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 Reality 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 supervis-

or, 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

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, Executive 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 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

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

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..."
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 innovation that the Plan was a step along the way in that short time we can make 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 day's sales to a local AIDS group, and a 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 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 a 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 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 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 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 that situation and 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 HIV; 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, ME 04330. Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery and make checks payable to "Maine AIDS Plan." For more information, call 207/622-2962.

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

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

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.

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," said Grover. A short time after this conversation with Michael and Dan, Grover got his other ear pierced.

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 the 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 fed a secret life as a crossdresser."

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

Maine Won't Discriminate Holds Wrap-up Meeting

Karen Geraghty, meeting attendee, MLGPA 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 it 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! MLGPA was asked to host a "planning committee" to bring together the vast experience and knowledge of MLGPA 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 MLGPA. (Somehow there was enough food to go around, even though the MWD meeting was twice as big we'd planned.) Many thanks to MLGPA 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 MLGPA President Karen Geraghty at 1-800-556-5472. (Call 761-3753 in the Greater Portland Area.)

One last thing - - As we prepare for Hannukah, 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 we must have a firm resolve to turn our efforts into positive, forward-thinking movement building. Peace to you all, see you in the New Year.
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 grassroots 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 Jonathan 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 retribution, 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 everyday.

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 till 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-expend 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: 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 scoothing 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. 

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 you 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. Remember, 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 exposure 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 207-756-5492.
TITUS, from page 1

the Board's finding means, "There was a violation of the Nurse Practices Act out it wasn't of sufficient seriousness to warrant further action." Caron went on to explain that the Board made three findings of fact. "According to 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 12/29/95 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. This nightmare has been brought to an end or, in a sense, justice has been served, the HIV community has been served."

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 that she ever used it."

"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 Maria 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
Reputedly, 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 Nurses in 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 obvious 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, Delphia Vilsauso, Executive Direc­tor of the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) only VNA attended the hearing. Vilsauso and VNA's lawyer, Ken Lehan, 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 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 case. 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.

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 public 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/AIDS do talk to me and I'm not in that dream anymore. So, it's certainly changed shape. When Marg was there she 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 talk 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 ego's involved?

Titus: I have to say that I went to Marg on several occasions and talked 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?

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 wanted to 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

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
Inclusive, Non-Homophobic, Liberation-Based
The Gospel of Jesus, The Christ, for all people

Northern Lights MCC of Augusta, ME
4:00 pm Sunday. Communion each week 2:30 pm from Coney circle on RI 201
FMI: Bill at 207.453.8750

Circle of Hope MCC of Portland, ME
4:00 pm Saturday, Immanuel Baptist, 16 High Street
FMI: 207.773.0199

Interpreted for the hearing impaired.
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 know.” Grover in-fucking heard 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 morn-ing. Now you tell me.”

Grover generally worked 45 hours per week performing every job possible at a restaurant from managing 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 no systems set up in the House when we talked to me for events in the House that were controlled and predictable. 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 digest from that and say, ‘What do you want to eat,’ that’s a whole lot more work.

CPR: 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 contaminated needles this way, we’re going to treat narcotics this way, we’re going to treat medications this way. 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.

See TITUS, page 9

Recovering Gay Men & Lesbians

Therapy group for those with two or more years of sobriety

- Communication Skills
- Nutrition
- Relationships
- Finances
- Spirituality

Richard Waitzkin, LCSW 207-774-5025

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- Ecological Homes
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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 work 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 ever read. 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’ve used to a manual that has all it spelled out. This is how we’re going to treat this and this is how... 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 into a 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. Mary Menair had worked on a few of those - typed them up. She 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 actually a data-based person, I would never act on hearsay, that one person said this - I would just have to talk to them 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 choose love over fear. All the people who objected to it even happened who said, ‘What if... ’ I always said we have to believe it’s for good so much, because... I’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 choose 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.”

Titus: Only on terms, which would be that it’s client-directed care and that it’s not an institution. But at this point I just don’t know what Peabody House is going to be. I’m very disappointed. The whole affair has been very gung-ho. It has drastically affected not only myself but the people I love. I just can’t predict what will happen. It’s a long drag. I’m still doing 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 word from anybody at Peabody House.

