Lewiston Starts Hot Line

by Norman Brilliant

The City of Lewiston now has its own AIDS hotline. As of January 1985 the Central Maine Health Foundation has established a local line for Lewiston and surrounding areas. Despite a watts line located in Portland members of the Lewiston gay community felt a real need to attend to the needs of their own and took action to establish its own AIDS information and support system.

The Central Maine Health Foundation currently works out of a facility on Bates Street above the Secretariat Bar. Already a computer has been installed to assist its twelve volunteer phone operators in supplying callers with needed information.

The program is designed to furnish symptoms of AIDS and available facts surrounding the disease. A list of physicians and rules for safe sex are also ready to be referred to callers in need. After months of planning the facility is in working order with aspirations to provide even more. Various fund raisers such as car washes, flea markets and donations from Sportsmen and other local businesses have enabled CMHF to begin the service.

"We receive about six calls a month with individuals requesting information or help," said one volunteer. Though Lewiston has no confirmed cases of AIDS, natives of the area have been victimized while residing in other locations. As public awareness increases and the disease spreads, Lewiston will be prepared to handle the problem with its own support system.

Currently the hot line is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-11 p.m. And Sundays from 8-11 p.m. When operators are not able to be on duty an answering service supplies callers with the number for the Portland facility. Anyone needing assistance may call CMHF at 207-782-6113.

Draft Platform Supports Gay/Lesbian Rights

by Elze

Gearing up for this spring's State Convention, the Democratic Party Platform Committee in January passed unanimously several statements supporting gay and lesbian issues.

According to Democratic State Committee member Jay Ketover, the draft platform calls for the inclusion of "sexual orientation" in the Maine Human Rights Act as a protected category, increased funding for research into and treatment of AIDS, and opposes HTLV-III testing as a condition for employment and insurability.

Ketover, also on the 40-member Platform Committee, had earlier sought the position statements from Dale McCormick, President of the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance. Multiple Nation-King, Secretary of the Waldo County Democratic Committee and a member of the Platform Committee, told Our Paper, "Everyone was very much in agreement."

The draft platform will be heard at public hearings in all counties during March. The Committee will then reconvene in April to finalize the platform for consideration at the State Convention. The convention is scheduled for May 9 at Colby College in Waterville. For any additional amendments to be heard from the floor, a petition signed by at least 33 delegates must be submitted by May 2.

MLGPA Celebrates Accomplishments: Annual Meeting Draws 100

by Elze

The Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Association's Annual Meeting and Fundraising/Celebratory Dinner drew approximately 100 people to Augusta on January 18. Representatives from New Hampshire's Citizens' Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights and the Rhode Island Alliance for Lesbian and Gay Rights, as well as Kevin Catcart, Executive Director of Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders in Boston, and Tom Chorlton, Executive Director of the National Association of Gay & Lesbian Democratic Clubs in Washington, D.C., joined MLA members in celebrating the accomplishments of the group's first year and planning for the next.

Opently gay Boston Councillor David Scondras keynoted the morning session with a talk on the nuts and bolts of running for political office. Chorlton rounded out the workshop with a discussion of the Association's Lesbian and Gay Candidate Project.

Members present re-elected Dale McCormick (Yarmouth), Marty Sabol (Bangor), and Diane Elze (South Portland) President, Secretary, and Treasurer, respectively. Steering Committee members elected to a second term were Dick Harrison (New Sweden), Joe Keelan (Lewiston), Barb Wood (Trenton), Bob Zeller, Jay Root (Waterville), and Charlie Dwyer (Portland). Linda Shunton (Camden), Joanne Dauphinee (Brewer), AlHurley (Lewiston), and Peter Giroux (Waterville). Alternate.

Reminding the audience that, "You can't beg for respect. You can't get legalized by asking someone to like you. What you can do is get respect by getting power," Scondras urged people to get involved in electoral politics because "Electoral politics is about power." Scondras shared why he believes gay men and lesbians should run for office, a major reason being, "You can't lose an election as my friend Mel King once told me." (Long-time supporter and friend of the gay and lesbian community, King ran for mayor of Boston in 1983 and recently announced his candidacy for Tip O'Neil's 8th Congressional District seat.) Scondras explained, "The fact that you run as an openly lesbian or gay person means everybody is going to talk about it -- at least more people are going to talk about those issues than before." He drew chuckles as he added, "At the same time it's better if you win."

Scondras introduced Tom Chorlton who was instrumental in convening November's National Conference of Openly Lesbian and Gay Elected and Appointed Officials in West Hollywood, California. Describing the conference as "the launch pad of a long-term project for gay and lesbian candidates," Chorlton believes it will bring more gay men and women into the political mainstream "to make sure we'll have power." The project will include: a candidate brochure containing photos and bios of all 1986's gay and lesbian candidates; regional training seminars focusing on campaign management, setting a campaign agenda, using the media, and fundraising; an annual conference similar to the one held in West Hollywood; and the support and nurturing of potential candidates.

Chorlton challenged those present to "go home and do some soul-searching to make certain those of you who have the capability -- who know you have the instinctive political sense to make it happen -- start thinking now about running for elective office." He ended by calling attention to a lesson taught us by Harvey Milk -- "If you lose the first time, you run the second time. And if you lose the second time, you go out and work the third time."

Following Chorlton's remarks, Scondras, with a focus on local elections because "that's where our strength lies and it can have tremendous impact nationally," con-
Dear Editor,

The purpose of this letter is to apprise you well in advance of the 3rd Annual Gay Pride Masquerade Ball sponsored by the Sportsman Club in Lewiston to be held April 12, 1986 at the Lewiston Multipurpose Center.

Annually, this event has developed into an item of substantial importance to the media. The public at large is being impacted chiefly in terms of its growing awareness and acceptance of its massive gay and lesbian community. The gay and lesbian community has obviously an even greater interest. They may want to attend and Our Paper is their only means of knowing of it since a large number do not come to the gay clubs or bars where promotions of this type usually take place. They need to know that something tremendously important is taking place to stir up the stagnation of loneliness and isolation. There is in this event, albeit too rare, a fresh water oasis where they can come to drink their fill of relaxed acceptance and companionship as well as to demonstrate on mass a strength of unity and personal affirmation and pride. This is why the Sportsman Club has in past years and is again sponsoring this event. The event is not commercially motivated and in no way does it serve the purpose of personal aggrandizement.

I feel it is necessary to make that last statement (with the acknowledgement of perhaps some assumptions on my part) because in the past two years Our Paper has not covered this event except in a minimally token way.

In 1984, 215 people attended. In 1985, 400 people attended, some of whom came not only as individuals but to represent numerous local gay and/or lesbian groups indigenous not only to Maine but also to New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Canada. In 1986, we anticipate a gathering of 600 plus. This represents nearly 100% and 200% increase respectively since 1984 and a 150% increase in attendance over 1985.

The crowd has been diverse representing not only local and out of state groups, but also the full spectrum of those “in the closet” anonymous persons, those who are “out,” liberals, activists, conservatives, moderates, blue collar, white collar, professional, business, you name it. The full complement of the gay community was there. A true testament to gay pride and unity in diversity.

This year the Gay Pride Dance theme is UNITY and is being promoted statewide from Kittery to Fort Kent with even more assertive efforts reaching out to Canada and other New England states.

