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

Bruce Grover is bisexual and a cross-dresser

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

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

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

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

Sandy Titus stands with friend at pro Titus Rally, Monument Sq. 895.

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 "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

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 "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."

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 are 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 his 15 years living with HIV/AIDS. He said, "I've worked with some grassroots organizations that have since blossomed into large agencies. I have seen the numbers grow. I have also had the privilege of attending national and international conferences and have often been reminded of how much we here in Maine have to be proud of with the work we've been doing. Within the work we have been doing the Maine AIDS Plan is an extraordinary accomplishment and I am very honored and proud to be here and a part of the Maine AIDS Plan..."

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"This document provides a wealth of information for individuals."
Piscuskas continued, "no matter who 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 pointed out 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 grassroot of Maine. Those 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 shelves to collect dust. To that end the pages are designed to be easily copied.

Piscuskas noted that the report is easy to read with sections being tabbed, an as shelf to collect dust. The author of the Maine AIDS Plan called it "an extraordinary effort." Piscuskas said, "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 as 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 then brought tears to your eyes. He said that HIV/AIDS work "is about doing things that you never, ever thought you'd do. It's about saying things that you never, ever thought you'd say. It's about trying things in ways that you never, ever thought you'd try them. That's what your work is about."

Kawata closed his remarks by challenging the audience "to implement the recommendations in the Plan." He noted that the Plan was a step along the way in the battle against HIV/AIDS.

Lani Graham, Director of the Bureau of Health, Maine Department of Human Services offered, on behalf of the state, congratulations and thanks to those who worked on the Plan. Graham said, "I think this Plan comes at a very critical juncture... we do have some very hard work ahead and resources are diminishing both at the national level and at the state level and so it's a time when we must have some focus, we must have some way to mobilize people and get them involved 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 you've done with this plan is remarkable because there will be, and there have been, other people like myself in Maine that have had to deal with that discussion and will have to deal with that discussion."

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

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

If you would like to purchase a copy of the Maine AIDS Plan for yourself or your organization, send $22 plus $3 for shipping on 1-3 copies, to Maine AIDS Plan, 112 State Street, Augusta, ME 04330. Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery and make checks payable to "Maine AIDS Plan." For more information, call 207/622-2962.

Tom Antonik Photo
Portland Pirate, Jeff Nelson said "we can encourage young people to be safe, to stay away from behavior that puts them at risk for AIDS..."
"I feel I'm a woman trapped in a man's body" — Bruce Grover

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

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

At first, Grover and Michael Miller got along well. "They were giving me raises since they were so happy with my work," Grover said. Grover said Don Miller told him, "You're one of the most diplomatic employees that I've ever seen. I have the ability that when a problem breaks out in the restaurant, to handle it without creating a scene and I like that about you." Grover added, "I'm the most prejudiced son of a bitch that I know how to be, but I'm just a real fucking asshole, you got a bad attitude. This is the 90s. Wake up!"

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

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 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 custom- ers could hear them. But Michael, the owner's son, and Dan Boynton, the other cook, who did overhear these conversations started to question Grover as to why he was going to a gay bar. Grover told them that 90% of his friends in Portland are gay. "They are really good people and I really like hanging around with them," Grover added. A short time after this conversation with Michael and Dan, Grover got his other ear pierced. Grover claims that's when Michael and Dan really started "dumping" on him.

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

"One of the worst things they did was to leave the steam table empty, all the dishes dirty, and all the grilles a mess - the whole kitchen was completely trashed after they had a busy morning," Grover said. "On the night of November 10, 1995, a Friday, Dan kept badgering me about why I went to Sisters so I told him, 'Dan, You're a real fucking asshole, you got a bad attitude. This is the 90s. Wake up!'"

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

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

"On the night of November 10, 1995, a Friday, Dan kept badgering me about why I went to Sisters so I told him, 'Dan, You're a real fucking asshole, you got a bad attitude. This is the 90s. Wake up!'

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..."
Ethan Strimling to be Campaign Manager for Dale McCormick

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

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

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

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

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

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

left that seat to run for Governor of Maine. He helped Andrews achieve victory in a
crowded Democratic primary and
leader of Orono's Young Republicans.

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

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

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

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's purpose
be? What new organization, if any,
should be created?
IV. Next steps?

