Community Pride Reporter, 03/1996

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Anti-Gay Bill Withdrawn!

MLGPA reports a victory for the “Forces of Light”

by Karen Geraghty

With pressure from MLGPA, coalition partners, and elected officials, Senator Georgette Berube (D-Lewiston) has withdrawn her anti-gay bill from this legislative session.

In her hometown paper, the Lewiston Sun-Journal, Berube said legislators lacked time in a short session to fully debate the measure which sought to bar same-gender marriage and to limit protection from discrimination for people who report hate crimes. It was widely reported that this was a “gay rights” bill, even though gay people were afforded absolutely no protections in this measure.

Senator Berube also worried that the tone of the debate would have turned nasty. “We could not have assured that the tone of the debate would have remained rational,” she said.

Berube reported that she was asked by some senators and representatives to withdraw the bill so they wouldn’t have to vote on it in an election year. She said that those legislators favored her measure but would vote against it so as not to incur the wrath of the gay community and our liberal supporters.

She also stated that although she cannot run again because of term limits, a legislator who hopes to be re-elected is planning to introduce this measure next year.

Thank you to all the people who wrote letters, made phone calls, sent e-mails, or renewed your MLGPA membership. Your help made this happen in one way or another.

The road map to next years defeat of this bill seems fairly clear. We have

Karen Geraghty, MLGPA President

See ANTI-GAY, page 4

Section 17-5: If you cruise it, you could lose it

by David O. Cook

Get lost in a Portland neighborhood looking for an unfamiliar address and you may find yourself at the receiving end of a $100 fine for “cruising.” But only if the area you are “in or around” is a posted “no cruising area” and you have passed a traffic control point three or more times within a 2-hour period. Such areas would likely include the Western Prom and Parkside at least. Repeat offenders would be subject to an escalating fine scale, paying as much as $500 per offense starting with the third offense.

This new reality is predicated on final passage of Portland city ordinance Section 17-5 which reads, in part, “No person shall drive or permit a motor vehicle under that person’s care, custody, or control to be driven past a traffic control point three (3) times within a two-hour period in or around a posted "no cruising area.”

The ordinance was sent to the full Portland City Council by the Public Safety Committee on February 6, but without recommendation, a fact that may signify a wait-and-see attitude on the part of the Committee, which usually provides some indication of the degree and nature of its consensus.

Section 17-5 may have serious logistical flaws. Former Portland Mayor Ann Frongrile believes that it will be a nightmare to enforce and agrees with the concern that the small number of times you need to circle a given point in order

See CRUISING, page 2

Rural Concerns Consortium provides forum for NH activists

by Suzanne Pyle, Co-editor, NH Bureau

Is there gay life outside of Boston? Is there some semblance of gay community north of Nashua, or west of Portsmouth?

In Boston and other New England cities, such as Providence, or Hartford, the gay community has blossomed with many resources available to gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender city dwellers. There are cable television networks, radio shows, and several newspapers to choose from to help you find out what’s going on in the community. There are established community centers, and local gay/lesbian, bisexual or transgendered organizations that have been growing strong, providing a multitude of support groups, services, legal advocacy, educational materials and political muscle in the hot arena of equal rights.

But what about gay New Hampshire? How does the gay rural community survive with fewer resources, less an way to communicate and cooperate? These are the kind of questions Jim Bretz and Flora Piterak, seasoned grassroots political activists, have asked themselves recently. And the answer was conceived in the formation of the Rural Concerns Consortium.

Because the needs of rural gay communities are unique and often self-defined, the solutions that urban organizers might suggest just don’t fit. The exhortation to use corporate sponsorships, local newspapers, a television station, or supportive local organizations to help raise money or communicate rural gay issues can be a Herculean task for

See RURAL CONCERNS, page 9

Expanded A & E section: Catie Curtis releases her second album, “Truth from Lies”

by Aimsel Ponti

Yet another Maine singer/songwriter is making quite a name for herself in both women’s music and folk music circles. With the release of “Truth from Lies,” Catie Curtis’ fan base is becoming national. And with her recent performance at the Stone Coast Brewing Company here in Portland, that fan base includes many Mainers.

While growing up in rural Southern Maine and then attending Rhode Island’s Brown University, music was always present in her life even though sports, particularly basketball, were her focus in high school. She did, however, write her first songs during her high school years.

Upon arrival at Rhode Island’s Brown University, Curtis became part of the singer-songwriting culture as well as maintaining a love for athletics. A few years later, Curtis came to the crossroads of graduation and decided to pursue music.

This decision brought Curtis to San Francisco where she was able to support herself as a waitress and still have plenty of time to concentrate on music.

Curtis’ next home base was Boston where she worked as a social worker. It was here that she slowly started to gain respect as a significant songwriter in the city’s music scene. In 1991, Curtis independently released the album, “From Year to Hours,” with 11 original songs.

Her newest release, “Truth From Lies,” was named best folk/acoustic album of 1995 by New England Performer Magazine. Her music can also be found on two of the Putumayo folk music collections, which are superb compilations.
CRUISE from page 1

to be subject to fine, is unrealistically small and may lead to unnecessary ha­
rassment of people not doing anything wrong. Pringle (a resident of the West
End) is also concerned that “No Cruising” Area may become a sort of scarlet
letter, thereby damaging a neighborhood’s reputation and real es­
tate values.

And Pat Peard, President of the Maine Civil Liberties Union, takes is­sue with the intent of the ordinance, feel­
ing that it seeks to regulate people’s free­
dom of movement, rather than directly ad­
ressing the behavior that is presumably
real at issue, namely public sex.

Pringle, on the other hand, supports the basic notion that something needs to be done and she cites vociferous complaints by residents of the West End, especially the Western Promenade — complaints both about lights and noise from cruis­ing cars that circle the West End streets es­
specially late at night and also about acts of sex alleged to have been per­
formed within eyeshot of West End res­
ident’s homes.

Professor James Roberts, Chair­
man of the USM Political Science De­
partment, feels that the issue is one of
“neighborhood clan or spirit” and that
“society has a stake in regulating mani­
festations of public sexual behavior.”
Pringle claims that the first paragraph of the new ordinance (quoted above) at
least gives the police a standard for gaug­ing who is cruising and who isn’t, but
she feels that the structure of fines called
for in the ordinance would be impractical
and might lead to harassment of a partic­
ular group — that is, it simply moves some­
where else. This reality is born out by the
experience of other cities, where at­
ttempts to dislodge cruising activities
succeeded only temporarily if at all. In
Boston, for example, a section of Mar­
brough Street, in Boston’s famous Back
Bay, had its traffic pattern re­
ruled years ago to put an end to cruis­ing.
It sort of worked — the hustlers moved about a 2-minute walk farther south to a less noisy neighborhood near the bus terminal.

CPR attempted to reach officials at The AIDS Task Force to ascertain the effect that escalating public sex enforcement activities might have on safer sex educa­tion efforts, but our calls were not returned.

Pringle, Peard, and Sutton believe that there should be much more pub­
debate on this issue. Peard feels that there is a public misconception that this is ex­
clusively a gay issue. And Sutton feels that an acceptance of the reality of public sex activities is prerequisite to a pub­
debate on the issue.

MONEY TALK: Can I file form 1040 EZ?

by Peter J.
.
Callinan, CPA

That is a popular question this time of year. Many people pre­
sume that because they filed a Form
1040EZ last year they should again this year and it is not always true. An individual’s tax situation often changes from one year to the next. It may not be in their best interest to file the
Form 1040EZ. Review the following filing requirements and consider if Form 1040EZ really is best for you.

Form File 1040EZ If . . .

• You are married filing status is single or mar­
ing jointly with no dependents and you were under age 65 and not blind. ( Head of Household cannot use Form 1040EZ.)
• You only had income from wages, salaries, unemployment compensation, tips, taxable scholarships or fellowships and in­
terest income of less than $400. (No other sources of income)
• Total taxable income is less than $50,000.
• You do not owe any other taxes (like employment taxes for a household employee or self employment tax).
• You have not received any ad­
avance earned income credit payments and you cannot file for the credit with a quali­
fying child.
• You do not itemize deductions. (It is more simple to itemize if it gives you a larger deduction.)
• You have no adjustments to income (like an Individual Retirement Account con­
tribution or work related moving expenses).

Form 1040EZ is the simplest tax return to fill out because it is short. It is also easy to overlook available deductions with it. If you can take deductions that would increase your tax liability it may not be the best form to file. Good Luck!
OUT of Town!

by Paul T. Bernard

I had a call one day last week from someone who had seen my article in last month's CPR. He wanted to know why he should do business with a travel agent. I thought the answer I tried to give him might help other readers.

First of all, I want to acknowledge that, for the most part, there isn't anything I do that you can't do yourself. But at the same time, I want to emphasize exactly what it is that a travel agent does for a client.

1) TIME - By utilizing the services of a professional travel agent, you are going to save yourself a lot of time. A travel agent can very quickly put together airline reservations and tickets, car rentals, hotel reservations, vacation packages, cruises, group tours, and more. If you were to attempt this yourself, you could spend hours or days trying to put together a vacation or business trip - because you would have to spend that time making dozens of phone calls. A travel agent can do all this through a computer terminal that is tied into a huge reservation system - being able to access all of the airlines, car rental companies, hotels, and more. The typical vacation or business trip can be put together in about 10 minutes - and all it takes is one phone call to your local travel agent.

2) KNOWLEDGE - By utilizing a travel agent, you are able to draw on their professional knowledge and expertise. For instance, a travel agent has more information available to them about destinations, airlines, special prices, weather, packages, tours, etc. than you as individual. Additionally, most travel agents have traveled extensively and will have first hand knowledge of places they have been and you may be going.

3) YOUR BEST INTEREST - A travel agent works for you - not the airlines, car rental companies, hotels, or tour operators. If price is your concern, then a travel agent is your best bet to finding the best deals. Or if quality is your concern, your travel agent can be your best ally. And should you encounter problems with your trip, you have an advocate who knows the ropes on how to correct the situation.

So what does a travel agent cost you? In most cases, absolutely nothing. We are paid a commission by the airlines, hotels, car rental companies, tour operators, cruise lines, etc. In some cases, however, some agencies are charging minimal fees to cover costs for low-commission producing items. However, most agencies also will give you a credit for that fee on a future trip.

Agents also can provide additional services. In my agency, I am able to offer my clients currency/travel checks in foreign currencies, travel insurance, passport and visa applications, and more. In addition, I have access to several Gay Lesbian travel publications and can provide you with the latest information on your selected destination.

SHORT TAKES

This time of year is popular for travel scam artists. Many people are getting flyers in the mail or phone sales pitches. Some of these people are well known and reputable. Some of these people are not. Be sure to check with your local travel agent before making any travel plans.

The 1996 Spring for Life Art Auction will be held at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland on Saturday, March 16. The public can preview live and silent auction pieces, free of charge, at the Holiday Inn by the Bay on Friday, March 15, 6:00-8:00 PM, and Saturday, March 16, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Doors will reopen at 5:30 PM and general admission, which includes a bidder's number, will be $10. Tickets may be purchased during preview hours, or at the door. Silent auction bids can be made throughout the day Saturday, with final silent bids tallied at 7:30 PM. The live auction will begin at 8:00 PM in the Grand Ballroom with Tom Saturey of Auction Properties Ltd. officiating as auctioneer. A festive artist's reception will be held from 6:00 - 7:30 PM on Saturday, featuring complimentary champagne and beverages and hors d'oeuvres prepared by Portland's finest chefs. Tickets for the artists' reception are $25 per person, which includes admission to the auction, and can be purchased at the door or by calling The AIDS Project at 207/774-6877...
Queer youth: What's happening for them in Maine?

by Chris Milliken

What is the state of queer youth in Maine today? Are adolescents both straight and gay receiving the education they deserve about sexual orientation, diversity, tolerance, and acceptance? In the 90's life holds more promise for the children who know they will develop same-gender relationships. Just twenty years ago, gay youth had no role models in Maine. A sense of isolation, that one is the only sexual minority in the whole school kept, and continues to keep, students from reaching their potential. Today, because of the efforts of grassroots AIDS educators, (who know that emerging sexually active youth are in a high-risk category for contracting HIV) homophobia, diversity in sexual orientation and issues of discrimination are beginning to be discussed in schools, businesses and medical facilities. Gay rights issues are accessible in the news for children to see, and many men and women of Maine are open and out at work, in schools and at play.

