

Community Pride Reporter

FREE

The newspaper for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community of Maine and New Hampshire.

VOL. 3, Number 5

December, 1995-January, 1996

Man asserts he was fired from Windham restaurant for being perceived to be gay

Bruce Grover is bisexual and a cross-dresser

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

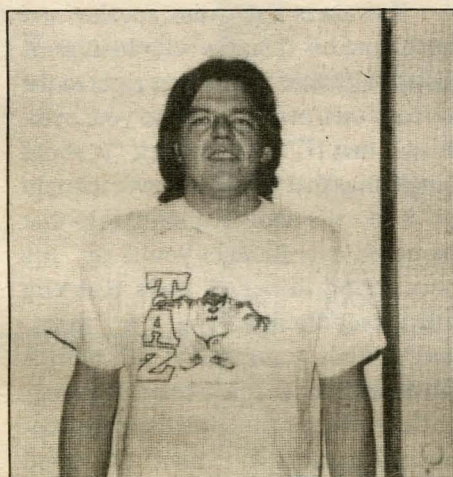
Bruce Grover took a chance and told co-worker Dan Boynton, that he, Bruce, is a cross-dresser. The next morning, the owner, Don Miller fired Grover. When Grover asked why he was being fired, after having been promoted and given a raise, Don Miller refused to give an answer. Don Miller is now fighting to appeal the Unemployment Compensation Board's decision to give Grover benefits.

Don Miller owns Miller's Diner which is located on Rte. 302 in Windham, Maine, next to Sebago Realty and near Carpetland. Grover had been working there for 13 months.

Grover described his history at the Diner: "When I first started there Don hired me for my cooking ability and he was very happy with me. I was there only one week when he gave me keys to the restaurant, made me shift supervi-

sor, showed me how to cash out the register and take care of the money - I was fully in charge of the restaurant at night and there were no problems."

Grover said the dress code in the



Bruce Grover told the truth, now he's unemployed.

See CROSS-DRESSER, page 3



Sandy Titus (left) stands with friend at pro Titus Rally, Monument Sq, 8/95.

Board of Nursing dismisses charges against Sandy Titus, says they were of "insufficient gravity"

In spite of vindication, Titus declares, "the dream (of client-directed care at Peabody House) is dead for me"

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

The Board of Nursing dismissed all charges against Sandy Titus, R.N., regarding her nursing practice at Peabody House. Sandy Titus is one of the five original founders of Peabody House, a hospice in Portland for terminal AIDS patients who have nowhere else to go.

According to Jean Caron, Execu-

tive Director of the Board of Nursing, there was evidence of wrongdoing, but all charges were dismissed against Titus because "the charges were of insufficient gravity" to warrant sanction. The Board met December 12th.

Caron said, in a telephone interview, Friday, December 15, 1995, that

See TITUS, page 7

Maine

AIDS Plan

A Blueprint for Action

by Winnie Weir, Editor

On October 11 a gala event was held at The Pavilion in Portland to unveil an innovative community guide to assist Maine citizens as they battle HIV/AIDS in their local communities. Diane Atwood, Healthbeat Reporter for Portland's 6 Alive!, was Emcee for this event attended by over 200 people from all walks of life in our state. In her opening remarks Atwood said, "I want to welcome you all to this reception in honor of a piece of work that will make a difference in Maine..."

She recounted her work as a reporter covering HIV/AIDS over the last ten years, listing the names of people she had interviewed and subsequently reported their deaths due to HIV. "I don't want to have to do any more stories about men, women or children whose lives are cut short because of a disease

that is almost completely preventable," said Atwood. She continued, "We, here in the state of Maine are in a unique position to be able to stop the spread of AIDS." She referred to the Maine AIDS Plan as a plan that enables everyone in the state from big business to community groups to health care workers to a single individual "to do something."

Atwood then introduced Tom Antonik saying that he is "somebody that I have done stories with and about several times. The last time I interviewed him he was headed to Japan for the 10th International AIDS Conference." She said Antonik, who founded the People With AIDS Coalition of Maine, once told her that his goal is to found "the People Who Had AIDS Coalition."

Antonik talked about the enormous changes he has seen over the course of



Photo by Tom Antonik

Martha Piscuskas introduced a tool in the fight against HIV/AIDS on October 11.

his 15 years living with HIV/AIDS. He said, "I've worked with some grassroots

organizations that have since blossomed into large agencies. I have seen the numbers grow. I have also had the privilege of attending national and international conferences and have often been reminded of how much we here in Maine have to be proud of with the work we've been doing. Within the work we have been doing the Maine AIDS Plan is an extraordinary accomplishment and I am very honored and proud to be here and a part of the Maine AIDS Plan..."

Introducing Martha Piscuskas, Director of the Maine AIDS Plan, Atwood said, "She has dedicated much of the past few years making this plan a reality. Martha has worked tirelessly, not only to actually produce this piece of work, but to make sure that it was an all inclusive effort; that groups and individuals throughout the state had their say." Piscuskas challenged the audience to imagine that they held in their hands the tools, "the long sought after means" to prevent HIV and AIDS. "Well, you do. We call it the Maine AIDS Plan, a resource and action guide that is unlike any other document that's been produced on HIV in Maine and possibly anywhere else in the country." Piscuskas continued her remarks calling the Plan "real" and saying that it is "an incredible testament to community work."

"This document provides a wealth of information for individuals,"

See PLAN, page 2

Piscuskas continued "no matter who they are or where they are: in high school, at work, homeless shelters, stores in the Mall, town parks, restaurants, even Scout groups have a role to play." She added that the document contains crucial information to stop the spread of HIV, and differed with Atwood's earlier remark about HIV being "almost completely preventable" by saying HIV "is a completely preventable disease." Piscuskas expressed her hope that everyone present would make use of this document. She pointed out that you don't have to be an expert or have a lot of money, or be the head of an organization. "You have to figure out one thing you can do, and the Plan can help you with that, and then do it."

According to Piscuskas, "Over one hundred people from all different disciplines and experiences sat down in committees, researched the issue and determined what needs to happen in this state around HIV. These recommendations are not a decree from 'on high,'" Piscuskas pointed out, "They are the collective results of people living with HIV, health care workers, legislators, family members, educators — you name it, the grassroots of Maine. These are the authors of the Maine AIDS Plan." Feedback was received from an additional one hundred people on the recommendations from the committee.

At the outset, the group had two goals. The first was to create a document that would be used and not left on a shelf to collect dust. To that end the report was created in a format that is accessible from its colorful, inviting cover to the three-ring binder which allows pages to be easily copied. Piscuskas noted that the report is easy to read with sections being tabbed, an extensive resource section included, profiles of individual Mainers who are doing things in Maine. The document also contains model policies. "What makes the Plan a plan," she said, "are the action steps" included. "They breathe life into the blueprint."

She then went on to cite action step suggestions such as, "a small business offering the profits from a days sales to a local AIDS organization, a youth group can educate themselves . . . and then go out and educate their peers on reducing their own risk for HIV. A work place can hold prevention education sessions for all their employees. Lawyers groups can offer free assistance for people living with HIV, helping them apply for benefits and arrange their legal affairs.

Shelters can provide private primary health and HIV prevention information to all residents." While some of the action steps require financial resources, there are many action steps in the Plan that require only one person to make them happen.

The second goal was to increase the pool of human resources working on HIV/AIDS. They were committed to bring people into the formulation of the Plan from outside the AIDS community. To that end, they drew on the expertise of community and local government leaders, prison officials, religious leaders, union leadership and others.

In concluding her remarks, Piscuskas said, "So we have this Plan . . . What's next? Our next step is to broaden this community of support to include all Mainers in this network of people caring about HIV and doing something about it." She implored the audience to help her take the Plan to as



Tom Antonik Photo

Paul Kawata called Maine AIDS Plan an extraordinary piece of work.

many groups as possible by setting up forums and presentations where she can talk with people about the Plan and encourage them to take action.

Diane Atwood then introduced Paul Kawata, Director of the National Minority AIDS Council. Kawata is one of the nations leading experts on HIV and AIDS, having also served as the Director of the National AIDS Network and on the Mayor's staff of the city of Seattle, Washington. He offered congratulations to all the people who worked on the Maine AIDS Plan calling it "an extraordinary effort." Kawata said further, "If you want to put it in a national context, what I think you've done



Tom Antonik Photo

Lani Graham said this Plan "comes at a very critical juncture."

is unheard of in the majority of states in this country. You have produced a detailed plan that outlines where you want to go . . . and most of us in this epidemic have no idea where we're going."

Kawata is a dynamic speaker and punctuated his remarks with humorous stories that carried messages right to the heart and then brought tears to your eyes. He said that HIV/AIDS work "is about doing things that you never, ever thought you'd do. It's about saying things that you never, ever thought you'd say. It's about trying things in ways that you never, ever thought you'd try them. That's what your work is about." Kawata closed his remarks by challenging the audience "to implement the recommendations in the Plan." He noted that the Plan was a step along the way in the battle against HIV/AIDS.

Lani Graham, Director of the Bureau of Health, Maine Department of Human Services offered, on behalf of the state, congratulations and thanks to those who worked on the Plan. Graham said, "I think this Plan comes at a very critical juncture . . . we do have some very hard work ahead and resources are diminishing both at the national level and at the state level and so it's a time when we must have some focus, we must have some way to mobilize people and get them engaged in this battle and effort that is so important." Graham said the Plan offers people ways to make a difference. She talked about the profound ways in which she was affected during her work on the Plan. She closed her remarks by urging people to evaluate the plan and hold our feet to the fire.

Jeff Nelson, a member of the Portland Pirates spoke to the group about the responsibilities of professional athletes to present positive role models to young people. He talked about the brief amount of time athletes spend with children as compared to parents, teachers and clergy. Nelson said, "if in that short time we can encourage them to be safe, to stay away from behavior that puts them at risk for AIDS, it will be more important than anything we do on the ice."

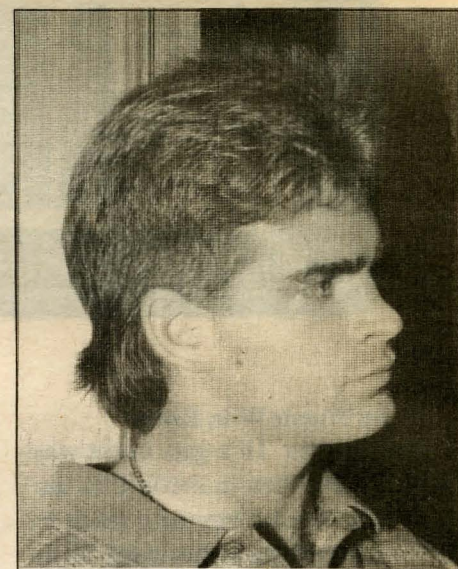
Kevin Gildart, Assistant to the President of Bath Iron Works, told the story of Bill Vincent, an employee of Bath Iron Works and a member of the union bargaining team. In 1988 Gildart was in Human Resources and was told by union representatives that one of their members had a "sensitive problem" and

would Gildart talk to this employee. Gildart said, "The first meeting I had with Bill Vincent was the most traumatic, personal experience I had had in my life . . . Bill told me that he had AIDS, and I didn't know what to do about that." He continued by saying, "I think what you've done with this plan is remarkable because there will be, and there have been, other people like myself in Maine that have had to deal with that discussion and will have to deal with that discussion."

Gildart educated himself about HIV/AIDS over the next two months, meeting medical and ASO personnel and became an ally of Vincent's to the point of telling Vincent's co-workers (at Vincent's request) that he had AIDS. That step became necessary because of the time Vincent was losing from work and the comments from his co-workers around that. "What you've done with this plan," said Gildart, "is at least created a document and a resource where people that are going to be faced with this situation can go for help."

The Maine AIDS Plan is a 268 page, user friendly document that everyone would benefit from reading. Contents include: Facts about HIV/AIDS in Maine: What is AIDS, Prevention and universal precautions, confidentiality, testing, discrimination; Maine Populations and HIV: a Closer Look at men, women, children, people of color and ethnic and linguistic minorities, people with disabilities; and Maine Settings and HIV: Steps for Action. This section is filled with ideas on how you can become involved in the fight of our lives.

If you would like to purchase a copy of the Maine AIDS Plan for yourself or your organization, send \$22 plus \$3 for shipping on 1-3 copies, to Maine AIDS Plan, 112 State Street, Augusta,



Tom Antonik Photo

Portland Pirate, Jeff Nelson said "we can encourage young people to be safe, to stay away from behavior that puts them at risk for AIDS . . ."

ME 04330. Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery and make checks payable to "Maine AIDS Plan." For more information, call 207/622-2962. ΔΔ

(Community Pride Reporter will begin disseminating some of the information contained in the Maine AIDS Plan through a monthly allocation of space beginning in January.)

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"I feel I'm a woman trapped in a man's body" — Bruce Grover

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

Bruce Grover is originally from Yarmouth, Maine. He claims that he knew at age 6 that he was different because he loved, "dressing up." His school years were uneventful, as far as cross-dressing was concerned, but then he got married, at age 18, in 1979, to Annette. They were married for 9 months, that's when Annette caught Bruce cross-dressing. Annette couldn't handle it. She called him 'faggot' and 'queer' and she said she couldn't live like that. Bruce said, 'ok' and left. They split without issue.

Bruce married again, at age 20. He didn't tell this new wife about his proclivity either. His marriage to Joan lasted 3 and a half years. She also split when she found out but they had 3 kids - all girls. Joan found out about Bruce's cross-dressing 3 years into the marriage. They led separate lives, splitting physically 6 months later.

Grover told her because he felt he had to. He couldn't 'live a lie' any longer. Joan asked him why he felt compelled to do this. He said, "deep down inside, this is me. I feel I'm a woman trapped in a man's body." The marriage ended in 1983.

Grover is considering a sex-change operation 2 years down the road. He hasn't begun any of the hormone treatments, but hopes to, soon, and he says that since he's made the decision, he is much happier.

His close friend Ruby, who he's been with 6 years and still lives with is his lover. Ruby supports his decision to have the operation and says they'll stay the best of friends, even after the operation.

One of his three children is supportive of him and his decision. Becky lives with her father. Grover doesn't know about the other two because they live with their maternal grandmother. Their mother, Joan, is an alcoholic.

Becky said, "Dad, I think it's great you can come out and be yourself and be happy. You're much better as a woman than you are as a man."

Grover said he doesn't want a "boyfriend" until after the operation. He says he has had lots of offers from gay men. As far as the dilemma of straight vs gay and who a transsexual really wants, Bruce says, "There are a lot of people out there looking for love, and I'm sure, once I become a complete woman, I'll find a man and get married - as a woman." ΔΔ

CROSS-DRESSER, from page 1

place was informal and there was never anything in his appearance that singled him out from the other staff or patrons. Grover did have a pierced ear when he was hired and while in Miller's employ he had the other ear pierced and occasionally wore earrings in both ears but no one ever commented. "I always made sure I was clean shaven," said Grover.

Donald Miller, the owner is 55, married and has 2 kids. His wife is in her fifties, and the kids are grown. One of the kids, Michael, is employed at the restaurant. Michael is 25 and, the daughter, Melinda, is 35. Melinda and her husband own a marina in Harrison, Maine.



Grover began cross-dressing as Jesse Lyn at age 18.

At first, Grover and Michael Miller got along well. "They were giving me raises since they were so happy with my work," Grover said. Grover said Don Miller told him, "You're one of the most diplomatic employees that I have, you have the ability that when a problem breaks out in the restaurant, to handle it without creating a scene and I like that about you."

Grover said the trouble began when, "I started hanging out with two women who work there who are lesbians. I started coming out to them and telling them about me because they were

so open about themselves - they're a couple." One's a waitress and the other is a kitchen worker.

Eventually they invited Grover to Sisters, a lesbian bar in Portland. One of the women is a DJ there and they both worked there part-time. Grover said that he had a great time at Sisters and, inevitably, started talking about Sisters at work. "We didn't see anything wrong with that," said Grover.

These discussions were always in the kitchen and were private, no customers could hear them. But Michael, the owner's son, and Dan Boynton, the other cook, who did overhear these conversations started to question Grover as to why he was going to a gay bar. Grover told them that 90% of his friends in Portland are gay. "They are really good people and I really like hanging around with them," Grover added. A short time after this conversation with Michael and Dan, Grover got his other ear pierced. Grover claims that's when Michael and Dan really started "dumping" on him.

Grover alleges that these two men would leave the kitchen a total mess and then leave, so that he would have to clean up their mess, in addition to setting up for himself. "It was then that Dan started calling me a slut - all the time," maintains Grover.

"One of the worst things they did was to leave the steam table empty, all the dishes dirty, and all the grilles a mess - the whole kitchen was completely trashed after they had a busy morning and just walk out the door which left me having to set the steam table up and clean the entire kitchen. This started happening a lot," said Grover.

In Don Miller's appeal to the Unemployment Board, which asks them to deny benefits to Grover, Miller asserts that Grover was loud in the kitchen and that he used profanity. Grover concedes he may have been loud on occasion, but that it was in reaction to the messes left by Dan and Michael and that he was stating, loudly, the he wasn't going to take that kind of abuse.

This alleged campaign of harassment took place over the past few months. Part of the harassment, according to Grover was that, Michael Miller stopped talking to him. Grover said he would just give me a real negative attitude. At the same time, Colette Coulthard, a waitress, started in to trying to make Grover's job miserable by giving him the same negative attitude. Grover said Coulthard, "started ordering me around despite the fact that I was her boss as shift manager. It was like they were trying to force me to quit."

Grover said these people did not make homophobic remarks as such but they kept asking him if he was gay and did call him a "slut" to his face. According to Grover, the context of this name calling made the epithet "slut" homophobic.

One night, Dan Boynton turned to Grover and said, "I'll tell you right now, I'm the most prejudiced son of a bitch you've ever seen in your life. I don't believe in gays, lesbians, biracial couples - none of that - that just ain't right." Grover said to him, "Dan, You're a real fucking asshole, you got a bad attitude. This is the 90s. Wake up!"

Grover said Boynton's opinions were odd because, "Ninety per cent of our (Miller's Diner) customers that used to go in there were of the gay-origin family and they were all good people. I used to go out and talk to them. I didn't give a shit. As far as I'm concerned the gay community is some of the best people in the state."

"On the night of November 10, 1995, a Friday, Dan kept badgering me about why I went to Sisters so I told him that I led a secret life as a cross dresser." I said, "I have a secret life, outside of work that I don't disclose at work, I don't act like that at work."