For past years we owe a debt of gratitude to the Underground, The Cafe and to the Gym who supplied top notch entertainment. We also owe gratitude to the many gay and lesbian organizations and especially people in the Lewiston-Auburn area for past successes.

We will this year, as in the past, be recognizing individuals and organizations within the gay and lesbian community for outstanding achievement in promulgating gay and lesbian rights as well as for singular contributions to the gay and lesbian movement and their effectiveness in bringing about unity.

As you may recall, Our Paper was so honored in 1984 as was Diane Matthews for courageously asserting her right to remain in the R.O.T.C. In 1985 BAGLSC was awarded recognition for forming their organization and spearheading memorial marches in remembrance of Charlie Howard. The other award went to Dale McCormick who was elected State Democratic Delegate to the National Convent.

This year we will be giving two awards in addition, a personal recognition award. These awards and recognitions highlight personal contributions, the individual status within the gay and lesbian community, as they should. But, their importance goes far beyond any individual status.

They provide a public and wonderful opportunity for emblemizing peer examples and for satisfying a deep need in our community for hope and inspiration.

And it is with great anticipation and hope that this year Our Paper will give this event the attention the gay and lesbian community so richly deserve. The Gay Pride Day and Masquerade Ball is an event untarnished to an historical landmark in the evolving and maturing pride and unity of our gay and lesbian community.

Sincerely,
Roland Biais, Proprietor Sportsman Club

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**Consider This Invitation**

The Our Paper staff wants to let you know how easy it can be to support this newspaper through both words and deeds (financial support is also welcome, but that’s another matter). To that end, three get-acquainted meetings have been planned: March 18, April 22, and May 20. These meetings will provide an opportunity for interested people to meet the staff and learn about production of the paper, and to discover if there is a place they might fit in. We’ll start a little early - 7:00 p.m. — with refreshments and informal conversation and then you can sit in on a regular meeting at 7:30.

With a commitment of just one evening a month you can be a vital part of the organization that makes Our Paper happen. If you have more time, we would welcome you for a larger commitment. You can work with us at meetings or we can give you things to do at home. Slots are available for writers (news articles, editorials, fiction, poetry, reviews, humor, and more), illustrators, graphic artists, envelope stuffers, errand runners, label callers, letter writers, proofreaders, and more. We are also looking for people who would like to jump in with both feet to make decisions, plan, and edit, along with all of the above — in other words, full-fledged collective members.

Why not come and let us know what you can do? If you can’t make it on one of the above dates, don’t despair. Just give Fred a call at 773-5540 and he’ll work something out. For those of you outside a reasonable driving distance, please consider contributing on paper; we’d like to know what you’re doing, and why.

Thanks for the help!

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**Notable Quotable**

From the Portland Press Herald:

“A [Old Orchard Beach] camera store owner dug deep and funded his female workers will be prosecuted for sexual discrimination despite his claim that the charges should be dropped because he treated male workers even worse.”

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**OUR PAPER**

Our Paper is published monthly by the OUR PAPER Collective, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, Maine 04104.

The purpose of OUR PAPER is to serve as a voice for lesbians and gay men in Maine. We wish the newspaper to be a source of information, support and affirmation, and a vehicle for celebration, by and for members of the lesbian and gay men’s communities. Our Paper to reflect our diversity, as well.

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

We will consider for publication any material that broadens our understanding of our lifestyles and is relevant to views and opinions appearing in the paper. Most is of the authors only.

All material submitted must be signed and include an address and/ or phone number, so we can contact the author should we need to consider editorial revisions. However, within the pages of the newspaper, articles can appear anonymously, upon request, and strict confidentiality will be observed. No reviews of our lifestyles and of material will occur without dialogue with the author.

We welcome and encourage all our readers to submit material for publication and share your comments, criticism, and positive feelings with us. Remember, OUR PAPER is Your Paper! DEADLINE for each issue is the 10th of the month.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Subscriptions are $12 for one year (12 issues), $20 for two years, and $30 for three years. Make checks payable to OUR PAPER. All subscriptions and correspondence should be sent to OUR PAPER, P.O. BOX 10744, Portland, Maine 04104.

Our Paper Collective

Fred Berger
Barb Puls
Skip Brushaber
Bruce Smith
Alice Flanagan
Tom Summer
Diane Elze
P.S. Sutherland
Julia Flanagan
Barbara Wood
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“A book is like a garden in the pocket.”

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**family portraits**

by Jenna

Studies in East Winthrop
395-4183
Open Letter To All Lesbians

It has come to our attention that there has been a wave of male children born to lesbians in the Maine gay community, following a national trend. It is our concern that lesbians seriously explore the intention and ramifications of birthing male children within the current society.

One of the troubling factors of lesbians birthing males is that given trends toward favoring male births, the sex ratio of the next generation and generations to come is likely to be altered with women becoming a definite minority.

Consider the following:

What of the experience of teenage girls and young women in ten to twenty years when their peer group may consist of 60% to 70% (plus?) males. What kind of pressures will be on these women to be straight, bear children and be "good girls." Society would not be able to allow women freedom to be lesbians or single certainly even to the extent that this is possible now.

Gay males will most likely be in a better position — As a superfluous group (by numbers), there could not realistically be such pressure on men to be straight.

We are now women between the ages of 20 and 50. What will our lives be like in 20 years if the birth ratio in the years from 1984 hence is 60-70% male? The scales are already tipping. This change will not be gradual, but to allow serious discussion apart from sentimentalism and pro-family rhetoric on this topic. We believe such discussion can affect the decisions and choices of thinking lesbians.

The XX Chromosome League

**Lesbians,** Ethics, (tri-annual journal)
L.E. Publications
P.O. Box 943
Venice, CA. 90294

I'm a twenty-one-year-old Lesbian, new to Portland, seeking female friends and gay support. I live at present with my saved-the-day prayerful mother (who loves me dearly but believes I'm a Lesbian in default, simply due to bad experiences with men!), after spending three lonely months on Orr's Island.

I'm not really new to Portland, excepting that this woman I Am is even new to me...artist, healer, ex-wife-mother-mentality, pro-liberated-radical-separatist Lesbian, which I'm Spinning into in this new Self-as-Womyn-identified time/space I've found (see Mary Daly's Gyn/Ecology).

I did live for one month in Portland in 1983, upon returning from Oberlin College to a broken home and penniness, B.A.—less future. I took LSD, went crazy, and escaped into a hotter hell, called marriage (read as "trust-making misogyne maze"), where I survived until last Spring, when I left. So my previously-mad month in Portland counts only, like the spoonful of spaghettios I just tasted, as a hallucinating test of my subconscious hungers. Here I am again, hoping to fully face Portland at its artistic, political, spiritual, and social buffet — writing this article as my public plea for gourmet guidance!

"Note this article is too metacentric for you, please move on to the next place — or write your own article. I'd love to hear how Our People make it up in Poisoned life or over in Camden...

Job-hunting and apartment-shopping consumes my energy right now, but I've had precious few times discovering a few of the delicacies Portland offers. And what have I found so far?

Our Paper: meetings on Tuesday nights at Our Books. I'll be there! This paper saved the Maine-focus of my radicalism this past Summer of Discovery.

Our Books: open Tuesday-Saturday, found, on a few blocks from the university. A place to matronize with pride!

Wise Wymyn Books: Woodford's Corner, a pleasant space to find wymyn-identified material and share wymyn. News.