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 actually a data-based person, I would never act on hearsay, that one person said this - I would just have to talk to them 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 choose love over fear. All the people who objected to it even happened who said, ‘What if... ’ I always said we have to believe it’s for good so much, because... I’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 choose 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 taken apart... 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 love to do it, but the Board has yet to make a decision on this matter. It would have to defer to the Board but I haven’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.
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 Mainer 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. 

As a RANTer, I wish each one of us the fulfillment of our fondest dreams. In solidarity,

David O. Cook
As 20,000 American men and women con-­ template 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 the former Yugoslavia and is now an indetermi-­ nate 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 to do is.

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 bil­ ligerents want to engage in and, second, that there can be no lasting peace without a permanent peace. Second, US foreign policy has vacillated between the twin polls of indecision and moral­ spiritedness. From the Korean War to the Gulf War, our government has had to 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 humani­ tarian 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. 

As a matter of fact, the other reason I've predicted to have been settled (case in point: Mogadishu) is the support for this is still tainted by my bastion 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 tremendous losses under communism and which today is still being inflicted on the genocide. Anti-Americanism is on a rise, and the American people are not prepared for a military occupation. 

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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 for another reason, to 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 ancient Rome's police chief, Gaius Mikus Chitwoodius, in his toga, these attempts to eliminate gay cruising have 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 stop gay cruising in the park.

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 action to be effective) and the cruising itself is out of sight of any neighborhood.

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 wonderful editors, and especially Mrs. Leo. 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 carnal. So be it.

The fact remains - gay cruising has existed as far back as recorded history and it's appearance 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. If you take the initiative, you engage in it or not. Cruising should be accommodated and protected. If you are cruising, meet and repair to one or 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.

Now comes the sticky question of the sex. Eeeeeeew! 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.

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DECEMBER '95 - JANUARY '96 CALENDAR

Tuesday-Saturday, Dec.19-23: Portland, presents "A Christmas Carol" • A radio version of this classic holiday tale by Charles Dickens. A hilarious 1940s •• Sat: 7:30 PM - Planning Committee meeting hosted by MLGBA at the Unitarian Church, 69 Winthrop St., Augusta. FMI, 1-800-556-5472 or in Portland area 761-3732.

Tuesday, January 9: • A 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.

• A 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, Tel: 603/778-3102 or Ingrid - 603/772-6221.

Wednesday, January 10: • A 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: • A 7:00-9:00 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.

Monday, January 1: • A 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: • A 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: • A 7:00-7:30 PM - Women in Harmony chorale group rehearsal, Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI, 207/286-8016 or 207/885-0995.

Thursday, January 4: • A 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: • A Daytime - Chiltern Mountain Club cross-country ski in the White Mountains of NH. FMI, call John 617/648-9185.

Saturday, January 13: • A Daytime - Chiltern Mountain Club ski the smaller mountains of Vermont: Suicide Six, Ascutney and the Dartmouth Skiway. FMI, Bob 617/266-3812.

Sunday, January 14: • A 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: • A 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: • A 7:00-9:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Business Meeting at the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.

Wednesday, January 10: • A 7:00-9:00 PM - Women in Harmony chorale group rehearsal, Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI, 207/286-8016 or 207/885-0995.

Thursday, January 11: • A 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.

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 Wynnott 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. She was so wonderful to give 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 year's Design AID event, contact David Charity/Charles Wynnott, PO Box 1303, Portland, ME 04104 or call 871-1138 or 871-9109. 

Subscription Form

Yes, I want to subscribe to the Community Pride Reporter. Subscription rate is $12.00 for 12 issues. (More if you can, less if you can't.) CPR is mailed in a plain envelope.

Name:
Address:
Phone:

Checks should be made payable to Community Pride Reporter and mailed to: 142 High Street, Suite #263, Portland, Maine 04101
TRAVEL/VACATION

ΔΔ LESBIAN PARADISE! 20 charming rooms, 100 mountain acres, pool, hot tub, hiking/skiing trails, yummy breakfasts, peace and privacy. We're your perfect vacation choice year round! Week-long and midweek discounts. HIGHLANDS INN, Box 11809, Bethel, NH 03744. (603) 869-3978. ΔΔ

ΔΔ YELLOW BIRD FARM: Romantic, seasonal cottage or year round studio on working organic farm in Down east Maine, 20 minutes from Eastport. Absolute peace and quiet. Romantic, seasonal cottage or year round! Week-long and midweek discounts . HIGHLANDS INN, Box 11809, Bethel, NH 03744. (603) 869-3978. ΔΔ


