

Community Pride Reporter

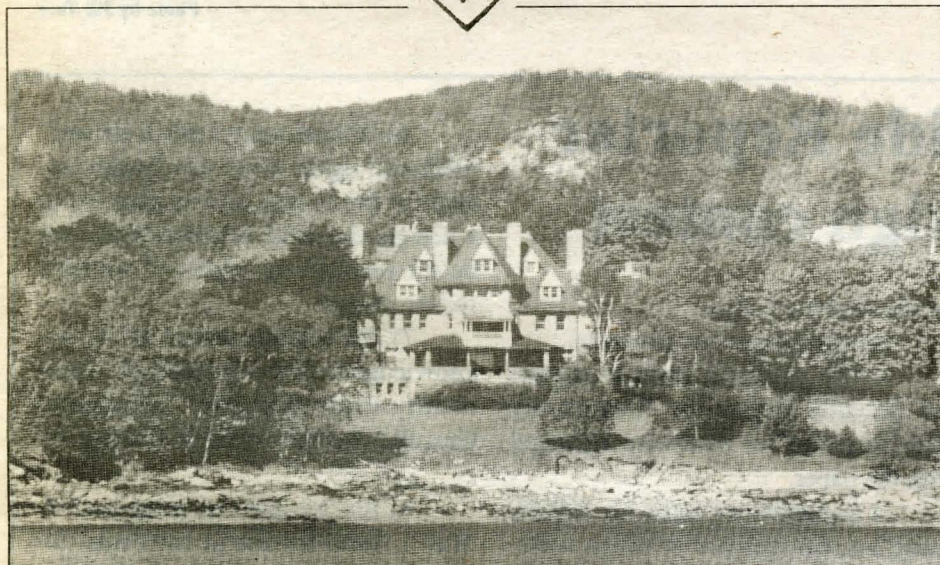
FREE

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

VOL. 3, Number 8

April, 1996

SYMPOSIUM XXII



College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor, Maine: The Turrets from Frenchman Bay

Committee plans *fabulous* event for August

by Mark Letizia

Y a-t-il une place sur cette terre où je peux habiter et être fière? Is there a place on this earth where I can live and be proud? This is the question asked by Lucie Blue Tremblay in her 1987 song "Politique," and it is one that we who are putting together this year's Symposium also ponder.

We want to explore this question on the weekend of August 17, 18, and 19 as Symposium XXII convenes at The College of the Atlantic, on the ocean in Bar Harbor, Maine. We also want to explore the worlds of music, dance, hiking, kayaking, bicycling and friendship. Our honored guests include Lucie Blue

See SYMPOSIUM, page 6

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?"

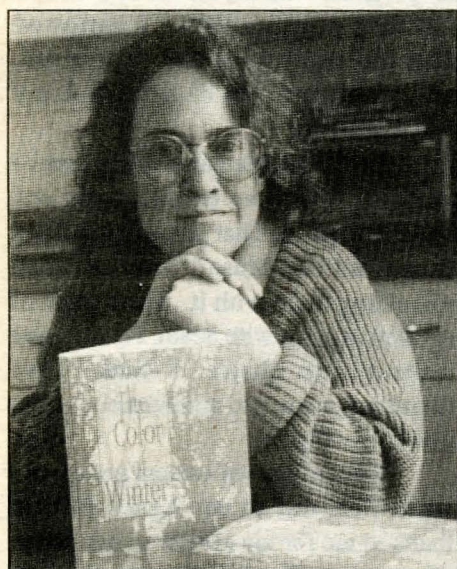
It was a typical comment from her: humorous and direct, and indicative of the close relationship she has with self-doubt.

"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



Courtesy photo

Author, Lisa Shapiro with her first novel, "The Color of Winter"

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 Boad-Winslow 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



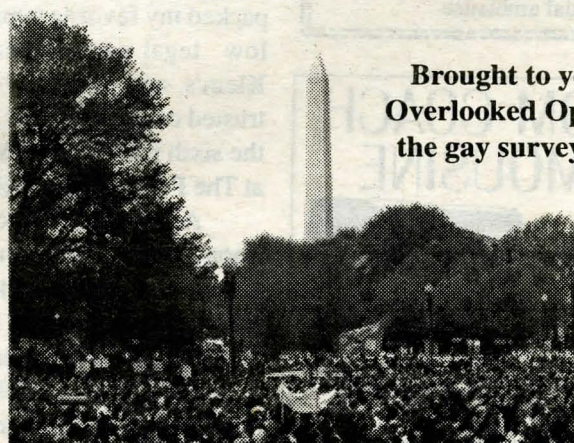
Photo by Jill Tacy

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"Spring for Life Art Auction"

Volunteer, Philip Paratore hangs a work in clay entitled, "Portrait of a Friend," by Sharon Townshend as part of the Silent Auction display.

Towhshend 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.

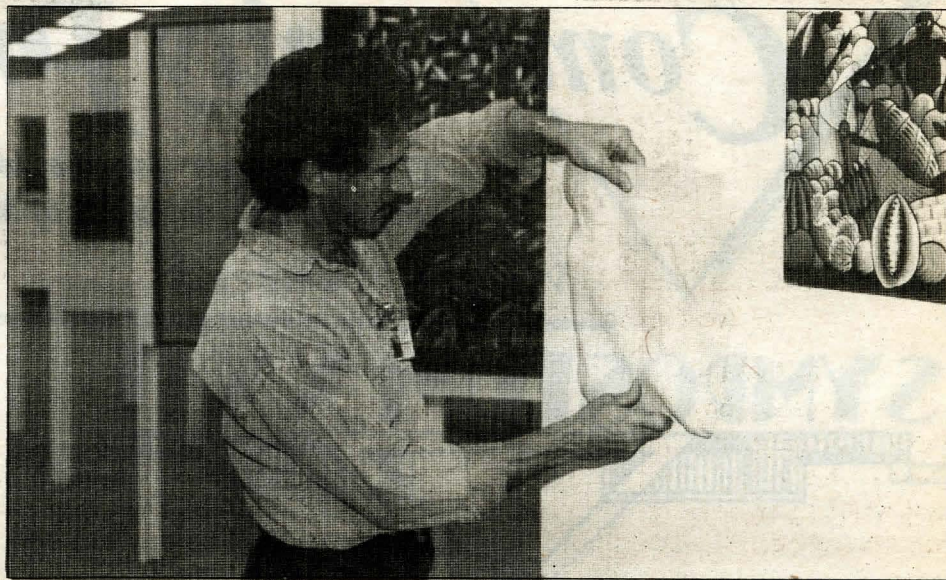


Photo by Jill Tacy

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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 paper. 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 banner design 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 newspaper.

5) The dimensions are of a page in CPR are 10" 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 use in 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.

So, get the 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," 142 High Street, Suite #623, Portland 04101. **ΔΔ**

OutWrite Conference: Reflections of an aspiring writer



by Skip
Brushhaber

How does over two thousand gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender authors, poets, playwrights, editors, and publishers all under one roof sound? Frightening? Exciting? 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 sixth national OutWrite Conference at The Park Plaza Hotel in Boston.

Arriving in Beantown Friday afternoon, we stashed our belongings in Kenmore Square at a friend's apartment, enjoyed a wonderful lunch at Moka, shopped at Glad Day, and had a bowl of latte at the Trident Bookstore Cafe. After enduring the tedium of registration,

it was off to the opening reception sponsored by Sojourner. We enjoyed an ad hoc picnic seated on the floor nibbling PC crudites, cheeses, and fruit. As I peered 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 Judy at Carnegie Hall. With over fifty panels and over twenty workshops to choose from, I pored 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 being 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



PAST/OUT

BY DAVID BIANCO

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 gender imbalance 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 ministers 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, many of them eager to sow their wild oats before risking their lives against Japan. Opportunities abounded,

from prostitutes to girlie 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 bards — 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 East

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. ΔΔ

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: aribianco@aol.com. "Past Out" will appear monthly in CPR.

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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.

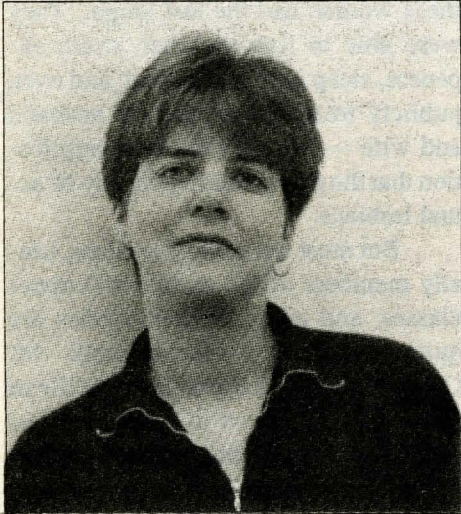
For now, two little, but most important tips: Major reasons for initial small business failures are 1) lack of a well thought out business plan and 2) inadequate financing.

