to come, whether to participate or just listen. We’ve recently had a celebration of the life and work of the late May Sarton, and discussions on such diverse topics as goddess lore, feminism and reflexology. We have regular full moon celebrations; September’s full moon celebration will center on how to meditate, how to reach a meditative state. Also on tap for September is a two-part discussion on herbs for September 13 and 20, and then a discussion on the chakra system for the 27th. An experiential group on Thursdays evening from 7:00-9:00 does more hands-on things.

In September we have a Found Poetry hands-on workshop, a sort of collage-making of a poem, on the 14th and a viewing of the video, “Woman and Her Symbols” on the 28th. Both the discussion group and the experiential group have brought many women out of the woodwork and into each other’s lives—they have helped to create the community I spoke of before. We encourage one another to lead the groups, and support each other as teachers. Other workshops are planned for the fall, and I’m always looking for people to teach and lead them.

CPR: What about SisterSpace itself? What’s it like?

JMN: Because I spend so much time there, I know I’d have to make it comfy, comfortable and living room-ish, where people hang out and have tea. Everywhere are gift items created by women—jewelry by Indigo Iris, White Wolf Designs, World of Beads, and other local artisans, sculpture by The Clay Goddess, dream catchers and other Native American traditional gifts, hand-decorated drums, handmade and drawn cards, and homemade massage oils. Response from the community concerning artistic creations has been great.

CPR: What books does SisterSpace carry?

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CPR: What books does SisterSpace carry?

JMN: SisterSpace is all about—enriching women’s lives, adding to the pieces, expanding our community.

(SisterSpace Women’s Resources is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:30 pm. If you would like more information about SisterSpace, would like to teach or lead a workshop or group, or have consignment items you would like to display at SisterSpace, please contact Janene at 207/821-994.)

YOU WON’T WANT TO MISS THIS!
The Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine presents:
A Conference on Lesbian Health and Sexuality
October 6 & 7, 1995 (Fri & Sat)
Yvette Burton
former Director of Lesbian Health, NTC Dept of Health
Minnie Bruce Pratt
author and poet
Holiday Inn By The Bay
Portland, ME
$99 for both days includes lunch
For registration & information call (207) 657-5864

July 27, 1995 edition of “Casco Bay Weekly.” In that story, Rick MacPherson, describes his experiences as an undercover reporter exposing the herebefore unknown facts about illicit sex between men which takes place at these establishments.

Though “Casco Bay” framed the story as a health issue, the police simply moved in and arrested people. Portland’s Chief of Police, Michael Chittwood, appeared on TV to report that his department had arrested two adults for engaging in mutual masturbation in a darkened corner of the Fine Arts Cinema. Mutual masturbation is next door to celibacy in terms of safe sex.
TITUS, from page 1
potential for character assassination, and especially not Sandy Titus ... All you have to do is stare close enough to her to feel her goodness.

In recounting his experiences and those of friends with AIDS, activist/photographer Tom Antonik said, "Whenever Sandy's been involved with the care of someone, I know that quality of care is uncompromised and has never ever been breached. In this epidemic that has brought out the best and the worst of people, I have seen Sandy epitomize what is the best in us. She is about life, she is about maintaining quality of living, she is about possibilities ..." He expressed that complaints against Titus from within the health care community "is not entirely surprising," and added, "She challenges that the standard models of care are not always good enough." He concluded his remarks by saying, "I need Sandy Titus. I think we all need Sandy Titus.

Georgia Humphrey told of the loss of a close friend to AIDS. He was Humphrey's house mate and wanted to die at home. Sandy Titus provided some of the help they both needed to get through that trying time. "What I know of Sandy Titus is this," said Humphrey, "She is the face of wisdom and the hands of experience. She brings her heart with every visit and she cherishes the human spirit." Charlie Wynott spoke about the compassion, care and education Titus provided to both Wynott and his partner of six years, Jon Piefer, who died earlier this year. Wynott said, "For one entire week at my home, whenever I needed Sandy Titus, she was there, whether it was four o'clock in the morning or whether it was eight o'clock at night. Sandy said, 'I'll be right there, and believe me, she was there. 'On the times when things took place that made me wonder what was happening to the person I dearly loved, Sandy was there ... to explain to both me and Jon what was happening at the time and what to expect to come." He summed up his statement by telling the crowd, "There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that Sandy Titus is competent and caring. This state cannot take this woman's license away and leave me and many more people with HIV and AIDS without the valuable, compassionate services that only she can provide. The only person I want in my room when I am dying is Sandy Titus." Fred Wilson was the last scheduled speaker of the afternoon. His remarks focused on Titus's relationship to the AIDS and HIV community as a whole. He said that two words "underscored the relationship that Sandy Titus has with those she cares for: love and trust. Anyone who has met Sandy and knows Sandy, knows that love is the Alpha and Omega of Sandy Titus ... Sandy is trusted by the AIDS and HIV community for many reasons," he continued, "but the main reason is her long term involvement. Long term in terms of the fact that Sandy has been involved with this epidemic since the beginning and involved with this community for the last seven years. But also long term in that HIV is a long term disease, and ... Sandy is there for us, for our families, for our health care providers ... Her broad experience has made her a limitless resource to both me and Jon what was happening at the time and what to expect to come." He summed up his statement by telling the crowd, "There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that Sandy Titus is competent and caring. This state cannot take this woman's license away and leave me and many more people with HIV and AIDS without the valuable, compassionate services that only she can provide. The only person I want in my room when I am dying is Sandy Titus."
A Month of AIDS Case Work at The AIDS Project

by John Bean

Because of the confidential nature of work at a social service agency, and particularly given the necessity of protecting the identity of our HIV-positive clients at TAP, we cannot outline here what we do as case managers. I think the gay community as a whole has a sense of how HIV disease affects an individual, and some information about how an AIDS service organization might try to be of assistance. I wonder, however, if this perception of AIDS work might at times be incomplete.

So, after some brief comments about other local AIDS organizations and their services, I'll present an overview of my August case-work. First, a couple of caveats: identifying details are censored, rendering this account somewhat substantival and bland compared to the full story; this report only represents one quarter of TAP's client base, other case managers may have had dissimilar Augusts; lastly, this August, mercifully, had no deaths within my client population - many months of denial and his or her family cope with the dying process is a typical case management task.

Rather than give an exhaustive survey of AIDS services, I'll just highlight some of the groups meeting the clients' myriad needs. Mentioning AIDS Support Services (M.A.S.S.), runs a volunteer network of Buddies who provide ongoing emotional support to an assigned person living with AIDS (PWA). The People with AIDS Volunteer Network, the Living Room North, whose services include a food pantry, clothes closet, medical equipment loan program, dinners, social events, and emotional and logistic support through volunteer staff. Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS) offers pet food and other pet supplies to PWA's. The Names Project offers families, biological and chosen, a chance to grieve/mourn for their loved one in the AIDS Memorial Quilt.

The AIDS Lodging House has converted a building in Portland into four subsidized apartments for PWA's. Peabody House has a six bedroom facility for the care of PWA's in the advanced stages of their illness. The Haven and Shelter + Care subsidized housing coordinators administer HUD grants to create affordable housing for PWA's. The AIDS Legal Referral Project is a group of attorneys who volunteer and recruit other volunteer lawyers to provide pro bono legal services to PWA's. A variety of physicians, the AIDS Consultation Service, Stratogen Health Care, visiting nurse services, and hospice organizations have taken on HIV disease as a health care priority. These are some of the resources that help me as a case manager add to the difficulties a person with HIV faces.

The month of August started off with a client facing eviction due to non-payment of his share of a subsidized apartment's rent. Low income, no transportation, would mean worse, financially, than keeping up with his share, but folks living on less than five hundred dollars a month (Supplemental Security Income from Social Security for disabled persons) often get into these situations. My role was to help the housing agency contact the client, who had no phone. Other housing problems included trying to get a new subsidized apartment for someone at risk for harassment and possible violence in a tough neighborhood, and helping transfer a subsidy from one county to another, closer to family.

The legal arena included some incarcerated clients needing advocacy around medical care in county jails and longer-term correctional facilities. It is currently very difficult to get a medical appointment with an HIV specialist while in jail, or to any specialist. I enlisted the help of the Maine Civil Liberties Union on this matter, and also asked their help with problems in prison around staff loosely disclosing HIV status of inmates.

Legal needs for other clients, not incarcerated, included referrals to pro bono attorney services for estate planning (one emergency in hospital, the other as the client made some decisions about who should manage his affairs if incapacitated), and for help finding off creditors, perhaps through bankruptcy.

Throughout August I fielded several requests from clients for volunteer drivers to doctor's appointments. It takes a large volunteer base, and a lot of phone contact, to keep enough drivers on hand to cover rides any day of the week. We also helped get drivers to take children to the affected and infected by AIDS kids camp in late August, Camp Crayola. Other volunteer matches that came up in August included housecleaning volunteers for three clients whose poor health kept them from house-hold chores.

The AIDS Project administers a fund for the medical needs of clients, and as we neared the end of the fiscal year, it was running out. Some of the alternative therapies practitioners who provide services (massage, acupuncture, Chinese herbs), and other medical providers (psychologists, dentists, clinic, etc.) were notified of the gap until new monies came in. I tried to juggle client needs, fee negotiations, donated services, and the remaining Ryan White Care Act monies so that through August and September the least amount of disruption of these needed treatments would occur.

The last major category of client activity was intakes and general benefits counseling. I met with new clients in southern York County, dealing with isolation and financial woes. A client who'd been out of touch needed help deciding whether or not to switch doctors. A couple of clients were waiting for disability benefits to be approved, and were going in the red with their monthly housing bills and health care costs. The HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS, funds from HUD) monies in the HAVEN program might eventually help, but in the meantime these clients were under a lot of stress. Other clients ran into big car repair bills, or prescription costs, and luckily the collection jars of Every Penny Counts at local businesses had pulled enough money in to cover at least part of these expenses.

