

Community Pride Reporter

FREE

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

VOL. 3, Number 10 [9]

May, 1996

From Both Sides Now

Transsexual Sarah Luiz Says a Sex Change Isn't Enough

by Suzanne Pyle, Editor
NH Bureau

Sarah Luiz is a 5'10 metallic blonde bombshell and she knows it. Relaxed in her cozy Dover, New Hampshire apartment, Sarah reveals a sexy smile as she recalls being Jeff.

Jeff grew up feeling like a misfit. He was ridiculed at school because he didn't act like the other boys, and burdened at home with a mother who was diagnosed with cancer and a sister who suffered from epilepsy. A victim of abuse, physically and sexually, Jeff had few moments of real happiness growing up. One of those moments was when his mother taught him how to dance. They would do the 'twist' together and Jeff would feel hopeful again.

Still, it only got harder for Jeff by the time he reached high school. He looked effeminate, and despised sports or getting it on with the girls. Instead, he ran around with some gay friends and found he could do the twist only in the gay clubs.

Trying so hard to fit in, and terribly convinced he never could, Jeff believed deep in his heart he was nothing more than a wimp. At age 18, he was convinced that he was trapped in the



Sarah Luiz with talk show host, Sally Jesse Raphael. Sarah's appeared many times.

wrong body and pleaded with his parents to have a sex change. They hoped he was going through a phase and told him to wait till he was 21. Jeff did wait, and three years later began the long process of undergoing a sex change.

Now, five years after the operation, Sarah has emerged and she is stunning. Sometimes a blonde, sometimes a brunette, Sarah uses makeup and fashion more effectively than one of Calvin Klein's supermodels. No longer a wimp,

See BOTH SIDES, pg. 9

Fund raising organization founded in L/A

"Positively Alive!" to raise funds for those living with HIV/AIDS

by: Winnie Weir, Publishing Editor

"Positively Alive!" is a non-profit agency founded by Kevin and Raymond Gagnon of Lewiston/Auburn. Its purpose, according to the Gagnon's, is to host fund raising events which will directly benefit people in our community living with HIV and AIDS. The organization is committed to assisting members of the Lewiston/Auburn community in obtaining the financial resources necessary to maintain their quality of life. Their hope is to also increase the communities awareness and response to the increasing numbers of community members who are affected by HIV/AIDS.

Raymond Gagnon recently wrote to me about "Positively Alive!" asking for assistance in getting the word out. His words tell the story eloquently:

"I'll give you a brief history of why my husband and I decided to create Positively Alive. Both Kevin and I were diagnosed as HIV positive in November 1994. We spent the first year frightened and confused. During that year we found very little emotional or financial support in our community. Many people in our community refuse to acknowledge the presence of HIV and AIDS in Lewiston/Auburn.

As we watched our friends and



Photo by Tom Antonik

Keven (left) & Raymond Gagnon, co-founders of PA, at MLGPA Banquet.

community members grow ill and die in secrecy, we decided to "go public" with our diagnosis in the hopes of bringing a face to HIV in Lewiston/Auburn. Overall the experience has been a liberating one. We've managed to eliminate the fear of the unknown in some areas of our community. Kevin began to organize a fund raising event to benefit the AIDS Coalition of Lewiston/Auburn and during that planning process he and I

See ALIVE!, pg. 18

Candace Gingrich & Human Rights Campaign on a recent whirlwind weekend in Maine

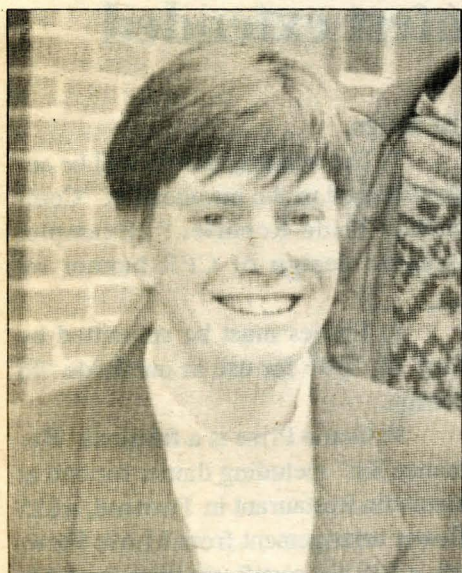


Photo by Chris Milliken
Candace Gingrich in Portland on recent Human Rights Campaign fund drive.

by Chris Milliken

Candace Gingrich (yes, Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich' sister who happens to be a lesbian) and other representatives of the Human Rights Campaign took Maine by storm the weekend of March 22-24. In its effort to add

to its membership base in Maine, HRC and Gingrich covered a chunk of Maine from Orono to Hallowell, Waterville, Augusta, Portland and maybe one or two other places. I caught up with Ms. Gingrich at a Portland coffee spot for a brief interview.

CPR: How has throwing yourself into the political arena changed your life?

CG: It's changed my life immensely, from doing computer work during the day and loading UPS trucks at night to traveling around the country meeting the people who have been in the trenches for so long and the next generation of people for the trenches. Even in my non-activist mode I thought I was on top of things, that I knew what was going on [politically]. I found a whole new world that I didn't know existed.

CPR: You have an incredibly tight schedule here in Maine. Do you always travel like this?

CG: I usually travel two to three or five days at a time. Then I get to go

See GRINRICH, pg. 18

Gay & Lesbian Phonenumber now toll-free

HIV/AIDS prevention education becomes part of expanded service

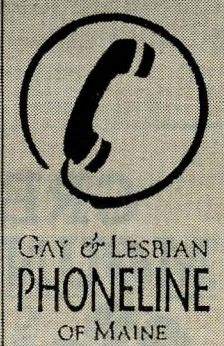
Caribou, ME - Northern Lambda Nord, Inc. has expanded their peer support and informational phonenumber services. This enhancement of service is possible due to a grant from the Maine Bureau of Health/Office on AIDS through the primary and preventive health services provider, "Health 1st," a division of the Aroostook County Action Program. The money is to improve HIV-prevention education for young men in Aroostook County who are at high risk for contracting HIV and AIDS.

Health 1st, whose services include anonymous HIV-testing and community education, has provided training to volunteers who staff the Gay & Lesbian Phonenumber of Maine, which, before April 1, 1996, had been staffed only two hours each week. Staffing has increased three-fold to six hours weekly: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Phonenumber volunteers received educational information and training about HIV and AIDS as well as specific prevention information to convey to call-

ers. The Phonenumber has also added a toll-free number (800-468-2088) which enables statewide access without the barrier of long distance charges. For the last 14 years, the Phonenumber has had only a local Caribou exchange (498-2088).

Northern Lambda Nord is a 16-year-old organization serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered community in Aroostook County and neighboring New Brunswick towns and is the oldest group of its kind in the state. The Gay & Lesbian Phonenumber of Maine was set up in 1982 with the financial help of Fredericton (New Brunswick) Lesbians and Gays, and it remains the only service of its kind in Maine.

Susan Deschene, Director of
See PHONELINE, pg. 18



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Bureau of Health proposes changes to current HIV rules

by Kate Perkins

The Maine Bureau of Health is proposing two changes to the current HIV rules. As the MLGPA representative to the Governor's HIV Advisory Committee, I would appreciate hearing comments on the proposed rules from CPR readers. It would be great if readers would come to the public hearing and weigh in on the proposed rules directly!

The text of the proposed rule changes are summarized below:

1. Rules for the Control of Notifiable Disease are promulgated by the Bureau of Health as required by 22 MRSA Chapter 250, Sections 801-825. The Rules are amended periodically, most recently in 1989.

2. A period for public comment (approximately 3 weeks) and a public hearing follow the filing of these amendments with the Office of the Secretary of State. Unless otherwise revised, the amendments are officially adapted and become effective in 90 days.

3. There are two changes in the proposed amendments that directly bear upon HIV/AIDS reporting requirements. They are:

A. Physician Reporting of HIV Infection: Most reportable conditions require name and other identifying information as part of the disease report. For HIV infection (without AIDS), the patient name has not been required. The 1996 amendments add an exception to this rule, however, in requiring name reporting in the case of persons with HIV infection who are also tuberculin skin test-positive.

Rationale for change: Persons co-infected with HIV and TB are at extremely high risk (100 times greater than for HIV negative persons) for developing active TB disease. The regimen for prophylaxis is longer and the risk for Drug-resistant disease is higher. The Bureau of Health needs to work closely with Health Care providers in such cases and have early involvement if active respiratory disease develops.

B. Laboratory Reporting: Laboratories will be asked to add CD4 Lymphocyte Counts <200 (or <14% Total Lymphocytes) to their list of Notifiable Conditions. These laboratory reports will be submitted without reference to HIV status. It is then the responsibility

of the HIV/AIDS Surveillance Coordinator to follow up with the ordering physician to determine if this may represent an unreported AIDS case.