Please do send you questions to me c/o Community Pride Reporter, and look for my next article. ΔΔ

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 Hampshireers are out of touch with each other. Folks living in the Seacoast, say, might know what's going on in their region, but have no idea of the happenings in, for example, 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 statewide 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. And it's accessible to all.

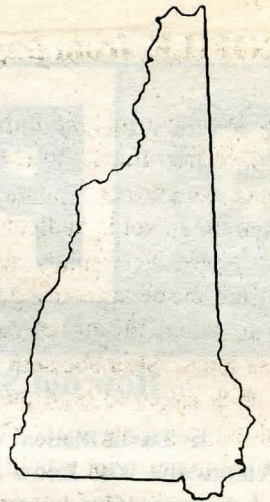
Writaholic Suzanne Pyle and I agreed on the need for such a publication. We considered starting one from scratch, but then decided that the best route was to join forces with Winnie Weir, whose "Community Pride Reporter" was already covering Maine so well. For her part, Winnie was glad to

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 posi-



tive references to homosexuality.

Currently, a bill that would protect gays' civil rights is in the state legislature. On a cultural note, a New Hampshire woman has just published a novel with The Naiad 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
PFLAG: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: the 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, topics, 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 and 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 mounted 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 a U.S. Senate Bill co-sponsored by New Hampshire's very own 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 freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment apply in the public schools to protect students and teachers from government censorship."

Randy Kottwitz, 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 judgements and misinformed opinions. What is at stake is the future of this generation's education." ΔΔ

HB 1294: Gone to study

from PFLAG: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 PFLAG members spoke on its behalf. The bill's supporters outnumbered opponents three to one.

Testimony by PFLAG parents included comments from Betty Batchelder and PFLAG: NH Vice President, Rev. Leslie Norman. See their articles in this section. ΔΔ

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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 precis, they asked to read 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 about four chapters. 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.

Shapiro went to Berkeley herself, majoring in physiology as preparation for medical school. But she didn't get into medical school. "I pretty much left Berkeley feeling like I'd failed at academics."

Quitting her job as the nonprofit agency's human resources manager for an uncertain future also left her probing the question, at a conscious and unconscious level, what is success and what is failure.

"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 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 short 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" to 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 would've dared hope for that." ΔΔ

"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 to 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 faithful loving, 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. It those days that was 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 its 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 otherwise. 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 would be helpful to the kids and also to their parents. They would know there is a good future out there. The many gay people I know include lawyers, doctors, teachers 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: 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 homosexuality, one often immediately thinks of sex. Please remember that sex is doing, homosexuality is a state of being... we are created equal and we all deserve the same equal rights. ΔΔ

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SYMPOSIUM XXII

SYMPOSIUM, from page 1

Tremblay, a wonderful, witty and heart-warming musician from Montreal. Well known in women's music circles, Lucie sings of love, lust, being out and living from the heart with a tenderness that is sure to win over even the most jaded queens. With songs like "What if the Bears had been Queer?" about Colorado's amendment two, she can deal with serious topics with humor.

Our keynote speaker will be Michelangelo Signorile, author of "Queer in America" and "Outing Ourselves" and writer of the column "Signorile in America" which appears monthly in "Out" magazine. He will speak about outing ourselves. Our other musical performer will be Musty Chiffon, a trans cabaret singer who lives in Provincetown and tours all over North America. Interestingly, Musty grew up

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 time for outdoor activities, we will not have you spending (hopefully) sunny, warm August days

sitting in endless workshops. We've planned a nice balance between cerebral and corporeal activities. You may have noticed that the "weekend" of this Symposium starts at noon Saturday and runs through Monday afternoon, and that said Monday is not a holiday. Due to availability of the COA Campus, we had to opt for this time frame. However, you don't need to attend the full three days - we will offer several options which are clearly spelled out in our brochure which will be ready in early April. Yet, I would like to urge you to consider staying for the whole time and maybe plan a full week's vacation on Mount Desert Island.

Why? There are several good reasons to do so. While Bar Harbor is not, and is unlikely to ever be another Provincetown, it is a town that is very welcoming to the likes of us. As a matter of fact in the vote on question one, Bar Harbor voted 3.5 no's to every yes. Only voting district two in Portland surpassed this ratio. The town of Mt. Desert had similar numbers. The island, having been a haven for people "from away" for well over 100 years, has developed

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!! And of course, the amazing, beautiful playground known as Acadia National Park, which, by the way, was the brainchild of a gay man, Mr. Dorr, in the last century is a very compelling reason to visit here.

Perhaps Bar Harbor is a place where we can be proud, and maybe learn to take it home with us to our respective towns and cities. We look forward to spending some time with you this August.

(Mark Letizia, reporting for the Symposium XXII Committee: Trevor Akerley, Lin Gould, Rosemarie Hughes, Mark Letizia, Larry L'Italien. For more information, call (207) 244-4062 or 469-3409 or write Symposium XXII, POB 516, Mt. Desert, ME 04660.) ΔΔ

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 60s 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 began plotting a return to Maine, and in 1982 moved back and eventually got a teaching job two miles from my parents.

In 1995, flushed with enthusiasm at yet another incredible Symposium, I said I would LOVE to work on Symposium XXII. Maybe we could even get The College of the Atlantic, on the water in Bar Harbor! And I'd be delighted to be a contact person! Hey, I could easily have messages taken for me all day long, and I could dash over there when needed after school. I know I could be more careful when doing this work, call it discretion or self-protective paranoia. Being careful at work is the way of life for all but the luckiest of us. I spent years of teaching actively denying my orientation (complete with photo of boyfriend of on desk), then later being silent during faculty gossip sessions. But here at MDI High School, straight faculty brought the Portland "Outright" youth group to speak four years ago. My girlfriend's daughter was president of the



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.

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 homophobic 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.

Mark Letizia (Co-coordinator of Symposium XXII) and I talk it over during a reconnaissance trip to The College of the Atlantic. We have been able to arrange to take over the entire place, 150 beds and all facilities, for a weekend during the height of the tourist season, and after the black flies, in the middle of August. We can hardly believe it. Even in the drizzle, it looks like a castle by the ocean. We congratulate ourselves on the FOOD over an amazing lunch -

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 we exist. 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 Tremblay 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

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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? Aren't you Edna Hysom'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 keeps 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.

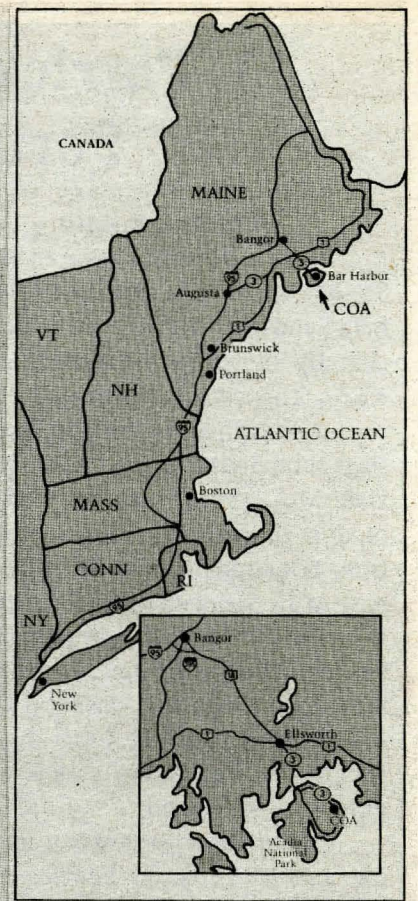
I walk over past huge sculptures, a whale skeleton, and the kitchen garden plots under snow. I taught Millard's younger daughter. I don't know if he knows. I also flirted with his ex-wife. I'm SURE he doesn't know this. He is welcoming, offers coffee. He says we can use the whole north field for camping! 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 be 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 out 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. ΔΔ



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

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 Emery 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. New-

comers 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 in other locations, call 603/623-6023.

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? ΔΔ

MONEY TALK: YIKES ! I OWE TAX!

Now what do I do?

by Peter J. Callnan, 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 filled 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! ΔΔ

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St. Patrick's Day Parade: Portland style

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. Patty'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 bagpiper, brought music and gayety to the parade with stilt walking, drummers and three kid-powered dragons.

