Community Pride Reporter, 10/1995

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Police misconduct alleged in wake of porno 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, @ 10:30 pm outside Video Expo, Congress Street, Portland:

"Me and a friend were sitting in my pick-up truck 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

"Maine hasn’t, Maine doesn’t and Maine won’t discriminate," said Independent Governor Angus King on Tuesday, September 12. Governor King was the first guest speaker at the Augusta press conference which signaled the official launching of the Maine Won’t Discriminate campaign against Question #1 on the November ballot. About the question to limit the Maine Human Rights Act, King said, "I think it’s a shame that this question is on the ballot because it’s going to divide us..." He continued, "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

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. Renwick 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, Portland’s hospice facility for terminally ill AIDS patients. Despite an exhaustive investigation and comprehensive story, CPR was unable to determine if a complaint by former Executive Director, Marg Wolters, had been filed with the Board of Nursing against Sandy Titus, RN.

The principle reason for this inability was that CPR was deliberately mislead by Wolters. Wolters had filed a complaint. She has since left Maine and returned to Duluth, Minnesota. CPR has obtained Wolters telephone number in Minnesota, but she does not return our calls. Ironically, it was Titus who recruited Wolters from Minnesota to come to Maine to help get Peabody House on its feet. The two nurses had worked together in Minnesota previously.

Wolters’ six month contract (January, 1995 to July, 1995) with Peabody House was primarily designed so that

See AIDS, page 8

See TITUS, page 6

See CAMPAIGN, page 24

Sandy Titus and Frannie Peabody are long-time allies in the fight against AIDS.
Maine Won't Discriminate
Chapter contacts & meeting times

Aroostook County: PO Box 853 Canton, ME 04736 Dick Harrison-207/869-5726
Bangor: PO Box 963 Bangor, ME 04402
Jim Martin-207/799-3420 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 Pannie Edgerton-207/729-4930 Tina Phillips-207/729-4930

Capitol Area: Maple Hill Farms RR #1, Box 1175 Hallowell, ME 04347 Scott Cowger-207/222-2708 Cheryl Ring-207/60-0181 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.

Kennebunk 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 348 Auburn, ME 04212-3485 Ester Turner-207/783-6964

Lincoln County (Wiscasset): Clarke Cove Road Walpole, ME 04573 Tom Gould-207/865-2259

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


Ogunquit: PO Box 2250 Ogunquit, ME 03907 John Caiafera-207/666-2122

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

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

Washington County: RR #1, Box 177 Milbridge, ME 04658 Betty Demaw-207/56-2007 Tom-207/56-7503

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

Western Maine: 62 High Street Farmington, ME 04938 Gay/Straight People's Alliance 207/777-7300

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

CHANGING MAINE

by Bobbi Keppel

A Gathering for grassroots organizers and educators will be held on Saturday, October 14, 9:00 am-4:30 pm in Augusta. A potluck lunch will enable continued discussion and networking, and participants are asked to bring something to share. This gathering will be an exciting opportunity for activists throughout Maine who are working for social change to gain mutual support and discover new ideas and strategies to help them do their organizing and educating more effectively and energetically.

"Changing Maine" will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church in Augusta, and the event will give those involved in grassroots organizations a chance to talk with others doing similar work and to get a sense of the diversity of social change work happening in Maine. Participants will have 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.

For more information and a registration form, contact INVERT, PO Box 776, Monroe, ME 04951, or call Larry Dansinger at 207-525-7776. ΔΔ

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 supporters the opportunity to meet John "Wacko" Hurley, organizer of the So. Boston Saint Patrick's Day Parade and Chester Darling, the attorney who defended the parade's right to exclude gay people from marching.
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 a sheet entitled, “Who’s Behind Question 1?”

Amidst cries of “outrage” and accusations around the strategic validity of “unintended consequences,” vs. a more gay and lesbian emphasis going on within and without the campaign, there is, according to this legal information sheet, an impending disaster of cataclysmic proportion facing Maine voters if they pass Question 1. This researched document makes the connection between the Maine Human Rights Act and the 12 additional minority groups who would be subject to the will of the majority. The Maine Human Rights Act made the other legislation possible. We have elected to reprint this information sheet in its entirety.

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 Human Rights Act.

**THE TENTATIVE OF THE REFERENDUM**

The intent of this proposed new law is to repeal all existing protection for gay men and lesbians. If the referendum passes, the protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation under the Portland Human Rights Ordinance and the Maine Hate Crimes 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.

**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 that will reach beyond the gay and lesbian community. If the referendum passes, only the ten groups listed in the question can be protected under any Maine state or local human rights law, rule, regulation, ordinance, charter provision or policy. CMF proposes to build a wall around Maine law and exclude anyone who is not in those ten groups.

Human rights laws extend beyond the Maine Human Rights Act and include all laws in Maine which insure a life with dignity including the basic rights of housing, employment, credit, education and public accommodation.

Because this proposed new law will have such far-ranging consequences, the following is a partial list of groups which will also lose protections they currently have under Maine law, if the referendum passes:

1. Workers’ Compensation victims: 5 M.R.S.A. §4552. These individuals are currently protected from discrimination under the Maine Human 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 protection 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 Mainer’s 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

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

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 misdeme

William Clark, victim of a savage beating outside Blackstone's, 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 Clarke.

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

LEGAL from page 3 preference would be repealed.

14. Congressional Medal of Honor winners: 12 M.R.S.A. § 707(6)c. This group currently has a preference in receiving hunting licenses and

this would be repealed.

15. Health Care Workers: 22 M.R.S.A. § 1592. Health care workers who refuse to perform specific services are now protected from employment discrimination and this protection would be repealed.

16. Members of the National Guard: 37-B M.R.S.A. §342(6). National Guard members are now protected from employment discrimination and this protection would be repealed.

17. Union organizers: 26 M.R.S.A. §§ 963,964. Union organizer's protection from discrimination would also be repealed.

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 wreak 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 ongoing 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 Mary 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 your inner self? What's it like? and self? What's it like? great.

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 roomy, 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?

JMN: I'm committed to carrying women fiction writers and poets in the store. I also carry stuff on women's spirituality, alternative medicine, sexuality and women's health, personal growth and recovery, lesbianism, and women's political and social empowerment. I have everything from Mary Daly to Marge Piercy to Merlin Stone. Although my stock is small right now, because SisterSpace just opened on June 1, it's growing all the time, and I encourage the women who come into the store to tell me what they're reading and what they are crazy about.

CPR: And people are welcome to just drop by and hang out in the store?

JMN: Sure. I encourage that because what happens is that one meets that one and they talk and get to know each other and share their experiences, and right there happens a tremendous opportunity for growth and exchange. Often a conversation is born out of someone making a remark about a book, and someone else picking up on it—and then it becomes valuable for the people involved and for SisterSpace. That's the great part about it, about having SisterSpace around. That's what SisterSpace is all about—enriching women's lives, adding to the pieces, expanding our community.

CPR -- September-October, 1995 Page 5

MISCONDUCT, from page 1

CPR: What do you mean they stepped on your heel?

JMN: No, what way did they rough up your friend?