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

The reactions to the campaign were
generally positive. Everyone was very

For MLGPA members and 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 in­
terested persons are encouraged to at­
tend. 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 Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas,
Solstice and other celebrations, it is my
hope that we can look back on the last
year with gratitude and relief that one
part of our work is over. But also let me
have a firm resolve to turn our efforts into
positive, forward-thinking move­
mnt building. Peace to you all, see you
in the New Year.

MERRY XMAS
PARTY SAT 12/23
SANTA WILL BE HERE
GIFTS & FUN
NAUGHTY + NICE
DRINK SPECIALS
SUPERBOWL SUNDAY
plenty of good food and
come yell a
scramble with us
60 TV's
$15.00 EACH
PARTY PARTY PARTY PARTY PARTY

NEW YEAR'S EVE
buffet hats hors d'oeuvre tickets
HOTTEST
TICKETS IN TOWN
ALSO! need to stay
over? call us - you
$25.00 COUPLES

Maine Lesbian/Gay Political
Alliance President, Karen Geraghty.
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:

Jonathan Lee, Director of the Speakout Project.

The long-term goal of these Speakout dialogues is to reduce ignorance and bias so that we can make Maine a state where we are all free to love whom we love openly, without fear of recrimination, and with the same rights and responsibilities as other American citizens. Many of you have been working on these issues in various ways, some for years, and we are all affected by public attitudes toward non-heterosexuals.

We invite you to get involved with the Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights in 1996. We will be offering See SPEAKOUT, page 21

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

by Tanja Jo Hathaway

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 restoration of everything from brain fluids to spinal system to kidney function, while increasing intake of vegetables and grains, you probably over-committed, have too much on your plate, tend to over-extend yourself, got-too-much-to-do, busy, busy, busy! And if sleep is lacking in your life, then rest is an odd concept to you, too.

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

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

We all know it: exercise is important to overall health. Yet many of us do not get the exercise we need. This part of the column is not directed toward those who's daily existence includes a visit to the local gym. This is for those who get almost no daily exercise. Everything in our (healthy) bodies will work better with regular exercise: heart, lung, and all the other organs, muscles, bones, all the bodily functions — and we'll sleep better, too! In addition, exercise greatly decreases our risk for the number one killer: cardiovascular (heart, blood vessel) disease. Even if you smoke, overall health will be improved with exercise. How much exercise? To achieve a high level of fitness: 3-4 times a week for 30-60 minutes. Most physical fitness experts agree that maintaining a heart rate specific to an individual's age/sex is important for optimum cardiovascular fitness. However, in recent years, studies have proven that even some exercise is beneficial—whether you reach your target heart rate or not.

That's good news! It means that you can take three 10-minute walks a day and consider yourself squelching 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.

Car Rental Insurance:

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 credit cards, you get full coverage for accidents, vandalism, theft and loss of use when you decline the CDW.

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

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

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For more information, call or write PO Box 11048, Portland, ME 04104. (207) 657-5864. 

 insured members, the agency can charge all the cost of damage to your credit card until they are reimbursed for their damages. If you find that you are not protected in some way, don't take any chances. Be sure to buy the collision damage waiver from the rental agency.

Host Liquor Liability:

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

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

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

Carolyn A. Jalbert is President of Jalbert Insurance Services serving the business, personal, life and health insurance needs of our community. Call 207-879-1013 or page 207-730-5892.

Insurance Tips for your protection.
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. The third finding was officially found to have violated the Nurse Practices Act in two instances, as follows (Caron read from the minutes of the Board's 12/12/95 meeting - a public document):

1) "A patient died, and when this happens that patient's medications need to be turned in to a pharmacy (or Peabody House). Apparently, Titus was busy for a week or so and this patient's medications just sort of sat in the back seat of her car before she turned them in, and, 2) Titus admitted that on two occasions she traded drugs, if you will. When a new patient's prescription had not been picked up or filled, she took the same drug from another patient to give to that patient - that we don't do in nursing. So, those were the two things, and here 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, in a sense. This was true because of my work in the community and certainly the vision was shared by a lot of people, but I was the prime visionary, in a sense. This was true because of my experience, because of what people with HIV and AIDS felt was true and I'm not in that dream anymore. So, it's certainly changed shape. When Marg was there it was being run as an institution and that's certainly not what I had envisioned. It was to be home for people. It well may be that now . . . I don't know."

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

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

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

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

CPR: When did you do that?

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

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

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

TITUS receives support from Peabody House Board members

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

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

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

Will Titus return to Peabody House?