Grover said that he confided this information to Boynton, in spite of the fact that he was the most hostile, because Grover wanted Boynton to stop harassing him. Grover added, "I'm the

See CROSS-DRESSER, page 8

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Ethan Strimling to be Campaign Manager for Dale McCormick

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

Ethan Strimling has resigned his position as Executive Director of Democrats 2000 to accept the job of Campaign Manager for Dale McCormick's run for Congress from Maine's 1st Congressional District. He expects to return to Maine from Washington D.C. sometime in January. The search for a new Executive Director for Democrats 2000 is underway.

Democrats 2000 is an organization founded and supported by progressive and populist Democratic elected officials — people like Barbara Boxer, Paul Wellstone, Joe Kennedy, Mark Green and John Lewis. Vice President Al Gore is a member.

Democrats 2000 seeks to support and fund raise for progressive Democrats. Their immediate goal is to regain control of the House of Representatives from the Republicans in '96. They denounce the "me-tooism" so popular in American politics today whereby many Democrats embrace Republican positions for short-term political gain. Democrats 2000 has assumed the task of supporting what they call "stand-up Democrats" who aren't afraid to be tagged as "liberals."

Strimling is a graduate of the University of Maine at Orono, Class of '92, and Harvard University's Graduate School of Education. Appointed Executive Director of Democrats 2000 in December 1994, Strimling has attempted to improve the political standing of progressive Democratic candidates throughout the United States as the country approaches the 1996 election.

Strimling worked for Tom Andrews' successful campaign for Maine's 1st Congressional District in 1990 when Brennan

left that seat to run for Governor of Maine. He helped Andrews achieve victory in a crowded Democratic primary and



Ethan Strimling on his way to Maine for McCormick Congressional campaign.

Andrews went on to defeat Republican David Emery. Strimling worked for Andrews, in Washington, as a legislative assistant, during the disastrous 1994 campaign.

Ethan Strimling is no stranger to electoral politics in his own right. While an undergraduate at UMO he ran for the presidency of the Student Senate, in 1991. This campus-wide election was a bruising political battle, pitting Strimling's progressivism (Strimling had long been an activist with the Maine Peace Action Committee and was well known around the Orono campus for leading student demonstrations against the CIA, ROTC, Reagan's policies in Nicaragua and Bush's policies during the Gulf War) against the campus conservatives, Stavros Mendros and Brent Littlefield. Littlefield was also

leader of Orono's Young Republicans.

In the election, still remembered at UMO for its charges of corruption and dirty tricks, Strimling lost. He moved on to Harvard University and then Washington, D.C. Mendros moved on to be defeated in the 1994 Republican primary for Maine House District 88 (Lewiston), losing to Nelson Peters who, in turn, lost to Democrat Patricia Lemaire.

Littlefield also moved on to be defeated in the 1994 election, in his attempt to win a seat in the Maine House from

District 123 (part of Orono). Democrat Kathleen Stevens defeated Littlefield by close to a two-to-one margin.

Strimling's plan to return to Maine to offer his considerable political savvy to the McCormick campaign bodes well for her success. Strimling believes the McCormick campaign will be one of the most exciting and important races in the '96 election. He said, "I love my job at Democrats 2000. I wouldn't leave it for anything — except the election of Dale McCormick." ΔΔ

Maine Won't Discriminate Holds Wrap-up Meeting

Karen Geraghty, meeting attendee, MLPGA President

On Saturday, November 18, some of the board, staff and volunteers from Maine Won't Discriminate met at the Unitarian Church in Augusta to review the Campaign and to talk about next steps. At the request of the MWD Board, the meeting was facilitated by Jonathan Reichman, who generously donated his time.

The Agenda for the meeting was roughly as follows:

- I. Reactions to the Campaign
- II. What activities are going on in the gay community in Maine? What would we like to see happening?
- III. Should MWD continue as an organization? What would its purpose be? What new organization, if any, should be created?
- IV. Next steps?

The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. and was attended by over 100 people. The agenda items were covered in great detail, thus I will only attempt to summarize them here.

The reactions to the campaign were generally positive. Everyone was very glad that Question #1 was defeated. The biggest positive of the campaign for many participants was being able to organize locally. There was disappointment that more education did not occur during the campaign, and concern from local groups about being left out of the decision making loop. The discussion about specific likes and dislikes of the campaign lasted about 1 1/2 hours.

The group then moved into a discussion of what the landscape looks like in the gay community. Who is working on what projects? Where do local groups want to focus their efforts? Will it be strictly "gay community" work, or progressive organizing in general? What sorts of educational projects would we like to work on? This very lively discussion went on for approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes.

The general consensus seemed to be that we really wanted (a) the local organizing efforts to stay intact, and (b) we wanted to do some combination of electoral, legislative and educational work. We were coming down to the wire, we only had 15 or so minutes to go, and still we needed to talk about next

steps! So we did what we always do — we planned another meeting! MLPGA was asked to host a "planning committee" to bring together the vast experience and knowledge of MLPGA with the local organizing efforts. The goal would be to continue our electoral, legislative and educational work.

The meeting concluded at 1:00 p.m. and a delicious lunch was served to all, courtesy of the MLPGA. (Somehow



Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance President, Karen Geraghty.

there was enough food to go around, even though the MWD meeting was twice as big we'd planned.) Many thanks to MLPGA members for your hard work at hosting the luncheon.

The planning committee meeting is scheduled for January 6, 1996, at the Unitarian Church, 69 Winthrop Street, Augusta, 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. All interested persons are encouraged to attend. If you'd like more information, please contact MLPGA President Karen Geraghty at 1-800-556-5472. (Call 761-3732 in the Greater Portland Area.)

One last thing — As we prepare for Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, Solstice and other celebrations, it is my hope that we can look back on the last year with gratitude and relief that one part of our work is over. But also let us have a firm resolve to turn our efforts into positive, forward-thinking movement building. Peace to you all, see you in the New Year. ΔΔ



Congressional hopeful, State Senator Dale McCormick, (c.) with State Rep. Michael Saxl, (l.) at recent MWD rally in Augusta. "My number one environmental priority, says McCormick, "is to defeat Jim Longley." Supporters say McCormick will "bring excitement and enthusiasm back to the political process." (Balboni photo)

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A letter to the community from MWD Campaign Manager, Amy Pritchard

Dear Winnie and Bruce,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you and the CPR readers for all the work done to defeat Question 1. Without the efforts of so many, I am sure that we would not have won.

As the lead vehicle for fighting Question 1, Maine Won't Discriminate built and held together an enormous coalition. With these coalition partners and, more significantly, the chapters across Maine, we put together an incredible grass-roots campaign. As with any large group, we represented many diverse, and even opposing, views. The campaign we mounted was based on hard political research. This meant we were not always able to take the time to educate the electorate about the real discrimination that many gay men

and lesbians face. Our mission was to defeat Question 1 the best way we knew how. We made many mistakes, but as a whole, we accomplished our goal and created the most broad-based coalition Maine has ever seen.

From a legal and legislative perspective we gained nothing by defeating Question 1. From a personal and political perspective we gained a great deal. The chapters brought communities all across Maine together. Organizations that never worked together before shared our common goal. Friendships were made and people who had never been politicized before became involved and learned the ins and outs of a political campaign. Hundreds of activists were born out of our efforts.

As the campaign manager for



Maine Won't Discriminate, I know well the hardships faced by everyone. I was proud to work with so many dedicated

individuals who put in hundreds of hours, giving up their lives to make sure that Maine truly did not discriminate. Everyone who worked on the campaign should be proud. There remains much work to be done, but we are in a stronger position than ever before.

I can't give enough thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers who deserve credit for our success. There are so many people I would like to thank by name but won't as I might forget some. On a more personal note, thanks to all who accepted me in Maine and made me feel at home during my stay — I will miss you.

Sincerely,
Amy Pritchard

Update: Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights alive and on the move

by Johathan Lee

The Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights wants you to consider getting trained to conduct "dialogues on discrimination and equal rights" with local groups in your community.

A brief history:

Sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Community Church in Augusta, the project began training volunteer speakers last July. With initial assistance from the Boston Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Speakers Bureau, we prepared a pool of 10 trainers in Maine to train speakers around the state. Then, we offered trainings to over 100 people, most of them non-heterosexual, in Augusta, Bangor, Ellsworth, Fairfield, Kennebunk, Lewiston, Portland, Presque Isle, Topsham and Orono. For those trainees who were willing, we then got them engagements and sent them out to conduct dialogues with members of Kiwanis, Rotary, and Lion's Clubs, churches, union locals, youth groups and employees at their workplaces. To date, we've scheduled 65 dialogues carrying us through April, 1996.

How does it work?:

Speakers go out in pairs, usually a man and a woman, and speak briefly (2-5 minutes each) about a personal experience of being lesbian or gay or about discrimination that they or someone they know has experienced. Then they open the floor to questions and do their best to maintain an open, respectful tone as they carry on a dialogue with their audience.

The training allows you to practice shaping a coherent and brief presentation with a partner and prepares you to field a range of probable questions. You decide what you will say and you get feedback from the trainers and the group about your presentation.

Why a Speakout Project?:

The reason we are doing this

project is eloquently addressed in the second chapter of an excellent book just out in paperback, "Created Equal: Why Gay Rights Matter to America," (Nava & Dawidoff, St. Martin's Press), which I want to quote:



Jnathan Lee, Director of the Speakout Project.

"The majority culture's attachment to its stereotypes of gay men and women constitutes the single greatest impediment to gay and lesbian civil rights. The anti-gay lobby exploits these stereotypes and plays on the fear and distaste they call forth to justify the prejudices that support punitive laws and discriminatory practices against gay Americans. They could not use the stereotypes if they were not already in people's minds and in the culture's folkways. To some degree, gays and lesbians allow these stereotypes to go unchallenged, because they still hide their sexual orientation out of fear and shame... The majority in this country would never tolerate the discrimination that exists, did they not accept the stereotypes about homosexuals that sustain it. It is harder to tolerate discrimination against someone you can identify with than against someone different and threatening."

The long-term goal of these Speakout dialogues is to reduce ignorance and bias so that we can make Maine a state where we are all free to love whom we love openly, without fear of recrimination, and with the same rights and responsibilities as other American citizens. Many of you have

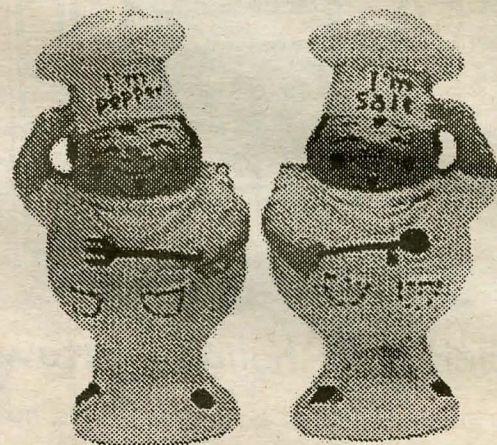
been working on these issues in various ways, some for years, and we are all affected by public attitudes toward non-heterosexuals.

We invite you to get involved with the Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights in 1996. We will be offering

See SPEAKOUT, page 21

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TO YOUR HEALTH: Rest? Who's got time?!



by
Tania Jo
Hathaway

Last month this column began a discussion of the three golden rules for maintaining personal wellness: Eat Well. Rest Well. Exercise (at least) some. Eating well was discussed in terms of cutting back on the intake of sugar, caffeine, and fats while increasing intake of vegetables and grains.

This month's column will focus on rest and exercise.

You've heard it before: get plenty of rest. But just what does that mean? Is sleep the only rest needed? How much is needed?

Sleep is needed for proper functioning of everything from brain fluids to the spinal system to kidney functioning to skin rejuvenation. A recent study in the United States concluded that most people need between 8-9 hours of sleep per night, and that for maximum restorative benefits, sleep should take place at the same time every day.

In other words, to reap the benefits of sleep—go to bed at the same

time and get up at the same time! And for those of us who get too little sleep and use caffeine to provide a (false) boost: the boost will last 'til it wears off and your system (brain, spine, skin) is still left trying to function without proper rejuvenation time.

During (or just before) menstruation, lesbians may need to add extra sleep time in order to feel rested during the day; during menopause, if interrupted sleep occurs, it is even more important to plan time for sleep and rest.

If on a daily basis, week after week, you do not have enough "time" to get 8-9 hours of sleep each night, you are probably over-committed, have too much on your plate, tend to over-extend yourself, got-too-much-to-do, busy, busy, busy! And if sleep is lacking in your life, then *rest* is an odd concept to you, too.

Of course, you are not alone. In these times and in this culture, the norm is to strive to do more: to work longer hours, to socialize more often with more people, to attend more cultural events, to attain more information through computers and print media, to agree to more committees and take on more tasks.

Rest, you say? Who's got time!? Many do not even know what rest means, or how to take a rest! Try lying

down or sitting with your arms, legs and head supported, take a few slow, deep breaths and then just daydream! Let your mind wander while your body sinks into a soft spot and all your muscles relax. Work hard to remember last summer's vacation or a favorite weekend trip. Do not think about upcoming work or other commitments. Let your mind wander for 15-30 minutes: now that's a rest!! You will likely feel calmer and rested—if you feel like dozing off, it may be because you are not getting enough sleep.

We all know it: exercise is important to overall health. Yet many of us do not get the exercise we need. This part of the column is not directed toward those who's daily existence includes a visit to the local gym. This is for those who get almost no daily exercise. Everything in our (healthy) bodies will work better with regular exercise: heart, lung, and all the other organs, muscles, bones, all the bodily functions—and we'll sleep better, too! In addition, exercise greatly decreases our risk for the number one killer: cardiovascular (heart, blood vessel) disease. Even if you smoke, overall health will be improved with exercise.

How much exercise? To achieve a high level of fitness: 3-4 times a week

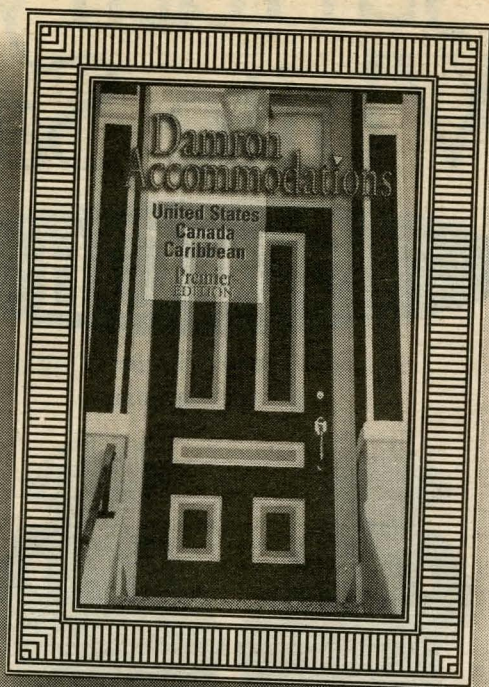
for 30-60 minutes. Most physical fitness experts agree that maintaining a heart rate specific to an individual's age/sex is important for optimum cardiovascular fitness. However, in recent years, studies have proven that even *some* exercise is beneficial—whether you reach your target heart rate or not.

That's good news! It means that you can take three 10-minute walks a day and consider yourself squeaking in under the guidelines. During busy times (like December holidays), that's a welcome relief. And for committed couch potatoes or those who disdain exercise, several short walks a day are a good way to begin. Habit is often the key to exercise; once it is part of your daily (or every-other-day) routine, it will seem less intrusive to your schedule.

Next month: Keeping track of fat!

Tania Jo Hathaway is the coordinator of the Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine. For more information, call or write PO Box 11048, Portland ME 04104. (207) 657-5864. ΔΔ

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Insurance Tips for your protection



by
Carolyn A.
Jalbert

With the holiday season in full swing, visits and parties will be high on the agenda of many people. When renting a vehicle or hosting a party, it's a good idea to know some basic information and how to best protect yourself against liability. With that in mind, I pass on the following information to CPR's readership.

Car Rental Insurance:

Most rental agencies hold you responsible for any damages caused by an accident - no matter who is at fault - up to the car's market value. Some agencies hold you responsible for theft and vandalism and "loss of use" due to your accident.

To eliminate your liability, you can buy the agency's Collision Damage Waiver or look to your own insurance or credit card arrangement. Many insurance policies allow comprehensive coverage for the rental car's full value in case of theft, vandalism or accident. Some companies may pay "loss of use." If you pay for your rental with certain charge cards, you get full coverage for accidents, vandalism, theft and loss of use when you decline the CDW. Re-

member, the agency can charge all the cost of damage to your credit card until they are reimbursed for their damages.

If you find that you are not protected in some way, don't take any chances. Be sure to buy the collision damage waiver from the rental agency. Host Liquor Liability:

If you are planning holiday parties, either at home or at an outside location, you may be assured there is protection under your homeowners policy. The combination of drinking and driving can result in serious liquor liability exposures to you as the host. There presently is no exclusion relating to liquor liability within your policy.

If you rent a hall to entertain guests, the hall's owner might require a "hold-harmless" agreement in his favor. If this agreement is in writing, you have coverage under the homeowners policy. Note that the liability must be assumed before an occurrence that gives rise to a covered claim.

Your liability for the use of the outside premises is also covered.

It is important to know that under the homeowners policy, you may not serve liquor to minors nor may you distribute liquor for money. In all 50 states, a minor is a person under 21 years of age.

Carolyn A. Jalbert is President of Jalbert Insurance Services serving the business, personal, life and health insurance needs of our community. Call 207-879-1013 or page 207-750-5492 ΔΔ

TITUS, from page 1

the Board's finding means, "There was a violation of the Nurse Practices Act but it wasn't of sufficient seriousness to warrant further action." Caron went on to explain that the Board made three findings of fact and that Titus was officially found to have violated the Nurse Practices Act in two instances, as follows (Caron read from the minutes of the Board's 12/12/95 meeting - a public document):

1) "A patient died, and when this happens that patient's medications need to be turned in to a pharmacy (or Peabody House). Apparently, Titus was busy for a week or so and this patient's medications just sort of sat in the back seat of her car before she turned them in, and, 2) Titus admitted that on two occasions she traded drugs, if you will. When a new patient's prescription had not been picked up or filled, she took the same drug from another patient to give to that patient - that we don't do in nursing. So, those were the two things, and because there was no public harm done, no documented patient(s) harm, the Board decided that further action was not warranted."

The third finding of fact was that there was a criminal investigation by the Portland Police who looked into allegations of misuse of certain narcotics. There was no charge brought against Titus by the police and the Board of Nursing acknowledged that fact.

"As far as the Board of Nursing is concerned, that's the end of it," said Caron.

Titus feels vindicated

Sandy Titus said that in the wake of the Board's decision she feels, "very grateful that truth has been served, the HIV community has been served and, in a sense, justice has been served, because from the beginning I maintained my innocence, but I also feel like I've been hit by a two ton truck. Just living with the ordeal has been so grueling and such a nightmare . . . and, yesterday (the hearing) was very intense, so today I'm just like, 'Wow, is it really over?' - this part of it at least."