A: They called him a queer, a hustler, a faggot.

CPR: In what way did they rough up your friend?

A: They pushed my face down onto my heel.

CPR: Do you know the names of the cops?

JMN: 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.

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.

AP

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, NYC Dept of Health
Minnie Bruce Pratt
author and poet

Holiday Inn By The Bay
Portland, ME
$98 for both days includes lunch
For registration & information call (207) 657-5864

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TITUS, from page 1
potential for character assassination, and especially not Sandy Titus. . . . All you is uncompromised and has never ever those of friends with AIDS, activist/pho-
tographer Tom Antoniksaid, "Whenever
Susan Reed, L.Ac.
Classical 5 Element Acupuncture
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Free informational brochure available
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Out on MDI Fund-raiser Rocks City Hall
by Paula Stockholm
"I grew up in this town... haven't been back for a long time, and this just blows my mind!" observed Evan, as he gazed a sea of gays and lesbians dancing in the auditorium of Bar Harbor's Municipal Building.
I nodded, understanding that not so long ago holding such an event in a town-owned building would have been unthinkable. Evan had come home to a different Bar Harbor. The event was yet another on MDI benefit for Maine Won't Discriminate - a record hop is what they were called in my day. The ambiance re-
created the tone from my memories - this municipal building used to be a school
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 liv-
ing, 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 mod-
els 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 experi-
ence. She brings her heart with every visit and she cherishes the human spirit."

Charlie Wynott spoke about the com-
passion, 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... On the times when things took place that made me wonder what was happening to the person I dearly loved, Sandy was there... to ex-
plain to both me and Jon what was happen-
ing at the time and what to expect to come." He summed up his state-
montant by saying, "I doubt in my mind that Sandy Titus is com-
petent and caring. This state cannot take
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 fo-
cused on Titus's relationship to the AIDS and HIV community as a whole. He said that two words "underscored the relation-
ship 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 in-
volved 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 ex-
perience has made her a limitless resource of information and insight. We trust
The August 26th event was a wild success! Well over one hundred of us were here. The gate, before expenses, was over $1100. The room was just alive with en-
ergetic, different energy born of familiar-
ity and celebration. Evan was the only one who had mentioned it, but I think we all felt a sense of being out and safe in new spaces.
The dance floor was packed. Being a wallflower was not an option. There seemed to be few rules about who was dancing with whom - one partner would partake to the sidelines and coere - or drag - another friend onto the floor. I never danced. I danced this night. Saying no was an exer-
cise in futility.
Around eleven, the music stopped and Ruth Blackbum took to the stage to announce that she was not an emcee. She then proceeded to whip the hometown crowd into a campaign frenzy reminding us all of the work ahead and the need for each and every one's help.
"This is show time!" Leslie Love, Divina, and Desire were in perfect form. The audience, exuberant and appreciative, sat in a cozy semi-circles on the floor in front of the stage. Divina brought the house down with her three numbers. The third, "Tom Turner's "Proud Mary," earned her a standing ovation. The cop in the corner was on the edge of his seat-mouth hang wide open as Divina strutted her stuff.
The event started to wind down af-
fter the performances. Clusters of friends paused in the parking lot, cooling in the summer breeze, making plans for tomor-
row. Inside, a dozen couples clung to one another for that last glow dance, while oth-
ers picked up and put away chairs.
Although OUT on MDI is only a year and a half old, this group has allowed the gay community in the Acadia region to be much more connected and visible. Their efforts and successes, such as this fund-
raiser, have made living proud as gays, lesbians, his and transgendered a reality.
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 discuss 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 ca-veats: identifying details are censored, rendering this account somewhat in- substantial and bland compared to the full story; this report only represents one quarr 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 earlier the actual individual 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 that may be of interest to clients. Most have their own AIDS Support Services (M.A.S.S.), run a volunteer network of Buddies who provide ongoing emo­ tional support to an assigned person liv­ing with AIDS (PWA). The People with AIDS Task Force operates 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/remember 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, Strathegen Health Care, visiting nurse services, and home­care 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. Late payment would be equally unwise, 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 trouble faster than expected. 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 an 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 every 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 Crusaders. Other volunteer matches that came up in August included housecleaning volunteers for three clients whose poor health keeps them from house­hold 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 (psychothera­pists, dental clinics, etc.) were notified of the gap until new money 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 last amount of disbursement 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 HIV disease, and, 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 our 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 and use the money for fun, medication, or a variety of other purposes. This 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 riders or side benefits that may be associated to our life insurance policy which 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 regulated 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 is a variety of issues to consider, and:

Viaticals - 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 cut 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 40% of face value of the policy, depending on the life expectancy of the seller. The longer the Seller is expected to live, the more spartan the offer. 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.

Macon CPR - September-October, 1995
Wolters complaint letter obtained

CPR has obtained Wolters original complaint letter dated June 6, 1995, Titus' response dated July 12, 1995, and many memos exchanged with 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 Ms. Titus' techniques fall 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, sprawling or oral hygiene for over three weeks.
- A bed-bound client is not turned, PROM, or rubbed, resulting in bed sores and pressure extremities.
- Clients sit in their own urine, excrement.
- A confused client frequently falls out of bed. Restrictions are suggested. Ms. 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 3 our second 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 decisionmaking.

"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 her in this capacity for future patient care. I encouraged the staff to utilize Ms. Titus to dispense medications. There appears to be a pattern of poor judgment indicated by her care-giving assessments, unalterable changes in physicians' orders without a follow-up or collaboration, medication errors, and protocol violations involving Schedule II Narcotics/Analgesics.

"I believe that nurses, like physicians, are to cause no harm to their patients, and have a responsibility to uphold that standard. I accept this responsibility and take action in this letter to fulfill my obligation. I trust that with investigation this issue will be resolved.

Sincerely, Margaret A. Wolters

Gay Male Couples Group

A 12-week closed therapeutic group for gay male couples will begin on Tuesday, October 3, 1995, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Group co-facilitators are Bill Barte, LCPC and Randy May, LMCS.

Payment arrangements and insurance assignments are possible. For more information, call 773-0205.
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 awake 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 patients on the overnight shift all alone. It was not Marg Wolters who gave me staff, even though she was the one who did staffing schedules, and was also told in staff meetings that I insisted on help 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 wrongly 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 example. For instance, it is a well known fact that Sandy does not endorse the use of incontinence products such as "Depends" if that use is primarily for the convenience of the caregivers that carelessly changed a client's bed over and over unnecessarily changed a client's bed over and over. It is, not wanted or necessary. I had essentially no authority left (since Ms. Wolters told the CNAs on April 21 to stop calling me for help and not to listen to me) and the only thing I knew to do was to call a Board Member. I told him that Ms. Wolters wanted client Z to be restrained and his response was, "Wouldn't it be all right at night and he could just have a bell to ring for help?" I replied urgently, 'no,' that the issue was that client Z was confused and disoriented, that he would not be able to use a bell, that, in fact, a) he was trying to get out of bed because he was needing to vomit and he always tried to vomit in the waste basket or sink, that he needed help vomiting. b) that he was coming over the side rails because he was disoriented and that he needed help with that, and c) most importantly, he was dying and needed a warm loving presence beside him. Many people had the same passionate response to the idea of restraints at Peabody House and offered to sit beside him so that they would have support. He died on Friday, May 5, 1995, surrounded with love and care, not having been restrained, nor did he fall again.