Still freedom has not been won. Young people still must choose the closet in order to have access to education and an acceptable social life. As

Green Party fields candidate for senate

by Winnie Weir

John Rensenbrink, founding member of the Maine Green Party, announced his candidacy for the United States Senate at a press conference held on February 7, 1996. Rensenbrink plans another press conference on March 15 when 2000 Green signatures are turned in at the Secretary of State's office in Augusta.

Rensenbrink, the first candidate for the Green Party running with full qualified party status, will "run a campaign that addresses the politics of transformation outside the limitations of the Democrats and Republicans, and outside the interests of big money and media hype."

He called for a vigorous public debate on the connection between a strong economy and a strong environment. Said Rensenbrink, "Don't eat the seed corn will be a rallying cry in my campaign." In other words, if you clear-cut and over-cut, you can't expect to have a forest that will produce for you. You can't overfish forever and expect to have any fish at all. According to Rensenbrink's Issues Sheet, the balance between economy and ecology is going to be his number one issue. "No matter how rich you are, you can't go on blighting whole communities and eco-systems without pulling the rug of prosperity out from everyone, including you own sons and daughters," says his Issue Sheet.

The present leadership of the country in both parties need a wake-up call.

Green Party candidate for Senate, John Rensenbrink with his wife, Carla

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Children who know they are gay or lesbian often go to great lengths to hide their sexuality in order to fit in socially. By doing so they stand a greater chance of achieving academically and athletically, two rights of passage that insure success as an adult in our culture. Paradoxically, queer youth (those children who identify as gay or lesbian or are too feminine or masculine for what is accepted as normal) most often drop out of school because of the lack of support and understanding they receive in the system. Often this is coupled with the harassment they get from peers who struggle for self acceptance and who subsequently learn the games of marginalization and homophobia. Youth who are marginalized because of sexual identity or labelling are more prone to alcohol and drug abuse, suicidal tendencies, suicide, and other psychosocial dysfunctions, according to statistics gathered by the Human Rights Campaign Fund and other national and local organizations.

Schools and social service organizations are beginning to dialogue about the acceptance of straight and gay youth as well as teachers, to create a safe place for all students so they can grow into productive healthy adults.

OUTRIGHT, a Portland based youth support group organized by Cathy Kidman, a local AIDS activist and educator, offers affirmation, outreach and social activities to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning youth (minors ages 13 to 22). OUTRIGHT grew from what Portland AIDS educators knew about gay youth. Their contention is that this segment of the population is compromising it's safety from HIV infection because young men often find themselves having sex before they identify with being gay. By providing a safe place to discuss sexuality, OUTRIGHT aims at lowering this group's risk of infection.

From this idea came others which include the acknowledgment that queer youth are living in isolation and would benefit from knowing others like themselves; adult gays and lesbians can be role models queer youth and that sexual diversity can equal success, not failure or moral condemnation. Although OUTRIGHT was founded on the basis of AIDS prevention in the male population, lesbian youth comprise half of the active members.

Kidman was asked what she thought OUTRIGHT was offering the community. "A challenge to oppression. The mere existence of OUTRIGHT is a shimer of hope to queer youth in rural isolated places," she responded. Kidman's energy and determination are contagious as she works democratically with a board of directors and to local papers this grassroots AIDS activist outreach program into a nonprofit institution.

Kidman loves to tell the story of a boy who came to an HIV education and prevention program at a southern Maine high school. In closing the session Kidman offered information about OUTRIGHT meetings. The young man approached the front of the room to tell Ms. Kidman that he didn't think he would ever make it to a meeting but that he had heard from a friend that on a box in the trunk of her car was a button that said, "My mother thanks me at the movies." The boy did eventually make it to an OUTRIGHT meeting. What impressed Ms. Kidman most was that the kids were talking about the program and networking among themselves. The walls of isolation were beginning to break down for queer teens.

Young adults are not recruited or solicited to attend OUTRIGHT. Area guidance counselors and local papers offer listings of OUTRIGHT meetings but youth must find their own way to the meetings. Participants don't even have to give their names at meetings though most do. No records are kept of youth attendance other than the total number of participants for funding purposes.

OUTRIGHT is a place to explore ideas. Young adults don't often come to OUTRIGHT for support around coming out to their families. The group does explore the benefits and consequences of coming out at home, work, school and to friends. When an individual decides with a board of directors, they lay out strategies in place to help the homophobic world recover from its shock.

CPR spoke with Steve Snow, an OUTRIGHT youth and advisory board member. Snow described some of the myths that continue to prevail among both hetero and homosexual youth. Some of these falsehoods are that only gay men and I.V. drug users contract HIV and that all gay men get HIV. A recent study by Dr. Linda Vallery of the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, GA substantiates many of Snow's assumptions about young men and HIV. Vallery found that in 6 urban counties, 5% of teenage males engaging in sex with other men, ages 15 to 19 were HIV positive while 9% of these men ages 20-22 had contracted the virus. An alarming 38% of the men surveyed admitted to having unprotected sex in the last 6 months. One of the reasons these men gave for putting themselves at risk was that "HIV infection only occurred among older gay men so intercourse with a peer was somehow less risky.

Snow volunteers as a youth speaker for OUTRIGHT, visiting local schools to help dispel these and other myths about homosexuality. "The empowerment I get from serving the community is fantastic," he says, "There is a greater demand for speakers than there are youths willing to speak out" he adds, "We have to choose the locations where we will be most effective. We can't reach them all (the schools)." "OUTRIGHT has other needs as well" Snow says. "For example, we need more advisors to offer a variety of perspectives and role models." Young people want to see a wide range of gay adults leading all different types of successful lifestyle.

OUTRIGHT has been serving the Portland area for 8 years now. Fortunately other communities are beginning to sponsor similar OUTRIGHT projects. Claire Gelinas and Nancy Bullet of the AIDS Coalition of Auburn and Lewiston are beginning an OUTRIGHT group with new funds. Like OUTRIGHT Portland this organization will start from the perspective of HIV prevention and education, but will certainly evolve to meet the social needs of the youth community as well. For more information concerning the Lewiston/Auburn OUTRIGHT group call: 786-4697.

Lisa Kushner and Rene Karickhoff of the Waldo/Knox Counties AIDS Coalition is planning an OUTRIGHT group for eastern Maine with the help of the Searspoint area youth. Thanks to a small grant, Karickhoff was hired as the facilitator. The program, modeled after Portland's, will begin meeting sometime in April. For more information call 1-800-639-7707. Portland OUTRIGHT meets every Friday from 7:30-9:30 PM at 155 Brackett Street. Call 828-6560 for more information. Parents of gay, lesbian or bisexual teens may contact P-Flag. Parents and friends of Lesbians and Gays at 774-3441. ΔΔ

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**Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance cordially invites you to attend the 11th Annual Awards Banquet and Dinner Dance**

**Saturday, April 13, 1996**

**Augusta Civic Center**

**Augusta, Maine**

**Tickets:** Dinner & Dance - $25
Cocktail/mocktail hour 5:30 pm
Come and meet the candidates

Dance only (9:30 pm) $5-$10 sliding scale
DJ for the evening is Lisa Daccaro

Some scholarships available for half off dinner and dancing.

For more information, speak to any MLGPA member or call
207-773-9547 or 1-800-55-MLGPA.
Gay and lesbian voters in 1992 were energized by then-Governor Bill Clinton's promises on a wide range of community issues, from AIDS to lesbians and gays in the military. Gay and lesbians provided Clinton's election campaign with crucial dollars, volunteers and votes, helping to provide the margin of victory in states such as Georgia and Ohio. But the gay and lesbian community has played an active role in many previous presidential campaigns, sometimes with significant support from the candidates.

In fact, the most important gay rights organization of the 1950s, the Mattachine Society, was originally conceived as a way for gay men to support a presidential candidate: progressive former Vice President Henry Wallace. Gay rights pioneer Harry Hay attempted to organize among the gay men he knew in Los Angeles, and some of them suggested he call their group "Fruits for Wallace" or "Queers for Wallace." Hay instead proposed "Bachelors for Wallace," but the group never really advanced past the idea stage.

Perhaps because of McCarthyism, perhaps because of the lack of an appealing candidate, gays and lesbians as a group largely stayed out of the presidential elections of the 1950s and 1960s. But in 1972 the Democrats nominated a candidate who had publicly supported gay rights as early as 1970 - George McGovern. Many gays and lesbians had worked hard for McGovern during the primaries, and in return, McGovern allowed a convention debate on including a gay-rights plank in the party's platform.

Thus San Francisco gay activist Jim Foster and Buffalo lesbian activist Madeline Davis addressed the convention on national television in support of lesbian and gay rights. Twenty years later many newspapers reported Roberta Achtenberg's 1992 Democratic Convention speech as the first such address by an openly gay person, having apparently forgotten about the remarkable moment in 1972 when Foster told the convention and the nation: "We do not come to you pleading your understanding or begging your tolerance. . . We come to you affirming our pride in our life-style, affirming the validity of our right to seek and to maintain meaningful emotional relationships, and affirming our right to participate in the life of this country on an equal basis with every citizen."

Despite his earlier promises (he even ran ads in "The Advocate," McGovern later backed off his pro-gay stands under the pressure of a homophobic, general public. Sound familiar?

Presidential candidate Jimmy Carter declared support for gay rights early in 1976, and even sent his handsome son Chip to campaign in the Castro during the California primary. A month before the convention, however, he withdrew his support for a gay rights plank, effectively downing the measure. Though activists threatened that 10,000 gays and lesbians would protest at a rally outside the New York City convention, fewer than a thousand actually showed up. During the general election, incumbent President Gerald Ford fared no better with gay voters, unable to even comment when Michigan gay activists butathed him about America's restrictions on gay immigrants.

In 1980, Carter again refused to support a gay-rights plank in the Democratic platform, and much of the gay and lesbian activist vote in the primaries went to Sen. Edward Kennedy. Of course, in the general election Ronald Reagan was the other choice so most voters for whom gay rights was a main issue held their noses and voted for the defeat-bound President.

Early in his campaign for the 1984 Democratic presidential nomination, former Vice President Walter Mondale took the risky step of addressing over 1,000 gay activists at a human rights dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City. Mondale was received enthusiastically, despite the fact that he never mentioned gay rights in his speech. A 100,000-strong gay-right march outside the Democratic National Convention that year helped ensure the passage of several gay rights planks, including one relating to AIDS research, in the Democratic platform.

Neither Governor Michael Dukakis nor Vice President George Bush aroused much enthusiasm among gays and lesbians in the 1988 elections. In fact, the only candidate who elicited strong support within the organized gay and lesbian community was Rev. Jesse Jackson, whose moving speech at the 1987 March on Washington and consistent inclusion of gays and lesbians in his "Rainbow Coalition" convinced many liberal gay Democrats that he was their best candidate in years.

The 1992 election is a familiar story, with all the Democratic candidates (Clinton, Tom Harkin, Jerry Brown, Paul Tsongas, and Bob Kerrey) coming out in support of gay and lesbian rights early in the primary season. In the general election, of course, Clinton stood out from George Bush and Ross Perot in his consistent promises on gay rights and AIDS.

And what of the 1996 elections? The Republican candidates certainly have little history of support for the community's issues: Sen. Phil Gramm got elected to the Senate in 1984 in part by attacking his opponent's acceptance of money from a gay rights group. Sen. Bob Dole can't seem to decide whether he wants to accept gay money in this race. Pat Buchanan once called AIDS "nature's awful retribution" for gay "war on nature." Rep. Bob Dornan is so homophobic his opponents entitled a biography and collection of his quotes "Shut Up, Fag!" And son-of-a-gay Malcolm Forbes, Jr. has yet to take a strong stand in favor of laws that would ensure that no American has to live the kind of sad double life his father lived.