Titus speculated that the problems between her and Wolters was "more than a difference in care philosophy." Titus said Wolters role should have been clear from the outset - "She was hired to start a Home Health Agency and to put all the policy and procedures in place to comply with residential care facility regulations."

Titus doesn't know if Wolters accomplished this goal. Titus said, "The last I heard, she spent a great deal of money to get a boilerplate for Home Health Agency regulations but hadn't adapted it for Peabody House. She left July 9, 1995 and I don't have any information after that. Stratogen has not received any information regarding this matter either."

'Home Health Care Agency' goal of Peabody House abandoned.

Urban says there will be no hospice for Peabody House - "it's too expensive"

Lee Urban took over as Executive Director of Peabody House in the wake of Wolters' departure. Urban told the Community Pride Reporter (CPR), December 15, 1995, that the Home Health Care aspect of Peabody House is not in place. Urban said, "A Certificate of Need was issued and we can go forward, but in taking the long view the Board has decided to delay implementation because such an activity takes a lot of resources, in terms of capital, and people, and we're wondering if existing agencies couldn't fill this need, or, together with Peabody house." Urban suggested that Peabody House could provide volunteers for Home Health Care but not do the nursing.

The question of Home Health Care as a part of Peabody House Resources is important for a number of reasons. It was part of their original vision, it was expected to not only pay for itself but to provide Peabody House with much needed revenue, and, ironically, setting it up was the reason for having Marg Wolters come here from Minnesota in the first place. Sandy Titus recruited Marg for the job.

Urban wants to put this matter aside and get on with serving the community. He said, "Sometimes the worst thing that can happen is the best thing that can happen - you learn from it." He concedes that it was a hard lesson but that the harm is not irreparable, although in the short term, when there was only one client in the House, "we knew there were others out there who needed us but weren't coming in . . ."

One of the most serious problems at Peabody House last spring was the issue of "Protocols," but Urban said, "Protocols, that is, the procedures for handling drugs, are in place now." He said they were always in place and since July 10, 1995, when he became Executive Director he has been responsible to insure they are followed. Since the appointment of Clinical Director Marla Sax that responsibility has passed to her. Sax is responsible for all aspects of nursing care at Peabody House. Urban said, "She's excellent."

Wolters a 'no-show' at hearing

Reportedly, Wolters has returned to Minnesota. Nobody knows exactly where she is living but she left the Portland area sometime this past July. Crystal Canny of News Center 13 reported that Wolters' absence impacted negatively on the Board of Nursing - that they expect someone who brings such serious charges against a colleague to, at least, be present at the hearing.

Titus said there were Board members who were surprised that Wolters wasn't there. Titus said the Board takes these kinds of charges very seriously so there was an expectation that Wolters would attend, even from as far away as Minnesota. The charges are both serious and complex and in order to get an accurate picture of the complainant's

allegations the Board prefers that the person(s) be present.

Of Titus' three accusers - Scott Irwin, former Financial Manager at Peabody House; Marg Wolters, former Executive Director of Peabody House, and; Delthia Vilasuso, Executive Director of the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) only VNA attended the hearing. Vilasuso and VNA's lawyer, Ken Lehman, insisted that VNA had never filed a "complaint" against Titus but rather, "a report." The Board of Nursing called it a "complaint." Much of the hearing was conducted in executive session, which is closed to the press and public.

Titus receives support from Peabody House Board members

Frannie Peabody, eponymous founder, said that she was very pleased with the Board's decision adding, "I never believed the allegations made against her (Titus) - they were completely distorted and knowing Sandy, I never believed them and I'm very delighted that she is exonerated. Sandy is my friend."

Bill Toth a Peabody House Board member and Person With AIDS (PWA) who has had a tracheotomy and speaks through a hole in his throat, attended the Board meeting. Toth thinks Lee Urban, the new Executive Director at Peabody House, is doing an excellent job, Toth offered that he thought the Board of Nursing did a very thorough job in their handling of the Titus affair. Toth said they took the time to discuss all aspects of the charges. It was a three hour meeting and they really took the time to ask other people, as well as Sandy, and decided there were not sufficient grounds to proceed. Their thoroughness made their decision all that much more acceptable. Toth now thinks that Wolters' complaints were fraudulent in the first place.

Lee Urban was pleased with the result of the Board's investigation saying, "Oh great!" when he heard the news. Urban recalled that Peabody House had cooperated with the police aspect of the investigation which turned up nothing.

Will Titus return to Peabody House?

AN INTERVIEW and DISCUSSION WITH SANDY TITUS -

CPR: What effect do you think Marg has had on Peabody House in the context of the charges she made against

you?

Titus: Peabody House came out of my work in the community and certainly the vision was shared by a lot of people, but I was the prime visionary, in a sense. This was true because of my experience, because of what people with HIV and AIDS had taught me and . . . I'm not in that dream anymore. So, it's certainly changed shape. When Marg was there it was being run as an institution and that's certainly not what I had envisioned. It was to be home for people. It well may be that now . . . I don't know.

CPR: Why do you think Marg went after you the way she did?

Titus: This would just be conjecture but it feels to me that it must have been about accountability - if I'm holding her to task about what we promised the community and that isn't happening - it looks like it might have been convenient - as a smoke screen, so to speak - to focus on the difference in her care rather than having people look at what she was or wasn't doing or accomplishing.

CPR: Was there any personal aspect to it, were egos involved?

Titus: I have to say that I went to Marg on several occasions to talk about the conflict between us but she insisted there was no problem and that there was nothing to talk about, and I could feel the conflict.

CPR: When did you do that?

Titus: Oh, I started in early February and she wouldn't discuss it.

CPR: So, you went to her to try to clear the air and she wasn't willing to talk about it?

Titus: That's right.

At this point Titus expressed her feeling that talking about Peabody House like this was very painful for her and she'd rather we stopped the discussion. Titus said she has not felt supported at all by the people at Peabody House.

CPR: Do you expect Peabody House to ask you to return?

Titus: I certainly don't . . . a few people have asked me today if I had heard from Peabody House and I said, 'Why would I hear from Peabody House?' Well, they would be the first to congratulate you. And I said, 'One would have hoped so. It was a wonderful opportunity for healing in the community.'

CPR: So you've heard nothing?

Titus: No. I have never heard anything.

See TITUS, page 8

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CROSS-DRESSER, from page 3

type of person who is proud of who I am and what I am and if other people can't accept me for what I am then too bad - I just got sick and tired of Dan harassing me."

Boynton reacted by saying, "I don't want to know." Grover insisted, "You asked me and I told you." Boynton said, "Don't fucking tell me that shit. I don't want to fucking hear it."

In addition to telling Boynton that he (Grover) was a cross-dresser, Grover added that he enjoyed going to Sisters very much and that he intended to continue to go there as often as he could. Grover emphasized that he didn't care what he (Boynton) thought about it. Grover regularly went to Sisters, dressed as a woman, on the weekends.

Immediately following this conversation Boynton telephoned his wife, she came and got him and he left the restaurant. Grover said, "My car was running fine that night. The next day, it started, ran a short time and then quit. Somebody had messed with the engine by turning the distributor cap around." The car was parked at Grover's house in Windham, near the restaurant. A mechanic friend of Grover's confirmed that somebody had indeed tampered with the distributor.

Grover said, "The next morning, November 11, 1995, at 9 am, I went to borrow my boss' son's truck to go to Portland to put a deposit down on an apartment when Don Miller (the owner) said, 'I got to talk to you.'" Grover said, "What's up?" Miller responded, "Well, it's probably the worst conversation I'd have to tell anybody but, I can't use you anymore."

Grover asked 'Why' and Miller said, "I don't want to discuss it." Grover pressed for a reason but

Miller refused to discuss it. Grover returned the keys to Miller who told Grover to come in the next day for his last check. On the 12th when Grover returned for his check, Grover said Miller "wouldn't look at me or talk to me. He yelled to his wife, 'Bruce's check is in the office, go get it and give it to him.'" None of the other waitresses would speak to him either.

Grover suspected that Dan Boynton had telephoned Miller. Grover said, "Dan is a two-faced little bastard who called Don up and told him that I was a fucking queer and that it was going to look bad for the business if I stayed there. Dan knew about it at 7 pm Friday night and I was fired 9 am Saturday morning. Now you tell me."

Grover generally worked 45 hours per week performing every job possible at a restaurant from man-aging to creating new desserts. According to Grover, Miller was very dependent on him for the diner's day-to-day operations.

Grover obtains unemployment

Grover then signed up for unemployment at Portland's Bureau of Employment Security, Monday, November 13, 1995. Grover's case worker, Linda Hurley (officially known as a "deputy") granted unemployment benefits from November 12, 1995, the day after Grover's termination because, as her finding concludes, "The claimant was discharged on 11/11/95 but not for misconduct connected with his work. Benefits are allowed from 11/12/95."

On his unemployment paperwork, under "Reason for Separation" Grover details his allegations regarding his cross-dressing, frequenting of Sisters and friendship with lesbians. According to Grover, Linda Hurley accepted his

(Grover's) version of events and is sympathetic to his situation.

Miller has appealed this finding. In fact, Miller fought to have benefits denied to Grover in the first place. Miller referred to a performance evaluation conducted October 14, 1995, in which there were suggestions made to improve his (Grover's) performance. Miller asserts Grover was fired because he failed to make the necessary improvements. Miller added items to the complaint list for the appeal that weren't part of his original statement.

Among Miller's complaints was that Grover received personal phone calls at work and was occasionally loud while working in the kitchen. Miller said Grover often swore while on duty. Grover said he corrected those shortcomings and that Miller gave him a raise on October 14, 1995.

In the official documents Grover filed with the Unemployment Compensation Division, Grover reports that Miller would boast at work that, "No one has ever collected unemployment off him because he (Miller) goes to the meetings and makes sure it doesn't happen."

Miller has appealed the initial decision to give benefits to Grover to the Maine Department of Labor in Augusta. If Miller loses this appeal the decision to give benefits to Grover is final. If Miller wins this appeal, and Grover is denied benefits, he can appeal that decision. If Grover eventually loses his unemployment claim he would have to pay back any benefits paid him during the appeal process. Grover is currently receiving benefits.

Grover is contemplating a separate lawsuit against Miller for violation of civil rights. ΔΔ

TITUS, from page 7

CPR asked Titus to reflect on what was really going on at Peabody House last spring. She thought that personalities were at the heart of the problem but that somehow those issues spilled over into the manner in which care was given. She said, "The model of client-directed care is difficult and it hasn't been tried. It is a lot more work. If you are telling people that they are going to have a bath at 9 o'clock that it is a lot more controlled and predictable than if you are saying 'When would you like to have a bath.' And if they want it at a time when there is fewer staff you negotiate. Titus added, "The medical model is used to schedules and predetermined timed events and you're going to eat what the hospital serves, so if you're going to digress from that and say, 'What do you want to eat,' that's a whole lot more work.

CPR: But what were the charges, even if they were trumped up? What were they saying you did that was wrong?

Titus: I can't answer that because I didn't do anything wrong - they made it up. They were trying to assign blame to me for events in the House that were not my responsibility.

CPR: What was the issue surrounding 'Protocols'?

Titus: Policies, procedures and protocols are directions of how things are going to be done in a facility. They are a standard, if you will, that is in writing, available to everyone so that everyone can buy into the 'way we do things,' i.e. we're going to treat linens this way, we're going to treat contaminated needles this way, we are going to treat medications this way, we're going to treat narcotics, etc., and what I am contending is that there were no systems set up in the House when we took the first patient, and although Marg was responsible for the system, I ended up putting them in place because it was chaotic without them. You had volunteers and nurses aides who had had no orientation.

See TITUS, page 9

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Jocelyn Elders former Surgeon General of the United States spoke at the Tenth Anniversary celebration of the AIDS Project, (TAP), November 28. She stressed the need for increased AIDS prevention education. More than 450 attended the event held at the Holiday Inn by the Bay.

Elders was forced to resign her post when the media falsely reported that she encouraged masturbation for adolescents. Elders had merely stated the obvious when she pointed out that you can't get a sexually transmitted disease from masturbation. The former Surgeon General, the first African-American woman to hold that post, repeatedly stressed the need for more AIDS education and that sex education, in general, begin earlier than it does in most schools. Elders said that homophobia, puritanical attitudes and sex phobia, in general, were the biggest obstacles to effective AIDS education.



TITUS, from page 8

They didn't know how to deal with the simple things. And then decisions have to be made . . . there were some that were proscribed by the residential care facilities regulations. Mary Menair had worked on a few of those - typed them up. She was actually adapting them from someone else's and Marg and I typed up a very few before the Inspector came in January, but they were never revised, they were never adapted for Peabody House. They were never made public, never bound in a book or even published. The Board of Directors couldn't even find copies of them when they went looking for them in mid-May. They finally found one folder in the bottom of a shelf with these few odd patched in items . . . and I'm used to a manual that has it all spelled out. This is how we're going to treat this and this is how . . . and so on, etc. That's what I mean by 'protocols.' Another was for narcotics it would say, 'All narcotics will be kept . . . They did file a sheet of paper with the State of Maine in January which was written up and said, 'Protocols for Narcotics' but then that was filed away in this folder in the bottom of a shelf. It was never implemented. . . A manual and book of 'Policies, Procedures and Protocols' appeared in Peabody House for the first time in late July.

CPR: After Marg had left?

Titus: Yes.

Titus agreed with the observation by the Board of Nursing that it's true there was no patient harm but that, because of these charges, she (Titus) has been harmed. Titus said if the Board of Nursing were to ask Wolters - 'Did you do your job?' And found out she didn't, would the Board do anything about it? "My guess is that they wouldn't," said Titus.

"I really consider this whole mess a tragedy, not just for me, but for the people with HIV and AIDS. Many of our resources that we were building up are gone," said Titus. Even though Titus feels that her original concept, a care-giving network with Peabody House at its center, is gone, she continues to serve scores of people with HIV and AIDS.

In discussing her reaction to the entire affair Titus said, "For me, because it's been so grueling and so unfair - They're unfounded charges that have now been dismissed. But the worst is the fact that you are 'guilty until proven innocent' - that is a very painful situation."

CPR: Would you go back if Peabody House asked you to return?

Titus: Only on my terms, which would be that it's client-directed care and that it's not an institution. But at this point I just want to rest and try to renew myself. I'm very dispirited. The whole affair has been very grueling. It has drastically affected not only myself but the people I love. I just can't predict what will happen. I'm hoping I'll still be able to do the work, and that's hard enough to do in this community with everything that's happened. Peabody House isn't an entity to me, in a sense. I don't hear about it, I don't know anything about it, I'm not involved in it. If a person needed Peabody House I'd be the first to say, 'That's a resource, we've got to use that.'

I read in one of your articles (in CPR) that Nan Murphy said I'm not welcome in

Peabody House. I haven't heard any information that changes that. I haven't heard a word from anybody at Peabody House.

CPR: In what other ways has this controversy affected you?

Titus: I'm a person who tries not to ask why I have to learn the lessons I have to learn, and this is one, if I had had the choice, I would rather not have learned, but it's been a huge experience for me. I hope I can recover from it.

CPR: Do you think it's damaged your reputation?

Titus: Yes, definitely. It's created distrust in health care providers. It's affected my clinic, affected the business - Stratogen isn't getting as many referrals as we had been, and in terms of the general and professional relationships in the community, I'm marked -- 'she's the one.' That's why I didn't go in public for so many months and it's still hard now even though I've been supported. For example, I wouldn't have been able to attend the Jocelyn Elders speech because it's such a public forum. (Titus had a support group that night anyway.) It's had a chilling effect on me. I was very dispirited for a long time, not despondent but, you work so hard and then this is what you get for it -- but I've come out of that.

CPR: What's the positive side - what's been learned?

Titus: It's too soon for me to tell, but I've learned how the system works and how vulnerable we all are. The idea that you are 'guilty until proven innocent,' I think a lot of people know that but I think I had some misconception that you really weren't, but I certainly had to defend myself, for my life. Could we have talked it out - I'm a very data-based person. I would never act on hearsay, that one person said this - I would go to the person and ask what their view was, what their perception and their side of it was. That's how I operate. Fear prevailed in this whole situation and I'm really sad about that because Peabody House was only built because of my insistence that we would chose love over fear. All the people who objected to it even happening who said, 'What if . . . I always said we have to believe it's for good so we'll just go ahead and do it. I went through a period of real self-examination of my belief system and my values. Can you really chose love over fear when you are suffering, in a sense, so many repercussions from people's fear? It's been a great loss to me - the friendships and the associations and the project."

Frannie Peabody isn't sure if Sandy Titus will be invited to return to Peabody House. She said, "The whole of Peabody House has been so completely reorganized . . . it all depends." Lee Urban, the current Executive Director, said, in reference to whether Sandy would return to Peabody House, "There has been no discussion within the Board to ask her back. I would have to defer to the Board but her name hasn't come up in the discussions of long term planning. There has been lots of history and life goes on. We should let the dust settle from all of this. Sandy hasn't approached Peabody House either."

Urban said that Peabody House is doing well these days. He said they now have 4 clients living there and 3 who want to come in. Their total capacity is 6.

Wolters had no nursing license while working at Peabody House

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

Marg Wolters, Executive Director of Peabody House from January to July, 1995 did not have a license to practice nursing in Maine. Wolters has a nursing license, from Minnesota, but did not have it validated here in Maine. Her license to practice in Maine was not approved until July - the month she left the state.

The issue of whether Wolters had a license became relevant when Sandy Titus was working out a 'protocol' for patient care at Peabody House with Cindy Helan, a nurse from the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA). Titus said, "The protocol said that Peabody House would be responsible during the day for the patients, and then when it came back from Marg, she had said, 'No, a triage nurse will be responsible.' I didn't understand that because the dream had always been that the Director would be responsible because of the economy of it all - how do you afford this if you have to hire staff for every different task? We had always planned that the Director would oversee the nursing care during the day and call the VNA when they needed to. Certainly Marg Wolters was told she needed a nursing license when she came to Maine and it never occurred to me that she didn't have a nursing license until the end of April when Cindy Helan told me that she (Cindy) had asked Marg directly, and Marg had said, 'No, she didn't have one.' The Board was really surprised.

CPR: Wasn't that really a formality though, just a matter of paperwork?

Titus: For her, yes. All she would have had to do was pay her money and file her application.

CPR: One state would recognize another state's licensing powers. (Wolters had a valid nursing license in Minnesota.)