Feminist Spiritual Community: 7:30 Monday evenings at The Friends Meetinghouse. 'Had a great time there last summer but needed more of a Lesbian-oriented ritual-life.'

USM Wymyn's Forum: the matrix of community/university events and information regarding whatever wymyn they can handle; also an inviting reading space.

Underground: a great dance-space; too mixed/mated or male for me? maybe if I drank or knew people I'd enjoy it more.

Entre Nites: the state's only wymyn's bar! yet a haven I've rarely retreated to. Portland Public Library; very few wymyn's Lesbian books, so why go? It seems that books on straight life and its inevitable crises are definitely in.

Les-be-Friends

I need to find Woodford's Cafe, go to the Gay People's Alliance office at USM, attend N.O.W. meetings at the Y, meet with the Gay/Lesbian Spiritual Community, hear about G.C. Health issues, get help from the Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon, call the Westbrook Wymyn's Center, support the birthing of a Wymyn's Shelter here in Portland (and get my mom a a "Parent's Of..." meeting) — for starters!

Some of my own suggestions: a Big Brother/Big Sister program for those of us new to town or to the lifestyle, for info, support, connections — with the family-type support we never got; single-sex rap groups for consciousness-raising in a safe environment (this was tried by Lesbians here, I think, and fizzled out; I'm willing to try again); a LesbiGay film festival for fun and education ("Entre Nous" is an oldie and "Sweat Dreams" is coming up, for Sapphic star-gazers); Gay Plays theatre, to perform plays by/about: Our People; a LesbiGay radio station to play Our Music and these "inter-changes" (for example, I love to hum "Pretty Wymyn, walkin' down the street...").

For now I simply want friends, a community of people who see life like I do, which I've never had since participating with fervor in the Buckfield Community Church Youth Group years ago.

After watching "The Life and Times of Harvey Milk." I'm not the winner, I came out consciously to myself by telling my liberal coworkers, fearful-but-faithful sister, threatened-thus-rageful father, brave mother, and, finally, all close friends, of my sexual-political choice (these days sexual as political). With the Conservativists' tidal wave drowning our country's consciousness, the AIDS situation forcing people to face us and themselves as invaluable and feminist issues demanding government attention and public action repeatedly — now is the time to Break Free of self-created, society-perpeanulized closets and live out the Lover you are! Please come out, if not to save your own beautiful Heart, than to befriend our New People, like me.

In Sappho's heart, I Am T. Smith

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A Friend of a Friend

by Timothy Ross

Alan sat at the kitchen table — his lover’s parents’ table — wondering what it was that he owed to himself, had for himself, had that he could share with others. “Not much,” he thought, as he passed out photographs that were taken the last time he was in this house last Thanksgiving. The pictures seemed indistinguishable from those taken the year before last, and the Thanksgiving before that. Alan realized the folk band, in fact, imagined himself with his camera, standing away from the table — next to the dog food — and capturing, three hundred and sixty-five days later, the same set of photos. Only the clothes would change (with the exception of Mrs. Freeman, Alan observed, only her best pant-suit for the holidays). Alan hadn’t brought his camera this year. He had lost the need to “create” moments. Lest it just that fall when, at the moment the shutter had opened, he had thought the “moment” was right — his cat had cooperated so well — and instead, the wheels rolled over the animal. His photographic interests had been, in a sense, buried, along with the cremation, and the undeveloped negatives.

Alan had little interest in the prints he now passed to Mrs. Freeman. He was, however, passing them purely for the benefit of his lover’s parents. He was spent playing “the photographer”. He was trying to share. Alan knew, however, it was impossible to actually share the pictures. He found himself passing, giving, handing, anything but sharing, the prints. He knew he couldn’t share anything with anyone who didn’t know. ‘Knowledge’, Alan reconsidered. It seemed similar. The knowledge of Alan’s ways, Alan’s affection, Matt’s affection.

In the midst of the prints was a photo of Alan and Matt. Together. It was not taken last Thanksgiving. It had no logical place within the other “holiday” pictures. It was a photo only Alan would have brought.

Matt frowned, confused, when Alan showed the picture. He was, however, passing them purely for the benefit of the child the couple had brought the other night. Matt thought he could share with others. He had to himself, had to himself that he, his parents’ only son, never disappointed his only parents. “They’ll never know,” Matt usually shouted at the closed of their parental ears, with a tone closer to a demand than a prophecy.

“Goodnight Mom,” Matt said. 

Objective: Alan understood Matt’s conflict.

He knew that even though Matt’s happiness was more important than his parents’ understanding, this parents’ judgment, the mere fact remained, Matt’s parents would be disappointed. Alan knew nothing could change that. No discussion could rationalize or “normalize” their love, let alone their sexual preference. Not in Mr. and Mrs. Freeman’s house. (It made Alan uneasy enough knowing the Freemans had, two years earlier, fired the maid for her involvement in an interracial romance). Nevertheless, Alan needed to tell Matt’s parents.

His own parents had passed on. Died in the midst of a poorly organized train hijack. Alan realized, looking at what was left of the stupid death that took the lives of many people. Probably gay people too. Alan had often irrationally thought, thinking that no one in their lives, forced into a realm with other ‘gay souls’, and would suddenly, somehow, know their son. It was a nonsensical way of imagining his parents’ afterlife, but one that Alan could not shake. In his own house, Alan had never said, “Father, Mother...Mom, Dad, I’m gay. What a stupid word,” he would have said even then. “I’m gay,” Matt. He had wanted them to know. Though dead as they were, they hoped they now, somehow, did know.

Now this lover’s parents’ home, he wanted to tell a parent. Any parent. Bigoted as he was, Mr. Freeman still qualified. He was, after all, essentially, Alan’s Father-in-law.

“I’m in it,” he said, writing off Alan’s thoughts altogether. "Coming to bed, Matt?"

Matt knew there was no talking to Alan tonight. He could see Alan would be closed to any argument, even though the parents would be upstairs, asleep. He left the table with his father and walked towards the upstairs.

Alan remained sitting at the table for over an hour before finally laying his hand upon his forearm. — The Pit Bull didn’t care that Alan was supposed to sleep on the couch. Being alone in the house almost made Alan feel as though this were his house, his home, as if he were a part of it. He knew he wasn’t. He had only come up for the holiday, figur­ ing he was perceived not as family, but as one would perceive a friend of a friend; hardly a friend at all.

He had wanted to tell his lover’s parents in the worst way, (No, Alan had thought, of course the worst way would have been; ‘Mr. and Mrs. Freeman, and I are fags. We ball often.’)

The only thing Matt did say, was allow­ ed to say, before Matt and his dad had gone up the stairs, was, “Goodnight, Mr. Freeman. Happy Thanksgiving.”
Miscellany From The Files

by Gary L. Anderson

At home I have a file drawer devoted exclusively to my interest and work around AIDS. In this drawer I keep a collection of articles from many different sources on many different topics related to AIDS. I have these topics broken down into just over thirty categories. I have a file called BLOOD, one called HTLV-III, another called MAINE, another called RELIGION, etc. Perhaps the biggest file in that drawer is the one labelled MISCELLANEOUS. This is the catch-all file for articles that have no logical home anywhere else.

The other day, as I was inserting yet another article into the Miscellaneous file, I stepped on paw through it. The variety of subjects and information included therein was rather interesting. So, I thought, why not share some of these items? And so it was that this article was born. (I should add that the order in which the following items appears has no significance whatsoever; they are entered in the order in which I randomly pulled them out of the file. I have tried to summarize the content of these articles as best I can. But I have added, in parentheses, my own thoughts, observations, or comments.)