Will gays and lesbians who feel betrayed by Clinton's abandonment on gays in the military and the Colorado case hold their noses and vote to re-elect the president who has taken more pro-gay steps than any other? Or will an independent candidate, perhaps Lowell Weicker or Jesse Jackson, present gays with a choice they can vote for with confidence? This month's primaries and caucuses kick off the election season, so we'll find out soon.
Three stunning condo of counselors who believe that a visible presence of gay, lesbian, and bisexual mental health professionals is essential. In a spirit of visible celebration of their sexual minority status, Roberta Poulin, MS, Diane Kuebler, MSW, and Kevin Byrne, MSW, have formed a counseling association designed specifically to meet the needs of sexual minorities and their families. Pride Associates believes that often in the search for a therapist a client questions and wonders about the therapist’s knowledge of and acceptance of their own sexuality. They want to eliminate the whole coming out process for clients who are often put in the position of educating the professional at their expense.

It is Pride Associate’s philosophy that although all people share a larger context of life situation, sexual minority people encounter unique circumstances and challenges across the lifespan. Pride Associates believes that the needs of those unique circumstances are best met in a context of empathy and shared experience, free of bias against sexual minorities. The reality that sexual minority people experience is often very complex. Internalized homophobia is as much an issue as societal homophobia and prejudice in the struggle for rightful and valuable identities as people of diversity.

“Pride Associates is really a statement about WHO WE ARE,” says Kuebler. Byrne adds, “We are gay and lesbian counselors committed to a visible celebration of our diversity regardless of who we may serve. We bring a unique professional knowledge and specialized professional focus serving sexual minority people, their families, and the public in general.”

Pride Associates have offices in Bangor and Portland where we provide individual, couples and family counseling, educational workshops, training and presentations on relevant topics such as diversity awareness, homophobia and heterosexism, sexuality appreciation and safer sex. For more information, call Pride Associates at 207-941-1678 or 207/469-6405.

**UNUM: setting the standards for others to follow**

_by Chris Milliken_

UNUM, a Maine based insurance company, has a history of affirming diversity in the workplace. Since 1989 when the company prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation as part of its Equal Employment Opportunity policies, UNUM has set the standards for equal rights for sexual minority members. In 1991 Ann Houser, an openly lesbian employee with 13 years at UNUM asked the company to extend benefits to domestic partners by 1993. That year, the company’s human resources department developed a full schedule of events based on diversity education as well. Five affinity groups were established to create awareness of and a voice for people with disabilities, people of color, gays and lesbians, older workers and women.

Today, UNUM is proud to offer one of the most progressive work environments in the country. Domestic partners have the same benefits as legally married couples which includes medical, dental, life, short and long-term disability insurance, equal leave of absence policies for family issues and access to the corporate fitness facilities. Each management unit within the company develops programs for raising awareness of differences through workshops and a program called “Lunch and Learn,” where people may attend discussions lead by affinity group members. Sandy Bishop, commenting on behalf of UNUM said, “When an employee can bring her/his whole self to work, productivity increases.” With good business in mind UNUM is committed to providing an increasingly progressive work environment with a specific set of goals to be attained through the year 2000.

See UNUM, page 21

**Victoria Zavasnik, Portland based Educator & Therapist**

_by Winnie Weir, Publishing Editor_

Victoria Zavasnik has been an educator and therapist for twenty-five years. With a Masters degree in Motivational Therapy and a Ph.D in counseling psychology, Zavasnik is licensed as a substance abuse counselor and clinical counselor. Her broad background in education includes State certification in special education and administration in New York and Maine. She has worked with troubled adolescents and their parents and teachers, focusing their attention on eating disorders and on implementing programs focused on the emotional difficulties and behavioral problems linked to substance abusers.

Zavasnik currently consults with school systems throughout the State. She also provides therapy for individuals, families and groups.

“As a single mother of three grown children,” says Zavasnik, “I’ve acquired ‘life experience credentials’ in working with the difficulties of single and co-parenting issues following the loss and trauma of separation, divorce and custody decisions. I’ve also had experience with family therapy for adoptees, birth parents and inter-racial families.”

Zavasnik has developed a special interest in the sensitive issues that concern parents of adult gay and lesbian children and in the personal challenges faced by gay and lesbian parents, couples and individuals.

Zavasnik has a keen interest in spirituality on a personal level and sees spiritual development as being potentially significant for clients in helping to integrate mind, body and spirit, particularly for individuals with recovery issues. Her spiritual quest has expanded Zavasnik’s practice to include Spiritual Direction to individuals, clinicians and groups.

See ZAVASNIK, page 21

**Elite Ventures, Inc., PC and proud!**

_by Chris Milliken_

Elite Ventures, Inc., greater Portland’s newest dating service, plans to focus on the gay and lesbian community. Founded by Regina Papi and Michelle Jabbert, two Portland-based entrepreneurs, Elite Ventures plans to “take the anxiety out of dating and put the fun back into dating” for busy professionals with a special division dedicated to servicing the gay and lesbian community.

“Believe me, I know first-hand how difficult dating is in this day and age,” says Michelle, a single mother who juggles motherhood with her career and squeezes in a personal life when her schedule allows. “When Regina and I began thinking of business opportunities, we thought, ‘We want to do something that’s fun for us, fun for our clients, and something that makes a difference in someone’s life.’ This encompassing everything we were looking for.”

Says Regina, “After talking with many people in the area about dating services, we were surprised to find that, in general, most were very open minded about using a dating service. But we knew that in order for us to be successful, we had to offer something a little bit different, a little bit better — find a niche. Providing support to the gay and lesbian community seemed a perfect way for us to do just that.”

Potential clients are asked to complete an application which outlines backgrounds, interests, beliefs and goals. Next, a personal interview is conducted from which Michelle and Regina develop a profile for each member. Profiles are then swapped between members who appear to be compatible, and when a match is mutually accepted among two members, a date is arranged.

“We can’t do anything about the chemistry part,” laughs Michelle, “but we’ll make sure you’re not wasting your time with someone you have absolutely nothing in common with. We are not so inclined to ‘saturate’ you with dates just to keep our cash registers ringing.” They offer quality service with a personal touch, complete flexibility and confidentiality along with competitive pricing and a unique incentive plan.

EV plans to extend its services from the Augusta/Waterville area to Portsmouth, New Hampshire. For more information, call 207/773-7225.

**FABULOUS CONDOS**

by Herb Weir, Publishing Editor

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News from the Granite State

Rainbow Network unifying NH Seacoast

by Leslie Robinson, Managing Editor, NH bureau

One woman’s vision is turning into a movement to unify the New Hampshire Seacoast’s gay community.

Last fall, Ruth Rosenhek called together various gay organizations and service-providers to gays in the Seacoast. The result is the Rainbow Network, a consortium of groups and individuals. The Net’s aim is to halt the splintering of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

In a recent interview, Rosenhek said, “I think particularly in our community there is a lot of fragmentation.” She called the first of many meetings last year after hearing that grant money would be available in the Seacoast from the Bob Karnan Fund for an Inclusive Community, a fund to promote equality for gays.

Rosenhek was apprehensive about the first meeting. She believed community development was the issue that needed to be addressed, but she expected to hear different ideas and to deal with conflict. That didn’t happen. Everyone agreed on the need to build community. “They got committed quite quickly,” said Rosenhek.

And organized. The Net applied for and received a grant, totaling nearly $2,500 from the Karnan Fund.

The Net’s first big event proved to the organizers that they were on the right track with community-building. In December the Net held an Opening Night in Portsmouth. Maine State Senator, Dale McCormick and author, Warren J. Blumenfeld were the speakers, and Rosenhek and her compatriots shared their vision of the Net. They had expected no more than 150 to attend, but 250 enthusiastic people filled the Seacoast Repertory Theatre in Portsmouth.

“That was really exciting for us all,” said Rosenhek. The turnout showed there’s a lot of desire for that.”

The Net’s next task is to work out administrative details, like writing a mission statement. Rosenhek said it will go something like this: “The purpose of the Net is to bring together providers and community members to offer a vehicle to launch program initiatives, particularly those that encourage lgbt community building.”

In other words, to unify. The Net itself is viewed as a mode for ending fragmentation since it has within it disparate groups working together.

Rosenhek said the programs initiated through the Net will bring people together in the same way. “If you don’t model it at the top, it often won’t happen,” said Rosenhek, an organizational consultant by profession. “We’re walking the talk ourselves.”

In the Net’s immediate future is a benefit dance on February 24 at the United Methodist Church in Portsmouth. Later in the year the Net will host a community-wide conference to plan programs. A long-range goal is the establishment of a gay community center. “It just keeps coming up,” said Rosenhek. “I think there’s a lot of desire for that.”

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Tom Andrews Calls on Progressives: "Organize!"

by Paige Roberts

Speaking at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on January 27, People for the American Way President Tom Andrews urged progressive Americans to mobilize a truly pro-family grassroots movement. He talked about “The Politics of the Family,” relating how the Religious Right, while calling itself pro-family, has pushed a political agenda that greatly harms American families. The Religious Right has been extremely successful in using language, symbols, and (frequently untrue) stories to advance its extreme right-wing political, economic, and social agenda.

“The American Way is about heartfelt American values—freedom of conscience, respect for differences, equal opportunity, responsibility to the community,” said Andrews. “It is outrageous that the political forces that are attacking these principles have wrapped themselves in the language of religion and values. For our families and our future, we can’t let them get away with it. We won’t let them get away with it.”

Andrews urged about 200 church members and local activists to join the nonpartisan Expose the Right! campaign under way in New Hampshire. The campaign aims to mobilize citizens to expose the Right wing’s political tactics and challenge presidential candidates to reject the Right’s extreme agenda. People for the American Way is a national advocacy organization with over 300,000 members committed to fighting the political agenda of the Religious Right and building a new progressive movement in America.

This process of rebuilding a progressive coalition in New Hampshire is, I believe, essential to our long-term success in opposing the Right. We must mobilize a broad range of progressives—including clergy, environmentalists, artists, feminists and pro-choice people, gay rights activists, workers, peace activists, students, and civil rights activists—to meet, develop, articulate, and begin to achieve our positive moral vision for a socially just world. If you have comments, questions, or suggestions about a progressive coalition in New Hampshire, please contact me (603-427-0034, email: proberts@bluefin.net).

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NH group completes 1996 directory

Concord, NH - The Gay Info Line has just completed work on “Gay Lifeline,” the 1996 directory of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender resources. This comprehensive book describes over 400 community resources and includes special sections on the World Wide Web and alternative periodicals. “Gay Lifeline” covers not only New Hampshire, but includes national resources and those in the border areas of neighboring states. Gay and lesbian social groups, youth groups, event organizers, gay bars, accommodations and friendly professionals are among the many categories covered in the directory.

The Gay Info Line produced this very professional book entirely with volunteer labor. Publication was financed by a grant from Haymarket People’s Fund and by private contributions. “Gay Lifeline” is an important first for northern New England. Copies are available for $24.95 (check or money order) from the Gay Info Line of NH, 26 South Main St, Concord, NH 03301.
The Cultural Diversity organizations in rural areas are often made up of people who are conservative, who view the strides New Hampshire's gay community. Despite funding cuts and large-scale staff reductions, the National Endowment for the Humanities remains dedicated to enhancing ethnically diverse humanities projects for school curriculums.

"We are very hopefu of finding teachers with a broad range of interests to participate in the project," Teachers interested in being placed on the Institute mailing list should contact the Greater Piscataqua Community Foundation, 446 Market Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801, 603/430-9182. Information about the Cultural Diversity Committee is also available.

NH's Anti-discrimination bill goes into Committee by Alice A. Famin

On January 18 the Judiciary Committee of the New Hampshire House of Representatives heard House Bill #1294, a proposed amendment adding sexual orientation to New Hampshire's existing anti-discrimination law. The Coalition to End Discrimination arranged for 21 people to speak in favor of the bill. These speakers included people who have been discriminated against in the areas covered by the bill, such as employment and public accommodations; members of PFLAG, and representatives of the business community who recognize the significant contributions that gay, lesbian and bisexual people bring to the workplace.

A great deal of support is coming from the various religious communities throughout New Hampshire such as the Unitarian Universalists, the United Church of Christ, New Hampshire Conference, the American Friends Service Committee and the Episcopal Church. There was minimal opposition present during this proceeding, but we recognize the need to be ever vigilant into the near future. The Judiciary Committee will meet in the coming weeks and we fully expect that a favorable decision will be rendered. The bill may go into a study by a small committee where public hearings will be held to collect data on the issue.