Several volunteers and others who worked at Peabody House commented in their letters about this particular restraint issue. Robert Renwicke, a volunteer, wrote, "I was present and had some care for client Z, the patient Ms. Wolters wanted to restrain. I knew client Z to be a very independent man who resisted help unless absolutely necessary. He fell out of bed several times because he wanted to vomit in the wastebasket and not mess up his bed. When someone was with him to hold the pan for him to vomit into he had no problem. I would have stayed with him all night rather than have him restrained."

In reference to the claim made by Wolters regarding the administration of a residential care facility, Mr. Renwicke further commented in his letter, written by Karen Petee, volunteer at Peabody House, illustrates a frightening picture of what Marg Wolters really is. Karen writes, "Marg was very condescending and spoke in an unnecessarily loud voice to client A. Client A was not given a chance to eat 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 Dad find a new Mom. Client A has two children and is very depressed about being separated from them, so she either slept or looked at the wall during the movie, while Marg, as usual, made this a very "funny movie" it was when it was time to put on client A's pajamas Marg had no respect for client A's modesty, leaving her uncovered from the waist up, as client A attempted to cover herself with her partially 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 forgotten 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, vindictive administration, neglected clients and inefficient Board Members. The facts suggest a series of the following: a lack of care, a lack of accountability for the original Board Members and the re-instatement 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 responsibility would provide a refreshing new start.

Lee Urban, the new Executive Director, did not return CPR's call. Secretary is hardly the word to go about clearing up this mess. As the principle newspaper for the gay and lesbian community in Maine, Peabody House does owe a special responsibility 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 newspaper article in this sordid tale was the spectacle on TV of Portland Police Chief Chadwick shooting his mouth off about "exhuming bodies" to prove whether or not Titus had administered lethal doses of narcotics. Can you imagine the anger and frustration that must be felt by Peabody House clients thinking their son or daughter's body will be exhumed? It is simply unbelievable that a man in such high office of public trust could be so insensitive.

(Delhia Villanou, RN, Executive Director, Visiting Nurse Association, also wrote a letter to this Board of Nursing which raised questions regarding Titus' conduct at Peabody House. Her comments are published in the next issue of this publication, a letter, which isn't surprising insofar as Wolters enlisted the support of VNA early on in her vendetta against Titus.)
This issue of Community Pride Reporter is a rather intense issue. These are, after all, intense times for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people.

While the referendum is foremost on many minds, it is frightening to hear people still say that they don't know what it's all about. Even more frightening is the sharp increase in gay bashings across the state, in remote areas as well as cities. Our fears are well-founded and our level of caution and awareness needs to be elevated.

Recently the Grand Jury indicated two Portland men on simple assault, rather than aggravated assault, in the savage attack on a gay man outside Blackstone's in Portland. William Clarke, a black man, the victim of the attack this summer, has been through hell since the beating. One wonders if the Grand Jury decision is tinged with racism. The wrong message has been rejected the temptation to wage some kind of state-wide "holy war" against homosexual men and women..." Politico do, indeed, make strange bedfellows.

Speaking of CESR, all is not roses in their little house on the prairie. According to a reliable source, Family Research Council point man, Gary Bauer, has been advised by conservative Maine Republicans with both power and basic knowledge, to rethink FRC's involvement with Madore. Focus on the Family, a national organization with a large following, is supposedly not making direct contributions to CESR, as had been feared, but is paying for and running misleading ads about the referendum on Christian radio stations.

On a lighter note, we are delighted to introduce Sage Hylton-Lemons of Portland as the new Youth Editor for Community Pride Reporter. Sage did a great job getting articles and reviews from the youth in our community, and we are excited about the possibilities for these pages. As CPR strives to be ever more representative of our entire community, the addition of OUR VOICE for the youth is timely for those of us who are former youth! Welcome, Sage and friends.

In solidarity,

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter for three reasons: Firstly, to relate what a superb publication "CPR" has become, secondly, to relate an anecdote I think your readers will find of interest, and thirdly to comment on an item appearing in the June/July issue of CPR.

I and my partner have been making Maine's Sebago Lake area our regular summer "get-away" since 1978 and we've come to love Maine, its beautiful environment and its wonderful people. For the past few years, we've had two bumper stickers affixed to our Honda: a rainbow flag, and one reading "Hate is not a family value." We've never been harassed or taken to task in any way (in Maine) even after being diagnosed in Portland. Sandy, I love you.

Another of Mr. Balboni's excellent features, "A House Divided: Conflict in Peabody House and its residents. One thing a terminally ill person does not need is unnecessary concern about their work. The thing that really bothers me about all this is the effect it is having on Peabody House and its residents. One thing a terminally ill person does not need is unnecessary concern about their care.

I do know that if I could have my choice about who will take care of me in my final days, it would be Sandy Titus. Sandy, I love you.

Sincerely, Randy Ireland.

Dear Editor:

I am concerned about the allegations regarding Sandra Titus. I first met Sandy a couple of years ago and later, after being diagnosed in Portland, Sandra impresses me as a very dedicated, loving and professional person. Her patients are of primary importance in her work. The thing that really bothers me about all this is the effect it is having on Peabody House and its residents. One thing a terminally ill person does not need is unnecessary concern about their care.

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

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 she is alleged to be 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 Ben" chiming in the hall, smelling the home-made pies, rolls, baked ham etc. cooking downstairs, and knowing in those few moments when I am scared to death of dying alone, that someone other than the Peabody House 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! The 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 on the jump to the bandwagon with. Often I have seen volunteer nurses supposedly coming into a HIV person's residence, 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 that very reason, they often stop coming when the patient 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 working with the terminally ill. This is often the heart of the problem with community volunteer run hospices. People mean well, but final stages of AIDS is graying but pretty. Having been an HIV care giver to over 200 of my personal friends from initial diagnosis "to time of death," I will not say one was easy to go through.

Lastly, I hope the community will rally to support Sandy's return and acceptance to become active once "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 quiet pretty 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 perception and it becoming a reality. Too often one forgets the hand that feeds you! For now, many contributions are on hold, until we see this resolved quickly and not become a hash, hash cover-up. No folks, we don't allow that to happen.

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

RANT

by David D. Cook

Uncle Tom's (Log) Cabin

Senator Bob Dole, 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 slip 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 just queers. And, if the specer of another plodding, pluto­cratic 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 under cover" in Portland's porn establish­ments. 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 ("Hopping 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 soul­bearing, liberal­ sounding platitudes, and the add­ition dogma mis­res 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 singling out porn theatres (versus, say, straight pick-up bars) is dubious, the idea that public funds are harmed by it, after all, people pay to get in and for the sole pur­pose of sexual titillation. And, besides, police often turn a blind eye to such "crimes," preferring, reasonably enough, to devote their limited resources to catching thieves, murderers, rapists and other real criminals.

