Community Pride Reporter, 04/1996
Tenth Annual "Spring for Life Art Auction" -- huge success

by Winnie Weir

The "Spring for Life Art Auction" held March 16 at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland, has been called the most successful ever, a huge success. While the figures are not yet available, it is thought that this auction surpassed previous years in raising funds for The AIDS Project (TAP). TAP relies on this major fund-raiser for a large portion of its budget which enables this much needed agency to continue serving the needs of those with HIV/AIDS and their families.

Below, volunteer Tony McCann hangs a photo by Sarah Gray entitled, "Red Board-Winlow Park-Freeport, ME. This piece was bid on during the Silent Auction portion and reportedly garnered a successful bid of $2000.

Gray said, "AIDS hasn't affected my life directly, but it's a devastating disease and I hope that by donating one piece, my art will help contribute to one person's fight."

See ART, page 2

ARTIST PROFILE: Lisa Shapiro

First-time novelist publishes with Naiad

by Leslie Robinson, Co-Managing Editor-NH

Lisa Shapiro sat alone at a table at a restaurant in Kittery, Maine, surrounded by 50 people paying rapt attention as she read aloud from her new novel, "The Color of Winter." After she finished her reading, Shapiro remarked, "Was that too boring for words to say?"

It was a typical comment from her: humorous and direct, and indicative of the close relationship she has with self-doubt.

"I still think I'm crazy to be (writing professionally)," Shapiro, 34, said in an interview, "but I can't ignore the feedback I'm getting." Indeed not. The first publisher she submitted the book to, The Naiad Press, took it. And Naiad, a lesbian publishing house, just sold the foreign publication rights, so "The Color of Winter will be coming out in German in about six months.

Remarkably, Shapiro didn't set out to write a novel. When the Portsmouth, NH resident quit her full-time job at a nonprofit agency in 1993, she thought she would turn to writing free lance advertising copy. But she went about it badly, quitting her job before she had lined up many clients.

"I didn't have anything to do, so I sat around every morning and I wrote."

See PROFILE, page 2

Gay Census '96

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"Spring for Life Art Auction"

Volunteer, Philip Paratore hangs a work in clay entitled, "Portrait of a Friend," by Sharon Townsend as part of the Silent Auction display. Townsend is working toward an upcoming solo exhibition at Lewiston/Auburn College. Her work can be seen at Judith Leighton Gallery in Blue Hill, Lakes Gallery in South Casco and Arts and Artifacts in Freeport.

Community Pride Reporter announces design contest

by Winnie Weir, Publishing Editor

To celebrate both our expansion into New Hampshire and the upcoming fourth anniversary of the founding of "Community Pride Reporter," we are conducting a "Design A New Banner for CPR" contest.

Now for those not familiar with the term 'banner,' as it relates to a newspaper, that is the term used to describe text and/or graphics that extends the width of the page. CPR's banner, on the front page of each issue, has remained basically the same since publication began in July of 1993. With the inclusion of our neighbors to the south, the state of New Hampshire, we want our banner to be more representative of this new partnership. And since our fourth anniversary is on the horizon, (May) we can make this a double celebration. There is also an array of prizes to make up a fabulous grand prize for the selected banner.

The guidelines and rules are:

1) The contest is open to anyone not currently writing for "Community Pride Reporter" or otherwise affiliated with the paper.
2) Submissions must be camera ready, i.e., no sketches or rough ideas. Ideally they will be typeset, computer generated or hand-inked.
3) The design must be black and white with a successful 2 color application as well.
4) The design proposal must include, but is not limited to, the following words: "Community Pride Reporter. Maine and New Hampshire's Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered community, news or newspapers.
5) The dimensions are of a page in CPR are 12" wide by 15" tall and you may use up to one quarter page for your design.
6) "Community Pride Reporter" retains all rights to use any design created for the contest and by submitting a design, the artist acknowledges that he/she revokes any rights of property for the design.
7) The winning design will be acknowledged in the masthead of "Community Pride Reporter." (Example: Graphic design of CPR banner by)
8) Entries must be submitted by May 1, 1996 for our "Pride '96" edition.
9) Grand Prize is a fabulous "Romance Kit" including dinner for two at Katahdin Restaurant in Portland, a $25 flower arrangement from I Love Flowers, a $25 gift certificate from Drop Me A Line, two nights at the Stone Wall B & B in Lovell, Maine, and more.

Get your creative juices flowing and you may be the winner of our grand prize AND have your creation seen by over 10,000 people every month! Send entries to "Community Pride Reporter," I42 High Street, Suite #623, Portland 04101.

OutWrite Conference: Reflections of an aspiring writer

by Skip Brushaber

How does over two thousand gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender authors, poets, playwrights, editors, and publishers all under one roof sound? Frightening? Exhilarating? Intimidating? It sounded good to me so I packed my favorite pens, a stack of yellow legal pads, a change of Calvin Klein’s, and my toothbrush. With my trusted companion driving, it was off to the opening reception sponsored by Sojourner. We enjoyed a chilled picnic seated on the floor nibbling PC crudites, cheeses, and fruit. As I peeked up at the multitudes, I wondered if all these smartly dressed folks could actually be writers, publishers, and editors. My self esteem seemed to disappear faster than the smoked Gouda.

The opening plenary session was a bit long in the tooth. The calling of the names was a moving tribute to those of us who have passed on. It was a sad reminder of how many we have lost. Writer/POET Minnie Bruce Pratt said some marvelous things which empowered and strengthened, but speaking a bit too long for my infantile attention span. I was so exhausted that I missed the talk by author Edmund White, the second keynote speaker. Skipping the poetry slam because it sounded too competitive and violent, I opted for a good night’s sleep in preparation for my first full day.

Rising bright and early, my boy

friend and I took the "T" to the Park Plaza. I admit that I was filled with the childlike wonder equated with having orchestra seats for July at Carnegie Hall. With over fifty panels and over twenty workshops to choose from, I pondered over my program with the fervor of a bookie checking a racing form. I narrowed down my choices, circled them in red, and off I went... to be a writer at my first OutWrite.

Out of the five panel discussions I attended, four were excellent and one was fair to poor. That panel was titled "Can Grief be a Muse?" may have had something to do with it. Since most of my fiction deals with death, I could have made a better choice. I think I have found my muse and sometimes I call it grief. Good grief.

My meager self esteem got a boost when Portland author Agnes Bushell thanked me for my review of her novel, "Days of the Dead." She was gracious telling me how much she liked my re

See OUTWRITE, page 15
How did San Francisco become so gay?

by David Bianco

Americans who know little else about homosexuality know that San Francisco has a lot of gays; an ice cream shop where I grew up had a shake called "the San Francisco" — it was filled with fruits. Some of this reputation is overblown; San Francisco has plenty of straight people, of course. But the political power and unusual visibility of San Francisco's gay and lesbian community is no myth, and deserves explanation.

The Gold Rush of the late 1840s and 1850s turned a small town into an important city, and most of the newcomers to San Francisco were single men seeking their fortunes. These men lived together, drank together — even danced together. While the prevalence of same-sex activity was not permanent, some variation of an all-male social world has existed in San Francisco since the mid-19th century. We also have evidence of lesbian prostitutes and women who "passed" as men in this period.

By the 20th century, the city had gained enough of a reputation for homosexuality and other vices that the massive 1906 earthquake was blamed by many sinners on the moral excesses of what they called "Sodom by the Sea." This reputation was not due to an open, politically active gay and lesbian community; rather, gay life in early 20th century San Francisco consisted mostly of private parties, furtive encounters and discreet relationships.

The Second World War represented a sea of change in San Francisco's gay and lesbian life. Most Pacific-bound sailors and soldiers came through San Francisco, and many of them eager to sow their wild oats before risking their lives against Japan. Opportunities abounded, from prostitutes to girllie bars. For soldiers seeking same-sex company there were a growing number of bars and lounges — The Black Cat, the Silver Dollar, the Subway — in which they could meet civilians who might offer a place to spend the night.

During and after the war, the military discharged thousands of gay men and lesbians, often sending humiliated soldiers and sailors back to the mainland through San Francisco. Many of these personnel were too ashamed or uncomfortable to face their families and hometowns with a "blue" (anti-gay) discharge, so they stayed in the port city which often held fond memories of pre-war flings.

In the postwar period, San Francisco saw an increase in both gay bars and gay bands — as "Beat" poets such as Allen Ginsberg drew attention to the relative florescence of gay life in San Francisco. Equally significant was the founding of social and political organizations. In 1953 the Mattachine Society came to San Francisco, followed two years later by the founding chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis, America's first lesbian social and political organization. Many of those organizing for social change were veterans who had been forced into seeing their sexuality as political by their discharge from the military. By 1960 San Francisco was one of three major nodes of gay and lesbian organizing, along with New York and Los Angeles.

In the 1960s, San Francisco saw events that were unthinkable elsewhere, from a drag queen running for city supervisor in 1961 to a gay dance sponsored by heterosexual ministers in 1964. By the end of the decade, San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury had become the center of the hippie movement, and homosexuality was but one of many deviations in an atmosphere of free love.

Gay and lesbian immigration to San Francisco heavily accelerated in the 1970s, providing neighborhoods such as the Castro and Noe Valley with heavy concentrations of gay men and lesbians. The gay community's political strength could be seen in the election of Harvey Milk as a city supervisor in 1977 and a widely praised coordinated public response to the AIDS crisis beginning in the early 1980s. Today, San Francisco continues to be a pioneer — three of the city supervisors are openly gay or lesbian, and San Francisco City College is the only place in the country where a college student can major in gay and lesbian studies.

What are "Boston Marriages"?

The term "Boston Marriage" refers to a pair of women who set up same-sex households, particularly in the late 19th and early 20th century. Some of these couplings were among teachers and students in women's schools on the West Coast — including the most celebrated example in Henry James' novel "The Bostonians." Often the women were thought of as two unlucky spinsters who were unable to find husbands (and undoubtedly this was sometimes the case), but we have plenty of evidence that many of these relationships had a romantic and a sexual component.