We will be coming back to the community as soon as we have a decision to begin work on the next round. What can we each do now? Call or write a Judiciary member or send a note to Chairperson Robert Lockwood or Vice-Chair Hoss thanking the committee for such a quality and fair hearing.

Alice A. Famin is the Coalition to End Discrimination's PR Person. We thank "Breathing Space" the newsletter of the NH CAGLR for permission to reprint.

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This month I would like to welcome some additional volunteers to the staff of the "Community Pride Reporter." We now have a Business/Advertising Sales Manager by the name of Chris Milliken. As you will notice, he is also a writer and will be making contributions from time to time to the area of Arts & Entertainment. He lives in Scarborough and we met when he was doing some telephone work at the CPR office for Maine Won't Discriminate. Chris is multi-talented and is committed to the concept of a newspaper for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered communities.

Also joining the staff is Leslie Robinson and Suzanne Pyle. Together these women are co-Managing Editors of the now-a-reality New Hampshire bureau of CPR. We are all invigorated by the expansion of CPR and at the same time the work load has increased dramatically. I am grateful for the many people who devote so much time to the paper and who also encourage me when it's rough going.

In addition to the new staff, we have three new columns: "Past Out" by David Bianco, "AIDS in the 90s: Reasons for Hope" from the Search for a Cure Foundation, and "Singin' OUT!" by Martin Swinger, singer, songwriter and livin' in Maine. Let us know what you think of the additions.

We need a voice in Maine and New Hampshire, particularly as the political scene whips into an even more homophobically frenzied frenzy than I thought possible. CPR wants to continue to cover the political scenes in both New Hampshire and Maine. Somewhere out there is a person or persons who have a burning desire to become political reporters for each state and keep us all up to date on what's going on with regard to local elections, anti-gay bills, anti-discrimination bills etc. Please call the office if you are interested in this important job.

Full Circle of Women Conference scheduled

by Winnie Weir

The Center for Gender Sanity, located in Ashby, Massachusetts is once again sponsoring the Full Circle of Women conference to be held from April 12-14 at the Essex Conference Center and Retreat in Essex, Massachusetts. The Center is a 45-minute drive from Boston, is secluded on 18 acres of woods adjacent to 250 acres of conservation land and is also within walking distance of the ocean. Other features (read 'temptations') of the Center include a hot tub for 12, wood-fired sauna for 8 and 'time out'. Special care.

"Full Circle of Women" is for woman-identified individuals living their lives as women - transgendered, nontransgendered ("biological"), transsexual (pre and post operative), and intersex people living as women. Participation by women who identify as lesbian, bisexual, heterosexual, asexual or other-sexual is encouraged. Women of all colors, shapes and sizes are welcome. According to their brochure, this conference is an opportunity "for those who have been excluded from women's events to include ourselves in women's space. For those who have taken womanhood for granted, it challenges all our assumptions about gender."

The brochure continues, "It is time for a reformulation of feminism, for a philosophy that embraces all women, not just those who are politically correct, not just those with a certain sexual orientation, not just "genetic" women, not just those with vaginas, but all who identify as women. "Full Circle of Women" is an opportunity to leave genderphobia behind and take a step toward an expanded vision of who women are and where feminism is going."

The cost of the weekend is $265 and includes double or triple accommodations, all meals from supper through lunch Sunday, use of the hot tub and sauna and all workshops. A limited number of single rooms are available for $25 extra charge. Some scholarship money may be available. Those who can afford to make an additional contribution with their registration will help to keep this event from becoming classist. Space is limited to 30, so it is important to sign up early. March 1 is strongly encouraged. For more information or to register contact Janis Walworth, Center for Gender Sanity, PO Box 11, Ashby, MA 01421, 580/386-7737.

The couple enjoyed a week on Cape Cod at Provincetown, Massachusetts. They reside in Sebec, Maine. Photo by Northwood Studio.

Knox-Manley

Pamela L. Manley and Sharon A. Knox-Manley of Sebec, Maine, were united in a Ceremony of Love on October 7, 199 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sebec by the Rev. Alec Craig.

The brides are the daughters of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Manley of Meriden, Connecticut and Mr. & Mrs. Irnee Lachance of Brunswick, Maine.

Best Women were Ms. Lynn Aniskiewicz of Meriden, Connecticut, niece of the bride, and Mrs. Ronnie Drown of Memphis, Tennessee, sister of the bride.

Unserette was Ms. Jean Taylor of Plainfield, Connecticut and Usher was Mr. Robert Knox III of Randolph, Maine, son of the bride.

A reception was held following the ceremony at the Sangerville Town Hall. The couple enjoyed a week on Cape Cod at Provincetown, Massachusetts. They reside in Sebec, Maine. Photo by Northwood Studio.

(Editor's Note: I called the Manleys and spoke with Sharon. She and Pam are committed to serving as role models to youngsters and their parents in their community. They have begun a PFLAG chapter and are looking toward a youth group where safe space for discussion and socialization can be provided. They are two courageous women who have a riveting story to tell. CPR plans to interview Pam and Sharon and share their story with our readers.)
It’s a conspiracy, isn’t it??

by David Cook

Sometimes, it’s hard to resist concocting conspiracy theories about events in American politics. So many unpleasant things have happened and are happening that it’s easy to believe in the primacy of some diabolical plot which must be behind it all. People with a firm grasp on reality will tell you that conspiracy theories are mostly bunk and that it’s not conspiracy at work, but rather the same old laws that have governed human events for centuries. Laws like: the rich get richer and the poor get poorer — as in The Contract With America.

Although fundamentally an attack on the standard of living of all Americans, the Republican budget would bring disproportionate suffering to poor women in single-parent families by curtailing services for people living with AIDS who are not able to support themselves financially. There are limited opportunities and facilities for people living with AIDS who are not able to support themselves financially. All proceeds from the sale of this special cookbook will be donated to the care of people living with AIDS.

I am asking for your help on a very unique project. I am collecting recipes for a cookbook being published to remember loved ones who have died from AIDS. Similar to the NAMES Quilt project, the cookbook will allow parents, children, siblings, spouses, friends, lovers, neighbors and co-workers to remember those who they have lost to AIDS. Each recipe will also be accompanied with a first-person essay about their loved one. This will allow so many wonderful memories and recipes to be remembered and shared with others.

Each year the Homeless Crisis Hotline gets a few calls for assistance from victims (sic) of AIDS in Maine or New Hampshire. The Hotline is set up to serve all in need of information... We serve the once rich or upper middle class as well as the chronically poor. AIDS and sexual preference respect no economic class lines.

The Hospitality House, Inc., the organization that runs the Homeless Crisis Hotline has suffered societal discrimination because it refuses to turn away those who have a sexual orientation different than the majority. The Hotline wants to be here for anyone in need, including people with AIDS or people of a different sexual orientation, but we are $2,000 in the red.

Help us keep the phone lines open. You can call me, Jan Lightfoot, Hinckley, Maine.

Dear CPR,

I tried Drop Me a Line on Congress Street in Portland today. I felt somewhat comforted knowing that our community has such a wonderful resource for affirmation and pride. It is a safe and warm space to find materials by and for the gay community. I asked Jim, the co-owner, how business has been. He was concerned and worried that they were one month behind in bills and December was the slowest month in 1995.

I visited Drop Me a Line has been with us for some 6 years, and I feel we have taken this store for granted. This business needs our support before we lose it. Keep in mind where you opt to spend your money. Why not invest in our community instead of a chain store at the mall? We need to pull together, continue the momentum and increase our strength and visibility. Support gay-owned business! Help all of us. We need you. We need you.

If they can ever cover costs for the small space, I think this would be a wonderful addition to this community. I hope this will be a viable and worthwhile project as well.

Jennifer A. Deraspe, Portland
enough, I've read a few reviews here and there from people who don't like this album as much as her two previous ones. But, I'm not bitter as I'm concerned, Tori Amos could sing the telephone book and it would be a religious experience.

I, like many other Tori fans, am slightly obsessed with her music and can be a bit irrational about it at times. I loved the album before I even heard it because Tori's had me under her spell since I heard the song "Crucify" a few years ago. Music can do many things for you see. It can bring you down and it can make you smile and dance. When I listen to Tori Amos, I feel emotionally validated. She touches on so many things, like religion and sex to name a few. But she not only touches on these subjects, she wraps herself around them in a way that no one else can.

Pele is a volcano goddess, so the title "Boys for Pele." the new album by Tori Amos has me in it's firm grasp. Interestingly enough, I've read a few reviews here and there and we are all entitled to an opinion. However, as far as I'm concerned, Tori Amos could sing the telephone book and it would be a religious experience.

The play traces the life of a young black girl born in the south in 1944. This young black girl is the playwright herself. Ida Mae's cruel baptism into the world of separation and non-equality for people of color came on the day of her 11th birthday, when she was raped by her charge's father. The fact that his wife was the one who called Ida Mae up to the bedroom only serves to remind us that for many whites, it wasn't rape if you did it to a black girl... it wasn't cheating on your wife either.

Kalmi Baxter, Kathy Bentley and Stephanie Berry keep the audience in awe as they weave in and out of taking on characters in the story: the hawker at a travelling show; the young girl, Ida, in her innocence and childlike wonder; "the second doctor lady (Ida Mae's mother), Stephanie Berry, taking on the role of Bro Preacher at the second Doctor lady's funeral demonstrated incredible talent. All three women shone with both talent and diversity in their ability to sing a cappella throughout the performance, everything from blues to gospel to freedom songs.

"From the Mississippi Delta" is a story of pain as well as joy, of cruelty at its depths of devastation and of the strength of the human spirit to rise above the pain and devastation and soar to become "The third Doctor Lady of the Mississippi Delta!"

I understand that there is a sold out house for afternoon performances which will be playing to classes of students. That's wonderful! Those students will learn more about black history in this century than they would learn in a classroom... and there are three women in this performance who will make sure they learn it with gusto!

This performance runs through March 2nd and its a "must see!"
**Video Ops**

by Jowit Winchester

With the January thaw over, thoughts of Spring can't be far behind. Hand in hand with thoughts of spring come thoughts of love. Do you remember your first love? The butterflies, sweaty palms, nervous stuttering, painful awkwardness? If you are like me your first love is long gone...and good riddance! However a reminder of those days can still be yours all for the cost of a video rental. "The Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls in Love" certainly proves that first love is not for the faint hearted. Two girls is a remarkable film that everyone, (hey, this film isn't just for girls) can identify with. Valentine's Day is around the corner so grab your sweetheart by the hands, sit down in front of your TV and get ready for a great cuddlefest.

For a complete change of pace you might try "Priest." This movie is certainly a Catholic button pusher. Although the Catholic Church panned it (and most likely damned it), "Priest" is a finely crafted film. The actors are engaging and believable. The plot concerns a young priest who is struggling with his sexuality. (As we all have at one point or another.) Jowit interviews a national performer in the vibrant lower Manhattan scene of the 1960's. She took New York by storm in the '70s as a performance artist. She also gave performances in colleges, universities, theaters, and women's centers around the country. Witten also performed on National Public Radio and some of her works were placed on permanent collection at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

**O STAR touch me!** by Anne Witten

Review:

by Skip Brushaber

How do I, a mortal male, have the audacity to attempt to review these works written in the ancient tradition of Sappho, the Greek chorus, and sacred oracles with bows to Aphrodite, Isis, Astarte, etc.? I admit to an old envy of the feminine mysteries and the love that exists only between women. Try as hard as I have in the past, these portals remained closed to me. That is, until I sat quietly and listened to "O Star" and "Touch Me." By listening to the rhythm and beauty of the spoken word of these two sound poems, I have a glimmer of understanding of this love. I say 'listened to' because the sound poem is meant to be heard, not to be read. These works, as performed by the poet, the late Anne Witten, with Suzanne Parrott-Wolfe, Pamela Ryan, and Christina Witter, envelop the listener in the power and radiance of the female voice.

Webster defines star as: 1) any luminous celestial object seen as points of light in the sky; 2) such an object regarded as influencing one's fate; or 3) to perform brilliantly having great skill. "O Star" could fit all three of these definitions. The female object of the love is treated as a celestial being influencing the fate of her beloved. The repeated phrases, always containing the word star, give the listener the sense of love on all levels. The spoken words are haunting, plaintive, meditative, erotic, and empowering all at the same time. The performers are brilliant, possessing great skill.