So, case management at The AIDS Project looks something like this. Much of the work involves helping people survive, in large part, with as much control over their lives and dignity as our society has cared enough to safeguard. Otherwise, I try to be of help in solving any problems that come up, and for some, I also become a confidant and advisor. The richness of their emotions as people go through these life changes is both the reward and the hardship of working in an AIDS organization. □

Maine HIV Advisory Committee Addresses Viatical Concerns

by Kate Perkins

It is becoming more and more common for persons with HIV to sell their life insurance policies for cash. The practice has spawned a new "AIDS Industry" of Viatical Companies and Viatical Brokers. Anyone who has read a national gay magazine or visited the local ASO has probably seen informational materials or read their ads, and there seem to be more such companies every day.

Unlike most insurance or investment companies through, these businesses are not regulated or licensed and their practices vary widely. As a result, while one PWHIV might receive $75,000 for the sale of a $100,000 policy, another might receive only $45,000 for the same policy. In addition, there are all kinds of rider or side benefits that may be attached to our life insurance policy that may also be subject to the sale, or may not be, depending on whether we know it's there and what the viatical company puts in the small print.

As a result, there can be unintended negative consequences to the sale of a policy and there may be instances where a PWHIV is "ripped off" or doesn't receive what might, in a regulated environment, be considered fair market value for the policy. Several states have responded to the situation by enacting licensing requirements for viatical companies and regulating their practices. The intent is consumer protection, but the long term effect is unknown. It's really too soon to tell.

Maine has not yet enacted laws that would govern viatical companies and brokers. However, the ME HIV AC is considering such legislation. There are a variety of issues to consider, and.

Viatical - How it works:

( adapted from info published in a Houston area newspaper)

1. A person with a "terminal illness" seeks to convert his or her life insurance policy into cash. The Seller contacts a Broker to help find the best deal possible.

2. A person with some cash to invest seeks a profitable return. The Investor contacts a Viatical Company to be matched with a seller and to assess the risk of the policy. The viatical company takes a 3 to 5 percent commission of the settlement price upon closing of the deal.

3. The Broker, who charges the

Seller a fee of usually 6 percent of the settlement price, solicits bids on the policy from several viatical companies. Offers range from 33% to 80% of the face value of the policy, depending on the life expectancy of the seller. The longer the Seller is expected to live, the more the Investor is paid. That's because the Investor must wait longer to collect and is paying the insurance premium in the meantime. (It can be difficult to find an Investor if the Seller is expected to live more than 4 years.)

4. The Broker and company negotiate the settlement and a Title company, which charges a fee of less than 1 percent, is brought in to transfer ownership of the policy to the viatical company.

5. The Seller is paid the settlement price by the title company, which has taken the funds from the Investor. The responsibility of paying the policy's premium is assumed by the title company on behalf of the Investor.

6. The Seller dies. The Investor is paid the full value of the life insurance policy by the Insurance Company.
Wolters complaint letter obtained

Wolters has obtained Wolters original complaint letter dated June 6, 1995, Titus' response dated July 12, 1995, and many memos and letters to the Board of Nursing written on behalf of Sandy Titus. There are two instances in Wolters' letter where clients are referred to... by number. Confidentiality was preserved simply by blacking out these two numbers before giving the letter to CPR. Caron could have done much more.

Excerpts from Wolters' letter are as follows:

"...The purpose of this letter is to bring to your attention concerns I have regarding the nursing clinical practice of Sandy Titus, RN. I believe Mrs. Titus' techniques fail below nursing standards for competent practice. Later in this letter I will present a chronology of what I believe to be serious, actionable behavior on the part of Ms. Titus. Regarding basic level of care, the following examples illustrate my concerns:

- A client does not have a bath, sponging or oral hygiene for over three weeks.
- A bed-bound client is not turned, PROM, or rubbed resulting in bed sores and pressure necroses.
- Client sits in their own urine, excrement.
- A confused client frequently falls out of bed. Restrictions are in place. Mrs. Titus rejects this option.

"On February 16, 1995, Peabody House admitted its first client. Sandy Titus RN, Volunteer Resident Administrator, worked in conjunction with VNA & Hospice of South Portland to develop the client's plan of care. On March 3rd, the first client was admitted with the same coordination in place.

"Upon my assessment of care delivery for these first two clients, I concluded that Ms. Titus was unable to clarify her role here and had confused the implementation of our clients' plans of care. These conclusions were reinforced by expressed concern by clients' families and by our clients themselves. Each person voiced feelings of confusion about Ms. Titus' role and level of decision making.

"As a consequence of this assessment during the week of March 13, I recommended to the Peabody House Board of Directors that Ms. Titus be removed as Volunteer Resident Administrator. This recommendation was accepted and Ms. Titus moved out of the residence during the week of March 20, 1995.

"Ms. Titus then began her newly defined role as Volunteer Triage Nurse. Other RNs in the community also volunteered to assist in this capacity for future clients. I triaged the following clients:

- April 5, 9:00 am on Ms. Titus good to go
- April 7, 8:30 am Ms. Titus to be back on call
- April 12, 9:30 am to Triage pos.
- April 14, 10:00 am to 10:30 pm
- April 15, 9:30 pm on Ms. Titus
- April 20, 8:00 am on Ms. Titus

With this information I have presented, I question Ms. Titus' actions and decisions regarding whether Wolters and other RNs relied on their own admission to make sure the patient was fairly treated.

"In reference to the complaint letter obtained, I have not been able to obtain a copy of the letter. Wolters explained that the pharmacy has been unable to obtain the drug. In normal clinical practice, when a drug is not obtainable the RN is to call the pharmacist who then adjusts the order accordingly. This procedure was not followed resulting in the client's discomfort.

"I perform a thorough search of the premises and discover medications from previous clients, some with labels scratched off, stored in an office drawer. These medications were later boxed and sent to Augusta on May 11. At our weekly team meeting it is agreed that VNA & Hospice will take full responsibility for this. The client medications. Sheila Kavanaugh of VNA is present. All envelopes are checked for accuracy according to physician orders. Many errors are found and documented by the VNA & Hospice RN.

"May 5: Ms. Titus arrives at Peabody House for the death of a client. Ms. Titus reads client charts and notes the errors discovered by VNA. Ms. Titus calls Sheila Kavanaugh of VNA, who would not speak with me. Instead of doing so, Ms. Titus calls Board Members not already present and requests an immediate meeting. At approximately 9:00 am Ms. Titus goes to bed and returns with her grocery bag. Soon thereafter Ms. Titus and myself meet with Board Members Peter Haffnerfreder, Frannie Peabody, Lee Urban and Chris Behan. Ms. Titus explains that it is common knowledge that she exchanges medications between clients. She then turns over a grocery bag of medications and notifies the Board of her resignation as Volunteer Triage RN.

"...I question the ability of Ms. Titus, a social worker to present a chronology of what I believe to be serious, actionable behavior on the part of Ms. Titus.

"Sincerely, Margaret A. Wolters"

Sandy Titus, in her response letter to the Board of Nursing, gave explanations for the questions raised by Wolters. Many of these explanations were provided by fellow professionals, family and partners of deceased Peabody House clients and volunteers at Peabody House also answered Wolters charges against Titus. Some of these letters went beyond the charges and provided a challenging pillar of Wolters, and paint a disturbing picture of Peabody House which raises serious questions about the Board of Directors ability to find solutions.

"In reference to the client who hasn't bathed in three weeks, Titus writes, "He (the client) was very fatigued and exhausted from his bout with pneumonia and HIV wasting disease, as well as what he had been told was a fungus over his entire body. He was an independent autonomous person responsible for and fully capable of his own care and hygiene, and resistant to outside intervention. Our whole approach to this matter was to leave the client be and see what he could do for himself. He did not want to be helped."
client in urine or excrement. Of all the allegations, this is the one most painful to me. Racking her brain for what on earth this might be, I recalled a morning when a client had been up all night vomiting, that he had been in a lot of distress and had finally fallen asleep.

"There was a small amount of vomit on his T-shirt and pillow and when the Agency Certified Nurses Aide (CNA) wanted to wake him up to clean him, I suggested that it would not hurt him to wait to be cleaned up until he awakened, that his sleep was more important at that point. I did find clients at Peabody house lying in urine ... " At this point in Titus' letter, she refers the Board of Nursing to other letters written in support of herself which deal with this specific allegation.

Anne Marie Melendez, a residential aide at Peabody house, writes, "Peabody house left me to care for four dying pa­ tients on the overnight shift all alone. It was not Marg Wolters who gave me staff, even though she was the one who did staff­ ing schedules, and was also told in staff meetings that I insisted on helping during my shift. Sandy Titus was the person who volunteered to come in and help if I needed it. She helped me to turn and position and even change people who otherwise may have had to lay in their own excrement and urine due to the fact that it sometimes took two people to move people in that much pain. Sandy would come in at 4:00 am if I needed her. She is the most caring nurse I have ever known and worked with.

There are people out there who wrong­fully accuse because they are guilty of what they allege and they know it so they turn tables to cover themselves."

Caroline Greenleaf, a direct care volunteer addressed this subject as well. She writes, "Sandy taught many of us by doing all the things she did. She knew that only front horizontally placed envelopes were stored in a drawer in one of the side tables. Clients and all direct care giv­ ers knew that only front horizontally placed envelopes contained correct dos­ ages. Someone not understanding this system might have misinterpreted it, but had inquiries been made of the person who knew how it worked, it would have been clear that there were no dosage errors and the client was in no danger. Titus provided more information about the May 5th allegation by writing in her letter, "I turned them (client's drugs) over to Ms. Wolters because I was leaving Peabody House at that instant and did not want one more item of responsibility to be taken from me. I also told her in front of the Board Mem­ bers how it was wrong to have protocols and sign outs for narcotics, that they should be locked up, that Peabody house was in violation of many requirements. I realized that I was at risk of being set up and that I feared for my license and pro­ fessional career. At no time did I say it was common knowledge that I exchange med­ ications with clients." One letter, written by Karen Pettee, volunteer at Peabody House, illustrates a frightening picture of who Marg Wolters really is. Karen writes, "MARG was very condescending and spoke in an unnes­ sarily loud voice to client A. Client A was not given permission to eat at 5:00 p.m. to eat for dinner and was never asked what she would like to drink. Marg asked me to rent the video "Sleepless in Seattle" (for client A). The story is about a child whose mother dies and he tries to help his Dad find a new Mom. Client A has two chil­ dren and is very depressed about being separated from them, so she either slept or looked at the wall during the movie, while MARG just laughed and commented on what a "Funny movie" it was. When it was time to put on client A's pajamas MARG had no respect for client A's modesty, left her uncovered from the waist up, as client A attempted to cover herself with her par­ tially paralyzed arm. I intervened at that point, covering her and then buttoning her pajamas when we got them on. At 10 pm Marg casually mentioned that she'd for­ gotten client A's 8 pm meds."