The activities described in CWB are not news to anyone; they are simply proof of the power and persistence of the human sex drive. So why the over­reaction? It's about sex phobia, stupid!

Congress CareS About Smut

Portland isn't the only place where fear of sex determines public policy. With much of 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 porno­

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Community Pride Reporter

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Our Mission
Community Pride Reporter serves as a source of local, state, national and international news, information, ideas and opinions and by for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people of Maine and new England. CPR struggles for awareness and acceptance of the rich diversity among us, with the intention of fusing the word community with renewed meaning and vitality. CPR pledge to present materials that contribute in positive ways to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people.

Our Editorial Policy
Views and opinions, personal and political, expressed in Community Pride Reporter are those of the individual authors only. Community Pride Reporter may endorse candidates or issue endorsements or present our community most completely. Community Pride Reporter disclaims legal responsibility for errors in editorial, or advertising content, as all reasonable care is taken to prevent such errors. If an error has significantly detracted from the clarity of information presented, the Publisher may agree to publish a clarification at our discretion.

Submissions Welcome
CPR encourages readers to write! Material submitted for publication must be legally signed and include address and/or phone number for verification. Please keep letters to the CPR Mailbox to 300 words or less. Slightly longer and more composed submissions may be considered for a guest editorial at the Publisher's discretion. The Publisher may agree to withhold the name of an author for appropriate reasons.

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**SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER '95 CALENDAR**

**Friday, September 15:**
- **10:00-11:00 AM** - Maine Speakout Project Training, Unitarian Universalist Church in Bangor. FMI, 207/879-0480.
- **10:00-10:30 AM** - Rainbow Business & Professional Association dinner meeting. The Inn at Lighthouse, 517 Spring St., Portland. FMI, Rita-766-5158 or ask for Scott Robergs.
- **11:00-1:00 PM** - Portland Chapter of Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights will be at St. Bartholomew's Church in Yarmouth. FMI, 207/879-0480.

**Monday, October 2:**
- **7:00-8:30 PM** - Free support group for advocates of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered persons offering support and education. FMI, Rita-766-5158 or Sue-774-3441.
- **7:00-9:00 PM** - PFLAG: Southeastern Maine presents “Love Makes A Family” as part of a film series on Sunday evenings at the Belfast Free Library in Belfast. Movie shows lesbian and gay families being interviewed by The Geschäutz Society, Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Speakers & workshops. FMI, 207/657-5864.

**Sunday, October 8:**
- **7:00 PM** - Waldo County chapter of MWD presents “Love Makes A Family” as part of a film series on Sunday evenings at the Belfast Free Library in Belfast. Movie shows lesbian and gay families being interviewed by The Geschäutz Society, Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Speakers & workshops. FMI, 207/657-5864.

**Monday, October 9:**
- **6:00 PM** - Rainbow Business & Professional Association dinner meeting. The Inn at Lighthouse, 517 Spring St., Portland. FMI, Rita-766-5158 or ask for Scott Robergs.
- **7:00 PM** - Portland Chapter of Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights will be at St. Luke's Cathedral, 143 State St. FMI, 207/780-1333 or 207/761-1788.

**Wednesday, October 4:**
- **7:00-8:30 PM** - Free support group for advocates of lesbian, gay, and civil rights. Facilitated by Vivian Wadan and Jewel McHale at Women'space 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.
- **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, Saturday, October 6:**
- **8:15 AM** - Conference on Lesbian Health and Sexuality, Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. FMI, 207/657-5864.

**Monday, October 9:**
- **6:00 PM** - Rainbow Business & Professional Association dinner meeting. The Inn at Lighthouse, 517 Spring St., Portland. FMI, Rita-766-5158 or ask for Scott Robergs.
- **7:00 PM** - Portland Chapter of Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights will be at St. Luke's Cathedral, 143 State St. FMI, 207/780-1333 or 207/761-1788.

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**OCTOBER EVENTS:**

**Sunday, October 1:**
- **9:00-5:30 PM** - Maine Speakout Project Training at Temple Shalom, 74 Bradman St., Auburn. FMI, 207/879-0480.
- **11:00 AM** - Daytime - Eastern Mountain Sports - 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 at the Church. Call for support, discussion and resource sharing. FMI, call Ted-603/778-0102 or Ingrid-603-772-6221.

**Wednesday, October 11:**
- **6:00-8:00 PM** - Free support group for advocates of lesbian, gay, and civil rights. Facilitated by Vivian Wadan and Jewel McHale at Women'space 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.
unwind, tell your stories and get nurtured.

Thursday, October 12:

9:00 AM-5:30 PM - Gay History - Maine Speakout Project at the Auburn Public Library. Call (207) 799-1951. Leave message.

12:00-1:30 PM _ - Gay History - Maine Speakout Project at the Auburn Public Library. Call (207) 799-1951. Leave message.

1:00-2:30 PM - Gay History - Maine Speakout Project at the Auburn Public Library. Call (207) 799-1951. Leave message.

3:00-5:00 PM - Free support group for Equal Rights will be at Circle of Hope MCC of Portland, ME 207/286-8016 or 207/885-0995.

Saturday, October 14:

9:00 AM-5:30 PM - Maine Speakout Project at the Auburn Public Library. Call (207) 799-1951. Leave message.

12:00-1:30 PM _ - Gay History - Maine Speakout Project at the Auburn Public Library. Call (207) 799-1951. Leave message.

1:00-2:30 PM - Gay History - Maine Speakout Project at the Auburn Public Library. Call (207) 799-1951. Leave message.

3:00-5:00 PM - Free support group for Equal Rights will be at Circle of Hope MCC of Portland, ME 207/286-8016 or 207/885-0995.

Sunday, October 15:

• 7:00 AM-4:30 PM - "Changing Maine: A gathering of grassroots organizers and educators." First UU Church, Augusta. Convened by Larry Dinger. FMI & to register, 207/552-7776.

• 4:00 PM - Maine Speakout Project at the Auburn Public Library. Call (207) 799-1951. Leave message.

• 9:30 AM-4:30 PM - "Changing Maine: A gathering of grassroots organizers and educators." First UU Church, Augusta. Convened by Larry Dinger. FMI & to register, 207/552-7776.

• 7:00 PM - Waldo County chapter of GM loneliness, Incarcerated. 2.3 miles from Cony circle on Rt. 201.

Monday, October 16:

• 7:00 PM - Portland Chapter of Maine Won't Discriminate. St. Luke's Cathedral, 143 State St. FMI. 207/708-1333 or 207/766-1788.

Tuesday, October 17:

• 7:30 PM - Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights will be at the Auburn Lions Club.

Wednesday, October 18:

• 7:00-8:30 PM - Free support group for advocates and supporters of lesbian and gay civil rights. Facilitated by Vivian Wadan and Jewe McHale at Womanspace 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, Jewe: 773-4211.

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

• 7:00-8:30 PM - Free support group for advocates and supporters of lesbian and gay civil rights. Facilitated by Vivian Wadan and Jewe McHale at Womanspace 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, Jewe: 773-4211.