Titus: Yes. If she had done that. But she didn't choose to do that and that was revealing in itself. It would have been granted without question, but it is illegal to practice nursing in Maine without a valid Maine license. It isn't a formality in that sense. I would not, as a nurse, even give advice if I was in a state in which I was not licensed. In nursing, because you are dealing with the public health, you must have a license.

CPR: Why do you think she didn't get her license?
Titus: My guess is that she didn't



really intend to stay in Maine. She had no intention of staying in Maine and even though she had a six month contract, the Board hoped she would stay longer. I thought when she first came she might stay longer, but within the first couple of weeks it didn't look to me that she was really invested in the project. It's a big thing to me that she doesn't have a license and she is representing herself as a practicing nurse and she files a complaint against another nurse - and she doesn't have a license herself. Her license was granted at the end of June and she left on July 9th.

CPR: What was the point of getting it then?

Titus: My guess is that she applied for the license when she got involved with this letter writing against me.

CPR: Whose responsibility at Peabody House was it to make sure she had a license?

Titus: I told her she needed a license. When I told a member of the Peabody House Board of Directors that she didn't have a license I was told that, 'It doesn't really matter.' The fact of the matter is that she was pretty much pretending that she was just Executive Director, but then in her own letter she said that she was responsible during the day - she was responsible for nursing decisions, but she didn't have a license to practice in Maine.

Now for me, I'm going before a Nursing Board to be tried, in a sense, to decide whether I can keep my license, whether I can keep working as a nurse, and supporting myself. If I'm going to be

See WOLTERS, page 21

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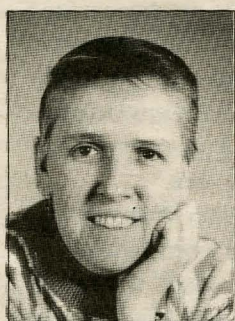
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EDITORIALS



As 1995 draws to a close, I find myself wondering where the time went since our last year-end issue of Community Pride Reporter. It's as though the pages of the calendar have been torn off as they are in a bad "B" movie to indicate the passage of time. Much has happened in Maine and around this country relating to our community—some good, much not so good. We've tried to bring the Maine and New Hampshire community as much news and items of interest as possible over the course of the year, and with the enormous help of Managing Editor, Bruce Balboni and our ever-faithful columnists as well as a few (too few, actually) volunteer reporters, I think we've done a good job.

Bruce has been tenacious in following news stories, often bringing out the story behind the story. His commitment to this paper has played no small part in keeping CPR a viable paper for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community of Maine and New Hampshire. Frankly, if I didn't have Bruce as a Managing Editor and as a

friend, CPR would be less than it is. We work shoulder to shoulder every month, usually through at least one "over nighter" just before we go to the printer, countless debates and discussions, laughter, tears, joys and fears. We wouldn't have had it any other way these last two and half years. It's time for some changes, however.

After much thought, I have made a decision to move on to other adventures in life. When I began Community Pride Reporter almost three years ago, I couldn't imagine I would ever decide to stop being Publishing Editor/Owner. However, I feel that this paper has a great deal of potential and is at its next growth stage, which includes a New Hampshire bureau (discussions are now underway), and I am not the one to take it to the next level. CPR needs someone with a fresh vision and energy to build on what I began. New ideas, enthusiasm and capitol will insure our Maine and New Hampshire communities of continued news and special interest coverage. So, I am announcing that the Community Pride Reporter is for sale. In addition to being announced here and talked about publicly, I will be listing the business with a business broker in January.

I want to assure readers and advertisers alike that I will make every effort

to continue to publish CPR until a buyer is found. That will not be an easy task for many reasons. Personally, I am looking burnout square in the face. Much of the work of CPR is done by just two people, Bruce and me. It's taking its toll. As a matter of fact, the other reason continued publication is going to be an added challenge is that Bruce is taking an extended leave of absence beginning in January. I will miss him more than words can say. Other volunteers are going to be needed to sniff out the news, write stories, take photographs, put the issue to bed and sing off key to me! In addition, I am going to need additional volunteers to assist with distribution in the greater Portland area. After the new year, call the office (879-1342) and sign up!

I am taking some time off during the holiday so the CPR office will be closed from December 21 through January 2. I will be in the office on January 3. This holiday season I wish each one of us the fulfillment of our fondest dreams.

In solidarity,

Winnie Weir



RANT - Here we go again . . .

by
David O. Cook
As 20,000 American men and women contemplate spending Christmas and possibly some

time to come, in a cold and war-ravaged foreign country, it's difficult not to think "Here we go again." The President has decided to commit American troops to "enforcing the peace" in what used to be Yugoslavia and is now an indeterminate number of warring states, loosely referred to as Bosnia. Rank and file Americans, faced with months of confusing news stories on Bosnia, are now trying to figure out what the right thing is to do.

The arguments in favor of the President's decision include humanitarianism, national interest, and the bolstering of NATO leadership. The equally valid arguments against American involvement revolve around two points. First, that American soldiers will be sitting ducks for whatever mischief the belligerents want to engage in and, second, that there can be no lasting peace without a permanent American presence, not just the one-year "clean-up" effort promised by the Clinton administration. People have a right to be leery especially of this latter issue, since conflicts have a way of dragging on long after they

have predicted to have been settled (case in point: Mogadishu)

For me, however, the debate revolves around something more fundamental than the merits of this particular situation and that is America's own dismal record as regards a morally-consistent foreign policy. Throughout this century, but particularly since the 50s, US foreign policy has vacillated between the twin polls of indecision and mean-spiritedness. From the Korean War to the Gulf War, our government has squandered American power on phoney causes and against phoney enemies and without even the satisfaction of accomplishing the desired results in most cases. We have overthrown democratic governments (e.g. Nicaragua) and propped up corrupt dictators (e.g. Panama, Haiti) who we later abandoned when they became disobedient or were too depraved for public opinion to tolerate. All in the name of democracy.

Make no mistake about it — at least in my lifetime, America has been a bully and on a grand scale. So appeals to humanitarianism might be viewed with a jaundiced eye. Yet the humanitarian argument in Bosnia is a compelling one. If we can believe the military intelligence information coming out of the area, widespread mass murders are being committed on a scale and with a single-mindedness which reminds one of

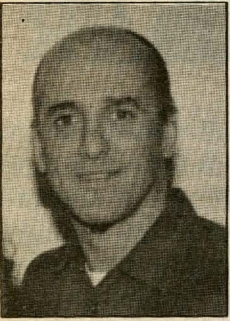
Nazi atrocities. And even in the absence of anti-Muslim genocide, just the daily reality of war has ground down both the people and physical infrastructure of the country to a point where there is little civil order and much that needs to be done if there is ever to be peace and a return to anything like normalcy.

More than half of Americans recently surveyed oppose our involvement in Bosnia. Some folks seem not to understand the situation at all, while others understand it only too well — the scenes of destruction and inhumanity we are now witnessing in Bosnia are part of a generations-old drama that suffered only a temporary intermission under Soviet rule; while NATO intervention may be able effect a similar hiatus, a permanent end to the bloodshed can only come through a willing change in the attitude of the belligerents.

While I am one of those in the minority who think that NATO intervention (and American involvement) might provide the breathing space in which the hard work of peace can begin, my support for this is still tainted by my basic distrust of American military adventuring, a distrust accumulated over years of watching America do the wrong thing in the wrong way in the wrong place.

△△

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



Reopen Deering Oaks Park to gay cruising

The Portland Press Herald (PPH) ran a story, November 28, 1995, about gay cruising in Portland's West End. The article detailed the policy adopted by the Portland Police Department, under the direction of Chief Michael Chitwood, to deal with the situation. Officers who patrol the area at night take down the license plate numbers of "cruisers" (people who drive around too much) and send letters to the vehicle's owner asking them to stop.

The authors of the PPH article failed to make the connection between the increase in West End cruising and the closing of Deering Oaks two years ago when the Portland City Council decided to put concrete barriers in Deering Oaks to, among other things, stop gay cruising in the park.

Deputy Chief Mark Dion of the Portland Police Department told me that even when the Oaks had no concrete barriers the park would close at 10 pm and police officers would notice the park clear out and, subsequently, traffic, motorized and otherwise, would increase accordingly on the Western prom. Dion added that, in his experience, cruising does not go away, it is "displaced." For example, he said that years ago prostitution in Portland was centered in Lincoln Park (near the Courthouse) and now it's on Mellen Street - it just moves around.

Deering Oaks, known affectionately as "Pickle Park" to friend and foe alike, had been the center of gay cruising in Portland for decades, probably since the park first opened in 1879. Like it or not, this is the sort of behavior that goes on in public places. Always has, always will.

Roman authors, graffiti artists and mosaic makers inform us that the Coliseum in ancient Rome was a popular cruising area for men. It is the nature of such public places that this kind of behavior goes on. The Coliseum in ancient Rome was a cruising area, and before that, and since, any city worth its salt, from Taipei to Timbuctou, has a public park-type area where men, gay and ambivalent alike, will cruise. (I can just see ancient Rome's police chief, Gaius Mikus Chitwoodius, in his toga, chasing chariots around the Coliseum.)

These attempts to eliminate gay cruising from Portland is a good example of Portland's mixed feelings about what kind of city it wants to be, simul-

taneously sophisticated - note the plethora of excellent restaurants, the lively theater scene, and the downtown Arts district - and yet, morally pure - note the police harassment of the Cage (an attempt to prevent the operation of "after hours clubs"), Chitwood's desire to impose a 1:15 am curfew on entertainment and, City Council interference with Zootz and Mark's Showplace.

Let's face it - it's difficult to defend cruising, especially in this new era of Puritanism fed by AIDS hysteria and a national AIDS prevention policy that basically and unrealistically declares all sex as unsafe. These overtly moralistic forces are in opposition to the tradition of gay male cruising which is a deeply embedded cultural facet of the gay male subculture - which is not to say that all gay men indulge in this practice. The attempt to stamp out gay cruising is yet another skirmish in the cultural war that is being waged in the United States today. Cruising isn't going to go away - it is going to move around though. Witness the West End.

Because barriers in Deering Oaks prevent cars from driving around the park men now cruise the West End, a neighborhood, in greatly increased numbers. If the city leaders were wise and courageous enough to accept the premise that cruising is here to stay, they would then see that the best place for it is Deering Oaks.

No one lives around the Oaks. There are no "neighbors" to voice the legitimate concerns which West Enders now echo. In fact, the people most at risk in the Oaks would be the gay men themselves who occasionally fell prey to gay bashers. This problem could be solved by taking a page from the notorious Fenway in Boston. The Fenway (or the Fens) is a gay cruising area which receives police protection rather than police harassment. In addition to this protection, there have been groups of Pink Panther vigilantes who patrol the Fens in a defensive and protective capacity.

Boston's Pink Panthers and volunteers from that city's AIDS Action Committee (AAC) do outreach for AIDS prevention on location - at the Fens - (listen up McPherson) by distributing safe sex kits, which include condoms and lubricant (water-based, of course). The arrangement is ideal - the cruisers are concentrated in one area and are a likely group of risk-takers (thus, the great potential for AIDS prevention to be effective) and the cruising itself is out of sight of any neighborhood.

Now comes the sticky question of the sex. Eeeeeew! Most gay men who are cruising meet and repair to one or the other's apartment, while others have at it right there. Those who can't wait are subject to arrest but perhaps that risk is part of the Appeal - we want what is forbidden. In addition to which, the relative privacy of Deering Oaks lends itself to the throwing of caution (along with clothes) to the wind.

During this most recent Portland City Council election I interviewed Kerri Lord, City Councilor and candidate for reelection, and asked her if she favored the changes (she pushed for them) at Deering Oaks, in light of their effect on gay cruising. She went on about how 'now that gays were more accepted in society' she thinks they (gays) should meet in more genteel surroundings. (Did she have the West End in mind?) I had the impression that I was talking to someone who just doesn't get it. The degree of acceptance of gays will, I predict, have no impact on cruising, except possibly, to increase it. Lord lost the election.

What is cruising? What is it about cruising that can be so exciting? The answers are as numerous as the participants. In a society which believes AIDS is God's punishment against gays, one who celebrates cruising risks being dismissed as a suicidal cannibal. So be it. The fact remains - gay cruising has existed as far back as recorded history and its flame appears no less dim now.

Gay cruising is a part of our community, a part of who we are, whether you engage in it or not. Cruising should be accommodated and protected... and, I believe, celebrated. I hope community leaders step forward and actively seek the removal of the concrete barriers and the reopening of Deering Oaks without a curfew.

Bruce Balboni

Bruce Balboni

P.S. I will be taking a leave of absence from the Community Pride Reporter. I have enjoyed my work at CPR immensely, particularly the wonderfully serendipitous, working relationship that has evolved between Winnie and me over the past two and a half years - a truly unique and often delightful experience. I trust there will be others in our community who will step forward and volunteer their time.

Community Pride Reporter

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Phone
207/879-1342

Our Mission

Community Pride Reporter serves as a source of local, state, national and international news, information, ideas and opinion by and for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people of Maine and seacoast New Hampshire. CPR strives to increase awareness and acceptance of the rich diversity among us, with the intention of infusing the word community with renewed meaning and vitality. CPR pledges to present materials that contribute in positive ways to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people.

Our Editorial Policy

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

Submissions Welcome

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

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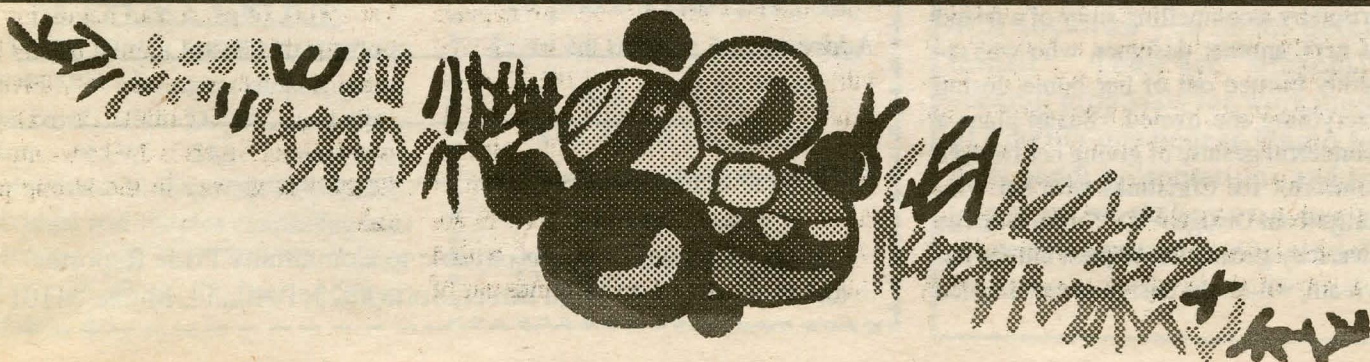
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DECEMBER '95 - JANUARY '96 CALENDAR

Tuesday-Saturday, Dec.19-23:

•**Δ 7:30 PM - (Sat. matinee at 2:00 pm)**
- Mad Horse Theatre Company, Portland, presents "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. A hilarious 1940s radio version of this classic holiday tale complete with radio commercials, live sound effects, holiday music and general mayhem. Tix: \$10 (\$7 students and seniors). 797-3338.

Saturday, December 23:

•**Δ 10:30-11:30 AM** - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/892-2192.

Monday, December 25:

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

Tuesday, December 26:

ΔΔ **Daytime** - Chiltern Mountain Club downhill skis all the way into the New Year in the White Mountains of NH. FMI, call John 617/648-9185.

Wednesday, December 27:

•**Δ 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.

Thursday, December 28:

ΔΔ **7:30-9:00 PM** - The Matlovich Society presents "1995 - A Retrospective" with various community and organization leaders looking back at this precedent-breaking year. Refreshments. Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Accessible to the mobility impaired; free hotel parking. FMI, 761-4380.

Friday, December 29:

ΔΔ **Daytime** - Chiltern Mountain Club spends New Year's weekend skiing in Montreal (CAN). Join us for cross-

country and downhill skiing and walking. FMI, Dave 617/864-9640.

ΔΔ **Daytime** - Chiltern Mountain Club's 8th annual P'town resolutions weekend. Hike along Cape Cod Nat'l Seashore and welcome in 1996. FMI, John Paul 617/784-3580.

Sunday, December 31:

•**Δ Afternoon & Evening: New Year's Portland**

130 events at twenty-five locations in Portland's downtown Arts District. This is a day-long, multi-cultural arts celebration with events for children and adults. FMI, call 800-639-4212 or in Portland area, 772-9012.

ΔΔ **8:00 PM** - Northern Lambda Nord's New Year's Eve Party in New Sweden. Call PhoneLine FMI, 207/498-0995.

JANUARY - 1996

HAPPY NEW YEAR !

Monday, January 1:

ΔΔ **Daytime** - Chiltern Mountain Club spends New Year's day on Mt. Jefferson (NH). Join us for this 10-mile roundtrip climb. FMI, Mike 603/644-7658.

Tuesday, January 2:

•**Δ 7:00-9:00 PM** - PFLAG-NH: Seacoast Chapter, Stratham Community Church, Emery Lane, just south of Stratham traffic circle. Group discussion on "Advocacy: Public and Private." FMI, 603/778-3072 or 603/772-5196.

Wednesday, January 3:

ΔΔ **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.

•**Δ 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.

Saturday, January 6:

ΔΔ **10:00 AM-12:00 PM** - Planning Committee meeting hosted by MLGPA at the Unitarian Church, 69 Winthrop St., Augusta. FMI, 1-800-556-5472 or in Portland area 761-3732.

Tuesday, January 9:

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

•**Δ 7:00-8:30 PM** - PFLAG: Seacoast, NH sponsoring "Connections," a support group for those affected by HIV/AIDS. Held at Exeter (NH) Congregational Church, Front St. Meetings are primarily for support, discussion and resource sharing. FMI, Ted - 603/778-0102 or Ingrid - 603/772-6221.

ΔΔ **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, January 10:

ΔΔ **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.

•**Δ 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.

Thursday, January 11:

•**Δ 7:30-9:00 PM** - The Matlovich Society presents "Timepiece" a witty,

wise, wicked and wonderful film covering discussions from group sex to monogamy to coming out, a surprise 30th birthday party among a group of seven gay men in San Francisco in the early 90s. Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Accessible to the mobility impaired, free hotel parking.

Friday, January 12:

ΔΔ **Daytime** - Chiltern Mountain Club cross-country skis in the White Mountains (NH). FMI, call John 617/648-9185.

Saturday, January 13:

ΔΔ **Daytime** - Chiltern Mountain Club skis the smaller mountains of Vermont: Suicide Six, Ascutney and the Dartmouth Skiway. FMI, Bob 617/266-3812.