The actual Irish content to the parade may have only been about 300 out of 1,000 or so, but festive St. Patty's events continued all afternoon and evening around the West End and most Portland pubs. ΔΔ

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, 207/942-9343. ΔΔ

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 requirement 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

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 character of a male to female (MtF) transsexual. I don't suppose for one minute that this will have the magical effect of creating sudden acceptance, but if it chips away at one brick in the barrier

between our very parallel communities, then I will consider having done a good thing.

Rather than look at me as a transsexual, as a man in a dress, indulge me and consider that the exact opposite might be true; I am a woman stuck with a penis. This is not much of a stretch when you consider that most true MtF transsexuals are not at all flamboyant, don't lie around in evening gowns being catered to, have had a serious identity crisis since early childhood and (unfortunately) take much longer to come to a self-corrective determination because the stakes are so high. Our life-

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 set of criterion, 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, therapist (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 surgeon will ever 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 of 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 something 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

stops along the way are part of a never ending journey, a cyclical adventure that mimics life in its uniqueness, allowing or forcing us to deal with our plight; migrating to a different place only to have to leave and go elsewhere.

And so it is with all transsexuals. No matter how polite we perceive you to be, we are not always sure whether we are accepted or just tolerated. None of us expect to imitate the sappy bonhomie that they practice on "Friends," but believe it or not, we are actually warm intelligent creatures looking for the same thing that everyone else claims to want; some non-threatening relationships that give us a positive personal environment.

The real issue here is choice. Lesbians as well as gay males elect to follow their paths and love whomever they choose. They develop partnerships, get married (kind of) and have fulfilling lives. This, of course, after bouts of denial, depression, submission to the delusion that if you try REALLY, REALLY HARD that it will go away and life will be just ducky. The only difference is that the gay community takes fewer, less dramatic steps in finding that happiness. Also, there are no guarantees that you will like your life. If this is so, you can change partners, get another job or move away.

If I make the wrong choice and decide that I really don't like womanhood, well there is no local outlet for Penises 'R Us, and I'm in fairly deep shit. Not that I can seriously consider my life thus far as something to miss, lamentably.

I hope to bring further parts of my personal manifesto to these pages. I also look forward to hopefully taking a more active part in the transgender community at large. I'll just have to wait and see what develops! ΔΔ

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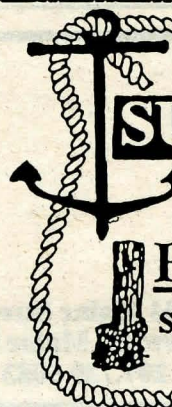
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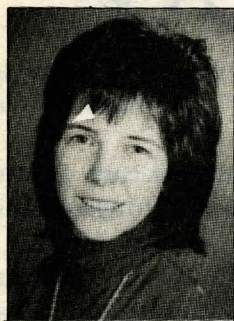
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TO YOUR HEALTH: Lesbians and Research



by Tania Jo Hathaway

LHP/SM recently attended a program at Mercy hospital aimed specifically at women's risk of heart disease. The event received a fair amount of press—Diane Atwood (WCSH-TV) did a 3-part series on women and heart disease the week before the event, and the Portland Press Herald ran a front page story the week of the event. Still, no one anticipated the overflowing crowd that filed into the auditorium that night; 250 women (and a few men) crammed themselves into the space while 50 more were turned away and another 50 called Mercy the next day to report that they were discouraged by lack of parking and so never even made it to the door. Nearly all the literature on women and heart disease—provided by the American Heart Association, Portland Public Health, and Martin's Point Health Care—was gone a full 30 minutes before the program began. Mercy, with a 12 year record of presenting community outreach programs such as this,

had never seen such public response.

The program featured a "personal" story from a pre-menopausal woman whose doctor had misdiagnosed her symptoms; she nearly died from a heart attack. In addition, a female cardiologist from Boston explained in lay terms what heart disease *is*, as well as how women's symptoms differ from men's. Finally, an internist from Portland explained how to reduce the risk of heart disease.

Clearly, this health issue has caught the attention of women in greater Portland. And rightly so: heart disease is the number one cause of death among women.

Of course, no one mentioned lesbians at this event; there was no research on lesbian's greater or lesser risk of heart disease; no research on our likelihood of being misdiagnosed by the medical profession; no research on our *perception* of risk of heart disease.

But of course there were lesbians in the audience—and plenty of 'em. Lesbians continually educate ourselves using the best resources available and *that's* a very good thing. Too bad there isn't more research that's specific to

ourselves, but hope is on the horizon.

LHP/SM was 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 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. $\Delta\Delta$

Tania Jo Hathaway is the Coordinator of the Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine. For information: PO Box 11048 Portland ME 04104. (207) 657-5864.

SINGIN' OUT

Send me something queer in the mail!



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 suppose I 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.

ing our voices heard.

Last year, A 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, each 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 include my concert at the PLEASANT NOTE COFFEEHOUSE in Auburn on Saturday, May 6 (207/784-6783) and a FORUM-A concert in May of gleeful "white-trash country gospel" at UM Augusta featuring MTV's "MOST UNUSUAL BAND" Award Winners, Y'ALL. FORUM-A tried to present this concert in December, but a Maine Gay Men's Chorus concert and a major snowstorm postponed the event. After several hate letters and some loss of membership (due to publicity articles which mentioned the Y'ALL members were a gay couple), FORUM-A is determined to present the concert and they deserve our support for acknowledging OUR community as part of THEIR community. Call 207/621-3207 for Y'ALL info. Please contact me about any other gay music events and we'll see if we can stir up an audience. I look forward to hearing from you gay musicians and interested supporters. Let's make some noise and keep SINGING OUT! $\Delta\Delta$

Lesbian Health Project Offers Cancer Screening Clinic

The Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine, in conjunction with Tri-County Health Services of Lewiston, is offering its second cancer screening clinic for lesbians on Saturday May 11, 1996, from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM.

The clinic will offer a pelvic exam, pap smear, breast exam, and referral services. Services are offered free of charge by lesbian or lesbian-knowledgeable practitioners. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call the Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine at (207) 657-5864.

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Community Pride Reporter

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EDITORIALS

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 ghettos 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 commu-

nity. 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:

1. We G.L.B.T.Q. consumers do not buy from G.L.B.T.Q. businesses.

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 nor are offered information about how the money is spent and whether it affects real change in our lives.

5. 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 competitors in the job market.

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

1. Spending **within** our community.

2. Business initiatives that bring straight and out of state dollars into our community.

3. Co-ops that cut costs for our community and allow us to amass capital for further economic development.

4. G.L.B.T.Q. owned businesses that provide product-lines that are accessible to all income levels within the community.

5. Our leaders need to monitor how much money is given to causes/organizations out-of-state and make recommendations for us based on what we, as a community, can afford and what we, as free individuals, should feel responsible for nationally, regionally and locally, given our own economic circumstances.

6. Make sure that our youth are supported and competitive in the market place when their families have either abandoned them or are financially unable to help them get a start in this society. Assist programs such as OUT-RIGHT so that children have the emotional strength they need to play and study to become strong healthy individuals.

We have gotten better at finding love; we are strong flexing our political muscle; let's take the initiative to **form** our economic niche to its fullest here in Maine and New Hampshire.

If you have any ideas about how our community might attain these economic goals, feel free to call me at the CPR office, 207/879-1342.

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 calling you to complain about cars driving past their houses more than 3 times in a 2-hour period. Or with Casco Bay Weekly doing exposes on the sins of Sodom being committed inside Portland porno establishments.

Undoubtedly, it's been this kind of pressure that has led to the closing of Deering Oaks Park to vehicular traffic, raids on porno establishments, and the recent passage of Portland City Ordinance Section 17-5 which states that, "No person shall drive or permit a motor vehicle under that person's care, custody, or control to be driven past a traf-

fic control point three (3) times within a two-hour period in or around a posted "no cruising" area." (CPR ran a news story on Section 17-5 in the Feb/Mar issue and the reader should consult that for more details on the ordinance and some of its possible effects.)

Yes, as I type the text of Section 17-5 into my word processor, I'm already finding that my resolve to write a kinder, gentler rant is slipping fast. It really is nearly impossible not to lose one's temper over a public law that seems to be hopelessly impractical, inappropriate, offensive, counter-productive, and just plain dumb. What is the public policy rationale for all the anti-sex measures adopted by Portland over the last year or so?