The irony of the term, though, is that while many who used it were gently poking fun at the women involved, these women had the last laugh. They were able to live together, share expenses, sleep in the same bed, and even publicly treat one another as husband and wife — all with the tacit implication that the pair couldn’t possibly be actual lesbians. But most were actual lesbians, usually members of the middle and upper classes, and many of their stories are quite remarkable — for example, M. Carey Thomas, the president of Bryn Mawr College, lived in a Boston Marriage with one of the school's largest donors, philanthropist Mary Garrett.

David Bianco, M.A., teaches gay and lesbian history and politics at the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. If there's anything about the history of gays and/or lesbians you've always wondered about, contact him care of this newspaper or through his E-mail address: abbianco@aol.com. "Past Out" will appear monthly in CPR.

TIPS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

by Fritz von Ulmer, Marketing Consultant

This is a new column designed for those readers currently operating or thinking of operating their own businesses. It is a column for the readers of this paper and you are encouraged to mail or fax questions that you have about your current or anticipated operations. Various subjects will be covered in future issues. Your input and questions are necessary and welcome.

Also, this column represents a blatant attempt on the part of the author to locate and help managers and owners as part of his own business as a Marketing Consultant specializing in small business operations. The author has over 30 years experience in marketing and over seven years in assisting small businesses, both start-up and troubled.

Just a few words about the word "marketing." Most people assume that it means "advertising." Wrong! Advertising is the end of the chain of a very long process. First come the basic seven principals of business operation (which we shall discuss in future articles), last is the advertising/sales promotion/public relations.

For now, two little, but most important tips: Major reasons for initial failure are 1) a lack of a well thought out business plan and 2) inadequate financing.

Please do send your questions to me or Community Pride Reporter, and look for my next article.

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News from the Granite State

EDITORIAL:

Message to New Hampshire Readers

by Leslie Robinson, Co-Managing Editor, NH

It began to dawn on me not long ago that gay New Hampshireites are out of touch with each other. Folks living in the Seacoast, say, might know what's happening in the Monadnock area.

Being gay in a mostly rural state is isolating enough. We need to decrease the isolation from each other.

So how to get connected? It seems to me that the best way is through a state-wide gay newspaper.

I admit I'm biased—as a free-lance writer, I'm bound to believe in the efficacy of print. But such a newspaper keeps the community informed, and is a forum for diverse opinions.

Wristaholic Suzanne Pyle and I agreed on the need for such a publication. We considered starting one from scratch, but then decided that the best route was to join forces with Winnie Weir, whose "Community Pride Reporter" was already covering Maine so well.

For her part, Winnie was glad to expand her coverage area. This is the second joint issue, the second issue in which both states are covered.

We're still establishing our New Hampshire bureau, but soon the Granite State will be represented as fully in the pages of "CPR" as the Pine Tree State.

Now we in New Hampshire will be much more connected. From Lebanon to Dover, Nashua to Colebrook, Littleton to Keene, "CPR" will keep you in touch with what's happening politically, culturally and socially in the state.

And things have been happening.

In the last year a high-school English teacher in New Ipswich was fired after teaching books with gay characters, and the Merrimack school board got national attention when it instituted a ban on positive references to homosexuality.

Currently, a bill that would protect gay's civil rights is in the state legislature. On a cultural note, a New Hampshire woman has just published a novel with The Naïad Press (see story on page 1), the well-known lesbian publishing house.

If there's something going on you think we should know about, call the "CPR" office (207/879/1342). Call also if you want to write, advertise, or know of a gay-friendly place that would carry the paper.

So here we go, New Hampshire. Our newspaper is here.

Lawsuit Challenges Merrimack (NH) School Policy 6540

by Nora Tuthill, Co-Editor

FPELAG/NH News

Good news! On February 15 a group of parents, students and educators from Merrimack, NH filed a lawsuit in federal District Court in Concord, challenging the anti-gay censorship policy #6540, passed by the Merrimack School Board in a 3-2 vote last August.

The challenged policy provides that any school instruction or counseling which has "the effect of encouraging or supporting homosexuality as a positive lifestyle alternative" is banned from all schools in the Merrimack School District.

The suit argues that this gag order is harmful to Merrimack students, violates First Amendment guarantees of free speech, restricts access to information and has triggered a tidal wave of self-censorship by teachers and students who, since September, have been trying to comply with it.

This is the first constitutional challenge to such censorship in the public schools.

A coalition of civil rights legal organizations represents the parents and educators in their legal challenge to Policy 6540: th New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), the Merrimack Education Coalition, People for the American Way, the National Teachers Association and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Parents and teachers from Merrimack said, when they filed the case, that the broad censorship imposed by the policy has caused them to cut off class discussions, remove books, tapes and audio-visual aids from the curriculum and stifle student's inquiries.

Banned are a video biography of American poet Walt Whitman, William Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," a portion of an AIDS prevention video used in health classes and other literature portraying gay characters.

"This policy hurts and distorts the education of students every day," said Debra Herget, a plaintiff and parent of three children in the Merrimack schools.

Richard Walker, coordinator of Guidance Services at the high school, said another plaintiff said "the policy prevents counselors from doing their job of helping children in need. Students are reluctant to ask for help. All students deserve support and guidance when they need it."

Chris Ager, chairman of Merrimack's School Board and sponsor of Policy 6540 issued a press release defending the board's action. In it he said the legal challenge "is being launched by gay rights advocacy groups from outside our community and outside of New Hampshire. These groups have their own agenda which they are trying to force down the throats of the people in our community, and our children. We do not want the town turned into an ideological battleground by ANY outside organizations."

And where did chairman Ager and his two school board colleagues find the wording used in Policy 6540? We saw it the summer before last in U.S. Senate Bill co-sponsored by New Hampshire's own senior Senator Bob Smith and Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina. That bill was tabled and did not get to the Senate Floor.

"You know that something is terribly wrong when teachers believe they can't teach Shakespeare or discuss information about gay youth suicide because of a so-called educational policy," said Mary Bonauto of Boston-based Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD). "This suit is a reminder that freedom guaranteed by the First Amendment apply in the public schools to protect students and teachers from government censorship."

Randy Kotowitz, human rights activist from Merrimack, has worked tirelessly to stop this public act of bigotry and denial. "This is not about gay rights, but about children and their education. Children need guidance and support, not harsh judgments and misinformed opinions. What is at stake is the future of this generation's education."

HB 1294: Gone to study

from FPELAG/NH News

HB 1294 has gone to a study committee at the suggestion of the bill's sponsors. The bill, which would add "sexual orientation" to the state's civil rights bill, received a public hearing in the New Hampshire House, January 18, and many FPELAG members spoke on its behalf. The bill's supporters outnumbered opponents three to one.

Testimony by FPELAG parents included comments from Betty Batcheelder and FPLEAG: NH Vice President, Rev. Leslie Norman. See their articles in this section.
PROFILE, from page 1

With her income limited, she survived in part thanks to her "incredibly supportive partner," Lynne D'Orsay, to whom the novel is dedicated.

There were many steps between the time she began writing in January of '94 to when the novel came out two years later. After she sent Naiad a prec, they asked her to rewrite the manuscript. Following a long wait, Shapiro heard that her manuscript was in the top 25 of the 1,200 submitted annually to Naiad. Eventually, Editorial Director Barbara Grier called Shapiro and asked her to rewrite her novel. By the summer of '95, she had a contract.

"Each step felt affirming," Shapiro said. And at each step she wondered, "Now can I call myself a writer? Well maybe. Well no."

Can she call herself a writer now that her words are going to be translated? "I'm getting a little closer," she said with a chuckle.

"The Color of Winter" is about the ultimately amorous relationship between Sandra Ross, 51, a history professor at Cal-Berkeley who clings to convention, and Jay Hope, 29, a rebellious heiress and student.

Shapiro said she wanted to explore in her book the idea of mentoring. Dr. Ross begins as Hope's faculty supervisor, but their relationship shifts so that each ends up learning from the other. Shapiro also wanted to deal with taking chances. "I'm fascinated by people who take risks in their lives," she said.

"A lot of what I wanted to explore personally shaped the novel." But then the characters took over. "It's their struggle, their motivation," she said. "It becomes their story."

Shapiro's writing history does not include infinite lonely hours spent scribbling in a garret. She hardly has a writing history.

"I wrote my share of bad poetry when I was a teenager." But later she came to believe writing had to be "academic or important," so she abstained.

She began again at 31. She said, "For six months I wrote nothing but romantic or important," so she abstained.

She began again at 31. She said, "For six months I wrote nothing but Country and Western song lyrics." This unique endeavor was a sort of exorcism: "I wanted to explore whether or not writing could be fun." Then she tried a couple of shore stories, followed by the novel.

Unpublished veteran writers might tear their hair out upon hearing of Shapiro's snap success, but they need only read the book to see she deserves it. She is an able storyteller, and has a facility with language that is enviable.

Now she's at work on another novel. This has a more complex plot, multiple points of view, and requires lots of research. But what really makes this book hard is that, unlike the first novel, "I set out to do it."

Shapiro likes to write early in the morning, before she goes to her part-time job as a secretary at Portsmouth's Episcopal Church, an unusual place for an "agnostic Jew." Be in the afternoon she puts in more writing time.

"If I don't write every day, I get really grouchy," said Shapiro, who prefers writing on paper to writing on the computer. "It's like feeding an addiction." A far cry from when she began "The Color of Winter" not knowing if she could write fiction.

"Everything's been a surprise since I picked up a pen and put it to paper. I never expected to be a writer. I never expected to be so touched by writing," Shapiro said.

"Then to have people enjoy it, to have people read the story and say we like it. In my wildest dreams, I don't know that I'd've dared hope for that."


"Bible's message is faithfulness in loving"

Testimony of Reverend Leslie Norman in support of NH House Bill 1294

excerpts from PFLAG: NH News

I want to speak to you today about the Bible. We've been told so often that the Bible condemns homosexuality that we've come to believe it's true. To the contrary: the Bible is a wonderful book. It has the power liberate and transform us...