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COMMUNITY PRIDE RESOURCES

GENERAL
MLGPA is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to educate and inform public, politicians, and media on L/G issues. Primary goals are to involve the LG community in Maine's political process, promote civil rights, develop and review legislation, endorse candidates, build a coalition, and oppose anti-gay legislation and referenda. Meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of every month in Augusta. FMI call 1-800-55-MLGPA.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) enhances the self-esteem and well-being of sexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Come and celebrate our children and friends just the way they are! (See listings for Maine & New Hampshire under PHONE SUPPORT and SUPPORT GROUPS.)

Northern Lambda Nord is an educational, informational, social, and service organization serving lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in northern Maine and New Brunswick. Meetings are established to create a gay, 1 pm (ME), 2pm (N-B), at the Gay Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 S Main St., Caribou, and can be reached every Wednesday by The PhoneLine. Call 207-498-2088.

The Madlovich Society is an educational and cultural organization of lesbians, bisexuals, gay men, and friends, committed to sharing our history as well as providing person-affirming presentations and discussions in a supportive environment. Meetings on the second and fourth Thursday every month at 7:30 pm at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St. Portland. Free parking and handicap accessibility. Visit www.msls.org.

HATE CRIMES & BIAS INCIDENTS: Have you or someone you know been a victim? Call the Civil Rights Section of the Maine Department of the Attorney General at 207/761-4380.

National Association of Social Workers, ME chapter, Sexual Minority Issues Committee welcomes new social work members. Our purpose is to educate, provide resources, and lobby legislators on issues involving sexual minorities. Call (207) 778-0431. Meetings are the 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm at the Community Counseling, 343 Forest Ave., Portland. FMI call Perry Sutherland, 883-6434.

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG) Transgender Helpline for info/ referral or to talk. FMI 4-F-6-10 pm, Sat.-Sun. 2am-2pm. 373-4374-GAY.

SUPPORT GROUPS
Medical Support Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic: Confidential screening and treatment for STD's for non-commercial and non-residents at a walk in clinic. Low cost, medicare accepted. Anonymous, confidential HIV testing by appointment only. Clinic open Tues. 7-8 pm, Sat. 10 to 6 pm at Portland City Hall Room 303. FMI 874-8784.

PFLAG Support Group Northern New England: Serving men and women, offering annual exams, pregnancy testing, birth control info. & supplies (free condoms), testing and treatment for infections and STD's, menopause support and more. Evening hours, affordable services, and complete confidentiality. Medicaid welcome. 970 Forest Ave., Portland. FMI call 874-1095.

FREE FAMILY THERAPY: Available for individuals and families (of any type) who are affected by HIV disease. FMI call Chris Bevan, MSW at Center for Training and Special Programs. 773-6658.

Identity Support New Hampshire P-FLAG Meetings Concord: Meets 3rd Sunday from 3-5 pm at 1st Congregational Church, Washington & North St. 2nd floor (above Gift Shop), 207/863-2728, FMI call 603/472-4944.

Seacoast: Meets 1st Tuesday from 7-9 pm at Stratham Community Church, Emery Lane, Stratham (1st right west of Rte 101 cemetery) FMI call 603/773-5196.

Meadowbrook Region: Meetings 4th Monday from 7-8:30 pm. The Place to Go, 46 Congress St., Peterborough, FMI call 603/547-2545 or 603/623-6023.

Nashua: Meets 3rd Tuesday at 7-9 pm at Stratham Community Church, Emery Lane, Stratham (1st right west of Rte 101 cemetery) FMI call 603/773-5196.

Upper Valley Region: Meets 2nd Wednesday, 7 pm. Hanover. FMI call 603/643-6019.

Maine P-FLAG Meetings Portland: Meets 2nd Tuesday 7-9 pm at Woodford Congregational Church, 202 Woodford Sts. FMI, 776-5156 or 773-3444.

Women's Center - Belfast - Belfast weekly meetings, 9A Main St., 2nd floor (above Jaret & Cohn) FMI, 338-5702. Group meeting every Wednesday, 6:15 pm. Women's Spirituality Gatherings, Mondays 7-9 pm.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Narrow GATE: Provides support and information for survivors of domestic violence in New Hampshire. FMI call and leave message, 207/778-0431.


Out and About - a lesbian support and educational group, meets on 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 7:00 pm. United Methodist Church, 192 Miller Ave, Portsmouth. FMI call, 503-672-8045.

Out Among Friends: Meets Thursdays 7-8:30 pm, in the downstairs club room of the Portland Public Library, 345 Congress St., Portland. FMI call and leave message, 207/778-0431.

Out on MIND: For gay, lesbian, bi's and our friends! A very active social/support group. Meets every Tuesday at 7 pm. Newcomers always welcome. FMI, write OUT ON MIND, P.O. Box 367, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679-0367 or call (207) 288-2502 and leave a message.

Dignity, Et Cetera: Meets third Tuesday at 5:15 pm at St. Valentine's Catholic Church (Immanuel Chapel), Portland. All are welcome. Fellowship & potluck supper follow 5:15 pm service. We minister to the lesbian and gay community. FMI, write P.O. Box 8113, Portland, ME 04104.

The Appogie Society: An outreach, networking and education program for New England's gay and lesbian atheists, free-thinkers, ethical humanists and Hellene. Free speech/civil rights advocacy group offering free speakers, religious de-programming and fun! FMI, 773-5726 or P.O. Box 5301, Portland, ME 04101.

Maine Women of Hope: A Christian congregation which claims a primary ministry with gay and lesbian people and strives to be inclusive of all persons. Worship on Saturdays at 4:00 pm at Immortal Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI write Community of Hope, PO 1671, Portland, ME 04101.

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

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Discussion Group: Meets 1st and 3rd Fridays each month, 7-9 pm. First Universalist Church, 345 Broadway, Rockland, ME. FMI, Larry Godfrey, (207) 594-2907.

O'Squad: Support group for lesbians, gay, bisexuals, and transgendered. Serving Franklin County, based at UM Farmington. FMI call and leave message, 207-778-7786.

TransSupport Group: Meets regularly, providing confidential support, education and social activity for cross dressers, their sexual, their families, & others interested in gender dysphoria issues. FMI write TransSupport, P.O. Box 15622, Portland, ME 04112.

Gender Talk North: P.O. Box 211, Keene, NH 03431.

Equal Rights Counseling: Cheshire Counseling Assn., PO Box 1124, Keene, NH 03431. 603/575-5544.

Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse: A support group for women who have experienced abuse and/or sexual assault meets Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. Free, confidential, safe, facilitated. FMI and location call (207) 874-6593. Sponsored by USM's Women's Forum.

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

Polyamorous Life Support (PALS): Do you love more than one person? You may be polyamorous. Polyamorous Life Support (PALS) is a discussion/support group for people interested in creating/nourishing committed, loving, multipartner relationships. Whether curious or already multiple intimate, call 773-6132.

Wilde-Stein Club: Meets every Thursday at 6:30 pm at Memorial Union, Sutton Lounge, University of Maine, Orono.