The shorter piece, "Touch Me," is the more earthy performance. Where "O Star" is categorically other worldly and ethereal, "Touch Me" speaks to the grounded, alluring, and sensual side of Anne Witten's work also pays homage to Old Testament, Southern Maine. Her sound poems were performed her sound poems throughout the United States, Europe, and other countries.

Anne Witten became an improvisational performer in the vibrant lower Manhattan scene of the 1960's. She took New York by storm in the 1970's as a performance artist. She also gave performances in colleges, universities, theaters, and women's centers around the country. Witten also performed on National Public Radio and some of her works were placed on permanent collection at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

"O Star" is based in the traditions of ancient epic poetry celebrating same sex female love as well as the power of the spoken word of these women. The spoken words are haunting, plaintive, meditative, erotic, and empowering all at the same time. The performers are brilliant, possessing great skill.

The shorter piece, "Touch Me," is the more earthy performance. Where "O Star" is categorically other worldly and ethereal, "Touch Me" speaks to the grounded, alluring, and sensual side of Anne Witten's work also pays homage to Old Testament.

In Dar's Mortal City

by Ainsel L. Ponti

Dar Williams, the singer-songwriter from Western Massachusetts has just released her second album on the independent label, Razor & Tie. "Mortal City" is a superbly crafted, eleven song album. Remember her first album, the self-released "When I Was a Boy" from my college radio days in New Hampshire. I also remember seeing her play live at the student center in front of about 10 people. Last year, Razor & Tie signed her and re-issued the "When I Was a Boy" album with an extra track on it. This album is one of my personal favorites from start to finish. Dar has a uniquely beautiful singing voice, high and sweet. Along with the acoustic guitar, Dar also plays the mandolin, mandola, and mandocello, personal triumphs, tragedies and observations, not to mention love.

On this new album Williams picks up the pace with some electric guitars on a few tracks along with drums, fiddles, French clarinets. But she's at her best when the songs are stripped down. "February" off of "Mortal City" features Dar singing with soft guitar and cello and is my favorite off the album. When Dar hits a high note, eyes water and you're drawn into the soul of the song. That's what it's all about... Dar Williams is on tour with Joan Baez, two generations of folk music represented on one stage. Originally slated for the State Theater, it looks like we'll have to wait and see if the show makes it to Portland. Both of Dar Williams' albums are proof that she's more than worthy of all the attention folk music fans are giving her.

"And truth is just like time; it catches up, and it just keeps going..." from "As Cool as I Am" on "Mortal City."
Theatre Review: “Keeping Tom Nice”

Mad Horse Theatre Company
Through February 25, 1995
Tix $18 weekdays, $20 Saturdays

by Chris Milliken

Profoundly challenged since birth, Tom is unable to speak, move, feed, bathe or clothe himself. His parents, Doug and Winnie, have devoted their lives to caring for their son and have seen each of their lives to caring for their son and have seen twenty-four years, each claiming to have lost track of time both his parents have lost track of their own lives and become unknowing prisoners of their own devotion.

Time in this performance is expressed quite stylistically through a frame work of triptych-like monologues separated by dialogues. Episodes within the play are punctuated by the audience's response.

The cast of “Keeping Tom Nice” does a remarkable job of being the individual message of each character is expressed clearly and distinctly. What could be deemed as stereotypical if done in a mediocre fashion, is brilliantly and fresh because of the craftsmanship of these fine actors. It appears that Michael Rafkin has done a remarkable job at creating a team atmosphere whereby no one particular character stands out. The production conveys options and possibilities for other families, communities and the nation struggle to define how they care for all people regardless of their limitations or challenges. The play is poignant and timely.

“Keeping Tom Nice” was commissioned and first performed by the Mad Horse Theatre Company.

Vintage Repertory Company
Directed by Bruce Pineau

by Janis Tylerle

“Hysteria” is hysterical. That is, the play “Hysteria,” which was recently presented at Oak Street Theatre. It was full of bizarre, yet thought-provoking, fun. Playwright Terry Johnson has taken an actual event from the end of Sigmund Freud’s life — tea in his London study, dependent upon his family. His parents, through Tom is unable to speak, move, feed, bathe or clothe himself. Tom is utterly guaranteed.

The program is a weekend-long program with a special opening night on Friday, March 1 at 6:00 PM featuring the world-premiere of “The Blinking Madonna,” a film made possible by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and Portland-made film “Let the Catafalq Flow.”

Tickets are available in advance at Portland at Drop Me A Line, Amado's Music and the admission desk at Portland Museum of Art. In Waterville, tickets can be purchased at the Railroad Square Cinema. Advance reservations are not available by phone. Weekend passes are $25, Friday night $10 including opening night reception, Saturday afternoon $7, Saturday night $5 and Sunday afternoon is $5.

See FILM FEST, page 15

All in all, this production gives an amusing evening of entertainment although at the length of three hours, it goes on a bit longer than I would have liked.

—

The Royal Shakespeare Company at the Almeda Theatre, London in 1988. The play went on to win the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize for the best new play by a female author in 1989. Mad Horse is presenting the U.S. premier of this work.
Singin’ Out!

Stick something queer in you ear

by Martin Swinger

OK, we all know about K.D. Lang, Indigo Girls, Melissa Etheridge, Janis Ian and Michael Stipe. More and more mainstream artists are coming out after stardom and my hat is off to them. My interest here is not the gay superstars of today so much as the gay superstars of tomorrow. There are out new artists across the country searching for friendly ears. It seems to me that very few people in southern Maine even know that such a genre as ‘gay music’ exists, or why it might be desirable.

The second part is easy: I want to hear a man sing his love to another man because that’s how my heart sings. I want to hear a woman sing her love for another woman because it strengthens my vision of a world where love is good no matter who the recipient may be. The critical moment comes when she has to decide

whether or not to act on her secret imaginings. Should she speak up and thereby risk interfering with the private lives of the people she serves? (14 minutes)

“Leone’s Sister, Gerry” by Jane Gillooly: In graphic detail, this film tells the dramatic story of Gerry Santoro, a mother of two and the “real person” in the now famous police photo of an anonymous woman on a motel room floor, dead from an illegal abortion. Reproduced thousands of times on placards and in the media, this grisly photo became a pro-choice icon. Should the media have used this image? What circumstances led to Gerri’s tragic death? Powerfully addressing issues of reproductive rights and domestic violence, this video is a moving portrait of Gerri Santoro’s life and society’s response to her death. This is a frank portrayal of an adult theme - attendance for young children is a parental discretion. (60 minutes)

“Master Smart Woman” directed by Jane Morrison: From the award-winning Maine filmmaker, this sensitive film is a much deserved re-evaluation of Sarah Orne Jewett’s contribution to American literature. Recently rediscovered by feminist literary scholars, Jewett was a fiercely independent woman, a critically-acclaimed 19th century author, and an important role model for a generation of women writers. Morrison composes a loving portrait, featuring stills from celebrated photographs, excellent critiques of Jewett’s work and excerpts from her fiction and hypothetical writing. (30 minutes)

“The White Heron” by Jane Morrison: A dramatic film based on the 1896 short story by Sarah Orne Jewett. A young girl’s difficult choice between friendship and a creature she loves is the focus of this beautiful, poetic drama. (26 minutes)

The Life and Work of Jane Morrison: This discussion will place Jane Morrison’s work in the context of her life and role in Maine and America’s film making history.

Sat., March 2, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

“The Two Worlds of Angelita” by Jane Morrison: In Spanish with English subtitles, this rarely seen film presents the story of a young Puerto Rican family’s difficult move to the Lower East Side barrio of New York City. Miss Morrison’s last feature film, “Angelita” was a Blue Ribbon winner at the 1987 American Film Festival. (75 minutes)

“The F-Word” by Marcia Jarmol and Erin Gallagher: Who swears by the F-word? Who’s afraid of it? Cutting through the backlash and talking to the streets, this video is a snappy and provocative look at feminism today. Flyby interviews with women and men from diverse backgrounds are rhythmically interact with computer-animated quotes from the likes of Barbara Smith to Pat Robertson, all set to an upbeat rap accompaniment. Designed to open up attitudes, “The F-Word” proves feminism is still something worth talking about, hotly debated, widely misconstrued, but undeniable. (10 minutes)

“Kalamazoo” by Claudia Silver: This film paints a humorous picture of

love and life at the close of a long-term relationship. Will he call? How long can you wait for his call? Is this a great time to be in the theater? The film’s star and her therapist grapple with these issues as post-college angst competes with a sense of humor. (30 minutes)

Sunday, March 3, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

“Sister My Sister” directed by Nancy Meckler: The shocking portrait of two sisters driven to pathological extremes by their incestuous yearnings and the oppressive confines of Victorian propriety. “Sister My Sister” was inspired by the remarkable true story that was also the basis for Jean Genet’s much-produced play “The Maids.” Joely Richardson and Judi May star as exemplary maid-servants whose fastidious appearance and attention to duty are the light of their tyrannical new mistress, played by Julie Walters. Aware that her authority is slipping, the mistress resorts to greater cruelties against the sisters—until pressure finally reaches a shocking breaking point. (90 minutes)

“Breaking the Silence: The Sisters of DeSales High School” by Susan Pointon and Tommie Dell Smith: This compelling documentary reveals life behind the cloistered walls of a 150-year-old monastery, as it follows twelve elderly nuns preparing to face the outside world for the first time in their adult lives, a rare and intimate insight into a way of life that may soon be gone forever. The film raises important questions about the changing role of women in society and what happens to those whose roles no longer have the same value. (60 minutes)

3rd Annual Women’s Film & Video Festival Schedule

Friday, March 1, 6:00 - 9:00 PM

“All My Relations” by Joanna Priestly: This charming film shows the evolution of relationships portrayed by ever-evolving animated figures. A delightful smorgasbord of sound and color. (7 minutes)

“The Blinking Madonna & Other Miracles” by Beth Harrington: This world premiere tells the true story of how a filmmaker recorded a purported miracle with her video camera and the subsequent media event that ensued. The “creative, non-fiction” film details the events of the summer of 1991, when a statue of the Virgin Mary blinked her eyes during an Italian-American religious feast in Boston and changed the life of a woman looking for a few good answers. (60 minutes)

“Let The Caftans Flow” by Betsy Carson and Kate Kaminski: The world-premiers of these Portland filmmakers’ video homage to friendship and queer life-styles in small-city America. Uptown, funny, and often touching, “Caftans” is, above all, a celebration of fabric, fun and song. (35 minutes)

Premiere Night Celebration: Reception included with price of ticket.

Sat., March 2, 1:00 - 5:00 PM

“Pearl’s Diner” by Lynne Smith: An animated film that takes place in a small all-night diner. The story unfolds through the eyes of Pearl, the waitress. Although she tries to maintain an emotional distance from her customers, she can’t help imagining what their feelings and thoughts might be. The critical moment comes when she has to decide whether or not to act on her secret imaginings. Should she speak up and thereby risk interfering with the private lives of the people she serves? (14 minutes)

DC offer queer music CD’s and cassettes to sample, but since we can’t all rush right down to New York and sample the wall of lavender sound, I’d like to offer some exciting (and affordable) opportunities to hear new gay music that are as close as your mailbox:

OUT SOUNDS c/o Will Grega
200 E. 10th St., #498
New York, New York 10003

This $10 catalogue lists and describes hundreds of gay musicians from rock, pop, gospel, folk and new age, reviews their music, and gives you the address to order direct from the musician. Here is your passport to being pen

calendar of music events from “A Night of GLAMA” (Gay and Lesbian American Music Awards featuring Pansy Division and Disappear Fear) to coffeehouse, church and bookstore venues featuring local and out of towners concerts.

