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-Win slow 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."

ARTIST PROFILE: Lisa Shapiro
First-time novelist publishes with Naid

by Leslie Robinson, Co-Managing Editor-NH

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

It was a typical comment from her: humorous and direct, and indicative of the close relationship she has with self-doubt. "I still think I'm crazy to be (writing professionally)," Shapiro, 34, said in an interview, "but I can't ignore the feedback I'm getting." Indeed not. The first publisher she submitted the book to, The Naiad Press, took it. And Naiad, a lesbian publishing house, just sold the foreign publication rights, so "The Color of Winter will be coming out in German in about six months."

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

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

See PROFILE, page 2.
"Spring for Life Art Auction"

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

Photo by Jill Tacy

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 typset, computer generated or hand-typed.
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 mainhead 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.

OutWrite Conference: Reflections of an aspiring writer

by Skip Brushaber

How does it feel over two thousand gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender authors, poets, playwrights, editors, and publishers all under one roof sound? Frightening? Exhilarating? Intimidating? It sounded good to me, so I packed my favorite pens, a stack of yellow legal pads, a change of Calvin Klein's, and my toothbrush. With my trusted companion driven, we arrived at 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 tedious of registration, it was off to the opening reception sponsored by Sojourner. We enjoyed an ad hoc picnic seated on the floor nibbling PC crackers, cheeses, and fruit. As I perused the crowd, it was an interesting mix. As 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. I was a tad bit sentimental about the music and the diction. I was so exhausted that I missed my first keynote speaker, OutWrite/Poet Minnie Bruce Pratt said some marvelous things which empowered and strengthened, but speaking a bit too fast for my infantile attention span. I was so exhausted that I missed the second keynote speaker, Skip Brushaber, 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 boyfriend and I took the "T" to the Park Plaza. I admit that I was filled with the childlike wonder equated with having my first OutWrite experience. With over fifty panels and over twenty workshops to choose from, I picked a theme that interested me and planned my program with the fervor of a bookie checking a racing form. I narrowed down my choices, circled the reading rooms, 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 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
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 emergence of a gay community 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 San Franciscans 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 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.

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 genteel poking fun at the women involved, these women had the last laugh. They were able to live together, share expenses, sleep in the same bed, and even publicly treat one another as husband and wife—all with the tacit implication that the pair couldn't possibly be actual lesbians.

But most were actual lesbians, usually members of the middle and upper classes, and many of their stories are quite remarkable—for example, M. Carey Thomas, the president of Bryn Mawr College, lived in a Boston Marriage with one of the school's largest donors, philanthropist Mary Garrett.

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

---

TIPS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

by Fritz von Ulmer, Marketing Consultant

This is a new column designed for those readers currently operating or thinking of operating their own businesses. It is a column for the readers of this paper and you are encouraged to mail or fax questions that you have about your current or anticipated operations.

Various subjects will be covered in future articles, (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.
News from the Granite State

EDITORIAL:
Message to New Hampshire Readers

by Leslie Robinson, Co-Managing Editor, NH

It began to dawn on me not long ago that gay New Hampshireites are out of touch with each other. Folks living in the Seacoast, say, might know what’s 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 isoating 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 cover. We’re still establishing our New Hampshire bureau, but soon the Granite State will be represented as fully in the pages of “CPR” as the Pine Tree State.

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

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

Lawsuit Challenges Merrimack (NH)
School Policy 6540

by Nora Tutbul, 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 life-style 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, maps and audio-visual aids from the curricula 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 fought 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 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 freedom is guaranteed by the First Amendment apply in the public schools to protect students and teachers from government censorship.”

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

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 Batchelesler and PFLAG: NH Vice President, Rev. Leslie Norman. See their articles in this section. 

GREEN MOUNTAIN COFFEE ROASTERS
15 Temple Street, Portland
773-4475
CPR Readers bring in this ad:
- Buy any specialty coffee
  and receive $2 off a second
  lb. of equal or lesser value.
- Buy any baked good and
  receive free cup of coffee.
- Buy any lb. of coffee and
  receive 50% off a second
  lb. of equal or lesser value.
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."

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

"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'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.

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. Shapiro's writing is 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'd've dared hope for that." 