AN INTERVIEW and DISCUSSION WITH SANDY TITUS

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

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

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

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See TITUS, page 8

TITUS-

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

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

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

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

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

One of the most serious problems at Peabody House last spring was the issue of protocols, but Urban said, "Protocols, that is, the procedures for handling drugs, are in place now."

He said they were always in place and since July 10, 1995, when he became Executive Director he has been responsible to insure they are followed. Since the appointment of Clinical Director 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

Reportedly, Wolters has returned to Minnesota. Nobody knows exactly where she is living but she left the Portland area sometime this past July. Crystal Canny of News Center 13 reported that Wolters' absence impacted negatively on the Board of 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 serious and complex and in order to get an accurate picture of the complainant's allegations the Board prefers that the person(s) be present.

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

METHODOLOGICAL CHURCH

Inclusive, non-homophobic, liberation-based

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Northern Lights MCC of Augusta, ME
4:00 pm Sunday. Communion each week.
2.2 mi from Cony circle on RI 201.
FMI: Bill at 207.453.9750

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.

Every person is welcomed! Please join us!
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 type of person who is proud of who I am.

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 where Don Miller (the owner) said, "I got to talk to you." Grover said, "What's up?" Miller responded, "Well, it's probably the worst conversation I'd have to tell anybody but, I can't use you anymore.

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

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

Grover generally worked 45 hours per week performing every job possible at a restaurant from 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 some improvements. Miller added items to the complaint list for the appeal that weren't part of his original statement.

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

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

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

Grover is contemplating a separate lawsuit against Miller for violation of civil rights...
Titus: 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 Menar 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 few very, very 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 copied. The Board of Directors couldn’t even find copies of them when they went looking for them in mid-May. They finally found one folder in the bottom of a shelf with these few odd patched-in items ... and I’m used to a manual that has it all spelled out. This is how we’re going to treat this and this is how ... and so on, etc. That’s what I mean by ‘protocols.’ Another was for narcotics it would say: ‘All narcotics will be kept . ... it all depends.’ ..."
EDITORIALS

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

Bruce has been tenacious in following news stories, often bringing out the story behind the story. His commitment to this paper has played no small part in keeping CPR a viable paper for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community of Maine and New Hampshire. Frankly, if I didn't have Bruce as a Managing Editor and as a friend, CPR would be less than it is. We work shoulder to shoulder every month, usually through at least one "over nighter" just before we go to the printer, countless debates and discussions, laughter, tears, joys and fears. We wouldn't have had it any other way these last two and half years. It's time for some changes, however.

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

I want to assure readers and advertisers alike that I will make every effort to continue to publish CPR until a buyer is found. That will not be an easy task for many reasons. Personally, I am looking burnout square in the face. Much of the work of CPR is done by just two people, Bruce and me. It's taking its toll. As a matter of fact, the other reason continued publication is going to be an added challenge is that Bruce is taking an extended leave of absence beginning in January. I will miss him more than words can say. Other volunteers are going to be needed to sniff out the news, write stories, take photographs, put the issue to bed and sing off key to me! In addition, I am going to need additional volunteers to assist with distribution in the greater Portland area. After the new year, call the office (879-1342) and sign up! I am taking some time off during the holiday so the CPR office will be closed from December 21 through January 2. I will be in the office on January 3. This holiday season I wish each one of us the fulfillment of our fondest dreams.

In solidarity,

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

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Winnie Weir
Reopen Deering Oaks Park to gay cruising

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

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

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

Deering Oaks, known affectionately as "Pickle Park" to friend and foe alike, had been the center of gay cruising in Portland for decades, probably since the park first opened in 1879. Like other's apartment, while others have at it right there. Those who can’t wait are subject to arrest but perhaps that risk is part of the Appeal - we want what is forbidden. In addition to which, the relative privacy of Deering Oaks lends itself to the throwing of caution (along with clothes) to the wind.

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

What is cruising? What is it about cruising that can be so exciting? The answers are as numerous as the participants. In a society which believes AIDS is God’s punishment against gays, one who celebrates cruising risks being dismissed as a suicidal carniбал. So be it.

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

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

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

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

What is cruising? What is it about cruising that can be so exciting? The answers are as numerous as the participants. In a society which believes AIDS is God’s punishment against gays, one who celebrates cruising risks being dismissed as a suicidal carniбал. So be it.

The fact remains - gay cruising has existed as far back as recorded history and its flame appears no less dim now.

