Community Pride Reporter, 11/1995

Community Pride Reporter

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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
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 fake strategies. These stories establish many important facts about CMF, including the extent to which Carolyn Cosby, Chairperson, and Lawrence Lockman, Vicechair, are controlled and directed by out-of-state people, namely, Bruce Fein of Virginia and Tony Marco of Colorado.

Often, political opponents will gain a grudging respect for one another because they will come to recognize the integrity and sincerity of their foes. No such process has occurred in this case. In fact, the opposite has happened, as we have witnessed the ease with which Cosby and Lockman employ lies, hypocrisy and bigotry to further their so-called "cause."

As Cosby has attempted to use the gay rights issue as a stepping stone to political power, she has come to rely on a series of lies, the exposure of which strike at the very foundation of her efforts. There are many lies, here are the most important:

Chief lie #1: That CMF began their anti-gay crusade for the purpose of protecting civil rights laws and not as an attack on gays and lesbians - this is NOT TRUE!!

During the signature phase of CMF's campaign, they distributed brochures in which the most disgusting statements were made about homosexual behavior.

Chief lie #2: That the Diversity Commission, and gays and lesbians in general, seek some form of gay 'affirmative action' - this is NOT TRUE!!

Both Lockman and Cosby know that the FINAL REPORT of the Diversity Commission does not even mention such a proposal and further, that in none of the states (New Jersey, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, California, Rhode Island, Vermont, Connecticut, Hawaii, Minnesota) that have enacted civil rights protections for gays and lesbians has there been any call for gay 'affirmative action.' Also, no one in Portland, Maine, where there is a civil rights law for gays and lesbians, has ever called for affirmative action.

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.

Anti-gay Coalition forms to support referendum
Cosby shunned as national groups take center stage in referendum battle

Summer, 1995

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

COME OUT WITH PRIDE '96

by Michael Rossetti

Mr. Bob Finley, a salesman from Montana, took his pick-up truck down a little used short-cut in northern Idaho during one of last winter's snows. Unfortunately he got stuck in about 2 feet of drift and simply sat in his vehicle till he died of starvation and exposure. We know this because some nine weeks later, another set of stranded motorists found Mr. Finley's remains and his dozens of letters to family and friends extolling his faith in his rescue.

Mr. Finley's faith may have been admirable but his assumption that it was somebody else's job to get him out of his predicament kept him from walking just a mile down the only snowy stretch of that mountain road to relief at a country store and a further opportunity to enjoy the things and people he so loved.

The analogy for gays and lesbians is that we can't expect to be rescued by "gay rights" as a substitute for our own See FRIDE, page 3
INSIDE

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

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

Q: What was it like being there? Give me an example of what you're talking about.

A: Well, whenever they talked about the Community Pride Reporter (CPR) it was always negative. They made fun of the pictures in the paper and they made crude comments about them.

Q: How would you describe the tone of voice?

A: Sarcastic, making fun, judging.

Carolyn's favorite response was that everyone needed to be mothered. If everyone was mothered properly, then nobody would be gay.

Suzen described what it was like at Cosby's which is also CMF's headquarters.

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

But when I realized how negative it all was and the destruction it was going to cause if it resulted in anything being passed, that's when I decided I needed to focus on what my responsibility was, and what was I willing to do to stand up to her and do something to stop her, and live up to the challenge to do what I was going to do.

I kept reminding myself to look at the big picture and if I could do anything that would be helpful and if I could expose the seriousness and the depth of the hatred coming from Carolyn that would be good, ultimately.

Suzen said that working for Carolyn Cosby was very stressful because of Cosby's negativism and arrogance.

Which Witch is which?

BLACKSTONES
Halloween Party
Tuesday, Oct. 31st.

$300.00 Cash Prizes
$100.00 Best Movie Witch
$100.00 Best Animated Witch
$100.00 Best Traditional Witch

Contest Will Start At Midnight
All Contestants Must Be Registered Before 11:00 PM.

Carolyn Cosby with Lawrence Lockman, her vice-chairperson. Cosby confessed to her own dress code in this photo. So does Lockman.

INSIDE

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Carolyn Cosby with Lawrence Lockman, her vice-chairperson. Cosby confessed to her own dress code in this photo. So does Lockman.
"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."

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. Δ

Titus case goes before Board of Nursing in December

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

The Board of Nursing decided at its regularly scheduled October 19 meeting to invite Sandy Titus to appear in person before them, December 13, 1995, to answer questions regarding the complaint lodged against her by Marg Wolters, former Executive Director of Peabody House. Titus said she's glad to talk to them, adding, "I'd love to talk to anybody about the facts in this thing... I welcome the opportunity to speak to the Board about my nursing practice. I have nothing to hide. In fact, I'm very proud of my practice. I don't want it to be glossed over, as if to say, 'Oh, there's nothing here.' It's too public."