Sunday, January 14:

ΔΔ **1:00-3:00 PM** - Northern Lambda Nord Business Meeting at the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.

Monday, January 15:

ΔΔ **6:00-8:00 PM** - Southern Maine Pride Committee meeting. Holiday Inn By The Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. All Welcome. FMI, 871-9940.

Wednesday, January 17:

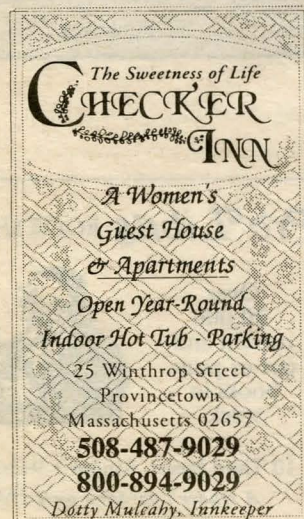
ΔΔ **7:00-9:00 PM** - Northern Lambda Nord Drop-In and Open House at the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.

•**Δ 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.

Saturday, January 20:

ΔΔ **Daytime** - Chiltern Mountain Club takes an extensive, above tree-line winter hike on Mt. Eisenhower (NH). FMI, John 508/529-3105.

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 December 1st.



Design AID awards "Best Designer"

PORTLAND, ME - Susan Turner of Harmon's & Barton's Florist of Westbrook was awarded "Best Designer" for the World AIDS Day event held at the Portland Museum of Art on December 1, 1995. The silent auction, hosted by David Charity and Charlie Wynott was a benefit for The Maine AIDS Alliance and was a wonderful success. The benefit raised approximately \$1,500. The Maine AIDS Alliance (MAA) is a consortium of Maine's community-based AIDS Service Organizations.

The coordinators of Design AID, David and Charlie, presented the check for \$250 to Susan Turner and were surprised by a compelling story of a friend of hers, another designer, who was recently burned out of her home, losing everything she owned. Susan plans a wonderful gesture of giving her friend a comforter for Christmas with her winnings from Design AID. Susan won her award by getting the highest bid for her wreath, which she designed and donated

for the auction.

Hosts Charlie and David would like to thank everyone who entered the contest as well as the supportive people living with AIDS. Several fine restaurants donated the food and the Portland museum of Art donated the space. Green Mountain Coffee provided great coffee along with hot cider donated by Hood.

All of these businesses made this a tremendous success.

For information on participating in next years Design AID event, contact David Charity/Charles Wynott, PO Box 1303, Portland, ME 04104 or call 871-1138 or 871-9109. ΔΔ

Subscription Form

Yes, I want to subscribe to the Community Pride Reporter. Subscription rate is \$25.00 for 12 issues. (More if you can, less if you can't.) CPR is mailed in a plain envelope.

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Checks should be made payable to Community Pride Reporter and mailed to: 142 High Street, Suite #623, Portland, Maine 04101

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△△ **YELLOW BIRCH FARM:** Romantic, seasonal cottage or year round studio on working organic farm in Down east Maine, 20 minutes from Eastport. Absolute peace and quiet. Beautiful, remote, unspoiled Cobscook Bay. B & B or weekly rental. Brochure, reservations: (207) 726-5807. △△

△△ **STONE WALL B & B:** Lovell, Maine. Country farmhouse in beautiful western mountains. Peaceful, private setting; Mt. Washington views. Spacious rooms/suites; all private baths/Jacuzzi. Near Kezar Lake, golfing, hiking. Spectacular fall foliage. Gay-owned. Smoke-free. For reservations: 207/925-1080.

PERSONALS

△△ **HIV+ SINGLES PUBLICATION:** Safe and confidential. Free copy, 36 word personal ad, voice mail, and mail forwarding! Local and nationwide! All life-styles. Gay, HIV+ owned and operated. Write: Intropoz+ Magazine, 564 Mission St., Box 415, San Francisco, CA 94105, or call 1-800-820-2948. △△

△△ **DARK UNKNOWN WATERS?** Spanking, discipline, bondage and deep, dark adventures offered to a young man by GWM Dad, 50s, who is into kink, leather, rapport, affection and understanding. I'm healthy, discreet and unusual Long term possible. Write Roger, PO Box 1169, Sanford, ME 04073. △△

△△ **LONELY GWM**, 28 years old, 5'8", brown hair & eyes, seeking someone for friendship and maybe more. Will answer all letters. Randy Kiper, #100254, Kentucky State Penitentiary, PO Box 128, Eddyville, KY 42038. △△

HELP WANTED

△△ **WOMEN OWNED** commercial and home cleaning company looking for motivated individual(s) to join the team. 22-28 hours a week, Monday-Friday to start. Some cleaning experience preferable. Neat appearance a must. \$6 per hour with potential move to supervisory/working level responsibility and wage. Call Fresh 'n Up Cleaning, 207/926-4365. △△

SUPPORT GROUP

△△ **TOWARDS A MORE POSITIVE IDENTITY:** Gay men's support group. Fred Wolf, STD, M.Div., and Chris Behan, MSW. \$45. Insurance reimbursable. Sliding scale fee possible. Individual and couples counseling also available. Call 207/773-6658, Family Institute of Maine, 38 Deering Street, Portland. △△

FOR RENT

△△ **ROOMMATE/LOVER WANTED:** GWM, 26, seeking GWM 18-30, to share 4 room apartment in downtown Farmington for companionship. Relationship possible. Also to split expenses. Rent \$70 a month. For more information, call after 7:30 PM at 207/778-1456. △△

WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITY

△△ **LESBIAN FICTION WRITING WORKSHOP** beginning January, 1996 in Portland. Taught by published author and experienced instructor. Create strong fiction through individual and group meetings. Written evaluations and Lesbian fiction handbook included. Contact Joanne at 207/797-2856. △△

ON-LINE SERVICE

△△ **FREE TRIAL MEMBERSHIP** to new local online service. ABACUS has millions of files, over thirty online games, classified ads, restaurant reviews, events calendar, public and private messages, adults only areas, live chat, Internet E-Mail and more! FMI, call 207/781-7073. △△

PRIDE '96 VENDORS

△△ **Pride '96 Rally and Festival** is taking reservations and applications from VENDORS for food, crafts, t-shirts, jewelry, books, etc., etc. Call now at 207/773-7393 (Penny), to reserve your space and/or ask questions. Leave your name, telephone number and address. Come one, come all to the best & biggest Festival in our 10 year history. Non-profits encouraged to rent space at a nominal fee. △△

**WANT HIM?
GET HIM!**



To place a classified ad,
type or neatly print your
ad and send to CPR,
142 High St., #623,
Portland, ME 04101.
\$10/40 words,
15¢ per word over 40.

Business Profile: Solar Sea Seafood, Incorporated

by Winnie Weir

There exists a gay-owned and operated seafood trading company called Solar Sea Seafood, Incorporated on the Portland Fish pier. I'm not sure why, but this information came as a complete surprise to me. More often than not, I'm afraid, I've forgotten that Portland has a wonderful, working waterfront. (My great uncles would not be happy about that since they were shipbuilders and fishermen and I would often watch them work while growing up.)

Proprietor Maggie Terry has specialized in the buying and selling of "boutique" fisheries for the past four years. She has established a customer base that exports monkfish tails to western Europe, monkfish livers to Asia, whole monkfish to Korea as well as whiting to Spain. Domestically, Terry's company

ships high quality Maine seafood such as gray sole, hake, cod and shrimp into the Boston, Philadelphia, New York and DC markets.

Solar Sea Seafood, Inc. buys directly from fishing vessels as well as the daily fish auction at the Portland Fish Exchange, guaranteeing its customers the freshest Maine seafood available. Currently Terry is in the process of starting a specialty seafood company which will cater to high-end restaurants and hotels across the United States. Joining forces with Greg Arruda, the duo has plans of further growth on the World Wide Web.

For more information about Solar Sea Seafood, Incorporated, contact Maggie or Greg at 2 Portland Fish Pier, Suite 109, Portland, Maine 04101 or call 207/761-2789. △△

Gay, Lesbian, Straight Teachers Network seeks proposals for 1996 Conference

GLSTN is a national organization of 25 local chapters which brings together gay and straight teachers, parents, and concerned community members to work toward creating schools where every member of the school community is valued and respected regardless of sexual orientation.

GLSTN recently announced that the sixth Annual GLSTN/BOSTON conference will be held on Saturday, April 27, 1996 at a location yet to be determined. They are presently seeking proposals for workshops of roughly one hour in length for both panel presentations and interactive workshops on topics related to homophobia in schools

for their next conference. They especially encourage elementary school teachers to submit proposals.

If interested, please send a written proposal by the first of the year to: Patty Smith, Conference Coordinator, GLSTN/Boston, PO Box 959, Cambridge, MA 02140. You may also send your proposals via e-mail to Smith at: psmith@roscoe.bu.edu Please include your mailing address, phone number, best time to reach you, and e-mail address if you have one.

Over 500 people attended last year's GLSTN/Boston conference, which had over 30 workshops, and a keynote address by Kate Clinton. △△

COMMUNITY PRIDE RESOURCES

GENERAL

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

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

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

The Matlovich Society is an educational and cultural organization of lesbians, bisexuals, gay men, and friends committed to sharing our history as well as providing person-affirming presentations and discussions in a supportive environment. Meetings on the second and fourth Thursday every month at 7:30 pm at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St. Portland. Free parking and accessible to the mobility-impaired. Call 207/761-4380.

National Association of Social Workers, ME Chapter, Sexual Minority Issues Committee welcomes new social work members. Our purpose is to educate, provide resources, and lobby legislators on issues involving sexual minorities 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, 874-1030.

HATE CRIMES & BIAS INCIDENTS: Have you or someone you know been a victim? Call the Civil Rights Section of the Maine Department of the Attorney General -626-8844.

Citizens Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights (CAGLR), New Hampshire's oldest progressive gay/lesbian civil rights organization, welcomes all those interested in these goals to weekly meetings, programs, socials and various other events. Newsletter. Call Info-line (603) 224-1686 or write to PO Box 730, Concord, NH 03302-0730.

The Rainbow Business & Professional Association: a statewide, non-profit organization established to create a gay, lesbian, bi and transgendered "chamber of commerce" for Maine. Meetings for networking or dinner with speaker events, held in the Greater Portland area, second Monday of the month. FMI write P.O. Box 6627, Scarborough, ME 04070-6627, call 207.775.0015 or e-mail wildboys@mainelink.net.

MUSIC & ART

Women In Harmony is an eclectic choral ensemble open to all women regardless of age, race, religion, or sexual orientation. If you are interested in becoming a member or volunteering organizational skills, send SASE (including your phone number) to P.O. Box 5136 Sta. 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 883-8099 or write M.G.M.C., P.O. Box 10391, Portland, ME. 04104.

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

PHONE SUPPORT

Region by region

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

Boston Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Youth (BAGLY): 1-800-347-TEEN.

National Hotline for gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender youth:

Call 1-800-347-TEEN, Sponsored by the Indianapolis Youth Group. 7-10 pm Sunday to Thursday, 7 pm to midnight Friday and Saturday. Staffed & trained, peer (youth counselors. Confidential and anonymous. **New Hampshire:** Teen Crisis Line - 1-800-639-6095.

Portland:

The AIDS Line: 1-800-851-AIDS or 775-1267. HIV/AIDS related questions, call Mon.-Sat. 9 am-5 pm, Mon. & Wed. evenings until 7:30 pm. Anonymous.

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

Ingraham Volunteers: Call 774-HELP (774-4357).

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.

Bangor: Eastern Maine AIDS Network: 990-3626

Belfast: Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: 338-1427

Brunswick: Merry meeting AIDS Support Services: 725-4995

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

Rumford: Community AIDS Awareness Program: 823-4170

Lewiston: Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition: 786-4697

Waterville: Dayspring: 626-3432

Ellsworth: Down East AIDS Network: 667-3506

Oxford Hills: Oxford Hills Community AIDS Network: 743-7451.

Mid coast: Gay men's HELP LINE, 6:00-9:00 pm (only) M-F. 207/863-2728, FAX, 207/863-2794. Also, gay youth info.

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG)

Contacts in Maine

(* indicates monthly meetings)

Augusta/Hallowell: 623-2349

*Bangor/Brewer: 989-5180

Brunswick/Bath: 729-0519

*Oakland: Steve, 465-3870

*Lewiston/Auburn: 783-9789

*Portland: Rita, 766-5158 or Sue, 774-3441

Waldoboro: 832-5859

Contacts in New Hampshire

P-FLAG NH 24 hour Helpline:

603/623-6023

Concord: Judy, 603/485-3943

Webster: Betsy, 603/746-3818

Manchester: Hans & Lin, 603/668-0741

Nashua: Nancy, 603/880-8709

Kensington: Nora/John, 603/772-3893

Stratham: Betty, 603/772-5196

Francestown: Cy/Gordon, 603/547-2545

Hanover: Shirley/Tom, 603/643-8331

Holderness: Olivia, 603/968-7254

Center Sandwich: Tish, 603/284-6434

DOVER, NH: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Helpline for info, referral or need to talk. M-F 6-10 pm, Sat.-Sun. 9am-2pm. 603/743-GAY2.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Medical Support

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic: Confidential screening and treatment for STD's for residents and non-residents at a walk-in clinic. Low cost, medicaid accepted. Anonymous, confidential HIV testing by appointment only. Clinic open Tues. & Thurs., 3:30 to 6 pm at Portland City Hall Room 303. FMI call 874-8784.

Planned Parenthood of Northern New

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

FREE FAMILY THERAPY available for individuals & families (of any type) who are affected by HIV disease. FMI, contact Chris Behan, MSW at Center for Training and Special Programs. 773-6658.

Identity Support

New Hampshire P-FLAG Meetings

Concord: Meets 3rd Sunday from 3-5 pm at 1st Congregational Church, Washington & North Main Streets. (use Washington St. entrance), FMI call 603/472-4944.

Seacoast: Meets 1st Tuesday from 7-9 pm at Stratham Community Church, Emory Lane, Stratham (1st right west of Rte 101 circle), FMI call 603/772-5196.

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

Nashua: Meets 3rd Thursday at 7:30 pm at Unitarian-Universalist Church, Lowell & Canal Streets., FMI call 603/880-0910.

Plymouth: Meets first Sunday, 7-9 pm, Plymouth Congregational Church. FMI, call 603/968-7254 or 603/786-9812.

Upper Valley Region: Meets second Wednesday, 7 pm. Hanover. FMI, call 603/643-8331.

Maine P-FLAG Meetings

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

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

NA: Just for Today meetings every Wednesday, 8:15 pm, at St. Luke's Cathedral, State St., Portland. Use Park St. entrance in rear. Also Friday meeting, 8:00 pm, Immanuel Baptist Church, corner Deering & High St., Use entrance off Deering St.

Out and About - a lesbian support and educational group, meets on 1st & 3rd Wednesday monthly, 7:00 pm., United Methodist Church, 129 Miller Ave, Portsmouth, NH. FMI: POB 5691, Portsmouth, NH 03902, or 603/772-8045.

Out Among Friends: Meets Thursdays 7-8:30 pm, in the downstairs club room of the Portland YWCA, 87 Spring St. Lesbian sup-

port/discussion group. Free or \$1 donation to help w/rent.

Out on MDI: For gays, lesbians, bi's and our friends. Very active social/support group. Meets every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Newcomers always welcome. FMI, write OUT ON MDI, PO Box 367, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679-0367 or call (207) 288-2502 and leave a message.

Exeter Congregational Church: United Church of Christ in Exeter, NH welcomes all God's children to worship, Sundays, 10 a.m. 21 Front St. (near Court St.) Co-pastors the Revs. Michael L.C. Henderson & Jane Geffken Henderson. FMI, call Ingrid, 603/772-6221.

Dignity, Etc.: Meets third Sunday at 5:15 pm at St. Luke's Cathedral (Emmanuel Chapel), Portland. All are welcome. Fellowship & potluck supper follow 5:15 pm service. We minister to the lesbian and gay community. FMI, write P.O. Box 8113, Portland 04104.

The Appollo Society: an out-reach, networking and social organization for New England's gay and lesbian atheists, free-thinkers, ethical humanists and Hellenes. Free speech/civil rights advocacy group offering freedom-from-religion support, religious de-programming and fun! FMI, 773-5726 or P.O. Box 5301, Portland, ME 04101.

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 Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI write Community of Hope. POB 1671, Portland, ME 04104.

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

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) 594-2957.

Q-Squad: Support group for lesbian, gays, bisexuals, & transgendereds. Serving Franklin County, based at UM Farmington. FMI call and leave message, (207) 778-7380.

TransSupport Group: For crossdressers, transsexuals, their families, friends, & others interested in transgenderism. Meets in secure locations to provide support, education & social activities. FMI write TransSupport, P.O. Box 17622, Portland, 04112.

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

Trans Counseling: Cheshire Counseling Assoc., PO Box 1124, Keene, NH 03431. 603/357-5544.

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

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

Polyamorous Life Support (PALS): Do you love more than one person? You may be polyamorous. Polyamorous Life Support (PALS) is a discussion/support group for people interested in creating/nourishing committed, loving, multipartner relationships.

Whether curious or already multiply intimate, call 773-6132 FMI.

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

Lesbian/Bisexual Support Group: Meets every Tuesday, 7-9 PM, at Women's Resource Center 101 Fernald Hall at UM Orono. FMI call (207) 581-1425.

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

Seacoast Gay Men: Social group meets Mondays (except holidays), 7 pm Unitarian Universalist Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH. FMI call (603) 430-4052, or write P.O. Box 1394, Portsmouth 03802-1394.

Dover, NH: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered support Group meets Sundays 7-8pm, Quaker Mtg. House, Central Ave. Social times too. FMI, 603/743-GAY2 eves.

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 any woman who self-identifies as a lesbian. They seek to create woman-only, lesbian-positive space to explore issues and affirm themselves and each another as lesbians. Confidentiality, open-mindedness and respect are required. Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 pm, Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, 334 Harlow St., Bangor. FMI: (207) 947-5337.

Mountain Valley Men (MVM): A group of gay men of all ages in the western Maine, Eastern NH area who get together for pot luck dinners, hiking, canoeing, skiing and other activities. FMI, write to Box 36, Center Conway, NH 03813-0036 or call Paul at 207/925-1034.

S.N.A.P.: Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests. Monthly support group for men & women healing from sexual abuse by clergy of any denomination. Meets in Portland location on third Friday of the month. FMI, call 207/774-5025.

DEGLO (Down East Gay & Lesbian Org.) meets 2nd Saturday of the month, 5:30 pm at the UU Church, Park Street, Bangor.

Men's Discussion Group: 7:00 pm, fourth Saturday every month, St. James Episcopal Church, Center & Main Streets, Old Town.