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

Bruce Balboni

Bruce Balboni

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

The Coliseum in ancient Rome was a popular behavior goes on. The Coliseum in an­

Always has, it's on Mell en St re e t - it jus t m o v e s

And ambivalent alike, will cruise. (I can...
December '95 - January '96 Calendar

Tuesday-Saturday, Dec 19-23:
Portland, presents "A Christmas Carol"

• A Empowerment 16-Step Group, seniors. 797-3338.

• Empowerment 16-Step Group, seniors. 797-3338.

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

Design AIDS 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 AIDS, David and Charity, presented the check for $250 to Susan Turner and were surprised by a compelling story of a friend of hers, another designer, who was recently burned out of her home, losing everything she owned. Susan's wonderful gesture of giving her friend a comforter for Christmas with her winnings from Design AIDS. 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.

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Subscription Form

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

Name:

Address:

Phone:

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

ΔΔ Lesbian Paradise! 20 charming rooms, 100 mountain acres, pool, hot tub, hiking/skiiing trails, yummy breakfasts, peace and privacy. We're your perfect vacation choice year round! Week-long and midweek discounts. HIGHLANDS INN, Box 1180P, Bethel, NH 03774, (603) 869-3978. ΔΔ
ΔΔ Yellow Birch Farm: Romantic, seasonal cottage or year round studio on working organic farm Down east Maine, 20 minutes from Eastport. Absolute peace and quiet. Beautiful, remote, unspoiled Cobcook Bay. B & B or weekly rental. Brochure, reservations: (207) 726-5807. ΔΔ

PERSONAL

ΔΔ HIV+ Singles Publication: Safe and confidential. Free copy, 36 word personal ad, voice mail, and mail forwarding! Local and nationwide! All life-styles. Gay, HIV+, owned and operated. Write: Intropoz+ Magazine, 564 Mission St., Box 415, San Francisco, CA 94105, or call 1-800-820-7948. 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 unusual Long term possible. Write Roger, PO Box 1169, Sanford, ME 04073. ΔΔ
ΔΔ Loney GWM, 28 years old, 5'8", brown hair & eyes, seeking someone for friendship and maybe more. Will answer all letters. Randy Kiper, #100254, Kentucky State Penitentiary, PO Box 128, Eddyville, KY 42038. 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 cleaning experience preferable. Neat appearance a must. $6 per hour with potential move to supervisory/working level responsibility and wage. Call Fresh 'n Up Cleaning, 207/926-4365. ΔΔ

SUPPORT GROUP


FOR RENT

ΔΔ RoomMate/Lover Wanted: GWM, 26, seeking GWM 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 207/779-2856. ΔΔ

ON-LINE SERVICE

ΔΔ Free Trial Membership to new local online service. ABACUS has millions of files, over thirty online games, classic ads, restaurant reviews, events calendar, public and private messages, adults only areas, live chat, Internet E-Mail and more! FMI, 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 207/771-7393 (Penny), to reserve your space and/or ask questions. Leave your name, telephone number and address. Come one, come all to the best & biggest Festival in our 10 year history. Non-profit encouraged to rent space at a nominal fee. ΔΔ

WANT HIM? GET HIM!

America's Hottest Ads for Gay Men and Women 1-900-443-8445

I-GET-HIM

Discreetly billed as WorldInfo $2.99 min.

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

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 the 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 email 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
CPR._ December, 1995-January, 1996

COMMUNITY PRIDE RESOURCES

GENERAL

ML/GPA is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the general public, provide information on LGTQ issues. Our primary goals are to involve the LGQ community in Maine's political process, promote civil rights legislation, and develop coalitions of like-minded individuals and organizations, and to oppose anti-gay legislation and referenda. Meetings are the 3rd Saturday of every month in Portland at 7:30 pm. ML/GPA meets in all regions of the state. Drop by or call 207/774-4940.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) Mission is to serve lesbian, gay, and bisexual people and their families and friends through support, education, and advocacy. Come and celebrate our shared history as well as providing support network for Maine's gay & lesbian visual arts community. FMI, call 773-5420.

PHONE SUPPORT

Region by region

National Center for Lesbian Rights Youth Project - 1-800-528-NCRL
Boston Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Youth (BAGLY): 1-800-347-TEEN.
National Hotline for gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender youth: Call 1-800-347-TEEN. Sponsored by the Indianapolis Youth Group. 7-10 pm Sunday, Thursday, 7 pm at midnight Friday and Saturday. Staffed & trained, peer counselor services available.