Rationale for Change: In 1993, the CDC changed the AIDS case definition to include CD4 depletion in the presence of HIV infection. More than 60% of new cases are currently reported on that basis. However, almost one-half of cases are reported >6 months after diagnosis and a growing proportion are being reported >1 year after diagnosis. Many cases are only reported after a death certificate is received or other alternative databases are researched by the Surveillance Coordinator. Late reporting and non-reporting of cases has significant implications for our understanding of the changes in the epidemic, the public perception of the extent of the epidemic, and funding formulas for Ryan White and HIV prevention efforts. CD 4 lab reporting will serve as a trigger for AIDS case reporting and will significantly improve its timeliness and completeness.

Public Hearing:
May 2, 1996 at 2:00 pm
221 State Street,
Augusta, Maine
1st floor conference room

Activist Network forming in Maine

According to information coming out of a series of follow-up meetings held after the defeat of Question 1 in November 1995, there is definite interest among activists including members of Maine Won't Discriminate and other activists and groups who have worked on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered rights as well as issues concerning social and economic justice, to form an Activist Network in Maine.

Consensus was reached among participants attending the follow-up meetings to build on the energy that was generated to defeat Question 1. "We need to pursue community-based, grass roots organizing of projects and create a network that will facilitate communication and exchange of ideas and re-

sources," stated members of the Network Planning Committee in a recently released document. Preliminary plans call for local groups to be autonomous, working on projects pertinent to them. The network would provide an opportunity to share resources and ideas, learn of opportunities and calls for action, receive and give help on individual projects. It is anticipated that the energy, strength and commitment each activist and each organization bring to their work for equal rights and social justice will be renewed by coming together.

On Saturday, May 11 from 1-4 pm a planning meeting to share information and make plans for the future will be held at the Pine Tree State Arboretum, 153 Hospital Street in Augusta. The

hosts of the meeting stress that nothing is written in stone and expressed the hope for representation from as large a cross-section of the community and allies as possible. The meeting will be co-facilitated by Erica Rank of Lewiston and Ray Rogers of Waterville. Those attending are asked to bring refreshments to share and any handouts from their respective organizations.

Members of the Network Planning Committee are available to answer any questions or concerns before the meeting date. They are: Janice Campbell, 625-3689; Naomi Falcone, 642-2015; David Garrity, 774-5412; Karen Geraghty, 761-8376; Mitzi Lichtman, 338-5889; Pat Peard, 781-3710; Erica Rand, 782-0975 and Ray Rogers, 872-6667. ΔΔ

Deadline for CPR Banner design contest extended to May 15

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.

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 brothers and sisters in New Hampshire, we want our banner to be more representative of this new partnership. The fourth anniversary of CPR's beginnings is in May and we can make this a double celebration. Prizes from various sources make up a fabulous grand prize for the selected banner.

The guidelines and rules are:

1) The contest is open to anyone not currently writing for "Community Pride Reporter" or otherwise affiliated

with the paper.

2) Submissions must be camera ready, i.e., no sketches or rough ideas. Ideally they will be typeset, computer generated or hand-inked.

3) The design must be black and white with a successful 2 color application as well.

4) The banner design must include, but is not limited to, the following words: "Community Pride Reporter," Maine and New Hampshire('s) Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered community, news or newspaper.

5) The dimensions are of a page in CPR are 10" wide by 15" tall and you may use up to one quarter page for your design.

6) "Community Pride Reporter" retains all rights to use any design created for the contest and by submitting a design, the artist acknowledges that he/she revokes any rights of property for

the design.

7) The winning design will be acknowledged in the masthead of "Community Pride Reporter." (Example: Graphic design of CPR banner by _____.)

8) Entries must be submitted by May 15, 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 a portrait sitting at Studio 101 in Portland.

So, get the creative juices flowing and you may be the winner of our grand prize AND have your creation seen by over 10,000 people every month! Send entries to "Community Pride Reporter," 142 High Street, Suite #623, Portland 04101. ΔΔ

by Carolyn A. Jalbert,
Public Relations Chair

June 15, 1996 is our time to get out and celebrate in southern Maine! Make note of these dates: **June 7, Friday to June 16, Sunday.** Participation is key, solidarity is at the heart of the festival. We can take our pride to the streets in our own parade, to the pier to dance, to church to worship, to a grand tree-lighting celebration with pink PRIDE LIGHTS, the festival and a cruise.

Our keynote speaker who will appear at several engagements is Claudia Brenner, author of "Eight Bullets: One Woman's Story of Surviving Anti-gay Violence." Claudia will address the City Hall Parade Rally and appear at the June 13 Matlovich Society meeting followed by a book signing at Drop Me A Line, 615a Congress Street, Portland. Brenner



Claudia Brenner, Keynote speaker for PRIDE '96 10th Anniversary celebration. will also appear at an After Work Reception on Friday, June 14 from 4-6 pm

just come OUT! PRIDE portland, maine * 6-15-96 10 year

where she will help to introduce a new effort to stop bias crimes.

In May of 1988 Claudia Brenner survived one of the worst nightmares of gay and lesbian life, an attack on her and her lover in the woods of Pennsylvania by a hidden stranger. The attack left Rebecca dead and nearly killed Claudia.

Pride 1996 Grand Marshal is Out-right, the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth organization. This year's Pride will focus on support for youth and the leadership role we must provide.

On June 12 Frannie Peabody will join in support of the Pride Lights Foundation at a tree lighting ceremony in Portland's Congress Square. As Frannie throws the switch, hundreds of pink lights will glow symbolizing the bridges being built between gay and non-gay communities. The Pride Lights Foundation is an organization dedicated to building these bridges. Pride lights will be on sale at this event and at local businesses as early as May. What better way to show your support and your Pride than to string Pink lights for Pride Week. A lively pop concert and entertainment will follow the tree lighting ceremony.

We're back with the **Maine State Pier Dance** on June 14. Thus far DJ's Lisa Vicarro and Kris Klark, Darien Brahms and EM will provide tunes. We

will have a stage with entertainment and bar service operated by the Holiday Inn by the Bay. A free after dance shuttle and special lounge for Outright

guests and their friends is new for Pride '96! Admission will be \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. Entrance to the bar area will be by positive 21+ ID only! Come prepared. Tickets go on sale around town in mid-May.

The UU First Parish Church interdenominational service begins at 10 am on June 15. A mix of leading clergy from all faiths will be officiating. Last year's service was well attended and the best way to show our solidarity at the start of Pride Day.

The Rally and Parade are also on June 15. Once again at City Hall Plaza various speakers including Claudia Brenner will address the crowd. Entertainment and a few special surprises have been scheduled. NOTE: Parade lineup begins at 11:00 am for parade and all floats. (That includes truck or car with vehicle in tow and must be registered as a float.) All registered floats will automatically be entered into competition to win a float prize of \$100. Call Laurie at 207/878-0546 to register. All groups without floats must register too (\$25 fee).

At this writing we hope to use Deering Oaks as the festival site. We will have 3 hours of entertainment, over

thirty vendors and game tables, NAMES quilt display, food, horseshoes, paddle boats and a great day in the park. Call Penny at 207-773-7393 to reserve table space: 1/2 table at \$20 and full at \$40.

Saturday, June 15, the Maine Gay Men's Chorus concert will feature Holly Near. Details will be announced in the next issue of CPR.

Make no mistake, if you don't help, it won't happen. We've put it together but need YOU to participate and help out. If Pride doesn't receive the support from the community, it won't be able to continue and we will have lost a valuable opportunity to come out in our own city streets and parks to celebrate OURSELVES in fun and safety.

We need businesses to sell our merchandise and take an active role in this coming out celebration. Take our ad in our brochure, buy Pride T-shirts or buttons, dance tickets, Pride Lights, or be a supporter/sponsor of sections of the Parade route. Call Carolyn to sponsor one of the Pride events (878-3755).

The Pride Committee consists of about a dozen people. We need about 60 street and pier volunteers for the weekend. We need people to assist with setup and tear-down. We need support to get our permits through City Hall and with keeping our required responsibility to the City and for the safety of all participants. Next year depends on this year's cooperation. Volunteer. We need you.

General Info: Michael - 879-7323; Ad & Sponsorships: Carolyn - 878-3755; Pride Lights Purchase: Victor - 773-5639; Vendors: Penny - 773-7393; Parade Registration: Laurie - 878-0546.

Dayspring AIDS group initiates "Project Survival"

Waterville, ME - Dayspring AIDS Support Services (DASS) would like to announce Project Survival, an HIV educational program for men who have sex with men (MSM). The HIV transmission and infection rate among MSM's in rural Maine is alarmingly high. Men who have sex with men are the largest population of infected individuals in the nation and efforts to stop HIV transmission have been limited in central Maine to date. DASS was awarded a grant for the MSM project in Kennebec County based on the need for increased HIV/AIDS education and prevention.

