The Editors of the Community Pride Reporter urge you to

VOTE NO on #1

Mainers to decide the fate of civil rights for sexual minorities,
Tuesday, November 7

Special election issue featuring excerpts from past issues, p 2-7
Anti-gay Coalition forms to support referendum
Cosby shunned as national groups take center stage in referendum battle

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

Commenting on the most recent death threat Cosby received Volle said, "It's another way to get media attention." Volle said that years ago, when Cosby was involved in slandering legislative candidate Robin Lambert, she claimed to have received a death threat then.

Chief lie #3: (perhaps the most insidious) That hate crimes against gays and lesbians are not a serious problem in Maine - this is NOT TRUE!! Hate crimes have increased here alarmingly. Lockman in particular has made this argument. How many beatings are enough to constitute a problem?

Cosby's and Lockman's true nature is revealed in the following pages. CPR has consistently shown the chasm between their public statements, which call for civil debate, and their private bigotry.

If you have already decided to vote "No" on Question 1, please show this issue of CPR to someone who is undecided. Feel free to make (or take) copies of this CPR and distribute it at your school, job, church, neighborhood store etc., wherever it will reach people who are undecided.

We believe this compilation of material provides a devastating image of CMF, one that leaves no room for indecision. VOTE NO on 1.
nobody would be gay.
and lesbians, often referring to Pat Peard (President of the Maine Civil Liberties
Union (MCLU) and attorney for Maine Won’t Discriminate (MWD)) who, they
said, resembled a man. They laughed a lot about the cartoon showing Angus
King, “Looking Faggy.”

Carolyn’s favorite response was that
at Cosby’s which is also CMF’s head­
quarters.

They would have these hideous
laughing sessions in which they would
make jokes about ‘fags’ and ‘homos’
and lesbians, often referring to Pat Peard (President of the Maine Civil Liberties
act like sissies. David Cosby remembered a boy he had
gone to school with who was a sissy and because of that he
was picked on by the others. They tried to ‘shape him up,’
but since he wasn’t like them they made him an outcast.

David boasted that the
boy did ‘shape up’ and said that if children were allowed
to take care of problems like
this themselves, while they
were young, they could eliminate the problem of
homosexuals before they be­
came adults.

I got to a point where I didn’t even
want to hear her voice anymore because
everything she was saying was just so
negative, what damage she wanted to do
next, her ‘plan of attack.’

Q: What was Carolyn like as a
person? What were the kinds of things
that made her laugh or cry?
A: I never saw her cry. She was
very concerned with appearances. Once
when I was going to be in public at a
press conference. She told me not to
wear a male power dress, not anything
that would make me look like a man, no
two-piece dress suits.

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

Q: What was the thing you liked
about her the most?
A: She has a lot of energy.

But when I realized how negative it all
coming out. Simply pretending to be a con­
cerned advocate against discrimination
only sustains the invisibility of our com­
unity and is self-defeating.

It is not easy, but time and again it
has proven that all the hatred and bigotry
spread by every single anti-gay organiza­
tion and years of misunderstandings can
be dimmed with simple honest words be­tween friends or family.

Over the year’s the Portland Pride
See PRIDE, page 7
"Principled and Civil Debate"... or Undercover Hate?

This is the complete drawing of "The Great Train Robbery," by John Lockman, brother of CMF's Vice-chairman, Lawrence Lockman. A version of this cartoon, without the drawing of Governor King "Looking Faggy," appeared in the Spring 1995 issue of Concerned Maine Families' tabloid "The Maine Event."

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

The characterization of Governor King as "Looking Faggy" again highlights the difference between CMF's call for "principled and civil debate" and their private bigotry. This disparity was made clear in CPR's last issue in which we reported Jonathan Malmude, Professor at St. Joseph's College and Advisor to CMF, as saying, "Have a great day, Punch out a gay!"

The purpose of this cartoon by J. Lockman shows CMF's desire to encourage fear and hatred amongst and between Maine's handicapped, elderly, racial and homosexual communities. Even though it has never been shown that granting equal rights to one group denies equal rights to any other group, Carolyn Cosby, Chairperson of CMF continues to spread this particular lie in hopes of gaining support for her anti-equal rights amendment.

Videos and Safer Sex

For men only...

PORTLAND: The AIDS Project in Portland is sponsoring a new open discussion group each Wednesday from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Videos and Safer Sex is free and open to gay, bi and questioning men of all ages at the TAP offices located at 142 High Street, Suite #601.

This safe and confidential educational group will focus on safer sex today, barriers to safer activity and skills development for healthier choices. Join this new community drop-in-group and share your stories with other concerned men. For more information, contact John H. at 774-6877.
Power struggle emerges amongst Maine's radical right groups

Volle calls Cosby "belligerent" and says anti-equal rights referendum is unconstitutional

Bruce Fein. Marco is leader and founder of the failed, Colorado Amendment 2 and Bruce Fein is the high-priced lawyer from Virginia who is running CMF's political campaign. Fein told Cosby in a letter dated August 18, 1994 that their political campaign must avoid, "evoking passions."

Cosby quickly abandoned her attack on homosexual behavior and tried to elevate her efforts to the plane of a "debate regarding civil rights issues." She writes in this most recent press release, "This campaign will not be a bait and switch campaign. Having begun our campaign as a debate regarding civil rights issues, we will not now switch to a campaign of disgust regarding gay sexual behavior." As usual, however, in this denial lies the truth. CMF did indeed begin their campaign as an attack on gay sexual behavior and only recently switched to a legalistic approach on the advice of Fein. If one examines the CMF brochure distributed throughout Maine during the signature gathering phase of their campaign (spring and summer of 1994) one clearly sees the attack on behavior.

Cosby's brochure entitled, "What's Wrong with Special Gay Rights? You be the Judge!!" includes the following passages: "...gays engage in deviant sexual behaviors like anal intercourse, fisting (inserting a fist or entire arm into a partner's rectum); urinating or defecating on partners; sadomasochism; even ingesting feces and urine." The brochure goes on in this vein. The CMF campaign is a bait and switch campaign in reverse.

Perhaps the most outrageous of all of Cosby's absurd statements is her infamous, "Resolution in Support of Principled Debate" in which she calls for "the highest standards of political discourse." A member of her Board of Advisers, Jonathan Malmude, recently appeared with her on the WMPG-FM radio talk show "Big Talk." Malmude, a professor at St. Joseph's College in Standish is quoted as saying to Cosby, just after the show, "Have a great day, punch out a gay." They laughed. What Cosby and her henchmen say in private belies their public statements.

So much for Cosby's "commitment to take the moral high ground."

"Have a great day. Punch out a gay!" Jonathan Malmude
CMF Board of Advisors
Professor, St. Joseph's College

Volle calls Cosby "belligerent" and says anti-equal rights referendum is unconstitutional

Volle says he cannot work with Carolyn Cosby. She's too belligerent.

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

CPR: What degree of involvement does your organization (Christian Coalition) have with Concerned Maine Families (CMF), its leader, Carolyn Cosby, and their referendum against equal rights?

VOLLE: None whatsoever.

CPR: Why is that?

VOLLE: Well, the issue at hand here is a constitutional issue. Our organization believes that the referendum is the wrong way to go because the referendum, in our opinion, will be unconstitutional because it's trying to limit the state constitution by statutory action.

In other words, what appears to be happening from the referendum is that the referendum is trying to put a muzzle on the state legislature from doing its job, that it's constitutionally mandated to do. No matter how you feel about an issue, that's just not the way to do it.

PF's
80 Water Street, Augusta
Reminds you to register to vote and to Vote No on 1

GAY MALE COUPLES GROUP
A closed therapeutic group for gay male couples
Tuesdays, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Group co-facilitators are: Bill Bartler, LPC and Randy May, LMFT
Payment arrangements and insurance assignment are possible.
For more information, call 777-0205

MONEY TALK: It's that time again!

by Peter J. Callman, CPA

Yes, believe it or not, it's time to do tax planning for 1995. I realize that the year hasn't ended yet and personal returns don't need to be filed until April 15, 1996, but the time to do tax planning is before the calendar year ends, not after.

Remember, the key to tax planning is to time recognition of income and deductible expenses to minimize taxable income and related tax liability. Consider doing a projection of your year end return by estimating what income and expenses will be for 1995. Start with your 1994 return as a guide. Review its information and compile the similar information for 1995. Where you don't have accurate information use a best guess; it's better than using nothing.

Once you've done this, stop and consider what has changed for you finan-
Concerned Maine Families charges conspiracy, corruption and scandal in the Attorney General's office

By Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

Concerned Maine Families (CMF) has begun their political campaign for the November 1995 referendum against affirmative rights with a volley of charges aimed at the Diversity Commission and the Attorney General's Office. CMF called a press conference, January 9, in Augusta.

The two most serious charges are that the Attorney General's office inflates hate crime statistics to further an alleged plot between the AG and the so-called "militant gay lobby," and that this data was manipulated so as to provide the Diversity Commission with a basis for supporting some form of gay affirmative action. Herein, CMF alleges, lies the conspiracy.

Steve Wessler, Assistant Attorney General in charge of hate crime prosecution, said that CMF's claims that the Attorney General's office inflates hate crime statistics is "just plain wrong." He added, "It's hard to know how to respond to something so ridiculous. We are law enforcement officers, we are lawyers and we work with investigators and we work with police officers to enforce the laws of the state of Maine."

CMF asked Assistant Attorney General Wessler if there was something he could say to the gay, lesbian and bisexual community to calm their fears in the wake of CMF's deceitful charges. Wessler said, "Our office is committed to enforcing the civil rights laws as they apply to all minorities, including gays and lesbians, and we will continue taking reports on hate crimes from anybody who's been a victim or witness to an act of hate, bias or prejudice, and from law enforcement so that nothing that occurred yesterday at the Press Conference regarding CMF has changed anything about the Attorney General's commitment to receive complaints and to bring enforcement actions under the Maine Civil Rights Act when necessary."

January, 1995

Carolyn Cosby, Chairperson, CMF, begins the battle for her anti-human rights referendum with series of charges labeled "ridiculous" by all concerned.

Cosby signs her petition last August at Portland City Hall. Her signature symbolically ended CMF's petition drive to deny homosexuals safety from discrimination is based on her desire to protect the sanctity of civil rights law is contradicted by her acknowledged leader Tony Marco. Marco writes in the "Biblical Critique" that his opposition to gay rights is based on Scripture.

Cosby also quotes verbatim from Fein in various other pieces of CMF literature. For example, in the letter of August 18, 1995, Fein writes, "... there is no plausible argument that the initiative is anti-gay. It is not. It is pro-democracy." A CMF handout contains the statement, "... the Maine campaign is entirely pro-democracy without being anti-gay."

There are numerous other examples in this CMF document that are lifted verbatim from the Fein letter. Cosby's claim that the CMF initiative is not anti-gay is betrayed in her six-page fund-raising letter. In that document Cosby raises all the old stereotypes about homosexuals and Boy Scouts, and homosexuals and schools.