This letter and the many others written in support of Ms. Titus provide a shocking litany of inadequate care, untrained staff, vin­ dicative administration, neglected clients and indifferent Board Members. The facts sug­ gest a family of the community and ac­ curacy for the resignation of the original Board Members and the re­instatement of Titus in the role of Clinical Director. It is the Board who bears the ultimate responsibility for the tragic mess Peabody House got itself into and their acceptance of that responsibil­ ity would provide a refreshing new start.

Lee Urban, the new Executive Direc­ tor, did not return CPR's call. Sorry but I hardly think I should be sending you up the garden, as the principle newspaper for the gay and lesbian community in Maine, Peabody House does owe a special responsi­ bility to the Community PRide Reporter to keep us informed of what goes on there. The Board may not recognize this responsibility, but that doesn't mean it doesn't exist. Clearly, they have trouble understanding just what their responsibilities are.

A headline in the Portland Press Herald in this sordid tale was the spectacle on TV of Portland's Police Chief Chaddock shooting his mouth off about "exhuming bodies" to prove whether or not Titus had administered lethal doses of narcotics. Can you imagine the au­ dience for this spectacle? I certainly hope Peabody House clients thinking their son or daughter's body will be exhumed? It is sim­ ply unbelievable that a man in such high of­ fice of public trust could be so irresponsible.

(Delvah Vilasano, RN, Executive Direct­ ing, Visitor Nursing Association, also wrote a letter to the Board of Nursing which raised questions regarding Titus' conduct at Peabody House. Her com­ ment addressed to Peabody House's edi­ torial letter, which is not surprising insofar as Wolters enlisted the support of VNA early on in her vendetta against Titus.)
Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter for three reasons: Firstly, to relate what a superb publication "CPR" has become, secondly, to relate an exciting story, and lastly to comment on an issue appearing in the June/July issue of CPR.

I am a proud resident of the "Great State of Maine" and have been able to see the growth of this publication "CPR" h~ become, sec~ readers will find of interest, and lastly our curiosity satisfied by reading Bruce Balboni's excellent article, "A House Divided: Conflict in Maine's Lamba League.""When I was a child, I learned that there are two types of house styles: the New England style and the Maine style. The New England style has a gable roof and large windows, while the Maine style has a flat roof and small windows. In my opinion, the Maine style is superior to the New England style because it is more functional and efficient. However, the New England style is more aesthetically pleasing and has a higher resale value.

Best regards and please accept our best wishes for a happy New Year.

Sincerely, Ben Moore

Northport, Maine
I would like to comment on the recent publicity regarding HIV care giver, Sandy Titus who has given so much to our community. Many have recently heard through the rumor mills and various media sources that it was alleged that she provided "questionable" care to our fellow brothers and sisters at the Peabody House. I have known Sandy for several years. I have been at bedside for over 100 of my 200 close personal friends who have died from this disease—AIDS. No, we haven’t had even 25 HIV clients pass through the Peabody House as of yet, and thus care giving protocols are just as much a learning process as the pharmaceutical protocols given whenever a new drug for HIV/AIDS hits the trenches. Peabody House is going through a learning process just like any brand new organization. Peabody House has great potentials. Here is my perspective:

First and most importantly, the mission of this HIV hospice was to provide the person with HIV a place that “feels like home.” No, whatever the adminstration level, shouldn’t even be aware of the HIV client residing within the house. The patient, after all, has more important issues than “living/dying” with HIV does not need any additional turmoil in their life. Most of us, at the conception of the Peabody House, went after this project with vigor because we didn’t want a hospice where it resembled a "sterile" hospital setting. What was conceived was a hospice setting like a “family home.”

The dream of the Peabody House from my HIV positive perspective, is an atmosphere where if I was living there in my final days, I would want to hear the “Big Bets” chiming in the hall, smelling the home-made pies, rolls, baked ham etc. cooking downstairs, and knowing in those many moments when I am scared to death of dying alone that someone “out of the blue” will always be there to hold my hand if I should ask for someone. A sterile atmosphere when one can’t see, just doesn’t cut the mustard! Peabody House isn’t a place for the faint of heart. It also isn’t a place to volunteer because it’s the trendy disease to jump on the bandwagon with.

Often I have seen volunteer nurses supposedly come into a HIV person’s residence, then right from the get-go say, “I’m not lifting that person, or changing anything with his bodily fluids on them!” Even many general all-purpose volunteers freak out when a patient comes close to death. For this very reason, they often stop coming when one continues being a hospice volunteer. I can sympathize with many who have a problem dealing with death and dying. For those, all I can say is volunteer in other areas where this won’t become a problem for you. If it’s too hot in the kitchen, then get out, and let those who can handle the heat do the job! Your services certainly can be utilized elsewhere to benefit both the patient and yourself. Hospice work, often like a funeral home director, takes a very special type of person to deal with the many facets of the work involved. All of this is often the heart of the problem with community volunteer run hospices. People mean well, but final stages of AIDS is anything but pretty. Having been an HIV care giver to over 200 of my personal friends from initial diagnosis “to time of death,” I will say not one was easy to go through.

Lastly, I hope the community will rally to support Sandy’s return and acceptance to become active once again “someplace” if not back into the Peabody House. If any mistakes were made, they can be corrected “all for the better.” It’s the HIV client who ultimately will suffer if we lose her many fine contributions and support. The Peabody House has sat very quiet, with regard to the news coverage. Just saying, “Sandy no longer works here” sounds pretty cold hearted considering she was a very instrumental part in Peabody House’s conception and it becoming a reality.

Often one forgets the hands that feed us! For now, many contributions are on hold, until we see this resolved quickly and not become a hush, hush cover-up. No folks, we don’t allow that to happen.

Sincerely,
B.F.-PWA, Living with HIV and active!

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GUEST EDITORIAL

by David O. Cook

Uncle Tom’s (Log) Cabin

Senator Bob Doles, in his never-ending gyrations around the axis of ideological purity, recently returned a $1,000 campaign contribution from The Log Cabin Republicans, America’s largest gay Republican group. It’s hard to swallow the oxymoronic reality of gay republicanism, especially given the relationship between the GOP and its homophobic Christian fellow travelers, but perhaps gay republicans consider themselves to be an elite form of homosexual. If so, maybe this slap in the face from their beloved leader will wake them up to the reality that from the GOP’s point of view, we’re all queers. And, if the specter of another plodding, plutoocratic Republican presidency has got you down, cheer up—maybe the combination of Dole’s ingratitude (first he solicited the money, then he returned it) coupled with the sleazy verbal back-peddling of his handlers will backfire at the polls.

It’s About Sex Phobia, Stupid

Meanwhile, back in Portland, we were treated to a fine show of naivete when Casco Bay Weekly printed articles by Rick MacPherson relating in detail what the author saw when he “went undercover” in Portland’s porn establishment.

The intent, we are told, was to raise awareness about unsafe sex practices; the actual result was public outcry and police raids. CBW’s subsequent reaction to what it termed a “puritan frenzy” was to declare petulantly “It’s about public health, stupid,” thereby side-stepping responsibility for the ensuing panic.

The first article (“Risking Your Life,” CBW, 7/27/95) oscillates between the Victorian poles of disgust and titillation. The companion article (“Hoping for Ripples”) appears to be some sort of apologia, apparently intended to clarify the author’s motives for writing the first article. Unfortunately, its soppy combination of soul-baring, liberal-sounding platitudes, and unadulterated dogma misses the mark; after several readings of these pieces, I still don’t get the point. It’s all very well to claim you are writing about public health, but the content just doesn’t jibe with the intent.

Still, the articles are one thing, the public reaction is another. While the epidemiological basis for singing out porn theaters (versus, say, straight pick-up bars) is dubious because the addition dogma misses the mark; after several readings of these pieces, I still don’t get the point. It’s all very well to claim you are writing about public health, but the content just doesn’t jibe with the intent.

The articles are one thing, the public reaction is another. While the epidemiological basis for singing out porn theaters (versus, say, straight pick-up bars) is dubious because the addition dogma misses the mark; after several readings of these pieces, I still don’t get the point. It’s all very well to claim you are writing about public health, but the content just doesn’t jibe with the intent.

Congress Faces About Smut

Portland isn’t the only place where fear of sex determines public policy. With much the same sanctimonious bleating that accompanied the debate over funding for the arts, Congress is now on the rampage over porn on the information superhighway and is considering measures to restrict content, access, or both in order to prevent the nation’s children from suffering what we are told will be the irreparable harm that results from exposure to porn. One proposal is a parental lock-out capability that will allow Mom and Dad to keep the smut all to themselves while forcing the kids to seek other more low-tech outlets for their own perfectly natural sexual curiosity.

Of course there is no evidence that children who willingly seek out pornographic material are harmed by it. But the hypocrisy of the effort is more to the point. At a time when record numbers of children are being born into poverty, Congress is mounting an all-out war on the poor. So-called welfare reform, perpetuation of health care for the rich, and reduction/elimination of educational subsidies are just a few of the ways that our Congress has shown its contempt for children. Let’s face it: If Congress really cared about kids, they wouldn’t be working so hard to turn America into a third-world country.
SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER '95 CALENDAR

Friday, September 15:
• 7:00-9:00 PM - Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Discussion Group discusses "Creating Community" at First Universalist Church, 345 Broadway, Rockland. FMI, Larry Godfrey @ 207/594-2975.