The Bible's message is one of love, God's love for us, our love for one another. The Bible tells us that we should be honest and open with one another, and not be distant, or shut off, or judging. And, when we declare our love for one another, when we promise to commit ourselves to another, then we commit ourselves for a lifetime. That applies just as much when our love is for someone of the same gender. The Bible's message is, above all, one of faithfulness in our loving.

When we examine some of the so-called negative texts in light of this idea of giving ourselves, we see clearly that they have no bearing on the matter. The story of Sodom, for instance, is clearly a story of attempted homosexual gang rape, of a gang of men attempting to assert their power over others. Those days are past, a common practice. For example, following a battle, prisoners were raped by their captors to complete their humiliation. Love had nothing to do with it.

And, in Paul's letter to the Romans, he addresses those who worship idols, who turn away from their true nature as lovers of God. As a consequence, he says, God lets them continue to abandon their true nature and become perverted in all their acts, including entering into same sex orgies. In my opinion, this is a highly questionable piece of logic, but in any case it clearly has everything to do with idol worship and nothing to do with faithful love of one person for another.

There is only one passage in the Bible that may be read as showing same sex love in a negative light and that text is from Leviticus which says a man shall not lie with a man as with a woman. That was written long ago, for a tribe struggling for its existence against hostile enemies all around, who needed to maintain their population, and who believed that the male sperm was, by itself, the bearer of life, and should not be wasted.

Today, our knowledge of biology is more comprehensive, and we certainly have no need of a population increase. Does the rule still apply to us? I say not, but you may think differently. In that case then, I ask why you want to keep this rule while you discard others? Why

See BIBLE, page 7


Needed: Visible Gay Adults!

Betty Batchelder, PFLAG Mother

I have a great concern for our children who are growing up with no role models because it is not safe for gay adults to "come out." When a child comes out and you hear, "Mom, I'm gay," one of the first things a parent thinks is, 'My child will lead a miserable life.' The visibility of adult gays is a good future out there. The many gay people I know include lawyers, doctors, business men, and other professionals. If it were only safe for these people to be open about their lives and to be "out," it would make a world of difference.

Just imagine what it is like for you are fifteen, have just realized you are gay. You look around you and find no one who feels as you do. There are no peers or teachers to whom you can safely talk. You are afraid to talk to the guidance counselor or to your parents. There are no adult gays you can look up to... Talk about misery and isolation! When one thinks of homosexual- ity, one often immediately thinks of sex. Please remember that sex is doing, homosexuality is a state of being... just different. Men and women are created equal and we all deserve the same equal rights.

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SYMPOSIUM, from page 1

Tremblay, a wonderful, witty and heart-warming musician from Montreal. Well sings of love, lust, being out and living ourselves" and writer of the column "Queer in America" and "Outing Ourselves" about outing ourselves. Our other queens. With songs like "What if theears"

Symposium XXII

Bringing Symposium to my Home Town

by Lin Gould

In 1972 I lived on Mt. Desert Island and went to high school. I decided I was open minded, and that I would love whoever I loved regardless of superficial things like gender. I adopted a 60's view of bisexuality - still mostly straight, but cool and radical, with occasional flings possible with women. In 1973 I admitted that for me personally that stance was cowardice; although I believed it still in the abstract, my men friends were wonderful pals, and my passionate attachments were all to women.

In 1974 I graduated and headed for college in Chicago, leaving my beloved and overprotective family far behind, knowing that I was the only lesbian in the entire state of Maine and that I would never return except for rare two-day holiday stints. In 1978 I was home during summer vacation and heard about a University of Maine Wilde-Stein dance. Wow! What a wonderful lot of wild people! Maine did have gay folks after all! I thought of going home and in Bangor, so this is somewhat of a homecoming for her. I'm sure she has an interesting answer to our opening question.

The Motion Collective is a won­derful local dance company comprised of queers and non-queers. They will perform Saturday evening and at other times throughout the weekend. Pat Peard of Maine Won't Discriminate and the MCLU will be speaking on Monday. She will talk about where we go from here. She will then be joined by a panel, including our invited speakers and performers for a queer town meeting, inviting audience participation. We promise that unlike other town meetings, we will not spend hours haggling over the school budget or property taxes!

There is a lot of time for outdoor activities, we will not have you going (hopefully) sunny, warm August days without a lot of the provincialism that is seen elsewhere.

I urge you to read Lin Gould's article about living on the island. Another great reason to come to the island is Lakewood, a very gay nude sunbathing and swimming spot, the location of which can be bribed out of any commit­tee member for the "right" price!!

The Thomas S. Gates, Jr. Community Center is the cultural and social heart of College of the Atlantic, offering everything from contra dances to special lectures.

The following text is from Carolyn A. Albert, President of JALBERT INSURANCE SERVICES:

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Student AIDS committee whose work made us the first public school in Maine to have condoms available to students, and the school board unanimously added "sexual orientation" to the list of non-discrimination categories last year.

"I'm surprised at how scary it feels to come out more, all the same. I'm as safe as it's possible to get. But it's hard to get the words out past years of homophobia self-censorship. I didn't HAVE TO give the Office of Summer Programs the fax number at school. As fate would have it, the budget was faxed over the one day that the librarian and her assistant (both friends of mine) were sick. "Gay and Lesbian Symposium c/o Lin Gould" was hand delivered to my classroom by a wide-eyed substitute, then later being silent during faculty gossip sessions. But here at MDI High School, straight faculty were equally WESTON and the renowned "Outright" youth group to speak four years ago. My girlfriend's daughter was president of the student symposium who wrote us the first public school in Maine to have condoms available to students, and the school board unanimously added "sexual orientation" to the list of non-discrimination categories last year.

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we'd passed up lemon baked chicken in favor of vegetarian stuffed peppers and tomatoes, spinach salad, sauteed spiced tofu, organic coffee and huge chocolate chip cookies. We have been long time compatri­ots in this struggle, and we have learned to pace ourselves. "We need to have a lot of fun built into Symposium week­end," says Mark. "I still want to change the world, but we need some breaks, too, at the same time that we all work so hard. People are at all different places with how out they can be. This should be a time for celebrating all together, just that exists. It's a triumph." We prowl Gates Auditorium, admiring the high ceiling and beautiful wooden floor. Russ, in charge of the building, goes over to the cafeteria to find Annika, who leaves her lunch to come talk AV equipment with Mark. The conversation immediately gets technical. I wander down the hall and imagine Musty Chiffon, Lucie Blue Trombay at the grand piano. The hall has doors all down one side with an overhang - perfect for opening dur­ing August concerts and a dance, even if it rains.

We investigate the library, looking See HOMETOWN, page 7
HOMETOWN, from page 6

for workshop areas and a place to set up to sell books. The librarian looks quizzically at me. "May I help you? Arent you Edna Hyson's granddaughter?" A deep breath, and I come out again. We end up deciding that the area is pretty out of the way for what we need for Symposium. But the librarian assures us for twenty minutes talking about gay students she has known and supported through their struggles, and we both leave our names and numbers, offering to be older mentors to students she knows. Later I hear that she plasters the place with supportive posters every year on "Coming Out Day." You never know when your grandmother's neighbor might be an ally.

Mark has to leave, and I walk back toward the Turrets building in search of some black and white photographs we can use in our publicity. I run into Mary, who I find will be working for the Office of Summer Programs this year! Yeah! She waves away the lunch we loved. "Oh, it's edible, through the school year. But wait til summer! They grow all the vegetables they use here, it's gourmet food. They make fresh bread every day." She suggests I talk

with Millard, chief of security and grounds. I walk over past huge sculptures, a whale skeleton, and the kitchen garden plots under snow. I taught Millard's younger daughter. I dont know if he knows. I also flirted with his ex-wife. I'M SURE he doesn't know this. He is welcoming, offers coffee. He says we can use the whole north field for camping! I can hardly wait to call up the rest of the Symposium Committee. We have worried over this, wanting reasonably priced space for more people, since there are no campgrounds for several miles, and the nearest ones are overcrowded, expensive, and a far cry from the safe haven of taking over a whole campus. We talk security, parking, logistics. He says it sounds like a wonderful event. He offers to go talk with the Bar Harbor police so they know what's going on. "I can't imagine there'd be trouble, but you never know, tourists can be ignorant." Bar Harbor voted down Question One by the largest margin of any town in the state. No wonder he's complacent about the locals.

I tell him he should come to some of the entertainment we have planned, and promise him a schedule of events later on. On my way back to the parking lot I run into Steve Katona. He taught me invertebrate zoology years ago and wrote a letter of recommendation that helped get me interviewed for my job. Since then, I've taught both his sons, and he's become President of College of the Atlantic, (COA).

"Hey, how are you? What are you doing here?" I tell him I'm getting used to swallowing down the nervous flutter) and he beams. "Terrific! I'd heard that! That's just great! Do you know there's a place out front where you can put up a big sign if you want to?" Before I drive out, I look down over the snowy field to the beach and dock. I squint and see green grass, ocean, balloons, rainbow banners, and dancing men and women. I imagine this whole place full of people being proud to just who they are, who live lives full of courage and risk, who laugh loud and love well and play hard. I invite in the lonely teenager on the edge, that woman who used to be me, wistfully imagining a life that's whole. We have, all of us, worked hard to make this state a place she never imagined possible. And this year's Symposium will be another truly great event in our shared history. △

Strategic Planning for gays & lesbians topic of meeting

Stratham, NH - "Strategic Planning for Gays and Lesbians: Financial and Legal Issues" is the topic for PFLAG: Seacoast/Stratham's next monthly support meeting on Tuesday, April 2 from 7:00 to 9:30 pm. Speakers will be Ann Arbuthnot and Mary Notaris of Salem, NH who have recently formed Northeast Financial Advocates. They will cover such topics as making a will, conferring power of attorney and handling of other legal issues connected to financial planning and health.