Parents

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Parents Group: Meeting in the Portland area. For dates, places and times write GLB Parents Group,

P.O. Box 10818, Portland, ME 04104.

Mothers and Kids Group: Social events and group support for lesbians and their children. Emphasis on inclusion of lesbians in the process of becoming pregnant or adopting. Meets monthly in the greater Portland area. FMI write: P.O. Box 2235, South Portland, ME 04116.

Youth Support

OUTRIGHT TOO: Sundays, 6pm at Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, Harlow St., Bangor. Support group for lesbian, gay, bisexual youth ages 16-22. FMI, call 207/947-5393.

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

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

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 603/431-1013 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 who 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:

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

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

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

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

Thursdays: People living with HIV meets 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, 142 High St., 6th floor, except the Tuesday group, Living Well. FMI on that call Sandy Titus at Stratogen Health Care. Call Jane O'Rourke at 774-6877 or 1-800-851-2437 for more information.*

Auburn: People living with HIV disease, Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00 pm at Auburn Family Planning. Call Diana Carrigan, Androscoggin and Oxford Case Manager and Support Services Coordinator for TAP at the Auburn office, 783-4301.

Augusta: Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 pm, Dayspring AIDS Support Services offers support for people with HIV & those who care about them. FMI, call 207/626-3435.

Biddeford: 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.

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

Farmington: Thursdays: 6:30-8:30 pm. HIV+ support group. Call Christie Foster at Tri-County Health Services, 778-4553, for location.

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

Rumford/Mexico Area: Mondays: AIDS Support Group/Phoneline meets from 7-8:30 pm at Mexico Congregational Church, Main Street, Mexico. Call 364-8603.

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

New Hampshire:

EXETER - "Connections," support group for care-givers: parents, families, friends-all those whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS, meets second Tuesday from 7-8:30 pm. Exeter Congregational Church, 21 Front St. Confidentiality assured. Wheelchair access. FMI, 603/772-6221 or 603/778-0102.

Maine AIDS Alliance

Member Organizations

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

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

Community AIDS Awareness Program: c/o Mexico Cong. Church/UCC, 43 Main St., Mexico, ME 04257. Call 364-8603.

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

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

Down East AIDS Network: 114 State St., Ellsworth, ME 04605. Call 667-3506.

Eastern Maine AIDS Network: P.O. Box 2038, Bangor, ME 04401. Call 990-3626.

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

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

Oxford Hills Community AIDS Network: P.O. Box 113, Paris, ME 04271-0113. Call 743-7451.

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

People With AIDS Coalition of ME.: 696 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101. Call 773-8500.

Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS) 142 Congress Street, Portland ME 04101. Call 775-PAWS.

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

The AIDS Project: 142 High St., 6th fl., Portland, ME 04101. Call 774-6877.

Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: P.O. Box 956, Belfast, ME 04915. Call 338-1427.

Online Resources for
Maine's LGBT Community

The Maine Gay Network

△The Maine GayNet Mail List:

Share your ideas and opinions or just plain chat with other list members. To subscribe to this list, send e-mail to majordomo@abacus.oxy.edu. In the message part, write "subscribe me-gaynet."

△The Maine GayNet Home Page:

An ever-changing display of events and information. Meetings, contact people, resources, & referrals. The complete text of CPR available online, too. Point your WEB Browser at: <http://www.qrd.org/QRD/www/usa/maine> FMI, e-mail Paula Stockholm: paula@maine.com △△

P'town's first annual Valentine's Weekend

PROVINCETOWN, MA - Provincetown's first annual Valentine's Weekend: Celebrating and Finding Relationship, will be held February 9-11, 1996. The weekend is designed to offer gay and lesbian couples a fun opportunity to explore their relationship in the safe and relaxed winter ambience of Provincetown, and to offer single men and women an opportunity to meet other singles who are interested in exploring relationship issues.

Most of the weekend is social. However, Saturday's program, "Dare to Get the Love You Deserve," is an edu-

cational program designed to enhance couples work as well as individual work pertaining to relationship issues. It is safe, fun and useful. The weekend features nationally acclaimed certified IMAGO Therapists Maya Kollman and Patrick Vachon. Whether you're a lesbian or a gay man, single or partnered, this special weekend promises to be a heart-warming event! Provincetown is supportive, lovely and at it's best off season.

The cost is \$50 per person and includes a delectable chocolate reception Friday evening, dancing, dancing, and

more dancing Saturday night, "Dare to Get the Love You Deserve" program and restaurants will be offering romantic candlelight dinners for couples or an invitation to join a "Table for Seven" (a lively and comfortable way to share meals with other participants) and a festive Sunday brunch.

To receive a brochure or to register, call 800-487-1802 or write Valentine's Weekend, PO Box 1982, Provincetown, MA 02657. △△

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Lorraine, or leave msg.

Arts & Entertainment

"Pretty Good Year"

by Aimsel L. Ponti

For the past couple of days I've been thinking about the past year and all the things I want to include in this article. The more I sit and obsess about it, especially when I'm drinking coffee, the more I realize that an awful lot of great music was released, a lot of incredible things happened here in Portland and I don't even know where to begin. So, I think I'm just going to sit here and type and see what happens. I'm certain to leave out some stuff, but here it goes: Aimsel's Highlights of 1995 . . .

- * The movies "Go Fish" and "The Incredibly True Adventures of Two Girls in Love" both played at 10 Exchange Street in Portland.
- * Ballot question #1 was defeated
- * Jodie Foster directed a movie
- * Ellen DeGeneres wrote a book
- * K.D. Lang put out a new album
- * Jane Siberry's new album - "Maria"
- * Enya's new one "the Memory of Trees"
- * Shawn Colvin played the State Theater (and released Live in '88)

- * Bonnie Raitt played the Civic Center (and released "Road Tested")
- * Kate Schrock played all over the place
- * Indigo Girls released a double live album
- * WCYY changed their format
- * the Brady Bunch Movie (hey, I'm serious)
- * Sarah McLachlan played the State Theater
- * Paula Cole opened for her (Sara)
- * Nell
- * Paula Poundstone at the State Theater
- * Natalie Merchant's solo album
- * The movies "Jeffrey" and "the Sum of Us"
- * The Yellow Wallpaper (Oak Street Theatre)
- * Lavender Land Utopia (also at Oak Street Theatre)
- * Pride '95
- * Melissa Etheridge finally put out a new album
- * Paula Poundstone played the State Theater
- * the "Spirit of '73" compilation album was released

- * Breaking the Surface (Greg Louganis' book)
- * Tracy Chapman is back with "New Beginnings"
- * Joan Armatrading played the State Theater (and new album)
- * Boys on the Side (film and soundtrack)
- * "The Sum Of Us" (excellent Australian film)
- * Alanis Morissette (she's starting to grow on me)
- * The compilation album "Out Loud"
- * Ani DiFranco - "Not a Pretty Girl," and she played at Bowdoin
- * Jonatha Brooke and the Story played at Raoul's and released "Plumb"
- * disappear fear played at the First Parish Church
- * New Ferron album
- * Jimmy Somerville released "Dare to Love"
- * Lynn Deeves, Erica Gilbert and Val Bennett played at Sisters
- * Ann B. Davis (Alice Brady) on a float while at the Macy's Parade in NYC
- * Patty Larkin's new album
- * Christine Lavin's new album
- * Cheryl Wheeler's new album

- * Jeannette Winterson wrote a new book, "Art and Lies"
- * Christine Lahti on Chicago Hope
- * Muriel's Wedding
- * I finally saw "Tales of the City" series
- * Maine Won't Discriminate's victory party
- * Martina came to Maine
- * Urvashi Vaid came to Maine
- * The Gay Men's Chorus and Women In Harmony
- * Bigger cups at Green Mountain Coffee
- * Melissa Etheridge at Great Woods (w/ Paula Cole)
- * The dogs - Chester, Snuffy, Skyler, Bandito, Boris, Sunrise, Hannah, Cinder, Paige, Murphy and Haley
- * And last, but certainly not least, all the friends who rock my world and who have tolerated my various forms of insanity throughout 1995
- * Wishing everyone survival of the holidays and a peaceful new year.

"Keep passing the open windows"
—John Irving "the Hotel New Hampshire"

It means, don't lose hope . . . ΔΔ

BOOK REVIEW: "Walking on Air"

Walking on Air

By R.S. Jones

Houghton Mifflin - \$21.95, 253pp

Reviewed by J. H. Morgan

"Walking on Air," by R. S. Jones, explores the dynamics of a relationship between a dying man and his two friends. The author deftly illuminates the ambivalent and painful feelings of Henry and Susan, as they care for William, who is dying from an unnamed, degenerative fatal illness for which there is no cure and only unsatisfactory treatment. The novel insightfully explores the devastating effects of the illness on William himself as he comes to terms

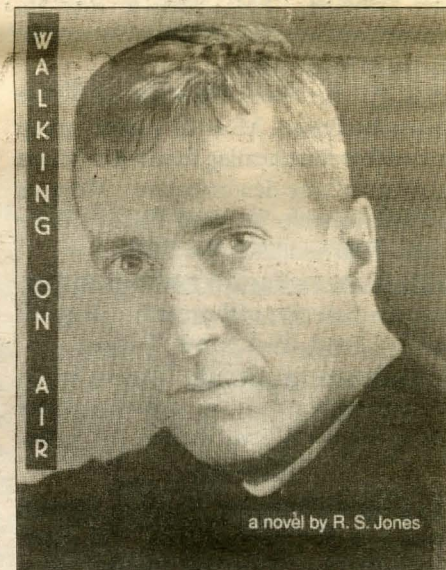
with his own death. Novels about illness, death, and its effects on friends and family are all too familiar in this age of AIDS. Occasionally, however, an author will write with exceptional eloquence and courage, and "Walking on Air" explores in an original and startling way issues of dying, loss, and the darker side of friendship's ties.

William Adams grew up on an isolated Western farm, trained by a rigorously self-sufficient family that slaughtered the pigs on Sunday mornings while Mother made jewelry from rattlesnakes' rattles. Stifled by his environment, he dreams of far-away places, and as soon as he is eighteen he fled to the city.

Once there, William sets out to remake himself by making a success of himself. He disowns his past by changing the spelling of his name from Adams to Addams. Driven to succeed, he gets a job within a week of his arrival in the city, and soon he goes to college, where he chooses his classes with an eye to how well they will serve him later in his quest for making money. Making money is something William does well, and we learn that by the time he is thirty, he is living off his interest. As a symbol of his success, William buys a house by the shore which, with the help of his closest friends, he lovingly restores — a symbol of the self he has remade.

William met Susan soon after his arrival in the city, and their relationship, which hinged initially on Susan's maternal feelings for the runaway, has lasted many years. William met Henry at a favorite local bar, and a relationship that essentially began as a one-night-stand developed over the years into a friendship that's as hard for outsiders to understand as it is problematic for William and Henry themselves. In friendships, William maintains a forbidding independence that holds up a barrier to intimacy and leaves Susan and Henry questioning the depths of their friendship with him.

Henry is an emotionally underdeveloped academic who "often had time to think about how the task of being William's keeper had befallen him." Even he does not really understand his relationship to William: "... everyone



who did not know them well assumed they were lovers, but their friendship had always been something more, and less, than that." Henry can't imagine not being in William's world, and he holds William and William's things in a sort of reverence, especially the beach house. Henry worked hard at restoring this house at the shore, and in some ways thinks of it as his own. William, realizing this, promises to leave the house to Henry, hoping that this will ensure Henry's continued care. Henry sees the house as a reward for his loyalty even while he is conscious that the promise of the house, and William's oblique acknowledgment that it is conditional on Henry's continued "good behavior," has inevitably poisoned the relationship.

As the story opens, it's clear that William's illness will prove to be fatal. Henry begins to wonder about his own

See BOOK, page 21

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The Last Gasp . . .



by
Aimsel L.
Ponti

This will be my last batch of reviews for the year. In 1996 there will be a new Tori Amos album, "Boys For Pele" as well as a new record from disappear fear. And, K.D. Lang is touring. . . However, there were a few things I missed this year so just here's a few quick reviews so I can sleep better.

Tracy Chapman's fourth album, "New Beginnings," is what her fans have been waiting for for some time now. I suspect with this album and probable tour she'll pick up some new listeners along the way. This record is chock full of incredible songs and the first single, "One Good Reason," is receiving radio time with its bluesy sound. Chapman has certainly, pardon the cliché, returned to form with "New Beginnings." It's a well rounded album with a new batch of ballads that'll bring you back to the days of "Baby Can I Hold You" and "Fast Car," as well as demonstrating how

she has become a stronger musician and songwriter.

I've never been one to listen to stand-up comedian's albums and hearing Judy Tenuta's latest "In Goddess We Trust," is all the more reason not to. You know Judy, she's the woman with the accordion and the almost unbearably obnoxious manner of speaking. I think live comedy is best enjoyed . . . well, live. Although some of Tenuta's material was funny, overall I just wasn't able

to really embrace it, especially since it contains references to the O.J. Simpson trial which I think we are all collectively over. Judy Tenuta is, however, a big supporter of the gay community and that is certainly appreciated.

The folk music scene has certainly had it's own array of highlights over the past year. To put it all in one sentence: kudos to Patty Larkin, Cheryl Wheeler, Dar Williams and Christine Lavin.

One book that I'd like to mention is "The Passion of Alice" by Stephanie Grant. I read this novel in about three days and initially was disturbed by it. Now that I've had time to think about it, I'd have to say that is a very power-

ful. It's setting is "Seaview Hospital", specifically it's eating disorders clinic. There, the main character, Alice Forrester, is dealing with her anorexia. It's not a pretty subject. In fact, Grant's descriptions made me cringe more than once. At Seaview, Alice befriends other women struggling with their own disorders, particularly a bulimic woman named "Maeve" whose vulgar, yet sensitive, personality touches a few of Alice's nerves. "The Passion of Alice" is tragic, sometimes funny, and memorable due to Grant's descriptive way with words.

Lastly, and I must sigh before even typing her name. . . Annie Lennox. The woman definitely gets goddess status in my book. "Medusa," her follow-up album to the breathtaking "Diva," is equally superb. Consisting of a well thought out collection of cover songs, this album once again displays the silver lined vocal chords of Lennox. About 1987, the British band, "The Lover Speaks," had an alternative hit with "No More I Love You's." Although I have yet to meet anyone who remembers this, this is the song Lennox starts the album out with. She also covers "Whiter Shade of Pale," "Take Me to the River," and the Big Audio Dynamite song "Train In Vain." I especially love what she did with Neil Young's "Don't Let It Bring You Down." Annie, please go on tour.



CONCERT REVIEW: "Peace on Earth" by the Maine Gay Men's Chorus

by Winnie Weir

On Friday evening, December 8, the Maine Gay Men's Chorus presented the first Portland performance of their concert season at the State Street United Church of Christ. Entitled "Peace on Earth," the program was enthusiastically received by an almost full house. (Saturday night's attendance suffered at the hands of the miserable weather.)

The antiphonal opening number effectively caught the audience by surprise as the men stood in the rear of the sanctuary to sing a "Penobscot Song of Greeting." A Native American song entitled "Now I Walk in Beauty," was also sung from the back. The chorus then processed down the aisles singing "Haec est Dies" by Jacob Handl and moved to their positions at the front. Looking over the 44 men standing in their tuxedos and crisp white shirts, I observed several new faces and the absence of several others. According to the program notes, a goodly number of members are not singing this season, although still considering themselves members of the chorus.

The first section in the first half of the program was entitled "Learned of Angel," and songs and readings with angel-themes were presented. The selections had a feel of heaviness and the with one to two exceptions, the singing was less than enthusiastic. The closing of this section with "Great Day" was the first time the chorus members came to life. The tempo of this well known "pop

tune" was a welcome relief, but seemed out of sync with the heavier, classical flavor of the previous numbers even though it mentioned angels.

The second section, entitled "Echoes of the Season," included a continuation of the mixture of readings and music and heaviness. During "Sanctus," written by the late Thomas Merrill, a member of the chorus who died of AIDS, a huge rainbow banner and AIDS banner was brought to the front of the sanctuary. The poignancy of this moment would have been enhanced had program notes been made to point out the significance.

Following the intermission, we were treated to some lighter music and frivolity with "Tomorrow Shall Be My Shopping Day," "He Could Only Sing a 'C'," and "Good Thing He Can't Read my Mind," to name a few. Soloists Martin Lescault and Tony Correia provided a touch of nostalgia with "I'll be Home for Christmas," and "Let it Snow!" The program ended with audience participation on "Dona Nobis Pacem." It didn't work well as a round as audience members lost their way trying to keep their parts separated. The sound, however, was beautiful.

I had a difficult time hearing the readings and the solos even though I was up front, stage right. The trio and the quartet were less a challenge, but they all could have used additional amplification and/or instruction in the art of

See MGMC, page 21

A visit to the Portland Museum of Art: Thoughts & poem inspired by the work of Paul M. Rodrigue

by Tom Coffin

The following poem was inspired by a work of art by Paul M. Rodrigue titled "Vincent's Journey" (1992/mixed media). It consists of a life mask of the subject set against a textural background resembling a wall and framed in black lacquer.