(Composer's Note: All materials were provided by anonymous sources.)

Q: "So you're saying gay people don't qualify for civil rights?"

Cosby — "Absolutely! They don't deserve protection."

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

CAROLYN COSBY, leader of Concerned Maine Families (CMF), an extremist group of religious fanatics, delivered their petition to Portland City Hall, August 12. These petitions are in support of a statewide referendum that would prevent the future inclusion of sexual orientation in the Maine Human Rights Act. If Maine voters approve this referendum (November, 1995), discrimination against homosexuals would be legally permitted.

Considering they use the same rhetoric, Cosby was asked if CMF had any association, whatsoever, with similar groups, such as Colorado for Family Values or the Family Research Council of Washington, D.C. Cosby replied, "No, we do not, to answer you flatly."
**Concerned Maine Families sponsors anti-gay lecture in So. Portland**

"I tell the homosexual that I love them to throw them off-balance. It's like in Judo. In order to defeat your enemy you must throw them off-balance. My message of love to the gay community is designed with this in mind." These are the words of the Reverend Charles Mcllhenny, an evangelical Presbyterian from San Francisco, who spoke Thursday night, April 14, at the Church of the Nazarene on Highland Avenue in South Portland.

In discussing their continuing 17 year fight against "this stuff," Mcllhenny said that their fight against the domestic partnerships law was the most successful. He advised the audience that they helped defeat this ordinance because they were able to instill a sense of moral indignation in their supporters, and this was done by using Christ to inspire their supporters against gay people (even though Christ said nothing on homosexuality). He told them their political struggles would be more successful if they could instill this same sense of "moral indignation."

She concluded her introductory remarks with a joke. She said that McLhenny wanted to be known as a heteroSOCKSual because he had trouble putting on the same pair of socks in the morning. "So, how did you do today, Chuck?" she asked.

Mel White quotes a far greater man of God than Mcllhenny who spoke to the often disappointing role of the church. "The church at times has preserved that which is immoral and unethical," Martin Luther King reminded us. "Called to combat social evils, it has remained silent behind stained-glass windows ... How often the church has been an echo rather than a voice, a taillight behind the Supreme court rather than a headlight guiding men [sic] progressively and decisively to higher levels of understanding."

In the early days of the civil rights movement Jerry Falwell referred to Dr. King by saying, "Preachers are not called to be politicians." Falwell opposed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and in subsequent years was a lonely voice asking for understanding for South Africa's apartheid system.

Such is the nature of Carolyn Cosby and Concerned Maine Families. ΔΔ

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**PRIDE from page 3**

committees have been composed of people whose first step at the coming out process was a local Pride event.

In light of National Coming Out Day it can still be said that there is nothing that compares in focusing on the visibility of being out like Pride events across the U.S. Pride event participation doesn't necessarily mean shouting slogans on Congress Street, nor responding to the media for the 6 o'clock news. Attempting to create a truly inclusive, supportive and fun community event has many parts and volunteer opportunities for all stages of the closet exiting adventure.

As Portland Pride approaches its Tenth year anniversary in 1996 there's great opportunities to dismantle those dreadful closets by working on the Parade, Pride Fest, exhibits, Dance, or other events. One need only show up to a regularly announced committee meeting (check CPR or postering), to involve oneself or an organization in freeing gay and lesbian people through celebration of community. Please, don't end up another Mr. Finley. ΔΔ

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The Maine Gay Men's Chorus
Musical entertainment by:
The Maine Gay Men's Chorus

Remember to VOTE on Tues. November 7th.
VOTE NO on #1

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**OutLOUD Against Discrimination**

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

"The Question of Equality" is a four-part documentary film series detailing the history of the gay and lesbian civil rights movement. The Independent Television Service (ITVS) made the series available to the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) during the month of October in conjunction with National Coming Out Day (October 11) and National Lesbian and Gay History Month (October).

Originally, Maine Public Broadcasting Network (MPBN) had no plans to air the series claiming not to know about it. Through the determined efforts of Dave Garrity, media contact for OutLOUD Against Discrimination, MPBN aired the series, October 17, 18, 24 and 25 at 10:00 pm. Garrity lobbied Rob Gardiner, President of MPBN, and other officials at the network and succeeded in getting them to air the shows. OutLOUD issued the following press release, October 12:

Late last Wednesday - on October 11th, National Coming Out Day - Bernie Rosetti, Director of Television Services for Maine Public Broadcasting, announced the preempting of scheduled programming on MPTV's "Plus" stations in order to air this special series of programs in its entirety before the upcoming vote on Question 1. Mr. Rosetti responded to requests from gay and lesbian viewers and to a positive dialogue he and Harry West, Programming Director, held with Dave Garrity for OutLOUD. "It is always our purpose to provide as much information as we possibly can to increase the public's understanding of important issues such as this," explained Mr. Rosetti. "That's what public television is all about." OutLOUD hails Mr. Rosetti's efforts and urges everyone to watch this important series. ΔΔ

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**MGMCM's**

2nd Annual Bean Supper

Saturday, November 18th

$6.00

5:00 or 6:30

Williston West Church

32 Thomas Street, Portland

(in the West End)

Musical entertainment by:
The Maine Gay Men's Chorus

Tickets available from

Maine Gay Men's Chorus

members or call 797-9270
Huge Rally in Monument Square signals countdown to victory!

Tom Andrews, President of People for the American Way, told the over 1,000 member crowd “In this referendum we are up against hatred, bigotry and the politics of poison and we’re going to say ‘No’ to it all in November.” He reminded everyone that the nation is watching how Maine will decide the issue.

Andrews warned the crowd that the forces of hatred, poison and bigotry are highly organized. He alerted them by saying, “They are working out there in those communities spreading their poison, their hate, their bigotry and their discrimination and the ugly fact of the matter is that they have been successful.”

Music ...

Indigo Girls
Shawn Colvin-Live ’88 J.
Brooke & the Story
and out in November...

See Walt Whitman, page 9

Walt Whitman hosts open party

PORTLAND: The Walt Whitmaners are planning a special post-election evening for all gay, lesbian and bi people on Sunday evening, November 12, 1995. The Mariners Church Banquet Center (on Market at Fore Street) is booked from 5 to 9 pm, they’ve arranged for some serious dance music (Motown and seventies’ disco), and burgers, salad & fries. Unlike other Whitman events, you’ve already been invited—butches and femmes of any sex or gender.

The $10 admission price includes food and soft drinks; there will be a cash bar.

The Walt Whitman Dining Society held its first dinner last April and it’s still growing by leaps and bounds. It’s a diverse bunch of men who socialize over a meal every month or two. They have no speeches, agendas or politics at all.

Men of all ages are welcome, but it is safe to say that most are over thirty. WWDS isn’t really an organization. It exists only as a list of names and a planning committee, to which new volunteers and ideas are always welcome.

See Walt Whitman, page 9

Music ...

k.d. lang
Indigo Girls
Shawn Colvin-Live ’88 J.
Brooke & the Story
and out in November...

Movies...

Oct 31st
Coming out November 7th...

That Count ..... All at

PLAY IT AGAIN
24 U.S. Rt. 1, Yarmouth Marketplace (207)846-4711 Open 10-10 Daily
10 Min, North of Portland exit 16 off I-295

Over 1,000 people attended a rally in Portland’s Monument Square, Saturday, October 7. Tim Sample hosted the event which featured speakers Urvashi Vad and Tom Andrews. Maine Won’t Discriminate organized the rally using it as the kick-off for a literature drop throughout the city of Portland. Volunteers delivered thousands of pieces of “No on 1” literature to every household in the city.

All Balboni Photos

Urvashi Vad, prominent leader in the struggle for civil rights for lesbians and gays, told the crowd that, “if the referendum passes discrimination will be allowed.”

She echoed a theme Cosby raised months ago when she said, “Our opponents argue that some people are more deserving of civil rights than other people. Well I believe and I hope all of you believe that’s wrong. All people are deserving of civil rights.”

Little Amber says, “Carolyn Cosby has things all upside down.”

Walt Whitman hosts open party

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There have been a number of misunderstandings about the Walt Whitman Dining Society. Some people thought it was restricted or exclusive. The truth is that they just started with the names and addresses of people they already knew. Any “member” can bring friends to any event and add men to the mailing list at any time.

Every other event is high priced and dressy. After all, some men want the chance to show off a new outfit once in a while. The rest of the events are informal and inexpensive.

Some people have questioned the all-male nature of the group. Some may have thought that the purpose of WWDS was to be separate from women—rather than to bond and be closer with men. Women-only events have been nothing new for years now. Were this a group with political intentions, maybe there could be a basis for concern.

“Whichever way the vote goes, gay

See Walt Whitman, page 9
The AIDS Project's Executive Director resigns

Deborah Shields resigns suddenly after 2 1/2 year tenure

Shields' resignation follows in the wake of resignations by Terry Dubois, Staff Accountant, Doreen Merrill, Administrative Assistant and John Bean, Case Manager

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

Deborah Shields, President of the AIDS Project (TAP) Executive Director, resigned, October 18. Her resignation, combined with the other three, constitutes a loss of one fourth of TAP's staff. President of TAP's Board of Directors, Leo LaPlante, issued the following press release:

"Leo J. LaPlante, President of the Board of Directors of The AIDS Project (TAP), announced today (October 18, 1995) that Paul Draper has been appointed Acting Executive Director of TAP following the resignation of Deborah Shields, Esq., to pursue other interests. Draper has been serving as Development Director of The AIDS Project since February, 1994. He joined TAP after serving as a development officer in educational institutions since 1982 and as an educator and senior administrator in education throughout his career. "Both LaPlante and Draper state, 'TAP's commitment to its clients and the Southern Maine community remains unchanged during this transition in leadership. Our focus is always to maintain and improve upon the resources available to those whose lives are touched by HIV/AIDS.' "The AIDS Project, currently commemorating its Tenth Anniversary, is a nonprofit organization based in Portland, Maine, committed to a comprehensive and compassionate response to people living with HIV/AIDS. The largest AIDS service organization in Maine, The AIDS Project serves Cumberland, York, Androscoggin, and Oxford counties as a leader in HIV prevention, education, advocacy and support services."

Walt Whitman, from page 8

men and lesbians will need an opportunity to release our feelings and frustrations about this campaign, to come together again as one community and re-dedicate ourselves to the fight for our future," explained Walt himself. "After all the politics, viciousness, hype, and months of seemingly endless appeals for money, could there be any better way to regroup than as a party? No." ∆∆

Resignation sudden

When asked to comment on the suddenness of Shields' resignation, LaPlante said that strictly Board of Directors had decided to accept Ms. Shields' resignation. "I can say that we parted as friends and we wish her well." LaPlante said there is an effort underway to have a search committee, comprised of Board members, find a new Executive Director and that Draper is appointed for a three month period.