Clif, the Program Educator, will be leading discussion groups and one to one intervention to ultimately affect changes of existing cultural norms. He will work with these groups toward the goal of educating MSM's about safer sex and methods of negotiating safer sex. "You can learn how to be safe and still have fun," according to Clif. He is relying heavily on a volunteer force to accomplish this great task. He is recruiting and training peer leaders who will be involved in the program from its start. Those interested in becoming involved in this education and prevention effort are encouraged to call Clif at 207/626-3435. ΔΔ

Northern Lambda Nord hosts Spring Bash Beach Party & Dance

Caribou, ME - Northern Lambda Nord, Inc. cordially invites everyone to their first **Spring Bash Beach Party & Dance** on Saturday evening, May 4 from 8:00 pm - 1:00 am at the Presque Isle Snowmobile Club at Echo Lake near Aroostook State Park (five miles south of Presque Isle, Maine. Entertainment and dance music will feature karaoke where brave singers are given the opportunity to perform k.d. lang songs or an Elton John hit with the artist's original back-up music!

There will be door prizes drawn throughout the evening. Light hors d'oeuvres and coffee will be provided free of charge. This is a BYOB event and ice will be available. Admission for those dressed in their best beach attire is \$7 (\$5 for NLN members). Non-beach attired is \$8 (\$6 for NLN members).

Overnight accommodations are available in local motels and at homes of NLN members. Call David Nadeau, NLN Social Coordinator, for more information: 207/764-8095. ΔΔ

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Lin Gould, Symposium Committee

Symposium XXII, to be held August 17-19 at College of the Atlantic, in Bar Harbor, continues to grow in depth and diversity! We are proud of our 'big names' — our keynote speakers Pat Peard of Maine Won't Discriminate and the Maine Civil Liberties Union, and Michelangelo Signorile, columnist for "Out" magazine and author of "Queer in America" and "Outing Yourself."

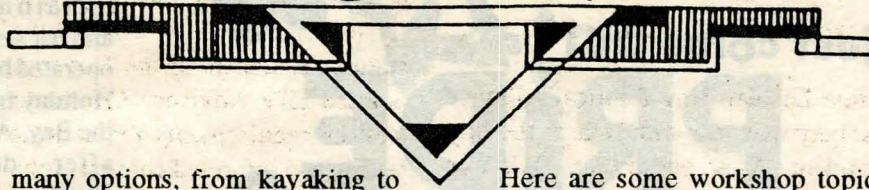
Our live entertainment includes Musty Chiffon, an extraordinary entertainer/singer/diva female impersonator from Provincetown, Lucy Blue Tremblay, a folk/women's music singer and guitarist from Montreal, and The Motion Collective, a diverse local improvisational dance group. We want to personally thank all of you who have already made inquiries, offered suggestions, sent in early registration forms, and shared your excitement about what we all hope will be an incredible three August days. It has been an amazing experience to go from the "blue sky" dreaming phase to the real nuts and bolts of brochures and contracts. Now we come to another wonderful part of the planning — the workshop schedule! And we hope for ideas and help from lots of YOU!

There are several different times for workshops, as well as a purposely "unplanned" stretch of 4 hours on Sunday, the middle Symposium day (but

with many options, from kayaking to shopping to hiking to bike riding on park forest roads to a volleyball tournament—a few of our ideas so far). We hope that some groups who want more time to talk, or some workshop ideas which always seem to spontaneously arise at this yearly event, can find time in the schedule then. During the workshop spots, we hope for the magical balance of five to six or seven workshops per time slot that will allow 'something for everyone' while steering clear of too much danger of Symposiumania, a manic state induced by there being too many choices and not enough time.

These are the workshop topics so far which we or friends of ours or someone who we've talked with directly, plan to give (99.9% sure): 'Raising our Children in Alternative Families,' 'Transgender Issues,' 'Safer Sex for Lesbians,' 'Starting a Business,' a workshop on the diversity of options available as we choose to become more politically active and how to be as effective as possible (what makes a 'Letter to the Editor' really stand out?), and a massage workshop. There is also a persistent rumor about 'Getting in Touch With Your Inner Slut'!!

SYMPOSIUM XXII



Here are some workshop topics which we really hope someone will step forward to offer: 'Safer Sex for Men,' 'Legal Issues Facing Our Community,' 'Coming Out,' 'Issues Around Coming Out at Work,' 'Long Term Relationships,' 'Being Out for a Long Time' (how do the issues change as time goes by), some aspect of 'Gay/Lesbian Youth & Our Community,' 'Getting Connected Via Internet,' 'Surviving with Sanity in a Rural Area' and 'Being Single'.

We hope that some of you reading this article will take the plunge and say YES to facilitating one of these idea-workshops, or that you will be inspired to do a workshop on something else entirely that we haven't thought of. We do offer a price reduction of \$20 to workshop facilitators, but we offer you something more than money, too — the chance to be part of planning a piece of Symposium that will be made better by the addition of every person there. ΔΔ

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

Looking for a host for 1997 Symposium

by Susan Farnsworth, President
Symposium Forever Board

Planning for this year's wonderful Symposium XXII weekend began at last year's Symposium in Presque Isle. The Symposium Forever Board of Directors is looking for folks who might be interested in signing up to work on Symposium XXIII, scheduled to be held in the southern part of Maine in 1997.

All persons interested in working on the planning of SYMPOSIUM XXIII for 1997 are invited to join members of the Symposium Forever Board for supper (dutch treat) at the Katahdin Restaurant in Portland, and a first meeting on Saturday, June 15 at 5:00 pm following the Pride Festival. If you have questions or a specific location to suggest for Symposium XXIII, contact Lin Gould at 207/244-4062 or e-mail at: lgould@mdihs.u98.k12.me.us

Symposium is perhaps the oldest traditional event in Maine's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community, going back some twenty-two years. It is a weekend of recreation, cultural exchange, networking, education and entertainment for our community, joined by friends from the maritime provinces and, increasingly, other New England states.

Symposium generally has been held on a college campus, and we often have the campus pretty much to ourselves. The result is a glorious feeling of safety, closeness and of being in the majority for a while. Symposium has traditionally rotated from south to central to northern parts of the state, so next year it is scheduled to be held in the southern part of the State.

This event is planned entirely by a group of self-selected volunteers most of whom will be from the area where it will be held. After a bleak year two years ago when no such group appeared to host the previously annual event, there was a year with no Symposium. To keep that from every happening again, last year a group of people formed a new non-profit corporation, "Symposium Forever," to look for a local group, help it get started, support it with some start-up funds and pass along the accumulated wisdom of prior years' organizers. With luck and community support, there will be no more gaps in the annual celebration of Symposium.

Representatives of this year's local committee of people from "Out on Mount Desert Island" and neighboring communities met a few times with the Symposium Forever Board, and since then have gone all out to plan a fantastic weekend for us all in August (see last month's CPR for the mouth-watering details). A lot is involved in putting on such an event, and many things have to be done months in advance. They work hard, but they tell us that it has been a lot of fun to do. Please let Lin know if you want to work on next year's Symposium. Hope to see you at the meeting on June 15. ΔΔ

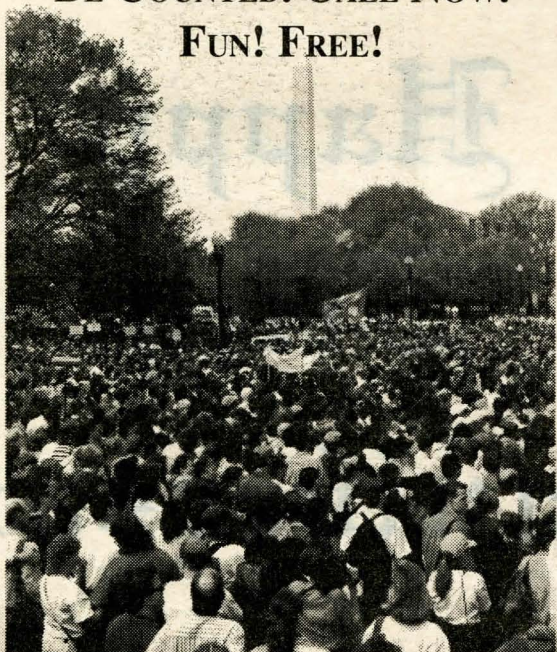
Board members of Symposium Forever: Susan Farnsworth, President, Dick Harrison, Lin Gould, Phil Bushey, Richard Steinman, Judy Edgerly, Harry Gordon, Rosemarie Hughes, Robin Lambert and Catherine Minor.



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A look at some Maine history . . .

Who is Dale McCormick & where'd she come from?

by Barb Wood

I would like to share my recollections with all of you about how Dale McCormick has gotten to the place of being a candidate in the First Congressional District race.

I met Dale almost 12 years ago when I moved to Portland and I couldn't even pronounce the word lesbian. Getting my courage up, I joined the "Our Paper" collective. Working on the only gay newspaper in the state, I met Dale when she would come to help with layout. She was warm and friendly and funny, and helped to make me feel at ease in a room full of gay and lesbian political activists.

That summer the community was devastated by the death of Charlie Howard and the light sentence his murderers received. Dale wrote several emotional articles for the paper about the trial, which she had attended. That fall, the gay community organized an Autumnfest with several nationally known speakers, including Ginny Apuzzo and Eric Roffses. Dale, motivated by the memory of Charlie, and with her experience of campaigning to be Maine's first openly lesbian delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1984, (which she won!), talked with Ginny and Eric about doing political organizing in the gay community.