**Item 8: Gov. Lamm of Colorado says it is futile to spend unlimited amounts of money on AIDS victims who have no chance of recovery (remember his comments on the elderly and the handicapped?).**

A difference in response between New Yorkers and the rest of the country. When asked "Who is most likely to have AIDS?" one-half to two-thirds of all respondents related AIDS to the drug culture. New Yorkers were two or three times more likely to mention drug abusers. (Needle related cases of AIDS in New York City.) AIDS increased as sexually related cases of AIDS in on the decrease. The average person in New York is aware of what a problem that is, but not so it seems the county supervisors of Los Angeles as the next item relates.)

Item 7: A pamphlet was developed called "Shooting Up and Your Health," which gives advice on how to safely inject drugs, intended to protect people from acquiring AIDS, not to promote drug use. But tell that to the three county supervisors who halted the release of the pamphlet because they felt it was improper for the county to help themselves that took place in the Middle East. Number one was the wave of terrorism which came from the mentally retarded individuals (It's such a simple way to help everyone. And what good public relations for our community.)

**Item 10: Another headline that says it all: LESBIANS DONATE BLOOD FOR GAY MALE FRIENDS. Calling themselves "Blood Sisters," a group of lesbians in Dallas, Texas, opened an account at a blood bank to donate blood for their gay male friends who are barred from doing so because of the risk of possibly transmitting the AIDS virus. (Why not here? It's such a simple way to help everyone. And what good public relations for our community.)

**Item 11: In New York City, school staff who work with the mentally retarded now face a greater chance of getting hepatitis B. Five out of twenty percent of mentally retarded individuals are carriers of the hepatitis B virus. (This is largely because they live in crowded, institutional settings in which they are often the victims of bites and scratches from other mentally retarded residents who have hepatitis B. The increased risk comes from the mentally retarded individuals so much as it comes from the refusal of school staff to get the hepatitis B vaccine because they are afraid that doing so will give them AIDS. (Here again is but another example of how fears about contracting AIDS is putting people in jeopardy of dying from an altogether more common killer.)

**Item 12: Glamour Magazine conducted its fourth annual Women's Views Study and found that fear of sexually transmitted diseases, such as herpes and AIDS, had edged out war and peace as the subject more concerning American women in 1985.**

(The denial changed all that much since?)

**THE END UP —**

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Coffee, tea, light sandwiches, snacks and good friends. Located upstairs over the Undergound and we are open to everyone until closing with no alcohol.

Item 3: Cover of the ADVOCATE back in 1983 showing three very handsome men, clad only in white towels, sitting on tiled bath ledges, posing as the three monkeys of old, who will see no evil, hear no evil, or speak no evil. The picture is for an article on AIDS called "Coping with a Crisis." (Has the denial changed all that much since then, have we learned how to cope?)

**Item 4: The headline says it all: MOTHER TERESA JOINS AIDS FIGHT.** (That's good except that this saintly woman wanted to set up farms for AIDS patients to work on, like the leprosy colonies in her native India, but had not taken into consideration the fact that AIDS patients are often too sick to work on a farm.)

**Item 6: A poll conducted by the Gallup organization found that of June, 1985, 95% of the American population has heard of AIDS. One interesting fact that emerged was that this article was born. (I should add that the order in which the following items appears has no significance whatsoever; they are entered in the order in which I randomly pulled them out of the file. I have tried to summarize the content of these articles as best I can. But I have added, in parentheses, my own thoughts, observations, or comments.)**

**Item 1: Report of a study done on 400 patients of a Florida surgeon who died of AIDS. The conclusion was that there was no evidence that transmission of the virus from doctor to patient occurred and there was no reason to conclude that should another surgeon have AIDS that she or he should not be kept from operating. The only way that transmission could occur under operating conditions would be, theoretically, if an infected health care worker bled into a patient's open wound. (And how unlikely is that?)

**Item 2: The Centers for Disease Control is going to investigate why there is an increase in tuberculosis cases in New York City. The underlying assumption is that the increase in cases, from 1600 in 1984 to 1900 last year, is somehow related to the AIDS virus. This is believed for two reasons: the rise of cases of TB is occurring in parts of the city where the largest number of AIDS patients occur, and testing done on patients with TB for the CDC study revealed that 80% of the TB cases showed signs of the AIDS virus.**

**Item 5: Fortune magazine reports that the top product of 1985 was Coca-Cola. Coke was but one of 11 products chosen for demonstrating "innovation, originality, or risk-taking." Also cited were the "WE ARE THE WORLD" record, Combat Roach Killer, Air Jordan shoes, and "AIDS antibody tests." (I think the later scores more on risk-taking than on innovation or originality, don't you?)

**Item 9:" Blood Sisters" a group of lesbians in Dallas, Texas, opened an account at a blood bank to donate blood for their gay male friends who are barred from doing so because of the risk of possibly transmitting the AIDS virus. (Why not here? It's such a simple way to help everyone. And what good public relations for our community.)

**Item 13: 1985 ended with the Associated Press rating the top 10 news stories of the year. Number one was the wave of terrorism which took place in the Middle East. Number five was a story that "had been with the world for a while, but it gained momentum in 1985" : AIDS. (It took Rock Hudson's death to gain AIDS this "distinction.")

**Item 14: According to Billboard magazine, the number one song in the USA for the week of January 11, 1986 is the single: "That's What Friends Are For" by Dionne Warwick (with 'friends' Gladys Knight, Stevie Wonder, and Elton John).

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**AIDS-Line 1-800-851-AIDS**

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OUR PAPER • page 5
Half-Frozen Dyke Rescued
From Cabin Fever
By Fighting Femmes

by R.J. Blessington

I am ready to give up and admit that it's winter. It really is too cold now to wear a jacket and tennis shoes outside. I've been observing my tan line fade and there's ice on the inside of the windows. In my frantic search for a remedy to cabin fever, I've been approaching new depths of intellectual bankruptcy, doing things like buying People magazine, watching the same "MASH" reruns for the tenth time, discussing baseball trades — big news: Manny Trillo is back with the Cubs — see what I mean? I was almost completely out of control just now. It's been really cold lately...

But just before Christmas, I bought a new series of Marvel Comics called "The Sisterhood of Steel," and anytime I start looking over to the pile of comics on the end table and settle down with the Sisterhood for a little feminist adventure, Middle Ages-style. With episode titles like "Passion, Pain, and Politics," or "Sisters, Secrets, and Slaves," it's quite impossible for me to resist "The S.O.S."

"The Sisterhood of Steel" has been coming out (in a matter of speaking) bi-monthly since December, 1984. Though flashbacks, backgrounds, and some pages of expository, planetary, word with NO pictures (this isn't a comic for kids), the reader is introduced to all the culture of women only. They are a mercenary force, formidable, skilled, courageous, reputed to be among the finest soldiers in the world.

This society, known as the Sisterhood of Steel, resembles an Amazon army base, circa 1200 A.D. Cadets who don't cut the mustard are castrated. The lowly position of housekeepers, etc., while the soldiers hold higher status. This class division is a glaring one in an otherwise admirable civilization.

...after making love to him, she says, "This is kind of embarrassing, but...tell me your name again."