Is it to reduce the spread of disease? Is it to keep the city's children from seeing things they shouldn't (an oft-repeated theme)? Is it to protect the public at large from some sort of menace? If disease is the issue, then Portland officials should be made aware that driving people underground only reduces the ability of safe sex educators to reach those people with both condoms and information.

If young children's sensibilities are at stake, then why so much enforcement activity in the porno theaters where chil-

dren never go? Or, for that matter, 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 anyhow? 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

See RANT, page 15

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

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 Crews (an openly gay, church-going Republican) led a candle-light 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 isn't about Gay marriage. 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 must 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 are imminent. 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 what the real issues are.

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 homosexuality 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 lesbian State 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 level that used to be

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CPR MAIL BAG:

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 disheartening truth was that the national leadership used our dues and numbers to impress Washington heavies. The leadership would willingly sacrifice any local issue for a little more influence. As for the local union agent, he was just a thug who threatened workers with job loss for any unauthorized discontent.

As I review the latest stats on the Don't Ask/Don't Tell horror brought about by President Clinton's "profoundly held convictions," I see only the failings of so-called national gay and lesbian leadership, and have a strange sense of unionized déjà vu. Our leadership made Clinton a front-runner among 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 right wing panic, but will it be just the same-old-same-old, i.e. a predetermined governing group of the usual faces, a predetermined cache of "others" relegated to stamp licking, a national strategy handed down from out of touch national leadership unable to incite mass

support, and finally, year of legal redress.

In the interest of free speech, I offer this strategy for discussion from the unwashed masses of gay and lesbian prols. 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 State out of 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 shared, long-term responsibility and commitment and end real "special rights" now.

Michael Rossetti, Portland

Dear CPR:

Okay, 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 innovative and not traditional 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.

I feel this way about many other forms of victimless crimes, such as prostitution, pornography, and drugs. Sure, we all pay when people have problems, but many of our society's pervasive

problems are caused by ordinary and legal roots. Prohibition and denial of people's free will has not ever been shown to solve problems. Let's get to the bottom of the current debate. . . getting folks to agree that LOVE = LOVE, regardless of who the players are.

The good news is that the University of Maine system is currently considering granting domestic partner benefits for the new faculty contract. This is an important first step. California's university system, as progressive and as well-funded as it is, still lacks such a basic and important benefit. Maybe this time, if the contract really is approved, Maine will again lead the nation in setting standards for human decency. ΔΔ

Brian J. Kaufman, Gardiner

Dear Editor:

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" hasn't. We wrote, but alas, nothing. "Portland Sunday Telegram" sent us back our photo and announcement stating they only print and recognize legal marriages, and therefore ours is not newsworthy. We wrote and one of our statements was, "Murder, incest, child-abuse and pornography are not legal in the state of Maine, but how strange you deem it as 'newsworthy.'" Classic discrimination. Any news is news unless it is something celebrated by us. There statement that they only print

**Community
Pride
Reporter**

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Our Mission

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

Our Editorial Policy

Views and opinions, political and personal, expressed in Community Pride Reporter are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily those of the publisher. Community Pride Reporter may endorse candidates we feel represent our community most completely. Community Pride Reporter disclaims legal responsibility for errors in editorial, or advertising content, as all reasonable care is taken to prevent such errors. If an error has significantly detracted from the clarity of information presented, the Publisher may consider printing a clarification at her discretion. No assumptions should be made concerning the sexual self-identification of either contributors or advertisers.

Submissions Welcome

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

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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 Lostrom, Executive Editor, Northeast Publishing Co., 1-800-924-9041) stated they will 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 your x*!#&* we're mad.

We know your paper cannot do
See MAILBAG, page 15

Arts & Entertainment



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 rendezvous in the Appalachian's off of Pennsylvania between college semesters and study abroad for her and Rebecca. In doing so, she introduces us to all her extended family and a pleasant world of amiable past lovers, children, and the

anticipation of a blossoming new love.

The sweetness of her world follows right up to the meeting at the trail head when ominous hints begin to disrupt an idyllic scene. They part at "Dead Woman's Hollow" and shortly discover a thoroughly unlikable hermit named Stephen Ray Carr, whose presence never seems to dissipate. His sudden appearance on the trail again sets off a paranoia for Rebecca and Claudia that ruins their peace of mind and security. Then the shooting, as sudden as lightning, just two short minutes, changes the entire story to one of lessons about homophobia.

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-

See BOOK, page 14

Natalie Merchant: Hypnotized, Mesmerized...

by Aimsel Ponti

Well folks, this is to be more than a review. This is Valentine's Day 1996 through the eyes and ears of yours truly. First off, let it be known that Valentine's Day is now officially boycotted, in my life anyway.

Wednesday, February 14th, began as a pretty regular day. I, with the whole day off and my Natalie ticket in wallet, began the morning with breakfast at the Friendship Cafe along with a couple of good friends. Upon leaving, we were all given carnations. This is relevant to my story, so bear with me. Let me remind you, that this day was winter—a winter day that I will not soon forget as I spent quite a bit of it standing outside. I figured that since I was in a rather anti-Valentine mode, I at least wanted a damn good seat for the evening's concert. So, after putting on not nearly enough cloth-

ing, I headed for the Expo Center in Portland at about three-thirty.

I, like many others I talked to, thought this was an unusual venue for a show and I was wishing I was lounging in the State Theater's Cabaret section. But, I want to go on record as saying that the Expo was actually a decent place for the show.

So, there I was, shivering in what was already becoming a serious snow-fall, when I was joined by two teenage girls also there to score good seats. Soon after, two other people showed up and then one other, and we all became the core group of freezing, yet devoted Natalie Merchant fans. We all got talking and kept turns keeping each other's place in line as we ran to the ice arena for munchies and of course the bathroom. At around five I was so cold that I began to lose interest in anything but getting warm. My feet were so cold that I could have cried. Fear not, my new buddies let me dash home to the old a.p.t. to put on some real socks and seven more layers.

Somehow, time passed and it was getting to be closer and closer to show time. The line started to grow as the snow fell harder and the wind cut through us like an icy blade. It was about this time that I noticed a certain someone that I was just plain too shy to say hello to, and by the time I got up the nerve, it was too late, the doors were about to open. Oh well, shyness can

Ser MERCHANT, page 14



Theatre Reviews:

"Why We Have a Body"

Written by Claire Chafee

Directed by Suze Allen

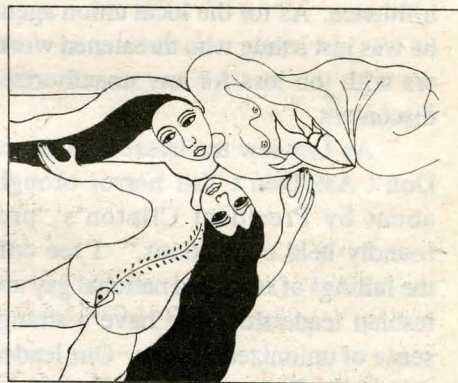
Acorn Productions

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 seeks 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 Renee, a confused woman whose marriage in on the rocks and is the latest of Lili's encounters.

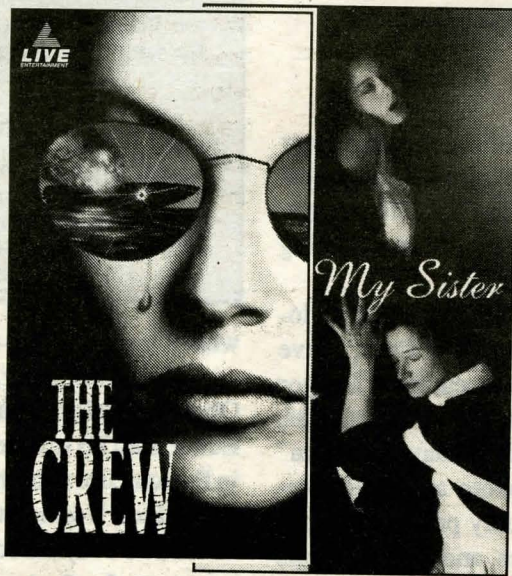
These four characters weave a composite picture of, what to many women, is instantly recognized as a familiar theme in their own lives. The play is filled with



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 Chafee's award winning play is superb.

As she applies lipstick and blush, Mary wonders aloud why this is called 'making yourself up.' Eleanor thinks about her daughters 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 someplace else." As Lili and Mary get to know one another, they muse "every woman is an incest survivor, if you

See BODY, page 14



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LANG DOES THE TWANG AT THE WANG

by Aimsel 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 its 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, Lang does have a crew of well seasoned



professionals with her who complement her music perfectly.