Jean Caron, Executive Director of the Board of Nursing said, "The Board reviewed all the material it had before it yesterday (Thursday, October 19, 1995). It felt that it needed more clarification regarding some of the materials and there were a few questions they wanted Sandy to answer, so they have scheduled her for an informal conference in December. An informal conference is a method by which the Board, rather than hold a public hearing, can hold a conference in executive session (not open to the public) and it's kind of like a fact-finding mission, if you will."

Caron said the 9 member Board seldom holds public hearings. They find the informal conference method much more efficient. The complainants will be requested to attend but the Board reads nothing into the fact that a complainant does not appear. A public hearing has subpoena power. "The Portland Police have contacted Caron and told her that their investigation of Titus revealed no criminal wrongdoing."

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. Δ

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. Δ
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 homosexuals 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 disregard 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.

"Have a great day. Punch out a gay."

"What's Wrong with Special Gay Rights? You be the Judge!" includes the following passages: "...gays engage in deviant sexual behaviors like anal intercourse, fistng (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 WMFG-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."

Carolyn Cosby's call for "civil debate" is subject to question

Carolyn Cosby attempts to retain control of her "movement"

by Bruce Balboni

In correspondence to the Christian Civic League, Cosby has insisted that the efforts to deny equal rights to homosexuals be led by her, and her alone. In a letter dated 12/13/94 Cosby writes, "As I discussed with Mike (Mike Heath, Executive Director of the Christian Civic League) earlier today, CCLA participation to an extent that would elevate CCLA's voice to a cooperative partnership role in the Maine campaign would mean a coordinated campaign. And that we believe, reasonable agreement on central leadership."

The Christian Civic League refuses to accept Cosby's demand that CCL recognize the control of their movement by Tony Marco and Carolyn Cosby. She's too belligerent.

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's changed for you financially in 1995. Did you have new expenses or income? Can you itemize this for 1995? Did you start a new business?

Consider seeing a qualified tax preparer for a planning meeting. They can help pull the information together and offer some suggestions on how best to minimize your tax liability. Good Luck! ΔΔ

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

Group co-facilitators are:
Bill Bartter, LPC and Randy May, LMFT
Payment arrangements and insurance assignment are possible.
For more information, call 773-0205.

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

Steve Wessler, Asst. AG, assured the public has begun their political campaign for

irresponsible charges.

Steve Wessler, Ass. AG, assured the public that AG's office will continue vigorous enforcement of the law despite CMF's irresponsible charges.

By: Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor, Concerned Maine Families (CMF)


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 to as to provide the Diverseity Commission with a basis for supporting some form of gay affirmative action. Herein, CMF alleges, lies the conspiracy.

January, 1995

Steve Wessler, Assistant Attorney General, because if there was something 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. ΔΔ

CPR obtains documents proving out-of-state leadership of CMF

Cosby acknowledges leadership of Bruce Fein and Tony Marco

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

At the outset of the signature gathering campaign to place an anti-gay referendum question on the 1995 ballot, Carolyn Cosby, chair of Concerned Maine Families (CMF), stated vehemently that CMF is an organization made in Maine, i.e. conceived of and led by Maine residents as opposed to "those outsiders."

She has criticized, just as vehemently, Maine Won't Discriminate (MWD), the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA), and the Maine Civil Liberties Union (MCLU) for enlisting the help of Gay/Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) based in Boston, to help in this battle.

In a letter to the Christian Civic League (CCL), dated December 13, 1994, Cosby, in responding to the League's offer of assistance, laid out what CCL has to do in order to join CMF. Cosby writes, "We (CMF) underscore both Marco's and Fein's significance because we believe their genius is absolutely critical to future success. And, as we consider a working relationship, the depth of that relationship will depend on our ability to mutually agree on their leadership."

Tony Marco, founder of Colorado Families, is a "the architect of Colorado's Amendment 2" and Bruce Fein is the right-wing, constitutional lawyer from Virginia who wrote Cosby's referendum language for $3250.

March, 1995

March, 1995

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.

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

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 petitions 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.'

September, 1994

The Gentlemen of
The Walt Whitman Dining Society
Are Extremely Proud to
Request the Honor of your Presence
AT THE ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS
UNIQUE AND EXCEPTIONAL WONDERFUL
CONTRA CAROLYN GAY-LA
at 5:00 to 9:00 o'clock on the evening of Sunday, November 12, 1995
Maine's Church Banquet Center, Mindor St. @ Fose, fourth floor
$10.00, Cash Bar 70's Disco, Moton and !