The episodes revolve around Cadet First Class Boronwe, who is seventeen years old as the action starts. Boronwe — a real girl after my own heart — is the kind of young woman who likes to flex her muscles in the mirror. Her world is composed of wrestling, archery, swordfighting, and the study of history, tactics, and military strategy. Her sisters and superior class are a cross-section of all ages, with just about every exotic look and appearance. In this way, the Sisterhood effectively inculcates the reader with a deeper appreciation of women only.

The next issue is due out momentarily. Will Vandalis' deceitful plan be successful? Will Boronwe be found guilty of treason? Will she, for that matter, remember her boyfriend's name? Stay tuned for issue number eight, and keep warm. In a couple months, the ice in the driveway will be gone.

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Fool For Love
Desert of the Heart
Sex and Germs: The Politics of AIDS

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Drums beat so slow
a rolling ever so slow
these drums do beat
Near a rude old bridge
As a summer breeze unfurled
To the murdered man who drowned
in 1984
Doth his spirit sleep in silence here
With the city of Bangor, Maine?
As our Lesbian/Gay banners fly
for all to see
Drum beats do beat a slow rolling
ever so slow—
Bugles blow with the—
slow beating drums
By this soft running river
That holds the memory of
the dead Charles Howard
A hero for all Gays and Lesbians
who believe in freedom of speech.
Beat the drums for all to bear
Sound the bugles, blow them loud
For those Men and Women
who have died
for Gay Freedom's Right
As our flags and banners wave
Against our embattled foes
We march forward for our rights.
Our triumph marches forward
to the rolling beat of the drums
Bugles sound the glory
with the beat of the drums
Victory is being together in one
whole mass for Lesbian/Gay Freedom
As we remember our dead
Charles Howard
Against our foes the tyrannies
of those three young straights
Who murder in groups against single
Gays everywhere—
Even here in Bangor, Maine—
We must never forget . . . never.

P. H. Groves

Photos by Barb Puls

How can I tell you
the church bells toll
after I drop the pin
hearing its faint sigh.

How will I show you
a summer's sunset
when skyscrapers and cranes
deliberately block the view.

How could I touch you
physically, emotionally
when my wrists are bound
and miles prevent.

How could I reach into
my soul to find love and understanding
when there is no soul left...

for you.

Dags Kegs
Lesbians and AIDS

by Sonja Hailey

As the AIDS crisis increased during the past two years so too did the gay male community’s focus on AIDS. AIDS has become a consuming issue, permeating virtually all social and political aspects of gay male life. Within the gay male community in Maine. Actually, it may be more correct to state that the consummatory concern among gay men and lesbian men and gay male efforts. Political benefits. legislation. etc. are directed toward assisting the AIDS cause. Lesbians have not felt the same urgency to go out to the straight community and, in particular, to the lesbian community. After all, lesbians should certainly be able to identify with the homophobia which limits federal and state funding for AIDS. encourages restrictive legislation of bath houses (which the majority of lesbians are intimately knowledgeable of), and encourages further oppression of the lesbian and gay community.

Certainly a group which experienced double or even triple oppression because of its sex. sexual orientation, and race should emphasize with the gay male community’s crisis.

While some lesbians have responded and directed their energies to the AIDS cause, many have not. Some. Some may be responding to the AIDS crisis as a way to directly direct their energies toward men, and many lesbians remain ambivalent over their involvement in the matter of their own political energies, not directly directed toward men.

When have gay men, in any considerable number, directed their primary political energies toward lesbian or feminist concerns? Are lesbian and feminist issues, once again, becoming second. and, therefore, diffused as the AIDS crisis continues? As a primary concern? But, people are dying.

Shouldn’t we be concerned about the suffering of a cause that does not directly impact us? Although this is only a partial list of questions. the list suggests some very good reasons for many lesbians’ ambiguity toward the AIDS issue and certainly suggests reasons why lesbians should not direct their primary energies to that issue. At present, the AIDS issue has replaced other lesbian and gay male social and political issues, draining not only the lesbian community. but the general lesbian and gay community now proposes education on AIDS. Lesbians and AIDS...
Tears Are Not Enough... Feminist Reflections On AIDS
by JoAnne Dauphinée

AIDS, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, is not just a public health issue. Fear of AIDS has created a complicated maze of political, social, and cultural issues surrounding questions of human justice and compassion. Feminists have a special role to play in unfolding the drama. History & political analysis teach us that we must all move forward together for human rights, or those who would stop us will use the most violent means at their disposal to promote fear & hatred of all. If gaymen, as an AIDS high-risk group in the U.S., ever needed political & social allies, they need us as partisans. May we all practice the (current) primary scapegoats for putting us all in our (sexual) place.

The Rightwing is ghoulishly feasting on the fear & confusion about AIDS. They offer as 'proof' that the Right’s reactionary agenda on sexual & family life ought to be based on law, the evidence that go is punishing their political enemies with AIDS.

Women are among the losers in this political game. We continue to insist on sexual & reproductive freedom for all. Educating the public about AIDS & "safe sex" is a prerequisite to meeting the needs of men & women with AIDS—these are all actions in which feminists will participate. Prostitutes, IV drug users, & minority women (men) are disproportionately at risk in the U.S. Along with gaymen, these groups are favorite targets of Rightwing attack & concern. As the Rightwing continues to insist on sexual & reproductive freedom for all and to move forward together for human rights, it is important to promote fear & hatred of no one.

Godless Perverts & Baby Killers Unite! The Politics of AIDS

Those whose lifestyles stray from the idealized version of 1950’s traditional family values are implicated by the Rightwing as the湫er targets of Rightwing attack & concern. "Those whose lifestyles stray from the idealized version of 1950’s traditional family values are Black men (and sometimes Black women), and because symptoms described by women are often (still) considered exaggeration or imagination of the "weaker" sex by many doctors, women are more likely to face delay (or mis-) diagnoses. There are fewer, often no, sister support groups or other services. Most women with AIDS have Pneumocystic Pneumonia or other opportunistic infections. Very few have Kaposi’s Sarcoma (common in gaymen with AIDS). So far, about half of the women live in NYC or Newark, most are between 20-40 years old, about 3/4ths are Black or Hispanic. Over 1/2 of all U.S. women diagnosed with AIDS have died.

Civil Rights Are Threatened several ways: Medical privacy & confidentiality are threatened by mandatory antibody blood testing (by the military, insurance companies, employers) and by disclosure or dissemination of test results. People with AIDS, people who test positive for AIDS antibodies (but who do not have AIDS), and people in high-risk groups, each face discrimination typically in the form of denial of employment, housing, childcare, insurance coverage, and/or school. Threats of legal repercussions, and the improbable name of molluscum contagiosum, this infection is a member of the poxvirus family, as is smallpox. Molluscum contagiosum may sound like something that lives in a shell and crawls up the inside of an aquarium. but if it happens to get under your skin, keep calm and have it removed. The lesions can be scraped by a process called curettage, or the center, which is sunken, contains a milky fluid that may look like bug bites or blackheads. The infection to others. The lesions can be scraped by a process called curettage, or the center, which is sunken, contains a milky fluid that may look like bug bites or blackheads. The lesions can be scraped by a process called curettage, or the center, which is sunken, contains a milky fluid that may look like bug bites or blackheads. The lesions can be scraped by a process called curettage, or the center, which is sunken, contains a milky fluid that may look like bug bites or blackheads. The lesions can be scraped by a process called curettage, or the center, which is sunken, contains a milky fluid that may look like bug bites or blackheads. The lesions can be scraped by a process called curettage, or the center, which is sunken, contains a milky fluid that may look like bug bites or blackheads. The lesions can be scraped by a process called curettage, or the center, which is sunken, contains a milky fluid that may look like bug bites or blackheads. The lesions can be scraped by a process called curettage, or the center, which is sunken, contains a milky fluid that may look like bug bites or blackheads. The lesions can be scraped by a process called curettage, or the center, which is sunken, contains a milky fluid that may look like bug bites or blackheads. The lesions can be scraped by a process called curettage, or the center, which is sunken, contains a milky fluid that may look like bug bites or blackheads. The lesions can be scraped by a process called curettage, or the center, which is sunken, contains a milky fluid that may look like bug bites or blackheads. The lesions can be scraped by a process called curettage, or the center, which is sunken, contains a milky fluid that may look like bug bites or blackheads. The lesions can be scraped by a process called curettage, or the center, which is sunken, contains a milky fluid that may look like bug bites or blackheads. The lesions can be scraped by a process called curettage, or