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, business owners 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 homophobia, one often immediately thinks of sex. Please remember that sex is doing, homosexuality is a state of being . . . rights are created equal and we all deserve the same equal rights.
Tremblay, a wonderful, witty and heart-warming musician from Montreal. Well sings of love, lust, being out and living from the heart with a tenderness that is selves' 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 Chif- fon, 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 wonder- ful local dance company comprised of queers and non-queers. They will per- form Saturday evening and at other times throughout the weekend. Pat Peared 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 per- formers for a queer town meeting, invit- ing audience participation. We prom- ise 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 ac- tivities, we will not have you going (hopefully) sunny, warm August days all! I love 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 wa- ter in Bar Harbor! And I’d be delighted to be a contact person! Hey, I could eas- ily have messages taken for me all day to work at the college, teaching actively denying my orien- tation (complete with photo of on desk), then later being silent dur- ing faculty gossip sessions. But here at the Atlantic, we have been able to do so. While Bar Harbor is not, and is unlikely to ever be another Provec- tinctown, it is a town that is very wel- coming to the likes of us. As a matter of fact in the vote on question one, Bar Harbor voted 3.5 n o’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 ar- ticle 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 blirred out of any commit- tee member for the “right” price! And of course, the amazing, beautiful play- ground known as Acadia National Park, which, by the way, was the brainstorm of a gay man, Mr. Dorr, in the last cen- tury 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 Au- gust.

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

---

Bringing Symposium to my Home Town
by Lin Gould

In 1972 I lived on Mt. Desert Is- land and went to high school. I decided I was open minded, and that I would love whoever I loved regardless of superfi- cial 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 be- lieved 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, being told about a University of Maine Wilde-Stein dance. Wow! What a wonderful lot of wild people! Maine did have gay folks after all! It was the only school in New England, and in 1982 moved back and eventually got a teaching job two miles from my parents.

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. We have been local com- patriots in this struggle, and we have learned to pace ourselves. “We need to have a lot of fun built into Symposium week- end,” 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.”

Mark Letizia (Co-coordinator of Symposium XXII) and I talk it over dur- ing 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-
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 promotes support and education for families in addition to advocating full civil rights for sexual minorities.

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

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

MONEY TALK: YIKES! I OWE TAX! Now what do I do?

by Peter J. Callinan, CPA

Many people wait until the last minute to do their tax planning. They usually start right after they finish their Federal return and realize they owe Uncle Sam money. It’s then that they start to look for ways to save on their tax liability. Well, believe it or not, there may actually be something that could save tax dollars even after the return is 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 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!
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 Telegraph 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 add the addressing. The first real hand to hand physical battle for votes in ’96.

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

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

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 criteria, called the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care, are the benchmark for all transsexuals, both male and female. Rather than just prove 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 electrophysiologist, a psychologist and finally, if you are not bankrupt, completely demoralized, too old or dead, the surgeon. No mere declaration of desire will bypass any of these obstacles and no reputable table surgeon will ever touch me until I have my “note from home.” Then again, if you are not bankrupt, completely demoralized, too old or dead, the surgeon. No mere declaration of desire will bypass any of these obstacles and no reputable table surgeon will 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 whomsoever 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 am hopeful for the hearing impaired.

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.

EaSssay 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 into 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.

Trans Forum

(translates columns into information, musings and personal stories from our brothers and sisters in the transgender 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, between the lesbian and the transgender 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 events continue unabated. The Gospel of Jesus, The Christ, for all people...
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 (WCHS-TV) did a 3-part series on women and heart disease. Meanwhile, the Portland Press Herald ran a front page story the week before the event. Still, no one anticipated the overwhelming crowd that filled 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—perhaps a very small number. 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 your self 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. ΔΔ

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.
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, calling 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 community. 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 community.

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/or­ ganizations 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 OUT­RIGHT 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 Councillor or even a Chief of Police can’t be all fun, what with rich homeowners on the Western Prom at 2 o’clock in the morning? And, except for the well-worn tale of the little girl who supposedly saw someone masturbating outside her house, just how many children have actually been exposed to public displays of sexual activity anyhow? And why is sex out in the bushes more damaging for young 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? Doesn’t it justifiably spend 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 CPR office, 207/879-1342.

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 low-key "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 Regulation." Melbourne Mayor Bill Crows (an openly gay, church-going Republican) led a candlelight vigil to protest the politics of hatred and fear.