PERSONALS

ΔΔHV+ SINGLES PUBLICATION: Safe and confidential. Free copy, 36 word personal ad, voice mail, and mail forwarding! Local and nationwide! All life-styles. Gay, HV+ owned and operated. Write: Introppoz+ Magazine, 564 Mission St., Box 415, San Francisco, CA 94105, or call 1-800-820-7048. ΔΔ

ΔΔ 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 annual Long term possible. Write Roger, PO Box 1169, Sanford, ME 04073. ΔΔ

ΔΔ 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 40288. ΔΔ

HELP WANTED

ΔΔ 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 evening 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. ΔΔ

SUPPORT GROUP


FOR RENT

ΔΔ 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. ΔΔ

WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITY

ΔΔ 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 207/799-2856. ΔΔ

ON-LINE SERVICE

ΔΔ FREE TRIAL MEMBERSHIP to new local online service. ABA/CUS 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! PFI, call 207/781-7073. ΔΔ

PRIDE '96 VENDORS

ΔΔ Pride '96 Rally and Festival is taking reservations and applications from VENDORS for food, crafts, t-shirts, jewelry, books, etc., etc. Call now at 207/771-7193 (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-profit encouraged to rent space at a nominal fee. ΔΔ

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. ΔΔ
GENERAL
ML/GPA is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the general public, promote civil rights, and organize local groups on LGTBQ issues. Our primary goals are to involve the LGQ community in Maine's political process, promote civil rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people, and educate those who don't understand or accept them. We envision a world where all people are treated with dignity and respect, where gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people are valued for who they are, and where our society is equitable and just.

Meetings are the 3rd Saturday of every month in Portland. Call 774-4099 or write M.G.P.A. P.O. Box 1093, Portland, ME 04104.

The Maine Gay Visual Artist's League is a statewide organization of gay and lesbian visual artists. FMI, call 773-5420.

PHONE SUPPORT
Region by region
National Center for Lesbian Rights Youth Project
1-800-528-NCLR
Boston Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Youth
1-800-347-TEEN
National Hotline for gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender youth:
Call 1-800-347-TEEN, Sponsored by the Indianapolis Youth Group.
Thursday, 7-9 pm until 7:30 pm.

DIAL KIDS: TALK. For lesbian, gay, bi & questioning youth under 19 yrs.
Inghram Volunteers: Call 774-HELP (7457).
Brunswick: Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services: 725-4995.
Bangor: Community AIDS Awareness Program: 823-4180.
Rumford: Community AIDS Awareness Program: 774-6877.
Waterville: DaySpring: 626-3432.

HATE CRIMES & BIAS INCIDENTS:
Have you or someone you know been a victim? Call the Civil Rights Section of the U.S. Department of Justice, 202/353-4020.

CITIZENS ALLIANCE FOR GAY AND LESBIAN RIGHTS (CAGLR), New Hampshire's oldest progressive gay/gay civil rights organization, welcomes all those interested in gay and lesbian rights. FMI, call 603/224-1686 or write to P.O. Box 2709, Concord, NH 03302-0700.

The Rainbow Business & Professional Association is a statewide, non-profit organization that supports gay, lesbian, bi and transgendered "chamber of commerce" for Maine: Meetings for networking or dinner with speaker events. Held in the Greater Portland area every second Monday of the month. FMI, call P.O. Box 6627, Scarborough, ME 04074-6627. FAX, 207.775.0015 or e-mail wibdys@mainelin.net

MUSIC & ART Women In Harmony is an ethnic choir composed of women regardless of age, race, religion, or sexual orientation. If you are interested in becoming a member or volunteering organizational skills, send EASE (including your phone number) to P.O. Box 5156 Sta. A, Portland, ME 04101 or call 207/774-4940.

Maine Gay Men's Chorus is a community chorus that brings men together to enhance social consciousness and diversity in the Greater Portland area, as well as affirming the gay/lesbian experience with creative and revelatory entertainment. FMI, call 893-8099 or write M.G.M.C., P.O. Box 1093, 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. FMI, call 773-5420.