Minor Problem With A Fancy Name

Last month, this column discussed venereal warts, also known as condyloma acuminatum, a minor, virus-caused, sexually transmitted disease. There is another viral STD: the skin, it is also minor, but less common. Molluscum contagiosum is not known to occur in the mouth, vagina, urethra, anus, or rectum. Molluscum contagiosum will clear up by itself, within six to nine months. Treatment may be considered, though, for aesthetic purposes and to prevent spreading the infection to others. The lesions can be scraped by a process called curettage, or they can be frozen (cryoablation) with liquid nitrogen. Podophyllin, a caustic resin mixed with benzoin and frequently used to treat venereal warts, is sometimes used to treat MC. After treatment, a person should be checked a month later to make sure the lesions are not returning. Sex partners should be checked, too, and treated when necessary. (For more info on these treatments, refer to Our Paper, January 1986, in the article on venereal warts. It is also possible to self-treat. After soaking in a bath tub of warm water, the bumps can be squeezed and the milky center removed. Once the soft substance is removed, the lump will go away. Care should be taken when touching the lesions; one of the few complications of MC can be the infection of the high-risk skin, and the lesions can be transmitted from one person to another person by body-to-body contact. In children, transmission can result from shared towels and swimming pools. It is also possible to spread the infection from one part of the body to another. The incubation period for MC varies from a few weeks to a few months. MC appears as firm, skin-colored bumps with a smooth surface. The center, which is sunken, contains a milky or curdy substance which can be squeezed out through the spot in the middle. Diagnosis is generally made by visual examination. If there is any doubt, the bump can be biopsied or the milky material can be extracted, stained, and examined by microscope. Molluscum contagiosum is not known to be transmitted in the mouth, vagina, urethra, anus, or rectum.
“Let freedom ring from Castro Street in San Francisco to Christopher Street in New York City. And let freedom ring from that bridge over Kenduskeag Stream in Bangor, Maine. And let freedom ring from the visiting room in Thomaston State Prison. And let freedom ring from every housetop in Madison, Maine.”

Dale McCormick

“Let freedom ring from Castro Street in San Francisco to Christopher Street in New York City. And let freedom ring from that bridge over Kenduskeag Stream in Bangor, Maine. And let freedom ring from the visiting room in Thomaston State Prison. And let freedom ring from every housetop in Madison, Maine.”

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Dale McCormick, MLGPA President.
How is it that Mission Hill voted overwhelmingly for Ronald Reagan and Ed King, favors the death penalty, is anti-choice and anti-black, and voted for a socialist faggot from the Fenway???

David Scondras

Ellen Musinsky, New Hampshire Citizens’ Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights and Kevin Catcart, Executive Director, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (right) enjoy the dinner. MLGP A member Dan Kelley is in the background.

Barbara Helen Baker delighted the crowd with her original musical composition “The Intolerance Day Rag.” McCormick delivered a moving finish to the evening’s festivities, reminding everyone of the approaching holiday, honoring Martin Luther King, Jr., “a person I like to think about when I get discouraged.” She stated, “Just as Martin Luther King had a dream in the darkest hours,” McCormick continued, “we have a dream today — that we will someday not be judged by our sexual orientation but by the content of our character.”

Modeling her words on King’s “I Have a Dream” speech, McCormick commanded, “Let freedom ring from Castro Street in San Francisco to Christopher Street in New York City. And let freedom ring from that bridge over Kenduskeag Stream in Bangor, Maine. And let freedom ring from the visiting room in Thomaston State Prison. And let freedom ring from every housetop in Madison, Maine.”

The Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders and the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts filed suit January 30 in Suffolk Superior Court challenging Massachusetts’ newly promulgated regulations on foster care.

The suit contends that the new regulations discriminate against single persons, unmarried couples, and gay and lesbians who seek to become foster parents.

In May 1985 the Massachusetts Department of Social Services removed two little boys from their foster home with Donald Babets and David Jean, a gay couple. Now eight months later Babets and Jean, joined by two other foster parents and the Massachusetts chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, are filing suit challenging the DSS policy that emerged from the original incident — a policy that plaintiffs allege, irrationally and arbitrarily assumes that a traditional nuclear family is the best placement for every foster child.

In the suit, Babets, Jean, the Reverend Kathryn Piccard, Catherine Brayden, and three officers of the Massachusetts chapter of NASW, attacked the validity of the regulations first established by DSS in July 1985. These regulations establish a series of priorities for foster placement, which must be followed regardless of the needs or circumstances of the particular child.

The first priority, after placement with relatives, is placing the child in “family foster care with a married couple preferably with parenting experience and time available for parenting.” Only after this option is exhausted may social workers consider the next category: “a person with parenting experience preferably with time available for parenting.” And let freedom ring from every housetop in Madison, Maine.”

Barbara Helen Baker entertains the crowd with her original composition, “The Intolerance Day Rag.”

McCormick distributed “Presidential Awards” to Terry Wallace “for his courageous testimony at the Judiciary Committee hearing last May,” and to MLGP A activists Joe Keelan, Marty Sabol, Barb Wood, Diane Elze, Harry Gordon, Betty Sweet, and Paula Aboud, all of whom, in turn, surprised McCormick with a bouquet of roses for “her strong leadership and deep commitment.”

Barbara Helen Baker

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OUR PAPER • page 11
**Organizations**

**Gay/Lesbian Alliance**

by Terri Jones

February saw a wide range of activities in the GLA office, our usual Friday Night Discussions, as well as teacher workshops, a major conference and local speaking engagements.

Applications for the Charles O. Howard Memorial Scholarship will be accepted until March 7th. The scholarship was established last year in honor of Charles Howard. Any USM student and degree candidate enrolled in at least six credit hours with a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher is eligible. The scholarship will be awarded to the writer who best articulates, in essay form, the importance of civil rights for lesbians and gay men. For more information and an application call or stop by the GLA office.

Four members of the GLA staff attended the recent Northeast Gay and Lesbian Student Union Conference (UGLS) at Brown University. The conference was organized by the Brown University/Rhode Island School of Design Lesbian and Gay Alliance. The conference featured films and workshops as well as evening entertainment with Kate Clinton and Romanovsky and Phillips. Major speakers included Fred Kennedy, Mel King, Congressman Gerry Studds, Peter Drago (NY Gov. Mario Cuomo’s liaison to the lesbian and gay community), David Scondras (openly gay member of the Boston City Council), John Busch (President of Black and White Men Together) and Larry Kessler (Executive Director of the AIDS Action Committee of Boston).