Saturday, September 16:
• 12:15 PM - MLGPA Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. Libbythir Library, Winthrop St., Augusta. FMI, 1-800-55-MLGPA. (Portland area: 761-3745)

Sunday, September 17:
• 9:00 AM-5:30 PM - Maine Speakout Project Training, Unitarian Universalist Church in Bangor. FMI, 207/879-0480.
• 7:00 PM - Waldo County chapter of MWD presents "The Life and Times of Harvey Milk" as part of a film series on Sunday evenings at the Belfast Free Library in Belfast. Documentary shows the spirit of the man who was murdered while standing up against the radical right. FMI, Paula-207/338-1265 or Clare-207/338-2814

Monday, September 18:
• 6:00-10:00 PM - Maine Speakout Project Training at First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, Main St., Kennebunk. FMI, 207/879-0480.
• 7:00-9:00 PM - Waldo County chapter of MWD presents "The spirit of the man who was murdered while standing up against the radical right. FMI, Paula-207/338-1265 or Clare-207/338-2814

Tuesday, September 19:
• 6:45 PM - Presentation of Leadership Awards by Equity Institute to Gerry Talbot and Ellen Wells for their leadership and encouragement confronting exclusive behavior. Portland Museum of Art. FMI call L-Wallace-773-0581.

Wednesday, September 20:
• 7:00 PM - Portland Chapter of Maine Won't Discriminate. St. Luke's Cathedral, 143 State St. FMI, 207/772-6221.

Thursday, September 21:
• 7:00 PM - Portland Chapter of Maine Won't Discriminate. St. Luke's Cathedral, 143 State St. FMI, 207/772-6221.

Friday, September 22:
• 7:00-9:00 PM - Women's discussion group at Portland Chapter of Maine Won't Discriminate. St. Luke's Cathedral, 143 State St. FMI, 207/772-6221.

Saturday, September 23:
• 6:00-9:00 PM - Maine Speakout Project Training at the University of Maine at Orono campus. FMI, 207/879-0480.

Sunday, September 24:
• 7:00-9:00 PM - Waldo County chapter of MWD presents "Always My Kid: A Family Guide to Understanding Homosexuality" as part of a film series on Sunday evenings at the Belfast Free Library in Belfast. Movie explains facts about homosexuality, specifically countering misinformation spread by radical right. FMI, Paula-207/338-1265 or Clare-207/338-2814.

Monday, September 25:
• 6:00-9:00 PM - Sexual Assault Advocacy Training programs begins for six weeks. Will be Mondays and Wednesdays. 40 hour training program covers issues of sexual assault and child sexual abuse; medical, police and legal protocols. CEU's available. Once trained, you are prepared to volunteer on 24 hour hotline at Sexual Assault Response Services of So. Maine. FMI, 207/772-6000 or 207/772-6001.

Tuesday, September 26:
• 7:00-9:30 PM - MCLU Annual Meeting & Celebration in Bangor. Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Ctr.

Wednesday, September 27:
• 6:45-9:00 PM - Women's discussion group at SisterSpace, 337 Water St., Augusta. Topic: The Chakras System. FMI, Janene-207/621-2838.

Thursday, September 28:
• 6:00-9:00 PM - Free support group for advocates and supporters of lesbian and gay civil rights. Facilitated by Vivian Wadan and Jewel McHale at Womenspace Counseling Center, 236 Park Ave., Portland. Drop-in to vent and unwind, tell your stories and get nurtured before going back to battle. FMI, Vivian 774-2403, Jewel 773-4211.

Friday, September 29:
• 6:00-9:00 PM - "Becoming Visible: A Reader in Gay & Lesbian Studies for Company. Two for one preview special. FMI, 207/772-3776 & ask for Scott Roberge.

Saturday, September 30:
• TBD - Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights will be addressing Unitarian Universalist Conference. FMI, 207/879-0480.

October Events:

Sunday, October 1:
• 6:00-5:30 PM - Maine Speakout Project Training at Temple Shalom, 74 Bradman St., Auburn. FMI, 207/879-0480.


• 6:00-9:00 PM - Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights will be at the Belfast Free Library in Belfast.

Tuesday, October 3:
• 7:00 PM - Waldo County chapter of MWD presents "Pink Triangles" as part of a six-week series on Sunday evenings at the Belfast Free Library in Belfast. Movie is an historical perspective on discrimination faced by lesbians and gay men. FMI, Paula-207/338-1265 or Clare-207/338-2814.

Wednesday, October 4:
• 7:00-9:00 PM - Free support group for advocates and supporters of lesbian and gay civil rights. Facilitated by Vivian Wadan and Jewel McHale at Womenspace Counseling Center, 236 Park Ave., Portland. Drop-in to vent and unwind, tell your stories and get nurtured before going back to battle. FMI, Vivian 774-2403, Jewel 773-4211.

Thursday, October 5:
• 7:00-9:00 PM - Women in Harmony choral group rehearsal, Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI, 207/286-8016 or 207/885-0995.

Friday, Sunday, October 6 & 7:
• 8:15 AM - Conference on Lesbian Health and Sexuality, Holiday Inn By The Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Tickets are $25. FMI, 207 /97-5404. Come by and check us out. We're on the move!
• 7:00 PM - Portland Chapter of Maine Won't Discriminate. St. Luke's Cathedral, 143 State St. FMI, 207/772-6133 or 207/772-6188.

Tuesday, October 10:
• 7:00 PM - Portland Chapter of PFLAG meets at Woodfords Congregational Church, Woodfords Corner. We are parents, friends and relatives of lesbians, bisexual, gay and transgendered persons offering support and education. FMI, Rita-766-5158 or Sue-774-3441.

• 7:00-8:30 PM - PFLAG: Seacoast, NH sponsoring "Connections," a support group for those affected by HIV/AIDS. Held at Exeter (NH) Congregational Church, Front St. Meetings held second Tuesday each month. For information on this support, discussion and resource sharing. FMI, call Ted-603/778-0102 or Ingrid-603/772-6221.

Wednesday, October 11:
• 7:00-9:00 PM - Free support group for advocates and supporters of lesbian and gay civil rights. Facilitated by
TRAVEL/VACATION

**Δ Lesbian Paradise!** 20 charming rooms, 100 mountain acres, pool, hot tub, hiking trails, yummy breakfasts, peace and privacy. You're our perfect vacation choice year-round! Weekend-long and midweek discounts. HIGHLANDS INN, Box 1180P, Bethel, ME 04217, (603) 693-3978. Δ

**Δ 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, Thordike, ME 04986. 1-800-569-4770. Δ

**Δ Hello, Big Farm!** Romantic, seasonal cottage or year round studio on working organic farm in Down east Maine, 20 minutes from Eastport. Absolute peace and quiet. Your host, unsoped, Cobbs Creek, Bay B & B or weekly rental. Brochure reservations: (207) 726-5807. Δ

**Δ Speckled Mountain Ranch!** Located in Maine's White Mountain foothills. Come share our beautiful B&B & horse farm. We have two rooms available, with delicious vegetarian breakfast. Ride horses, hike, enjoy nature. Call (207) 836-2908. Both rooms. Δ

**Δ Europe, Anyone?!!?** Looking for a group of women who would like to backpack across Europe, summer of '96. Will fly to England, take the tunnel to France, backpack to Venice and take a flight back from Milan, Italy. For more information, please call Suzen @ 207/799-1519. Leave message. Δ

**Δ looking for a Get-a-way?!?** 10 acre woodland retreat on mountain side. Great for camping in the rough, hiking, walking, tenting, or popup trailers. I want to share my property with our community. Close to NH, Fryeburg & Cornish fairgrounds. Spectacular views, quiet, secluded, well taken care of land. FMJ Phil at 207/625-3541. Δ

**Δ medical help needed**

**Δ** GM, 40ish, seeks Personal Care Attendant. Familiarity with neuro-muscular/mobility problems helpful. Call 207/779-8488. Δ

**Δ PERSONALS**

**Δ Small endowed? Short in stature? Like us? Tired of gays searching for only tall or well built? Finally stories, advice and personals devoted to the small man and our admirers. 100's nationwide. SASE P O Box 610294, Auburndale, NY 11161-0934. Δ**

**Δ Young Man!** Do you need a true friend who is sincere, supportive and understanding? This 50+ GM is looking for a sincere young man to share good times & hot times with. Share my golden years! Ron, P.O. Box 1169, Sanford, ME 04073. Δ

**Δ GWM** who enjoys nude photography, hot videos, massage and safe sex looking to share these with GM 18-40. Drop me a line with phone number. Let's talk and plan to meet. Write Boxholder 337, 9 Vernon Street, Auburn, ME 04210. Δ


**Δ Lonley, Incarcerated GWM, 22, 165 lbs., 6 ft, dark hair, hazel eyes, clean, in good shape and health and HIV. Presently incarcerated. I.S.O. honest, sincere, romantic, caring, professional gay man for longtime monogamous friendship/possible relationship. I've taken a few wrong turns in life and feel that with that special someone my life could be meaningful again. Age, race not a factor. Waiting. Joe Hiester, #109619, KY State Prison, P.O Box 128, Eddyville, KY 42038-0128. Δ

**Δ Lonley, Incarcerated GBM, Healthy, honest, faithful, romantic, intelligent, good sense of humor, seeks to explore new ideas and stimulating conversation with anyone who cares to write and can appreciate my erotic nature and burning desire for a sincere relationship. You can write to me Rodney Lance Shields, #88365, KY. State Penitentiary, P.O Box 128, Eddyville, KY 42038-0128 and I'll treat you with friendly correspondence and cheerful surprises. Δ**

**Δ GWM, 6ft, blonde hair, blue eyes, 170 lbs. 40, Live in mid-coast Maine. Professional pianist & composer. Interested in all of the Arts, travel, nature and much more. Exercise daily and would like same. Looking for a kindred spirit, any race, ages 18-45. All responses answered. T.W., RR 1, Box 344, Wiscasset, ME 04578. Δ**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Δ** Front-Runners Club: Do you like to run for fun and exercise? Would you like to run with other gay men and lesbians? If so, please contact Wayne Hooe at 207/977-3939 or write me at P.O Box 301, Orono, ME 04473. Δ

**Δ** Trying to locate John Frechette: Moved from Meriden, Connecticut to Maine (probably Ogunquit or Portland area) in 1988 or 1989. Any info, call Tina Manley at 1-800-266-5000, ext. 5889. Δ