Susan Tremblay, Associate Development Director at TAP, said, "Deborah Shields cared and still cares a lot about the HIV community here in Maine. I'm sorry to see her go but I am committed to the mission of The AIDS Project and am staying very focused on my work." A Board member who spoke on condition of anonymity said that Shields was informed that the results of a staff evaluation included negative feedback regarding 'leadership skills.' The Board of Directors consists of 23 members. There were 14 or 15 members present at the meeting, which did constitute a quorum. A vote was taken to request her resignation, reportedly passing by a very narrow margin. Two members of the Board, Fred Lipp, Mary Atala Lessard, have resigned in protest over Shields' forced resignation. It remains unclear exactly why the Board requested her resignation.

Shields said she and the Board had a difference of opinion. She added "It's a terrific agency where the staff really puts its client's interests foremost to the best of their ability given the limited resources." She said the staff are truly dedicated and compassionate people. Shields is considering her options, but one idea she has is to secure funding to start an AIDS Law and Policy Center. She wants to help train attorneys throughout the state on AIDS legal issues. "They just can't come in as often. Don't miss out while you are in Portland."

On November 7 vote as if your life depends on it. It does!

GOOD COOKIN' KATAHDIN

"The look is more funky than sleek, with wall murals, rustic memorabilia and mismatched antique chairs. The food is across between hearty and refined - grilled sliced London Broil marinated in Ginger and Scallions... Duck Sausage.. cornmeal crusted Trout." Cynthia Hacill New York Times

Folks from away like our restaurant as much as our regular customers. They just can't come in as often. Don't miss out while you are in Portland.

CPR contacted Terry Dubois, Staff Accountant at TAP for 2 1/2 years, to ascertain his reasons for leaving. Dubois, who resigned before Shields, said, "I resigned my position at the AIDS Project because of philosophical and professional differences over management styles with Ms. Shields. Clearly, TAP is beginning a new chapter, and their focus must remain on the mission. Period." ∆∆
EDITORIAL

In the closing days of the campaign, we all deserve a pat on the back for the work that has been done and the victory that will be won! What more can be said? We all know someone we need to talk to. I'm making that commitment today to talk to people whose position I don't know on this important matter to our lives. How about you? Don't make assumptions. Get people to the polls. We are voting for our lives.

After following Carolyn Cosby around Maine for the last year and a half, from press conference to photo op, I became very familiar with her rhetoric. She (and Lockman) are fond of hyperbole, very fond. And they use words like, "hijack, fraud, bogus." Cosby writes sentences like, "The militant homosexual lobby is attempting something utterly unprecedented in the history of American politics." Thinking like that must make her feel important. She seems like a crisis-oriented gal.

I came to know her personality. It reminded me of the Queen of Hearts in "Alice in Wonderland." Cosby really is that type of ridiculous figure who inflates every situation, however ordinary, with bombastic rhetoric to feed her self-importance. And who, at the slightest provocation, would behead an offending underling. I can see her pacing around her kitchen, apron tightly in place and distring in hand, seeing visions of Angus King and Pat Peard and muttering, "Off with his/her head!"

Vote NO on question #1 . . .
It's a matter of justice!

To the Editor:
I would like to write in response to the ongoing salvo of Peabody House bashing in CPR and in various corners of the community. In July of this year, my partner (also named Bill) died at Peabody House. In addition, my practice as a counselor gives me a professional link with Peabody; as I sometimes counsel people with AIDS. I am concerned that we as a community are losing focus on two major points. First of all, Peabody House, with its professional and executive staff, is the best option of its kind in Portland for people with AIDS. Secondly, to engage in this polemic of ill-informed character assassination on the one hand and uncondemnation side-taking on the other takes the focus away from the real people being victimized by this nonsense, namely the very people who might need Peabody House the most.

AIDS is a horrible disease. In my own experience, there was nothing I could do to stop my partner from dying. Nothing. Where do we go with all the feelings of powerlessness, rage, fear, sadness? I would suggest that a lot of people put their emotional energy into the political in-fighting so often found in the gay community and in the AIDS caregiving community. It makes a great distraction, occupying our attention, distracting us for a time from the psychic pain of total devastation by a relentless retrovirus. When we fight among ourselves, we begin to serve the disease, rather than the people who have fallen prey to it. Haven't people with AIDS been devastated enough? Do we need to add our fear-mongering assaults?

Bill died at Peabody House in peace and comfort, surrounded by people who loved him and a professional and volunteer staff who supported us every step of the way... When we had concerns about Bill's care, the staff responded instantly. What more could we have asked for?

I believe personally and professionally that Peabody House is one of the best facilities of its kind around. It is an excellent option for people with AIDS who are sick and/or at risk of AIDS. It can provide a nurturing, comforting environment for the living, and a dignified place for the dying. Let's not get side-tracked by the drama of the past. Peabody House is not about dueling nurses, it's about people with AIDS. Let's not get our unhealthy needs met at the expense of people who need Peabody House the most.

Sincerely, Bill Barter, LCPC, Portland

To the Editor:
I was very disappointed to read the latest piece on Peabody House in your paper and find myself quoted out of context, implying I had been less than honest with your reporter last spring.

I am very unclear about why this happened as I welcomed him to call me at anytime and felt him to be curious and interested in presenting a balanced and researched piece. In fact, I enjoyed speaking with him and felt sure he would be in touch later regarding all the events...
MAIL BAG from page 10

and rumors floating around town.

To the Editor:

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Please send me a copy of CPR. I would be interested in writing for the publication, submitting an essay, or serving as an editorial, or advertising content, as all reasonable care is taken to prevent such errors. If an error has been spotted by anyone, please send a note to the PWA Mailbag to 300 words or less. Slightly longer and more composed submissions may be considered for a guest column in the PWA Coalition newsletter.

I write to you today because the People With AIDS Coalition of Maine is facing a severe financial crisis. Our last two major fund-raisers fell far short of our projected goals, and we are unable to meet our daily operating expenses. We have never been in a situation like this, and we may have to close our doors. This is very hard time of the year for people living with HIV/AIDS. The weather is getting colder, personal expenses are rising, and the holidays are approaching. Without your help, we must close by the end of October.

As we approach the holiday season, we need your support. I ask you to please add your name to the list of persons who each gave in order to make a difference in the lives of many.

Sincerely, E. Junia Seaman.
**OCTOBER - NOVEMBER '95 CALENDAR**

**Monday, October 23:**
- **7:00 PM -** Portland Chapter of Maine Won't Discriminate. St. Luke's Cathedral, 143 State St, FMI, 207/780-1333 or 207/786-1789.
- **7:00-8:00 PM -** Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/892-2192.
- **8:00 PM -** Benefit Concert for Maine Won't Discriminate, "Singing for our Lives" presented by the MWD Women's and Men's Chorus directed by Sonya Boyd and Bruce Pithian, St Luke's Cathedral, 159 State St, Portland. Tickets are $15 from MWD, Drop Me A Line, Amadus and at the door.
- **8:00-9:00 PM -** Women's Halloween Dance hosted by Northern Lambda Nord in VanBuren. FMI, 207/498-2088.

**Tuesday, October 24:**
- **5:30-7:30 PM -** Special Reception to celebrate what Maine Won't Discriminate has done and will do in the next two weeks. Sponsored by Cumwhood Country Chapter of MWD & held at the Pavilion (formerly Benoits) on Middle St, Portland. No charge. Food donated by Black Tie Catering, Bella Bella, Katahdin and Tabitha Jears. Kate St, ticket your stories and get nurtured before going back to battle. FMI, 207/977-0466.

**Wednesday, October 25:**
- **3:00-4:00 PM -** Lesbian and bisexual women's discussion/support group congregates in USM Portland Campus Women's Center, basement of Payson Smith Hall.
- **6:00-9:00 PM -** First session of one and a half day workshop, "Money in our Lives" led by Lu Bauer, CPA and Money Counselor. Group meets in West Falmouth Inn on October 28 from 9 am to 5 pm. FMI and cost, call 207/977-0466.
- **7:00-8:30 PM -** Free support group for those affected by HIV/AIDS. Held at Exeter (NH) Congregational Church, 20-30 feet above the forest floor. FMI, call Mike (603) 644-7658.

**Thursday, October 26:**

**Friday, October 27:**
- **7:00-9:00 PM -** Alliance for Sexual Diversity meetings at Portland Campus Women's Center in the Boiler Room (next to dining room) Open to absolutely everyone! FMI, 207/498-2088.

**Saturday, October 28:**
- **10:30-11:30 AM -** Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/892-2192.
- **1:00-2:00 PM -** Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Portland Campus Women's Center. FMI, Jana at 772-6559.

**Tuesday, October 31:**
- **1:00-2:00 PM & 7:00-9:00 PM -** Alliances for Sexual Diversity meetings at Portland Campus Women's Center, 398 Main St, Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.

**Wednesday, November 1:**
- **3:00-4:00 PM -** Lesbian and bisexual women's discussion/support group congregates in USM Portland Campus Women's Center, basement of Payson Smith Hall.

**Thursday, November 2:**
- **7:00-8:30 PM -** Free support group for advocates and supporters of lesbian and gay civil rights. Facilitated by Vivian Wadas and Jewel McHale at Womenspace Counseling Center, 236 Park Ave., Portland. Drop-in to vent and unwind, tell your stories and get nurtured before going back to battle. FMI, Vivian: 774-2403, Jewel: 773-4211.
- **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, November 3:**
- **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.
- **7:30-8:30 PM -** Women in Harmony choral group rehearsal, Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St, Portland. FMI, 207/286-8016 or 207/885-0995.
- **7:00-8:00 PM -** Portland chapter of MWD presents A Songbook Series at Portland Museum of Art. "Let's Misbehave!" with David Goulet and Rae Simmonds to the music of Johnny Mathis, tickets sold out everywhere! $10 admission includes food and soft drinks. Cash bar.

**Monday, November 6:**
- **7:00-8:00 PM -** Portland chapter of MWD presents Songs of Weill, Sondheim and Yeston. Pianist Edward Reichert. FMI, Jana at 772-0466.

**Tuesday, November 7:**
- **3:00-4:00 PM -** Lesbian and bisexual women's discussion/support group congregates in USM Portland Campus Women's Center, basement of Payson Smith Hall.

**Wednesday, November 8:**
- **7:30-8:30 PM -** Gay and lesbian AA Meeting at The Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St, Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.

**Thursday, November 9:**
- **7:30-9:00 PM -** The Matlovich Society presents an opportunity for us to refocus our anxiety on the approaching holidays. "I'll be Homo for the Holidays" is a panel in which you are invited to share true life stories of the best and worst of holiday memories. Also a time to plan for more joy in your holidays. Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St, Portland. Accessible to the mobility-impaired, free hotel parking.

**Friday, November 10:**
- **7:00-9:00 PM -** Portland chapter of MWD presents Community of Sisters, 4-5 Danforth St., Portland. If you work or you belong with RBPA. FMI, 207/775-0077.