Enclosed is a check for $  payable to: Rob Rowell (W.W.D.S.)
The charge for burgers, salad, fries and soft drinks is $10.0 per person.
My Name _____________________________
My Address _____________________________
My Phone _____________________________
My Partner _____________________________
My City _____________________________
My State _____________________________

MAIL TO: W.W.D.S. c/o Carity. 174 Dinilworth Street, Portland, ME 04102
PLEASE, ADVANCE RESERVATIONS BY NOVEMBER 6th.

CONTRA CAROLYN GAY-LA
October - November, 1995

Carolyn Cosby, Chairperson, CMF, begins her petition campaign to place an anti-gay referendum question on the 1995 ballot, Carolyn Cosby, chair of Concerned Maine Families (CMF), stated vehemently that CMF is an organization made in Maine, i.e. conceived of and led by Maine residents as opposed to "those outsiders." She has criticized, just as vehemently, Maine Won't Discriminate (MWD), the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA), and the Maine Civil Liberties Union (MCLU) for enlisting the help of Gay/Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) based in Boston, to help in this battle.

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Tony Marco, founder of Colorado Families, is the "architect of Colorado's Amendment 2" and Bruce Fein is the right-wing, constitutional lawyer from Virginia who wrote Cosby's referendum language for $3250.

Marco controls Lockman

On January 9, 1995, Tony Marco sent a letter to Lawrence Lockman, Vice-Chairman of CMF in which Marco tells Lockman how to respond to the Maine Diversity Commission's findings. It is Marco who chooses to focus on the September, 1994 draft report of the Diversity Commission rather than the Commission's final report issued in December. Cosby and Lockman held a press conference in Augusta after they received this information from Marco and they repeated word-for-word what Marco told them to say about the Diversity Commission.

Cosby's claim that CMF's effort 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.

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(Editors Note: All materials were provided by anonymous sources.) ΔΔ
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 McLhenny, 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," McLhenny 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 McLhenny 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. 

PRIDE from page 3

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

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 posting), to involve oneself or an organization in freeing gay and lesbian people through celebration of community. Please, don't end up another Mr. Finley. 

"OutLOUD Against Discrimination" gets MPBN to air "The Question of Equality"

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 preempted 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. 

Remember to VOTE on Tues. November 7th.

VOTE NO on #1

MGMC'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!

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.

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.”

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

She echoed a theme Cosby raised months ago when she (Vad) 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 that's wrong. All people are deserving of civil rights.”

Walt Whitman hosts open party

PORTLAND: The Walt Whitmans 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.

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 men have nothing to lose. If we win, we'll be closer to winning; if we lose, we'll be closer to being closer to winning. Either way, we're closer to winning.”

See Walt Whitman, page 9
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.

Resignation Sudden

When asked to comment on the suddenness of Shields' resignation, LaPlante said that strictly Board by votes 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 conditions 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 and 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 vision. She added "It's a very narrow margin. Two members of the Board, Fred Lipp and Mary Atala Lessard, have resigned in protest over Shields' forced resignation. It remains unclear exactly why the Board requested her resignation."

"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."

Ron Butkiewicz, Executive Director of The AIDS Project, currently commemorating its Tenth Anniversary, is a non-profit 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 to recommit ourselves to the fight for our future," explained Walt himself. "After the politics, vicissitudes, hype, and months of seemingly endless appeals for money, could there be any better way to regroup than a party? NO."

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

Deborah Shields, The AIDS Project's (TAP) Executive Director, resigned, October 18. Her resignation, combined with the other three, constitutes a loss of one fourth of TAP's staff.

Deborah Shields, The AIDS Project, here

"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 10th anniversary celebration, Spring '95, is a terrific agency where the staff really puts customer. They just can't come in as often. Don't miss out while you are in Portland."

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 Hacind New York Times

"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 and policy centers. She wants to help train attorneys throughout the state on AIDS legal issues so that lawyers can better serve the needs of people with AIDS. She also wants to continue to do AIDS policy work.

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." ΔΔ
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.

Winnie Wei

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, 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. 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 can provide a nurturing, comfortable 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, Steve

CPR MAIL BAG

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

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 any time 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

Bruce Balboni
MAIL BAG from page 10

and rumors floating around town.

Peabody House will continue its mission. I do hope in the future to read more and better researched pieces in your paper, providing the entire community with factual reporting and balanced editorial vision. I’m looking forward to it. I want you to succeed as well as Peabody House.