The Gay Speakers Bureau is a service provided by the GLA for schools, college classes and other informational meetings. During February, speakers gave talks on “Growing Up Gay” in Backport and in March, will address the same topic at Maranacook School. A discussion and question and answer session also took place at Andover College in Prof. Sharp’s Contemporary Social Problems class. If you are interested in speaking or would like to have a speaker address your group please contact the GLA office at 780-4085.

**UPCOMING AND ONGOING...**

The Third Regional Conference on Bisexuality will take place March 7-9 on the USM campus in Portland. The conference will be sponsored by the Boston Bisexual Women’s and Men’s Networks and coordinated locally by the USM Women’s Forum. The conference features workshops, panel discussions, affinity groups and entertainment. For more information contact the USM Women’s Forum at 780-4085.

The GLA will co-sponsor a forum on high level nuclear waste in Maine on March 18th at USM in Portland. Speakers include Portland’s representative to the State Senate, Tom Andrews. The forum will be preceded by a reception at 6:30PM at 92 Bedford St. with the forum to follow at 7:00PM at Luther Bonney Auditorium. For more information call PIRG (Public Interest Research Group) at 780-4044.

Friday Night Discussion Group meets every Friday from 7-9PM, at 92 Bedford St. in Portland. Call the office for information on topics. Counselling services are available through our office.

Watch for details of area fundraising events to help defray Bob Gravel’s legal costs. The GLA and the Maine Health Foundation will sponsor a concert by the Boston Gay/Lesbian Marching Band, Sunday April 13th at Luther Bonney Auditorium.

Watch for a showing of “Before Stonewall” in Backport and in March, will address the same topic at Maranacook School. A discussion and question and answer session also took place at Andover College in Prof. Sharp’s Contemporary Social Problems class. If you are interested in speaking or would like to have a speaker address your group please contact the GLA office at 780-4085.

**PRE-REGISTRATION FORM • SYMPOSIUM XIII • May 23–26, 1986**

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**CURRENT INTERESTS**

**NAME:**

**ADDRESS:**

**CURRENT INTERESTS**

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Number of children

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CARIBOU - MAINE - 04736-0990
Dear Crabby,

Dear Crabby,

Last night I met the man of my dreams while casually strolling through the men’s room of a local fast food franchise. After that brief encounter we agreed to meet at his place later that day. When I arrived at his home there were three other men visiting under the same pretense. Naturally, I walked out and do not intend on returning. What should I do now?

Signed,

Quicky

Dear Quicky,

Go back to eating out. Call up your dreamboat and tell him that if his eyes are bigger than his belly gastronomic problems could develop. You should both go back to eating out. Crabby

Dear Crabby,

My lover likes to wear women’s clothes. Is this politically correct for a lesbians? Signed,

Dee Dee

Dear D.D.,

It is if you don’t feel like arguing with her.

Love,

Crabby

Dear Crabby,

My lover has a very nasty habit of putting his feet between my legs to fondle me whenever we go out to eat in a restaurant. I find this very distracting and can never get up to go to the bathroom without embarrassment. Help.

Signed,

Up and Coming

Dear U.C.,

Crabby envies you. I have always wanted to have two feet between my legs!

Crabby

Dear Crabby,

When I was just a little... This is to the staff of Our Paper...

If you ever want to see Crabby alive again you are to send a lot of money plus postage and handling to our organization. Crabby has not done as was requested in our letter of your last issue and now there are consequences to pay. This is not a joke. We have the nasty creature at gunpoint. Naturally, all she can do is salivate. This is not a threat. We have every intention of keeping Crabby until Crabby’s brain is properly conditioned. Our first attempt will be to use fabric softener. If that does not work and we have not received ransom money you give us no alternative but to use other methods. We will call you collect in three working days...

Crabby

Dear Crabby,

Has it ever occurred to any of us that our culture is special? We have an exclusive language: fag, eke, drag queen, seafood. We have some very specific rituals: cruising, tricking, earrings, pinky rings. What is it all seems given to us now there was a time when a period of orientation introduced us all to the gay subculture. We had to learn about all the little secrets as we became members of one of the world’s largest minorities.

God and Goddesses alike should bless Judy Grahn for a book that helps explain it all. Another Mother Tongue should be required reading for every budding and blossomed homosexual. Ms. Grahn has really given us something worth the effort in her book.

Actually, the book is three stories in one. Each woven conveniently into the fabric of gay life past and present. There is the story of Ms. Grahn’s struggle as a woman looking for her lesbian identity in the claustrophobic confines of the sixties. While most of that is familiar to anyone who has come out, she makes many honest and startling self-revelations.

Then, there is the running correspondence in letter form with her very first lover “Von.” While the book is dedicated to Von and two other people the loving dialogue directed to Von makes the pages hers and hers alone. She becomes as real to us in the reading as she is to Judy Grahn’s memory of that very first of lovers.

Signed,

R. Rup

SPORautical

HAPPY HOUR THURS.

R. Rup

HAPPY HOUR THURS.

HAPPY HOUR THURS.

HAPPY HOUR THURS.

HAPPY HOUR THURS.

HAPPY HOUR THURS.

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Entertainment
Lewiston Goes Drag
by Norman Brilliant

Though not many people were aware of it, the gay community of Lewiston had a drag show on the evening of February sixteenth. That Sunday night at the Sportsmans Bar on Bates Street the evening was dedicated to raising money for the Central Maine Health Foundation's new AIDS hotline. All proceeds from the cover charge taken at the door went to finance the already existing service for the public.

The folks in Lewiston know how to entertain themselves and the drag show that evening was worth the time. In all honesty it cannot be said that all of the performers were professional, but we all have to start somewhere and it takes guts to get up on a stage in a dress with so many people watching. I won't continue playing critic since that courage alone needs to be applauded especially under such worthy circumstances. The entire cast really worked to entertain the audience and the effort was appreciated. One duo who lip synched to two songs by the Weather Girls had so much energy and passion for what they were doing that they surely must have at least napped after the show...not necessarily alone either.

During the evening tickets were sold to raise more funds. Half of the pot went to CMHF and the winner took the rest. Ms. Gail Barrell from Milford, Connecticut held the winning ticket. She generously contributed her share back to fund the hot line. While that kind of compassion is admirable I must thank her more for her friendship. She and her lover Liz Harris were visiting with me and mine at the time. It is an asset to our state that these two women are soon to be residents here in the near future. Welcome Liz and Gail from all of us.

Rumor Had It
by P.M. Barry

For some time there had been rumors that Entre Nous, Maine's first and only women's bar, was going to be closed. Well, like all rumors this one had little truth to it. Here is what really happened. An unknown person was going to buy the lease held by the owners of Entre Nous. Rumor had it that the bar was going to close and reopen in a new location. Plans were being made to do that when the unknown person had difficulty raising the money to buy the lease. The lease was not sold. The owners of Entre Nous then took a week to do some remodeling and have reopened at 117 Spring Street in Portland.

I talked with Judy, one of the bar's owners about Entre Nous and its future.