Portland:
The AIDS Line: 1-800-831-AIDS or 775-1267. HIV/AIDS related questions, call Mon.-Sat. 9 am-5 pm, Mon. & Wed. evenings until 7pm. Anonymous.

DIAL KIDS: TALK. For lesbian, gay, bi & questioning youth under 19 yrs. Ingham Volunteers: Call 774-HELP (774-4537).

The Youth Project: 774-8877. Located at 142 High St., 6th floor, Portland 04101. For information and support group meetings in Portland, Lewiston, Brunswick, Bangor: Eastern Maine AIDS Network: 900-3626.


Brunswick: Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services: 725-4995.

Bridgton: Community Task Force on AIDS: 858-0150.

Brunswick: Community AIDS Awareness Program: 823-4190.


Waterville: Dayspring: 626-3432.


Maine's Gay Men's Chorus is a community chorus which brings men together to enhance social interaction and diversity in the Greater Portland area, as well as affirming the gay and lesbian experience with creative and revelatory entertainment. FMI, call 983-8099 or write w.m.g.m.c., P.O. Box 1093, Portland, ME. 04104.

The Maine Gay Visual Artists' League will meet on the third weekend 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 testing for STD's for residents and non-residents at a walk-in, low cost, medical aid clinic. Anonymous, confidential HIV testing by appointment-only. Clinic open Tues. & Thurs. 3:30 to 6 pm at Portland City Hall Room 303. FMI, call 874-8784.

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England: Serving men and women, offering annual exams, pregnancy testing, birth control info. & supplies (free condoms), testing and treatment for infections and STD's, menopause support and more. Established, knowledgeable, and affordable. Confidential and anonymous.

Northern Lambda Nord

Our purposes are to educate, provide resources, and lobby legislators on issues involving sexual minorities in Maine. Meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St. Portland. Free parking and accessible to the mobility-impaired. Call 207/774-4180.

Citizens Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights (CAGL), New Hampshire's oldest and progressive gay, lesbian, and bisexual organization, welcomes all those interested in these goals to weekly meetings, programs, socials and various other events. Newsletter. Call Info-line (603) 224-1665 or write PO Box 730, Concord, NH 03302-0700.

The Rainbow Business & Professional Association: a statewide, non-profit organization founded to educate the general public, business, and our communities. Support and referrals available. FMI, write RBP P.O. Box 211, Keene, NH 03431.

The Women's Center - Belfast - Weekly meetings, 9 A.M. 2nd and 4th Wed. (above Jaret & Cohn) FMI, call 538-3702. Group meetings every Wednesday, 6:15 pm. Women's Spirituality Gatherings, Mondays 7-9pm.


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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 those single and couple couples an opportunity to explore their relationship in the safe and relaxed winter ambience of Provincetown, and to offer single men and women an opportunity to meet other single men and women 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, dining, 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 group of seven people of the same sex and/or similar age and/or similar level of comfort sharing special meals with other participants) and a festive Sunday brunch.

To receive a brochure or to register, call 800-487-1802 or write to Valentine's Weekend, P.O. Box 1982, Provincetown, MA 02657.
by Aimsel L. Ponti

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

* The movies "Go Fish!" and "The Incredibly True Adventures of Two Girls in Love" both played at 10 Exchange Street in Portland.
* Ballot question #1 was defeated
* Jodie Foster directed a movie
* Ellen DeGeneres wrote a book
* K.D. Lang put out a new album
* Jane Siberry's new album - "Maria"
* Enya's new one "the Memory of Trees"
* Shawn Colvin played the State Theater (and released Live in '88)
* Bonnie Raitt played the Civic Center (and released "Road Tested")
* Kate Schrock played all over the place
* Indigo Girls released a double live album
* WCYY changed their format
* The Brady Bunch Movie (hey, I'm serious)
* Sarah McLachlan played the State Theater
* Paula Cole opened for her (Sara)
* Nell
* Paula Poundstone at the State Theater
* Natalie Merchant's solo album
* The movies "Jeffrey" and "The Sum of Us"
* The Yellow Wallpaper (Oak Street Theatre)
* Lavender Land Utopia (also at Oak Street Theatre)
* Prid "95
* Melissa Etheridge finally put out a new album
* Paula Poundstone played the State Theater
* the "Spirit of '73" compilation album was released
* Jodie Foster directed a movie
* Ballot question #1 was defeated
* The movies "Go Fish!" and "The Incredibly True Adventures of Two Girls in Love" both played at 10 Exchange Street in Portland.