PFLAG: Seacoast/Stratham is one of more than 250 chapters of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. This international organization provides support and education for families in addition to advocating full civil rights for sexual minorities.

Meetings are held at the Stratham Community Church on Emory Lane off Route 101 and just south of the Stratham traffic circle. Small group discussions begin promptly at 7:00 pm with the evening's program beginning at 8:00 pm. Meetings are open to anyone in need of support and information. Newcomers are invited to participate as much or as little as they wish. Participants are required to respect confidentiality. Materials on homosexuality and bisexuality are available from the PFLAG library.

In addition to the Seacoast location, PFLAG NH support meetings are held in Concord, Nashua and Plymouth. For more information about PFLAG NH, Seacoast/Stratham, call Nora at 603/772-3893 or Betty at 603/772-5196. For more information about PFLAG NH, call 603/623-6023.

MONEY TALK: YIKES! I OWE TAX!

Now what do I do?

by Peter J. Callinan, CPA

Many people wait until the last minute to do their tax planning. They usually start right after they finish their Federal return and realize they owe Uncle Sam money. It's then that they start to look for ways to save on their tax liability. Well, believe it or not, there may actually be something that could save tax dollars even after the return is filed out.

If, at the last minute, you want to reduce your tax liability consider contributing to an IRA. IRA contributions can be deducted on a 1995 tax return if they are made before the return is filed or April 15. The amount of the contribution will reduce the taxable income and the amount of tax owed. If, for example, you are in the 15% federal and 7% state income tax bracket, a $2,000 IRA contribution will save you $440 of taxes. At the 28% federal and 8.5% state tax bracket a $2,000 contribution would save $730 in tax.

In addition, all the earnings on it are tax deferred until you start to draw it out. An IRA can even be funded with borrowed money.

If you are in an employer sponsored retirement plan you may not be able to contribute to an IRA. There are rules and limits which need to be reviewed. Look in the Form 1040 instructions for the worksheets to calculate a deductible IRA contribution.

Well, that is one last minute method to reduce your tax liability. The best way to minimize your tax burden in 1996 is to start your tax planning now and not wait until the last minute. Good Luck! △

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Map showing location of College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor, Maine, site of Symposium XXII

BIBLE from page 5

do you not keep kosher? Why do you not obey the rules around ritual bathing? Why do you not stone to death your disobedient sons? Why do you wear a cotton and polyester shire (a big no-no) while playing touch football with the forbidden pigskin? On what basis do you choose which rules to follow and which to discard? . . . Our business is not to judge one another. Everyone is welcome into God's community. God made each of us the way we are, and made us capable of loving one another. Indeed, we have been commanded to love one another, to love one another as God has loved us - faithfully, unconditionally. How can we not do this? And how can we not allow others to love in the way they were made? △

INDEPENDENT BOOKSELLERS
by Michael Rossetti

Gays and lesbians made up at least 5% of Portland's St. Patrick's Day Parade Sunday, March 17. We were specifically invited for the second year in a row. This year, we came out.

Although there were no banners, flags or obvious triangles and rainbows, Dale McCormick's run for Congress brought about thirty to forty supporters from the gay community. With the front page of the Sunday Telegram complaining about McCormick's gay support and her reputation as a fighter for gay and lesbian civil rights, it was clear to the crowd lining Brackett Street that this was one St. Patrick's Day parade where gays were welcomed.

There was no protest or jeers from the crowds. From the Peoples Building to the end of Tate Street, people were pleasant, even enthusiastic.

Addressing the crowd were Congressman James Longley, State Representatives Michael Saxl and Herb Adams, Congressman John Baldacci, former Governor and Senate candidate, Joe Brennan and Portland Mayor Dawson. Tom Allen, Susan Collins, the gay and lesbian favorites Dale McCormick running for Longley's seat, and Sean Faircloth, running for Cohen's seat, worked the crowd but did not address the gathering. (The first real hand to hand political battle for votes in '96!)

Along with gays and lesbians, politicians and their contingents made this the largest St. Patty's Day Parade in Portland. The Shoe String Theater, along with a single bagpipe, brought music and gay to the parade with still walking, drummers and three kid-powered dragons.

The actual Irish content to the parade may have only been about 300 out of 1,080 or so, but festive St. Patty's festivities continued all afternoon and evening around the West End and most Portland pubs. ΔΔ

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TRANS FORUM

(This column presents information, musings and personal stories from our brothers and sisters in the transgendered community.)

My Transsexual Manifesto Part One

by Daralyn S. Maxwell

Recently, I had the chance to chat briefly with CPR's Editor, Winnie Weir, in part about the rift in various parts of the gender community and, most sadly, especially between the lesbian and the transsexual communities. I told Winnie that I would like the opportunity to illustrate the more striking similarities between us, as well as provide some background into the mindset and characteristics, of inducing the equivalent of puberty, hormonal changes and breast development, of driving change partners, get another job or move away. It is the gay community that everyone else claims to want; no mere declaration of desire will by any means get us to truly enjoy any part of our existence.

A set of criteria, called the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care, are the benchmark for all transsexuals, both male and female. Rather than just proclaim our intent and proceed at will, we are required to be under the care of a physician, a psychiatrist (I needed one anyway), an endocrinologist, an electrologist, a psychologist and finally, if you are not bankrupt, completely demoralized, too old or dead, the surgeon. No mere declaration of desire will bypass any of these obstacles and no reputable table surgeon will even touch me until I have my "note from home." Then again, maybe she'll really touch me afterwards (my mother always wanted me to marry a doctor).

In the course of all this, I also am dedicated to a lifetime of hormonal intake, first to offset the effects of male hormones as well as acclimating myself to the estrogen that will be my lifelong companion. This has the effect of diminishing some of my male characteristics, of inducing the equivalent of puberty, with fatty tissue redistribution, metabolic changes and breast development.

To clarify anything here, briefly, I will say that I am discussing gender, not sex. The difference is that I will first need to rectify my physical representation to suit my emotional character before I can satisfactorily have sex with anyone. At this point, I am not even sure where I belong on the sexual landscape. I am hoping to have a relationship in the future.

Transsexualism is like a migration. We have an inner homing instinct that sets us apart from other flocks and our long goals are not to appear on any number of silly talk shows displaying our angst, but achieving a personal unity that allows us to truly enjoy any part of our existence.

A second annual HOPE Festival

Bangor, ME - The second annual HOPE (Help Organize Peace Earthwide) Festival, sponsored by the Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine, will take place on Earth Day, April 20 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Brewer Auditorium, Brewer, Maine. The day will include an organizational fair of over fifty peace, justice, environmental, social service and other non-profit organizations, a wide variety of musical dance, theater, and other entertainment.

Numerous programs and activities will be provided for children including music, puppetry, recycling projects, a special speaker, a run and other outdoor activities, food and other events. Admission for the day is free and there will be door prizes and other benefits for attendees. For more information, including a schedule of events and details on information tables for non-profit groups, contact the Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine, 128 Main Street, Bangor, ME 04401, 207/942-9543. ΔΔ

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Essay scholarship contest announced

Augusta, ME - The Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance is pleased to announce their fifth annual essay scholarship contest. The contest is open to all Maine seniors who have been accepted in any school of higher education. The mailing deadline is May 18, 1996.

Applicants must submit a completed essay discussing the question, "In a society that routinely discriminates, what can I do to protect others from discrimination?" A letter of recommendation is the second acceptable entry and a copy of the acceptance letter from the selected school of higher education rounds out the entry requirements.

Direct all applications to ML/GPA Scholarship Committee, 18 Summer Street, Augusta, Maine 04330. ΔΔ

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TO YOUR HEALTH: Lesbians and Research

SINGIN' OUT

by Martin Swinger

Wow! Win­nie moves fast! Last month's CPR came out the same week this month's article is due and there hasn't been enough time to receive any response to my challenge. Are there other gay musicians out there who might benefit from a support group? If so, please contact me ASAP! I believe with the number of PFLAG's OUTRIGHT'S, MCC's and other gay positive activity in Maine that there is a networking opportunity for exposure and feedback which we, as emerging artists, might develop into an audience. I support sound cold referring to these wonderful groups as a resource to be plundered, but developing audience is developing community and we could all use more of that.

What songs would we sing to our parents (PFLAG) if they gave us a listening ear? What words of experience might we sing to our (OUTRIGHT) younger brothers and sisters? What words of faith do we sing to strengthen our own hearts, that might strengthen other hearts like our own (MCC)?

In this time of political posturing, what should we be singing to our representatives and future leaders (MLGPA) about what we can and cannot stand for? I have a few ideas, don't you? With just a handful of musicians we can begin to set up some performances and start making our voices heard.

Last year, DIFFERENT LIGHT BOOKSTORE in New York City offered a CD called "FREE" to people making a $10 purchase. Now they aren't still making that generous offer, but the CD is still available by contacting OUTMUSIC, P.O. Box 1575 New York, N.Y. 10013-1575. "FREE" is a sampler album of New York artists, cast with special strengths worth hearing. I'm always in search of other compilation albums of gay music—if you know of some I haven't mentioned, let me know.

Upcoming events in gay friendly music events and we receive LHP/SM's own survey designed to assess the health needs of lesbians living in southern Maine. For information: PO Box 11048 Portland ME 04104.

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by Tania Jo Hathaway

LHP/SM recently invited to participate in a grant written to the Lesbian Health Fund—an organization that supports medical research conducted on the lesbian population. LHP/SM has joined the Maine Center for Osteoporosis Research and Education in submitting a grant that examines the risk of osteoporosis among lesbians. If funded, this research would be the first to examine lesbian's risk of osteoporosis and the first medical research conducted on lesbians in Maine. The role of LHP/SM will be to find lesbians willing to participate in the study. We hope this study is funded and that LHP/SM can find plenty of willing participants.

STAY TUNED; WE'LL BE SURE TO LET YOU KNOW. In the meantime, call to get yourself signed up on our mailing list. You'll receive LHP/SM's own survey designed to assess the health needs of lesbians living in southern Maine. (If you are already on the mailing list, you have already received a survey.)