A Different Light Bookstore in New York City and Lambda Rising in

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Call today and make 1996 a year to remember

See SINGIN’, page 19
Protease Inhibitors: The latest defense against HIV

by Victor B. Rash, MSW

Emily Dickenson said in a poem that “Hope is the thing with bright feathers.” In the last couple of weeks a few bright feathers have emerged in the fight against HIV disease. This new information is the result of the FDA approval of a new generation of anti-HIV drugs called protease inhibitors. The first of this group of drugs to be approved has the trade name of Invirase and the generic name of Saquinavir. It is produced by Hoffmann-LaRoche, Ltd., a Swiss pharmaceutical company. Other companies currently seeking FDA approval for protease inhibitors include Abbott Laboratories of Illinois (generic name: Ritonavir), Merck Research Laboratories of Pennsylvania (trade name: Crizivan; generic name: Indinavir sulfate), and Agouron Pharmaceutical of California (trade name: Viracept).

So what is so hopeful about all this? According to Brian Marcotte, Ph.D., a biologist who has researched this new group of drugs extensively and has supplied the information for this article, one must first understand the background and development of the life cycle of HIV to understand how protease inhibitors work and how they differ from older drugs such as AZT, ddl and ddc.

Our virus produces an enzyme called “protease.” It cuts the host’s ribonucleic acid, inserts itself, and then reconnects the DNA. (Integrate is a target for other drugs still in laboratory studies at this time.)

1. Viral Reproduction and Viral Protein Production: Once inserted, the viral DNA is called a “provirus.” The provirus uses the genetic reproductive and protein production machinery of the host cell to produce millions of RNA and protein copies of itself. Various parts of the provirus regulate viral reproduction and these, too, are targets of laboratory studies and drug design.

2. Reverse Transcription: The genetic material of the virus is in the form of a complex chemical, RNA; the host cell’s genetic material is in the form of a ribbon-like chemical, DNA. The genetic material of the virus must be “transcribed” into DNA before it can productively infect the host cell. To do this the virus produces an enzyme “reverse transcriptase” which transcribes the viral RNA into viral DNA. This enzyme is the target of the first generation of anti-HIV drugs such as AZT, ddl, ddC, 3TC, and d4T. These drugs interfere with the ability of the enzyme to produce DNA transcription of its genetic material and thus slow or stop the virus life cycle.

3. Viral Assembly: The virus continues its travels through the host cell until it reaches the inner surface of the host cell’s membrane. Here the virus proteins and genetic material are assembled into an immature virus.

4. Viral Budding: Finally the virus leaves the host cell in a process called “budding.” The virus is pinched off the host cell’s outer membrane and either floats freely in body fluids awaiting attachment to the CD4 receptors on another host cell or crosses over from one host cell to another through cell-to-cell contact. The viral life cycle begins again.

In this outline of the HIV life cycle, protease inhibitors are active both inside the host cell and in the maturing virus once it leaves the host. Without protease and when protease is only partially inhibited, copies of the virus are malformed and non-infectious. The life cycle ends or viral production is substantially slowed. This is why protease is such an attractive target for drug therapy.

Scientists refer to the amount of virus in terms of viral loads which they measure by “logs.” In short 1 log equals 90% reduction of the virus, 2 logs equals 99.9% reduction, and 3 logs equals 99.99% reduction.

In clinical studies of Saquinavir (Hoffman-LaRoche’s protease inhibitor), 40 patients with CD4 counts between 200 and 500 were given either 3600 mg per day or 7200 mg per day of Saquinavir. The 20 patients receiving the higher dose had a minimum decrease in viral load of 1.04 log with sustained reductions (24 weeks) of 0.48 log and a maximum increase in CD4 counts of 74 cells. The other 20 patients receiving the lower dose had a maximum decrease in viral load of 1.34 log, sustained at 0.58 log at week 24 and maximum increase in CD4 counts of 121 cells. Those data indicate that Saquinavir monotherapy requires a very high dose for sustained benefits. All studies using FDA approved dose of 1800 mg per day showed poor results.

In Abbott’s protease inhibitor study, patients received a three-drug See DEFENSE, page 19
In our continuing effort to bring a portion of "The Maine AIDS Plan" to our readers, we are reprinting two Action Steps which may serve as a catalyst for your activities.

"People with HIV, those who care about them, and those who have yet to pay much attention to HIV/AIDS can be found in all settings throughout Maine. For the sake of organization, the framers of this "Plan" (The Maine AIDS Plan) arranged these settings into seven distinct categories, and then proceeded to explore ways in which HIV prevention and treatment could be most effectively carried out in each of them. It is important to realize that there is room in all Maine settings for appropriate and effective HIV awareness building, and that every effort will help. In addition, all settings can benefit by connecting with their national associations and local AIDS service organizations (ASOs). Staff of ASOs can provide a wide range of excellent resources, training, materials, speakers and model policies.

WORKPLACES: Nationally, 1 in 10 employees has an employee with HIV infection or AIDS. In Maine, as more persons test positive for HIV each year, the impact will increase—on employers, workers, work sites and the overall economy. HIV affects short- and long-term disability costs, life insurance and pension plan payouts, as well as recruitment, hiring and training costs. Violations of the rights of HIV+ persons can further reduce employee productivity and lead to lawsuits.

- All workplace settings:
  - Implement HIV education program for employees.
  - Develop comprehensive HIV policies concerning employment and disability. Policies should address: confidentiality, infection control, support services and benefits for all chronically ill employees.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS: Adolescents and young adults are contracting HIV at higher rates than other age groups. Lack of information does not seem to be the main problem. The Department of Education estimates that 98% of in-school teens are aware of HIV and how to prevent it.

The challenge is getting teens to change their sexual behavior. Even though 98% of high schools and 94% of middle schools offer basic HIV education, too few HIV programs progress beyond basic information. School communities may be unaware of the rights of an infected employee or student—or their responsibilities to them.

- Maine Department of Education (Division of Instruction):
  - Require all education settings to have HIV policy and education programs for both staff and students.

\* Encourage education programs to promote respect for diversity and debunk HIV myths and misinformation.

- Maine Department of Education (Division of Certification):
  - Teach all candidates how to integrate HIV into the curriculum;
  - Require specialized HIV prevention training for health educators.

- All educational settings:
  - Develop a written policy concerning: HIV safety procedures; confidentiality for students and staff living with HIV.

- Implement health education curricula for all grade levels that include values clarification, sexuality information and specific behavior skills for HIV prevention.

- All adults and youth in educational settings:
  - Learn and use basic universal precautions.

- Local leaders, school board members, parents, faculty, staff and students:
  - Support health clinic services in providing sexual health screening and treatment and prevention services, including condom availability.

Physical Health Care Sites: While the health care sector has been among the most active in dealing with the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, few primary care practitioners in Maine have treated a patient with HIV/AIDS. Residents in rural areas may have to travel long distances to obtain anonymous testing and counseling, or other HIV treatment.

Local health care facilities need to assume responsibility for HIV/AIDS care, from testing and counseling to end-stage nursing home or hospice care. Breaches in confidentiality are of utmost concern in rural areas, where disclosure of someone's HIV status can lead to loss of employment and insurance, and estrangement from family, friends and community.

Many health care providers need to broaden their level of comfort with gays/bisexuals and their issues.

- All health care sites and their staffs:
  - Provide risk assessment and counseling;
  - Make condoms available to the public on-site;

- Care for persons with HIV/AIDS in your facilities:
  - All health care sites are workplaces:
    - Have a comprehensive, written HIV policy in place that: maintains confidentiality of employee medical records; observes non-discriminatory policies for HIV+ employees; and provides employees with education programs about personal and occupational exposures.

- Health care providers and third party payers:
  - Encourage home-based patient care for persons with HIV/AIDS.

(Please note: ACTION STEPS for Public Places, Residential Settings, Social Services, Mental Health Practitioners and Substance Abuse Treatment Providers, and Civic and Social Organizations and Communities of Faith.)

Portland’s Mercy Hospital offering more services

Portland, ME - Mercy Hospital’s new Breast Health Resource Center opened on January 8 offering a broad range of educational, consultative, and support services for women concerned about breast health. Working closely with other related Mercy services, including mammography, surgery, oncology/chemotherapy and social services, the Center’s goal is to create well-coordinated, comprehensive breast care, consistent with their mission of providing compassionate, highly personalized care, with respect for human dignity. Women may be referred to Mercy’s Breast Health Resource center by their physicians or may call the Center directly at 207/879-7390. The Breast Health Resource Center will function under the direction of Melinda Molin, MD, and coordinator, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Cathy McDonald, RN.

"Caring and Sharing," a support group sponsored by Mercy Hospital, provides mutual support for cancer patients and survivors. The emphasis is on caring, growth and hope through social participation. The group meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, 9:00 to 11:00 am. Group facilitators are Beth Connelly, RN and Dawn Trombley, RN from Mercy’s Outpatient Oncology Center. For more information, call 207/879-3030.

"Coping with Caregiving" is a support group meeting at Mercy Hospital. If you are providing care to a chronically/terminally ill or disabled person, experiencing feelings of frustration and burn out, attend this group and learn more about how to take care of yourself as well as those for whom you are caring.

The purpose of the support group is to provide a place for you to come and confidentially share concerns and experiences. In a facilitated, open discussion format, you may find insights into such things as stress management, asking for help, how to recognize your limitations and other important issues.

Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Fridays monthly at noon in the Mercy Hospital Board Room, 6th floor. For more information, call 207/879-3486.

The Portland Street Clinic, located in the Community Resource Center at 15 Portland Street, provides free, comprehen- sive health services for adults with limited income who have no insurance or doctor. The Clinic is open evenings from 5:00 - 9:00 PM, Mondays through Thursdays by appointment. The Clinic is sponsored by Mercy Hospital and administered by the City of Portland Public Health Division. The staff works closely with Mercy Hospital and other health care providers to arrange whatever tests or medical procedures patients need. All of the services are free.

(Another note: I have been a client of the Portland Street Clinic for approximately two months. In that time I have had X-rays, physical therapy, medication, an evaluation for a pulmonary condition, an EKG, laboratory work, and an eye examination. The providers, on site and off site have been outstanding. The staff at the Clinic are also outstanding. There is not a hint of judgment or condescension either because one has limited funds or because of sexual orientation. In speaking with a staff member, she said, "We want to be of help to many more people than we currently serving. We need to get the word out." Well, the word is out. I encourage those in our communities who need this kind of medical resource to call them ASAP. Tell them you read about them in CPR. Call 207/874-8982.)

March Madness

Live shows every Friday!

2/7 - Val Bennett
2/8 - Mona
2/15 - Dustin Ladale
2/29 - Benefit for Spring Fest
Various local artists

Meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Fridays monthly at noon in the Mercy Hospital Board Room, 6th floor. For more information, call 207/879-3486.

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Sisters

45 Danforth St.
Portland
Phone: 207/774-1505
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COME & SUPPORT WOMEN’S MUSIC!
Typical medical advice given to people is to live a healthy lifestyle and wait until your immune levels fall low enough to warrant anti-viral therapy such as AZT. By default, a great deal of medical complementary drug — and that emphatically includes AZT — because HIV quickly develops resistance when it's used alone ("monotherapy"). Using many drugs at once may sound daunting, but it's necessary since HIV rapidly outlasts single drug therapies. That's because the virus changes strength the immune system so it can withstand, they recover from attacks by HIV and keep on fighting.

**PERSONAL INITIATIVES NEEDED**

Using these therapies is complicated but there's very promising medical evidence it can be done. Some, the cytokine manipulation, are already available e.g. interleukin-2 ("IL-2"). We'll discuss how IL-2 can be used and about its side-effects, which may be substantial.

Besides IL-2, other intriguing immune-based therapies include therapeutic vaccines, TNF inhibitors and CD4 expansion. Some, such as Thalidomide and hydroxyurea (the latter in a pharmacological class all its own) enhance the effectiveness of standard anti-virals in further suppressing viral load and are readily available. All these drugs are useful in supporting a viral load management strategy. The result is fewer mutations.

Refining the use of anti-virals and immune therapies does pose big questions. For example, scientists aren't sure when to go all-out with drug therapies right after initial HIV infection or should they be saved for later use? Should therapies be used continuously or taken in short durations then pulsed again week and months later? Will these therapies stop side effects from these drugs?

These are the big research issues. In the meanwhile your doctor can help you decide the best course according to your medical circumstances. However, the biggest problem you'll encounter is not a medical one per se. Quite simply, you won't get access to the newest drugs and the viral load test itself for some time without taking personal initiatives. It does take effort to put together all the pieces of an advanced treatment play. Throughout this series we'll explain how to work the system and get access to these medicines and viral load tests.