Sincerely, Mallory Marshall, Portland

To the Editor:

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Please send me a copy of CPR. I would like to subscribe if that is possible. I am so pleased to see material with the four topics I feel should be directly related -diversity, acceptance, love and sexual- ity. I think that people in this area can really benefit from a publication like this.

I am a girl who loves a girl. I don’t really label myself. I feel like I am capable of loving in so many different ways. It is impossible to limit myself when I care about someone like I care about my girlfriend. Why should I hold back a good thing?

We attend public school, and I have been going out with her for 5 months, a lasting and monogamous relationship, for both of us. I’m a sophomore and she’s a junior. We are shunned by some, supported by others, and have been through more obstacles and walls than superman during a life span, or so I feel. I would be interested in writing a story for your paper. I am taking a journalism class, work for a local town newspaper (town columns, covering some town meetings, and some photography). I am trying to gather experience for the pur- suit of a writing career. I don’t want to be paid. I just would like to have the opportunity to voice some of my ex- perience and also to lend an ear to the gay, lesbian and transgendered individuals out there. I have a first hand view of what goes on in the life of a girl who loves a girl and doesn’t hide it . . .

Sincerely, Vanessa Morgan

(EDITOR’s note: Vanessa submitted a poem which is reprinted in the OUR VOICE pages of CPR. Check it out!)
Mondats, October 23:
• 7:00 PM - Portland Chapter of Maine Won't Discriminate. St. Luke's Cathedral, 143 State St. FMI, 207/780-1333 or 701-1675.
• 7:00-8:00 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women's Center. FMI, Jana at 772-6599.

day, October 24:
• 5:30-7:30 PM - Special Reception to celebrate what Maine Won't Discriminate. St. Luke's Cathedral, 143 State St. FMI, 207/772-3776 & ask for Scott Roberge.

Saturday, October 28:
• 10:30-11:30 AM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/892-2192.
• 6:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord's Mexican Pot Luck Supper in New Sweden. FMI, 207/498-2088.

Monday, October 30:
• 5:00 PM - Portland Chapter of Maine Won't Discriminate. St. Luke's Cathedral, 143 State St. FMI, 207/780-1333 or 701-1678.
• 7:00-8:00 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women's Center. FMI, Jana at 772-6599.

Tuesday, October 31:
• 1:00-2:00 PM & 7:00-9:00 PM - Alliance for Sexual Diversity meetings held second Tuesday at Sisters, 4-5 Danforth St., Portland. FMI, Ted-603/781-0102 or 207/781-0014.

Wednesday, November 8:
• 3:00-4:00 PM - Lesbian and bisexual discussion group. First Universalist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI, 207/286-8016 or 207/885-0995.
• 7:00-9:00 PM - Women in Harmony Crossings at Portland. Accessible to the mobility-impaired, free hotel parking.

Thursday, November 9:
• 7:30-9:00 PM - The Matlovich Society presents Erika Rand discussing her new book, "Barbie's Queer Accessories." Is Mattel's world of Barbie really a commercial for how great it is to be white, rich, skinny and heterosexual? Ms. Rand is an activist and cultural critic and teaches courses in art history, pop culture and queer studies at Bates College. Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Accessible to the mobility-impaired, free hotel parking.

Friday, November 10:
• 8:00 PM - Portland Chapter of Maine Won't Discriminate. St. Luke's Cathedral, 143 State St. FMI, 207/780-1333 or 701-1678.
• 7:00-8:00 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/892-2192.
• 2:00 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/892-2192.

Saturday, November 4:
• 6:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Business Meeting at the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/780-2192.

Sunday, November 5:
• 6:00 PM - Portland Chapter of Maine Won't Discriminate. St. Luke's Cathedral, 143 State St. FMI, 207/780-1333 or 701-1678.
• 7:00-8:00 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women's Center. FMI, Jana at 772-6599.

Tuesday, November 7:
• 1:00-2:00 PM & 7:00-9:00 PM - Alliance for Sexual Diversity meetings held second Tuesday at Sisters, 4-5 Danforth St., Portland. FMI, Ted-603/781-0102 or 207/781-0014.

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• 7:00-8:00 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/892-2192.

Saturday, November 11:
• 10:30-11:30 AM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/892-2192.
• 5:00-9:00 PM - Post election Contra-Carolyn Gayla, The Mariners Church Banquet Center, Market at Fore St., Portland. Sponsored by Watt Whitman Dining Society. Open to absolutely everyone! $10 admission includes food and soft drinks. Cash bar.

Sunday, November 12:
• 11:00-1:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Business Meeting at the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/780-2192.

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.
• 7:00-8:00 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women's Center. FMI, Jana at 772-6599.