**Saturday, November 11:**
- **10:30-11:30 AM -** Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/892-2192.
- **6:00-9:00 PM -** Northern Lambda Nord's Mexican Pot Luck Supper in New Sweden. FMI, 207/498-2088.

**Monday, November 13:**
- **6:30 PM -** Rainbow Business & Professional Association networking meeting at Sisters, 45 Danforth St., Portland. If you work, you belong with RBPA. FMI, 207/775-0077.

**Tuesday, November 14:**
- **1:00-2:00 PM & 7:00-9:00 PM -** Alliances for Sexual Diversity meetings at Portland Campus Women's Center (next to dining room) Open to absolutely everyone.

**Wednesday, November 15:**
- **7:00-9:00 PM -** Portland Chapter of FPLAG meets at Woodfords Congregational Church, Woodfords Corner. We are parents, friends and relatives of lesbians, bisexual, gay and gender-determined persons offering support and education. FMI, Rita-766-5158 or Sue-774-1443.

**Thursday, November 16:**
- **7:00-8:30 PM -** PFLAG: Seacoast, NH sponsoring "Connections," a support group for those affected by HIV/AIDS. Held at Exeter (NH) Congregational Church, 109 Main St, Exeter. Also held second Tuesday each month and are primarily for support, discussion and resource sharing. FMI, Ted-603/778-0102 or Ingrid-603/778-6271.

**Friday, November 17:**
- **7:30-9:00 PM -** Gay and lesbian AA Meeting at The Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St, Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.

**Wednesday, November 15:**
- **3:00-4:00 PM -** Lesbian and bisexual women's discussion/support group congregates in USM Portland Campus Women's Center, basement of Payson Smith Hall.
- **7:00-8:00 PM -** Portland Chaper of MWD presents a Songbook Series at Portland Museum of Art. "Let's Misbehave!" with David Goulet and Rae Simmonds to the music of Johnny Mathis, tickets $10. FMI, 207/773-0634.

**Saturday, November 4:**
- **1:00-2:00 PM -** Lesbian and bisexual women's discussion/support group congregates in USM Portland Campus Women's Center, basement of Payson Smith Hall.

**Saturday, November 4:**
- **8:00 PM -** Movie Night with the Portland Lambda Nord at The Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main Street, Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.
bisexual women's discussion/support group congregates in USM Portland Campus Women's Center, basement of Payson Smith Hall.

Thursday, November 16:

**7:00-9:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Drop-In and Open House at the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.**

**7:00 PM - East Mountain Sexual Sports clinic on "How to pack light." Sales associate Cooper Martin will give valuable tips for packing light. FMI, 207/722-6472. Note: Free for Scott Roberge.**

Friday, November 17:

**7:00-9:00 PM - Lesbian, gay and bisexual discussion group. First Universalist Church, 345 Broadway, Rockland. Topic: "Spiritual beliefs." Speaker/facilitator is Alan Paul Curtis. FMI, 207/594-2975.**

**8:00 PM - Big 2 Do Productions presents a Songbook Series at Portland Museum of Art. "3 Divas Part Deux" for details.**

Saturday, November 18:

**7:30-8:30 PM - Chiltern Mountain Club plays touch football in Watertown, MA. FMI, 2192.**

**10:30-11:30 AM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Portland.**

**7:00-8:00 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women's Center. FMI, Jana at 772-6592.**

Monday, November 19:

**7:00-8:00 PM - Lesbian, gay and bisexual women's discussion/support group in USM Portland Campus Women's Center, basement of Payson Smith Hall.**

**7:00-9:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Drop-In and Open House at the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.**

**10:30-11:30 AM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Portland.**

**10:30-11:30 AM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Portland.**

**7:00-8:00 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Portland.**

Tuesday, November 21:

**7:30-8:30 PM - Gay and lesbian AA Meeting at The Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.**

Wednesday, November 22:

**3:00-4:00 PM - Lesbian and bisexual women's discussion/support group in USM Portland Campus Women's Center, basement of Payson Smith Hall.**

**7:00-9:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Drop-In and Open House at the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.**

Friday, November 24:

**1:8:00 PM - Big 2 Do Productions presents a Songbook Series at Portland Museum of Art. "The Maine AIDS Quilt Songbook" will benefit the Maine Chapter of The NAMES Project featuring Maine composers John Alexander, Bruce Frithian and Rita Kissin. Tickets are $10. FMI, 207/773-0634.**

Organization wishing to have their meetings and events published in the CPR calendar must submit typed or clearly written notice one month prior to the event. Next deadline is November 1st.
GENERAL
ML/GPA is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the general public, politicians, and media on LGJ issues. Primarily a lobbying organization in Maine's political process, promote civil rights, develop and review legislation, endorse candidates, build a coalition, and further gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends. 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 transgendered persons, their families 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 accessible to the mobility-impaired. Call 207/761-2088.

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 in Maine. Meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 5 pm at the Community Counseling Ctr., 343 Forest Ave., Portland. FMI call Perry Sutherland, 877-1030.

HATE CRIMES & BIAS INCIDENTS: Have you or someone you know been a victim of hate crimes? Contact the Maine Department of the Attorney General 862-8444.

Citizens Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights (CAGLR): New Hampshire's oldest progressive gay/lesbian civil rights organization, welcomes all those interested in going to weekly meetings, programs, socials and various other events. Newsletter. Call Info-line (603) 224-1686 or write PO Box 730, Concord, NH 03302-0780.

The Rainbow Business & Professional Association: a statewide, non-profit organization established to create a gay, lesbian, and bisexual "chapter" of community business Maine. Meetings are for networking or dinner with speaker events, held in the Greater Portland area, second Monday of the month. FMI write PO Box 6627, Scarborough, ME 04070-6627, call 207.775.0135 or e-mail wildboys@mainelink.net.

MUSIC & ART
Women in Harmony is an eclectical choral ensemble open to all women regardless of age, race, religion, or sexual orientation. If you are interested in singing, volunteering organizational skills, send SASE (including your phone number) to P.O. Box 5136 Sia. A, Portland, ME 04101, or call 207/774-4940.

Maine Gay Men's Chorus is a community chorus which brings men together to enhance social tolerance and diversity in the Greater Portland area, as well as affirming the gay/lesbian experience with creative and lively musical entertainment. FMI call 883-8090 or write M.G.M.C., P.O. Box 10591, Portland, ME 04104.

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

PHONE SUPPORT
Region by region

National Center for Lesbian Rights Youth Projects: 1-800-528-NCLR.

Boston Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Youth Services: 1-800-347-TEEN.

National Hotline for gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender youth: 1-800-242-4673.

The AIDS Lines: 1-800-451-AIDS or 775-1257.

HIV/AIDS related questions, call Mon.-Sat. 9 am-5 pm, Mon.-Wed. evenings until 7:30 pm. Anonymous.

DIAD: KIDS: 774-TALK. For lesbian, gay, bi & questioning youth under 19 years.

Ingram Volunteers: Call 774-HELP (4357).

The AIDS Project: 774-6877. Located at 142 High St., 6th floor, Portland 04101. Call for information and support group meetings in Portland, Lewiston, Brunswick.


Waldoboro: AIDS Coalition: 338-1427.


Bridgton: Community Task Force on AIDS: 583-6608.


Wells: Education & Prevention Coalition: 775-3820.

Waterville: Dayspring: 626-3432.


Mid coast: Gay men's HELP Line: 600-90-00 (only) M-F: 207/863-2728, FAX, 207/860-2794. Also, gay youth info.

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG)

In contacts in Maine

(* indicates monthly meetings)

Augusta/Hallowell: 623-2349.

Bangor/Brewer: 980-5180.

Brunswick/Bath: 729-0519.


 Lewiston/Auburn: 783-9789.

Maine Bisexual People's Network, PO Box 1124, Keene, NH 03431.

Identity Support

Women's Center - Belfast - Weekly meetings, 5A Main St., 2nd floor (above Juret & Co.). FMI, 338-5702. Group meets every Wednesday, 6:15 pm. Women's Spirituality Gatherings, Mondays 7:00 pm.

NA: Meetings for today every Monday, 8:15 pm at St. Luke's Cathedral, Bar Harbor, ME. FMI, 386-9230.

Out and About - a lesbian support group, meets on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7:00 pm, United Methodist Church, 129 Miller Ave., Portland, ME. FMI, 386-9230.


Harborview Society : 765-0472.

P-FLAG: Celebrates the 72nd birthday of our primary ministry with gay and lesbian people and strives to be inclusive of all persons. Worship on Saturdays at 4:00 PM at Immortal Baptiz Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI, 773-7526 or write PO Box 6301, Portland, ME 04104.

Community 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, 773-7526 or write PO Box 6301, Portland, ME 04104.

TransSupport Group: meets third Monday at 5:15 pm at St. Luke's Cathedral (Emmanuel Chapel). Portland. All are welcome. FMI, 773-7672 or 583-6608.

The Appollo Society: an outreach, networking and social organizing for New England's gay and lesbian atheists, free-thinkers, ethical humanists and Heathens. Free speech/civil rights advocacy group offering freedom-from-religion support, religious de-programming and fun! FMI, 773-5726 or write PO Box 6301, Portland, ME 04104.

Maine Gay Men's Support Group: Tuesdays from 7-8:30 pm. Call 257-5928 or write 422-6642-4254.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Discussion Group: 1st and 3rd Fridays each month, 7-9 PM. First Universalist Church, 345 Broadway, Rockland, ME. FMI, Larry Godfrey, (207) 565-5930.

O-Squad: Support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, & transgendered. Serving Franklin County, based at UM Farmington. FMI, call and leave message, (207) 778-7340.

TransSupport Group: Meets regularly, providing confidential support, education and social activities for cross-dressers, transsexuals, their families, friends, others interested in gender dysphoria issues. FMI, New England Trans Support, P.O. Box 17622, Portland, ME, 04112.

Gender Talk North: PO Box 211, Keene, NH 03431.

Chambers: Counseling Chambers Assoc., PO Box 1124, Keene, NH 03431.

Out and About: Strong social/support group. FMI, call 603/472-4494.

Community 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, 773-7526 or write PO Box 6301, Portland, ME 04104.

Women Surivors of Childhood Abuse: Support group for survivors of childhood abuse and/or sexual assault meets Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3 PM. Free, confidential, self-1ocated. FMI and location call (207) 874-6598. Sponsored by USM's Women's Forum.

Maine Bisexual People's Network: Meets to affirm 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 1081, 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/honouring committed, non-monogamous relationships. Whether curious or already multiple mates, call 773-6312 FMI.

Wilde-Stin Club: Meets every Thursday and Friday evenings for entertainment, union, Sutton Lounge, UM at Orono.

Lesbian/Bisexual Support Groups: Meets every Thursday, 7-9 PM, at Women's Resource Center 101 Fernald Hall II at UM Orono.

COMMUNITY PRIDE RESOURCES
FMI call (207) 581-1425

Seacoast Gay Men: Social group meets Mondays (except holidays), 7:00 at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Portsmouth, NH. FMI call (603) 430-4052, or write P.O. Box 1394, Portsmouth 03802-1394.