**Δ** Call for Volunteers: The Maine HIV Prevention Community Planning Group makes recommendations to the Bureau of Health regarding requests for and spending of federal (CDC) grant monies. We are a mixture of 'at risk' individuals and professionals. Currently seeking people not usually found on recommending committees - individuals from marginalized communities such as recovering injecting drug users, male teens, African Americans, Hispanics, people of Asian or Pacific heritage, men who have sex with men, HIV+ women and other socially and economically marginalized people. Call 207/622-2962 for an application or information and write to Maine AIDS Plan, 112 State Street, Augusta ME 04330. Δ

**Support Group**


- Ecological Homes
- Nontoxic & Natural Paints & Finishes
- "Real" Linoleum
- Home Building
- Design Services
- Consultations
- Safe Home Inspections

**METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Inclusive, non-homophobic, liberation-based

The Gospel of Jesus, The Christ, for all people

Northern Lights MCC of Augusta, ME 4:00 pm Sunday. Communion each week 2.3 miles from Cony Circle on Rt. 201. FMJ: Bill at 207.453.9750

Circle of Hope MCC of Portland, ME 4:00 pm Saturday. Immanuel Baptist, 136 High Street. FMI: 207.773.0119

Every person is welcomed! Please join us!
COMMUNITY PRIDE RESOURCES

GENERAL
MLGPA is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to promote public understanding of sexual minorities, including gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons, and to provide a broad-based and affirmative advocacy for these individuals.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) is a national support and educational organization that helps families and friends of sexual minorities, and their allies, to support, and advocate for, the rights of sexual minorities. The Orange County P-FLAG Chapter welcomes all people regardless of age, race, religion, or sexual orientation. If you are interested in becoming a member, or volunteering organizational skills, please contact (973) 969-7214.

P.O. Box 51166, Sta. A, Portland, ME 04101, or call 207/774-4360.
Maine Gay Men's Chorus is a community chorus that brings men together under the leadership of our Artistic Director, Andrew W. Smith. Contact (207) 774-4360.

Support Groups

Medical Support
Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic: Confidential counseling and treatment for STD's for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and heterosexual. Call 877-6593 to make appointment. Office hours: 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Location: Portland, ME 04101.

GROUPS

Out and About: A discussion/support group for those interested in discussing their multifaceted relationships. Contact (207) 542-0367 or call (207) 288-2502 and leave a message.

Dignity, Etc.: Meets every Thursday at 5:15 PM at Eastern Portland United Methodist Church (Emmanuel). All are welcome. Call 773-5726 or call (207) 288-2502 and leave a message.

The Appoloe Society: An outreach, networking, and educational forum for New England's gay and lesbian atheists, freethinkers, ethical humanists and Hellenics. Free speech(civil rights advocacy group offering free speech, religious de-programming and fun! Call 773-5726.

Statewide Meeting: Third Thursday of each month, 7:30 pm at the Portland Public Library, 500 Congress St., Portland.

ME Chapter, Sexual Minority Issues Committee of the National Association of Social Workers, ME, welcomes new social work members. Contact the Committee at 207/773-7504.

Support Group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, & transgendered, including families, persons, and friends who are affected by HIV disease. FMI call 207/874-1095.


MUSIC & ART

Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse: A support group for those affected by sexual abuse and/or sexual assault meets Wednesdays from 3:00 to 3:30 PM, free, confidential, and located at 100 Main St., 1st floor, Portland.

Call USM Women's Forum at 207/774-6593.

Out on MIND: For gay, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgenders for intersex individuals. Meetings every Tuesday at 7:00 PM. Newcomers always welcome. FMI write ON MIND, P.O. Box 367, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679-0367 or call (207) 288-2502 and leave a message.


FMI: 207/774-4940.

FMI: 207/774-4360.

FMI: 207/774-4360.

FMI: 207/774-4360.

FMI: 207/773-7526 or call (207) 288-2502 and leave a message.

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FMI: 207/774-4360.

FMI: 207/774-4360.
Auburn.

Auburn area meets Mondays at 7 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Spring St., Auburn.

Bangor Lesbian Support Group: This lesbian support group welcomes any woman who self-identifies as a lesbian. They seek to create a woman-only, lesbian-safe space to explore issues and affirm themselves and each another as lesbians. Confidentiality, open-mindedness and respect are required. Meets 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10:30 am-Noon.

Gay Men of All Ages in the Western Maine, Eastern ME area who get together for pot luck dinners, hiking, canoeing, skiing and other activities. FMI, write to Box 13, Augusta, ME 04332-0013.

Gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender support group meets Sundays to all clients of The AIDS Project, 1:30 pm. The above Portland support groups meet at The AIDS Project, 142 High St., 6th floor except the Tuesday group, Living Well, FMI on that call Sandy Titus at Stratagen 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 pm at Auburn Family Planning. Call Diana Carrigan, Androscoggin and Oxford Case Manager and Support Services Coordinator for TAP at the Auburn office, 783-4301.

Barreddale: People affected or infected by HIV. Mondays, 5:30-7:00 pm. So. ME. Medical Center classroom opposite cafeteria on 2nd floor. Call John Beas, York County Care Manager, 774-8677.

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

Gardiner: 1st & 3rd Weddays: People living with HIV meets from 1:30-3 pm at the Physician's Building behind KVRAH Annex. Call MASS at 725-4955.


The Maine GayNet Home Page: An ever-changing display of events and information. Meetings, contact people, resources, & referrals. The complete text of CPR available online, too. Point your WEB Browser at: http://www.qrd.org/ QRD/www/usa/mainefi-mail PaulStockholm: paula@maine.edu

AIDS Coalition of Lewiston/Auburn: Contact people, families, and friends. FMI write: P.O. Box 1394, Lewiston, ME 04244-0394.


"SPIRIT OF 73" Compilation extraordinaire

by Ainsle Ponti

"Spirit of '73" takes the prize for best compilation album of the year. It's a collection of all female-led bands ranging from L7 to the Indigo Girls, from Babes in Toyland to Rosanne Cash, from Sarah McLachlan to Sophie B. Hawkins, not to mention Johnette Napolitano and one of Aimsel's favorites, Melissa Ferrick.

Every once in a while an album comes out and I have just a gigantic musical high attack and walk around in a daze for awhile. By the time this issue of CPR comes out, I may have recovered, but I'll find you out walking around in a daze when you get this album. 1973 was the year that the Supreme Court made abortion safe and legal for women in the United States. So, it is certainly appropriate to call this album "Spirit of '73" especially since all the songs on it are '70s covers. Rock For Choice is an organization founded in 1991 by the band L7 and The Feminist Majority. Its mission is to mobilize the music community as well as young adults to stand up for reproductive freedom. Since 1991, Rock For Choice has been supported by many musicians and has been out on several benefit concerts. When you buy this CD, you are giving money to support The Feminist Majority's campaign to lift lethal parental consent laws and federal funding restrictions that are forcing young women and poor women to seek dangerous alternatives to legal abortions.

Rock for Choice has a powerful slogan: "You can only be quietly you can Rock For Choice." I chose to support the cause and, well, to Rock for Choice. I feel this is an important cause to support even without the bonus of such a great album. In the liner notes are several pages that Rock For Choice recommends to keep abortion safe, legal and accessible in the United States. The two most important ones are "Keep yourself informed and to register to vote.

Getting back to the music. Deny it if you feel the need, but I'm not afraid to admit that the 1970's produced some truly unforgettable songs. Some of the covers on this album remind me of being driven to preschool in 1974 while others take me back to the late '70's, when roller skating was becoming a big deal in my life as was watching the Bionic Woman and Charlie's Angels. Also featured in the liner notes are pictures of all the artists, such as Sarah McLachlan at about age 5 and Amy Ray sporting a cowboy outfit at about age 7.

The first track is by a band called Eve Plumb. I'm not sure if that is supposed to be a tribute to Eve Plumb, you know who she is... I'm sure. But, I do know that their rockin' version of the disco hit "If I Can't Have You" leaves you wanting more, or as the next track says, "More, More, More" done complete with trumpets by Babes in Toyland. The groove of Ebony Vibe Everlasting's "We Are Family" will get you dancing, just as the original does.

The Boston area band, Letters to Cleo's version of the Fleetwood Mac classic "Dreams" isn't bad, but I do think that some songs should just plain be left alone. And although it almost pains me to say this, I think this is also the case with Johnette Napolitano's "Dancing Barefoot." Napolitano's pipes certainly do a hell of a job on this track, but nobody touches Patti Smith. Nobody. Although I will say that, if you're gonna attempt to do a Smith song, you might as well be Johnette Napolitano, as I certainly think her cover of "Dancing Barefoot" is a thousand times better than U2's attempt.

When I was a senior in high school in Andover, Massachusetts, we won a concert sponsored by WBCN, a Boston radio station. The Prize: Our very own Joan Jett and the Blackhearts concert in our auditorium. Although none of us were particularly huge fans, we collectively got into it when Jett cracked through her classic "Cherry Bomb." In 1992, Jett played this same song live with L7 at a Rock for Choice concert. It is this recording that appears on this album. Excellent apartment cleaning music indeed.

There's a few song's, that for me, truly capture the essence of my 70's experience. Maria Muldaur's "Midnight at the Oasis" certainly qualifies. The band, that dog, who I was unfamiliar with prior to this album, do an incredible, sometimes acappella, and sometimes rocking, interpretation of this timeless tune.

The band Pet does "Have You Ever Been Mellow," a song that has always irritated me, somehow takes on a new life. Cassandra Wilson's "Killing Me Softly" slow, deep vocals and soft congas give the song a new twist that seems to lessen the sap factor to a tolerable degree.

See SPIRIT, page 22

MOVIE REVIEW:

"The Incredibly True Adventures of Two Girls in Love"

by Frank Girolamo

Film lesbians are finally feeling better about themselves. It took a while, and they've come a long way since Shirley MacLaine followed her moral imperative and hanged herself for going gaga over Audrey Hepburn in "The Children's Hour," a long way since Sandra Dennis came out in "The Fonz" and got combed on the head by a roller's falling tree. "The Incredibly True Adventures of Two Girls in Love" is about first love. It's an affair that sends you from the candy store, a walk, through comedy with sitcom sensibilities and fun for the entire extended family.