Tuesday, November 14:
• 1:00-2:00 PM & 7:00-9:00 PM - Alliance for Sexual Diversity meetings held second Tuesday at Sisters, 4-5 Danforth St., Portland. FMI, Ted-603/781-0102 or 207/781-0014.

Wednesday, November 15:
• 7:00-8:00 PM - PFLAG meets at Woodfords Congregational Church, Woodfords Corner. We are parents, friends and relatives of lesbians, bisexual, gay and transgendered persons offering support and education. FMI, Rita-666-5158 or Sue-666-5158.
• 7:00-9:00 PM - PFLAG: Seacoat, NH sponsoring "Connections," a support group for those affected by HIV/AIDS. Held at Exeter (NH) Congregational Church, First Street. Meet me on the second Tuesday each month and are primarily for support, discussion and resource sharing. FMI, Ted-603/778-0102 or Ingrid-603/772-6221.
• 7:30-9:30 PM - Gay and lesbian AA meeting at the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.

Wednesday, November 15:
• 3:00-4:00 PM - Lesbian and gay...
bisevxual women's discussion/support group congregates in USM Portland Campus Women's Center, basement of Payson Smith Hall.

**Northern Lambda**

Chiltern Mountain Club plays touch football in Waterville. FMI, call Susan Lager, MSW, 207-836-2908.

**Monday, November 20:**

- **8:00-9:00 PM** - Lesbian and bisexual discussion/support group in USM Portland Campus Women's Center, basement of Payson Smith Hall.
- **7:00-9:00 PM** - Northern Lambda Nor-Drop-In and Open House at the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.
- **Saturday, November 18:**
  - **10:30-11:30 AM** - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/892-5806.
- **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 Nor-Drop-In and Open House at the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.
- **Friday, November 24:**
  - **8:00-9:00 PM** - Big 2 Do Productions presents Songbook Series at Portland Museum of Art. "The Maine AIDS Quilt Songbook" will benefit the Maine Chapter of The NAMES Project Foundation, preferably one month prior to the event. Next deadline is November 1st.

Organization wishing to have their meetings and events published in the CPR calendar must submit them typed or clearly written, preferably one month prior to the event. Next deadline is November 1st.

**CLASSEd ADS**

**TRAVEL/VACATION**

- **LESBIAN PARADISE**
  - charming rooms, 100 mountain acres, pool, hot tub, hiking/skiing trails, vegetarian personal ad, voice mail and more. We're your perfect vacation choice year round! Week-long and midweek discounts. HIGHLANDS INN, Box 1180P, Bethel, ME 04217, (603) 725-2286, FAX 603-397-2498.
- **YELLOW BIRCH FARM**
  - Romantic, seasonal cottage or year round studio on working organic farm in Down east Maine, 20 minutes from Bar Harbor. Absolute peace and quiet. Beautiful, remote, unspoiled Cobscook Bay. B & B or weekly rental. Brochure, reservations: (207) 726-5807.
- **SPECKLED MOUNTAIN RANCH**
  - Located in Maine's White Mountain foothills. Come stay at our beautiful B & B and horse farm. We have two rooms available, with delicious vegetarian breakfast. Ride horses, hike, enjoy nature. Call (207) 836-2808, Bethel, Maine.
- **STONE WALL B&B & B**
- **EUROPE, ANYONE???**
  - Want to backpack across Europe in June of '96. We'll fly to Holland, trek to France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Austria and back from Paris. Price is negotiable. For information, please call Suzen at 207/739-1519. Leave message. The cut-off date is November 20.

**PERSONALS**

- **Small endowed?** Short in stature? Like us? Tired of guys searching for only tall or well hung? Finally stories, advice and personals devoted to the small man and our admirers. 100's nationwide. SASE P O Box 610294, Bayside, NY 11610-2949.
- **QW**
  - Who enjoys nude photography, hot videos, massage and safe sex looking to share these with GM. For reservations: 207-725-1080.

To re-connect. Please write, Thomas, Box #1988, c/o CPR, 142 High St., #232, Portland, ME 04101. ΔΔ

**HIV+ SINGLES PUBLICATION**

- Safe and confidential. Free copy, 32 page personal ad, voice mail, and mail forwarding! Local and nationwide! All life-styles. Gay, HIV+ owned and operated. Write: Intrepq+ Magazine, 564 Mission St., Box 415, San Francisco, CA 94105, or call 1-800-820-2948.

**HELP WANTED**

- **ASSISTANT INNKEEPER**
  - Women's inn seeks mature, responsible person to work in all aspects of inn operation. Position is full-time, year round, salary low $20+, plus benefits. Resumes: Highlands Inn, Box 118, Bethel, ME 04217.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- **Front-Runners Club**
  - Gay men's support group.