The artist adorns the work's hero with a battle shroud of snake skin that

hangs loosely as though ready to be shed. The accompanying information set beside this work describes the subject as a "warrior of peace" on a "quest for truth and compassion." The "wall" behind swirls with muted yet gleaming shades of purple and is cut into blocks by insets of what appears to be tarnished brass which lends a contrasting appeal to the

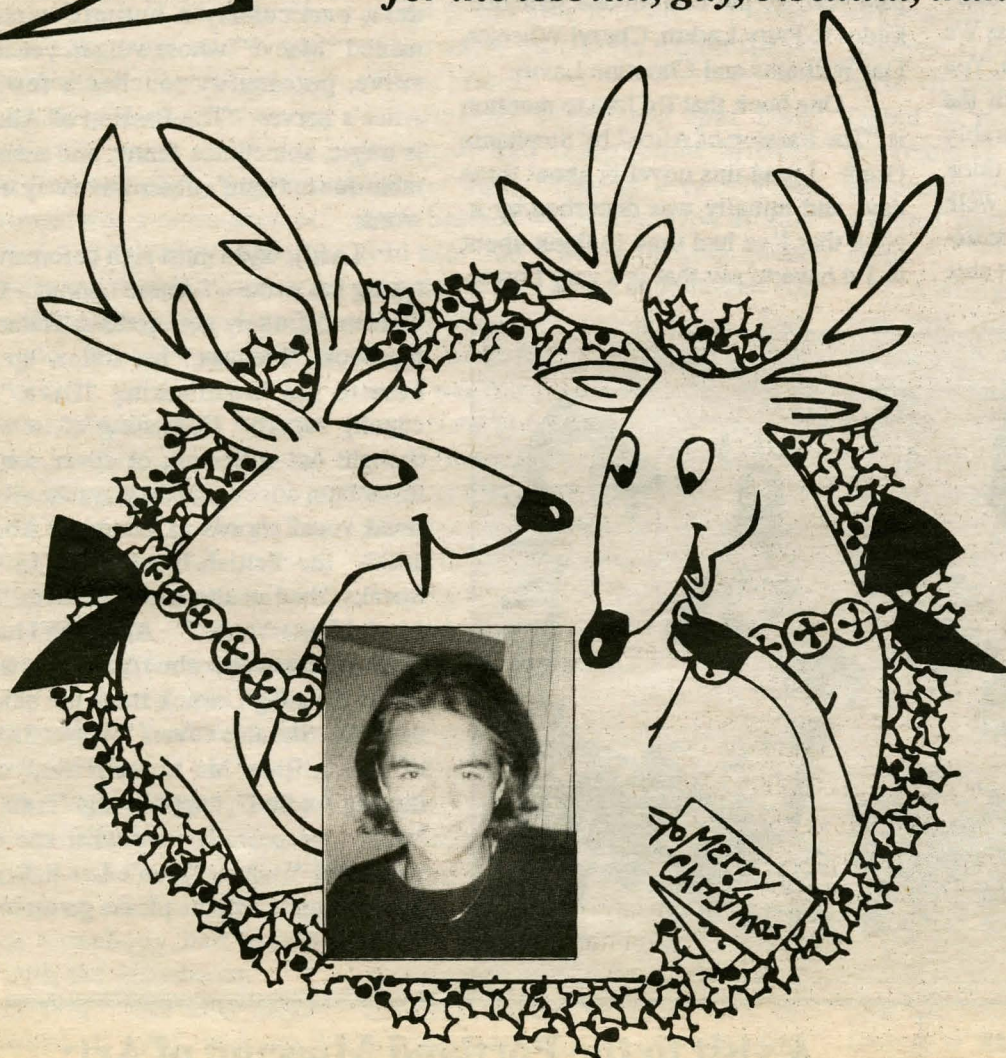
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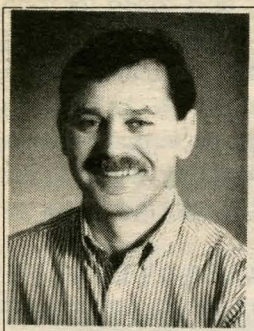


From Sage . . .

O.K. Listen up. Gay youth are always complaining about the fact that we are ignored and forgotten by the older gay community. Well, this is your chance to be heard. "Our Voice" is for you, the gay youth. It is your chance to be heard and to speak out about what is on your mind. Community Pride Reporter has given us the space, but I can't do this by myself. I need to hear from other youth who want to write news stories or book reviews. Movie reviews, music reviews, a short story you wrote or a poem.

In order to keep Our Voice going, I need you to submit these things. So, what gives? Send your stuff to OUR VOICE, Community Pride Reporter, 142 High Street, #623, Portland, ME 04101. ΔΔ

PRIDE IN PROGRESS: A little history



by
**Michael
Rossetti**

In 1987, when Portland Pride first started, it came shortly after the gay-bashing and drowning murder of Charlie Howard in Bangor. The anger was still fresh and the sympathy and conviction was still looking for a vocal outlet as the reaction to Charlie's murder began to formulate politically. Pride that year, and for a long time afterwards, was a political protest march down Congress Street, meant to give opportunity for our community's visibility and as a statement of both defiance and support.

Naturally, over time, the "march"

and the rally began to become sort of routine, despite the fact that people from around the state were coming to Portland's event as a safe place for them to be visible away from more homophobic areas where they lived and worked. The attendance began to level out and the rally and organization needed some fresh life and interest (As if walking arm and arm down Congress Street with your lover was not unusual.)

Surprisingly, Pride's best friend to increased support turned out to be the right wing reactionaries who organized referendum repeals and initiatives against gays. Also the near hits with the enactment of a civil rights bill passing through the State legislature brought its share of faces to the Congress Street demonstration. Although the nature of Pride was being boosted by political ac-

tivity, the actual character began to become more inclusive with greater ownership being taken by all the elements of the gay and lesbian community. One of the boldest additions to Pride ownership was the increased presence of the drag community and the greater involvement of the bars and businesses. This resulted in a string of ever better attended, more fun and more powerful Pride events, and Pride can now truly be called a community festival.

Last November, the Pride Committee, also known as Portland Pride, legally changed its name to Southern Maine Pride and completed the first round of new board elections. Pride 1996 can be the best year yet, Pride's 10th in Portland. The proposals and new organization bring both a greater opportunity for volunteer input and a wealth of exciting new ideas. The board continues to be filled out.

To be part of Pride 96', one needs to make several commitments. First, to be willing to take the time to attend planning meetings and take on specific tasks. Second, be committed to the safety of and support of all participants, including the liability of the city and police. Third, and absolutely the most important, be willing to work together so that every part of our community which

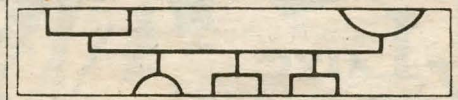
wishes to participate, according to its own way, be provided respect and assistance. Along the way one needs to have the ability to share and take criticism, work to develop practical compromise, actively seek advice and input, and not forget to leave space for human imperfection.

Last year's Pride cost ran into the thousands of dollars, and a good event in 1996 will undoubtedly cost more, with less services being donated as we expand the festival. Taking on the challenge and the pleasure of presenting a community festival to the delight and betterment of our community will only happen when people volunteer to be part of the Board, or work in the various sub-committees.

The Southern Maine Pride Committee is currently constructing a time table and assessing its ability to put on specific events next June, as well as its ability to host certain national speakers and develop fund-raisers. To plug into the Committee, take the third Monday of every month, from 6-8 pm and join us at the Holiday *By the Bay*, 88 Spring Street, Portland, or call 871-9940 for more information. ΔΔ

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The Holiday Blues Sadness or Depression?

The holiday season can bring on a whole mixed bag of emotions.... excitement from the music, the decorations and the cheerful hubbub; awe at the season's renewal and promise of the future; exhaustion from the endless round of activities; and even sadness for those who aren't with us anymore.

These are all normal emotions and to be expected during this magical, but frenetic, time.

For some people, however, the stresses of the holiday season can trigger a biochemical imbalance of the brain known as major depression, a serious disorder which has been described as a "well of blackness" and robs the affected person of the ability to feel joy, excitement, motivation and pleasure. Instead, they may become numb and guilt-ridden, and just go through the motions, painfully aware they aren't really part of the joyful, bustling holiday commotion.

Well-meaning friends and relatives can tell something is wrong and try to cheer them up or urge them along with "Lighten up, it's Christmas" or "Hey, everyone gets the blues this time of the year".

But major depression - when it hits - isn't the blues, and it's far more painful than sadness. No amount of cajoling or chin up-type pep talks can pull a person out of it, anymore than any other major illness can be cured by the good intentions of relatives. And, major depression continues: for weeks, for months, and sometimes, even for years.

Major depression affects 17.3 million adults in the United States, about 2-3 million of whom have the form known as bipolar disorder (manic depression), which consists of alternating periods of extreme highs and abysmal lows.

How is a person to know if the depressed feelings are just a normal seasonal sadness (or so-called situational depression), or if they are the far more serious mood disorder known as depression? The sidebar offers some quick comparisons.

It is important to remember that major depression is a potentially dangerous disorder. If someone you love exhibits signs of major depression, urge him to immediately see a doctor qualified in diagnosing (or ruling out) depression.

For information on how a diagnosis is made, or other fact sheets on depression, write: **The Mood Disorders Network, 63 Third Street, Auburn ME 04210, or call 783-2980.**

Some Differences Between Sadness and Depression

SADNESS can be:

- * feeling down in the dumps
- * unhappiness, or feeling sad
- * crying or teariness
- * nostalgia, thinking of the past
- * mood can be lifted with pleasurable activities
- * level of functioning isn't obviously impaired or different than usual (work, home, social, school)

Everyone feels sadness at times; we've all had the above symptoms, and labeled them depression. This is normal.

DEPRESSION can look like:

- * loss of pleasure, may be unable to take pleasure in previously enjoyable activities
- * fatigue, tiredness or loss of energy
- * changes in sleep habits (more or less)
- * changes in eating habits (more or less)
- * speech or movements slowed down
- * agitation or anxiety (pacing, wringing hands, repeated motions)
- * reduced concentration
- * indecisiveness
- * thoughts of death

Please Note: This list is informational only; symptoms must meet a number of criteria before a diagnosis of major depression can be made, and a diagnosis must always be made by a qualified professional. Remember: symptoms can and do vary from person to person.

32 and hotter than ever!

**America's first gay travel guide
answers all those burning
questions**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - Since 1964, the "Damron Address Book" has been the one source where gay men have been able to find an answer to their burning travel questions: How do I get to the Stonewall Inn? Which bar has the best pool-side Sunday T-dance in Key West? Where can I get a slice of pizza and an espresso shake after midnight in Provincetown? Where does a karaoke queen go for a good time in San Francisco? Where does a bear find other bears in Iowa? Now that I have this RV where can I take it? Is there really a leather-friendly B&B in Albuquerque?

City by city, state by state, the "Damron Address Book" lists thousands of groups, bars, accommodations, book-stores, retail stores, publications, restaurants, and travel agencies that welcome the gay traveller. Each listing gives an address, a phone number, hours and all the relevant details the reader needs to make the most of his vacation. This year's edition also includes a completely revised annual calendar of events ranging from those fabulous circuit parties, cruises, and ski weeks to national social justice conferences and pride parades. Each calendar entry provides not only a date, a location, a phone number, a mail address but even an attendance estimate.

Longtime readers will also notice another sleek cover design made all the smoother with a matte finish. Company President, Gina M. Gatta explained the concept behind Art Director Kathleen Pratt's and designer, Beth Carr's images for the cover and the company's full color Masthead, National and Male Order sections. "We all liked the idea of a disco inferno to celebrate two milestones. We've published America's best gay travel guide for 32 years, and we just launched into cyberspace."

Other helpful guides published by Damron include "The Women's Traveller," "The Damron Road Atlas," and "Damron Accommodations," a new undertaking for Damron. For further information on these publications, call Ian Philips, Managing Editor, at 800-462-6654. ΔΔ

Call for Papers on gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth issues

The JOURNAL OF GAY, LESBIAN, AND BISEXUAL IDENTITY is accepting original papers on all issues surrounding the lives of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth and schools.

The Journal is a progressive, interdisciplinary quarterly devoted to the exchange of the latest knowledge and ideas of GLBT life. It presents original peer-reviewed scholarly articles, clinical studies, research reports, interviews, "roundtable discussions," personal essays, reviews, and poetry. The Journal is a source of information for professionals involved in public health and human services, the social and behavioral sciences, the humanities, political science, law, religion and spirituality, and the arts. It also provides an essential line of communication among community organizers, students, and parents of gay, lesbian,

bisexual and transgender persons.

The editorial board of the JOURNAL OF GAY, LESBIAN, AND BISEXUAL IDENTITY welcomes the opportunity to review your original manuscripts dealing with contemporary gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender topics. Please write to the Editor for complete submission guidelines: Warren J. Blumenfeld, Editor, Journal of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Identity, PO Box 929, Northampton, MA 01061 (blumenfeld@educ.umass.edu). Be sure to include your complete address.

FOR SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE PUBLISHER DIRECTLY. Human Sciences Press, Inc., Attn.: Dept. HGL, 233 Spring Street, New York, NY 10013-1578, 1-800-221-9369

(Editors Note: While this call is about GLBT youth, it appears to be di-

rected toward adult submissions. However, I would urge young people to think about getting the guidelines and submitting your ideas, thoughts and reflections.)

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Chew on This



by
Rose Mary
Denman

"Tis the season . . . " By the time you read this, it will be too late for any major holiday tips. You've either pulled it off again with great aplomb, barely managed to get your act pulled together, or given up on getting anywhere near your goals.

The next thing is order is the infamous New Year's Resolution list. I thought I would pass along a few gems, not my own, but taken mostly from "Life's Little Instruction Book." I've chosen the ones that are my favorites. The less-than-wisdom in the parentheses are my own embellishments.

- Compliment three people every day. (Even if you have to stretch a bit to find three people to compliment.)
- Watch a sunrise at least once a year. (Alone if you want inspiration, with someone else if you're looking for some action.)
- Overtip breakfast waitstaff (I mean, 15% of \$3 is really cheap.)
- Have a firm handshake (This is not a recommendation for macho gays and dykes out to prove a point.)
- Sing in the shower (Unless your partner has threatened your life if you ever do it again!)
- Buy great books even if you never read them (There's several reasons for this one: 1) you will be supporting some poor writer who needs the case, 2) your

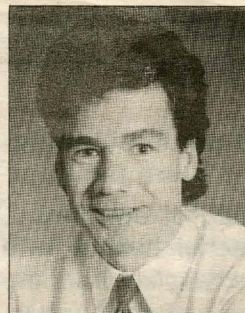
parents will be impressed, 3) you might learn something by osmosis, especially if you keep one of these books by your bed, 4) there's always the hope that you might actually pick it up and read it someday.)

- Floss your teeth (It's disgusting to kiss someone with spinach between those pearlys.)
 - Return all things you borrow (Even if you have to rent a U-Haul.)
 - Treat everyone you meet like you want to be treated (but not on your really depressed days when you feel like shit and wish someone would roll over you with their truck.)
 - Keep secrets (I know it's no fun, but . . .)
 - Never refuse homemade brownies (Especially if they're made by someone who lived in Berkley in the 60s!)
 - Show respect for teachers (I especially like this one, and wish my students would read this article.)
 - Show respect for military personnel (Nobody's perfect.)
 - Vote (It's a bit late for Question #1, but I have a hunch Cosby will be back.)
 - Never forget your anniversary (This is especially important for those of us whose families refuse to remember.)
 - Learn to make something beautiful with your hands (besides your lover.)
 - Never deprive someone of hope; it might be all they have (and that includes yourself.)
- Happy New Year . . . and good luck coming up with your own set of resolutions . . . and keeping them! ΔΔ

Money Talk:

To itemize or not to itemize,
that is the question . . .

by Peter J. Callnan, CPA



Please forgive the plagiarism of Hamlet's soliloquy. I thought it would be a whimsical lead into this month's topic. When should an individual itemize? An individual should itemize when their total itemized deductions exceed the standard deduction amount for their filing status. The Standard Deduction is an amount calculated by the IRS and is different for each filing status. Review the Form 1040 instructions for the various amounts or see last month's article for the basics. Schedule A - Itemized Deductions lists in detail the various expenses that can be taken as deductions from Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) to arrive at Taxable Income. I will very briefly discuss them here.

Medical and Dental Expenses: A deduction is allowed for expenses paid (reduced by reimbursements from insurance or your employer) in the diagnosis, cure, treatment and prevention of disease that exceeds 7.5% of AGI. This includes medical insurance premiums.

Taxes You Paid: A deduction is allowed for state & local income taxes, real estate taxes and personal property (excise) taxes. Sales taxes or Federal income taxes are not allowed as deductions.

Interest You Paid: A deduction is allowed for qualified home mortgage interest and points, home equity debt (subject to limits) and investment interest (subject to restrictions). NO deduction is allowed for personal interest like auto loans or credit card

debt.

Gifts To Charity: Cash gifts to qualifying tax exempt organizations are deductible up to 50% of AGI (excess can be carried forward). Gifts of \$250 or more must be substantiated by a receipt from the organization. For non-cash gifts see Form 8283.

Casualty and Theft Losses: A deduction is allowed for losses from casualty (accident) or theft of personal property subject to limits. See Form 4684 to calculate the deduction.

Job Expenses and Most Other Miscellaneous Deductions: Unreimbursed employee expenses incurred in the performance of their job (see form 2106), tax preparations fees and other items are deductible to the extent that they exceed 2% of AGI.

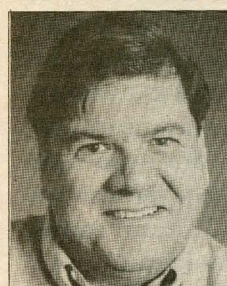
Other Miscellaneous Deductions:

This line is for items like gambling losses to the extent that you have gambling income and a disabled person's impairment-related work expenses. See the instructions for this line. These miscellaneous deductions are not subject to the 2% of AGI excess.

When total itemized deductions on Schedule-A exceed the standard deduction amount, use it to determine taxable income. Each item I briefly discussed can become complicated. If you have never itemized before consider consulting a tax professional the first time. They can help to insure that you are reporting all allowable deductions on Schedule-A. Good luck and enjoy the holidays! ΔΔ

Out of Town

by Paul T. Bernard



I just returned from a six day trip to London and I thought I would share with you some of my experiences. I had the

pleasure of flying on Virgin Atlantic Airways - one of about four airlines actively marketing to the gay/lesbian community. The flight was a non-stop 747 out of Boston into Gatwick Airport on the south side of London. Although Gatwick doesn't have all of the amenities of Heathrow, I found that it was easy getting to and from the airport. There is an express train called the Gatwick Express which you can pick up on the lower level of the terminal and it drops you off at Victoria Station downtown in about 30 minutes. The cost is \$17 each way and is considerably cheaper and faster than a taxi.

We (a friend from Spain and I) spent the 6 days at a Bed & Breakfast Hotel located in the Bloomsbury section of London. The small, quaint hotel had 15 rooms, some with private bath and others with shared bath and included an English breakfast each day consisting of eggs, bacon, beans, toast, coffee/tea, and juice. The hotel was well located - it was one block to the Tube (subway), 1 block to the British Museum, 5 minute walk to Soho (bar area), and a 10 minute walk to Piccadilly Circus. The

hotel wasn't very fancy, but was clean and convenient. We paid about \$85 per night, including breakfast and taxes. And the people were more than friendly and very willing to suggest places to eat or sights to see.

We did some of the usual tourist things - we saw the Tower of London and the Crown Jewels, Big Ben, St. Paul's Cathedral, Harrod's Department Store, the British Museum, Trafalgar Square and more. We had only four full days and got to see only about half of what we had wanted to see. We did take a side trip to Cambridge - a small town about 50 miles northwest of London. Cambridge has 14 colleges and universities within its border. The colleges surround the town, but are all within an easy walk of one another. In the center of town, there is a quaint district of shops and restaurants. We had a very enjoyable day exploring the colleges and the shops and restaurants.