Randy Dean (Laurel Hollomon) is the town tomboy. She's the Carrie White of her high school. Without the hair, the country, the barbecue, the terror. Randy catches the eye of Evie Roy (Nicole Parker), one of the most popular girls at school, and suddenly the beauty out of reach has come seductively close. Hollomon and Parker twirl the movie around their fingers. They're great at making puppy love. It's easy to feel their tentativeness. They are so shy, they can hardly look each other square in the eye. They remind you of the thrill and the horror that go hand in hand with any first date.

Randy is a street wise punk. Evie is privileged; she loves her Range Rover. In a getting-to-know-you conversation, Randy is amused by Evie's naive and her sheltered life. When Evie says, "Then unshelter me," it comes out of left field and it's a love lyric—the most beautiful music Randy has ever heard.

What's best about this movie is that sexual orientation is hardly the point. It's about more girls in love and suffering the indignity that is high school. The pointlessness of proms and geometry. They skip classes. They smoke in the girl's room and lie about their overnights. In "Two Girls," living out of the closet is the least rebellious thing Randy and Evie do. That should make some kind of movie history.

Several heterosexuals barge their way into the story, and they are drawn with broad strokes. "Two Girls" is as good as "Say Anything" or "Valley Girl." The circus clowns and barnyard points and the girl's room and lie about their overnights. In "Two Girls," living out of the closet is the least rebellious thing Randy and Evie do. That should make some kind of movie history.

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by Almis L. Pouti

Some of us in the greater Portland area may best know Jim Neal as the "Drop Me A Line" guy. He's the partner, Roger Mayo, opened that wonderful little store on Congress Street back in 1990. What you might not know about Jim is that he is an amazing artist whose work was recently shown at Coffee By Design, a year old (+/-) Portland coffee shop, as the final show of their summer season. If you saw the show, you knew it wasn't paintings, or photographs or sculpture, but an art form that I, for one, didn't know a lot about. Neal's show, "Handmade Papers," beautifully showcased the unusual, and not often seen, art form of papermaking. You may have actually seen Neal's work and not realized it. His quilled heart illustration was used in a poster for the NAMES Project AIDs Memorial Quilt, and is now the official logo of the Maine Chapter of the NAMES Project. Neal also designed and made what is referred to as the "Purple Heart" card which has raised over $1000 for The AIDS Project over the past couple of years. This card, which is available at Drop Me A Line, also serves as a way of remembering his good friend Vincent Boulanger who died in 1993. Originally from Galesburg in Illinois, Jim Neal first discovered paper making in 1978 after reading an article in American Artist Magazine. At the time he was a student at Carl Sandburg College, and there he got approval for an independent study of paper making. Initially he produced more functional paper to use for art, but not as art itself. After a brief stay in New Hampshire with an artist, Neal made the move to Portland. Along with being a store owner/papermaker, Neal is also a wonderful painter. Neal and Roger Mayo opened the first one-man showing of Neal's paper art, and he says the experience was nothing but positive. Many of his papers have dried flowers embedded in them and a few had pieces of mica. All of them were unique and certainly gorgeous pieces of art. The process of paper making involves a few different things. Neal generally uses abaca, which is sheets of processed banana leaves or cozo, which is traditional plant fiber from Japan and Thailand. From there he sizes the leaves for 6-8 hours in soda ash and then it gets beaten to a pulp. Sometimes Neal uses his old blender. Mind you, a person could spend thousands on a Hollander beater, which is just for paper pulp, but Neal says he does just fine with what he has. He adds that the pulp which is beaten by hand is more irregular and has more textures. One of the nice things about this art form is that the relatively short process has stayed the same over the years. Neal uses a piece of wood and a flat surface to further beat the pulp. "Primitive, order techniques lend more character to the pieces of paper," he explained.

Some of Jim Neal's work can be found in upscale stores in New York City and as far away as Germany, Japan, Mexico and Canada. This was all thanks to the contract he landed with a woman named Constance Kay who Neil met in 1991. She suggested he make some card sized pieces and she loved what he submitted to her the following year. Although you will recognize him as the friendly guy from Drop Me A Line, Jim Neal's talents extend far beyond retail. We'll have to keep an eye out for his beautiful work. I feel honored to have someone like Jim Neal introduce me to an art form I knew very little about, but now can appreciate. 

Jim Neal, pictured with one of several pieces of his work displayed at Coffee by Design recently. Note his shirt with the heart he designed in memory of Vincent Boulanger, long-time friend.
US House of Reps postpones attacks on GLBT youth

The National Advocacy Coalition on Youth and Sexual Orientation (NACYSO) sent out the following "Urgent Action Alert" on September 8. NACYSO is sponsored by the Hetrick-Martin Institute to address public policy issues related to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth through the collaboration of a broad spectrum of national and community-based organizations across the country.

This Action Alert calls on queer youth and their allies to write, call or email Rep. Peter Hoekstra (R-Mich.), to urge cancellation of the hearing on homosexuality and the schools. It says:

"Congressional staff of Rep. Peter Hoekstra (R-Mich.), chair of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the House Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee, has confirmed that the previously scheduled hearing on homophobia and the schools has been postponed. The hearing is being billed as a hearing on "Parental Involvement in Social Issues in Education." The hearing was scheduled for September 12, at the request of Lou Sheldon of the radical right Traditional Values Coalition.

"Word as of September 7 is that hearings will occur and that [Majority Leader] Gingrich did promise them to Rev. Lou Sheldon. Hoekstra's office is not yet releasing the witness list, but you can bet it'll be stacked. The hearing currently is named "Parental Involvement in Social Issues in Education." It has been postponed, but will likely occur between the end of September and Thanksgiving. It allegedly will address the following 3 focus areas, with perhaps a 4th to be added later: 1) Sex education and abstinence, 2) Condom distribution in schools and 3) Homosexual curricula (sic)."

What Can You Do?
1) Contact Rep. Peter Hoekstra's office and insist that his subcommittee CANCEL the hearing on "Parental Involvement in Social Issues in Education." Members of Congress were elected to work on critical problems facing this country, NOT to wage attacks on youth and their families! Hoekstra's office: (202) 225-4401. Majority Chief of Staff: Jay Eagen: (202)225-4527. Email: <tellhoek@hr.house.gov>.
2) Call other members of the subcommittee and give them the same message! US Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3211. Minority Chief of Staff: Gail Weiss (202) 225-3725. (Call CPR office: (879-1342) for names and phone #s of subcommittee members).
3) Call your state's Representatives and ask them to speak out against the hearing and against targeting a group of young people for attack because of their sexual orientation.

In a fundraising letter to the Traditional Values Coalition, Lou Sheldon wrote, "It is essential that parents across America know about the possibility of homosexual propaganda in the schools. We must protect our children and the children of America." The letter specifically targets for attack Los Angeles, National Education Association, Fairfax VA Family Life Education, Des Moines, IA, Massachusetts and the Minnesota Department of Education. ΔΔ

If you want to have a voice, let's hear from you. Write a letter, do a review, tell your story.

REVIEW

Music:
Up for review this month is the English singing group, Take That. Some of you may have heard about them from the radio with there new song and first ever released in America, "Back For Good" from their album, "Nobody Else." Take That is a "heart throb" group in Europe. I first heard Take That on Euro-MTV in India, "Prey" on their "Everything Changes" album which is their third second and I think best. Their first, "Take That and Party," was an instant hit in Europe. As much as they appear to be straight, it is my hypothesis that they are all gay, cute and lovable. But that's just me. I highly recommend this group for your listening pleasure.

Album, "Nobody Else" ***

Book:
Boys on the Rocks, by John Fox.

This is a refreshing book. It's not like any other book you will ever read. It's not examining the gay "life-style," but living it as a teenage boy. It gives a new perspective on a gay youth in the 1960's. Although this is a great book, the author tends to circle around a lot, and the reader may get a little confused until an ending you might not expect.

Book, "Boys on the Rocks" ***

Movie:
"Maurice"

This moving movie, based on the book of the same title, is an interesting look into gay life in the early 1900's. The plot moves quickly as Maurice's college boyfriend becomes frightened after seeing a gay friend caught in a gay act and sentenced to be cured in a facility and "become" straight. Maurice and his ex-boyfriend keep in touch, and the movie takes a bizarre twist.

Movie, "Maurice" *** 1/2

Star scale is rated on none being lowest and **** being highest.
Love always and forever, Trent

by S. H. L., Portland, Maine

The office smelled of latex gloves. Old books covered in dust lined the shelves. Old year books in large stacks. Trinity sat at the counselor’s desk. The young man was new at Noble High. It was his first year. It was Trinity’s first year too.

The man offered Trinity a tissue to wipe the blood from the cut on his face. “I always do. I then went downstairs to Karson’s room but he wasn’t there, so I saw a group of skinheads. I didn’t think much of it until they grabbed my arm, hall a door slammed and they took off.

Walking back towards the band room and between periods, I saw them looking up fag, queer, cock sucker, and punched me in the stomach twice. Then down the hallway to my classroom they took off. I tried to make myself look normal and walked back up to the band room. Then, between periods, I saw them looking up at me. So I ran to my next period.”

“When I looked out the window, he saw a group of kids play­ing in the snow, throwing snowballs, building snowmen, having fun. He remembered when he sat in that same field in the last month of summer and wrote his award winning poem, “The Battle of Copenhagen.” The smell of the grass and the warm breeze were blowing through his hair. How he watched the last butterflies of summer flying against the wind. Like he was now.

“Yes, please tell,” the young man said.

“Yesterday people were coming up to me and asking me if I was gay and if I was going out with this guy, Alex. They said they didn’t know whether or not to believe the rumors, so I thought no need to answer. Finally it got real annoying to me. So then on the way home, these two kids Allen and Andrew, were calling me fag and queer. So, when I got home, I called my mom and said that I wouldn’t be attending if these two kids weren’t handled. I then called my mom and she said that my social worker, whom I had talked to earlier that day, had called her and told her that every­thing that had been happening was harass­ment. So I called the police and filled out a harassment charge. I have to see an officer today at 2:30 pm.”

“OK. So what happened today during third period?”

“I got in a fight.”

“With whom?” asked the man.

“So, some jerks.”