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

- **TOWARDS A MORE POSITIVE IDENTITY**
  - Gay men's support group.

**TIME OUT'S**

- **ANNUAL FALL DANCE**
  - Saturday, November 25
  - First Parish Meeting House
  - 425 Congress St.
  - Portland, ME
  - All welcome, info: 871-9940

**WOMANKIND GIFTS**

- **Women's music & Books**
  - Handcrafted jewelry featuring & Lesbian Women Made Products

- **Pro Libris BOOKSHOP**

- **Montreal**

- **Getaway December 8-10, 1995**
  - Kamloops by motorcoach: first class seating & services. Private dining. Meal, baggage handling & taxes $169 pp. (1) Person located in (1) Neighborhood

- **Building a new consciousness**

- **Odyssey**

- **Maine's Holistic Newspaper**

- **The Odyssey**
  - seeks to inform people everywhere who are awakening to an awareness of the need to see life in a new way. Like the target market it serves, it is tolerant of all paths, positive in focus, adventurous in nature, and willing to change in order to grow. 12,000 copies monthly, free at over 80 locations.
GENERAL
ML/GPA is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the general public, politicians, and media on LGJ issues. Promotes a climate of safety and understanding for LGBT people and their families. A 501c3 organization. Contributions are deductible. Meetings are on the third Monday of every month at 7:30 pm, in the City Hall Annex, 94 Main St., Portland, ME (call 207/774-4940 for the exact meeting location). For more information, call 207/571-5290.

MUSIC & ART
Women In Harmony is an eclectic choral ensemble open to all women regardless of age, race, religion, or sexual orientation. If you are interested in joining, please contact the group for information. All women are invited to participate. For more information, contact the group at 207/773-2030.

COMMUNITY PRIDE RESOURCES

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Another Maine GayNet Home Page:
An ever-changing display of events and information. Meetings, contact people, resources, & referrals. The complete text of CPR available online, too. Point your WEB Browser at: http://www.qrul.org/QRD/www/usa/maine.html
ARTIST PROFILE: Here's The Story...

by Aimsel 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 made a name for themselves, receiving critical praise for their unique voice and writing. The next album, "The Angel in the House," was released in 1995 and "The Gilded Cage," "Love Song" and "Angel in the House" are three other tracks that still manage to wrap themselves around my emotions. "Fatsos," a song with clever, and quite funny lyrics takes a silly look at the seriousness of eating disorders. Last fall will go down in the books as a truly black period in Jonatha Brooke's life. Fortunately she was able to rise above many obstacles, including her own self-doubt, and record "Plumb" whose tour began at the end of September. After releasing two albums, Elektra Records decided to drop The Story. On top of that, Jennifer Kimball decided to leave, and although Brooke did explain that it was a very mutual decision, it was still a very dark period. "I think I learned a lot from it and came out of it a much better person," said Brooke. She went on to explain that immediately there was interest. Other labels were keeping tabs on her and were wondering about demo-tapes. There was one person who has believed in Jonatha Brooke right from the start. Tommy LiPuma started "Blue Thumb" record in the late 60's and 70's with artists such as Slyvester and The Pointer Sisters. Eventually, he ended up working for Elektra Records and he was the one who originally signed The Story. Then, last fall, LiPuma left Elektra, went to MCA and re-started "Blue Thumb." It's no coincidence that "Plumb" was released on this label. I suspect Brooke would have had several other offers as well. All the difficulties of last Fall are best captured on the song "Charming," a song of love, touch, to be blameless and ecstatic. This, again is all there is, no knowledge of the imagination, and the horrors of war. "I had no perspective at all and I just thought I should have done something," said Brooke. Much credit to Jonatha for being able to leave, and although Brooke did explain a lot from it and came out of it a much better person...

...See Book, page 21

State Theatre
609 Congress St.
Portland, Maine

Tuesday, October 31
Joan Armatrading

Friday, November 3
Schooner Fare
10th Anniversary Celebration
w/Tommy Waken, Christine Lavin
Tom Paxton & Rob Carlson

Wednesday, November 8
Emmylou Harris
w/The Daniel Lanois Band

Saturday, November 11
Winter Solstice
Featuring Nightnoise,
Patty Larkin & Michael Manning