LGBTQ Support Group: Meets every Thursday, 7-9 pm, at Women's Resource Center 101 Fernald Hall, University of Maine, Orono.

Out Bisexual Amazon: A Maine Lesbian/Gay Jewish support group, meets monthly. FMI call Rheatha at 874-2970.

Rheatha at 874-2970.

Music & Art
Is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to educate and inform public, politicians, and media on L/G issues. Primary goals are to involve the LG community in Maine’s political process, promote civil rights, develop and review legislation, endorse candidates, build a coalition, and oppose anti-gay legislation and referenda. Meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of every month in Augusta. FMI call 1-800-55-MLGPA.
Auburn area meets Mondays at 7 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Spring St., Auburn.

Banger Lesbian Support Group: This Lesbian Support Group welcomes any women who identify as lesbians. They seek to create a woman-only, lesbian-positive space to explore issues and affirm themselves and each another as lesbians. Confidentiality, open-mindedness and respect are required. Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 pm, Mabel Wadsworth Women’s Health Center, 334 Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 pm, Mabel Wadsworth Women’s Health Center, 334.

Wadsworth Women’s Health Center, 334 Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 pm, Mabel Wadsworth Women’s Health Center, 334 Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 pm, Mabel Wadsworth Women’s Health Center, 334.

Dover, NH: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered support group meets Sundays 7-9 pm, Quaker Mfg. House, Central Ave. Social times too. FMI: 603/743-6412. Mabel Dover, NH.

OUTRIGHT: Meets Monday thru Friday, 5:30-7:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, Park Street, Bangor. Support group for all who have loved ones with HIV/AIDS at any stage of the disease. Call Charles Wynott, Program Coordinator at 725-4955.

Help or write P.O. Box 5077, Portland, ME 04104. Call 774-2198.

Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: 7:00-9:00 pm, 70 Court St., 2nd floor, Auburn. FMI call 775-2572.

OUTRIGHT/Seacoast: Meetings for people living with HIV disease, and for the children of gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning parents. Call Charles Wynott, Program Coordinator at 725-4955.

OUTRIGHT: See Ongoing Events, page 17.
Rock for Choice has a powerful slogan: "You can go quietly or you can Rock For Choice." I chose 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 safe, legal abortions.

Rock for Choice has a powerful story: "You can go quietly or you can Rock For Choice." I chose 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 safe, legal abortions.

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... Jan Brady. 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 Babies 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 have a chance 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 cranked through her classic "Cherry Bomb." In 1992, Jett played this song live with L7 at a Rock for Choice concert. It was 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 acapella, 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 banged herself for going gaga over Audrey Hepburn in "The Children's Hour," a long way since Sandy Dennis came out in "The Fox" and got conked on the head by a logger's falling tree. "The Incredibly True Adventures of Two Girls in Love" is about first love. It's an affair that sends you rolling in the hay, 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, and she's absolutely no less. 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 twist 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 naiveté 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 more about two girls in love and suffering the indignity that is high school.

Women In Harmony Begins Third Choral Season

PORTLAND: Women in Harmony, a Portland based women's choral group, is heading into their third season. The chorus, formed in 1993, has concluded two successful performance seasons and includes women from all over southern Maine, and a few places beyond. The group is truly representative of the diversity of the southern Maine area. There are young and old women, and lesbians, bisexual and straight women who have come together because of their love of music and community with other women.

Women In Harmony has continued to grow and mature in the quality of music that it performs. Under the direction of Sonja Dalgren Pryor, the music performed ranges from Gregorian chants, to Baroque spirituals, hymns, show tunes, women's music and songs sung just for fun. Sonny has been actively involved in choral music throughout Massachusetts and beyond for many years and is currently the conductor of the Rockport Community Chorus in Massachusetts.

Two concerts are scheduled for this season, one in February and one in late May. Rehearsals are every Wednesday night from 7:00 - 9:00 PM. Women who are interested in joining the group should come to rehearsals held at the Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. New members will be allowed to join until October 4. For more information, call 207/766-8101 or 207/885-6993.

**SPIRIT**
Artist Profile: Paper-Maker, Jim Neal

by Ainsel L. Poni

Some of us in the greater Portland area may best know Jim Neal as the "Drop Me A Line" guy. He and his 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 know 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 paper making. You may have actually seen Neal's work and not realized it. His quilted 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/paper-maker, Neal is also a wonderful painter.

Neal is a real artist as a waiter for a few years and then at the Museum of Art where he worked his way up to building manager, staying until 1990. This was the year that he and Roger Mayo opened Drop Me A Line. However, paper making was also on Neal's mind. Back in 84-85, he got involved in workshops with Hedgehog Hill Farm in Buckingham. Ever since then, paper making has been a passion. Neal hopes that down the road he'll have more time to devote to his art. The show at Coffee By Design was 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 leaves 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 a lot of the 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 texture 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 might think of 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.

MOVIE REVIEW: "Jeffrey"

by Frank Ciordano

Steven Weber is Jeffrey, the centerpiece of Paul Rudnick's movie of the same name. When Jeffrey flashes his wide, eye-popping grin, he's being irresistible, seductive; he's also showing the extent of his pedigree. Jeffrey has a bright smile and a forty-watt brain. He's dull and selfish and humorless. He pouts and whines. If he doesn't get his way, he can work himself into a fit. For some reason, Jeffrey's considered a real catch.

Jeffrey is a pin-ball wizard in a town full of Dolly Levis. When he responds to the AIDS epidemic with culpability, his decision upsets so many New Yorkers, it's as if the well-being of all downtown was wired to his libido, and desperate to change his mind.

Steve (Michael T. Weiss), is a bartender who sends men to their knees. HIV positive, he is the forbidden apple of Jeffrey's eye and his eye is on Jeffrey as well. A master courting Jeffrey throughout the movie, Steve pursues his prey like a wolf chasing a squeaky clean mouse. Latch is Jeffrey's constant companion. AIDS is a nuisance, and suddenly the roller-coaster man is confined to the kiddie rides. The thought of safe sex has him running scared, running to protect his new-found virtue.

What sets "Jeffrey" apart from the recent slew of boy meets boy movies is the writing—there's intelligence in it. Screenwriter Rudnick has a kindly eye for the occasional odd ball, but he doesn't cloud his point. Everyone is out to heal Jeffrey, to help him with his addiction to sex, his cursed and blessed need to connect. Ann Martie (Christine Baranski) is a guilty mistress of ceremonies at an AIDS benefit. A model of inch-deep compassion, she wears her AIDS ribbon as if it were a lot of the art form I knew very little about, but now can appreciate. AA

"A Love Worth Fighting for - Worth Listening to..."

by Ainsel L. Poni

Streeter Productions, Inc., the new record label of New Yorker Mitchell Gallob, has just put out its first CD called "A Love Worth Fighting For." This album is special because it is a compilation of gay and lesbian singers and musicians ranging from the relatively unknown to the classic. This is the first all gay/lesbian album I've ever come across, and although some of the music isn't totally to my liking, I do think this is an important addition to anybody's collection, as it promotes visibility, celebrates diversity and covers many styles of music.