This same scene - professional politicians pandering to a mean-spirited minority while an openly gay elected official appeals to the fair-minded majority - is now being played out in legislatures across the country. Same-sex marriage is the Radical Right's latest call-to-arms, and openly gay and lesbian officials are on the front lines against this hateful assault on our community. As Wisconsin's openly lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin told reporters this is "about Gay marriage. It's about standing up and being afraid 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 - a policy that has increased discrimination. While Fitzpatrick is one of the few state senators that allow first cousins marriages, Fitzpatrick immediately contacted human rights activists and the press, calling the bill "a wolf dressed in sheep's clothing" and suspecting 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 may 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 legislation is in the works. 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 homo-sexuality 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 manner, 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 personal level."

See HATE, page 15

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 dismaying and 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, I was just a thugs who worked threaten 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 deja vu. Our leadership made the Clinton frontline-cum 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 pros. Rather than planning extensive lobbying of unsympathetic legislators and appealing to a disinterested public to let queers marry, let's use our ability to get the churches together. 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 nontraditional 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.

This way of seeing 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 benefits won't have any over been shown to solve problems. Let's get to the bottom of the current debate... get 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.

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 and one of our statements was, "Murder, incest, child-abuse and pornography are not legal in the state of Maine, but how strange if you're not in law, it's "newsworthy," but no discrimination. Any news un news unless it is something celebrated by us. That statement that they only print what's legal is a cop-out.

Our own paper, "The Piscaquis Observer" called today and Tom Lizotte, Editor, said his instructions from his boss in Presque Isle (Martha Lomrest, Executive Editor) was to only print in the absence of the permission of the Publisher.

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 Greater Portland. 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 its 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 phone number for verification. Please keep letters to the CPR Mailbag to 200 words or less. Slightly longer and more composed submissions may be considered for the "Maine Living" section of the Publisher's discretion. If requested, the Publisher may agree to withhold the name of the author for appropriate reasons.

Copyright

No portion of Community Pride Reporter may be reproduced in part or whole, by photocopier or in print, without the expressed permission of the Publisher.

what's legal is a cop-out. Our own paper, "The Piscaquis Observer" called today and Tom Lizotte, Editor, said his instructions from his boss in Presque Isle (Martha Lomrest, Executive Editor) was to only print in the absence of the permission of the Publisher, See MAIL BAG, page 15
Book Review: “Eight Bullets”

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

“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 closely cloistered 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 seniors and study abroad for her and Rebecca. In doing so, she introduces us to all her amiable past lovers, children, and the anticipated 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 unlikely hermit named Stephen Ray Carr, who presence never seems to dissipate. His sudden appearance on the trail again sets off a paranoiac 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 differently?

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 unlikely hermit named Stephen Ray Carr, who presence never seems to dissipate. His sudden appearance on the trail again sets off a paranoiac 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 differently?

Theater Reviews:

“Why We Have a Body”

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

by Rose Mary Denman
This play is about four women: Eleanor, a woman in her mid to late forties who is discovering that she has spent her whole life nurturing others, especially her two daughters, Lili and Mary, to the exclusion of her own growth, and so she goes off “to look for her life...”, Mary, a young woman who is questioning everything, and 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 complex tapestry 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
Theatre Review:

"Beast on the Moon"

by Jannie Tydler

"Beast on the Moon," now playing at Portland Stage Company, is playwright Richard Kalinowski's powerful, poignant story of the marriage of Seta and Aram Petras, both refugees from the Armenian genocide in Armenia. Aram (Adam Daninheiser) is a young photographer who has chosen Seta at 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 Tomassians' 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 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 man and woman, including who reads what in the maid's room. 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 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 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 Adam Daninheiser. Petras also serves as narrator of the play, in the guise of the middle-aged Vincent. Julie Fain Lawrence and Adam Daninheiser both give riveting performances as Seta and Aram. I have seldom been so completely drawn into a play as I was in 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 own up to 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.

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

Theatre Review:

"Purple Breasts"

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

by Rose Mary Deuman

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 Killroy is the director, and for the performance I say, also played the part of David, Zoe's husband. Anjanette Hawk-Johnson as Zoe, a woman dealing with breast cancer.