Support Groups
Medical Support
Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic: Confidential screening and treatment for STD's for residents and non-residents at a walk-in, low-cost, medicated treatment. Anonymous, confidential HIV testing by appointment-only. Clinic open Tues., Thurs. 3:30 to 6 pm. 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), and testing for infection and STD's, non-medical support and more. Emergency, confidential, and affordable and anonymous. Confidential. Medicaid welcomed. 970 Forest Ave., Portland. FMI, call 874-1045.

FREE FAMILY THERAPY: Available for individuals & families (of any type) who are affected by HIV disease. FMI, contact Chris Beban, MSW at Council for Training and Special Programs. 773-6656.

Identity Support
New Hampshire P-FLAG Meeting: Concord: Meets every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Concord, NH 03302.

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

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Discussion Group: Mondays each month, 7-9 pm. First Universalist Church, 345 Broadway, Rockland, ME. FMI, Larry Godfrey, (207) 940-3174.

Gay Support Group: FMI, call 574-0788 or write to P.O. Box 8113, Portland, ME 04104.

Maine Bisexual People's Network: Meets in various locations to provide support, education & social activities. FMI write TransSupport, P.O. Box 17622, Portland, ME 04112.

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

Support Groups
Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse: A support group for survivors of childhood abuse interested in healing. Meets the 3rd Mondays each month. 7:00-8:30 pm. FMI, write to ES, P.O. Box 8113, 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/maintaining committed, loving, multipartner relationships.
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 ambiance 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 educational 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 its 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 fun and lively and comfortable way to share meals with other participants) and a festive Sunday brunch.

To receive a brochure or to register, call 800-487-1002 or write Valentine's Weekend, PO Box 1982, Provincetown, MA 02657.

Maine AIDS Alliance

Member Organizations

AIDS Lodging House: PO Box 3820, Portland, ME 04101-3820, call 874-1000.
AIDS Coalition of Lewiston-Auburn: PO Box 7977, Lewiston, Maine 04243-7977. Call 786-4697.

Community Awareness Program: c/o Mexico Cong Church/UCC, 43 Main St., Mexico, ME 04286. Call 369-3180.

Member Organizations:

CPR December, 1995-January, 1996 Page 15

P.O. Box 1018, Portland, ME 04104.

Mothers and Kids Groups: Social events and group support for lesbian and their children. Emphasis on inclusion of lesbians in the process of becoming pregnant or adopting. Meets monthly in the greater Portland area. FMI: PO Box 2255, South Portland, ME 04116.

Youth Support

OUTRIGHT: Saturdays, 6pm at Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, Harlow St. Support group for lesbian, gay, bisexual youth ages 16-22. FMI, call 207-947-5937.

OUTRIGHT/Portland: Meets every Friday from 7-9:30 pm at The People's Building, 155 Brackett St., 2nd floor, Portland. Safe and supportive discussion for gay and lesbian, bisexual & support group for the Lewiston/ Auburn area meets Mondays at 7pm at the Unitarian-Universalist Church on Spring St., Auburn.

Banger Lesbian Support Group: This Lesbian Support Group welcomes anyone who self-identifies as lesbian. They seek to create a positive space to explore issues and affirm themselves and each other as lesbians. Contact is required and respect is 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, skiing and other activities. FMI, write to Box 36, Center Conway, NH 03813-0036 or call Paul at 207-992-1054.


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 Congregational, Old Town.

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

The Maine GayNet Mall List:
Share your ideas and opinions or just read the offerings. To subscribe to this list, send e-mail to majordomo@abacus.ox.ac.uk. 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. Your own WEB Browser at: http://www.qrd.org/QRD/www/usa/maine/fmle-mail/steve Paul Steinhoff: steve@maine.com A

One of the best alternative, spirituality-focused newspapers I've ever read...David Santinow

Newtown/NewEdit, Sedona, Arizona

Original ARTICLES + EXTENSIVE CALENDAR AND RESOURCES

The Maine Gay Network

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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. Your own WEB Browser at: http://www.qrd.org/QRD/www/usa/maine/fmle-mail/steve Paul Steinhoff: steve@maine.com A

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"Pretty Good Year" by Ainsel 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 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 I've left out some stuff, but here it goes: Ainsel'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
* The movies "Jeffrey" and "the Sum of Us" both played at 10 Exchange Street in Portland.
* Jane Siberry's new album - "Maria" (and released Live in '88)
* Bonnie Raitt played the Civic Center (and released "Road Tested")
* K.D. Lang put out a new album - "Walking on Air," by R. S. Jones
* Jane Siberry's new album - "Maria"
* Indigo Girls released a double live album
* Breaking the Surface (Greg Louganis' book)
* The Gay Men's Chorus and Women in Harmony
* "Keep passing the open windows" —John Irving's "The Hotel New Hampshire"