Friday, November 17
Chet Atkins

Wednesday, November 28
Christmas Carol

For tickets call: (207) 879-1112
Major Credit Cards accepted

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, "White England Sleeps," David Leavitt's third novel, will be "re-published" in a new and revised form October 19, 1995. 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 legality of 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 current time. 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, a young English man in 1936 are in content about the state of things in general. The narrator, Brian Botsford (who tells his story from a distance of forty years) comes from the working class and has a job collecting tickets in the London Underground. Fiercely dedicated to overcoming his lack of education, Edward likes to catalogue. He records the number of books he's read in a week, the number of Shakespeare's sonnets he's memorized, and even the number of "wanks" he's had in a day. The two meet one day at an Aid to Spain meeting, go back to Brian's bed-sitter, and begin an affair. Soon enough Edward moves in with Brian and the gritty business of relationship begins, compounded with inevitable English class conflict. Brian has inherited a casual, public school attitude toward his homosexuality and honestly believes one day he'll get married. Edward, earnest and loyal, takes the relationship more seriously. Afraid of being cut-off financially, Brian eventually gives in to the matrimonial machinations of Aunt Constance and agrees to meet a certain Philippa Archibald, Aunt Constance's friend's niece. Although Aunt Constance describes Philippa 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
Ani DiFranco-Live at Pickard Theater, Bowdoin College

by Aimsel Ponti

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. The buzz was about. Over the course of two sets of music, Ani (and hey, it’s pro-
nounced ahh-nnee), displayed her many emotions ranging from an incredible sense of humor to the harsh anger in many of her songs. “Worthy,” a track from her latest release, “Not A Pretty Girl,” started the show off and immedi-
ately she had the crowd in the palm of her sweet hand. The house lights were placed just enough so that she could see us and we could see her which added to the atmosphere. Tracy Chapman, Shawn Colvin, Cowboy Junkies, k.d. Lang, The Story and Joan Armatrading have all offered their new music to us have her up on a star-studded pedestal. “If you don’t have any of her music, then I hereby recommend her latest, “Not A Pretty Girl” to 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 “Buried My Heart at Wounded Knee,” not to mention a truly inspirational cover of “Midnight Train to Georgia,” with Gail Ann Dorsey’s vocals helping out. You probably have to stop what you’re doing and get up and do an impromptu Gladys Knight impersonation. Hey, I just did, and it wasn’t half bad. Actually, I probably make a better Pip.

Anyway, “1200 Curfews” is packed with 23 tracks, everything from the classic Indigo singer-song, “Closer to Fine” to live versions of popu-
lar favorites “Strange Fire” and “Language of the Kissing.” 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 about when she wrote this song, but it has always inspired and empow-
ered me on a community level as well as a personal one.” This album is probably the best I’ve known about Ani DiFranco for

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 unreleased. Look for their concert which will air on the Disney Channel (Who has it and who’s taping it for me?) as well as “Watershed,” a very cool collection of interviews and video footage.

“1200 Curfews” by the Indigo Girls

by Aimsel Ponti

As if the month of October hasn’t already seen enough incredible new re-
leases 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 to us 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 “Buried My Heart at Wounded Knee,” not to mention a truly inspirational cover of “Midnight Train to Georgia,” with Gail Ann Dorsey’s vocals helping out. You probably have to stop what you’re doing and get up and do an impromptu Gladys Knight impersonation. Hey, I just did, and it wasn’t half bad. Actually, I probably make a better Pip.

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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.

Bye 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 question 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'm as 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.

REVIEW

Music:

by J.N., South Portland

"Take Me Higher" by Diana Ross...

Diana Ross has come back with her 21st solo album, "Take Me Higher." She makes the 1979 classic, "I Will Survive," and covers a Babyface 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 Me 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

Seen any good movies lately?

Write 'em up and send 'em in!

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 to get people at 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?

"In 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 now because your 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 wouldn't think of them any 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."

"Yes, 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?"

"Yeah, 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 ousted 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

November, 1995

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Question: Do you think Deering is a gay-friendly school?

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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. 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!"

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When we got there and parked, I pretty much dragged Dara across two streets and an intersection by the flagpole that had been sprayed all over the island they were worthy enough to touch those luscious fabrics. I walked through the first floor of the temple we were in, I danced in fear of being harassed. He had his hand no one would hold. He was hit with the wave of the strong scent of the CKone that had been sprayed all through the air. I opened the door and I could already smell "MEN'S." seconds, Dara came trotting up, but obviously didn't comprehend the concept of the temple we were in, I danced through the islands of clothes, and then I saw it. The wall. But not just any wall. The wall of ultimate power. The wall that controlled any kind of support in a man's closet. The wall of underwear... All the different kinds... My estrogen level shot up and increased by 90%. I sank down to my knees and marveled, gawking at the glimmering aura before me.