Next month: more about women and heart disease.

Tania Jo Hathaway is the Co-ordinator of the Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine. For information: PO Box 11048 Portland ME 04104.

CPR April, 1996 Page 9
Editors

My two cents worth
by Chris Milliken, Business Manager

Gay community is many things, three of which are: finding love, friendship and unconditional acceptance.

Flexing political muscle for diversity, caring and inclusiveness of all people. Forming an economic niche that establishes us as part of the larger market and integral players in mainstream American culture.

How our community of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning people (G.L.B.T.Q. people) finds love and flexes its political muscle is quite obvious. Having lived in the gay ghetto of Boston and Washington, DC, I personally am proud of how northern New England queers have a sense of community, love and respect for one another that is missing in the urban setting. The Maine Won’t Discriminate campaign from a volunteer movement speaks for our ability to mobilize politically.

What isn’t so clear today as you read this, is how we, as a sub culture, are forming our economic niche. Demographics are not necessary for us to realize that we are a poor (financially) community. That isn’t to say that there are now wealthy people in our community. There are those who have wealth and give generously to community causes. Unfortunately, today we are so often consumed with our personal lives and our political safety that we neglect the economic community in which we live. When we examine ourselves economically, we see that:

2. G.L.B.T.Q. businesses do not always provide services/goods that the G.L.B.T.Q. consumers want or can afford.
3. We have few or no co-ops for food, housing, credit or business development which are keys to ending cycles of poverty.
4. We give randomly to national and state political organizations and never ask or are offered information about how the money is spent and whether it affects real change in our lives.

Perhaps most important of all, we have no structure in place, no organization that helps our youth ages 18-25 to develop skills and training so they can be competitive in the job market.

As a community, we need leaders to develop an economic plan that includes:

1. Spending within our community.

RANT:

"Sex-shun 17-5 and related idiocy"

by David Cook

Even with only a dim idea of what it must be like to be a city official and get mauled by the press after any significant decision, I would like to try and refrain from being gratuitously nasty about recent developments with respect to Portland public policy against gay cruising.

After all, being a City Councilor or even a Chief of Police can’t be all fun, what with rich homeowners on the Western Prom at 2 o’clock in the morning? And, except for the well-worn tale of the little girl who supposedly saw someone masturbating outside her house, just how many children have actually been exposed to public displays of sexual activity anywhere? And why is sex out in the bushes so damaging for children to see when they are so much more vulnerable to sexual activity in their own homes (the proven site of the vast majority of child sexual abuse)?

Is public sex really a public menace? Does it justify spending taxpayers’ money to patrol it, harass it, and ultimately push it from one part of the city to another as all past experience shows it will? Divorced from sex-phobic hysteria, is there really any reason to care if someone is having sex out in the bushes (or inside a porno theater — a business that exists solely for the purpose of sexual titillation)? If so, then why do so many other cities just live and let live with regard to this issue? And not just big bad cities either, but small and medium-sized ones as well.

Could it be that they know something Portland doesn’t? Like that sex is a basic urge and that not everyone’s version of this urge can be satisfied via the sexual community in which we live? When we examine ourselves economically, we see that:

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Guest Editorial: Hate and Marriage

by David Clarenbach

Last month, a veritable "Who's Who" of religious political extremists held a rally in Iowa to kick off their "National Campaign to Protect Marriage." As G.O.P. Presidential candidates tripped over each other in their rush to sign the group's homophobic "Marriage Protection Resolution," Melbourne Mayor Bill Crows (an openly gay, church-going Republican) led a candlelight vigil to protest the politics of hatred and fear.

This same scene — professional politicians pandering to a mean-spirited minority while an openly gay elected official appeals to the fair-minded majority — is now being played out in legislatures across the country. Same-sex marriage is the Radical Right's latest call-to-arms, and openly gay and lesbian officials are on the front lines against this hateful assault on our community. As Wisconsin's openly lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin told reporters this week: "It's about stirring up hatred and fear for the sake of political expediency."

Bills prohibiting same-sex marriage have already been introduced in 20 states, and more are in the works. Although most of the bills are blatantly anti-gay, some legislators are experimenting with a stealth approach. A Rhode Island State Representative recently introduced a "Solemnization of Marriages" bill to recognize marriages performed in other states as long as they "comport with and meet all conditions and requirements" of Rhode Island law.

When Rhode Island's openly gay State Senator Will Fitzpatrick asked the purpose of this vaguely worded legislation, the sponsor indicated it was aimed at nullifying marriages between first cousins wed in another state. In fact, Rhode Island is one of the few states that allows first cousin marriages. Fitzpatrick immediately contacted human rights activists and the press, calling the bill "a wolf dressed in sheep's clothing" and suggesting that the sponsor should "come clean with his real reason for submitting this bill." The sponsor finally admitted that the bill was filed in response to the likely legalization of same-sex marriages by the Hawaii Supreme Court, and the House Judiciary Committee abruptly shelved the bill...for the time being.

The marriage battle makes it crystal clear that electing qualified openly gay and lesbian officials might be an integral part of our struggle for equal rights. As the Rhode Island case shows, our gay officials are an early warning system when anti-gay attacks come in strength.

Because they have a place at the table, they can use the legislative process to diffuse an attack; by stalling a bill until lawmakers have time to examine the consequences, for example, or by shepherding a bill into gay-supportive (or at least less hostile) committees. And they can help neutralize the other side's anti-gay propaganda by keeping the public and press focused on the real issues and "even more important in the long run, openly gay legislators are in a unique position to educate the public and their fellow lawmakers on what homophobia is and isn't. No matter how gay-friendly a straight legislator is, when the debate turns to gay marriage, he or she can never stand up and say, 'You're talking about me.' When openly gay officials personalize the debate in this way, it has an amazing effect on their colleagues. As California's openly gay Assemblymember Sheila Kuehl notes, 'Having to confront this issue with a real person there, face to face, is causing my colleagues to really think about this at a personal level.'" See HATE, page 15

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Dear CPR:

I once was a dues paying member of a diverse and inclusive national union. I believed that it was there to use its power to protect me from employer exploitation. I believed that my local union agent was there to represent me and organize workers.

The most distressing truth was that the national leadership used its dues and numbers to impress Washington heavyweights. The leadership would willingly sacrifice any local issue for a little more prestige for President Clinton's "pro-business" agenda was there to represent me and organize workers.

As I review the latest stats on the Don't Ask/Don't Tell horror brought about by President Clinton's "pro-fraudently held convictions," I see only the failings of so-called national gay and lesbian leadership, and have a strange sense of unionized deja vu. Our leadership must become the front-runner among gay candidates, helped put him in office, instigated and led the muddled effort to end up with a policy that has increased discharges from the military by over 20% from 1994 and has produced dozens of witch hunts.

Now we have the Freedom to Marry initiative, a needed response to the unwashed masses of gay and lesbian prods. Rather than planning extensive lobbying of unsympathetic legislators and appealing to a disinterested public to let queers marry, let's use our ability to build coalitions to get the churches and the churches altogether. Marriage should not be a government ceremony.

Let's institute equality across the land for all those who meet obvious concepts of lifelong, long-term responsibility, commitment and end real "special rights" now.

Michael Rossetti, Portland

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Dear CPR:

I've thought about the issue of same gender marriage for quite some time...those of you who know me understand that I usually embrace the innovative and not trade off approaches to life. With the issue of gay marriages, I have to insist that it is a "choice" that traditionally minded gays and lesbians should be free to make. Whether or not there is a better model for relationships, such as polyamory, is not the point right now. Marriage is one more example of "heterosexual privilege" and I don't want that choice to be denied any longer.

We spoke briefly concerning our "Ceremony of Love" and the announcement that was sent to CPR. Thank you for publishing it, it was great seeing "US" in print.

To date CPR plus one tiny local paper, "The Milo Town Crier," have published our announcement. "Bangor Daily News" ham'mt. We wrote, but alas, nothing. "Portland Sunday Telegram" sent us back our photo and announcement stating they only print and recognize marriages, and therefore ours is not newsworthy. We and one of our statements was, "Murder, incest, child-abuse and pornography are not legal in the state of Maine, but how strange you would call that 'newsworthy,' our discrimination. Any news is not unless it is something celebrated by us. There statement that they only print what's legal is a cop-out.

Our own paper, "The Piscataquis Observer" called today and Tom Lizotte, Editor, said his instructions from his boss in Presque Isle (Martha Lhostre, Executive Editor, Piscataquis Observer Co., 800-924-9041) stated they will not print our ceremony for the low fee of $30. Their wedding, engagement, reunions, anniversaries, birthdays and club news are all free as a community service, but they cannot put ours in unless they get paid. MAD? You bet our x*s&f we're mad. We know your paper cannot do See MAILBAG, page 15
New A & E Editor for CPR

Hello from your old pal, Aimsel. I am now the official Arts & Entertainment Editor of Community Pride Reporter. Big thanks to Winnie for the chance to get more involved with the paper.

So here's my life story, consolidated. I went to Keene State College, graduated in '91 with a B.A. in journalism. But the big thing for me in Keene was the college radio station, WKNH, where I had a Sunday Night Show for five and a half years. I also had the job as music director for two years and became even more obsessed with music and all that it entails. When I got here to Portland, just under two years ago, a friend introduced me to Winnie and the following week I wrote my first article, a review of the Indigo Girls show at the University of New Hampshire. It's been so great writing for CPR and it's hard to believe it's been almost two years.

Anyway, my favorite music is that by Indigo Girls, Tori Amos, Sarah McLachlan, disappear fear and about a billion other musicians. I love to drink coffee, be near the ocean and watch the Wizard of Oz. Oh, and listen to music. That's just about all I have to say for now because I feel strange writing about myself like this, so I think I'll go for a walk and get some coffee. Oh yeah, if you are interested in getting involved in the Arts and Entertainment aspect of CPR call me. THANKS...