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

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 "Ingenue" 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 performed the harp on "If I Were You." 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. For one needed it.
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 1984 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 when I first saw "Wonder" have been beaten into the Merchant on her solo 'Tigerlily" tour the air. After a black sheet was lifted we night, brown hair flowing as she darted wasn't half bad either, but when you just want the opener to kindly fin­ of Sheryl Crow look to her. sounded nothing like the Maniacs did .

about the stage in a playful dance. o'clock, the wait was over and the open­

"Eat For Two ," and "City of Angels" is closed and she's bursting with a new of 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 $452 - and 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 option. 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 fourth type of pass that is offered is a country pass . Each country tries 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 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 refuses to acknowledge the efficacy of alternative treatments, even when it is sought as an adjunct to traditional treat­

"Purple Breasts" offers an emotional and riveting look at the issues faced by those fighting the good fight. It also raises ques­

News from Bangor

by Jean Weber

In Bangor, the local OUTRIGHT TO group has moved, OUTRIGHT TO 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 wel­

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

May be sent to them; and the need for those who are fighting life threatening disease often find themselves in the position of hav­

"Purple Breasts" offers an emotional and riveting look at the issues faced by those fighting the good fight. It also raises ques­

her relationship with Rebecca in his secon­

appropriate train fare. After getting the stars out of her eyes this woman danced like nobody 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 music often refuses to acknowledge the efficacy of alternative treatments, even when it is sought as an adjunct to traditional treat­

"Purple Breasts" offers an emotional and riveting look at the issues faced by those fighting the good fight. It also raises ques­

"Purple Breasts" offers an emotional and riveting look at the issues faced by those fighting the good fight. It also raises ques­
HATE from page 11

just kneejerk.

All the polls show that people who know someone gay are less likely to sup-
port anti-gay legislation, so the high vi-
ability and positive public image of openly gay officials make it much harder for professional gay bashers to demon-
ize our community. Because their per-
sonal and community values are consis-
tent with those of the average American (values like hard work, civic responsi-
bility, and respect for others), each of

our openly gay and lesbian officials is a
living, breathing contradiction to the
Radical Right's stereotype of homosexu-
als as antisocial deviants.

Unfettered by the traditional val-
ues they pretend to preach, religious
political extremists are exploiting the
same-sex marriage issue to legi-
thed and bigotry. The good news is
that our openly gay and lesbian state legis-
lators 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, Cali-
ifornia, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri,
New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode
Island, Texas, Washington, and Wiscon-
sin.

The challenge we face is unequivo-
cal. We must elect qualified openly gay
and lesbian legislators to every state
house and every state senate in the coun-
try. 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 Execu-
tive Director of the Gay and Lesbian
Victory Fund, a national organization
dedicated to increasing the number of
qualified openly gay and lesbian offi-
cials.]

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 concen-
trated on those activities that are demonstr-
ably pernicious to the public good —
rampage murder, drug-related murder,
and child sexual abuse, all of which have in
common a lack of consent by the vic-
tim. Under this unifying principle, our
city and its enforcement departments
could stop wasting their time and our
money on enforcement of silly morals
laws, thereby leaving the porn palaces
and other open sex venues alone. What a
concept! Δ

OUTWRITE, from page 2

view and
lisher.

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

Sunday morning, leaving my be-
loved 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 in-
famous, but could not muster enough
courage to engage in conversation with
any of them.

The weekend left me with a feel-
ing of sensory overload, but with a great
sense of gratitude that there are so many
queer writers doing what they do best.
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. Δ

MAILBAG, from page 11

anything about this, but it needs to be ad-
dressed. People need to know that is ex-
actly 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 Sanger-
ville, Maine, with all the trimmings, what right
do the papers have to not print an an-
nouncement?! 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-

countersexuality, and sexual marriages and begin lesbian fami-
lies.

This transition is, I believe a diffi-
cult one. For me it has been laced with
guilt and loss, but it has also been a jour-
ney 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 re-
juvenation and re-birth.

You may have similar experiences
or yours may be quite different. I am in-
terested in them all. I have developed three
surveys, one for mothers, one for partners
and one for children. Some of the com-
pleted 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 fami-
lies. If you would like to participate, please
contact me.