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 flees 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 he 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 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
The Last Gasp . . .

by Aimee 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 some time now. I suspect with this album and probable tour she'll pick up some new listeners. This is the album with its bluesy sound. Chapman has certainly, pardon the cliche, returned with a well rounded album with a new batch of incredible songs and the first single, "One Good Reason," is receiving radio play.

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 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 "Haec est Dies" by Jacob Han dt and "Greeting." A Native American song was also sung from the back. The chorus members are not singing this season, although still considering themselves members of the chorus.

The antiphonal opening number effectivley 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 "Haec est Dies" by Jacob Han dt and "Greeting." A Native American song was also sung from the back. The chorus 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 God," and songs and readings with angel-themes were presented. The selections had a feel of heaviness and the presence 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 second section, entitled "Echos 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. Solistre Martin Lescault and Tony Coreia provided a touch of nostalgia with "I'll Be Home for Christmas," and "Let It Snow!" The program ended with audience participation on "Don't Nobis ill 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 singing. 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 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 powerful book. It's setting is "Seaview Hospital," specifically it's eating disorders clinic. There, the main character, Alice Forester, 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 "Maev" whose vulgus, 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 "Divas," 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 "Warmer 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.
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 first started, it came out of 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 in 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 thmugh the State legislature brought its
tendency, more fun and more powerful resulted in a string of ever better at­

demonstration. Although the nature of be called a community festival.

Last November, the Pride Commit­

tee, 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 Port­

land. The proposals and new organiza­
tion 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 Inn, By the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland, or call 871-9940 for more information.
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 coaxing 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.

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@edu.umass.edu). Be sure to include your complete address.

Some Differences Between Sadness and Depression

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SADNESS can be:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• feeling down in the dumps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• unhappiness, or feeling sad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• crying or tearfulness</td>
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<tr>
<td>• nostalgia, thinking of the past</td>
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<tr>
<td>• mood can be lifted with pleasurable activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>• level of functioning isn't obviously impaired or different than usual (work, home, social, school)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Everyone feels sadness at times; we've all had the above symptoms, and labeled them depression. This is normal.</td>
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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
• feelings of hopelessness and helplessness
• 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 bar 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, bookstores, retail stores, publications, restaurants, and travel agencies that welcome the gay traveler. 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 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 Phillips, Managing Editor, at 800-462-6654.
Chew on This
by Rose Mary Denman

"To th' season . . ." By the time you read this, it will be too late for any major holiday tips. You've either pulled it off again or are thinking about it. You've either pulled it off again.

Day tips. You've either pulled it off again. You've either pulled it off again.

I've thought I would pass along a few gems, because I have a hunch you want to be treated (but not on your really depressed days when you feel like shit and wish someone would roll over with you on your truck).

Keep secrets (I know it's no fun, but . . .).

Never refuse homemade brownies (Especially if they're made by someone else if you're looking for a partner has threatened your life if you ever do it again!)

Buy great books even if you never read them (There are several reasons for this one: 1) you will be supporting some poor writer who needs the case, 2) your

parents will be interested, 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.)

Brush your teeth (It's disgusting to kiss someone with between those pearlies.)

Return all things you borrow (Even if you have to rent a U-Haul.)

- Overtrip breakfast waitstaff (I mean, 15% of $3 is really cheap.)

- Have a firm handshake (This is not a recommendation for macho guys 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 are several reasons for this one: 1) you will be supporting some poor writer who needs the case, 2) your

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 Airlines - 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 12 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 see all 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 spent 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 is known as The Tube, it 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 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 of the city to see. For touring outside of the city, I do not recommend a car - the rail system is extensive and reasonably priced.
freedom and chance to make a life for himself, outside William's sphere, as the burden of care falls more and more on him, outside William's sphere, as the burden of care falls more and more on her. Susan's sphere, outside William's sphere, as the burden of care falls more and more on her. 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 dependency on him 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 chilling novel. This is a bravely disturbing and chilling novel.

Program 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 fluency, 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.

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.

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.
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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!