Book Review: “Eight Bullets”

by Claudia Brenner
Published by Firebrand Press 207 pages, $12.95

by Michael Rossetti

“Eight Bullets: One Woman’s Story of Surviving Anti-Gay Violence” is a story about homophobia and its impact on victims, the police, family, the press and the justice system. It is an account of a journey from a slightly closed life to political activism.

Claudia Brenner's recounting of the horrific shooting that left her new found love, Rebecca Wight, dead and herself severely wounded, is written in an amiable, personal style. She opens the story describing the planning of a wedding and study abroad for her and Rebecca.

Claudia’s love for Rebecca and Claudia that ruins an amiable, personal style. She opens the story describing the planning of a wedding and study abroad for her and Rebecca.

The problems now facing Claudia have devastating effects. How does she tell Rebecca’s family about their true relationship? How will the hospital staff treat her when she reveals she is a lesbian? Will the police treat the case dif

Theater Reviews:

“Why We Have a Body”

Written by Claire Chafee
Directed by Suzie Allen
Acorn Productions
Oak Street Theatre thru March 24

by Rose Mary Denman

This play is about four women: Eleanor, a woman in her mid to late forties who is discovering that she has spent her whole life nurturing others, especially her two daughters, Lili and Mary, to the exclusion of her own growth, and so she goes off “to look for her life...”, Mary, a young woman who is questioning everything, and seeking to find her identity through Joan of Arc and holding up seven-Eleven stores, Lili a lesbian detective who spends a great deal of time and energy wooing married women and then wondering why she keeps looking for a different result from the same behavior, and Roece, a confused woman whose marriage in on the rocks and is the latest of Lili's encounters.

These four characters weave a composite picture of, what to many women, is instantly recognized as a familiar theme in their own lives. The play is filled with vignettes that take us not only into the lives of these four women, but into our own questioning hearts and minds. Filled with wit that cuts to the heart of the matter, Claire Chaee's award winning play is superb.

As she applies lipstick and blush, Mary wonders aloud why this was called "making yourself up." Eleanor thinks about her daughter as she travels to foreign lands, and begins to wonder why so many of us wander "to look for your life, as if it were somewhere else." As Lili and Mary get to know one another, they muse "every woman is an incest survivor, if you

See BOOK, page 14

See BOOK, page 14

See BOOK, page 14

See BOOK, page 14
LANG DOES THE TWANG

by Ainsel Ponti

Silly headline I must admit, but those words came from Lang’s mouth so I thought I could get away with it.

On Monday, February 12th, something happened in my life that has never happened before; I saw K.D. Lang live, I know she’s played here in Portland, but not since I’ve lived here, and the last opportunity I had to see her live I had tickets for the Indigo Girls on the same night. So, as you can imagine, this was a big night. The Wang Center is a place I hold very close to my heart, having grown up near Boston. I was able to see many bands in their glory days play at this beautiful theater. In fact, it was one of the last places I saw 10,000 Maniacs play. But that’s another story.

If you’ve never been to the Wang, it’s a very classy, sophisticated and aesthetically pleasing place. With it’s very high, gorgeously painted ceilings, it’s one of my favorite places to see a performance. I would have preferred not to have had balcony seats, but Lang’s show was memorable for many reasons. She has a very unique sense of humor and a very comfortable way in which she connects with the audience. She seems to know how odd the whole show business thing is and uses this knowledge to the fullest, hamming it up at every opportunity. She’s a performer, that’s for sure. From her big, goofy sneakers to her theatrical rendition of “Three Cigarettes in an Ashtray,” Lang knows how to please the masses.

Not to mention her band. Although Ben Mink is not on this tour, the Wang Center is a place where many bands in their glory days play at. I hold very fond memories of the Wang Center. My first exposure to the theater was through a performance of Seta, on other hand, was raised by a father who loved having her read to him from the Bible as he fell asleep in the evening and by a mother whose strong, beautiful voice filled the neighborhood with song. Aram’s greatest wish in life is to have children—children whose pictures he can put in place of the holes he has cut in a family portrait. He has cut out the face of his dead father in the picture. Seta’s inability to conceive a child, probably caused by her starvation as a child, is a fact that Aram is unwilling to accept. For a period of time, he even refuses to speak to Seta. Seta is saddened by her barrenness but refuses to be defined by it. So she makes her life by baking and selling her delicious cakes and by befriending neighbors and street urchins. Eventually, one of these children, 12 year old Vincent, helps Aram and Seta mend the rift between them. Vincent is wonderfully and convincingly portrayed by a balding, gray-bearded Herman Petras. Petras also serves as narrator of the play, in the guise of the middle-aged Vincent. Julie Fain Lawrence and Adam Daninheisser both give riveting performances as Seta and Aram. I have seldom been as completely drawn into a play as I was this one—a reality for me was the action on the stage during this performance. Their performances moved me into the lives of Seta and Aram. I sat with half suspended breath as I tried to will them to overcome the substantial obstacles facing them. Beast on the Moon tells a compelling story, bringing one of the horrors of history to personal level, which the horrors of history are always played out. It is at the same time the story of the simple beauty and strength of human beings as they struggle to love and live with all that has come before. This production brought tears, laughter, reflection and hope. It is a “must see.” Beast on the Moon is directed by John Rando and plays at Portland Stage Company through March 31.
**MERCHANT, from page 12**

when I first saw MERCHANT, from page 12 "Wonder" have been beaten into the air. After a black sheet was lifted we my Valentine’s Day sadness and I bolted night, brown hair flowing as she darted wasn’t half bad either, but when of Sheryl Crow look to her. Even when they played old songs like to us. They were excellent, and they sounded nothing like the Maniacs did.

**OUT OF TOWN! by Paul T. Bernard**

For some reason, I have done a lot of business in the past couple of weeks with Eurail Passes, so I thought I would pass on some information for those who might be travelling to Europe sometime in the near future.

As almost everyone knows, the best way to travel within Europe is by train, and the cheapest way to travel by train is with a Eurail Pass. Actually, there really partially correct. There are now several different types of Eurail Passes available.

The one that most of us are familiar with is still called the Eurail Pass. You buy a train ticket that is good almost every European country for a specified number of days. For example, a 15 day Eurail Pass costs $522, a 21 day pass - $678, a one month pass - $838, and a two month pass - $1148. This pass gives you unlimited travel in Europe and allows you to travel every day for the period purchased.

There is also a new pass called the Eurail FlexPass, which allows you a little more flexibility. Let’s say that you are staying in Europe for 4 weeks. A Eurail Pass for that time period would cost you $838 - but you really aren’t going to be on a train every day of that one month period. You figure that you will be travelling only 10 days in that period. A Eurail FlexPass for 10 days of travel in a two month period will cost you only $616 - an over $200 savings. You can save even more money with a FlexPass by travelling with 2 other people. You can purchase a FlexPass for 15 days of travel for $452 each.

The third type of pass is called a EuroPass. If you are travelling within a small country, this may be your best deal. You can choose a pass for 3 countries/5 days of travel for $316, or 4 countries/6 days of travel for $361, or 5 countries/11 days of travel for $568. And if you travel with a friend, the prices drop even more. The list of countries to choose from are: France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Switzerland. Auxiliary countries, such as Austria, Portugal, Belgium-Netherlands-Luxembourg, and Greece can be added for nominal amounts.

The fourth type of pass that is offered is a Country pass. Each country has their own Eurail pass. You can only travel within one country, but it may be your best deal. For example, a 1 day/1 month pass in France will cost you $198. If you are going to be staying in only one country, this is your best value.

The last type of pass is actually a combination of rail and car. There are several different options that allow you to purchase 3 days of train travel and 2 days of car rental for varying prices.

The important thing to remember is that air travel within Europe is extremely expensive - and that most Europeans travel by train. Their train systems are very efficient, clean, and very much ‘on-time’. And on major routes, there are also trains that travel at speeds up to 200 mph. And probably the most important thing to remember is that you must buy your Eurail Passes here in the US - you can’t buy them in Europe.

And as always, don’t be afraid to ask your local travel professional - your local travel agent - any questions that you may have about Eurail Passes.

**BOOK from page 12**

frently as they construct the facts and realize she is a lesbian? Can she become a victim a second time if Carr’s lawyer uses her relationship with Rebecca in his defense? She and Rebecca were making love shortly before the shooting. Could the jury deal with this? Will the killer go free? Would he stalk Claudia a second time?

The way Claudia deals with her own homophobia got her the nickname of “The victim that shot back.” Her story is told in short, chronologically intermixed sections. It’s easy reading, and it highlights in red the pitfalls of our justice system. It also highlights the fact that an anti-gay assault can be a vicious and sudden disruption of even the most solid life.

**PURPLE from page 13**

may be sent to them; and the need for those resources.

**News from Bangor**

by Sean Weber

In Bangor, the local OUTRIGHT group has moved, OUTRIGHT now meets on Fridays from 5:00 - 7:30 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Park Street, behind City Hall. The new telephone number is (207) 990-2095 or 1-800-429-1481.

Another addition on the Bangor scene is a support group for men who have sex with men. Anyone who is interested, please contact Man 2 Man at (207) 990-2095.

Man 2 Man is an HIV prevention program for men who have sex with men and covers Penobscot County. Anyone is welcome to attend any of the events to be announced later. Also we are looking for volunteers to help out with various fun and exciting projects. We have a toll free HIV/AIDS Hotline up and running which will enable callers to ask questions about HIV/AIDS testing, transmission and anything else related to AIDS. That number is 1-800-429-1481.

Also, the Bangor area Gay Pride event needs someone (or many someones) to organize for this year. I have taken on other projects and cannot manage Pride organizing too. Call me for more information at 990-2095.
just kneejerk."

All the polls show that people who know someone gay are less likely to support anti-gay legislation, so the high visibility of openly gay officials make it much harder for professional gay bashers to demonize our community. Because their personal and community values are consistent with those of the average American (values like hard work, civic responsibility, and respect for others), each of our openly gay and lesbian officials is a living, breathing contradiction to the Radical Right's stereotype of homosexuals as antisocial deviants.