P. Hayes, PO Box 185, Freeport,
Maine 04032, 207865-0670.

OUR VOICE:
A column for g/t/b/q youth

by Sage Hyton-
Lemons

TEEN AIDS
HOTLINE?

I recently
spoke to Victor
Rash, the Com-
munity Educator
of The AIDS Project
in Portland,
Maine. He spoke of the idea of creat-
ing 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 hot-
line. 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, 207774-6877. Δ

NEW MAGAZINE FOR
GAY TEENS

New for March of 1996, "XY"
magazine is a slick, new magazine for
teens through 25 years old. The March
issue includes an article about a young
man's (Bian Sutherland) struggle in
England to lower the age of consent for
gay men as well as half naked twins
modeling clothes. It also includes mus-
ic reviews, movie articles and little tid-
bits 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

Find your vacation getaway
with the premier guide to gay inns, BBs, hotels and more!

Damron Accommodations is packed with hundreds
of full-color photographs as well as detailed listings.

For a FREE catalog, call 1-800-462-6654.

- and check out the Damron Website! http://www.damron.com/
**APRIL**

**Monday, April 1:**
- **7:00-8:00 PM** - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women's Center. FMI, Jana at 772-6659.

**Tuesday, April 2:**
- **7:00-9:00 PM** - Seacoast (NH) MLGPA 11th Annual Awards Banquet & Dinner Dance, Augusta Civic Center. Tix-$25 per person. Dance only $5-$10 sliding scale.
- **7:30-8:30 PM** - Gay and lesbian AA meeting at The Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 702/498-2088.

**Wednesday, April 3:**
- **7:00-9:00 PM** - Northern Lambda Nord Drop-In and Open House at the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 702/498-2088.

**Thursday, April 4:**
- **7:30-11:30 AM** - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 702/892-2192.

**Friday, April 5:**
- **7:00-8:00 PM** - Plymouth (NH) PFLAG meeting, Plymouth Congregational Church. FMI: 603/968-7245 or 603/786-9812.

**Saturday, April 6:**
- **8:30-10:30 PM** - Nashua (NH) chapter PFLAG meeting. Unitarian Universalist Church, corner of Lowell & Canal Sts., Nashua. FMI: 603/380-8709.

**Sunday, April 7:**
- **7:00-8:00 PM** - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women's Center. FMI, Jana at 772-6659.

**Monday, April 8:**
- **7:00-8:00 PM** - Portland Chapter of PFLAG meets at Woodfords Congregational Church, Woodfords Corner. We are parents, friends and relatives of lesbians, bisexual, gay and trans/gendered persons offering support and information. FMI: Rita, 207/776-5158.

**Wednesday, April 10:**
- **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, 702/498-2088.
- **7:00-9:00 PM** - Women in Harmony choral group rehearsal, Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI, 702/885-0995 or 702/885-0995.
- **7:00-8:00 PM** - Upper Valley (NH) Region PFLAG Meeting. 43 Lebanon St. opposite Hanover Food Coop. FMI: 603/484-1982.

**Friday, April 12 thru Sun, April 14:**
- **Full Circle of Women Conference sponsored by Center for Gender Sanity, POB 11, Ashby, MA 01431. 508/586-7737 for more information.**

**Saturday, April 13:**
- **7:00-9:00 PM** - Northern Lambda Mountain Club spring ski at Killington (NH). FMI: Mike 603-646-7568.

**April, May, June:**
- **7:00-8:00 PM** - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women's Center. FMI, Jana at 772-6659.

**Tuesday, April 16:**
- **7:00-8:00 PM** - Women in Harmony 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 702/892-2192.
- **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 women's events and will be built by women. Evening's entertainment includes Erika Gilbert, Cathy Poole, Lynn Deves, Val Bennett. Tix-$5.

**Saturday, March 30:**
- **10:30-11:30 AM** - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 702/892-2192.

**March 29:**
- **7:00-8:00 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 women's events and will be built by women. Evening's entertainment includes Erika Gilbert, Cathy Poole, Lynn Deves, Val Bennett. Tix-$5.
We're your perfect Eastport. Absolute peace and quiet. Round studio on working organic farm. Reservations: (207) 726-5807.


**Delta**

**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 Cobscob Bay. B&B or weekly rental. Brochure, reservations: (207) 726-5807.