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 rattlesnake 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 divorces 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 their relationship, which hinged initially on Susan's maternal feelings for the runaway, has always been something more, and less, than that. Everyone 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's continued care. Henry sees the house as a reward for his loyalty even while he is conscious that the promise is conditional on Henry's continued "good behavior," has inevitably poisoned the relationship.

William met Susan soon after his arrival in the city, and their relationship, which hinged initially on Susan's maternal feelings for the runaway, has lasted many years. William met Henry at a favorite local bar, and a relationship that essentially began as a one-nightstand 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
CONCERT REVIEW: “Peace on Earth” by the Maine Gay Men’s Chorus

by Winnie Weir

On Friday evening, December 8, the Maine Gay Men’s Chorus presented the first Portland performance of their concert season at the State Street United Church of Christ. Entitled “Peace on Earth,” the program was enthusiastically received by the audience consisting of the members of the chorus and some friends. The program consisted of a variety of music, ranging from classical to contemporary, with some of the pieces being arranged by the composer himself. The music was performed with great skill and emotion, and the audience was moved by the beauty of the music. The songs ranged from classical pieces to contemporary ballads, and the chorus members sang with great enthusiasm. The concert was a great success, and the audience was left with a feeling of peace and joy.

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

by Tom Coffin

The following poem was inspired by a work of art by Paul M. Rodrigue titled “Don’t Walk” (1992/mixed media). It consists of a life mask of the subject set against a textural background resembling a wall and framed in black lacquer. The artist adorns the work’s hero with a battle shroud of snake skin that hugs loosely as though ready to be shed. The accompanying information set beside this work describes the subject as a “warrior of peace” on a “quest for truth and compassion.” The “wall” behind swirls with muted yet gleaming shades of purple and is cut into blocks by inlets of what appears to be tarnished brass which lends a contrasting appeal to the

See MUSEUM, page 21
From Sage...

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

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

PRIDE IN PROGRESS: A little history

by Michael Rossetti

In 1987, when Portland Pride first started, it came shortly after the gay-bashing and drowning murder of Charlie Howard in Bangor. The anger and the rally became to become sort of routine, despite the fact that people from around the state were coming to Portland’s event as a safe place for them to be visible away from more homophobic areas where they lived and worked. The attendance began to level out and the rally and organization needed some fresh life and interest (As if walking arm and arm down Congress Street with your lover was not unusual.)

Surprisingly, Pride’s best friend to increased support turned out to be the right wing reactors who organized referendum repeals and initiatives against gays. Also the near hits with the enactment of a civil rights bill passing through the State legislature brought its share of faces to the Congress Street demonstration. Although the nature of Pride was being boosted by political activity, the actual character began to become more inclusive with greater ownership being taken by all the elements of the gay and lesbian community. One of the boldest additions to Pride ownership was the increased presence of the drag community and the greater involvement of the bars and businesses. This resulted in a string of ever better attended, more fun and more powerful Pride events, and Pride can now truly be called a community festival.

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

To be part of Pride 96′, one needs to make several commitments. First, to be willing to take the time to attend planning meetings and take on specific tasks. Second, be committed to the safety of and support of all participants, including the liability of the city and police. Third, and absolutely the most important, be willing to work together so that every part of our community which wishes to participate, according to its own way, be provided respect and assistance. Along the way one needs to have the ability to share and take criticism, work to develop practical compromise, actively seek advice and input, and not forget to leave space for human imperfection.

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

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

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

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

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

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

But major depression - when it hits - isn't the blues, and it’s far more painful than sadness. No amount of cajoling or chin up-type pep talks can pull a depressed 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@educ.umass.edu). Be sure to include your complete address.

32 and hotter
than ever!

America’s first gay travel guide answers all those burning questions

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

City by city, state by state, the “Damron Address Book” lists thousands of groups, bars, accommodations, 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 Prunt’s and designer, Beth Carr’s images for the cover and the company’s full color Masthead, National and Male Order sections. “We all liked the idea of a disco inferno to celebrate two milestones. ‘We’ve published America’s best gay travel guide for 32 years, and we just launched into cyberspace’”

Other helpful guides published by Damron include: “The Women’s Traveller,” “The Damron Road Atlas,” and “Damron Accomodations,” a new undertaking for Damron. For further information on these publications, call Ian Philips, Managing Editor, at 800-462-6654. ΔΔ
Money Talk:

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

by Peter J. Calman, CPA

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

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

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

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

Casualty and Theft Losses: A deduction is allowed for losses from casualty (accident) or theft of personal property subject to limits. See Form 4797 to calculate the deduction.