And then there's her singing. That was the reason we were there, although Lang did joke that we were really there just to scope each other out in the lobby. When she did her now classic cover of Roy Orbison's "Crying" it was like having your heart shed its own set of tears.

Even though she has sung it so many times, it was absolutely breathtaking.

Lang also performed some songs from when she was a country singer "in another life," as she put it. Her ground breaking "Ingenué" album wasn't included nearly enough in the set, but she did give us "Miss Chatelaine" and of course, "Constant Craving." Her newest album, "All You Can Eat" (Warner Bros.) was the focus of the night. I'm pretty sure she did all ten songs off this album, and she herself played the harp on "If I Were You."

She ended the show with the reminder that love is the most important part of life and sang "Infinite and Unforeseen."

"It takes you by surprise, there before your eyes. A place you've always been, a place you've always been- Infinite and Unforeseen."

Thanks for the reminder Kathy Dawn Lang. I for one needed it. ΔΔ

Theatre Review:

"Beast on the Moon"

by Janis Tyderle

"Beast on the Moon," now playing at Portland Stage Company, is playwright Richard Kalinoski's powerful, poignant story of the marriage of Seta and Aram Tomasian, both refugees from the Turkish massacres in Armenia. Aram (Adam Dannheisser) is a young photographer who has chosen Seta as his "picture bride." Seta (Julie Fain Lawrence) is a 15 year old child, who comes to America from an Armenian orphanage. She arrives clutching the prized, love-worn doll made for her by her mother.

Set in Milwaukee in the 1920s and 30s, the play portrays the first twelve years of the Tomasians' marriage. These are years when they learn to live and love together, while

working within the borders of their respective histories. They are both, of course, impacted by the experiences of the Armenian holocaust, in which their families were among the 1.5 million victims. Aram and Seta were also reared in two very different types of families, and we watch and listen as they perform the ritual dances of accommodation and assimilation familiar to any two people who have ever tried to form a new family unit. Aram is quite rigid—strictly defining the roles of men and women, including who reads in the household and who does not. At one time, his father did not allow his mother to speak for one entire year. Seta, on other hand, was raised by a father who loved having her read to him from the Bible as he fell



Julie Fain Lawrence as Seta & Herman Petras as Gentleman & Vincent, a 12-year-old boy

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 Dannheisser both give riveting performances as Seta and Aram. I have seldom been as completely drawn into a play as I was this one—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 the personal level, where 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. ΔΔ

Theatre Review:

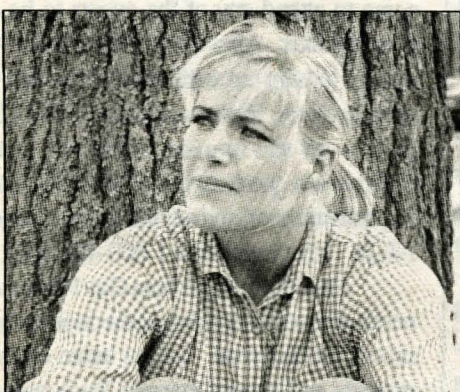
"Purple Breasts"

Written by Lindstrom, Symon, Markus, McMahon, Paterson
Directed by Will Kilroy
Oak Street Theatre, Portland

by Rose Mary Denman

As Daryl Lindstrom lived the final year of her life with breast cancer, she chose to leave the legacy of her story in the form of a play. "Purple Breasts is that play.

Will Kilroy is the director, and for the performance I say, also played the part



Anjanett Hawk-Johnson as Zoe, a woman dealing with breast cancer.

of David, Zoe's husband. Anjanette Hawk-Johnson as the main character, Zoe, was both believable and compelling. The supporting cast members were strong, and helped to bring the play's message to the audience with a depth I was not expecting from college theatre majors.

As a woman, I have always been vaguely aware of how breast cancer could effect my life. When a friend was diagnosed with breast cancer two years ago, I watched with awe as she drew deep from within herself to find the strength and courage to fight her cancer. Her graciousness continues to remind me of how fragile life can be, and yet how powerful the resources within us.

"Purple Breasts" is the story of one woman's heroic battle for life. On another level, it is also the story of every woman's battle who finds herself in the face of breast cancer or any life threatening disease.

The play clearly portrays the many layers of the battle: the need for support, love and understanding from family and friends, in spite of the mixed messages that

See PURPLE, page 14

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 faces of family members massacred by the Turks. His own photograph already replaces 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

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- Sat. Top 40's dancing 9 pm. \$3 cover.
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MERCHANT, from page 12

be a good thing sometimes. Can't it?

With moments to go I recalled a warm summer night in July of 1988 when I first saw 10,000 Maniacs on the "In my Tribe" tour. Now, here I was almost eight years later seeing Natalie Merchant on her solo "Tigerlily" tour with a new band and a new batch of songs. The excitement of it all surpassed my Valentine's Day sadness and I bolted to my front row center seat. Soon after my friends showed up and I began roaming around, too anxious to just sit there.

The opening act, "Soraya," were pretty enjoyable. The singer had a sort of Sheryl Crow look to her. Their sound wasn't half bad either, but when you're in as much pre-Natalie trauma as I was, you just want the opener to kindly finish their set.

Finally, at the stroke of nine o'clock, the wait was over and the opening notes of "San Andreas Fault" filled the air. After a black sheet was lifted we were face to face with our heroine of the night, brown hair flowing as she darted about the stage in a playful dance.

It took me a moment to adjust to all the new musicians after seeing the Maniacs so many times. Unfortunately, Merchant didn't introduce the new band to us. They were excellent, and they sounded nothing like the Maniacs did. Even when they played old songs like "Eat For Two," and "City of Angels" there was a new, different sound that let us know that the Maniacs, although a brilliant band, were through. That twelve year chapter of Merchant's life is closed and she's bursting with a new found enthusiasm and a new found approach to her music. One thing that hasn't changed is Merchant's songwriting abilities. Although "Carnival" and

"Wonder" have been beaten into the ground on MTV as well as radio, the entire "Tigerlily" album is another showcase of Natalie's way with words and music. It is a style all her own and I'm anxious to see where she goes with it.

Being Valentine's day, she did a cover of "Fever" (as in, "you give me . . .").

Oh, and my carnation from breakfast, I finally got the nerve to throw it on stage after another person had done the same. She picked it up and promptly put it in her hair, and then questioned the audience as to how they are grown in Maine during Winter.

Merchant also did a cover of the Rolling Stone's "Sympathy for the Devil." She even sang a few lines of "Reason to Believe," and then interrupted herself and said "Oh, am I actually singing a Rod Stewart song?" Point being is that her sense of humor lasted all evening long.

If you were there that night then you'll recall the woman that Merchant invited up on stage to dance with her during an extended "These are Days." Merchant could not of picked a more appropriate fan. After getting the stars out of her eyes this woman danced like nobody's business to the delight of both Merchant and the crowd. It will not be soon forgotten by anyone.

Natalie Merchant is one of the best singers and songwriters that today's music has. Her live show was the best Valentine anyone could ask for. That is except me because I've boycotted the "holiday." Do yourself a favor, pick up "Tigerlily" and while you're at the record store get some 10,000 Maniacs records. They have a lot of meaningful songs that Merchant has penned and are so much more than just the sacred "Because the Night." $\Delta\Delta$

BODY, from page 12

count the thoughts of the world."

For all the daughters who have ever winced upon hearing, "You're a lot like your mother, even though you don't want to be," there is something comforting to know the universality of the discovery. And for any feminist who began to take herself so seriously, we are whimsically reminded of the "feminist nightmare, . . . when you sit around in a circle until you come to a unanimous decision."

Jana Goerlitz as Mary, Tammy Duffy as Lili, Barbara Mather as Eleanor and Pam Thompson as Renee are entertaining and delightful. And at the close of the play, those of us who would seek to make changes are reminded that, "small fires everywhere are harder to put out than one big bonfire."

With a bit of trepidation, I took a straight friend to this performance. She loved it! Two men and a woman in their early fifties did walk out about a quarter of the way through mumbling "This isn't for me . . ." Oh well.

PURPLE from page 13

may be sent to them; and the need for those family and friends to find their own support system so that they might better understand what is happening to their loved ones and to themselves as they watch their loved one weave in and out of so many emotions.

The play also points out the fact that those who are fighting life threatening disease often find themselves in the position of having to design their own treatment. Western medicine often refuses to acknowledge the efficacy of alternative treatments, even when it is sought as an adjunct to traditional treatment. And so, those who would choose to consider alternative s in the form of nutrition, acupuncture, herbs or bodywork, find themselves needing to spend precious time and energy researching and networking to find these resources.