In concert with the few other open leaders in the community, she called for a statewide meeting in Augusta. The

Maine Lesbian Gay Political Alliance was born that year with Dale as the first president. As an out lesbian, Dale was invited to participate in Tolerance Day at Madison High School. This was a big deal in those days . . . there was no Speak Out Project . . . there was no Outright . . . there was no Matlovich . . . just a handful of out people who knew they had to speak publicly for all of us who couldn't. After her invitation to Tolerance Day, she was uninvited . . . censored . . . they had decided they didn't want a lesbian in their school. Of course, this made statewide news. Dale certainly was speaking publicly then!

With the help of the Maine Civil Liberties Union, she sued . . . unsuccessfully . . . for denying her First Amendment right to free speech. Why did she lose? Because there is no legal guarantee of free speech based on sexual orientation! Boy, this woke some people up the next time the Civil Rights Bill came up in the legislature. We still haven't won, but Dale helped turn the debate around with her courage and common sense rhetoric. In the past, the debate had centered around God and the Devil. Now the debate started to become more focused on our lack of legal equality and legislators pointed to what had happened to Dale. Things started rolling then!

Under Dale's presidency, MLGPA became Maine's first organizational voice in support of progressive AIDS

policy and legislation. Working with a group of gays, lesbians and civil rights activists, Dale and State Rep. Charlene Rydell hammered out Maine's 1986 HIV statutes establishing the Governor-appointed HIV Advisory Committee, as well as requirements for confidential testing and informed consent, voluntary HIV testing, and funding for prevention. Without Dale's leadership and commitment, Maine would not have passed these nationally respected examples of enlightened public health legislation.

In 1986, Dale was appointed by Governor Brennan to be the first representative of Maine's gay population to serve on the HIV Advisory Committee. In 1988, Dale was appointed to the Board of Directors of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. In 1989, she was elected to the Town of Monmouth Planning Board, and in 1990 she ran for state senate from District 18. Coming from a rural, Republican District with a conservative incumbent, Dale wasn't given a chance by the pundits and pollsters. She ran anyway, enduring death threats because she was a lesbian, and won an upset victory. Since then, she has won 2 re-elections and has built a solid reputation for her pro-labor, pro-woman, pro-job, pro-environment, pro-health care legislative leadership.

She has been the prime sponsor of the perennial "An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act to Include Sexual Orientation", including the landmark 1993 legislation that, for the first time in 18 years, passed both the Senate and

House, before being vetoed by Gov. McKernan. In addition, she has sponsored or co-sponsored most of Maine's



Dale McCormick, Democratic Candidate for the U. S. House or Representatives.

important AIDS legislation, including a bill adding people with AIDS and AIDS service organizations to the Governor's HIV Advisory Committee, and the repeal of the prescription requirement for hypodermic needles. She has also been a legislative leader in the area of women's health and, in the field she's most well known for, health care reform.

This year, Dale retires from the State Senate to become Maine's first openly gay candidate for U.S. Congress. She may also become the first in the nation to succeed. ΔΔ

Activists gear up for Supreme Court's Decision on Colorado's Amendment 2

Washington, D.C. - Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender activists across the country are gearing up in anticipation of the upcoming Supreme Court ruling on the controversial Colorado Amendment 2 case.

Activists in cities and towns across the country will be "coming out" the day after the decision to educate and celebrate or demonstrate as part of the Supreme Response National Day of Action.

Supreme Response: A National Day of Action is being organized by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in conjunction with Equality Colorado, Ground Zero, and other Colorado-based gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (g/l/b/t) organizations. Already, activists and organizations in over 30 locales, from San Antonio, Texas to Paducah, Kentucky, are mobilizing their communities to turn out for what may be one of the most important court decisions in the history of the g/l/b/t movement.

"The gay community is on the edge of it's collective seat and ready to act," said Karen Bullock-Jordan, NGLTF field organizer and Supreme Response coordinator. "People understand that this decision could have monumental ramifications for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people everywhere—not just in Colorado—as well as for all people working for social justice. The court's decision will send a message that determines whether the civil rights of a minority can be held hostage to the prejudice of a majority," added Bullock-Jordan.

It remains unknown when the court will release its decision, though the days are dwindling. Court watchers say only 9 potential announcement days remain during the current session for the Supreme Court. The days include April 29; May 13, 20 and 28; and June 3, 10, 17, and 24.

In the meantime, NGLTF continues to work with local activists preparing Supreme Response events and urges g/l/b/t people throughout the country to organize a Supreme Response in their community if there is not one already planned.

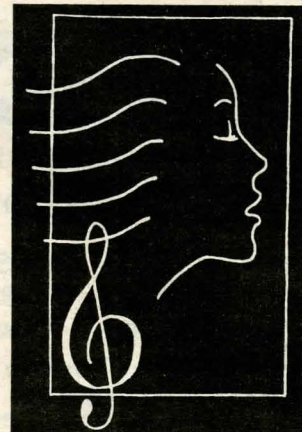
The NGLTF will be contacting the Supreme Response Action Network and informing them of the decision and providing them analysis of it as soon as the decision is released.

People interested in mobilizing their community for a "Supreme Response" should contact NGLTF for a free "Supreme Response Action Kit" by calling or emailing Field Organizer Karen Bullock-Jordan at (202) 332-6483, ext. 3206 or email at karenbj@ngltf.org.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is a progressive organization that has supported grassroots organizing and pioneered in national advocacy since 1973. Since its inception, NGLTF has been at the forefront of virtually every major initiative for lesbian and gay rights. In all its efforts, NGLTF helps to strengthen the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender movement at the state level while connecting these activities to a national vision for change. ΔΔ

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News from the Granite State

Penny Culliton, "Straight ally" who lost and then regained teaching job in curriculum battle, honored by GLSTN

Culliton becomes first heterosexual to receive prestigious "Pathfinder Award" at nation's largest conference on homophobia in schools

NEW YORK — The Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Teachers Network (GLSTN) announced today that Penny Culliton, a New Hampshire high school English teacher who was fired for using two books by lesbian/gay authors in her classes, will receive its GLSTN/Northeast Pathfinder Award at the Sixth Annual GLSTN/Northeastern Regional Conference, to be held on Saturday, April 27 at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The Pathfinder Award is given to individuals who "have created new paths for others to follow in the fight against homophobia in schools." Culliton is the first heterosexual person to receive the award.

A New Hampshire native, the

thirty-four-old Culliton first became embroiled in controversy in the spring of 1995, when research she had done for a "Respect for All Youth" grant led her to conclude that Mascenic High School's curriculum needed to be revised to include lesbian/gay themed literature. "I saw the tremendous pain lesbian/gay youth were in, and the ignorance which led so many heterosexual kids to be afraid of their own friends and family who were lesbian or gay," Culliton said, "and I knew we needed to make sure that our curriculum provided an opportunity for students to learn more about these issues."

Culliton added two books, "Maurice" by E.M. Forster and "The Education of Harriet Hatfield" by May Sarton, to her curriculum, and was

promptly brought up on charges of "insubordination" by her school board. Dismissed in September 1995, Culliton pursued arbitration, and the board was ordered in April 1996 to reinstate her in the 1996-97 school year. GLSTN Executive Director Kevin Jennings, a former history teacher, noted that giving the Northeastern award to Culliton had a special historic resonance. "Maybe it's something in the water in New England," Jennings said, "that produces people like Penny Culliton. She follows in that great New England tradition of folks like Anne Hutchison and Henry David Thoreau, whose consciences told them to risk everything to stand up for what they knew was right and to not be intimidated by the powers that be."

Patty Smith, the Northeastern Conference coordinator, concurred. "Throughout the Northeast and even around the country, people have been watching Penny," Smith said, "and her refusal to be intimidated has inspired all



of us to redouble our efforts to see 'respect for all youth' become a reality in our schools." Jennings added, "I think some people thought we were crazy when we added 'straight' to the organization's name two years ago, and I still see many people stumble over it when they read it aloud."

Jennings concluded, "Penny Culliton proves you don't have to be gay to 'get it' when it comes to lesbian/gay issues. There's a more appropriate word than 'straight' for her, and that word is 'hero'." When informed of the award, Culliton expressed delight but also concern. "My fight is far from over," she said, referring to the fact that the school board is appealing the arbitrator's decision to the New Hampshire Supreme Judicial Court and/or possibly to Fed-

See CULLITON, pg. 9

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Granite State AIDS Consortium

by Jan Manwaring

The Granite State AIDS Consortium has been busy planning its Spring-to-Life gala and Red Ribbon Awards and Dinner Dance on Saturday, May 18 from 5:30 p.m. to midnight at the Center of New Hampshire in Manchester. Each of the AIDS Service Organizations (ASO's) have selected four individuals who have served the HIV/AIDS community as an educator, as a volunteer, as a service provider and as a health provider. AIDS Services for Monadnock Region has selected the following individuals to receive Red Ribbon Awards: Sherry Deacon, Rebecca Colburn, Dorothy Anderson and Julie Crotear. Mario Cossa will be the emcee. Tickets are \$35 each or \$30 each if a table of eight is reserved. For more information, contact Dague Clark at 1-800-886-8908.