**Delta**

**Backpacking,** Canoeing, Cross-country skiing, Native American cultural trips, teen trip. Wilderness skills and environmental awareness. Elk, elk, elk, elk! All abilities. Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, Maine, Newfoundland. Contact: Earth Treks, Dept. C, RR 2, Box 785, Montville, ME 04941. 800/589-4770.

**Delta**

**The Shack Up Inn**

**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. **Delta**

**PERSONALS**

**Delta**

**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, flea, yard sales, antiques, kids, etc. No cons. P.O. Box 1169; Sanford, ME 04073. **Delta**

**Delta**

**Year Old Amateur Photographer** would like to take his photo hobby further into the field of photographic business. Please seek young men, 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, P.O. Box 382, Topsham, ME 04086-0382.

**Delta**

**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. **Delta**

**Delta**

**LGBT Lesbian in Lincoln County, looking for other LGBT 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. **Delta**

**HELP WANTED**

**Delta**

**Cleaners Wanted:** Come join the Fresh-N-Up team. Looking for people 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. **Delta**

**Long Distance Telephone Service** is one of the largest, fastest-growing industries in the world today. One company grew 500% last year. I have recently joined this 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 207/225-0786. **Delta**

**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 $20's, plus benefits. Position is full-time, year round, salary low $20's, plus benefits. Positions: Highlands Inn, Box 118, Bethel, Maine. **Delta**

**APARTMENT FOR RENT:**

**Delta**

**Sanford, Maine:** 2 bedroom apartment, 2nd floor, very private. Round, salary low $20s, 1 plus bedroom house. Non-smoking, non-drinking, no drugs. Our two mature gay couple. **Delta**

**FOR SALE**

**Delta**

**Great House:** Immaculate, light, modern. Tencon secluded home on six acres. Every room has breathtaking views of Lake Winnipesaukee (NH) and the mountains. Amenities include 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.**

**FOR SALE GREAT HOUSE!**

**Delta**

**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.

**Field Training** -- You will be trained by our management team under actual selling conditions to earn your success.

**Sell --** New accounts (a low cost necessity that repeats). Established accounts that will be turned over to you.

**Guaranteed Income --** You will be guaranteed a minimum of $5,200 for the first 13 weeks to start your family security.

**Qualifications --**

- **Junior**
- Ambitious
- Sport-minded
- Good Car
- Responsible
- Good References

**Fringe Benefits --** Extraordinary Pension and Savings Programs. Telephone Medical Coverage for you and your family, and more.

**Call for Appointment:**

Casey McConnell

207/622-8066

**Call ANY TIME**


**General**

MLGPA is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the general public, politicians, and media on LG issues. Primary goals are to involve the LG community in Maine’s political process, promote rights, defeat 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, well-being of gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Come and celebrate our lives and struggles! The Maine Gay Men’s Chorus is a community chorus which brings men together to enhance social tolerance and diversity in the Greater Portland area, as well as affirming the gay/lesbian experience with creative and lively musical entertainment. FMI call 883-8099 or write M.G.M.C., P.O. Box 10591, Portland, ME 04101.

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 and lesbian visual artists community FMI call 773-3420.


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

The Matlovich Society is an educational, professional, and social service organization serving lesbian, gay, and bisexual men, and friends committed to advancing the rights of sexual minorities in Maine. Meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7:30 pm at the Portland YWCA, 87 Spring St. Portland. FMI call 207/761-4380.

The AIDS Line: 1-800-851-AIDS or 775-1267. HIV/AIDS related questions, call 773-5726 or P.O. Box 5301, Portland, ME 04101.

**Phone Support**

**Identity Support**

**New Hampshire F-FLAG Meetings**

**Out and About**

**Out on MDI**

**Out Among Friends:** Lesbian social discussion group. Meets 1st and 3rd Sundays 7:30-8 pm, in the downstairs Club Room of the Portland YWCA, 87 Spring St. FMI contact phone: 207/870-1073.

**Providers**

**SASE**, (*indicating monthly meetings*)

**Support Groups**

**Supportive Masses**

**Test Progressive Gay/Lesbian Civil Rights Organization**

**tractor**: A community organization of gay, lesbian, bisexual, questioning and non-heterosexuals. Meets every Tuesday at 7:30 pm. Newcomers always welcome. FMI, write OUT ON MDI, PO Box 367, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679-0567 or call (207) 238-2502 and leave a message.