Unfettered by the traditional values they pretend to preach, religious political extremists are exploiting the same-sex marriage issue to legitimate hatred and bigotry. The good news is that our openly gay and lesbian state legislators are doing everything they can to put an end to these political hate crimes. The not-so-good news is that out of the 7,600 elected officials currently serving in state legislatures, only 17 are openly gay or lesbian, and they hold office in just 12 of our 50 states: Arizona, California, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin.

The challenge we face is unequivocal. We must elect qualified openly gay and lesbian legislators to every state house and every state senate in the country. The greater the number of openly gay and lesbian legislators, the sooner we can stop the superbiots and their never-ending battle for untruth, injustice, and un-American ways.

[David Clarenbach is the Executive Director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, a national organization dedicated to increasing the number of qualified openly gay and lesbian officials.]

### OUR VOICE:

**A column for g/l/b/t/q youth**

by Sage Hytton-Lemons

**TEEN AIDS HOTLINE?**

I recently spoke to Victor Rash, the Community Educator of The AIDS Project (in Portland, Maine). He spoke of the idea of creating a teen hotline for teens to call in and ask questions or to talk about HIV/AIDS with other teens. The AIDS Project will be holding a hotline training on March 23, Saturday, and would like to see any teens interested in working on the hotline. The AIDS Project asks for a 6 month commitment but that is not the maximum any one person can do. For more information, call Doug Eaton at The AIDS Project, 207/774-6877.

**NEW MAGAZINE FOR GAY TEENS**

New for March of 1996, "XY" magazine is a slick, new magazine for teens through 25 year olds. The March issue includes an article about a young man's (Euan Sutherland) struggle in England to lower the age of consent for gay men as well as half naked twins modeling clothes. It also includes music reviews, movie articles and little tidbits of info you won't read anywhere else. All this on high gloss paper with freshness screaming off each page. It's distributed by DEYCO, published bimonthly by XY Publishing for $5.95. Check your favorite gay bookstore for a copy.

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### MAILBAG, from page 11

anything about this, but it needs to be addressed. People need to know that is exactly what being out and visible is about. And they say we have the same rights.

When a church blesses a union with 135 guests in the small town of Sangleville, Maine, with all the trimmings, what right do the papers have to not print an announcement?! Thanks for being there for all of us.

Sharon & Pam Manley, Dover-Foxcroft

Dear CPR Readers:

Each person's experiences, how and why you are who you are and how you got there, reflect the fabric of the soil and is therefore, a precious commodity. The sharing of souls offers validation to us all and camaraderie to those who hear their own voice in words.

I am a student in the external degree program at Goddard College in Vermont in creative writing. I am gathering stories, like my own, that relate both the unique and similar experiences of mothers and children who have left traditional, hetero-

sexual marriages and begun lesbian families.

This transition is, I believe a difficult one. For me it has been laced with guilt and loss, but it has also been a journey to truth and ultimately, to contentment. I have fought long and hard, wrestled with my own questions and my children's. A myriad of emotions and situations have stemmed from this decision, ranging from suffocating oppression and anguish to rejuvenation and re-birth.

You may have similar experiences or yours may be quite different. I am interested in them all. I have developed three surveys, one for mothers, one for partners and one for children. Some of the completed surveys will be followed up with a more in depth interview. Eventually all the information I gather will be compiled into a work of creative nonfiction relating our individual and collective experiences as mothers, partners, children and families. If you would like to participate, please contact me.

P. Hayes, PO Box 185, Freeport, Maine 04032, 207/865-0670.

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### OUTWRITE, from page 2

view and that she had sent it to her publisher. That sound was my jaw hitting the floor.

My dearest having a broken foot, and my chronic head cold helped us decide not to shake our booties at the dance. Out is In.

Sunday morning, leaving my beloved to sleep late because of his newly contracted head cold, and feeling a little like Typhoid Mary, I sallied forth to the floor.

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### RANT, from page 10

missionary position in their bedroom with the shades down. It seems to me that if the public is concerned about the harm caused by unregulated sex, then enforcement efforts should be concentrated on those activities that are demonstrably pernicious to the public good - rape, non-consensual murder, and child sexual abuse, all of which have in common a lack of consent by the victim. Under this unifying principle, our city and its enforcement departments could stop wasting their time and our money on enforcement of silly morals laws, thereby leaving the porn palaces and other public sex venues alone. What a concept! ∆

### Mailbag, from page 11

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P. Hayes, PO Box 185, Freeport, Maine 04032, 207/865-0670.
MARCH - APRIL '96 CALENDAR

Saturday, March 23:
• 10:00 AM-12:00 PM - Brunch with Candace Gingrich, Maple Hill Farm B & B, Hallowell. $20. Sponsored by Human Rights Campaign. RSVP required: Dan Stevens, 207/622-6651.
• 10:30-11:30 AM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/892-2192.

Monday, March 26:
• 4:00 PM-6:00 PM - Candace Gingrich appearing at University of Maine, Orono. Sponsored by Wilde-Stein. No RSVP required.

Tuesday, March 27:
• 7:00-8:30 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/892-2192.

Wednesday, March 28:
• 7:00 PM - Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.

Friday, March 30:
• 7:00-8:30 PM - Chiltern Mountain Club skis at Skelton's (NH), FMI, Mike 603-644-7658.

APRIL

Monday, April 1:
• 7:00-8:00 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women's Center. FMI, Jana at 772-6599.

Tuesday, April 2:
• 7:00-9:00 PM - SeaCoast (NH) PFLAG meeting. Stratham Community Church, Emery Lane, Stratham, NH. FMI: 603/772-3893 or 5196. Topic: Legal issues -Property, Legal Custody, etc.

Wednesday, April 3:
• 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, April 4:
• 10:30-11:30 AM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/892-2192.

April 10:
• 7:00-9:00 AM - Benefit Extravaganza at Sisters, 45 Danforth St., Portland, to raise funds to build the SPRINGFEST/FALLFEST Pavilion in Lincolnville, Maine. The Pavilion is to be dedicated for women's events and will be built by women. Evening's entertainment includes Ericha Gilbert, Cathy Poole, Lynn Deves, Val Bennett. Tix-$5.

Saturday, April 13:
• 10:30-11:30 AM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/892-2192.
• Chiltern Mountain Club meets in Manchester, NH to discuss formation of a NH chapter steering committee. FMI, Mike 603/644-7658.

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TRAVEL/VACATION

ΔΔ LESBIAN PARADISE! 20 charming rooms, 100 mountain acres, pool, hot tub, hiking/skiing trails, yummy breakfasts, peace and privacy. We’re your perfect vacation choice year round! Week-long and midweek discounts. HIGHLANDS INN, Box 1180F, Bethlehem, ME 03574, (603) 896-3978. ΔΔ

ΔΔ YELLOW BIRCH FARM: Romantic, seasonal cottage or year round studio on working organic farm. reservations: (207) 726-5807.

Small groups, vegetarian food, all skills and environmental awareness. Country skiing, Native American in Down east Maine, 20 minutes from Eastport. Absolute peace and quiet. Beautiful, remote, unspoiled Cobiscay Bay. B&B or weekly rental. Brochure, reservations: (207) 726-5807. ΔΔ

ΔΔ BACKPACKING, Canoeing, X-Country skiing, Native American cultural trips, Teen trip. Wilderness skills and environmental awareness. Skim, etc. No cons. Res. PO Box 1169, Sanford, ME 04073. ΔΔ

ΔΔ COUNTRY-LIKE SETTING IN OLDER FARMS HOUSE - Bed and Breakfast - Meet our wonderful horses and ride with us through miles of mountain trails. Horseback riding packages available. Summer camp. If riding is not for you, there are miles of great hiking trails from the back door. Call 207/836-2908, Bethel, Maine. ΔΔ

PERSONALS
ΔΔ LOVE & FRIENDSHIP OFFERED: To a decent young man to 40, I offer love, friendship, compassion, understanding, fun times, sex, home, etc. I’m GWM, 50s into travel, health, the outdoors, arts, auctions, fleas, yard sales, antiques, cooking, camping, gardening. Would like to rent to anyone with interest. You don’t have to be a salesperson or quit your present job.

Lil’ proves Carolyn Cosby RIGHT and be a formidable economic voting block! Call Paula at 207/265-0786. ΔΔ

ΔΔ ASSISTANT INNKEEPER: Women’s inn seeks mature, responsible person to work in all aspects of inn operation. Position is full-time, year round, salary low $20s, plus benefits. Resumes: Highlands Inn, Box 118, Bethlehem, ME 03574. ΔΔ

ΔΔ APARTMENT FOR RENT: ΔΔ SANFORD, MAINE: 2 bedroom apartment, 2nd floor, very private, Country-like setting in older farmhouse. Newly renovated. Modern kitchen with major appliances, washer & dryer, wall to wall carpet. Would like to rent to mature gay couple. $550 monthly, plus utilities. Call 207/324-9557. If no answer, leave message. ΔΔ

ΔΔ HOUSE WANTED: ΔΔ TWO PROFESSIONAL MALES, seeking single family, 2 or 3 bedroom house. Non-smoking, non- drinking, no drugs. Our two EXCEPTIONALLY behaved pets say to entertain or seek serenity. You will be trained by our management and ,couples counseling also.

ΔΔ OPENLY GAY UNITARIAN-Universalist in search of soul mate to share my love and life. Soul mate is not superficial and is a non-smoker, non- drinker. I enjoy cooking, camping, gardening, antiques. Write Jeff, 413 Hammond Street, Bangor, ME 04401. ΔΔ

ΔΔ LESBIAN IN LINCOLN COUNTY, looking for other lesbians or gay men in Wiscasset area. Anyone for dinner or smelt fishing? I’m looking for friends, not a lover, I’ve got one. Write: Michele, RR 1, Box 1020H, Wiscasset, ME 04578. ΔΔ

HELP WANTED
ΔΔ CLEANERS WANTED: Come join the Fresh-N-Up team. Looking for persons to work nights cleaning offices & common areas. Possible supervisory position may be available to right individual. Pays rate commensurate with experience. For more information, please call 207/292-4363. ΔΔ

ΔΔ LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE SERVICE is one of the largest, fastest-growing industries in the world today. One company grew 500% last year. I have recently joined this national network marketing team and am amazed by it’s money-making potential.