After drooling there for a good fifteen minutes, Dara finally (after many failed attempts) pulled me down the stairs and out the door, but not before I could give the store a loving, good-bye kiss.

So, now with me sulking, we went to Friendly's to eat fat. After we ordered two orange freezerie things and a large fries, we tested our I.Q. on those triangular peg things. We tried tirelessly to get the pegs down to one, and by the time the food came we decided we were both dumb.

As I was enjoying my frozen orange drink and the plate of grease that Friendly's calls fries, Dara told me an interesting fact that I really didn't care to know.

"When they make the fries, the melt a big block of Crisco and cook the fries in it. So when you eat the fries the Crisco is grease, but when it gets into your veins, it cools down and turns back into Crisco."

Yes, that is exactly what my queer little heart wanted to hear. Instead of blood, it would be pumping Crisco.

So, after we paid and were walking back to the car, I was hitting my chest to make sure my heart was still beating. We got into the car and began the drive home. Smelling like perfume, crisco in the veins, and the sun in our eyes. ΔΔ

Nightengale 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 I've ever known, has an outlet in Freeport!

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..."

Letters to the editor are welcome and will be read.
Chew on This: Standing your ground

by Rose Mary Deman

"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 of us to attempt to adhere to, regarding Buddhist community. Once I made 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 thinking about it often through 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 - "I 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.

OUT OF TOWN!

by Paul T. Bernard

I recently had the opportunity to attend a day-long seminar in Boston on gay and lesbian 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 with gay and lesbians. One of the attendees was an agent from Banger. 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 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.

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.

"I over 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 if they face a long wait, at least they are guaranteed that the wait is for quality medical care under 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 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 $1 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, is an imperative that Congress must address."

See ALERT, page 24
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 many of Ingrave's words and is without the desperation this time. One of my favorite songs on "All You Can Eat" is the slow one, "Infinite and Unhealthy and the slightly obsessive, all of she wants out of a relationship, both the seen," repeats the song. Album's closer, the catchy, groovin' "I EAT, the illusion, all of the truth, all the complicated workings. Brian Botsford's fantastic songwriting and singing work with the words to create a masterpiece. Leavitt also uses the London Underground to connect the dots of her life, and the story continues to its tragic close. Brian, jolted but senses that something has gone gravely wrong. During the week-end of Brian's proposal to Philippe, Edward chances on Brian's journal, learns of his later life in Los Angeles - tired and disillusioned. The Stephen Spender controversy will doubtless tempt many readers to try to identify thirty literary luminaries among the book's characters, and there's ample material for speculation. An uncompromising look at betrayal - of self, country, and loves - this novel offers no easy salvation for its hero. It is an ambitious attempt to provide a gentle light in what often feels a dark world, bridging the gaps between gay and straight, love and hate, the need for a metropolitan lifestyle with the hunger for small town life. He does Portland, Maine AND the gay community proud with his gentle musings about the ability of its people to see beyond labels and into the heart. "Winter's Light" is a book of adult bedtime stories...a reflection on the good that is to be found in people after psychoanalysis, "Lady Chatterly's Lover," and the Stonewall riots.

The Story from page 16

EAT, from page 17

Book 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. She 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. "They love 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," she said. broccoli. 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 Graudins' vocals, which also are on the album, are very nice. Also in the band is Jeff Pevar on guitar who just recently started playing with The Story. Drummer Abe Laboriel is also on both the album and on tour as is Jeff Pevar. Alan Mallet and Mike Reavil have been playing and recording with Brookes for years. The 14 song set featured many new songs, including my personal favorite, "Inconsolable," as well as tunes from the previous two albums. Jonatha Brooke is a very warm person with a sense of humor and not an ounce of that ridiculous "famous musician" attitude. It was great to talk with her before the show and to watch her play live. Maybe the tour will bring them back to Maine or to New Hampshire. Until then, check out "Plumb" on "Blue Thumb" records.
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 have been 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 not 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 stocking up with latex condoms is that, like condoms, need to be stored away from moisture, light, heat, and cold, and even then, latex tends to gradually 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 made 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 pocket 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, "lollyes" is made in Malaysia, and sold in bulk in Australia. Lollyes 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.

You may wonder 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 clit 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). 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

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.

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 f**king faggot." St. Pierre said, "Then they 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."

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.

OutLOUD Against Discrimination holds press conference at Portland Police HQ

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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.

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 for it was 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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Photo by Tom Jesus St. Pierre, Brunswick.

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. She's in Maine to help avoid such complacency. One reporter commented that she has lost millions of dollars in product endorsement contracts because she is a lesbian. Martina corrected this impression by saying, "It's not because I'm a lesbian, it's because I'm an out lesbian."