“Why do you think they started a fight?”

“Because of what’s been going on in school. They said they didn’t want a fag in there school.”

“Hmm. So what can we do about this?”

“I don’t know.” Trent said per­turbed.

“Well, you need to go back to class, and I’ll talk to Mr. Smith and get back to you. OK? Here’s a pass to class. Trent, try not to get into anymore fights.”

“OK. Mr. Day.”

Trent was glad to get out of that chair because he was getting uncomfortable, and a spider was climbing up Mr. Day’s desk.

As Trent walked out into the hall­way, his head was high. He felt proud for who he was.

The hallway traffic slowed down. As he walked, people called him fag and queer. His friend Kyle heard what was going on and went over and grabbed Trent’s arm and said, “Let’s get outta here.”

They headed for the main door. Before they got to the door, Jason Wil­liams screamed out “Good-bye you fag in there school.”

At the hallway road with laughter. Trent and Kyle walked out the door. Trent wasn’t proud anymore. He left his school and all but one of his friends with no dignity or honor. He left Noble High with a tear in his eye and his head hang­ing low.

The next day, on the morning an-

BISEXUAL RESOURCE GUIDE

by K.A., Saco, Maine

Being gay, I have always felt dis­tanced from people. When I first came to terms with my sexuality, I felt com­pletely isolated. My parents cried and screamed in my torment. My friends were tired of defending me and regretted ever meeting me. My classmates looked at me in disgust and my teachers wished I was elsewhere. All this was the result of merely feeling I might be gay. After that thought, I was instantly trans­formed and labeled as a burden to so­ciety. All I could do was stand alone and ask myself, “What did I do?”

I’ve always felt an attraction to­wards the same sex, but until a couple years ago, I never thought of myself as being gay. Had always been taught that homosexuals were weird, perverted and the lowest class of society. That is not what I am. So it wasn’t until I met a real homosexual that I could identify myself as gay. Through him I learned to accept myself for who I am. Then my parents found out about my new friend and forbid me to have contact with him again. I was lost. My only connec­tion to a real life was cut off.

For a time, suicide was a very real op­tion in my mind. Death was always something that seemed very near. I needed so desperately to speak to some­one about the feelings that had been stirred inside me. After months of de­spair and having all my hopes collapsed, I found myself standing with a blade to my chest. In a state of confusion and gloom, I passed out. When I woke, my mind was clear and my body soaked with tears and blood. Before that I felt dis­grace for my feelings, but I realized it was the people who are homophobic who should be in disgrace for their igno­rance.

I have done nothing but follow my natural feelings since. What I choose to do with my personal life effects no one but myself. If anyone has a problem with it, they will have to learn to deal with it, not me. And so I choose to live. Taking my life would only give a feel­ing of satisfaction to all those who sought to repress me. Over time, in a chance meeting, I was reunited with the person who had first helped me to un­derstand who I am. He connected me with support and other homosexuals so I would never be alone again. I joined the struggle for acceptance that homo­sexuals have been fighting for all time. I’ve encountered many struggles along the way, and will find more in the future. I have felt loss, betrayal, despair, solitude, disgust and hate. I’ve received numerous threats, lots of ignorant com­ments and countless hateful stares. However, I’ve also made amazing dis­coveries. Had I not been open about myself, I wouldn’t have met some of the people who have changed my life for the better.

I’ll soon be seventeen and a senior in high school. I face new and challeng­ing obstacles everyday. I only hope that in some small way I’m helping others who used to be like me—scared, confused, abused and lost. And maybe, over time, people will be helped to understand that homosexuals are like everyone else.

BETRAYAL

Trust. It’s not a word used by young guys. Especially when they tell a friend of theirs a secret that they’ve been hiding for years. Experiences of betrayal can be traumatically. Experiences that in­volve “outing” can change that individual’s life forever. Depending on the support level given to the individual, outing can lead him/her to feelings of loneliness and hopelessness. In worse situations he/she could become depressed and might end in suicide.

Unfortunately, many young guys have very little, if any, support from their peers and/or their family. This is why those of us who do know adolescent gays should go out of our way to make sure that they know that there are people out there who actually do support and love them. However, this has not been the case, especially among the gay community that is allegedly a tight knit group of “warm, loving” people. From personal experience, as well as stories from others, I have known that young gays are either ignored or sexually ma­nipulated because of their naïvete, by many other gay individuals. I must re­iterate the fact that when teenage gays are going through a very traumatic pe­riod of their lives, they do not need to be mistreated and used, especially when they are mistreated by those who are supposed “brethren”.

-Anonymous
TO YOUR HEALTH: Dental dams now a fixture in lesbian culture - Part I

by Peaches Bass

If you're intrigued by dental dams, you are not alone. A dental dam is, as the name implies, a devise commonly used by dentists and oral surgeons. It is a square piece of latex rubber that is used to isolate one tooth while protecting the patient's mouth from debris during dental work.

Dental dams, or rubber dams as dentists call them, are usually 4 by 4 inches, 5 by 5 inches, or 6 by 6 inches and come in a variety of thicknesses like the rubber exam gloves that doctors and dentists use. They are available in different colors, and sometimes they are mint or vanilla flavored to mask their rubbery taste.

The use of dental dams as safer sex toys is very recent history. Dams have been recommended by many HIV and STD (sexually transmitted disease) educators as a tool for preventing the spread of bacteria, viruses and other varieties of infections during oral sex. Five years ago, there was lively debate around two issues: whether dental dams are actually effective for HIV/STD prevention, and whether or not lesbians really need to use barriers during oral sex.

As for the effectiveness of dams, they are made out of the same materials as the latex gloves that health care providers rely on for protection and infection control. They are considerably thicker, at the molecular level, than condoms, which are well-proven as preventive tools. If you trust rubber gloves and condoms, you can trust dental dams.

There used to be considerable debate over whether or not oral-genital sex ("cunnilingus," "going down," "eating pussy," etc.) and oral-anal sex ("rimming") carried a risk for STDs, especially HIV, but over time, we have seen growing documentation that women can transmit and contract HIV during oral sex. The risk of HIV and other STDs from woman-to-woman sex is no longer questioned.

Traditionally, women who have only had sex with other women have been at very low risk for STDs. But "low risk" doesn't mean "no risk," and many a lesbian is shocked when she catches herpes from oral sex with a female partner. Cunnilingus can transmit herpes, hepatitis B, and HIV. Herpes only requires contact with a lesion on the external sex organs, anus, or mouth. Hepatitis B and HIV are carried in vaginal secretions and menstrual fluid. Rimming carries a risk for hepatitis A and gastrointestinal infections, which are transmitted by ingesting feces.

The issue of risk hinges not on one's self-identity as a lesbian or bisexual woman, but on one's actual practices and one's partner(s)' practices. Lesbians are encouraged to learn how to assess themselves for STD risk, and then to decide on what safer sex practices to employ. Many organizations will help women with risk assessment, especially STD and family planning clinics (though their expertise with lesbian sexuality varies). Lesbians can also call the AIDS Hotline (1-800-851-2437) or the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center (207/947-5337).

The dental dam is used by placing it over the vulva (the opening of the vagina, the vaginal lips, and the clitoris), the perineum (the area of skin between the vulva and the anus), or the anus ("butt hole," "ass hole," etc.). In this way, it provides a barrier between the mouth and area being stimulated.

There are a few helpful hints for using dams. Although manufacturers don't recommend it, the thicker ones can be used more than once, if they are washed with warm water and soap, rinsed, dried, powdered with cornstarch and stored away from heat, light, moisture and cold. Before re-use, the cornstarch should be rinsed off and the dam checked for holes. This is done by holding the dam up to a light to see if any pinholes of light shine through. If a dam has a hole in it, it shouldn't be used.

Some women complain that the dams are slippery and hard to keep in place, and that one's hands are occupied by holding the dam in place and aren't free to touch or stimulate. One suggestion is to ask the woman being eaten to hold the dam in place, allowing the munching partner to use her hands. Other suggestions are fetish or fashion oriented. Some leather and sex shops sell garter belt-like harnesses which one can clip a dam into, holding it in place in a woman's crotch. Years ago, at a conference, an HIV educator from New York displayed a pair of latex rubber bikini bottoms made in Italy — basically, a pair of undies made out of latex. I wonder why this item hasn't turned up in any of the catalogs yet!

Thirty-six square inches is really not too big. It would be difficult to cover the vulva, perineum, and anus all at the same time with one dam. If one needs a larger area of coverage, polyethylene food wrap ("Saran Wrap," "Handi-wrap," etc.) can be substituted.

Plastic food wrap is a lot less expensive to buy than dams; it's easy to obtain and doesn't require special storage conditions, as rubber does. It comes off a roll that allows you to cut as big a piece as you need—you can wrap your body in it! By wrapping a piece of plastic wrap between the legs and around the waist like a loin cloth, one can cover enough area to allow the "oral" partner to move her hands freely on the vulva to anus without the risk of transmitting infections from the rectum to the vagina or mouth.

(Next month, this article will conclude with a discussion of different kinds of dams and where to get them.)

Lesbian Health Project Sponsors Conference

Yvette Burton, formerly the Director of Lesbian Health in New York City's Department of Health, will open a two-day conference on health and sexuality for lesbians at Portland's Holiday Inn By The Bay. Burton currently serves as a consultant to the National Minority AIDS Coalition and serves on the National HIV Advisory Board for the Council of Negro Women, and teaches in the Graduate School of Social Welfare at SUNY. The title of her keynote is, "The Politics of Exclusion and the Consequences of Invisibility." The conference is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, October 6 & 7. The cost is $90.00 for both days, and includes lunch. Scholarships are available on a first-come, first-serve basis, funded by grants from the Maine Women's Fund.

Minnie Bruce Pratt, poet and author of "The Other Suffer," serves on the National HIV/AIDS Advisory Board and is the author of "Crime Against Nature," "We Say We Love Each Other," "Rebellion, Essays 1980-1991," and the recently released "S/H/E." Pratt will discuss lesbian health from a broad perspective, including the political, social, and personal aspects of health. The title of her talk is "What I Learned From Vera." The conference will wrap up with a picnic, rally, or house party before everyone goes home to a warm bed. On the next weekend Out Across Maine will be reborn in a few other communities.