ΔΔ SUPERMARKET PERSONNEL WANTED: (503) 646-9700.

ΔΔ PARK'S '96 VENDORS: Parks '96 Rally and Festival is taking reservations and applications from VENDORS for crafts, t-shirts, jewelry, books, etc., etc. Call now at 207/773-7393 (Penn), to reserve your space and/or ask questions. Leave your name, telephone number and address. Come one, come all to the best & biggest Festival in our 10 year history. Rent space at a nominal fee. ΔΔ

ΔΔ EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
ΔΔ SPANISH LESSONS: Affordable, private tutoring. Individuals or small groups. Chris & Wilkin 207/683-4802.

FOR SALE

ΔΔ GREAT HOUSE!: Immaculate, light, modern, Taconic secluded home on six acres. Every room has breathtaking views of Lake Winnipesaukee (NH) and the mountains. Amenities include prize-winning low-maintenance landscape, pool, double deck, two fireplaces, alarm system, fenced, large utility room, A/C, full basement and double garage under. Perfect place to entertain or seek serenity. $399,000. Call owner (603) 279-7041.

ΔΔ MANAGER TRAINEE - Male - Female
Management Position -- Will be yours after six months specialized training.

EARN $25,000 -- Or more your first year in management.

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Fringe Benefits -- Extraordinary Pension and Savings Program; Medical and Dental Coverage for you and your family, and more.

CALL FOR APPOINTMENT: Casey McConnell 207/622-8066 CALL ANY TIME
GENERAL
MLIGPA is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the general public, politicians, and media on L/G issues. Primary goals are to involve the L/G community in Maine’s political process, promote civil rights, develop and review legislation, endorse candidates, build a coalition, and oppose anti-gay legislation and referenda. Meetings are the 3rd Saturday of every month in Augusta. FMI call 1-800-55-MLPGA.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, and transgender persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Come and celebrate our network of gay and lesbian groups. For more information call at 207/478-2088.

Northern Lambda Nord is an educational, informational, social, and service organization serving gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons in northern Maine. Meetings are 2nd Sunday of every month at 1 pm (ME), 2 pm (N-H), at the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 S. Main St., Caribou, Maine. Call Ingrid, 603/772-5196.

The Maine Gay Men’s Chorus is a community chorus which brings men together to enhance social tolerance and diversity in the Greater Portland area, as well as affirming the gay and lesbian experience in supportive and creative and lively musical entertainments. FMI call 883-8909 or write M.G.M.C., P.O. Box 10391, Portland, ME 04104.

The Maine Gay Visual Artists’ League will meet on the third Wednesday of every month. The League is a non-profit, creative support network for Maine’s gay and lesbian visual artists community. FMI call 773-3420.

PHONE SUPPORT
Region by region
National Center for Lesbian Rights Youth Project: 1-800-524-NCIR
Boston Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Youth (BAGLY): 1-800-347-2404
National Hotline for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth: 1-800-786-Talk (1-800-786-8255)

SUPPORT GROUPS
Medical Support
Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic: Confidential screening and treatment for STD’s for residents and non-residents at a walk-in clinic. Cost, medicare accepted. Adults, confidential HIV testing by appointment only. Clinic open Tues. & Thurs., 3:30 to 6 pm at Portland City Hall Room 303. FMI call 874-8748.
Planned Parenthood of Northern New England: Serving men and women, offering annual exams, pregnancy testing, birth control info. & supplies (free condoms!), and testing and treatment for infections and STD’s, menopause support and more. Every evening, affordable services, and complete confidentiality. Medicaid welcome. 970 Forest Ave., Portland. FMI call 870-1095.

FREE FAMILY THERAPY available for individuals & families (of any type) who are affected by HIV disease. FMI call 777-0569.

Identity Support
New Hampshire PFLAG Meetings
Concord: Meets 3rd Sunday from 3-5 pm at 1st Congregational Church, Washington St. & Streets, (use Washington St. entrance), FMI call 603/472-9444.
Seacoast: Meets 1st Monday from 7-9 pm at Stratham Community Church, Bunker Lane, Stratham (1st right west of Rte 101 circle), FMI 603/772-5019.
Nashua: Meets 3rd Thursday at 7:30 pm at Unitarian-Urban Church, Lowell & Canil Streets, FMI call 603/482-0390.
Manchester: Meets 1st Tuesday, 7-9 pm, meeting at Community Church, 22 Haverhill Rd., FMI call 603/663-0732.

Homework: Of Hope: A Christian congregation which claims a primary ministry with gay and lesbian people and strives to be inclusive of all persons. Worship on Saturdays at 2:30 pm at Community Church, 22 Haverhill Rd., FMI call 603/663-0732.


LGBT Services: An educational, informational, social, and service organization serving gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Come and celebrate our network of gay and lesbian groups. FMI call 1-800-524-NCIR.

Exeter Congregational Church: United Church of Christ in Exeter, NH welcomes all gay and lesbian community members on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at 21 Frost St. (near Court St.)-Co-pastors the Revs. Michael L. Henderson & Jane Geffen Henderson. FMI call 207/623-2349.

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual & Transgender Healthline for info/referral or crisis intervention: 1-800-347-TEEN, Sponsored by the National Hotline for Youth, 1267 High St., Portland.

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Parents

Youth Support
OUTRIGHT/Too/Fridays, 5:30-7:30 pm. Transgender Support Group, Park St. behind City Hall in Bangor.

OUTRIGHT/Central Maine: Weekly, co-ed group meetings for gay and transgender youth. Contact 797-6677 or 7-1000-339-4042 and ask about OUTRIGHT.

OUTRIGHT/Portland: Meets every Friday from 7:30-9:30 pm at The People's Building, 155 Brackett St., 2nd floor, Portland. Safe and supportive discussions with and for gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender young people. Call 774-TALK or 774-HELP or write to Box 5077, Portland, ME 04102.

OUTRIGHT/Seacoast: Meets every Fri. from 7 to 9 pm at the Unitarian Universalist church annex building adjacent to the fire station, 206 Market St., Portsmouth, NH. Call 432-6513 or 432-842. Write to Box 134, Portsmouth NH 03801.

COLAGE: A national support network run by and for the children of gay, lesbian or bisexual parents. COLAGE, 2300 Market St., #165, Dept. P, San Francisco, CA 94114.

MAINE YOUTH PROTECTION COUNCIL: Works to create safer communities and schools for minority youth. If racism or homophobia affect you, help be part of the solution. Call Jane 774-6839 and ask about the council and sub-committees. There is a place for people of all ages and backgrounds.

HIV Related Support Meetings
Portland: Mondays: People Living with HIV disease and their partners or caregivers, 6:30-8:00 PM.

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

2nd & 4th Tuesdays: Living Well focusing on quality of life and empowerment. 1st Wednesday: PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support), 5:30 pm. Call 774-PAWS.

2nd Thursday: Client Advisory Board, open to all clients of The AIDS Project, 1:30 pm. The above Portland support groups meet at The AIDS Project, 142 High St., floor 6 except the Tuesday group. Living Well. FMI, call Sandy Titus at Stratogen on that call Sandy Titus at Stratogen 795-6677 or 1-800-339-4042.

Auburn: People living with HIV disease, Tuesdays, 1-3:30 pm at Auburn Family Planning. Call Diana Carrigan, Auburn Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Parents Group.

BANGOR: Max 2 Mas HIV prevention program for men who have sex with men. M2M offers education, HIV testing, support groups, HIV/AIDS Hotline and workshops. To volunteer or FMI on the program call 207/794-8050 or write Max 2 Man, FOB 2038, Bangor, ME 04402.

Bideford: People affected or infected by HIV, Mondays, 5:30-7:00 pm. So. ME. activity center classroom opposite cafeteria on 2nd floor. Call Jean Bean, York County Case Manager, 774-877.

Brunswick: Meetings for family and friends of people with HIV/AIDS at Meiyermeeting AIDS Support Services, 8 Lincoln Street. FMI on meeting days and times call 725-4955.

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

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

Rumford/McKenzie Area: Mondays: AIDS Support Group/Phone line meets from 7-8:30 pm at Mexico Congregational Church, Main Street, Mexico. Call 364-603.

New Hampshire:
EXETER: "Connections," support group for care-givers, families, friends, all others whose lives are affected by HIV, 1st Wednesdays, 12:00-1:30 pm at the NE g/1/b/t student leadership program. Portland Maine AIDS Alliance. FMI, call Paula O’Rourke at 774-6002.

Diversify, an ever-changing display of events and information. Meetings, contact people, resources, referrals. The complete text of CPR available online too. Check your email at: http://www.cpr.umn.edu/QRD/www/mae/MaineFME-mail Paula Stockholm paula@maine.com

DIVERSITY, from pg 21
Zone Campaign reception and informational gathering. Meet USM’s first Safe Zone Individuals, learn more about this exciting new and much needed project. Appetizers and conversation. 9:00 PM - 1:30 PM - Panel discussion hosted by the USM students who attended the NE g/1/b/t student leadership conference at Clark University. We will also be discussing the possibility of holding this conference at USM next year. Location: St. John Valley AIDS Task Force: c/o NMHC, 143 E. Main St., Fort Kent, ME 04743. Call 734-3355. The AIDS Projects: 142 High St., 6th Flr., Portland, ME 04101. Call 774-6877. Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: P.O. Box 956, Belfast, ME 04915. Call 338-1427.

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


The Maine GayNet Newsletter:
Share your ideas and opinions or just plain chat with other list members. To subscribe to this list, send e-mail to mainegaynet-list@abacus.oxyc.edu. In the message part, write “subscribe mainegaynet.”

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