"Purple Breasts" offers an emotional and riveting look at the issues faced by those

BOOK from page 12

ferently 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?

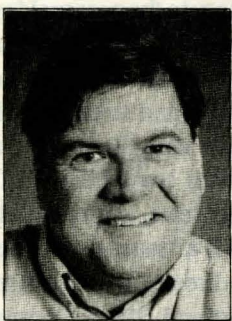
The way Claudia deals with her own homophobia got her the nickname of "The victim that shot back." Her story is told in short, chronologically intermixed sections. It's easy reading, and it highlights in red the pitfalls of our justice system. It also highlights the fact that an anti-gay assault can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



The incredible harmonizer, Mindy Ray, appearing at Sisters, April 13 with her soulful, jazzy sounds.

fighting the good fight. It also raises questions that need desperately to be addressed. Daryl Lindstrom did her best to raise those questions. The cast was brilliant in the work to present those questions. I wonder how well we will do in seeking to find the answers. $\Delta\Delta$

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 coming year.

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, that's only 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 in 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 al-

lows 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 number of countries, this may be your best deal. You can choose a pass for 3 countries/5 days of travel for \$316, or 4 countries/8 days of travel for \$442, 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 coun-

tries, 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 sells its own pass. For instance, a 3 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 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. $\Delta\Delta$

News from Bangor

by Sean Weber

In Bangor, the local OUTRIGHT TOO! group has moved. OUTRIGHT TOO! 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 it for this year. I have taken on other projects and cannot manage Pride organizing too. Call me for more information at 990-2095. $\Delta\Delta$

HATE from page 11

just kneejerk."

All the polls show that people who know someone gay are less likely to support anti-gay legislation, so the high visibility and positive public image 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 legislate 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 superbigots 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.]

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, sexually-motivated 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 porno palaces and other public sex venues alone. What a concept! ΔΔ

OUR VOICE:

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



by Sage Hylton-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. ΔΔ

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 bi-monthly by XY Publishing for \$5.95. Check your favorite gay bookstore for a copy. ΔΔ

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 now familiar Park Plaza. There I en-

countered a group of the famous and infamous, but could not muster enough courage to engage in conversation with any of them.

The weekend left me with a feeling of sensory overload, but with a great sense of gratitude that there are so many queer writers doing what they do best, writing. I had the exciting realization that I am one of them. A queer writer; for I am certainly queer and I write. Two things of which OutWrite '96 left me very proud. ΔΔ

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 Sangerville, 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 soul 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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MARCH - APRIL '96 CALENDAR

Saturday, March 23:

ΔΔ 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, 207/622-6631.

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

ΔΔ 12:45 PM-2:30 PM - Reception for Candace Gingrich at Waterville Unitarian Universalist Church. \$20 contribution. **RSVP:** Diane Campbell, 207/465-7574.

ΔΔ 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM - Candace Gingrich appearing at University of Maine, Orono. Sponsored by Wilde-Stein. No RSVP required.

ΔΔ 8:00 PM-9:30 PM - Coffee with Candace Gingrich at Bell the Cat. \$20 contribution. **RSVP:** Sandra Leisner, 207/223-2229.

•Δ 8:00 PM - Maine Gay Men's Chorus presents, "Love Don't Need A Reason" concert with world premier of "The Inner Room of the Soul" commissioned by the Chorus. Portland HS Auditorium. Tix - \$10.

Sunday, March 24:

ΔΔ 12:00 PM-2:00 PM - Brunch with Candace Gingrich at Tabatha Jean's Restaurant. \$25. Sponsored by Human Rights Campaign and MLGPA. **Reservations required:** 774-5412.

ΔΔ 3:00 PM-6:00 PM - Candace Gingrich will tend bar with State Senator Anne Rand, City Councilors George Campbell, Charles Harlow & Tom Kane, State Rep. Elizabeth Mitchell, Candidate for State Rep. Michael Quint and others. Where? Blackstones 6 Pine St., Portland. Cover \$5-\$10 sliding scale. Drink tips benefit MLGPA.

•Δ 3:00 PM - Maine Gay Men's Chorus presents, "Love Don't Need A Reason" concert with world premier of "The Inner Room of the Soul" commissioned by the Chorus. Portland HS Auditorium. Tix - \$10.

Monday, March 25:

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

Wednesday, March 27:

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

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

Thursday, March 28:

•Δ 7:30-9:00 PM - The Matlovich Society presents: "Developing the Ever-Blooming Garden from Spring to Frost." David Emery, landscape gardener will present illustrated talk on perennials, flowering shrubs and vines, etc. Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland. Free hotel parking, accessible to the mobility impaired.

Friday, March 29:

ΔΔ Chiltern Mountain Club skis

Sunday River in Maine. Call Alex FMI at 617/236-4475.

ΔΔ 8:00 PM - 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 womyn's events and will be built by womyn. Evening's entertainment includes Erika Gilbert, Cathy Poole, Lynn Deeves, Val Bennett. Tix-\$5.

Saturday, March 30:

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

ΔΔ Chiltern Mountain Club meets in Manchester, NH to discuss formation of a NH chapter steering committee. FMI, Mike 603/644-7658.

APRIL

Monday, April 1:

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

Tuesday, April 2:

•Δ 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, Child Custody, etc.

ΔΔ 7:30-8:30 PM - Gay and lesbian AA Meeting at The Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.

Wednesday, April 3:

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

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

Saturday, April 6:

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

Sunday, April 7:

•Δ 7:00-9:00 PM - Plymouth (NH) PFLAG meeting. Plymouth Congregational Church. FMI: 603/968-7254 or 603/786-9812.

Monday, April 8:

ΔΔ 6:30 PM - Rainbow Business & Professional Association, Inc. dinner meeting with guest speaker Ann Houser, Vice President, Human Resources at UNUM. Embassy Suites Hotel by Portland Jetport. \$30. Reservations required: Paul Bernard, 207/885-5060.

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

Tuesday, April 9:

•Δ 7:00 PM - Portland Chapter of PFLAG meets at Woodfords Congregational Church, Woodfords Corner. We are parents, friends and relatives of lesbians, bisexual, gay and

transgendered persons offering support and education. FMI, Rita-207/766-5158 or Sue-207/774-3441.

Wednesday, April 10:

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

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

•Δ 7:00 PM - Upper Valley (NH) Region PFLAG Meeting. 43 Lebanon St. opposite Hanover Food Coop. FMI: 603/448-1982.

Fri. April 12 thru Sun. April 14:

ΔΔ Full Circle of Women Conference sponsored by Center for Gender Sanity, POB 11, Ashby, MA 01431. 508/386-7737 for more information.

Saturday, April 13:

ΔΔ Chiltern Mountain Club spring skis at Killington (NH). FMI, Mike 603/644-7658.

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

•Δ 5:30 PM - MLGPA 11th Annual Awards Banquet & Dinner Dance, Augusta Civic Center. Tix-\$25 per person. Dance only \$5-\$10 sliding scale. Meet the candidates, celebrate our victories. FMI, 1-800-556-5472.

Sunday, April 14:

ΔΔ 1:00-3:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord's monthly business meeting. Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI: 207/498-2088.

Monday, April 15:

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

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

Wednesday, April 17:

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

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

Thursday, April 18:

•Δ 7:30 PM - Nashua (NH) chapter PFLAG meeting. Unitarian Universalist Church, corner of Lowell & Canal Sts., Nashua. FMI, call 603/880-8709.

ΔΔ Chiltern Mountain Club hikes Mt. Isolation (NH). FMI, Carlos 617/524-3866.

Saturday, April 20: EARTH DAY

•Δ 10:00 AM-5:00 PM - Hope Festival, Brewer Auditorium sponsored by Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine. Displays on peace, justice environmental concerns and much more. Free. FMI, 207/942-9343.

•Δ 10:30-11:30 AM - Women's

Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/892-2192.

•Δ 12:00 PM-3:00 PM - MLGPA Committee Meetings and General Meeting. Augusta UU Church. FMI, 207/761-3732 or 1-800-556-5472.

Sunday, April 21:

•Δ 1:30 PM-4:00 PM - "Strike Out Intolerance" with The Human Rights Campaign and Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance at Yankee Lanes in Portland. For \$20 per player, all teams will get food, soft drinks and exclusive use of your private lane for two full hours. Get 10 friends and reserve your lane today. Call 1-800-55-MLGPA, 207/761-3732 (Greater Portland) or Richard Parent, HRC, at 202/628-4160. We'll register you to vote while you wait for the pins to reset. One year membership to HRC automatic.