Dague Clark has been providing support and direction to the Public Policy Committee as bills are becoming ready to go before the state legislature. HB1294, which makes it unlawful to discriminate concerning sexual orientation, was sent to study. This will mean that the bill will be before the representatives and senators next year when, hopefully, there will be senators who are open to passing the bill.

HB1576, which establishes the pilot program of methadone maintenance for pregnant heroin addicts passed the House and is in the Senate.

GSAC meets the first Thursday of every month in Concord from 5-7 p.m. Please join me or call me with your concerns at the ASMR office - 603/357-6855 or 1-800-639-7903. ΔΔ (From ASMR April/May newsletter.)

"Transgender 101" topic of P-FLAG meeting

Seacoast/Stratham, NH - "Transgender 101" is the topic for presentation at P-FLAG:Seacoast/Stratham's next monthly support meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 7 from 7-9:30 pm. The meeting will feature a short video on the experiences of transgendered, transsexual and cross-dressing people followed by a brief talk. The film was made with a grant from the Bob Kanan Fund for an Inclusive Community, which is administered by the Greater Piscataqua Community Foundation.

P-FLAG NH:Seacoast/Stratham is one of more than 250 chapters of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. PFLAG provides support and education for families and stands for full civil rights for sexual minorities.

Meetings are held at the Stratham Community Church on Emery Lane off Rt. 101 and just north of the Stratham traffic circle. Small group discussions begin at 7:00 pm and the program begins at 8:00 pm. Meetings are open to anyone in need of support and information. Participants are expected to maintain confidentiality. For more information, call Nora at 603/772-3893 or Betty at 603/772-5196. (Other meetings are held throughout NH.. See Community Pride Resources in this issue.)

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BAR CHAT: THE EYES HAVE IT!

Have we got a new feature for you.

Each month a CPR staffer travels to a different gay bar in Maine or New Hampshire and poses one question to the surprised patrons. On a recent Friday night, New Hampshire editor Leslie Robinson asked a bunch of people at Desert Hearts in Portsmouth the following question:

What first attracts you to a man/woman?

"I'd say the eyes." Lori, 23

"Personality. How well they project themselves." John, 30

"Sexiness." Sherry, 36

"Look. Look is like total look . . . the whole package . . . I don't look at any one thing." Pat, 46

"Eyes." Ann, 32

"I don't know . . . The butt." Kristin, 26

"Poise. It's an essence." Beverly, 43

"His facial features." Erik, 21

"I guess I have to get to know him first." Lenny, 23

"Eyes. Teeth. Just the whole appearance. Like you. I'm attracted to your eyes, your teeth . . . Oh, and the

smile too." Valerie, 34

"Sensitivity, I guess." Kathy, 30

"Their eyes." Paul, 28

"Their eyes." Tammy, 35

"I was thinking eyes, but actually first was the smile." Lynn, 35

"I'm a soul person. I don't look at a woman in a superficial . . . way. I look at her mind, I feel her feelings. Compatibility and differences, knowing that you can be yourself with a woman, and knowing that they can be themselves without conflict." Joanie, 40

"Communication." Chris, 24

"Attitude. With the whole look." Scott, 33

T, 38

"I think it's all in the smile myself."

"Personality, Not so much looks."

Joanne, 28

"Smile." Terry, 46

"The eyes. It's the eyes, honey. Deep, dark, brown bedroom eyes. Or hazel." Todd, 25

"I guess courtesy." Martin, 24

"Sporty." Mickey, 31

"Her intelligence." Beth, 44

"His face. And then his butt." Mike, 33

"I have no clue. I just like 'em." Kim, 32

So, bar patrons, when someone walks up to you, notebook in hand, pencil poised . . . smile, you're going to be quoted in CPR. ΔΔ

AIDS Services for Monadnock Region-NH

Brian Dougherty, Prevention and Outreach Coordinator for the AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region located in Keene, New Hampshire, recently picked up a copy of CPR and wrote the following:

I was pleased to see that you are expanding coverage to New Hampshire. I hope you will remember the Monadnock Region in your coverage

of the state as we are often overlooked by reporters who think that there is nothing outside of the Concord-Nashua-Portsmouth triangle. (Editor's note: Hey, northern Maine: does this sound familiar?)

Dougherty also provided the following information about the agency he works for. AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region serves greater

southwest New Hampshire. We offer services for people living with AIDS, their partners, families and friends. We also provide education and prevention resources specifically for gay and bisexual men, women and youth. We offer a buddy training in Peterborough, New Hampshire and a volunteer orientation training at least every year for those who are interested in volunteering for the agency. We are available to the general population through our hotline (1-800-639-7903). The office is open weekdays 10:00 a.m. to 3:00

p.m.

This agency has existed since 1989 and one year ago hired its first paid staff member. Since that time, we have added three more paid staff members and plan to add a part-time paid case manager by July.

Dougherty is in the office, located at 310 Marlboro Street in Keene, Monday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The phone number is 603-357-6855. ΔΔ

Rainbow Network hosts community & allies pot luck

Portsmouth, NH - On Saturday, May 11 at 6:00 pm, The Rainbow Network (The NET) will host a picnic pot-luck extravaganza for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and allies community. According to a recent press release, "Not only are we having the fun-filled pot-luck dinner, we are also looking for pot-luck entertainment and pot-luck merchants." For the dinner portion, bring your favorite dish to share. For the entertainment portion, bring your courage and get on the stage and show off your talent. The pot-luck for merchants is an invitation to anyone to sell g/l/b/t items.

"This is a community building, pride-filled event for the community of the Seacoast. There is no cost to attend

this event. Come with enthusiasm for our bright future."

Non-alcoholic beverages will be available. Bring your own picnic blanket to sit on. A complimentary sundae bar will be waiting for you after dinner. If you plan to entertain or sell merchandise, you must RSVP before May 6.

The Rainbow Network provides and encourages programs and services that empower individuals to accept and celebrate the inherent dignity and diversity of their sexual & gender identity. The Net strives to empower individuals to become proud and active members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community as well as the greater community. ΔΔ

Rural Concerns Consortium Plans Symposium

by Suzanne Pyle
Co-Managing Editor, NH

The Rural Concerns Consortium has scheduled a symposium for the lesbian and transgendered community to be held on Saturday, June 8th. The symposium will take place at Murkland Hall at the University of NH campus in Durham. Several organizational groups will be sponsoring workshops based on a community building theme. Issues such as, youth, AIDS, and women's health are just some of the many topics that will be covered. ΔΔ

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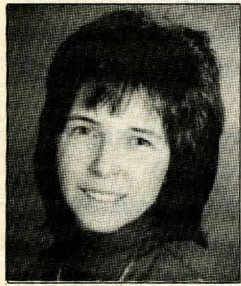
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To Your Health: Women and Heart Disease



by Tania Jo Hathaway

What is it?

Heart disease is caused by arteriosclerosis—also known widely as “hardening of the arteries.” This colloquialism is not far from what actually happens: the walls of the artery (through which blood flows to and from the heart) get clogged—not unlike a neglected drainpipe in an old house. The drainpipe doesn’t get clogged overnight and neither do arteries: autopsies on children (prematurely deceased) aged 5-6 years old have shown yellow streaks on artery walls which are the beginnings of heart disease.

These yellow streaks are the early stages of plaque (made up of cholesterol, fat and cells) which can eventually clog the artery. When an artery is clogged to the point of blocking blood flow, here is what happens: the artery ruptures and the good red blood platelets (who think “We’re bleeding! We’re bleeding!”) rush to block the rupture, leaving the part of the heart serviced by that artery without the blood and oxygen necessary for it to work correctly. The heart muscle begins to die within 3 hours (note: the time

most people wait to get to the hospital when they think they are having a heart attack: 4.5 hours). *It is important to get to the hospital as soon as possible if you think you are having a heart attack.*

What are my risks? What can I do to avoid heart disease?

The “good” news is that generally, an artery has to be 80% clogged before the muscle has a problem pumping blood. That’s good news because we generally have years and years to change the factors that contribute to heart disease. Here are the risk factors that we can modify:

1) Smoking - Sorry to say for women who like to light up, smoking is the biggest risk factor for heart attack. More bad news: women who smoke are more likely to die from the heart attack than nonsmokers. Long-time exposure to tobacco smoke in your environment (second-hand smoke) also increases your risk. The only good news here: within 3 to 4 years of quitting, your past history of smoking will no longer be a risk factor for heart disease.

2) High Blood Cholesterol - The higher your blood cholesterol level, the more likely the fats and cholesterol will build up on your artery walls. Knowing your total blood cholesterol count is important; even more important is knowing your HDL (“good”) cholesterol level (to get this measurement, you must take

the “fasting” blood cholesterol test). Normal values for cholesterol are 200 milligrams per deciliter; normal values for HDL are 35 milligrams per deciliter or higher; normal values for LDL are 130 milligrams per deciliter. Talk to your doctor or call LHP/SM for more information.