Dover, NH: Gay Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender support group meets Sundays 7-8pm, Quaker Meeting House, Central Ave. Social events too. FMI, call Katie at 603/745-2202.

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

Bangor Lesbian Support Group: This Lesbian Support Group welcomes anyone who self-identifies as a lesbian. They seek to create a woman-only, lesbian-positive space to explore issues and affirm themselves and each other as lesbians. Confidentiality, open-mindedness and respect are required. Meets 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month. FMI: write P.O. Box 1394, Portsmouth 03802.

S.N.A.P.: A support group for men & women healing from sexual abuse. Call Jane O'Rourke at 774-6877 or 1-800-851-2437 for more information. P.O. Box 842, Portsmouth, ME 03801.


OUTRIGHT/Central Maine: Workshops, confidential, special meetings for gay, lesbian, bisexual youth ages 16-22, FMI call 207/947-5393.

OUTRIGHT/Portland: Meets every Friday from 7-30-930 pm at The People's Place, 1505 Congress St., Portland ME 04101. Call 725-4955.

OUTRIGHT/Seacoast: Meets every Friday from 7 to 9 pm at the Unitarian Church annex building adjacent to the fire station, 206 Court St., Portsmouth NH. FMI call Teeline at 1-800-659-6905 or write P.O. Box 842, Portsmouth NH 03801.

F.A.T.E. Fight AIDS-Transform Education: A project of ACT UP/Portland whose purpose is to demand better HIV/AIDS education and combat homophobia in all Maine public schools; to form empowering groups for teens by teens and to create a context in which pro-teen, pro-gay groups are able to change the educational policies in their individual school districts. Straight or gay, boy or girl, HIV-, black, brown or white. All welcome. FMI on how to contact or how to organize in your school district, contact F.A.T.E. PO Box 1931, Portland, ME 04104 Phone 207/775-4844.

COLAGE: A national support group run by and for the children of gay, lesbian or bisexual parents. FMI, COLAGE, 2300 Market St., #165, Dept. P, San Francisco, CA 94114.

HIV Related Support Meetings: Portland:

- Monday: People Living with HIV disease and all friends, families, partners & caregivers, 10:30 am, none
- 2nd & 4th Tuesdays: Living Well focusing on quality of life and empowerment. 1st Wednesday: PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support), 5:30 pm. Call 774-PAWS.

- Thursday: People living with HIV disease from 5:30-7 pm.

- 2nd Thursday: Client Advisory Board, open to all clients of The AIDS Project, 1:30 pm. The above Portland support groups meet at The AIDS Project, 124 High St, 6th floor, except the Tuesday group, Living Well.

Thursday: People living with HIV disease from 5:30-7 pm.

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

- Tuesday: People Living with HIV disease, 1:30-5:00 pm, 32 Winthrop St., Augusta, ME 04333. FMI, call 725-4955.

- Thursday: People Living with HIV disease, 1:30-5:00 pm, 7th Floor, 32 Winthrop St., Augusta, ME 04333. FMI, call 725-4955.

- Wednesday: People with AIDS Support Group, 5:30-7:00 pm at Mexico Congregational Church, Main Street, Mexico. Call 364-8603.

- Thursday: People Living with HIV disease, 1:30-5:00 pm at 32 Winthrop St., Augusta, ME 04333. FMI, call 725-4955.

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The month of October was welcomed with an appearance by Jonatha Brooke & The Story at Raoul's in Portland. "Plumb," is the latest album by The Story on Blue Thumb records, and this was the fifth stop on the band's tour. They have a great opening act in "Toy Story" on Blue Thumb records, setts, Amherst, I think, and began playing by Toe Story on Blue Thumb records signed them and re-released "Grace in Gravity."

About a year or so later Elektra records signed them and re-released "Grace in Gravity." This album's title track is one of their signature songs and it tells the true story of a black dancer traveling in South Africa with a white friend. One car accident later, the white man is rushed to the nearest hospital while his friend is left at the side of the road for hours before getting to a hospital that would admit him. Today, this man is a choreographer in New York City, where he is able to convey his directions successfully using the spoken word, as that accident left him paralyzed.

The other song, "Dog Dreams" is the humorous tale of dog antics and well, dog dreams, told in the voice of a dog about his adventures with Rex through the neighborhood trash cans and swamps.

Jonatha Brooke's gift for songwriting is captured even better on their second album, "The Angel in the House." This will go down in the books as one of the most excellent albums that will ever be in my collection. In fact, musician Bruce Cockburn told Jonatha in a fan letter that even if she never wrote anything again she would have achieved a remarkable thing. Cockburn ended up singing several songs on "Plumb." Essentially, every song Brooke has written possesses some great quality which makes the albums always enjoyable and rarely repetitive. "Plumb" is no exception to this.

There was something amazing about Jonatha and Jennifer's combined voices, and either one of them could hold you in the palm of their hands on their own. "So Much Mine" is perhaps their most well known song, so far. It's about Brooke's relationship with her mother, and I suspect it's applicable to many other people's lives. "The Gilded Cage," "Love Song" and "Angel in the House" are three other tracks that still

by Ainsel Ponti

The month of October was welcomed with an appearance by Jonatha Brooke & The Story at Raoul's in Portland. "Plumb," is the latest album by The Story on Blue Thumb records, and this was the fifth stop on the band's tour. They have a great opening act in Kevin Gilbert who goes along with them. Jonatha Brooke and I got to chat about what's been happening over the last year during an interview in "Alice" the tour bus. Before going into the show and the album, I think I'd better fill in a few gaps about the history of The Story, which spans more than ten years. Way back when, Jonatha Brooke and Jennifer Kimball met at college in Massachusetts, Amherst, I think, and began playing together. After a few years, "Grace in Gravity" was released on an independent label and The Story had firmly established a name for themselves, receiving radio air-play at stations in that area, including the show I hosted on WKNH in New Hampshire.

About a year or so later Elektra records signed them and re-released "Grace in Gravity." This album's title track is one of their signature songs and it tells the true story of a black dancer traveling in South Africa with a white friend. One car accident later, the white man is rushed to the nearest hospital while his friend is left at the side of the road for hours before getting to a hospital that would admit him. Today, this man is a choreographer in New York City, where he is able to convey his directions successfully using the spoken word, as that accident left him paralyzed.

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by J. H. Morgan

Trouble with the law has done good things for some English novels. And now, after a well-publicized lawsuit, "While England Sleeps," David Leavitt's third novel, will be "re-published" in a new and revised form. The lawsuit involved the late poet Sir Stephen Spender's allegations that Leavitt had lifted material from Spender's autobiography "World Within World," published in 1951. In the preface to this new edition, Leavitt explains in detail his side of the story and raises searching questions about the role of history's legacy in fiction, ownership and control of the creative process, freedom of the imagination, and the need for a legal process that, for Leavitt at least, bordered on censorship. As a novel about the intersection of the personal and the political, its message is especially appropriate to our own times. In his preface, Leavitt states that he hopes the book "will finally be read the way it was intended to be read: as a novel." The story is simple and familiar: against the backdrop of the Spanish Civil War and the impending World War, two young Englishmen in 1936 are drawn into the machinations of Aunt Constance and agree to meet a certain Philippa Archibald, whom Leavitt describes as "responsible," she turns out to be much more appealing and free-spirited than Brian suspected and that no one would ever give a shit. It was really wild. I don’t think I’d ever been that low before in my life," said Brooke. Much credit to Jonatha for being able to

See The Story, page 21

Books on Review:

White England Sleeps
Author: David Leavitt
Publisher: Houghton Mifflin
284 pages
Cost: $11.95

by J. H. Morgan

Trouble with the law has done good things for some English novels. And now, after a well-publicized lawsuit, "While England Sleeps," David Leavitt's third novel, will be "re-published" in a new and revised form. The lawsuit involved the late poet Sir Stephen Spender's allegations that Leavitt had lifted material from Spender's autobiography "World Within World," published in 1951. In the preface to this new edition, Leavitt explains in detail his side of the story and raises searching questions about the role of history's legacy in fiction, ownership and control of the creative process, freedom of the imagination, and the need for a legal process that, for Leavitt at least, bordered on censorship. As a novel about the intersection of the personal and the political, its message is especially appropriate to our own times. In his preface, Leavitt states that he hopes the book "will finally be read the way it was intended to be read: as a novel." The story is simple and familiar: against the backdrop of the Spanish Civil War and the impending World War, two young Englishmen in 1936 are drawn into the machinations of Aunt Constance and agree to meet a certain Philippa Archibald, whom Leavitt describes as "responsible," she turns out to be much more appealing and free-spirited than Brian suspected and that no one would ever give a shit. It was really wild. I don't think I'd ever been that low before in my life," said Brooke. Much credit to Jonatha for being able to

See The Story, page 21

Chet Atkins

For tickets call: (207) 879-1112
Major Credit Cards accepted
I've known about Ani DiFranco for a few years and remember playing her songs on a radio show I hosted back in New Hampshire. In fact, I recall that she played at my own school, Keene State College, and I opted not to go. I've always liked her, sort of. Who else do you know who has recorded and produced seven albums on their own label, and has sold over 175,000 CD's and tapes?

But, it wasn't until the evening of September 26 at Bowdoin's Pickard Theater that I realized why a track from her latest release, "Not a Pretty Girl," started the show off and immediately she had the crowd in the palm of her sweet hand. The house lights were left on just enough so that she could see us and we could see her which added to the already very comfortable rapport she instantly established. So there she was belting out, "You think you're not worthy, I'd have to say I agree. I'm not worthy of you, you're not worthy of me," to a sold-out crowd comprised mostly of women and men in their early 20's who seem to worship her, yet not have her up on a star-studded pedestal.

She's devastatingly adorable and writes excellent music. See her live. She tours mostly of women and men in their early 20s who seem to worship her, yet not have her up on a star-studded pedestal. However, if you've seen her live, you know that DiFranco's music, often referred to as acoustic folk-punk, can drive away like a truck. The black electrical tape around her fingers is to help hold on the fake nails she applies nightly so as to better slam on her guitar.

I've never seen such a display of fast-paced guitar picking. She wails and produces a sound that is uniquely her own. Add to that her sometimes raspy and wild and sometimes calm and pretty voice. DiFranco's songwriting is something to talk about as well. Her show songs are destined to end up on more than one Aimee-mixed-tape-of-melan-choley- yet-uplifting music. The songs "Hour follows Hour" and "Not a Pretty Girl," to name two, are like hearing little pieces of DiFranco's life. You know something else, she's not yet 25 years old. The future, already paved with offers from those big record labels, to the girl from Buffalo, New York, will surely provide more food for thought and songwriting. Look for DiFranco's albums on her own label, Righteous Babe Records.

In the song "Not A Pretty Girl," Ani says, "I don't really want to be a pretty girl, I want to be more than a pretty girl." She doesn't have to worry about either. She's devastatingly adorable and writes excellent music. See her live. She tours often.