ΔΔ 6:00 PM-7:00 PM - Lesbian/Gay Catholics of Dignity/Maine hold a supportive Mass for l/g/b/t Catholics and their friends/families. St. Lukes Cathedral, side chapel, 143 State St., Portland. Coffee & dessert following liturgy. FMI: Rosemary or Janet-207/646-2820 or Laurie-207/878-0546.

•Δ 3:00-5:00 PM - Concord (NH) area PFLAG meeting. 1st Congregational Church, Washington & N. Main Sts., Concord, NH. FMI: 603/472-4944.

Monday, April 22:

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

Wednesday, April 24:

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

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

Saturday, April 27:

•Δ NH Statewide Symposium for G/L/B/T and Allies: Support, resources, ideas! Walnut Hill Seminar House, 81 Chester Road, Raymond, NH. Workshops, Leadership Forum, Town Meeting. Optional donation. The purpose is to draw our NH community together. FMI, 603/382-9308.

ΔΔ 7:00 PM-1:00 AM - First Annual NH Citizens Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights (CAGLR) Awards Event '96. The Center of New Hampshire Hotel, Manchester, NH. Tickets are \$25 per person. Dinner, dance, awards, speakers, live DJ. Proceeds to benefit CAGLR, PO Box 730, Concord, NH 03302-0730. Send for tickets today!

ΔΔ Chiltern Mountain Club NH Chapter's "Get To Know Chiltern" 3.5 mile walk and potluck. FMI, Mike 603/644-7658.

Monday, April 29:

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

GAY PRIDE WEEKUniversity of Maine -
Farmington**Sunday, April 7:**

ΔΔ 7:00 PM - The movie, "Jeffrey" showing in C-131, Roberts Learning Center. Free with valid UMF ID, \$2 without.

Monday, April 8:

ΔΔ 7:00 PM - The movie, "The Incredible Story of Two Girls in Love" showing in the Commons, Olsen Student Center.

Tuesday, April 9:

ΔΔ 7:00 PM - Coffee House in the Commons, Olsen Student Center featuring guitarist and vocalist Stephanie Poulson, previously seen at UMF Open Mic Night. Coffee and refreshments free.

Wednesday, April 10:

ΔΔ 7:00 PM - The movie, "Priest" showing in the Mallett Commons, Mallett Hall.

Thursday, April 11:

ΔΔ 7:30 PM-midnight - Techno/Acid Jazz Dance Party celebrating life's alternatives. North Dining Hall, Olsen Student Center. Refreshments free with valid UMF ID. \$2.00 without. This is a fund raising event.

UMF Gay Pride Week is sponsored by the Gay and Straight People's Educational Alliance

**Sexual Diversity
Awareness Week
University of Southern
Maine****Mon. April 15 thru Thurs. April 18:**

ΔΔ 9:00 AM-7:00 PM - Informational tables in Bailey Hall Food Court, Gorham campus and Campus Center Lobby, Portland campus containing info about the Alliance for Sexual Diversity and other local services. Also selling Alliance T-shirts and raffle tickets.

Tuesday, April 16:

ΔΔ 12:30 PM-1:30 PM - Weekly discussion group for USM students and community members for g/l/b/t and questioning individuals. Supportive and confidential. Newcomers always welcomed and encouraged to attend. 113 Bailey Hall, Gorham Campus.

ΔΔ 5:00 PM - USM Professor Rita Kissen will be talking about her latest book, "Gay Teachers: The Last Closet," coming out in June. Location: Portland campus, tba.

ΔΔ 2:00 PM-3:30 PM - Public hearings and testimonials regarding the atmosphere and general safety for g/l/b/t questioning/ally students, faculty and staff at USM. Anonymous testimonials accepted. Amphitheater, Portland Campus. FMI, 874-6596.

Wednesday, April 17:

ΔΔ 12:00 PM-1:30 PM - Coming Out Stories. Come share your story or listen to other's stories. Location tba. Call 874-6596.

ΔΔ 4:30 PM-6:00 PM - Portland Campus Center Amphitheater. Safe
See DIVERSITY, page 19

Classified Ads

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 1180P, Bethlehem, NH 03574, (603) 869-3978. ΔΔ

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

ΔΔ **BACKPACKING,** Canoeing, X-Country skiing, Native American cultural trips, Teen trip. Wilderness skills and environmental awareness. Small groups, vegetarian food, all abilities. Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, Maine, Newfoundland. Contact: Earth Treks, Dept. C, RR 2, Box 785, Montville, ME 04941. 800/589-4770. ΔΔ **SPECKLED MOUNTAIN RANCH:** 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, kink, etc. No cons. Ron, PO Box 1169, Sanford, ME 04073. ΔΔ

ΔΔ **30 YEAR OLD AMATEUR** photographer would like to take his photo hobby further into the field of photographing business. I'm seeking young males, gay or straight, (18-21 years old, I.D. required) for nude photo sessions. You will be compensated for the work. Send photo (need not be nude) and personal info to Dave, Boxholder, PO Box 382, Topsham, ME 04086-0382.

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 **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

person/s to work nights cleaning offices & common areas. Possible supervisory position may be available to right individual. Pay rate commensurate with experience. For more information, please call 207/926-4365. 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 their network marketing team and am amazed by it's money-making potential.

Maine's economy leaves many of us struggling and it's discouraging to get paid little for your time. By hooking into this emerging market, individuals can make a lot of money relatively quickly.

I'd like to see the gay/lesbian community prosper through this opportunity, and am willing to talk to anyone with interest. You don't have to be a salesperson or quit your present job.

Let's prove Carolyn Cosby **RIGHT** and be a formidable economic voting block! Call Paula at 207/625-7086. 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, NH 03574. 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

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 that they would like a large, fenced-in yard to play in. Interested in the Greater Portland area. We are relocating from Florida, and need to have a residence by May 1st. We can provide excellent references, if needed. Call 813/328-2942, leave message. We will return call. ΔΔ

FOR SALE

ΔΔ **ACTIVIST NEWSPAPER:** Community Pride Reporter began in 1993 covering news and information by and for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people in Maine and Seacoast New Hampshire. In 1996, CPR has begun expanding its coverage into all of New Hampshire. The paper is growing. Owner looking to relocate. Sale includes furniture, fixtures, advertising contracts. Turn-key

operation. Serious inquiries only. 207/879-1342. ΔΔ

SUPPORT GROUP

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

PRIDE '96 VENDORS

ΔΔ **Pride '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 (Penny), to reserve your space and/or ask questions. Leave your name, telephone number and address. Come one, come all to the best & biggest Festival in our 10 year history. Rent space at a nominal fee. ΔΔ

**EDUCATIONAL
SERVICES**

ΔΔ **SPANISH LESSONS:** Affordable, private tutoring. Individuals or small groups. Chris Milliken 207/883-4802.

**FOR SALE
GREAT HOUSE!**

Immaculate, light, modern, 7-room secluded home on six acres. Every room has breathtaking panorama views of Lake Winnepesaukee (NH) and the mountains. Amenities include prize-winning, low-maintenance landscape, pool, double deck, two fireplaces, alarm system, Jennair, 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.

**MANAGER TRAINEE
Male - Female****Management Position --**

Will be yours after six months specialized training.

Earn \$25,000 --

Or more your first year in management.

Training --

Two weeks sales training, expense paid.

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You will be trained by our management team under actual selling conditions to insure your success.

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Established accounts that will be turned over to you.

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You will be guaranteed a minimum of \$5,200 for the first 13 weeks to start for you family's security.

Qualifications --

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- Ambitious
- Sports-minded
- Good Car
- Responsible
- Good References

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Extraordinary Pension and Savings Program, Quality Medical Coverage for you and your family, and more.

CALL FOR APPOINTMENT:

Casey McConnell

207/622-4066

CALL ANY TIME

COMMUNITY PRIDE RESOURCES

GENERAL

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

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

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

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

National Association of Social Workers, ME Chapter, Sexual Minority Issues Committee welcomes new social work members. Our purpose is to educate, provide resources, and lobby legislators on issues involving sexual minorities in Maine. Meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 5 pm at the Community Counseling Ctr., 343 Forest Ave., Portland. FMI call Perry Sutherland, 874-1030.

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

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

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

Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights: Trains and deploys volunteers statewide to speak with citizen groups in their towns and regions about their lives and the lives of others who experience discrimination in Maine. For

information on activities in your county: 207/879-0480 or write: MSOP, 123 Congress St., #1, Portland 04101. You need not be a speaker to work with Speakout!