3) High Blood Pressure - Nearly 1/4 of all women aged 20 years and older have high blood pressure; nearly 1/2 of all women over age 55 have high blood pressure. High blood pressure is defined as readings of 140/90 or greater for an extended period of time.

4) Physical inactivity - Heart disease is almost twice as likely to develop in inactive people. Even if you have no other risk factors, if you do not exercise, you are twice as likely to develop heart disease than people who participate in regular, aerobic exercise.

In addition to these risk factors, diabetes, excess body weight, and consuming more than two alcoholic beverages per day can contribute to your risk of heart attack.

Had enough??? Don’t despair Those are the risk factors you can do something about! Here are those factors you cannot modify:

1) Family history - For women, you are considered to have a genetic history of heart disease if you have a female relative (mother, aunt, grandmother) diagnosed with heart disease

before the age of 65.

2) Advancing age

3). Gender - More men develop heart disease and develop it earlier than women, but women narrow the gap after menopause.

What about Estrogen Replacement Therapy?

The debate still rages. Does estrogen “protect” a woman’s heart—thus increasing our risk of heart disease once menopause occurs? By taking estrogen replacement therapy (ERT), do the risks of breast and endometrial cancer increase? By taking a synthetic form of progesterone, does that offset the risk? Recently, a female cardiologist told me that studies showed that estrogen replacement therapy could reduce the risk of heart disease by 60%. In her mind, that benefit outweighs the risks of ERT. If you are currently trying to make the ERT or no-ERT decision, call LHP/SM for a potentially helpful decision-making resource.

It will be at least a decade until research provides more solid information on ERT.

HELP! What can I do to avoid heart disease?

Exercise. Lower fat and cholesterol intake. Quit smoking. Monitor blood pressure, diabetes, alcohol intake, and excess body weight. **ΔΔ**

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

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Planned Parenthood committed to excellence & truth in sexuality education

by Chris Milliken

Imagine a classroom of adolescents talking openly about sexuality, sexual differences and the joys and consequences of having a sex life. For most adults today, this is a wild and farfetched idea because few people were raised in an open environment where sexuality could be discussed not to mention sexual orientation which was and is taboo.

On Monday, March 18 a group of approximately 20 health educators and classroom teachers met at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland to learn how to make classrooms comfortable places to discuss sexuality issues - from orien-

tation to sexually transmitted diseases. Planned Parenthood of Northern New England was the sponsor of the event and field educator Glenn Quint the facilitator of this exciting workshop.

What made this workshop (and others organized by Planned Parenthood) so exciting and innovative was that gender neutrality, orientation inclusivity and pleasure were central to the topic of sexuality; topics that have been off limits to public school educators when discussing the birds and the bees. This represents progress in the area of sexuality education.

Glenn Quint was a dynamic speaker who lead the group of veteran to neophyte sexuality educators through activities such as writing responses to Dear Abby style questions to valuing differences of opinion by allowing the individuals in the group to stand under placards with ages ranging from 0-3 to 25 and older as he asked questions regarding when someone should undertake certain sexual practices and other rites of passage into adulthood or adoles-

cence. The latter of these two activities proved to be quite controversial even among a generally liberally minded crowd. Quint asked the question, “If there was no risk of infection or emotional damage, what age would be appropriate to begin engaging in sex. The responses ranged from 0-3 years to over 18 and everything in between.

Quint was asked how he happened to become such a proficient educator of sexuality/sexual issues. His response included the teaching experiences he had in Germany as an elementary school teacher where he was required to teach sexuality to his third graders, his experiences as a male role model in a Vermont School systems adolescent sexuality program and his many experiences as an educator for Planned Parenthood of Northern New England.

Planned Parenthood is about more than abortion clinics. It’s an agency designed to help people make reproductive choices as well as educate the public on the dangers of sexually transmitted diseases. These workshops demonstrate their professionalism and caring as well as their commitment to well being for all genders and orientations.



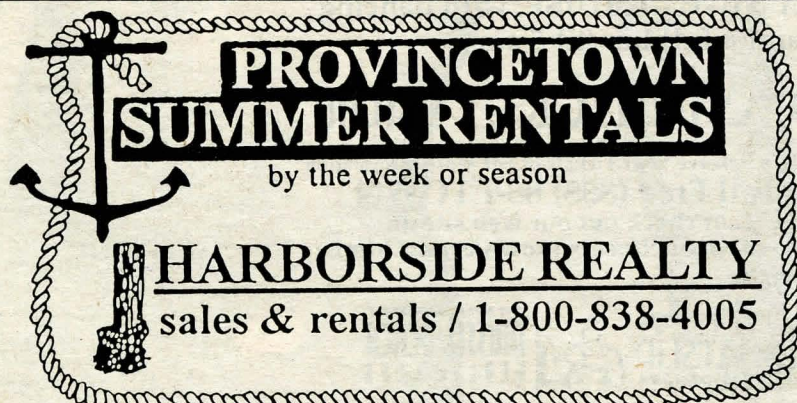
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Lesbian Health Project Offers Cancer Screening Clinic

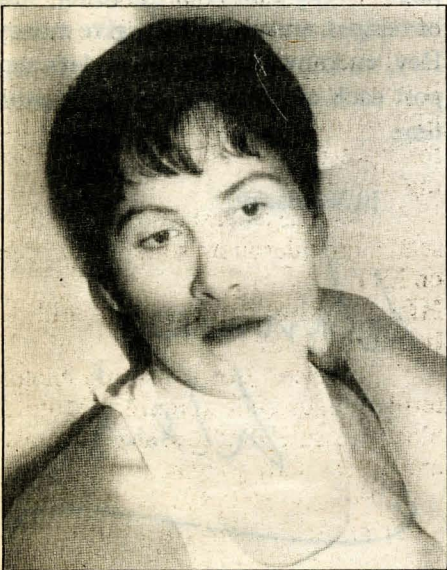
The Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine, in conjunction with Tri-County Health Services of Lewiston, is offering its second cancer screening clinic for lesbians on Saturday May 11, 1996 from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM.

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

BOTH SIDES, from pg. 1

Sarah's life has changed dramatically, but is she a real woman? Living for years uncertain as a man, being a woman has been just as difficult, and now she says the sex change operation didn't solve anything.

That is a disheartening insight for someone who had to fight one of the largest bureaucratic insurer's in the country, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, to pay for the \$11,000.00 operation after they appeared to cover the surgery. The Blues of Massachusetts had paid for all the preliminary treatments such as the heavy doses of estrogen pills and psycho-



"We have to allow people the grace and dignity to be themselves..." Sarah Luiz

therapy and then turned around and refused to pay for the operation.

Caught half man and half woman, Sarah had felt it really was true when people referred to the she-man as a freak. And there was reason for alarm, as the longer the operation was postponed, the more dangerous it was to continue taking the hormones. After begging with the medical provider in tears and being flatly refused once more, she took the sex change snafu story to the media. And the media did their job and changed Sarah's life forever.

Sprawled across the top of a Boston Herald in May of 1989, the caption read, "N.H. Man Fighting for Life as a Woman". The article recounted the plight Sarah faced being caught halfway through a process that wasn't supposed to fail. She is quoted, "I have no choice at all. Straight men want woman, and gay men want men. I'm stuck in between." A Blue Cross/Blue Shield spokesman, Clark Walter, had reportedly acknowledged that the insurer had paid for some of Sarah's treatments incorrectly because of ambiguous information on the claim forms they received from Sarah.

In another Boston Herald article in May of 1989, a picture of Sarah was displayed across the front page showing her protest in front of the Blue Cross headquarters in Boston along with several others. She was smiling and holding a

sign that read, "Human Rights!"

Thinking back on it today, Sarah's eyes widen, "I had to show that insurance company that I'm not some piece of trash!" she says. They knew what they were doing, and their coverage book never said the surgery wasn't covered, according to Sarah.

"I have always been a flamboyant, outgoing type and I wasn't meant to hide all my life," Sarah says in a silky voice. She wasn't afraid of Blue Cross nor the media. And she wasn't introverted, despite all the shame she felt growing up. Sarah had a story to tell and for once in her life, she started to understand what dignity was all about. So she contacted one talk show after another until someone agreed to hear her story.

Shortly after the Blue Cross refusal, although only halfway toward a full sex change, Sarah shared her story on the Sally Jesse Raphael show. The audience was intrigued with her and she was asked back a dozen times. Other shows decided they wanted her too. Sarah suddenly had an audience with Joan Rivers, Larry King, Charles Perez, Maury Povich, and Howard Stern. If this wasn't enough to give her celebrity status, the newspapers and magazines covered her campaign, such as Esquire and the London Sun.

Although she never did get Blue Cross to pay for the surgery, she went ahead with the operation with the assis-

tance of an anonymous benefactor who had watched her on T.V.