"1200 Curfews" by the Indigo Girls

by Aimee Ponti

As if the month of October hasn't already seen enough incredible new releases by several great musicians, now we get the icing on the cake with "1200 Curfews," the new double-live album from Amy and Emily, the Indigo Girls. "It's not enough that Tracy Chapman, Shawn Colvin, Cowboy Junkies, k.d. Lang, The Story and Joan Armatrading have all offered their new music this month. That alone would be enough to push any music fan over the edge. "1200 Curfews" contains almost 130 minutes of live music, recorded on the Swamp Ophelia tour as well as from different shows over the years, including one rarity recorded in Amy Ray's basement in 1982.

One of the most powerful aspects of this album is the selection of cover songs from Dylan's "Tangled Up In Blue" to Buffy Sainte-Marie's "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee," to not mention a truly inspirational cover of "Midnight Train to Georgia," with Gail Ann Dorsey's vocals helping out. You pretty much have to stop what you're doing and get up and do a Gladys Knight impor.

Hey, I just did, and it wasn't half bad. Actually, I'd probably make a better Pip.

Anyway, "1200 Curfews" is packed with 23 tracks, everything from the classic Indigo sing-along song "Closer To Fine" to live versions of personal favorites "Strange Fire" and "Language or the K.I.S.S." The liner notes contain brief explanations and comments on each track written by Ray and Saliers. It's great that they took the time to do this for their fans. For example, this is what Amy Ray wrote about Emily's song "Love's Recovery:" "It's hard enough to keep a straight relationship together...imagine being gay. It's a struggle to find a church, state or popu-

lation that recognizes the validity of a gay marriage. I don't know what Emily was thinking when she wrote this song, but it has always inspired and empowered me on a community level as well as a personal one." This album is probably the best that 1995 has to offer, and I feel confident saying that even knowing that Me-

Lisa Etheridge's new album comes out in November. The passion and the sin-

ger of Amy Ray and Emily Saliers seems to, all their fans, genuine and un-

changed over the years of continued suc-

cess. "1200 Curfews" is an amazing col-

lection of their music, with many of the songs being previously un-released.

Look for their concert which will air on the Disney Channel (Who has it and who's taping it for me?) as well as "Wa-

tershed," a very cool collection of inter-

views and video footage.

"All You Can Eat" - k.d. Lang's latest

by Aimee Ponti

The approach I took on this album is completely different from anything else I've ever done...more ambient and ethereal. I moved from the outside of songs and worked inward until I reached the center, where the words and music became very straight­forward and direct," says Lang of her newest album. I would have to agree. This record takes a very direct, honest approach, leaving you believing every word Lang belts out. Although I have heard many rather negative comments about the album's title, "All you can Eat," it does represent a new beginning for Lang. This is a record that hooks you immediately with "If I were You." "If I could always be Miss Congenial-

ity, no one could stand to be away from me," declares Lang.

Lang's "Ingenue" album from 1992, which earned her a Grammy for the classic "Constant Craving," captivates in one way, while this new offering does so in quite another. There's a groove throughout this album, and a certain playfulness, not to mention a defi-

nite sexual theme. "Kiss away the ones who say the lust you feel is wrong, how bad could it be if you amuse yourself with me?" asks Lang in one of my fa-

dorite tracks, "Sexuality." I'm re-

mined of "Just Keep Me Movin'," from Lang's last album, the soundtrack from "Even Cowgirls Get the Blues," when I hear the new song "Get Some." It's k.d. Lang, and you can dance to it.

Lang would be a good spokesper-

son for Maine Won't Discriminate with the song "Acquiesce." "These immoral questions, this trial of faith that we go through. Fuel of our oppression is the fuel of freedom too," seems to be Lang's first musical commentary on the is-
EDITORIAL or whatever

Hello again. Well, this is the second month of Our Voice, and I will say it is going well. I don’t really have anything to whine or complain about this month so I guess you can feel lucky. As I hope you have noticed, we have our own special cartoon! Cool beans. Anyway, if you have any ideas on what to call this section, PLEASE send them in along with any writing, drawings or photographs! ANYTHING that has to do with gay youth. I guess I’m done now... time for bed.
I apologize for any mistakes in this section, but it’s around 1:00 AM and I have school tomorrow.

For now!  Sage

Letter to the Editor-
Our Voice

Dear Sage,

Since you go to my school and I know you’ve been through a lot of problems, I thought that you might be the one to talk to. I’m gay and I’ve known it since 3rd grade, but I’ve always been too afraid of what would happen if I came out. I did take a chance and sold a close friend and nothing has happened yet, but there still is that need, urge, to stop acting like someone I’m not. I don’t want to have to feel like I have to talk about breast sizes in the locker room. My male friends are also asking questions because I haven’t gone out with a girl since 6th grade.

Also, I want my parents to know me for me, but they are religious and I don’t know what would happen if they knew. I don’t like hiding but I see no other way. Help.

Signed: A lost soul.

Dear Lost soul,

I really don’t know what to tell you. The coming out process is a lot longer than just “I’m here and I am queer as a three dollar bill.” You have to come out to yourself and accept yourself before you can expect others to accept and respect you. In ways, I’m still coming out. In different ways at different times you will come out. Now, on coming out to your friends and parents, I suggest talking about homosexuality with them first. Asking them what they think of it. You can even use the mystery friend excuse: “I have a friend and...” If you get a response you like, then that person might be someone who you might want to come out to. Just be careful who knows. Try to make sure they are trustworthy so as to avoid being outed. Besides that, I don’t know. You need to find the way for yourself, but you shouldn’t have to keep hiding. And you parents should love you just because you are you and you are their kid. Flesh and blood. Being gay shouldn’t matter. Sometimes it does, sometimes it doesn’t. I wish you the best of luck, and that you find happiness.

Signed: A lost soul.

REVIEWS

Music:
by J.N., South Portland

“Take Mr Higher” by Diana Ross...

Diana Ross has come back with her 21st solo album, “Take Mr Higher.” She remakes the 1979 classic, “I Will Survive,” and covers a Babfayce song, “Keep It Right There.” The “lost diva” finally returns to her R & B roots. She even has a hit single with the title track. Check it out.

“Take Mr Higher”***1/2

Book:
Am I Blue? edited by Marion Dane Bauer

This book of short stories about coming out, or realizing your gay, is wonderfully written and colorfully descriptive. Funny, but also moving at the same time. The stories make you think, and remember times gone by.

“Am I Blue?”***1/2

Survey Results

by Sage H-L

I have just completed a survey that I administered (by asking questions) to different people throughout Deering High School. I also tried reaching Portland High School, but my calls weren’t answered.

I interviewed six young women who attend Deering (no men would volunteer to be interviewed), they each gave varied responses to all my questions which were the same for everyone.

Question: “Do you think the gay “life-style” is a normal “life-style?”

“I don’t really have a definition of normal,” said Amanda Johnson, “But knowing as many gay people as I do, I would consider it normal.”

Kim Fullerton said, “Yeah. Well, not normal to a so called perfect world.”

“I think the life-style you choose is normal to you. It may differ from what other life-styles are, but everyone can’t be the same,” said D.Moss.

Question: “Do you think homosexuality is wrong?”

“It’s everyone’s right to be gay or lesbian or bi. Homosexuality has been around for thousands of years. The ancient Greeks didn’t say you can’t be Greek because you are gay,” said D.Moss.

Question: “If you had a friend who comes out to you, would you continue to be their friend or would you think of them differently?”

“I would still be their friend and I would think of them as a very brave person,” responded Tara Foley.

“I wouldn’t think of them any differently. They would become better friends. Better asset to my shopping needs,” said Kim.

“From my experience,” said D.Moss, “I would stick by my friend and help him/her through relations and being taunted. Friendship is more than just about beliefs, it’s about a feeling.”

Amanda said, “I would still be their friend, but I would think of them differently. I wouldn’t discriminate against them, but I would still feel different about them because things wouldn’t be the same. I don’t know why I feel this way.”

Question: “Do you know anyone who is gay, lesbian or bisexual? If so, what do you think of this person?”

Tara answered, “The person I know is brave and puts up with too much shit, is a little sweetie and has a nice mind, heart and soul.”

“Yeah, several. These people are nice. They are my friends, and what they do behind closed doors doesn’t change anything,” said D.Moss.

“Yes,” said Shyla Cameron, “Kind hearted, understanding, all around cool person with the best shoes!”

“I think they express their feelings better than a straight person would,” said Amanda.

Question: Do you think Deering High is homophobic?

“Yes I do,” said Shyla, “I actually think it’s disgusting.”

“Deering has a minimal acceptance for gays and lesbians,” said D.Moss.

Question: Are you supportive of “gay rights?”

“Yes, I am,” says Amanda. “But I don’t think they should have special rights. Just equal rights. Everyone is equal and their rights should be too.”

Is there anything else you would like to say?

“The gay community is strong, but weak when it wants special rights. In a way it is an abuse of power. The ones who want special rights should be satisfied with equal rights instead of oppression,” said D.Moss.

Also, last year in Deering’s school paper, Ramblings, Jonathan Volk did an article about Deering and its homophobia. I also asked him a few questions.

Why did you write the article?

“I attended the sexuality seminars and after what happened to one of the speakers, I saw a need to write it.”

What, if any, response did you get from the student population in Deering?

“There is defiantly a large amount of supportive students. A lot of support and a few people who are homophobic, and a few who are ignorant enough to act on it.”

My personal view on all of this is different. After I was outed by another student last year, I was verbally harassed and even beaten at times. It is much better this year. What I didn’t realize is that kids aren’t going to just give their individual support, but will give it if their group gives it. It is sad that it works this way, but it still is better than no support at all.

How do you feel about these questions and responses? Write in! OUR VOICE, Community Pride Reporter, 142 High Street, Suite #623, Portland, Maine 04101.

OUR VOICE for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and questioning youth of today
Nightingale in the rain

Anonymous

The bell rang and Kyle got up to leave. He refused to go to his locker in fear of being harassed. He had his coat with him all day and he buttoned it as he left school.

The rain was falling fast and furious. It was a cold rain. Colder than the hand no one would hold. He walked home already drenched by the rain. Its weight on him was like the rain. Its weight on him was like the

"God, I'm sorry hon," Forest said. "And if my parents ever find out I'm gay, they'll kill me."

"Come here," Forest said. "Your boyfriend and I'm not going to let anything bad happen to you anymore."

Kyle cried and rested in Forest's loving arms while the rain fell and a car pulled up in the driveway with a bumper sticker saying, "My kid is an honor student at Noble High."

To be continued?

A Poem

"Why?"

by Vanessa Morgan

Why does love have a gender? Why does love have a color? How can I be free to discover While a lot of them seek to oppress? I'll be the first to let them be who they want to be, the first to reply when they prod and question me.

I don't mind if they can't love what they see. But, after them they've actually met me. If I'm a good friend, then mixed messages then may be sent.