Mitchell Gallob dedicated two years making an idea become a reality. His label plans to release other gay and lesbian recordings. "The music you'll hear is as diverse as the gay and lesbian community itself," he explains. "A Love Worth Fighting For," title track is by the late Michael Callen, one of the late Michael Callen, one of the first gay/lesbian singers to put out an album.

Railroad Square Cinema hosts MWD fund-raiser

INTERNET: Friday, October 13 through Thursday, October 19, the Railroad Square Cinema in Waterville will show "Ballot Measure 9," a film about an infamous attempt to deny civil rights to gay people in Oregon. The film will be shown from Friday, October 13 through Monday, October 16 at 8:30 p.m., and on Saturday and Sunday 1 and 5 p.m. From Tuesday, October 17 through Thursday October 19, showing will be at 7 p.m.

Directed by Heather McDonald, this film recounts the events in Oregon, 1992. A bailout initiative seeks to deny civil rights to gay people. The chairman of the group that sponsors the initiative calls it "a simple battle between good and evil." But the measure is fought by a determined group who face harassment, attack and even firebombing to stand up for themselves, their gay and lesbian friends and family. As the odds even out and election day draws near, "Ballot Measure 9," an award-winning film about what happened in Oregon, acquires the tension and suspense of a thriller.

With Maine facing a similar referendum question this fall, "Ballot Measure 9" may be the most timely film you see this year. "Passionate and exceptionally well made." (L.A. Times). "Ballot Measure 9" works effectively as a suspenseful tale, one that goes beyond gay rights to encompass such timely and broader issues as human rights, cultural diversity and the American political system... Variety.

"Raffi"

Banana Phone Tour

Sunday, October 24
2 hour live appearance

Gregory Peck

Friday, November 3
Schooner Fare

20th Anniversary Celebration

Winter Solstice

Saturday, November 11

Featuring Night Noise,
Patty Larkin & Michael Martin

Chet Atkins

For tickets call: (207) 879-1112
Major Credit Cards accepted
Bonjour all! This is Sage, and I'm the new Youth Editor for the Community Pride Reporter. As you will probably notice, this section is devoted to gay youth and everything surrounding us. Since I am "Editor" of this section, I guess that means I get to write editorials! Yeah! So, here it goes...

You notice that the majority of staff in this section is about school and how it effects the lives of gay youth. As you can probably tell from these stories, it is complete and utter hell for any "out" or "outed" student. Some are lucky enough to go un-tormented. But for those who are less fortunate, most of the time there is no support for them, or if there is, it is hard to find. There is also much more for the older group of the gay community to do on a Friday night for example. All we really have to do is go to support groups such as OUTRIGHT Portland for example, which is not a bad thing, and I support such groups. But there is no other place for gay youth to meet or get together unless it is through other friends or contacts, which doesn't really get us places.

Now, do realize that this isn't written in anger, but as an observation. I would also like to thank Winnie Weir and Bruce Balboni for this opportunity to be a voice for gay youth. If anyone reading this would like to submit any writing or art, or anything they feel should be published, please don't hesitate to send it in! Address it to OUR VOICE, Community Pride Reporter, 142 High Street, Suite #623, Portland, ME 04101.

Fondly yours,

Sage Hyton-Lemons

BOYS ON THE ROCKS

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 homosexuality 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) 224-3121. Minority Chief of Staff: Gail Weiss (202) 225-3752. (Call CPR office: 879-1342 for names and phone numbers 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

REVIEWs

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 their 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, "Pray" on their "Everything Changes" album which is their 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 on one night, toward the end, Maurice, while spending the night as a guest in his now "straight" friend's house, gets an unexpected visit, and the movie takes a bizarre twist.

Movie, "Maurice" *** 1/2

If you want to have a voice, let's hear from you. Write a letter, do a review, tell your story.
**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 on the dull orange rug. Degrees and diplomas lined the walls. Trinity sat at the guidance counselor's desk. The young man was new at Noble High. It was his first year.

Trent was glad to get out of school and all but one of his friends with him. "I don't know. I'm glad to get out of school and all but one of my friends with me," Trent said.

"Call me Trent," said the young man.

"So, call me Trent," the young man replied.

"No, the attack. Start from the attack."

"OK. I came into school and put my bag down near the band room like I always do. I then went downstairs to the basement because I needed to talk to my English teacher. I went to Mr. Karon's room but he wasn't there, so I walked back towards the band room and saw a group of skinheads. I didn't think much of it until they grabbed my arm, pushed me into some lockers, called me fag, queer, cock sucker, and punched me in the stomach twice. Then down the hallway, they started saying things. 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."

"Whoa. Sounds like you've been through a lot."

"Do you want to hear about yesterday?" Trent said as he 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 and watched the kids do their organizing and educating. "It was a great experience," Trent said.

"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 faggy faggot! Run away you cock sucker!"

The hallway roared 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 announced as, "Changing Maine," A Gathering for Grassroots Organizers and Educators.

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Adam Ort, editor

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**The Reality of the Situation**

by E.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 at my torment. My friends began being 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 what I felt might be feeling me. 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. I 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 forbade me to have contact with him again. I 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 awoke, my mind was clear and my bed soaked with tears and blood. Before that I felt disgraced 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 myself. 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 have 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.
by Peaches Beam

If you've 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 transmission of bacteria, viruses and other 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. 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,") 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 questionable.

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 (1-800-851-2347) 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 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. It is recommended that one's hands are occupied by holding the dam in place and not free to touch or stimulate. A 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 underpants 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 use one's hands free to touch 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 Concept of Invisibility.

The conference is scheduled for Friday and Sunday, 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 a grant from the Maine Women's Fund.

Minnie Bruce Pratt, poet and author of "Butterfingers," serves on the Board of Directors for "Out Across Maine," the statewide march for equal protection in Maine. Burton is the author of "Crime Against Nature," "We Say We Love Each Other," "Rebellion, Essays 1980-1991," and the recently released "SHE." 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."

Workshops for the two days include menopause, sex toys, lesbians living with HIV/AIDS, basic nutrition, financial planning, alternative health options, surviving cancer, legal issues with regard to health care, butch/femme/gender, and alternatives to culturally based AIDS education. Workshops are planned for the two days.

The conference is being organized by the Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine. To receive a registration brochure and more information, call 657-5864 or write PO Box 11048 Portland ME 04104.

**"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 city. Therefore, to show our neighbors who we are, and that we do experience discrimination. The exceptions are The Maine Shootout 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 march 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, and that 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 all faithful who are bisexual and transgendered Catholics and Papal Visit to Baltimore: that homosexuality to join in a visible protest to the world's largest organization (gay, lesbian, supporters to wear a Rainbow Ribbon on Sunday, October 8. Dignity has named disagre.e with official Church teaching on sexuality Sunday, and is asking supporters to wear a Rainbow Ribbon throughout the day.

In announcing the event, Dignity/ USA President, Mariannan Daddy stated, "For too long, the Pope and Bishops who endorse discrimination against gay people have controlled the Catholic message about homosexuality; when in fact their attitude is not at all representative of what most Catholics think. It's time that people understand that most Catholics are fair and decent, and believe that all people should be treated with respect."