"You know, I had the operation to fit in with society," Sarah says. She discovered after her long struggle to become a woman that it really didn't change how she felt inside. "I could have remained a man practicing a gay life-style, but I wanted to fit in," Sarah laments. "I admire men like Michael Jackson and others because they don't conform to the norm. I believe in a very big way, I sold out."

Is there any way a transsexual can undo what's been done? Sarah didn't concern herself with undoing and instead busied herself with a new life-style as a female, and a year ago married a man several years younger. Her new husband, Matt, was comfortable enough with her sex change, but had to adjust to Sarah's star-studded schedule of appearing on talk shows, giving lectures to the Women's Studies and Diversity programs at UNH, meeting for magazine interviews, and hunting down scores of other opportunities to speak out.

Sarah, who has just finished writing a book called, *Transcending Illusions*, continues to share her story and wisdom on the Sally Jesse Raphael show. She just turned thirty last October, and speaks words of wisdom based on years of being misunderstood.

"We have to allow people the grace and dignity to be themselves, and to let them learn from their mistakes." ΔΔ

CULLITON, from pg. 6

eral Court. "But winning an award like this helps keep me going, as has GLSTN's tremendous support over the past very difficult year."

Culliton noted the outpouring of support she has received from people, both gay and straight, in New Hampshire and beyond, as critical. "I never knew how many folks there were out there who agreed with me on these issues," she said. "I hope the organizing that my case helped prompt will continue and lead to lasting changes in our schools." She concluded, "As someone who grew up in a rural area, I think this work is

especially important in places like New Hampshire."

Culliton will receive her award at the Sixth Annual Northeastern Regional Conference's opening session. The oldest of the GLSTN regional conferences, the Northeastern Conference is expected to draw over 600 individuals of all ages, sexual orientations, and occupations, including students who will participate in a special "youth track" organized by Project 10 East, Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School's Gay-Straight Alliance. It is the largest single gathering in the United States devoted to addressing homophobia in schools.

Highlights of the day will include

the first New England showing of clips from "It's Elementary," the new documentary on homophobia in elementary schools made by Academy Award-winning director Debra Chasnoff and Helen Cohen, as well as over thirty individual workshops. The conference will begin at 8:30 a.m., with Culliton receiving her award at the 9:00 a.m. plenary session. For more information on the conference, call Patty Smith at 617-661-2411.

With over thirty chapters, and a membership of over three thousand teachers, parents, and concerned citizens, The Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Teachers Network (GLSTN) is the largest national organization working to insure that schools are places where all people are respected and valued, regardless of sexual orientation. ΔΔ

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The American International Youth Student Exchange Program is a non-profit high school foreign exchange program in the United States, Europe and other parts of the world. AIYSEP believes a greater international understanding is accomplished among people and countries through cultural and home stay programs. It offers qualified students a chance to spend a summer, semester or school year with a host family in America or abroad.

At present, American host families are being sought for 25 students from high schools in Europe and other foreign countries for the coming school year. Students will arrive in the US in late August attend the local school and return home in late June the next year. The students, all fluent in English, have

been screened by their school counselors in the home country and will receive medical insurance and spending money.

American families with small children are welcome to participate in the program. All families hosting a student for the year can deduct \$50 a month for income tax purposes.

Community Pride Reporter learned from AIYSEP that when we ran this announcement the last time they were looking for families, our community responded and hosted several students. They hope to have a significant response this year. For more information or to apply, call 1-800-347-7575. This is the international headquarters located in Tiburon, California. ΔΔ

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EDITORIAL

Two, four, six, eight - do I really have to participate?



"I'm not going to participate" when asked to host one more house party, stamp one more envelope, carry one more sign, join one more organization, attend one more meeting, give one more dollar, make one more phone call or fill out one more survey or nomination form.

Community participation is vital to our existence as gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. We know that. However, the Question 1 campaign, Equal Protection Lewiston, Equal Protection Portland, 18 + years of trying to get an equal rights amendment passed in Maine (1 year in NH and going for #2), plus the additional individual battles we've had to fight around HIV/AIDS, gay bashing and general discrimination, has left us tired - - down to the bone tired.

I would be willing to bet that more than just one or two of us have asked that question or, worse case scenario, said something like,

It would be gratifying to put some of these struggles behind us. It won't happen without some additional hard work on our part. It is amazing what can be done by even the most exhausted among us. We need to continue our vigilance more than ever right now because June is a busy month. Southern Maine will celebrate its tenth annual PRIDE Festival on June 15. New Hampshire will celebrate its ninth annual PRIDE Festival that same day. (Too bad I can't be in two places at once. Both events are fantastic.) And we have the primaries on June 11.

Both PRIDE NH and PRIDE So. ME need your help to make these events happen. Call a committee member and offer your help ("... join one more organization..."). You will be glad you did. This is our biggest party of the year and have we got something to celebrate -- US! We're family with family values and we count!

The June primaries are ultra important this year. There are members of our community running for offices from lo-

cal to national significance. There are candidates who are our allies running as well. It is critical that we become involved on some level with those candidates who we want to be our representatives. Only 39% of the country voted in the last Presidential election. Those who would deny us our civil rights will not let that happen again. We can do no less.. Write a letter to the editor, stuff envelopes, answer phones, give money. Hey, we know the drill. Now, let's support each other as we do it one more time.

In Solidarity,

Winnie Weir

CPR MAIL BAG:

Dear Editor:

Please pass this on to your readers:

Dear ML/GPA Banquet Attendees,
How very proud and pleased I am to express my personal thanks to everyone who contributed to the ML/ GPA Scholarship Fund.

With your help and generosity, we were able to collect \$600.00. WOW!!! Remember that it is today's investment in our young people that will act as an insurance policy for our future.

Thank you once again.

Sincerely,
Allen LaPan

P.S. If you missed the chance to share in financing tomorrow's leaders, or wish to add to your contribution, please feel free to send your check to: ML/GPA Scholarship Fund, 18 Summer Street Augusta, ME 04330.

Dear Editor,

Two years ago I was compelled to write regarding the Maine Gay Men's Chorus and its obvious internalized homophobic pandering to the heterosexist programming selections. As much as I hated to criticize the chorus, as it is most certainly prized as a cornerstone in gay Maine's outstanding new visibility and has imbued new found self-esteem building among our entire community.

the selection of music and the performances themselves were poorly done. Not so this year... the chorus has ar-

rived with a sophisticated sense of self and programming that tells the world that this exercise in self-esteem has successfully helped to transform a large community. Not only was the selection affirming, but the chorus was well-rehearsed and absolutely delightful. I was amazed to overhear, at many locations around the concert hall, people asking what had happened to a chorus member named Matthew Batten. I recall hearing his pleasing voice in at least one solo two years ago, but I think that his inclusion in the last program would have been the icing on the cake. I am so happy to feel proud of the chorus again!

Sincerely,
Ira T. Consumer

Dear Editor:

I have to admit that I'm a little taken aback at your call to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning ('questioning?' This is a new one on me) community to "spend within our community." (CPR, April 1996 issue) As a recent returnee to this lovely state let me be the first to say that I would LOVE to be putting my money back into the community, but I can't find it!

I eagerly picked up your paper when I moved back anticipating finding ads from gay doctors, dentists, dry cleaners, plumbers, mechanics, upholsterers, lawyers, carpenters, accountants etc. But no...? Don't tell me they're not out there. I see those little Rainbow Flag

bumper stickers all over the place. If these people can afford cars, they must have jobs. And a good percentage of those jobs must be people working for themselves.

Do these small business owners want to be not found? Or just not found by me?

I'm happy to patronize VideoPort and Fresh-N-Up Cleaning Service and to let them know how I found out about them, but my apartment only gets so dirty and I can only watch so many videos. I congratulate your other advertisers, but as a single gay man I rarely go out to restaurants, and I NEVER go away for the weekend. (Don't go there.)

As for the "Page-O-Therapy" - I gave that up when I left New York thank you very much.

So instead of calling on us to focus our spending habits within our community, let's repeat that great gay battle cry for all those small business owners who've forgotten it, "Come out, come out wherever you are..." We've got your money. Thank you,
Mark B. Flaherty, Jr.
Portland, Maine

Dear Fellow Members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Community:

I want to let you know why I am supporting Dale McCormick in her bid to represent the 1st Congressional District of Maine in the U.S. House of Representatives. To put it simply - she gets things done while others only "talk" about doing.

See MAILBAG, pg. 11

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: Transsexual females and the woman

by Miss Laurie S. Dell

What makes a transsexual believe themselves to be women fully and unconditionally? To be thoroughly accepted by women as women? When did we transsexuals pay the price to be women?

A woman, from birth, sets out to survive a series of gauntlets of second class status, co-dependent stereotypes, lesser than men stigmatism's and beliefs that have plagued them since the dawn of time. A woman is not a woman solely due to her being female or due to her beliefs or role in life but for her struggle, from birth, to break the boundaries and stretch forth and outward to become more than wife, mother, and female. When did transsexuals bear this curse? Oh, yes we *are* ladies, gals, and of course, females as our surgeries, lives, personalities and destiny's define us. But when did the curse of bio-born femininity fall upon us to survive and rise above?