Finally, if you want the latest information right away, check with the Boston based AIDS Community Reporter. Having considered all the specific barriers slowing access to new therapies, and cultural issues for national newspapers and magazines.)

Individuals interested in helping speed up the research efforts, are encouraged to check with the Boston-based Aids Search for a Cure (617/536-2474) for new information on the political context of the struggle to get access to new therapies, and to discover the specific barriers slowing the research efforts. (Peter Catalano is a Boston city councilor for 10 years and is now president of the Search For A Cure Foundation.)
DEFENSE, from page 16

regimen of the protease inhibitor: Ritonavir plus AZT plus ddC. These patients had increased CD4 counts of 110 cells and a 2.5 log decrease in viral burden after 20 weeks. These results indicate that the combination of these three drugs may be more effective than one of the protease inhibitors alone.

In the Merck's protease inhibitor study, Indinavir Sulfate plus AZT lowered viral burden by 2.5 log at 24 weeks. In another study, Indinavir plus AZT plus ddI reduced viral burden 99.9%.

An important point that Dr. Marcotte stressed was that although Saquinavir is the first protease inhibitor approved by the FDA, it is by no means the best protease inhibitor. Indinavir and Ritonavir seem much more powerful in clinical trials, and viral resistance develops much more slowly. The combination of Indinavir and AZT plus ddI reduced viral burdens in blood by 99.9%. This is almost antibiotic! But Indinavir does not get into the brain, and there may be other reservoirs of the virus from which it will emerge if treatment stops.

Three drugs may be more effective than one. The other issue involving the protease inhibitors and reverse transcriptase inhibitors (such as AZT, d4T, and ddI) may be more effective than protease inhibitor monotherapies. When Saquinavir was approved, Marcotte stated that the concentrations of saquinavir increased 290 fold! Thus, combinations of combinations may become the rule.

Simultaneously hitting HIV at three or four locations in its life cycle may be essential for long-term control and possibly elimination of the virus from the body. Exposing patients to a sequence of different types of inhibitors and allowing the virus to develop resistance to each in turn seems a poor treatment strategy. In several years a simultaneous, multiple-target strategy may be possible. For today's patients with CD4 counts below 200 cells per mm3, there may be no alternative to sequential exposure. For these persons, protease inhibitors should be added to their drug regimen only after careful consideration of changes in marker of immune system health, available drug combination alternatives and dosing levels. If a patient can wait long enough for approval of Indinavir or Ritonavir (possibly late in 1996 or early in 1997), probably he or she should wait. However, if one's CD4 cell count is crashing now, Saquinavir at the highest dose affordable (ideally 7200 mg per day based on current research findings) should be added to a combination of reverse transcriptase inhibitors as outlined above.

In addition, Dr. Marcotte stressed the importance of finding a doctor who is familiar with the latest research on HIV disease. Recent studies have shown a correlation between doctors who have a knowledge of the latest treatments for HIV and longevity of the patient. Choosing the right doctor makes a crucial difference.

All of this is very exciting news. This is not the first time that a new drug has created excitement and then didn't live up to expectations. But protease inhibitors seem different; there seems to be more of a consensus regarding their effectiveness. Furthermore, at this point in clinical studies, they appear to have minimal side effects: mostly gastric reflux and kidney stones if the patient does not drink at least 1.5 liters of fluid each day; however, we do not know the long-term effects of protease inhibitors.

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AIDS doesn't care, but The AIDS Project does.

Therefore, we are responding to the community's needs by offering two workshops on promising new drug therapies.

The first workshop will be directed at professionals and those with some background in nursing, medicine, or biology on Saturday, March 9, 1996, from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

The second workshop will be directed at the general public on Saturday, March 9, 1996, from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Both workshops are scheduled to take place at the AIDS Project (774-6877). These events are free, but space is limited.

Dr. Brian Marcotte is a Ph.D. in Biology. This article was primarily taken from the research that he has done.

VICTOR R. RASH, MSW, COMMUNITY EDUCATOR — THE AIDS PROJECT

OUTMUSIC

P O Box 1575
New York, New York 10013

Finally, for all of us, we are superstars... a organization to feed that habit. Outmusic offers monthly meetngs, song swaps and concerts in New York and Philadelphia which are hard to attend from Maine (and wouldn't I love to!), but newsletters of upcoming events offer encouragement that there is an interesting, intelligent audience out there. There are opportunities in the big cities for showcasing (if you have the nerve), and many of the members will gladly trade tapes with you and offer feedback and support. I've made many new friends and increased my music collection tremendously. Let's start our own chapter of Outmusic in Maine...

Thanks to the organizers of Portland and Bangor Pride and the fund raising efforts of Maine Won't Discriminate, we've been treated to a growing number of gay musicians here in Maine, and I suspect there may be many more in the

SINGIN' from page 15

pals with the next Melissa Etheridge. My experience with these artists has been prompt, positive and often includes a personal note inviting feedback. OUT SOUNDS offered a sampler cassette from 1994 which turned me on to some of my favorite music today.

OUTMUSIC

P O Box 1757
New York, New York 10013

(Editors' Note: Martin Swinger is "an insider in the gay music scene," and hopes that the 'scene' will grow more active and closer to home. Swinger has performed at many fund-raisers for the community from PRIDE to Maine Won't Discriminate events locally and Stone-wall '95 in DC. He has a tape, "SINGIN' OUT!" for $10 and is available for bookings. Write Martin Swinger at 110 Bow Street, Gardiner, ME 04345. He is interested in facilitating networking for local, new gay artists and fostering support for the new life of gay music within the state and country. He has just sent a series of articles in CPR over the next few months on the genre' of gay music.)

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Discreetly billed as WorldInfo $2.99 min
March 1:
- 7:00-9:00 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/885-2192.

March 2:
- 7:30-9:00 PM - The Matlovich Society presents, "We're Here, We're Queer Behind the Bars," with youth from OUTRIGHT speaking about their experiences of not feeling safe or welcome in the adult gay community. Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Free hotel parking, accessible to mobility impaired.

Wednesday, February 21:
- 7:00-9:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Drop-In and Open House at the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.
- 7:00-9:00 PM - Women in Harmony choral group rehearsal, Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI, 207/286-8016 or 207/885-0995.

Thursday, February 22:
- 7:30-9:00 PM - The Matlovich Society presents, "We’re Here, We’re Queer Behind the Bars," with youth from OUTRIGHT speaking about their experiences of not feeling safe or welcome in the adult gay community. Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Free hotel parking, accessible to mobility impaired.

Friday, February 23:
- 7:00-9:00 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/885-2192.
- 7:30 PM - NNLS hosts Men's Night in New Sweden. FMI, 207/498-2088.
- 8:00 PM - Benefit dance sponsored by OUT AND ABOUT, a lesbian social and support group in NH. Dance will benefit the "Rainbow Net." Dance til midnight at United Methodist Church in Portsmouth NH. Tickets are $6.50, all are welcome. FMI, 603/772-6758.

Saturday, February 24:
- 8:00 AM - Cross Country Skiing sponsored by EMS Winter Clinic Series. All skill levels, location TBA. Bring your own skis or use some of ours. Call 207/772-3776. Limit is 10 so call early.
- 6:30 PM - Cumberland Chapter of Bintons Woods at the base of Mt. Washington, NH. Call Mike 603/644-7658.
- 10:30-11:30 AM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/885-2192.
- 7:30 PM - NUNS hosts Men's Night in New Sweden. FMI, 207/498-2088.

Sunday, February 25:
- 7:00-9:00 PM - Plymouth (NH) PFLAG meeting, Plymouth Congregational Church. FMI, 603/798-7254 or 603/786-9812.

Monday, March 4:
- 7:00-8:00 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women's Center. FMI, Jana at 772-6599.

Tuesday, March 5:
- 7:00-9:00 PM - Seacoast (NH) PFLAG meeting. Stratham Community Church, 270 Tilton Rd., Stratham, NH. FMI, 603/772-3893 or 5196.
- 7:30-9:00 PM - Gay and lesbian AA meeting at The Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.
- 6:00-9:00 PM - Course in CPR for adults, children and infants offered at Mercy Hospital, 144 State St., Portland. Designed for individuals who are not medical professionals. Course follows guidelines set by American Heart Association. $20 per person, pre-registration required. Call 207/789-5536 to register or FMI.

Wednesday, March 6:
- 7:00-9:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Drop-In and Open House at the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.
- 7:00-9:00 PM - Women in Harmony choral group rehearsal, Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI, 207/286-8016 or 207/885-0995.
- 7:00-9:00 PM - Women in Harmony choral group rehearsal, Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI, 207/286-8016 or 207/885-0995.

Thursday, March 7:
- 7:00 PM - Map & compass/GPS skills will be taught at Eastern Mountain Sports as part of its Winter Clinic Series. Get ready for some off-trail adventures. Learn basic map and compass skills. Maine Mall store. 207/772-3776.

Friday, March 8 & Sat, March 9:
- 6:30-9:30 PM & 9:00 AM-2:00 PM - Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights sponsors its second meeting of 1996 in the Portland area for volunteer speakers. Meeting will include some additional training for speakers who have had initial training. Portland YWCA, 87 Spring St. Interested persons call 207/879-0480.
- 7:00-9:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Drop-In and Open House at the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.
- 7:00-9:00 PM - Women in Harmony choral group rehearsal, Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI, 207/286-8016 or 207/885-0995.

Saturday, March 9:
- 6:00-8:00 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/885-2192.

Sunday, March 10:
- 6:00-8:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Drop-In and Open House at the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.

Monday, March 11:
- 6:30 PM - Rainbow Business and Professional Association networking meeting at Italian Heritage Center, Congress Street, Portland. (Behind Westgate Shaw's). FMI, 207/775-0077. $4 members, $5 non-members.

Tuesday, March 12:
- 7:00 PM - Portland Chapter of PFLAG meets at Woodfords Congregational Church, Woodfords Corner. We are parents, friends and relatives of lesbians, bisexual, gay and transgendered persons offering support and education. FMI, Rita-207/766-5158 or Sue-207/774-3441.

Wednesday, March 13:
- 7:00-9:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Drop-In and Open House at the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.

Thursday, March 14:
- 7:30-9:00 PM - The Matlovich Society presents, "What do Lesbians and Tortillas Have In Common?" Come hear about how lesbians are at the forefront of women's rights movements around the world. Robin Melaval, photographer, cultural anthropologist and lesbian world traveler shares stories. Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland. Free hotel parking, accessible to mobility impaired.

Friday, March 15:
- 6:00-8:00 PM - Preview of auction pieces for the 10th Annual Spring for Life Art Auction on Saturday. Free of charge, Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland.

Saturday, March 16:
- 6:00-8:00 PM - Women in Harmony choral group rehearsal, Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI, 207/286-8016 or 207/885-0995.

Sunday, March 17:
- 10:30-11:30 AM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/885-2192.

Monday, March 18:
- 6:00-8:00 PM - Southern Maine Pride Committee meeting. Holiday Inn by The Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. All Welcome. FMI, 871-9940.

Tuesday, March 19:
- 7:00-8:00 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women's Center. FMI, Jana at 772-6599.

Wednesday, March 20:
- 7:00-9:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Drop-In and Open House at the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.

Thursday, March 21:
- 7:30 PM - Nashua (NH) PFLAG meeting. Unitarian Universalist Church, corner Lowell & Canal Sts., Nashua, NH. FMI, 603/880-8709.

Saturday, March 23:
- 10:30-11:30 AM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/885-2192.

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.
THE BUSINESS CASE FOR DIVERSITY

An excerpt from Diversity at UNUM America, a full color brochure that describes UNUM’s commitment to all it’s employees.

Valuing Diversity is the right thing to do and it makes good business sense.

Companies with the best records for promoting women and minorities, for example, out performed their peers in Standard & Poor’s stock market index by a margin of 2.5 to 1, according to a 1993 study. The result is no surprise. These companies recruited from a larger universe of talent than their competitors, and their managers were more like their customers, helping them to connect to interests and preferences.

Additional business advantages spurred UNUM’s interest in diversity. UNUM Corporation, the parent company of UNUM America, is an international corporation, working in countries from Japan to England and Singapore. This demands understanding different cultures, ideas and work styles. The ability to leverage many perspectives and talents gives a competitive edge in the global marketplace.