One of the things that impressed me the most about London was its public transportation system. Their subway system, known as The Tube, is one of the most extensive systems in the world. There are actually 12 different

subway lines crisscrossing the city with convenient intersections.

It made getting around the city a breeze. We had purchased 7 day unlimited passes for \$49 each. These have to be purchased here in the US prior to your trip, but are a wise investment.

One of the nicer places we visited was Hampton Court Palace located about 10 miles south of the city center, but reachable by subway. Hampton Court served as the royal palace for Henry VIII - a palace of some 280 rooms that at one time housed over 500 people. The palace is now a state museum and reflects life as it was in the 1500's. We spent three hours here, but I would definitely go back and spend more.

I had a wonderful time in London, and would definitely go back again. I recommend 5-7 days in London, more if you plan to do any touring outside of the city. For touring outside of the city, I do not recommend a car - the rail system is extensive and reasonably priced. If you decide to go to London, I suggest getting a good London Guide. One of the better ones is called LONDON ACCESS. Another is LET'S GO LONDON. ΔΔ

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BOOK from page 16

freedom and chance to make a life for himself, outside William's sphere, as the burden of care falls more and more on his shoulders. For Susan, facing William's death prompts a reevaluation of aspects of her own life, since, at forty, "... nothing was turning out as she had planned." She has known William longer than the other friends, since the time of his arrival in the city, when her "maternal flair" ensured she took care of the teenage runaway. Now, caught in the web of involvement in the illness, she feels her life has "stalled." As a child, Susan survived leukemia and believes she has insight into William's fears as he faces death. Still, the relationship is a delicate one, and "... it was sometimes a source of shame to her that, besides her father, William was the only man whom she had ever loved."

William too, as he faces his own disintegration and death, wonders at his lack of connection with his friends and yet is aware of his own ambivalence. He is capable, when Susan takes him back to his apartment after one of his hospitalizations, of simultaneously feeling: "She's awful" and "No, she's sweet." He responds by trying to enforce her loyalty with a gift—an antique mirror she had admired, hoping to bind her more tightly to him.

The story of just how William, Susan, and Henry come to terms with William's impending death is touching, surprising, inspiring, in places predictable, and, finally, chilling. R.S. Jones provides no easy answers, and no compromises: a circle of friends, a slow death, estranged family, and the manipulation and ambivalence at friendship's dark core are the author's material, and he tells his story with insight, intelligence, and a never-faltering eye for detail. This is a bravely disturbing and illuminating look at love in all its guises and in the face of death. This wise novel explores motivations beyond the surface, and does more than glance at the primitive terrors behind human relations. $\Delta\Delta$

WOLTERS, from page 9

tried by the Board of Nursing, in a serious way, to keep my license, how can it be that the person bringing the charges is practicing nursing in Maine without even having a license - that's why it's really grievous to me. I would never... every nurse knows - you cannot practice nursing without a license from that state. $\Delta\Delta$

MGMC, from page 17

projection. The expectation on my part of a celebratory performance coinciding with various traditions' observances of this time of year, contributed to the profound feeling of heaviness around the first half. There were few smiles to be



seen and it looked and felt as though Director Bruce Fithian was having to pull the music out of the men. This suggests to me that the men had not "bought into" the program. As one audience member told me afterward, "It was as if they all had received some very bad news just before going on stage."

During the second half, the MGMC Dancers were a distraction and a disappointment, seeming to have no relevance to the number being sung, "Open Wide Your Eyes." Again, the energy level and enthusiasm present at other concert performances was missing, thus making this a rather lackluster performance.

Each concert presented by the Maine Gay Men's Chorus takes months of hard work on the part of many people

from the Producer to the Director, to the accompanist, the chorus members and volunteer staff. I am particularly mindful of this fact and appreciate their efforts. The question I then ask myself, as the one doing the review of the pro-

gram is, "Does the fact that so many volunteer their time and talents preclude an honest assessment of the program presented?" The answer is, "No." However, I am reluctant to be negative out of fear that some will take my words as an attack. That could not be further from my intention. When a program feels disjointed, lacking energy, lacking fluidity, it may mean that choices in music and placement need to be looked at or more participation in selecting pieces needs to be encouraged or more thought given around what the audience may want to hear.

The Maine Gay Men's Chorus is a work in progress; hence, as with individuals and organizations, there is always room for improvement. $\Delta\Delta$

MUSEUM, from page 17

free flowing color and the cold gloss of the lacquered frame.

The warrior wears on his chest a rose colored triangle. This brings to mind the symbol of the Nazi's persecution of homosexuals in the death camps. More recently the adoption of this symbol by the gay rights movement recognized both solidarity and those persecuted - not only in the Holocaust but throughout all time. Here, though, the artist has toned the color down and turned the point of the triangle upward - toward the heavens.

This piece was done in honor of a man who lived with AIDS for seven years. I feel that it speaks beyond AIDS and reaches to the very core of the gay experience by acknowledging our unity regardless of fate and by reassuring us in the great value of self esteem and fullness of heart.

A Heroic Journey

A pale, chiseled face
from underneath a loose fit shroud
set poised to shed life's little death
and welcome new uncertainty - Proud

A triangle spun -
muted pink now with resolve -
points to the inevitable and
unknown...
No where left to go -
no choice here to be made

Behind lie the walls stained deep
with shades of amethyst cracked with
gold
Bleeding through the textural landscape.
Smearing the lines between past, present
and future

Everything layered
One after another a strength is built
but in the end only heroism,
human defiance and tenderness,
catch and hold the light of the room
and the pensive, reflective thought of the
world

An honest beauty falls
over the pale chiseled face
three dimensional, reaching out
holding shadows from every angle
and letting them go again and again

Eyes closed forever as though listening
Hearing beyond the silence of
contemplation
a reverberation goes on -
Forever

Like a soul rising - his or mine -
each in our own time.

—Tom Coffin/1995

SPEAKOUT from page 5

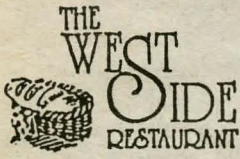
more trainings to groups of 12 or more individuals in all regions of Maine; we will be developing new speaking possibilities at schools, places of worship, workplaces and civic organization, we will be training additional trainers, and we will be trying to raise about \$85,000 to sustain the project for a year.

For Speakout to be most effective, we need to take root locally. We need folks willing to help generate speaking invitations to groups in their towns and regions, and we need to create interest committees to focus on particular efforts, such as working in schools or speaking in churches. There's plenty to do for everyone, including your parents, siblings, friends (whatever their sexual orientation). If you are not ready to speak, you can help in many other ways: researching and generating speaking invitations, with mailings, fund-raising, and helping to get the word out about the project.

One of the ways we'll be trying to broaden our financial base is by creating a membership program for individuals and organizations. For \$25 you can become a member for a year and attend one all-day training at no cost. For non-members, trainings will cost \$10 with scholarships available.

Trainings will resume in January and there will be regularly scheduled meetings for participants to share experiences, develop new strategies and get additional training and support. It's also a good way to make new friends! For more information, call 879-0480 or write to the Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights, 123 Congress Street, #1, Portland, Maine 04101. Best of all, send in \$25 and become a member for 1996, which will put you in the loop for all upcoming activities.

Let's not wait for the next attack. Let's speak out now and keep speaking out until we have achieved the same basic civil rights as other Americans!



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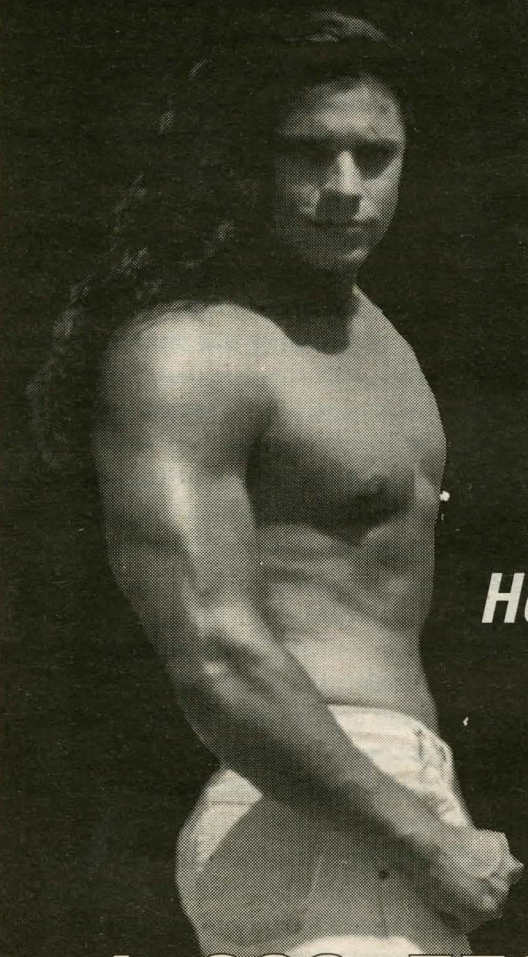



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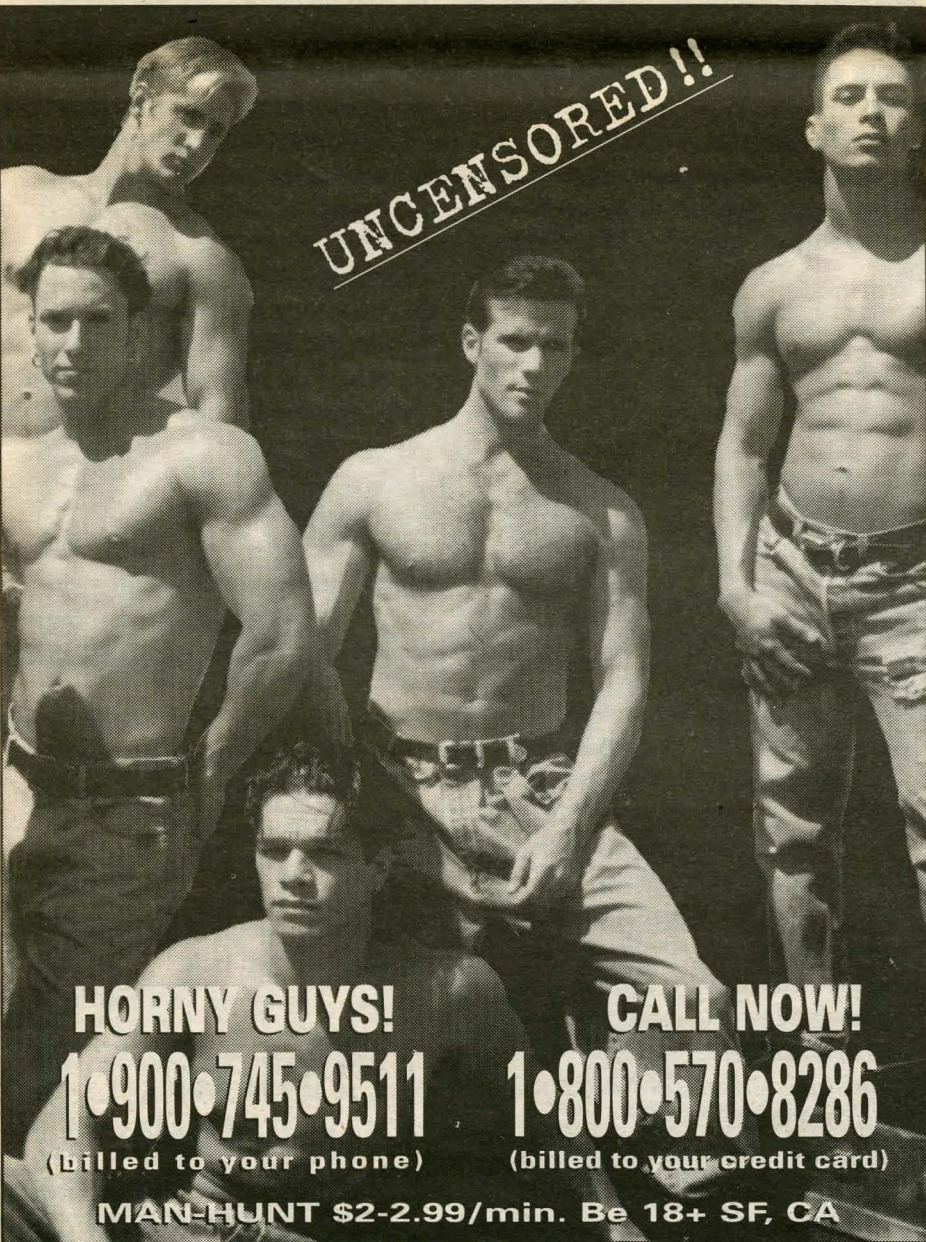
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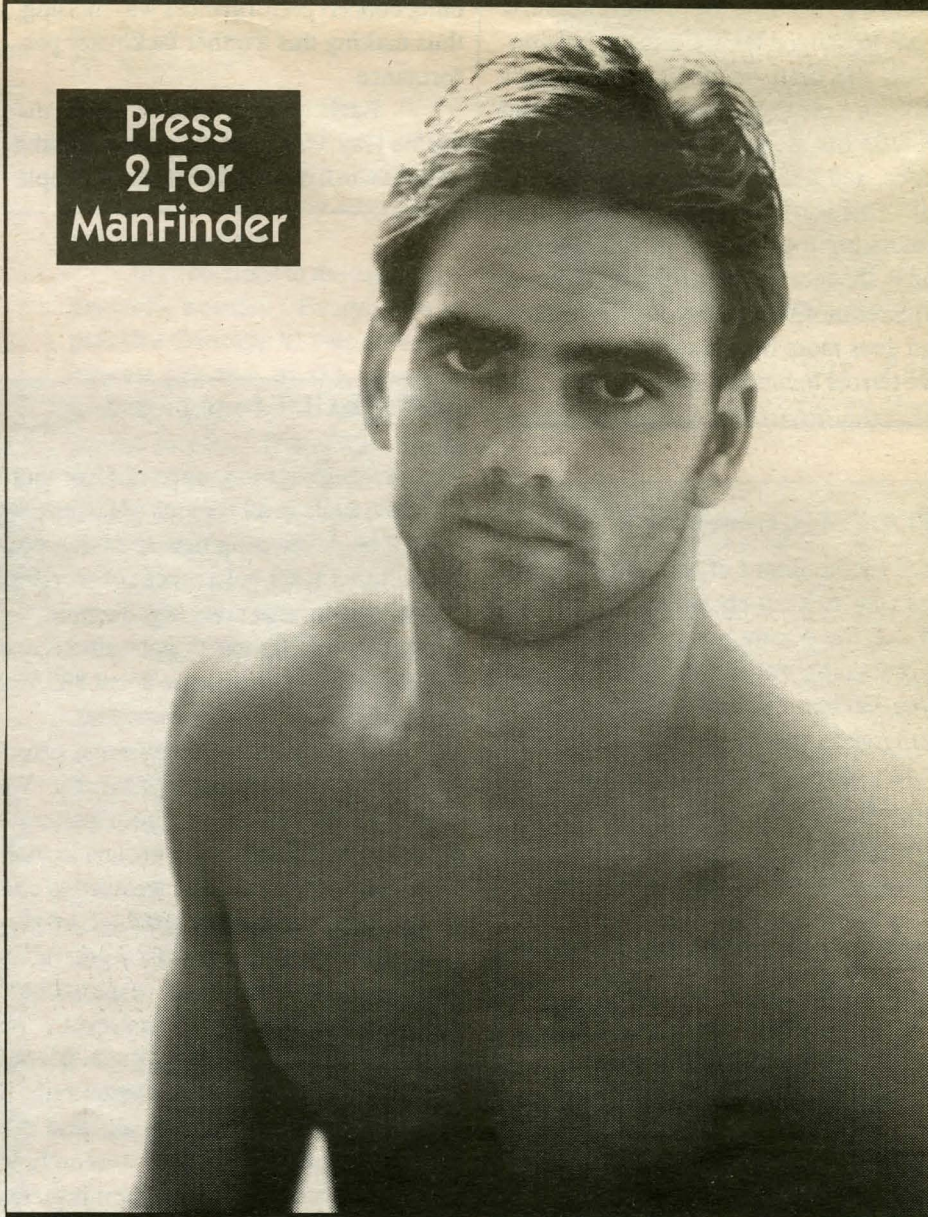
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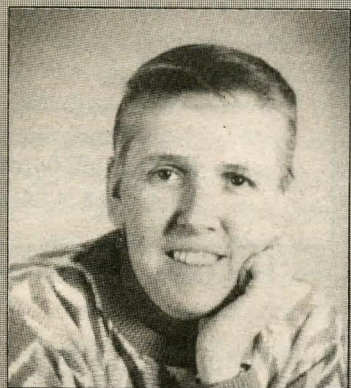
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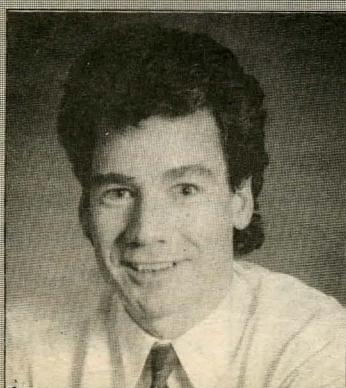
From the staff and volunteers who bring you Community Pride Reporter each month. Here's to a Happy and peaceful 1996!



Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor



Tanla Jo Hathaway



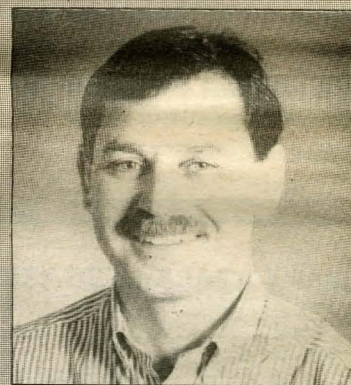
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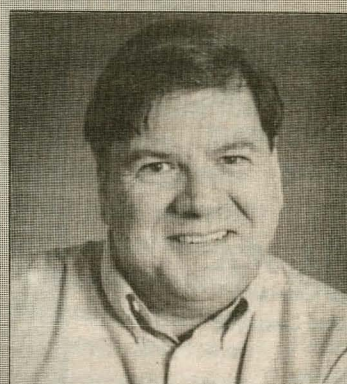
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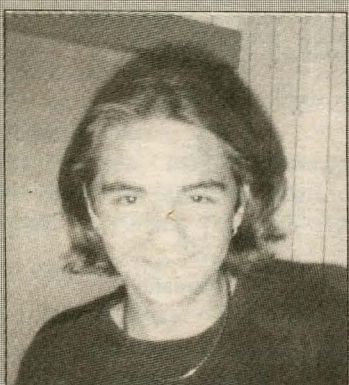
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