I'll go on loving like I do. Some will continue to try to black and blue. The very soul that dwells inside of you. They will become enraged when they can't find it, or make it tattooed. But, their needles won't break through the epidermis of me and you.

All of the shocking taboos That are no longer hidden, no longer forbidden. And some see that what we are today is what we've been for so long, on the dimension of the sexual continuum.

An introduction to "Livermore Falls"

Welcome to the wonderful world of Livermore Falls. This cartoon strip is no ordinary piece of work. Livermore Falls may be an actual town in Maine, but when deciding upon the strip's title, the co-creator, Sage H-L., agreed that it sounded real and somehow "worked.

Some characters are fairly realistic, yet some are truly exaggerated. But who cares? It's a freakin' cartoon and the wackiness is the cast of characters. Throughout the issues, you'll eventually familiarize yourself with each and every one of them.

Bethany Rose-wears glasses, is mature and a real journalist. She's constantly wishing she was a little more exciting.

Larry Silver-he's... the pimple. He drives a light yellow 1980 El Dorado, is always looking for employees and clients. Everyone knows when this sleazy guy comes around with his license plate, Andover, Maine, comes into view.

Chloe Greenwod- no one has more air between their ears than her! She's got short, blond hair and wears extravagant clothes. You can't miss her!

Justin Harris-he's way too cool for everyone (or so he thinks). This superhuman has blond hair and a calm, greenish-blue eye.

Stephanie Beaudoph-umm... bitch! Everyone loves to hate this teen model. She parties with everyone (or so she thinks). This superhuman has blond hair and a greenish eye.

Hancock Benson-he's the school jerk'n'jock. Clowns around and never shuts up. Look for the "Absolute!" shirts. That's him!

Charlotte Bingham-Ahh. Sweet, pristine, innocent little Charlotte. This little cutie only wears white.

Biff Richards-don't get this football jock mad! His I.Q. may be identi-

cal to his age, but he knows how to make pulp!

Ben Furlong-he's an embarrassment to rap and everyone! What a freak! Oh!?

Gabriel Johnston-he's out of the closet and rarin' to go! Notice the great hair and his sense of style!

Eva "Aurora" Borealis-raver alert! She comes complete with pig tails, tiny tee, and a butterscotch lolly!

Bonnie Lawrence- You will hear her saying "I'm so fat!" the most. Never fails! This cheerleader can be caught fighting with Brady about who's more underweight. Talk about obnoxious!

Brady Lincoln-Brady's new to the area, and not only Eva's love interest, but secretly Gabriel's too! He bears an nifty black cap and fawns over Bananarama.

Una "Digits" Sebastian-cyber punk overload. When she's not gabbing on AOL or faxing someone, she's talking cyber talk. I hope you enjoy Livermore Falls as much as we did making it. Convert to a different kind of comic-for as Bethany would say, "Normal is boring. Get Absormal."

-Dara

C.K. & Crisco

by S.H.L., Portland

Last Friday when I was still ill and possibly dying (I don't know), my friend Dara brutally beat me into going to Freeport with her after school since she had just gotten her license. So, after being beaten to a bloody pulp (not really, but oh well), I got into her car and we took off at the fast speed of 25 miles per hour to Freeport. On the way she had the volume all the way up and I was forced to listen to music I hate with a passion.

On the way she told me that there was a Calvin Klein outlet near L.L. Bean, and as you've probably guessed, I freaked out. Calvin Klein... the greatest designer of underwear the world has ever known, has an outlet in Freeport! So, I flung my arms up in the air and screamed, "hurray!"

After dashing up the stairs in 2.5 seconds, Dara came trotting up, but obviously didn't comprehend the concept of the temple we were in, I danced to the hand no one would hold. He

The rain was falling fast and furious. It's weight on him was like the rain. Its weight on him was like the

"God, I'm sorry hon," Forest

"Come here," Forest

"Your boyfriend and I'm not going to let anything bad happen to you anymore."

Kyle cried and rested in Forest's loving arms while the rain fell and a car pulled up in the driveway with a bumper sticker saying, "My kid is an honor student at Noble High."

To be continued?
Chew on This: Standing your ground

by Rose Mary Denman

"Standing your ground." This is one of the governing tenets of Buddhism that I learned while living in a Buddhist community for a year. In fact, one was not considered ready for "ordination" until it was evident that one could "stand one's ground." I think this is a good tenet for any of us to attempt to adhere to, regardless of religious affiliation...and it is an ideal toward which I strive, even though I am no longer a member of a Buddhist community.

Think about it for a moment. "Standing your ground" means not allowing ourselves to be swayed by the pressures to conform, pressures that assail us from what would appear to be every direction at times. It means getting clear on what's important and what can be compromised. It means being still long enough to begin to know our own hearts and minds enough so that we can "stand our ground." It also means being willing to take risks.

Someone once gave me a postcard with a picture on it of a group of penguins standing on the edge of a cliff. One little fellow has just leapt off; the others are just standing there, almost as if they are watching to see what will happen to their friend before they make any decisions about going over the edge. I keep this postcard where I can see it often throughout the day. It reminds me of how I have chosen to live in an increasingly intentional manner each day.

My experience has been that living intentionally is rarely easy. There's an old saying that "The road to hell is paved with good intentions." That's not the kind of intentions to which I'm referring. You know what I mean - "always intended to take a helium balloon ride..." the kind of intention that was simply a wisp of fantasy. I'm referring to the kind of intention which is born from within our very center, the kind of intention that is backed by the willingness to go to whatever length necessary to see the fulfillment of that intention, the kind of intention that takes not only heart, but also a strong will.

"Standing your ground" means not allowing our minds to be dominated by pressures to conform, pressures that assault us from what would appear to be every direction at times. It means getting clear on what's important and what can be compromised. I recently listened to a tape by Carolyn Paris in which she stated that if we make choices which are incongruent with what we believe as truth, it will eventually lead to sickness and disease. I believe this statement wholeheartedly. Whenever I have failed to "stand my ground" on an issue that held great importance to me, it has often led to sleepless nights, getting into the wrong kinds of food, feeling stressed and, eventually, to a cold, the flu, allergies, or major headaches.

Slowly I am learning that it is best to simply stand my ground. In the long run, it's certainly the easiest, most productive way to live. It is also beginning to feel like the most freeing. 

OUT OF TOWN!

by Paul T. Bernard

I recently had the opportunity to attend a day-long seminar in Boston on gay, lesbian, and bisexual travel. It was conducted by The Marketing Department, a San Francisco marketing company that deals with gay businesses.

The seminar was attended by about 60 travel agents from all over New England. What surprised me the most was that over 75% of those who attended were not gay, but were interested in marketing to the gay and lesbian market.

At the beginning of the seminar, each person told about themselves, giving a description of their experience with the gay/lesbian market. I told the group that 40% of my business was gay and lesbians. One of the agents attending was an agent from Bangor. When she heard me give the statistics about my business, she came over to talk to me. She said that she knew she had gay clients but didn't know how to reach them or what to offer them. I told her that she was making the first step by attending the seminar and that she would learn how to identify her gay clients and what kinds of products and services to offer them.

I came away from that seminar amazed at how "main-stream" the gay travel market has become. In addition to seminars on gay travel, many of the major travel trade newspapers have been featuring the gay/lesbian travel market. Later this month, I will be attending the 2nd National Gay/Lesbian Travel Trade Show in San Francisco. I hope to come home with a lot of new ideas, brochures, and programs for gay/lesbian travel.

Next month's column will be devoted to that.

SHORT-TAKES:

ANOTHER FARRI WAR: As this article was being written, another airfare war was being announced. Fares were cut by 40% with travel allowed until February 28. Expect to see airfare wars about every two weeks until the end of the year.

FALL TRAVEL SPECIALS: Fall is a great time for travel. It's usually a slow time for the airlines and hotels so they offer a lot of specials. TNT and GVW offer lots of specials to the Caribbean this time of year. These specials are available until Christmas, when the prices start to go back up for the winter. Speaking of the Caribbean, things are starting to get back to normal after the hurricanes. St. Thomas is hoping to be back in business by the end of the year. St. Martin wasn't so lucky, although the tourist facilities expect to be back in business by the end of the year, almost 35% of the island's residents are without housing. And this won't be corrected for some time.

ACTION ALERT issued by DC AIDS Action Council

Dismantling of Medicaid by Congress sparks outcry!

by Winnie Weir, Managing Editor

Mark Barnes, executive director of AIDS Action Council, the only national organization solely dedicated to shaping federal AIDS policy, issued a strong statement this week calling the reform of Medicaid "deadly." The council, with headquarters in Washington DC, represents more than 1,000 community-based AIDS service organizations in the United States.

"If ever a case could be made for the federal government's role in guaranteeing health care coverage," said Barnes, "it could be made in the waiting rooms of community clinics across the country. It is in these noisy waiting rooms, often full beyond capacity, that most of this country's medically needy - the elderly, children, and people with disabilities, including HIV disease sit and wait, knowing that even if they face serious illness, including AIDS, they could be denied medical care through Medicaid."

Barnes noted that in clinic waiting rooms from 20 to 100 percent of the patients rely on Medicaid. He said further, "that people with AIDS sit and wait, thankful that because a safety net exists to catch those Americans who cannot afford medical care, they do not have to choose between treating opportunistic infections and paying rent or buying groceries."

According to opponents of the block grant proposal, large sums of taxpayer dollars in the range of $100 billion per year, would be given to states in the form of block grants without any guarantee that states receiving that money will provide people with chronic illnesses, including HIV disease, needed medical care.

In concluding his statement, Barnes said, "Maintaining a safety net for the elderly, children, and people with disabilities, including HIV disease, means that the elderly, children, and people with disabilities, including HIV disease, sit and wait, knowing that even if they face..."
more free, and really uplifting. "This was a dance, smiling with desire, this was romance's burning fire," a line from "World of Love" seems like a simpler, lighter rendition of any ingenue's words ever. "After all, love becomes a dream-infinity and unforseen," in which simple words take on a new meaning with Lang's incredible singing voice. "After all, love becomes a dream-infinity and unforseen," repeats the song.

This track is followed up by the album's closest to "I Want It All." Lang belts out everything she wants out of a relationship, both the healthy and the slightly obsessive, all of which goes through the mind of anyone in the "pining for someone" mode. "All the illusion, all the truth, all the confusion, all the proof, all the pleasure, all the pain, all I am losing, all I can gain" are among some of what she wants according to this song.

Kathy Dawn Lang continues to evolve as an artist. "All You Can Eat," although a bit on the short side at about 36 minutes, is a catchy, enjoyable album, with a very cool cover. (See for yourself.) I happened to catch her on David Letterman recently and she told Dave that she'll be touring sometime after the new year. I for one have never seen her perform live, but with the addition of this new batch of songs to her already diverse repertoire, it will surely be a show not to be missed. As for the title, "All You Can Eat," I have absolutely no idea why she called it that, but is it any more silly than the title of Melissa Etheridge's forthcoming album, "Your Little Secret"? It's the music that will carry this album.