**Exeter Congregational Church**: United Church of Christ in Exeter, NH welcomes all God’s children to worship; Sundays, 10 am-11 am. FMI, write Exeter Congregational Church, 143 State St., Portland. FMI, call 773-7234. FMI, write Exeter Congregational Church, 143 State St., Portland. FMI, call 773-7234.

**AIDS Helplines**

**New England AIDS Network**: 1-800-528-NCLR (775-4357). HIV/AIDS related questions, call 773-5726 or P.O. Box 5301, Portland, ME 04101. All replies kept confidential.

**The Appollo Society**

**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 5:30 pm, Held at the Portland YWCA, 87 Spring St. Portland. FMI call Community of Hope, POB 1671, Portland, ME 04101.

**Central Maine Gay Men’s Support Groups**

**Out On MDI**

**Owned Outdoor Women**

**Wild Outdoor Women**

**Gay-Straight Alliance and Bibliographical Clearinghouse**: Monthly activities include skiing, skating, sliding and other outdoor and social events. FMI, write W.O.W., 207/778-2044 or 778-8355.

**Monthly Gatherings for Single Lesbians**: 45+ for fun & friendship. FMI, write 207/778-8355 or 778-8355.

**Support Group-Phenomen and Surrounding Counties**: Keeping secrets, plus our own to keep, plus our own to keep, plus our own to keep. FMI call and leave message. (207) 778-7830.
TransSupport Group: For crossdressers, transsexuals, their families, friends, & others interested in transgenderism. Meets in secure locations to provide support, education, & information. FMRI write TransSupport, P.O. Box 17622, Portland, 04112.

Gender Talk North: Write for newsletter. P.O. Box 211, Kenne, NH 03431. 603/924-8282.

Trans Counseling: Cheshire Counseling Associates, P.O. Box 1124, Kenne, NH 03431. 603/577-5544.

Maine Bisexual People's Network: Meets to affirm in a positive nature of bisexuality, & work toward the rights of the bisexual, gay, lesbian, & straight communities. Support & referrals available. FMRI write P.O. Box 10818, Portland, ME 04104. 603/603-357-5544.

Do you love another one person? You may be polyamorous. Polyamorous Life Support (PALS) is a discussion/support group for people interested in creating safe spaces, cuttung, loving, multipartner relationships. Whether curious or already multiply intimate, call 773-5132 FMRI.

Youlovemorethanoneperson? Youmaybe write P.O. Box 10818, Portland, ME 04104.

Dover, NH: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Mothers & Kids Group: Call (603) 430-4052, or Universalist Church, 292 State St. 603/774-5025.

Lesbian Support Group welcomes any woman who self-identifies as a lesbian. They hold confidential meetings for gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning young people. FMRI call 774-TALK, or 774-HELP or write to P.O. Box 5077, Portland, ME 04102.

OUTRIGHT/Seattle: 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. FMRI call 774-TALK, or 774-HELP or write to P.O. Box 5077, Portland, ME 04102.

OUTRIGHT/Seacoast: Meets every 2nd from 7 to 9 pm at the Unitarian Church annex building adjacent to the fire station, 206 Meade St., Portsmouth. NH FMRI 603/453-1013 or write P.O. Box 942, Portsmouth NH 03801.

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

MAINE YOUTH PROTECTION COUNCIL: Works to create safer communities and schools for minority youth. If racism or homophobia affect you, help be part of the solution. 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 and friends (AIDS Project). 7:00-9:00 PM. 207/774-2380.

Tuesdays: People Living with HIV disease and friends, families, lovers, and caregivers. 7:00-9:00 PM. 207/774-2380.

Thursdays: People Living with HIV and caregivers. 6:00-8:30 PM. 207/774-2380.

EXETER - "Connections," support group for care-givers: families, friends-all newborns who are affected by HIV/AIDS and AIDS. Meets second Tuesday from 7:30-8:30 pm at Exeter Congregational Church, Main St., ME 03833. Call 207/775-9152.

Biddeford: People affected or infected by HIV/AIDS meet Tuesday from 7:30-9:30 pm at the Physicians Building behind KVHIA Annex. 207/774-2455.