Dignity/USA points to numerous studies that indicate that the majority of American Catholics support gay rights. A 1992 Gallup poll put this support at 78%.

In contrast, recent Vatican statements have named homosexuality as 'intrinsically disordered' and are seen by many as tacitly approving of violence against gay people. Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Director of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, wrote: "When civil legislation is introduced to protect [homosexual] behavior... neither the Church nor society at large should be surprised when... violent reactions increase."

The National Coordinator of Solidarity Sunday, Bruce Jarsttre, a retired military surgeon who lives in San Antonio, Texas, said, "The Radical Right has targeted our communities in the past in an effort to drive the fund-raising for the 'ministries'. Hate crimes against people perceived to be gay or lesbian increase with every sermon or speech based on gay hatred. It is time to call a halt to such verbal and physical violence."

Dignity/USA predicts that as many as 250,000 Catholics will wear Rainbow Ribbons to Mass on October 8. Local contacts in southern Maine are Janet O'Day (207/646-2820), Rosemary Anania (207/646-6641) and Victoiria Zavaskin (207/775-6595 - voice mail or 207/775-0015-home).

Augusta UU Church sponsors citizen education project.

By Peter J. Callinan, CPA

It has recently become apparent to many domestic partners of owning residential rental property to recover the original purchase cost of the building and subsequent improvements to it every year over a period of 25 years. If you use a part of the building for your personal residence, then the amount of expenses and cost of the building and improvements which are depreciable is limited. The portion allocable to your personal use is not deductible as a rental expense. The allocation is usually based upon the number of rooms or square footage of housing residential and not available for rental.

The income and expenses I’ve 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 always a good idea to contact a qualified financial consultant for advice and information before undertaking any kind of business venture. Good Luck!
Love from page 17

founders of the People With AIDS Coalition, starts the CD off on an affirming note with it's crystal clear vocals and touching lyrics.

What I think is the best track on the CD is far and away Janis Ian's "When Angels Cry." Her song is both chilling and beautiful as it stresses the importance of maintaining love in your heart despite so much misunderstanding about AIDS.

Other artists on this album are The Frightnings, singing "Angels, Punks and Raging Queens." Dan Martin's "Lay Your Burden Down," with its incredible backup vocals, is another one of the better tracks. You'll also find music from the punk-folk reigning queen, Ani DiFranco, the legendary Holly Near and Cris Williamson, as well as Ann Reed, Gary Bankston and Steve Sandberg.

"A Love Worth Fighting For" is an important piece of work and it featured a very impressive booklet, not to mention 78 minutes of music. We'll have to keep our eyes open for other releases by Streeter Productions, Inc. down the road.

OUT OF TOWN!

Paul T. Bernard

When is a "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 $548, 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 advertising a particular pair of shoes at some store, 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 MaxFli 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 $560 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 surcharge tax, and a local airport tax. These taxes can actually add a considerable amount to the rental price. Also, don't be taken in by rental insurance waivers. In most cases, your own car insurance policy will cover your rental car also. Check with your local insurance agent. This can save up to $15 per day in insurance charges. Also, make sure that the "unlimited mileage" policy will cover you and can quickly tell you if you are or are not getting a "good deal".

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Maine Gay and Lesbian Running Club 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 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 MaxFli 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 $560 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 surcharge tax, and a local airport tax. These taxes can actually add a considerable amount to the rental price. Also, don't be taken in by rental insurance waivers. In most cases, your own car insurance policy will cover your rental car also. Check with your local insurance agent. This can save up to $15 per day in insurance charges. Also, make sure that the "unlimited mileage" policy will cover you and can quickly tell you if you are or are not getting a "good deal".

"JEFFREY" from page 17

Jim is a nit-wit looking for a fool and ready for bed; he'll say anything, and Jeffrey is a nit-wit looking for a fool.

Dialogue like that keeps the juices flowing while we wait for Jeffrey to finally drop his hankie. That hankie hits the ground, but on that Jeffrey is convinced that his new relationship will be for keeps—that Steve will never get sick, that he will never die or leave. Steve is ready for bed, he'll say anything, and Jeffrey is a nit-wit looking for a fool-proof relationship. He wants things clean and neat and securely pinned in place like a curled red ribbon.

"Jeffrey" is not an AIDS primer. The movie doesn't preach to the choir. It's about contact and the importance of intimacy—a comedy for the battle weary, sung by the mere turn of events, surviving the '90s one day at a time and aching to laugh.

SPIRIT, from page 16

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, so here is another 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 "Killing Me Softly," it was a truly cheesy song, somehow 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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CAMPAIGN, from page 1

Today, and that’s why, when I got a call last October asking me my position on this question, I said, from a phone booth on Forest Avenue [in Portland], “I’m against it!” I didn’t have to consult with anybody, I didn’t have to take any polls, because it’s wrong.”

Pat Peard, Chair of the Executive Committee of Maine Won’t Discriminate, next introduced Speaker of the Maine House Dan Gwadosky (D-Fairfield). Gwadosky likened his excitement and anxiety at addressing all these 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…”

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 itself 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 been quoted as saying “It’s the work of an individual who has found the Bill of Rights to be ‘vastly overrated’ … 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.”

Gwadosky observed that Mainers are known for their unique, independent spirit and self-reliant ways, and said there is no reason for Mainers to abandon those ways now. He urged people to join with him if they care about Maine and what it means, regardless of race, religion, and yes, sexual orientation, are treated fairly and equally, said Ketterer in a clear, robust voice.

Ketterer delivered the following words with the conviction our community has come to admire. “We need to stop the hate against those who are perceived as being different,” he said. “We need to stop the violence against those who are perceived as being vulnerable. Law enforcement has, and will continue, to send a clear, unmistakable message to those who would discriminate or commit violence against persons perceived as being different. The purveyors of bigotry and discrimination are the ones who are different. They do not represent the views of the mainstream here in Maine.”

In what could only be termed a definite warning, Ketterer concluded by saying, “To those who condemn and discriminate against people because of their race, their religion, their sexual orientation, or for any other perceived difference, look on this press conference as an education. See this for what it is, a declaration by Maine’s elected and public officials that their ignorance is nothing to be proud of, and their beliefs are contrary to those of the majority of Maine citizens.”

Peard thanked the speakers for joining Maine Won’t Discriminate at the press conference. She also thanked them for their years of service to our state. “The fact that they are standing here together today,” said Peard, “is testimony to their leadership and a credit to the people of our state. Maine is uniting against question #1… People across this state are coming together and forming groups, and joining with Maine Won’t Discriminate to defeat this flawed, misleading, and ultimately very costly measure to the State of Maine.”

She said that MWD has chapters in every county of the state, and over 4000 volunteers from diverse backgrounds who are working to defeat this measure.


Dedicated Maine Won’t Discriminate Volunteers lend support at campaign kick-off.

Thank you to everyone who has given their time, resources and money to make sure that Maine Won’t Discriminate. You are greatly appreciated. Please remember – we have less than two months left until the vote and your energy is needed now more than ever.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of this campaign!

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For information on how you can help stop by our new office space at

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