Other reasons for embracing diversity tie directly to UNUM America’s business. Our company is the leading disability insurance carrier in North America. As disability risk managers, we know that most people with disabilities - like most people without disabilities - want to work. We have a keen interest in demonstrating the value of employing people with disabilities. We have an interest in fostering work environments that value and respect all people.

Our diversity efforts create value for employees, customers and shareholders. We’re proud of the start we’ve made and expect even greater results. When diversity is viewed as a business asset there are no limits on achievement.

— Donna Mundy

Pier Dance on February/March Pride Agenda

Pride’s 2nd Pier Dance will be the primary topic on the Southern Maine Pride committee’s agenda. The event will be held on the Maine State Pier again this year. June 15, 1996 will be Pride’s 10th anniversary. With the support of the community, Pride ’96 will afford us the opportunity to mark the progress that sexual diversity has made in Maine. The Pier Dance is Pride’s major fundraiser, and after last year’s success, the committee is gearing up to tackle this year’s extravaganza. People with ideas, those who wish to volunteer and talent willing to perform are all welcome.

PARADE volunteers/floats:
879-7323 or 871-9940
Inn and General Info:
773-7393
Vendors/f Merchandise:
779-7323 or 871-9940
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HELP WANTED
CLeANERS WANTED: Come join the Fresh-N-Up team. Looking for people/s to work nights cleaning offices & common areas. Possible supervisory position may be available for right individual. Pay rate commensurate with experience. For more information, please call 207/726-4365.
SUPPORT GROUP
GAY/LESBIAN/BISEXUAL Support Group. Interested in getting together with others to talk about issues concerning older members in our community, sharing stories of our lives, or just to talk. Counseling student is starting a support group in this month for anyone 55+ interested in joining. FMI, 207/772-6059.
ON-LINE SERVICE
FREE TRIAL MEMBERSHIP to new local on-line service. ABACUS has millions of files, over thirty on-line games, classified ads, restaurant reviews, events calendar, public and private messages, adults only areas, live chat, Internet E-Mail and more! FMI, call 207/781-7073.
Pride ’96 VENDORS
Pride ’96 Rally and Festival is taking reservations and applications from VENDORS for food, crafts, t-shirts, jewelry, books, etc. Call now at 207/773-7393 (Penny), to reserve your space and ask questions. Leave your name, telephone number and address. Come one, come all to the best & biggest Festival in our 10 year history. Non-profits encouraged to rent space at a nominal fee.
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CATALOG AVAILABLE
SHOCKING GRAY has just published a new catalog. Request one by calling 1-800-344-4729.
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CLeANERS WANTED: Come join the Fresh-N-Up team. Looking for...
Mal G/PA is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the general public, develop and review legislation, and support Network. Its goal is to involve the LGBTQ community in Augusta, FMI call 1-800-55-MLGPA.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) promotes the in Augusta. FMI call 1-800-55-MLGPA.

Meetings are 2nd Sunday of every month at 1 pm (ME), 2 pm (N-B), at the Gay-Lesbian Center (BAGLY): 1-800-347-TEEN.

Project: 1-800-528-NCLR.

Ingraham Volunteers: Call 774-HELP

Nashua: Nancy, 603/884-7809

Nashua: Nancy, 603/884-7809

Kensington: Nori/John, 603/772-8839

Stratham: Betty, 603/372-5196

Francisown: Cy/Gordon, 603/547-2545

Harding: Shirley/Tom, 603/943-8331

Holderness: Olivia, 603/968-7254

Center Sandwich: Tish, 603/284-6434

DOVER, NH: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Helpline for info, referral or need to talk; M-F: 6-10 pm, Sat., Sun.: 9am-2pm. FMI call 874-9427

SUPPORT GROUPS

Medical Support

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic: Confidential screening and treatment for STD's for students and non-students at a walk-in clinic. Low cost, medicated, anonymous. Confidential HIV testing by appointment only. Clinic open Tues. & Thurs., 3:30 to 6 pm at Portland City Hall Room 303. FMI call 874-9784

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England: Serving men and women, offering annual exams, pregnancy testing, birth control supplies, and supplies (free condoms). STD testing and treatment for infections and STD's, menopause support and more. Evening hours, affordable services, and confidential. Aidsline: 1-800-851-AIDS or 775-6877.

Belfast: Belfast-Knox AIDS Coalition: 338-5830

Wells: Wells-Know AIDS Coalition: 338-4137

Bangor: Eastern Maine AIDS Network: 990-3626

Belfast: Wells-Know AIDS Coalition: 338-4127

Bangor: Meets 4th Sunday from 7-8:30 pm at the Place to Go, 46 Concord St., Portland. FMI call 603/547-2455 or 626-1495

Nashua: Meets 3rd Thursday from 7-9:30 at Unitarian -Universalist Church, Lowell & Canal Streets, . FMI call 603/880-0410.

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

Upper Valley Region: Meets second Thursday, 7 pm. FMI call 603/641-8351

Maine Project: Meets 2nd Wednesday, 5-7:30 pm at Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodfords St. FMI 676-5158 or 774-3441

Women's Center - Belfast - Weekly meetings, 9A Main St., 2nd floor (above Jaret & Co.), 538-3702. Group meeting every Wednesday, 6:15 pm. FMI call 603/880-0410.

Women's Spirituality Gatherings, Mondays 7-9 pm.

A. First Unitarian Church, 345 Broadway, Rockland, ME. FMI, Larry Godfrey, (207) 594-2957.


TransSupport Group: For crossdressers, transsexuals, and others interested in transgenderism. Meets in secure locations to provide support, education, and social activities. FMI: Gail Jordan, 259/8535.

TransSupport, P.O. Box 17622, Portland, ME 04104

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

Trans Counseling: Cheshire Counseling Association, P.O. Box 1124, Keene, NH 03431. FMI 603/557-5544.

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

Trans Counseling: Cheshire Counseling Association, P.O. Box 1124, Keene, NH 03431. FMI 603/557-5544.

Maine Bisexual People's Network: Meets to affirm all in a positive nature of bisexual and to work towards greater acceptance in the bisexual, gay, lesbian, and straight communities. Support & referrals available. FMI: write P.O. Box 1081, Portland, ME 04104.

Out Among Friends, Lesbian social discussion group. Meets 1st & 3rd Thursdays 7-8:30 pm, in downstairs club room of the Portland YWCA, 87 Spring St. FMI: Betty. FMI call 207/787-5101 or 207/287-2502 and leave a message.


FMI: Call Bessie at 207/787-1037.

Dignity, etc.: Supportive worship for lgbt/ catholics, every Sunday, 6:30 am at St. Luke's Cathedral (Emmanuel Chapel), 143 State St., Portland (Across from Mercy Hospital). Coffee and dessert follow service.

FMI: Dignity, P.O. Box 301, Portland, ME 04104. Phone: 207/787-2682, 2104, Ron: 207/787-5467, 2104.

The Appolo Society: an out-reach, networking and social group; for New England's gay and lesbian atheists, agnostics, freethinkers, ethical humanists and Hellenes. Free speech/civil rights advocacy group; offering freedom-from-religion support, religious de-programming and fun! FMI, 773-5726 or P.O. Box 3501, Portland, ME 04104.

Community of Hope: A Christian organization which claims a particular ministry with gay and lesbian people and strives to be inclusive of all persons. Worship on Saturdays at 4:00 PM at Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI write Community of Hope, P.O.B. 679, Portland, ME 04104.
Polyamorous Life Support (PALS) is a discussion/support group for people interested in creating/honoring committed relationships beyond traditional couple relationships. Whether curious or already multiply intimate, come and learn more. Meet every Thursday at 6:30 pm at Memorial Union, Sutton Lounge, UM at Orono

**Prisoners of Gender:** Refusing to be categorized. Meet every Tuesday at 7:30 pm at Student Union Church, 292 State St., Lewiston/Auburn: A new gay, lesbian, bisexual social group.

P.O. Box 34, Lewiston, ME 04243-0034. Call 626-3432.

**Lesbian/Bisexual Parents Group:** Meets every Tuesday at 7-9 pm at Women's Resource Center 101 Fernald Hall at UMO. FMI call 207/314-1314.

**Seacoast Gay Men:** Social group meets Mondays (except holidays), 7 pm Unitarian Universalist Church, 292 State St., Lewiston/Auburn: A new gay, lesbian, bisexual social group.

**Mountain Valley Men (MVM):** A group of men who meet every Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 pm, Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, 155 Brackett St., 2nd floor, Portland. FMI call 207/497-9337.

**OUTRIGHT/Central Maine:** Conventional meetings for gay, lesbian, bisexual youth aged 16-22. FMI call 207/947-5393.

**OUTRIGHT/Central Maine:** Conventional meetings for gay, lesbian, bisexual youth aged 16-22.

**OUTRIGHT Too:** Meets every Friday at 7-8:30 pm at the UMCoplin Health Center, 334 Harold St., Bangor. Support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual youth aged 16-22.

**OUTRIGHT Too:** Meets every Friday at 7-8:30 pm at the UMCoplin Health Center, 334 Harold St., Bangor. Support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual youth aged 16-22.

**Wadsworth Women's Health Center:** A clinic devoted to the health care of women. FMI call 774-TALK, or 774-6281.

**AIDS Coalition of Lewiston-Auburn:** P.O. Box 34, Lewiston, ME 04243-0034. Call 626-3432.

**Waldo-Knox AIDS Task Force:** P.O. Box 57, Brunswick, ME 04011-0057. Call 774-7435.

**The AIDS Project:** 142 High St., 6th flr, Portland. Call 774-6877.

**Wald-Oak AIDS Coalition:** P.O. Box 935, Belfast, ME 04923. Call 338-1427.

**Community AIDS Awareness Program:** 1021 Congress Street, Suite #623, Portland, ME 04101. Call 377-5PAWS.

**Community Task Force on AIDS Educ.:** P.O. Box 941, Naples, ME 04055. Call 375-5608.

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

**Down East AIDS Network:** 114 State St., Ellsworth, ME 04605. Call 667-3561.

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

**Lewiston/Auburn:** A new gay, lesbian, bisexual social group.

**Maine GayNet Mail List:** Share your ideas and opinions or just plain chat with other list members. To subscribe to this list, send e-mail to mail list subscription manager at info@abacus.oxxy.edu. In the message part, write subscribe gaynet.

**The Maine GayNet Home Page:** An ever-changing display of events and information. Meetings, contact people, resources, referrals. The complete text of CPR available online, too. Point your Web browser at http://www.qrd.org

**Q/RD@usamaainefmolemailpaula:** Stockholmpaula@mainecom.

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Curtis From Page 1

of many well known and up-and-coming singer-songwriters.

Catie Curtis has a pure, warm and dynamic singing voice. Her songs are honest, story-like and are played with an edge of emotion that make them worthwhile. She doesn't mask her feelings with fancy words and mysterious symbolism. You can hear each song and know what she's talking about because in many cases, you've been there.

"I'm not radical when I kiss you, and I don't love you to make a point," says Curtis in the song "Radiaci" off of the "Truth From Lies" album.

Catie Curtis seems to have her feet firmly planted in the world of singer-songwriters. This is a world that continues to grow and encourage more people. If you've got a taste for powerful lyrics and an equally impressive voice, then I suggest picking up a Catie Curtis album.

Catie and I say this with a frown, I was unable to see her at her recent Portland appearance, word has it her live show is one not to be missed. So next time she comes around, let's be sure to have other commitments keep us from Catie.
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### Dawn H. Baumer

### Pamela Knowles Lawrason
Attorney at Law
Serving the legal needs of the gay and lesbian community.
6 Oak Ridge Road, Cumberland Center, Maine 04021
Tel (207) 829-3379
Fax (207) 829-4424

### Life is tough enough!

And, there are special issues for lesbians and gay men.

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LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER
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### The AIDS Project

**Victor R. Rash, MSW**
Community Educator
615 Congress Street • P.O. Box 5305
Portland • Maine 04101
Phone (207) 774-6877
Fax (207) 879-0781

### The Certified Public Accountants of Portland

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<tr>
<td>Peter J. Callnan, CPA</td>
<td></td>
<td>9 South Street, Suite B</td>
<td>207-879-2525</td>
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