Rumford/MAINE Area: Mondays: AIDS Support Group, InfoLine meetings, 7-8:30 pm. Call 775-PAWS.

Outright/Seacoast: today AIDS Support Group, 5:30 PM. Call 775-PAWS.


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 UMS campus. Portland Campus Center, room B.

Thursday, April 18:12:00 PM-3:30 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.

12:00 PM-3:30 PM - Panel discussion on drug and alcohol use 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 Alliances' Seiter Room. Portland Campus Center. Seeking feedback on the impact of the week's events and discussing leadership for next year.

Friday, April 19:

2:00 PM - Ani DiFranco Concert. Sullivan Gym, Portland Campus. $8 for USM students, $14 all others. Tickets now on sale. Call 775-6598.

De Facto's Gay Net 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 mg-net." To unsubscribe, write "unsubscribe mg-net." To get help, write "help mg-net."
**SERVICE DIRECTORY**

**Norma Kraus Eule**  
MSW, LCSW  
Licensed Clinical Social Worker  
Individual, Group and Relationship Therapy  
10 Minot Avenue  
Auburn, Maine 04210  
(207) 784-8747

**Three PEAKS**  
210 Broadway Street  
Portsmouth, NH 03801  
(207) 487-1717  
(800) 286-1715  
Private Parking  
Private Baths  
Continental Breakfast  
Color TVs  
Non-smoking  
East End Art Gallery Location

**Mary Atala Lessard**  
LICENCED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER  
Child, Adolescent, Adult  
Couples, Fami lies, Blended Families  
19 South Street, Suite B  
Portland, ME 04101  
(207) 879-2525

**Michelle Bolen LCSW**  
- Anxiety  
- Agoraphobia  
- Sexual Abuse & Other Trauma  
- Individual & Group Therapy  
- Insurance Reimbursable  
Take Charge of Your Life  
1-800-497-0727

**Pamela Knowles Lawson**  
Attorney at Law  
6 Oak Ridge Road, Cumberland Center, Maine 04021  
Tel: (207) 829-3379  
Fax: (207) 829-4424

**Frederick B. Wolf, M.Div, S.T.D.**  
Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor  
140 High Street  
Portland, Maine 04101  
(207) 773-4397

**Bill Barter**  
LCPC  
(207) 773-0205  
Licensed Psychotherapist  
Individuals  
Couples  
Groups  
Gay Practitioner  
Insurance Reimbursable  
Sliding Fee Scale  
137 Park Street  
Portland, ME 04101

**Mary Danman**  
CODIV. HTTP  
Healing Touch Practitioner  
Life Style &  
Spiritual Counseling  
(207) 879-0371

**Linda Barter, L.C.S.W.**  
Carolyn Bloom, L.C.S.W.  
Licensed Clinical Social Workers  
Individual - Couples - Women's Issues  
Family Therapy  
86 Main Street, Auburn, Maine  
(207) 782-1051

**Gay & Lesbian Counseling**  
Betsy Hood, M.A.  
Licensed Substance Abuse Counselor  
Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor  
95 High Street • Portland, ME 04101 • (207) 828-1512

**Keziah Hinchon**  
MA • LICAC • LCPC  
78 Main Street • Yarmouth • ME  
846-4748

**Healing the Spirit/Body**  
Process Oriented Work With:  
Sex & Relationship Dependent  
Food & Alcohol Issues  
Sexual Abuse  
95 High Street • Portland, ME 04101 • (207) 873-4397

**Victoria Zavasnik, Ph.D.**  
Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor  
Licensed Substance Abuse Counselor  
Families  
For Adults  
Alcohol  
Adults  
Sexuality  
775-6595  
Back Cove Counseling Center  
527 Ocean Ave  
Portland, ME 04103

**Dawn H. Baumr**  
Balfour Real Estate  
256 Ocean House Road  
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107  
Business 207-799-5000  
Fax 207-799-9226  
Pager 800-639-7707 Pin #1118  
VM 207-719-0817 (T1F)

**Groups • Individuals • Couples**  
HELP THROUGH PSYCHOTHERAPY  
- Self-esteem  
- Loss  
- Relationships  
- Addictions  
- HIV  
- Depression  
PORTLAND 774-0205  
99500 RENNINGER

**Richard Watzkin, LCSW**