The Story from page 16

keep it together enough to write songs and to believe in herself during a time she refers to as "the abyss." "I think that's why this album is so much deeper for me and riskier in a way because I was going through all that," she explained. It sounds like the dreaded cliché of having to go through pain and suffering to grow is true.

One thing that evidently hasn't changed is the support of the fans. Brooks said that so far audiences have been great. "That's the lifetime." "As far as what's in a name? Eventually I plan to lose "The Story" name, but when I first came up with it, it was with the idea that it would encompass any form the band took over the years," said Brooke. Although she does realize that most fans know "The Story" better than just her name, over time this too will evolve and Jonatha Brooke will still be doing her thing.

The show at Raoul's, although not well attended (typical for Portland) was a great means of showing off the new album as well as the new band. Ingrid Graudin's vocals, which also are on the album, are very nice. Also in the band is Jeff Pevar on guitar who just recently moved to the side and waved me over. "We can Book:

Dude Ranches
ADVENTURE - TRAVEL, INC.
• Rafting Trips
• Hotels & Resorts
• Nontoxic Paints & Finishes
• "Real" Linoleum
• Home Building
• Design Services
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Books on Review

Winter's Light - Reflections of a Yankee Queer
Author: John Preston
Publisher: University Press of New England
Cost: $19.95

by Rose Mary Denman

"Winter's Light" is a book about a man who searched for and found a place to call home, a place big enough to hold all his dreams and hopes, yet small enough to hold those dreams and hopes gently. This book is a sharing of a soul seeking to find acceptance and a place to belong. It's about keeping one foot in each of two camps; of looking to be one of the guys at the barber shop or post office, while at the same time working to be an authentic voice for the gay community.

"Medfield (MA) was a town where a boy knew what it meant to belong... but I had begun to leave while I was still in high school... I stopped trying to fit my life into Medfield. I turned my back on it. I belonged to a new world now, one that spun around New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Provencetown," wrote Preston. After taster life in the big cities, Preston moved to Maine. He lived in Portland from 1979 until 1994, when he died of complications from AIDS.

During those fifteen years, Preston sought to make a place for himself and succeed. Perhaps the most touching affirmation he received came soon after he had made his AIDS diagnosis public. "The next day I went to the post office to pick up my mail. The men moved to the side and waved me over. One of them asked, 'Is it true, what we heard on the radio? Yes, I told them. There was a minute's silence and I wondered what was going to come next. 'Shit, we all gotta die, John, but it must be hell to be standing on the tracks, watching the locomotive coming with your name on it.' That was all: It was enough..." (pg. 163).

Another title for this book might have been "Bridging the Gap." Through his reflections, Preston, in his usual and to believe in herself during a time he was trying to fit his life into Medfield. I turned my back on it. I belonged to a new world now, one that spun around New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Provencetown," wrote Preston. After taster life in the big cities, Preston moved to Maine. He lived in Portland from 1979 until 1994, when he died of complications from AIDS.

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TO YOUR HEALTH: Dental dams now a fixture in lesbian culture—Part II

by Peaches Bass

Last month, this article described dental dams and why lesbians are using them when they have oral sex. This month we focus on the issues of acquisition, type, care and handling, etc.

There has been discussion among HIV educators and lesbian health advocates about whether certain kinds of food wrap are more protective than others—plain versus microwavable, colors versus clear. There is some obscure research data on this, actually, but no clear consensus that one product is better than another. I've heard many favorable remarks about colored food wrap, just because it's different and adds a personal touch to sex.

Some dental supply companies sell the latex barriers on a rolled sheet, like plastic food wrap, which allows the user to cut the dam at the desired length.

You've probably noticed that dental dams aren't out on Maine's drug store shelves along with contraceptives or "feminine hygiene" products. So where, exactly, can you buy dental dams? Well, if you're bold enough, ask your dentist. (If you have a crush on your dentist or hygienist, this may be the opportunity you've been waiting for!)

Many medical and dental supply companies carry dental dams, which you may have to purchase in bulk from a warehouse. The problem with stockpiling on latex dams is that dams, like condoms, need to be stored away from moisture, light, heat, and cold, and even then, latex tends to physically deteriorate as it ages. Six to twelve months is the recommended maximum shelf life for latex condoms, and the same probably applies to dams. If you decide to make a bulk purchase, which would certainly lower the cost per dam, consider forming a little buying collective with some friends.

In Maine, you can buy dams at condom stores like Condom Sense, and at some family planning and STD clinics. You can also get them from the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center in Bangor and from AIDS organizations in some parts of the state. Call the AIDS Hotline to find the clinic or AIDS organization near you, and "Community Pride Reporter" has a listing of all the Maine AIDS Alliance organizations.

Dams can be mail ordered from a variety of sources that advertise in lesbian magazines. An interesting product, called Oradam, is advertised in the January '95 issue of "On Our Backs." It fits over the mouth like a surgical mask, but with a little pouch for the tongue. They cost $7.50 for a box of three, plus $3 postage. At that price, you may want to just go to the grocery store and get plastic wrap.

An excellent dam called Glyde Dam, "lollypop" is made in Malaysia, and sold in bulk in Australia. Lollipops are very thin and smooth, and at 6" X 8", a little bigger. Call The AIDS Project (207-774-6877) to find out how to order them.

What happens if your last dam has just split up the middle and you are ready to go down on your lover? Well, you can run into the kitchen and reach for that roll of plastic wrap, or take the condom you were given at that AIDS conference last month, cut it open up the side and use it flat as a mini-dam.

If the idea of using a dental dam grosses you out, but you want to have sex more safely, there are some suggestions for making dams more fun, easy and pleasurable. Put a little bit of water-based lubricant on the skin side of the dam. It creates a "slidy" feeling that a lot of women like. As mentioned earlier, you can get them in different flavors, and like food wrap, different colors. If your love-making is going to involve more than one act of oral sex, using different colors can help you distinguish between one partner's dam and another's, which is important for hygiene and STD prevention.

Some women are turned on by the texture, odor, or taste of latex rubber, and the dam can be used as a stimulating fetish. Using a dam can help a woman focus on her genitals, especially the sensitive clitoris. When the clid is sucked through a dam, it can be extremely arousing for some women. Using a dam as a barrier for rimming can increase the pleasure for those who enjoy oral-anal stimulation but may feel squeamish about it.

There are some lesbian sex videos that depict erotic uses of dental dams and plastic wrap. "Current Flow," can be obtained from Gay Men's Health Crisis of New York City, and "Safe Is Desire" can be ordered from Blush Entertainment of San Francisco. "Clips," also from Blush Entertainment, shows two women using a condom as a dam. All of these videos are produced by lesbians (or AIDS organizations) for a lesbian audience.

It is fair to say that using a dam may not be enjoyable for everybody, so it's important to be open-minded about various ways to feel good when having sex. We all have to find ways of love-making that are safe, comfortable, and pleasurable for ourselves and our partner(s). If oral sex is too risky for you and you hate dental dams, than experiment with other sexual activities.

Dental dams are not a substitute for good hygiene, nor are they an absolute guarantee of protection from STDs. We still have to follow healthy guidelines, including open communication with sex partners about health and safer sex. Using a dental dam is only one of many safer sex techniques.

For more information about dental dams, contact your nearest AIDS organization, the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center (207-947-5337), or the AIDS Hotline (1-800-851-2437). They can provide safer sex brochures for women who have sex with other women.

This article was adapted from an article that previously appeared in the February, 1989 issue of "Our Paper." (Editor's Note: With the submission of this article, Peaches Bass is taking a well-deserved break from her writing duties with CPR. We are going to miss her candid and informative articles which have appeared regularly for over two years. Thank you, Peaches, for your gift to the community and for your support of CPR. The door is always open.) ΔΔ
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Dramatic Increase in anti-gay hate crimes in Maine
OutLOUD Against Discrimination holds press conference at Portland Police HQ

All Balboni photos

Mark Dion, Deputy Chief for the Portland Police, said there have been 42 anti-gay bias crimes in Portland so far this year. He added, "My purpose today in speaking is to remind those in the opposition that hate crimes are not a fantasy or fabrication. This is in fact an awful nightmare for those who have to experience them.

Larry St. Pierre described an incident outside PJ's in Augusta, July 15. He said he saw a man push another man and when he asked why he was told "because he's a fucking faggot." St. Pierre said, "They then proceeded to attack me. There were three of them. I had my nose broken, my ribs were bruised, I was bleeding all over the place... the police did not prosecute them. The only help I received was through the Attorney General's office. They got a restraining order against these three guys." If Question 1 passes, we won't even be able to do that."

Joseph Piergrossi, Jr. hosted the OutLoud Against Discrimination press conference Thursday, September 28 to bring attention to the dramatic increase in gay bashings throughout Maine.

Karen Geraghty, president of the Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance, listed the numerous hate crimes in Maine involving gay people. Brunswick, Farmington, Southwest harbor, Ogunquit, Augusta and Portland were among the communities in which brutal assaults were perpetrated against gay people.

Karen Geraghty

William Clarke described the attack on him outside Blackstones in Portland. Clarke added that the attitude of the Grand jury investigating the crime was very disturbing. He said, "They were more interested in how drunk was I or was it my fault, they were blaming me... they only charged them with a misdemeanor... I registered to vote and I will vote no on Question 1."

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for poor and disabled Americans should be the guiding force in shaping Medicaid's future. It remains to be seen whether that goal can be accomplished by retaining Medicaid's entitlement status; by maintaining adequate federal funding for Medicaid; or by presidential determination.

What is clear is that the AIDS community cannot afford to have a wait-and-see attitude about Medicaid. Instead, we must fight now, through grassroots pressure and Congressional lobbying, to sustain the vital Medicaid safety net. "The cost of doing nothing would be measured in lost lives."

Maine would lose $236 million in Federal Medicaid funding in 2002 and $675 million over seven years. This is a 22% reduction in the year 2002 alone, according to the Urban Institute. According to this study, these cuts would mean that Maine could have to cut off coverage for 34,000 recipients in 2002, likely adding them to the ranks of the uninsured, according to a White House press release. Currently, 177,000 Mainers receive Medicaid assistance.

Dramatic Increase in anti-gay hate crimes in Maine
OutLOUD Against Discrimination holds press conference at Portland Police HQ

Martina Navratilova, tennis champion, came to Maine to fight against the anti-gay referendum. She held a press briefing, October 13, and hosted a conference on homophobia in sports in South Portland the following day. Navratilova is a resident of Aspen, Colorado, which has a local law protecting the civil rights of gays and lesbians. Colorado's Amendment 2, which would overturn Aspen's ordinance, is now before the U.S. Supreme Court. She said that few people in Colorado took Amendment 2 seriously thinking it would never pass. Martina corrected this impression by saying, "It's not because I'm a lesbian, it's because I'm an out lesbian."

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