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

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

Out of Town

by Paul T. Bernard

I just re-turned 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 Air-ways - one of about four airlines ac-tively marketing to the gay/lesbian com-munity. 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 ameni-ties of Heathrow, I found that it was easy getting to and from the airport. There is an express train called the Gatwick Ex-press 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 sec-tion 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 consist-ing of eggs, bacon, beans, toast, coffee/ tea, and juice. The hotel was well lo-cated - it was one block to the Tube (sub-way), I block to the British Museum, 5 minute walk to Soho (bar area), and a 10 minute walk to Piccadilly Circus. The hotel wasn’t very fancy, but was clean and convenient. We paid about $85 per night, including breakfast and taxes. And the people were more than friendly and very willing to suggest places to eat or sights to see.

We did some of the usual tourist things - we saw the Tower of London and the Crown Jewels, Big Ben, St. Paul’s Cathedral, Harrods’ 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 universi-ties within its border. The colleges surround the town, but are all within an easy walk of one another. In the center of town, there is a quaint district of shops and restaurants. We had a very enjoy-able day exploring the colleges and the shops and restaurants.

One of the things that impressed me the most about London was its pub-lic transportation system. Their sub-ways are known as The Tube, from 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 unlim-it-ed passes for $49 each. These have to be purchased here in the US prior to your trip, but are a wise investment.

One of the nice places we revisited 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 200 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 defini-tely go back and spend more.

I had a wonderful time in London, and would definitely go back again. I recommend 5-7 days in London, more if you plan on doing any organizations outside of the city. For touring outside of the city, I do not recommend a car - the rail sys-tem is extensive and reasonably priced. If you decide to go to London, I sug-gest getting a good London Guide. One of the better ones is called LONDON ACCESS. Another is LET’S GO LON-DON.
freedom and chance to make a life for himself, outside William's sphere, as the burden of care falls more and more on his shoulders. For Susan, facing herself, outside William's sphere, as 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 presence: "Now, with a gift—an antique mirror she had admired, hoping to bind her more tightly to him.

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

MGMC, from page 17

projection. The expectation on my part of a celebratory performance coinciding with various traditions' observances of this time of year, contributed to the profound feeling of heaviness around the first half. There were few smiles to be seen and it looked and felt as though Director Bruce Fithian was having to pull the music out of the men. This suggests to me that the men had not "bought into" the program. As one audience member told me afterward, "It was as if they all had received some very bad news just before going on stage."

During the second half, the MGMC Dancers were a distraction and a disappointment, seeming to have no relevance to the number being sung. "Open Wide Your Eyes." Again, the energy level and enthusiasm present was disjointed, lacking energy, lacking fluidity, it may mean that choices in music and placement need to be looked at and 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. ΔΔ

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.

from the Producer to the Director, to the accompanist, the chorus members and volunteer staff. I am particularly mindful of this fact and appreciate their efforts. The question I then ask myself, as the one doing the review of the 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 fluidity, it may mean that choices in music and placement need to be looked at or more participation in selecting pieces. The Maine Gay Men's Chorus is a work in progress; hence, as with individuals and organizations, there is always room for improvement. ΔΔ

MUSEUM, from page 17

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

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

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. ΔΔ

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

- Tom Coffin/1995

A Pictorial Exhibition

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

Behind lie the walls stained deep with shades of amethyst cracked with gold

Blooding through the textural landscape. Smearing the lines between past, present and future

Everything layered

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

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

Eyes closed forever as though listening to the producer to the Director, to the accompanist, the chorus members and volunteer staff. I am particularly mindful of this fact and appreciate their efforts. The question I then ask myself, as the one doing the review of the 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 fluidity, it may mean that choices in music and placement need to be looked at or more participation in selecting pieces. The Maine Gay Men's Chorus is a work in progress; hence, as with individuals and organizations, there is always room for improvement. ΔΔ

A Heroic Journey

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

1995-1996

MUSEUM, from page 17

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EYES CLOSED FOR EVER

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

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