MUSIC & ART

Women In Harmony is an eclectic choral ensemble open to all women regardless of age, race, religion, or sexual orientation. If you are interested in becoming a member or volunteering organizational skills, send SASE (including your phone number) to P.O. Box 5136 Sta. A, Portland, ME. 04101, or call 207/774-4940.

Maine Gay Men's Chorus is a community chorus which brings men together to enhance social tolerance and diversity in the Greater Portland area, as well as affirming the gay/lesbian experience with creative and lively musical entertainment. FMI call 883-8099 or write M.G.M.C., P.O. Box 10391, Portland, ME. 04104.

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

PHONE SUPPORT

Region by region

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

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

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

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

Portland:

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

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

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

The AIDS Project: 774-6877. Located at 142 High St., 6th floor, Portland 04101. Call for information and support group meetings in Portland, Lewiston, Brunswick.

Bangor: Eastern Maine AIDS Network: 990-3626

Penobscot County: HIV/AIDS Hotline-1-800-429-1481

Belfast: Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: 338-1427

Brunswick: Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services: 725-4995

Bridgton: Community Task Force on AIDS: 583-6608

Rumford: Community AIDS Awareness Program: 823-4170

Lewiston: Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition: 786-4697

Waterville: Dayspring: 626-3432

Ellsworth: Down East AIDS Network: 667-3506

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

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

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

Contacts in Maine

(* indicates monthly meetings)

Augusta/Hallowell: 623-2349

*Bangor/Brewer: 989-5180

Brunswick/Bath: 729-0519

*Oakland: Steve, 465-3870

*Lewiston/Auburn: 783-9789

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

Waldoboro: 832-5859

Contacts in New Hampshire

P-FLAG NH 24 hour Helpline:

603/623-6023

Concord: Judy, 603/485-3943

Webster: Betsy, 603/746-3818

Nashua: Nancy, 603/880-8709

Kensington: Nora/John, 603/772-3893

Stratham: Betty, 603/772-5196

Francestown: Cy/Gordon, 603/547-2545

Holderness: Olivia, 603/968-7254

Rumney: Ann, 603/786-9812

Center Sandwich: Tish, 603/284-6434

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

Medical Support

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

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England: Serving men and women, offering annual exams, pregnancy testing, birth control info. & supplies (free condoms!), testing and treatment for infections and STD's, menopause support and more. Evening hours, affordable services, and complete confidentiality. Medicaid welcome. 970 Forest Ave., Portland. FMI call 207/874-1095.

FREE FAMILY THERAPY available for individuals & families (of any type) who are affected by HIV disease. FMI, contact Chris Behan, MSW at Center for Training and Special Programs. 207/773-6658.

Identity Support

New Hampshire P-FLAG Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

Maine P-FLAG Meetings

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

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

NA: Just for Today meetings every Wednesday, 8:15 pm, at St. Luke's Cath-

dral, State St., Portland. Use Park St. entrance in rear. Also Friday meeting, 8:00 pm, Immanuel Baptist Church, corner Deering & High St., Use entrance off Deering St.

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

Out Among Friends: Lesbian social/discussion group. Meets 1st & 3rd Thursdays 7-8:30 pm, in the downstairs club room of the Portland YWCA, 87 Spring St. \$1 donation. Contact phone: 207/879-1037.

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

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

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

Lesbian/Gay Catholics: The organization Dignity/Maine offers supportive Masses for l/g/b/t Catholics & their friends/families. Third Sunday of every month at 6:00 pm in St. Luke's Cathedral, side chapel, 143 State St., Portland. Coffee & dessert after the liturgy. FMI, Rosemary or Janet: 207/646-2820 or Laurie: 207/878-0546 or write: Dignity/Maine, POB 8113, Portland 04104. All replies kept confidential.

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

Community of Hope: A Christian congregation which claims a primary ministry with gay and lesbian people and strives to be inclusive of all persons. Worship on Saturdays at 4:00 PM at Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI write Community of Hope. POB 1671, Portland, ME 041014.

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

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Discussion Group: 1st and 3rd Fridays each month, 7-9 pm. First Universalist Church, 345 Broadway, Rockland, ME. FMI, Larry Godfrey, (207) 594-2957.

W.O.W. (Wild Outdoor Women): Social group meeting monthly for outdoor recreational activities followed by pot lucks. Activities include skiing, skating, sliding and other seasonal outdoor fun. FMI: Jen @ 207/787-2379 or 207/780-8535.

Monthly Gatherings for Single Lesbians: 40+ for fun & friendship. FMI, Kathy 207/688-4737 or 207/725-0179.

Support Group--Penobscot & Surrounding Counties: For men who have sex with men. Monthly meetings to talk about issues and concerns. Call 207/990-2095 for more info & meeting times.

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

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

Gender Talk North: Write for newsletter, P.O. Box 211, Keene, NH 03431. 603/924-8828.

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

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

Polyamorous Life Support (PALS): Do you love more than one person? You may be polyamorous. Polyamorous Life Support (PALS) is a discussion/support group for people interested in creating/nourishing committed, loving, multipartner relationships. Whether curious or already multiply intimate, call 773-6132 FMI.

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

Prisoners of Gender: (Refusing to be Barbie, Ken or both). Meets every Friday at 1:15 pm at Davis Room, Memorial Union, UM at Orono

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

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

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

Lewiston/Auburn: A new gay, lesbian, bisexual support group for the Lewiston/Auburn area meets Mondays at 7 pm at the Unitarian-Universalist Church on Spring St., Auburn.

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

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

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

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

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

Lavender Womyn: a gathering of lesbian, bisexual and questioning women for discussion and mutual support. Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 PM. First Universalist Church, Pleasant St., Auburn. FMI, 207/783-0461.

Parents

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Parents Group: For dates, places and times write GLB Parents Group, P.O. Box 10818, Portland, ME 04104.

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

Youth Support

OUTRIGHT TOO: Fridays, 5:00-7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, Park St., behind City Hall in Bangor.

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

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

OUTRIGHT/Seacoast: Meets every Friday from 7 to 9 pm at the Unitarian Church annex building adjacent to the fire station, 206 Court St., Portsmouth NH. FMI call 603/431-1013 or write P.O. Box 842, Portsmouth NH 03801.

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

THE 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 207/775-4944 for information on 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 all friends, families, partners & caregivers, 6:30-8:00 PM.

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

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

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

Thursdays: People living with HIV meets from 5:30-7 pm.

2nd Thursday: Client Advisory Board, open to all clients of The AIDS Project, 1:30 pm. *The above Portland support groups meet at The AIDS Project, 142 High St., 6th floor, except the Tuesday group, Living Well. FMI on that call Sandy Titus at Stratogen Health Care. Call Jane O'Rourke at 774-6877 or 1-800-851-2437 for more information.*

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

Augusta: Every 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 6:00-7:15 pm, Dayspring AIDS Support Services offers support for people with HIV & those who care about them. FMI, call 207/626-3435.

Bangor: Man 2 Man 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 207/990-2095 or write: Man 2 Man, POB 2038, Bangor, ME 04402.

Biddeford: People affected or infected by HIV, Mondays, 5:30-7:00 pm. So. ME. Medical Center classroom opposite cafeteria on 2nd floor. Call John Bean, York County Case Manager, 774-6877.

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

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

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

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

New Hampshire:

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

Maine AIDS Alliance

Member Organizations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Online Resources for
Maine's LGBT Community

The Maine Gay Network

△The Maine GayNet Mail List:

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

△The Maine GayNet Home Page:

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

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 program. Appetizers and conversation.

△△ 7:00 PM - Maine Speak Out Project will hold the first of their regular meetings on the USM campus. Portland Campus Center, room B.

Thursday, April 18:

△△ 12:00 PM-1:30 PM - Panel discussion hosted by the USM students who attended the NE g/l/b/t student leadership conference at Clark University. We will also be discussing the possibility of holding this conference at USM next year. Location tba.

△△ 2:00 PM-3:30 PM - Panel discussion on drug and alcohol use and abuse in the g/l/b/t community. Panel will include students and professionals. Portland Campus Center Amphitheater.

△△ 6:00 PM-7:00 PM - Weekly meeting of the Alliance. Boiler Room, Portland Campus Center. Seeking feedback on the impact of the week's events and discussing leadership for next year.

Friday, April 19:

△△ 8:00 PM - Ani DiFranco Concert. Sullivan Gym, Portland Campus. \$8 for USM students, \$14 all others. Tickets now on sale. Call 874-6598.

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