P.M.: Why did you open Entre Nous as a women's bar?
Judy: For two years now all I heard from the lesbian women was a cry for an all-women's bar. With a lot of encouragement from some close friends I decided to open a women's bar. But I felt if it was going to be a women's bar, then it had to be owned and operated by women. Entre Nous was opened to give women a feeling of support—someplace where women could go and feel comfortable. A place to call their own, a home-away-from-home type of atmosphere. So far I have had a lot of support from lesbian women in the area.
The Return of Macho and Friendly

by Bull O'Nee

In the past six months Officer Macho has made 6,901 trips around the “fruit loop" in Deering Oaks while on Fag Patrol for the PD (and while waiting for a carton to continue his story!). Fed up, he storms into Sarge’s office: “Sarge, I’ve had it! I can’t take another day.”

“Don’t be a wimp, Macho. It’s your duty as a police officer to...”

“I’d rather quit the force than spend another day in these tight jeans. They’re making me impotent.”

“All right, stop whining. We need you for a new project anyways. From now on you’re on PORN PATROL.”

“Porn Patrol?” Macho replies querily.

“Yep, we’re enforcing that obscene ordinance. Your first assignment is to find the biggest dildo in Portland and bring it to me.”

“Dildo?”

“You know, ‘a sexual device for manipulation of...’ Sarge grilles lasciviously.

“Oh, I get it.” Macho replies, embarrassed.

Soon Macho enters the Sixth Deal Bookstore. On the counter, standing upright in size order are a row of objects similar to what Sarge described. Some are made of plastic, some are wood, and some glass.

They range in size from six inches to one foot. Shyly, Macho inquires of the clerk: “Excuse me sir, are these dildos?”

“Right buddy, what’d you think they were, Tupperware containers for Polish sausage?”

“Well, I was hoping to find something a little larger.”

“So you want larger, do you? I have just the thing.” He reaches under the counter and pulls out a giant 3-foot replica. Astonished, Macho throws down a twenty, grabs the dildo and races for the door. Sarge blocks his path and for a moment they are locked in a reflex of self-defense, he grabs the dildo by the balls and aims it at the crowd going to be in the way here. I’ll just take it home for the weekend.” Macho grabs the dildo and heads for the door. Sarge blocks his path and for a moment they are locked in a struggle for possession, the mammoth phallic phaluses pressed hard between their sweating male torsos. Embarrassed, Sarge backs off. “All right,” he sighs, “but I get it next weekend.”

Next month: The Dildo Goes To Court.

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Newly renovated one bedroom apartment, Spring Street (Portland), $395 per month plus utilities, Non-smoking, no pets. Call 775-1021 or 774-7711.

Female roommate needed — large sunny West End (Portland) apartment. Off street parking, Water view, $190, plus utilities. Call 761-2026.

CONTEMPORARY HOME IN YORK, MAINE — Live in secluded, attractive home on 13 acres lot in desirable area near Ogunquit beaches. Home has 3 bedrooms, master bath with Jacuzzi, central heated atrium and workshop. Approximately 45 minutes to Portland. Offered at $139,900. Contact Yvonne Jurkowksi, Drown Agency of Saco, 1-282-7552.

The rate for classifieds is $4 for 30 words, 10¢ for each additional word. For personals add $2 for handling. All ads must be prepaid. Mail ads to Our Paper, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, ME 04104. Ask that you not use sexually explicit language in your personals. Responses to personals will not be opened by Our Paper and will be forwarded to you twice monthly.

SEEKING FRIENDSHIP/LOVER — GWIM, 22, 5’9”, 165, looking for 18-35 good looking guy for relationship. Likes movies, music, dancing, quiet (and hot) times at home. Would like to hear from sincere guys within travelling distance of northern New Hampshire. Write Advertiser #11, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, ME 04104.

To “Bare Bottom” (February—Dear Crabby). If you are a GM, I have a remedy for your problem: I am 31, GWIM, 5’7”, 135 lbs., looking for friendly, intelligent, attractive, prof. and more. Open to friendship and the possibility of a relationship. Write Occupant, Box 10442, Portland, ME 04101.

Female roommate needed - large sunny West End (Portland) apartment. Off street parking, Water view, $190, plus utilities. Call 761-2026.

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Lesbigay Network

Meetings

SUNDAYS
Bates Gay/Lesbian/Straight Alliance — for discussion, support, and planning — every Sunday, 8:30 p.m. in Hirasewa Lounge, Chase Hall, Bates College, Lewiston.

Northern Lambda Nord — last Sunday of the month — business meeting, 1:00 pm, followed by a potluck.

Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA) — every third Sunday of the month. Meetings rotated throughout state. See Calendar listing for location and time.

Gay/Lesbian Spiritual Community — 125 Vaughan Street, Portland, Maine 04102. 7:00 p.m. 773-1924.

Chillen Mountain Club — P.O. Box 407, Boston, Mass. 02117

Feminist Spiritual Community — 9 Deering St. P.O. Box 2771, Portland, Maine 04104. 773-2294

Fredericton Lesbians and Gays — Box 1556, Station A, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada

TUESDAYS

Greater Portland N.O.W. — fourth Tuesday of the month, Y.W.C.A., 87 Spring St., Portland, 7:30 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous — Gays in Sobriety — every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, 425 Congress St., Portland.

Our Paper staff meeting — every Tuesday, 7:30 pm, Our Books, 4 Pine St., Portland. New members are welcome.

Gay/Lesbian A-Anon — every Tuesday, 7:30 to 8:30 pm, First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, 425 Congress St., Portland.

Mid-Coast Parents and Friends of Gays — second Tuesday of each month, 7:30, Brunswick, call 729-9943.

Bangor Area Gay/Lesbian/Straight Coalition (BAGLSC) — meets every Thursday at 3:30, open to all members.

FRIDAYS

"Free To Bee" Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous — 8-9:30, Saltwater Soberhouse, 87 Oak St.

Brian Elms, New Hampshire Citizens Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights — meeting every Friday, 6:00-9:00 p.m., Sutton Lounge, Memorial Union, University of Maine.

SATURDAYS

For exact locations.

Calendar

Thursday, Feb. 27
R.J. Bass will discuss "Women and AIDS." AIDS Discussion Group, Our Books, 4 Pine St., Portland, 7:00.

Friday, Feb. 28
GLA potluck. Come join the fun! Call 780-4085 for details.

Saturday, March 1
Women's Contra-Dance, Williston West Church (new location), on Thomas St. which runs between Pine and Spring on Portland's West End. 8-11 p.m. Woman caller; women musicians. Benefit for resistance to Big Mountain Relocation. Presented by the Feminist Spiritual Community, 773-2294. Beginners welcome, no partner needed. $5.

Saturday, March 1
Tom Wilson Weinberg and Romanovsky and Phillips in concert, Arlington St. Church, Boylston and Arlington Streets, Boston, $8 to benefit the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee. Information and reservations, call 617-542-3622.

Monday, March 3

Wednesday, March 5
MidCoast AIDS Support Group Meeting, 7:00 pm at New Leaf Books, 438 Main St., Rockland, Call 596-0040 for information. Snow date March 12.

Thursday, March 6
AIDS forum, Coffin School Auditorium, Brunswick, 7:30 pm.

Saturday, March 15
Bob Gravel Defense Fund Night taking place statewide. See notice inside this issue for exact locations.

Sunday, March 16
Maine Legislative Gay Political Alliance Meeting at United Church of Bangor, corner of Main & Union Sts., at 10:00 PM. Bill Diamond, gubernatorial candidate, will speak.