Deb Cooper, the Out Across Maine coordinator, is putting together pink knapsacks to be passed from group to group. In the pack is a camera and notebook for creating a "family album" of our march for equal protection in Maine.

The big finish is November 5th in Augusta — two days before the polls. Planned is a rally, a press conference, display of our family album of all who contributed their shoe leather. Everyone is, of course, invited to join in the celebration.

Please take a look at the following schedule and choose where you can join in. Several segments still need local organizers. Can you do it? It can be as big or as little as you like, as long as it produces - the important thing is that a piece of the March happens in your area, too.

Contact Deb Cooper in Bar Harbor (207/288-5161, email: debcooper@juno.com), or contact the Out Across Maine committee can provide posters, contacts, suggestions, and generic support for local march units.

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 "Out Across Maine" march takes shape

by Paula Stockholm

Beyond the endless fundraising, there have been few opportunities for those of us in Maine's lesbian community to put ourselves into the fabric of the election. In order to show our numbers who we are, and that we do experience discrimination. The exceptions are The Maine Speakout Project, and Out Across Maine.

Out Across Maine is the statewide march in October intended to bring us together; to take ourselves and our message to the streets of Maine; and to have some fun together in the month before the election.

The march is an entirely local event with statewide connections and implications. Local coordinators and participants will determine the character of their relay segment, choosing the time and route... perhaps inviting local politicians and/or celebrities, contacting the press — whatever they feel will work in their hometown.

Let anyone get caught-up in the concept of a grueling month on the road for everybody involved — this one more resembles a relay march. Local marches will wrap up with a picnic, rally, or house party before everyone goes home to a warm bed. On the next weekend Out Across Maine will be reborn in a few other communities.

Deb Cooper, the Out Across Maine coordinator, is putting together pink knapsacks to be passed from group to group. In the pack is a camera and notebook for creating a "family album" of our march for equal protection in Maine.
WASHINGTON, DC: Dignity/USA, their friends, has called on officials who disapprove of homosexuality to join in a visible protest on Sunday, October 8. Dignity has named this event, "Solidarity Sunday," and is asking supporters to wear a Rainbow Ribbon throughout the day.

In announcing the event, Dignity/USA President, Marianne Duddy stated, "We call on all people, regardless of their beliefs, to wear a Rainbow Ribbon to Mass on October 8. We are called to stand in solidarity with our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Catholic friends and to show our support for them."

"It is time that our leaders who have controlled the Catholic message understand that most Catholics are fair and decent, and believe that all people should be treated with respect," Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Director of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, wrote, "We are called to stand in solidarity with our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Catholic friends and to show our support for them." The majority of Americans agree with Dignity/USA on this point. A Gallup poll put this support at 78%.

The current task of the Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights is to present accurate information about the legal standing of the non-heterosexual minority in Maine. According to recent polls, most Mainers assume incorrectly that non-heterosexuals are already protected by law. By engaging in non-confrontational dialogue, volunteers will attempt to open the hearts and minds of citizens to an injustice that should not be tolerated any longer. The urgency of this task is underscored by the recently approved bill that will go into effect on Novem­ber 7th on the ballot initiative sponsored by Concerned Maine Families. By Peter J. Callnan, CPA

MONEY TALK: Residential rental property

By Peter J. Callnan, CPA

It has recently become apparent to me that many domestic partners are choosing to purchase residential rental property as homes rather than single family dwellings. The reasons for this are varied and I won't attempt to explore them in this article. I will, however, briefly discuss some of the tax considerations of owning and managing residential rental property.

The first thing to consider is record keeping. The simplest way to track income and expenses is to establish a separate checking account for the building. If all receipts and disbursements are kept in this account, then at the end of the year you will not have to recreate what has happened over the past 12 months. It simply becomes a matter of going through the checks register for the information.

The second item is what is considered rental income. The obvious answer is any cash payment made to manage and operate the building, including payments for mortgage interest, utilities, insurance, property taxes, personal services, travel and repairs. Repairs are expenses which keep your building in good operating condition such as painting, replacing broken windows and fixing appliances.

The third category is repairs and maintenance which is considered an improvement such as a new roof, paving a gravel drive, replacing the plumbing or electrical system or finishing off a basement. These larger expenses are recovered over a period of years through depreciation. Current tax law allows owners of residential rental property to recover the original purchase cost of the building and subsequent improvements to it even over a period of 27.5 years.

If you use a part of the building for your personal residence, then a portion of your expenses may not be deductible as a rental expense. The allocation is usually based upon the number of square feet of your personal residence and not available for rental.

I have been discussing are reported on your individual income tax return by using Schedule E - Supplemental Income and Loss. Domestic partners will report only the income and expenses for their partial ownership in the property.

As usual, this is only a very brief discussion of owning and managing residential rental property. It is a good idea to contact a qualified financial consultant for advice and information before undertaking any kind of business venture. Good Luck!
"JEFFREY" from page 17

Paul T.
Bernard

"DEAL," not a good deal! I received several calls this week from people trying to buy tickets at an advertised sale price of 50% off. What they didn't realize was that the 50% off is 50% off from the full face coach fare. The regular leisure fare was $54, but full coach fare from Portland to San Francisco is $900. This gives a sale price of $457. Yes, it still is a savings, but not the amount that everyone would expect. Cruise lines and hotels also advertise sale prices in a similar manner.

There are times when the "deals" that you see advertised in the papers are not the deals they appear to be. Airlines love to advertise airfare specials in a somewhat deceptive manner. For example, a recent ad advertised a special fare from Portland to Los Angeles for $235.00. *" Note the asterisk - in the fine print, it said that the $235 was for one-way, but that you had to buy a round-trip ticket. That's like a shoe store advertising a particular pair of shoes at $24.00. The asterisk further states that the $24 is for one shoe, but you have to buy a pair of shoes. And further buried in the fine print are the other restrictions - usually you must travel mid-week, sometimes even limiting you to certain hours of the day or certain flights, that you must stay over a Saturday night, and that you must purchase your ticket at least 21 days ahead of time. And of course, the sale expires on a certain date. Another example of misleading advertising is a "Two for the price of One" special that Delta Air Lines offered recently. First of all, you had to buy a box of MaxiFlex Golf Balls which qualified you for the Two-for-One special. But if you read the fine print, you would discover the following restrictions: if you were travelling under 1000 miles, you had to purchase a ticket for at least $299 round-trip; if you were travelling over 1000 miles, you had to purchase a ticket for at least $499 round-trip. Well, "Two-for-One" sounds great, but in reality, it isn't the big savings that you thought. For example, you want to go to Orlando. Since Portland to Orlando is over 1000 miles, you have to purchase a ticket for at least $499 - actually, the fare is $550 - which gives you tickets at $280 each. Well, depending on the day of the week that you want to travel, you could purchase tickets for $238 each - without the "Two-for-one" special. It turns out, the only time that you saved any real amount of money was on the longer trips - to California or Hawaii. The fare to Hawaii is about $850. That makes it $425 each using the "Two-for-One" special. Car rental prices can also be misleading. The renter must realize that the advertised price doesn't include taxes - and in some states, there can be three taxes - state sales tax, state surtax, and local sales tax. Also before I go, thank you Kyle. Thank you for being there for me. I love you and I'll never forget you. Don't forget me... Love always and forever, Trent

(This is a true story except I haven't killed myself and I never will.)

One woman who shared her extraordinary musical gift with us, and certainly still does, is Joni Mitchell. Two of her songs are contained on this album. Roseanne Cash's version of "River" is one of the prettier track's, and Sarah McLachlan's "Blue" is the most haunting.

It's not like I can mention Joni Mitchell and not mention Joan Baez, for I won't even try. Sophie B. Hawkins delivers one of the most memorable songs on this CD. With only a piano backing her up, she calmly sings and passionately wails on "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down." Damn, I wish Sophie would put out a whole album of stuff like this.

We're almost done, only two more tracks. A lot of folks seem not to have at least attempted for, Joni Mitchell's "I'm Not the One," Amy Ray and Emily Saliers (Indigo Girls) know this and chose to perform one of her songs. If nothing else, Ferron has an incredible way with words, particularly on the song "It Won't Take Long." "If the body stays in shackles than the mind stays in chains" is a very appropriate line from this song that certainly captures the essence of "Rock for Choice". Finally, my favorite track on "Rock for Choice" is by a woman named Melissa. No, not Eitheridge, the other Melissa. Melissa Ferrick. She has two albums out on Atlantic Records and she writes and sings in a rare, intense, honest manner which continues to attract new listeners. She does, however, lighten up a little and musically smiles on her truly wonderful "Feel Like Makin' Love." Although I was particularly captivated with Roberta Flack's version of "Feel Like Makin' Love," Melissa Ferrick breathes an entirely new life into it. Since I have rambled about this album for quite a while now, I will end on a simple note. Spirit of '73 is a great album and it supports a very worthy cause. It should be available at most record stores, and the picture of Amy Ray is reason enough to buy it.
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In concluding his remarks, Gwadosky zeroed in on the fact that the referendum has been constructed by an "outsider" (Bruce Fein, Esq.), from Virginia who was also involved in similar attempts to limit equal rights to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people in Colorado and Oregon. "The referendum this fall is about Maine people, but it's not by Maine people," he said, referring to Fein. "It's the work of an individual who has worked to assure us that the Bill of Rights to be 'vastly overrated'.... There's no doubt about it, this referendum has been constructed by an outsider."

In what could only be termed a defiant statement, Gwadosky likened his excitement and anxiety at addressing the people assembled with that of children full of hopes and dreams beginning a new school year. He said, "I am very excited about the opportunity of beginning, what I believe to be, a very important dialogue with Maine people about what we want to be and who we are...."

"There's no doubt about it, this referendum has been constructed by an outsider (Bruce Fein, Esq.), from Virginia who was also involved in similar attempts to limit equal rights to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people in Colorado and Oregon. "The referendum this fall is about Maine people, but it's not by Maine people," he said, referring to Fein. "It's the work of an individual who has worked to assure us that the Bill of Rights to be 'vastly overrated'.... There's no doubt about it, this referendum has been constructed by an outsider."