Since our *male* births, we were inducted into the male dominated club of domineering, superior, aggressive, got it made in the shade life-style that we, admit it girls, enjoyed while it suited and

served us. We were a part of the group of oppressors; a reason for the bio-born female struggle in life. We did not endure the struggle of women. We endured the struggle of men who should *have* been women.

You cannot belong to a union without paying the dues, dues that we as transsexuals have not paid. When womyn's groups, as they have been reported, refuse to allow transsexuals admittance, it may just be for this exact reasoning in that we do *not* share the bond of commonality that makes women.

When transsexuals argue, fight, stamp their feet and yell, "But I'm one of you!," all they convey is scenes of a little boy throwing a tantrum in a grocery store because *he* is not getting his way. Hormones, surgery, electrolysis, and clothing, not to forget, our inner selves cannot fill the void of a struggle that we have *not* endured or dues that we have not paid. I'm tired of being associated with those in the T-community who run around waving the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care flag, their hormone dosing or process that we have

to go through to get us here spiel. That's being transgendered, not being a woman.

Did you become female to remind everyone that you are a *transsexual* female or to solve your discords? Now that you are a female are you going to join your sisters in sex assisting them in the crusade that is being fought against the right to choose what will become of their bodies, to stop domestic violence, rape, oppression and inequality among the sexes? Or run around stamping your feet, waving the Harry Benjamin flag and yelling, "This isn't fair!"

I am not saying that I know what it is to be a woman. As a Transsexual, I *don't* know. How could I? What I am saying is that I did not become a female to scream, "Hey, look at me, I'm one of you!" Daralyn Maxwell, in April's issue of the CPR, raised some valid points. Not every transsexual is looking to be on the Geraldo or Sally Jesse, and not every one of us is lying around in some skimpy frock being a playboy centerfold. Most of us are people who are just seeking to cure our demons, find our place in life and be loved. But we *must* be realistic in our roles and how we think. ΔΔ

MAILBAG, from pg. 10

As many of you know, we had several attempts at anti-gay legislation in the past session. There was a bill introduced by Senator Berube that purported to protect gay people in a variety of ways - but in reality it was a very anti-gay bill. Dale led the effort behind the scenes to make sure this bill was withdrawn. Then when Mike Heath and the Christian Civic League tried to introduce an anti-gay marriage Resolution before the Legislative Council, it was Dale, along with Senator Peter Mills, who testified before the Council to make sure this resolution did not get introduced into the Legislature.

These are just two examples in the last three months of how Dale puts action behind her words. She truly is a champion for civil rights. Please show your support for Dale by voting for her in the primary on June 11th. Voting is a powerful way to let your voice be heard.

Sincerely,

Karen Geraghty, Portland

Dear Editor:

I've been very surprised to hear that some folks are thinking Dale McCormick is not an "electable" candidate for Congress.

Her "electability" was a frequently raised issue back in 1990 when she first ran for public office. It made some sense then to wonder about it. It doesn't now.

In 1990, Dale McCormick challenged a well-known conservative, incumbent (5 term) Republican Senator. In those days her "electability" was a not so veiled reference to her sexual orientation. In fact, then it was a question even her supporters asked in their hearts.

But Dale won her primary, and she has been elected for three terms since then. That question no longer makes sense.

"But can she get elected to Congress?" some ask. Yes, and I think she's the only Democrat who can beat Congressman Jim Longley.

1) The First Congressional District is much like her Senate District (one-third each Republicans, Democrats and Independent voters). Portland, Tom Allen's base, is heavily Democratic.

2) In 1994, Dale won with 61% of the votes, more than any other candidate got in her District, including Olympia Snowe, the top vote getter statewide.

3) As a candidate, Dale generates tremendous enthusiasm among all kinds of people. Folks see her for what she is and they vote for her because they like what they see: a fearless advocate for fairness, a tireless worker and a creative problem solver.

4) Dale McCormick has a solid, impressive record of achievements both in the legislature and outside.

Dale McCormick is very electable. Dale has a very active, broad-based and well organized grass roots campaign. Her success at fund raising is well established. I hope your readers will pitch in and help with her congressional campaign. With their clear support, she'll be unstoppable.

Susan Farnsworth, Augusta

Dear CPR readers,

Last Saturday's annual MLGPA dinner offered an opportunity to meet and briefly hear candidates running for public office. We were surprised to hear Tom Allen say something like, "... Dale

(McCormick) and I stand for the same things and are running for the same reasons." Are we to assume he meant their similarity is to beat James Longley? We don't think so.

Since taking office in the Maine State Senate in 1990, Dale's leadership and voting record on the environment, health care reform, insurance reform, credit card industry deregulation, and labor efforts make her ALREADY an experienced and proven legislator.

Regarding issues important to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, Dale has been an outspoken organizer and advocate since the early 1980s. Dale has repeatedly sponsored the Maine Civil Rights Bill; she developed Maine AIDS policy. She was a founder of the MLGPA and she's fought for Maine women's right to choose. And Dale wants to improve health care by limiting exclusion for pre-existing conditions and by regulating HMOs.

In 1993 Dale participated in meetings which led to the formation of the PAC, Maine Won't Discriminate. She consulted with the MCLU and GLAD about legal and political ramifications of the referendum. She appeared and spoke at fund raisers, nine house parties, worked the phone bank in Biddeford, and was included as a MWD coalition member.

Mr. Allen speaks his good intentions. Dale McCormick takes action.

She has made herself more than just visible to our community. A majority of voters in a conservative rural community of 35,000 have voted three times for Dale. That's far different than city counselor buddies voting for Mr. Allen as their Mayor.

Community Pride Reporter

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04101

Suite #623
Phone
207/879-1342

Our Mission

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

Our Editorial Policy

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

Submissions Welcome

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

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There is simply NO similarity between Mr. Allen and Dale McCormick. Look at the record and cast your vote for Dale on 11 June.

We are fighting for our lives.
Sincerely,
Richard A. Waitzkin, Portland
John Holverson, Portland

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



From the A & E desk...

by Aimsel Ponti

Well, hello everyone. It is now deep into April and I hope that upon reading this we are all officially down with a bad case of Spring Fever.

Here are some various bits and pieces from Aimsel's Crazy Arts and Entertainment world. Also check our calendar listings for local happenings . .

Discs To Watch Out For . . .

The Nields - "Gotta Get Over Greta"- now available on Razor& Tie records.

Hey, the Nields, who are two sisters, along with two other musicians are amazing. A fairly new entry into my list o' favorite bands, The Nields vocals are very cool, very powerful and quite infectious.

Available April 30th:

Paul Westerberg - "Eventually"- Reprise Records

Although Mr. W's music will never equal that of his years as front man for the legendary "Replacements," he nevertheless is still a crafty songwriter.

While this album is less than great, it's still worth checking out.

Cocteau Twins - "Milk And Kisses"- Capitol Records

Long time veterans of alternative, ethereal music, the Twins will no doubt provide us with more of their layered mood music.

Available May 7th

Cranberries - "To the Faithful Departed"- Island Records

What's there to say? Rock on Dolores . . .

The Cure - "Wild Mood Swings"- Elektra Records

Robert Smith and the Cure continue to carry the torch and maintain their solid ground in alternative music. They were crooning "Love Cats" while Bush And Live were in Junior High . . . I'll be anxious to hear what they have to offer us now that their territory is so crowded with 90s acts . . .

Syd Straw - "War and Peace"- Capricorn Records

Syd Straw put out her excellent album "Surprise" about a bazillion years ago. Those of us who are familiar with her like her a lot. You may remember the song "Future 40," a duet with Michael Stipe. Anyhow,

Syd's got a really sweet voice.

May 21st

Ani DiFranco - "Dilate"- Righteous Babe Records

Ani is the queen, goddess and dominatrix of folk-punk. And she's damn cute too. . . And, she's playing at USM on April 19th. . . I heard a copy of the "Dilate" album and it is incredible. The opening track, "Untouchable Face," I have already adopted as a personal theme song dedicated to anyone who has stabbed, trampled on or just plain broken my heart. Ani also does a cool cover of "Amazing Grace."

May 28th

Me'Shell Ndegecello - "Peace Beyond Passion"- Maverick/Reprise Records

Me'Shell has quite a take on life, sex and politics. Let's see what angle she attacks from this time. . .

FLICKS TO WATCH OUT FOR . . .

Here's hoping that "When Night is

Falling" either comes back to The Movies on Exchange Street, Portland or comes out on video soon. Hands down, my favorite lesbian-themed film so far in life. . .

Speaking of The Movies, did you happen to catch "French Twist." Although it's good to know that France is making gay movies, hopefully they'll improve with time. Although "French Twist" had me laughing out loud more than once, it had too many hetero-twists.

Certainly worth seeing though at some point . . .

On Video. . .

"Love and Human Remains"

This is one interesting film that came out on video a few months ago. It has many elements to it; homosexuality, lesbianism, murder, a psychic dominatrix, young love and sick obsession to name a few. "Love and Human Remains" is as powerful as it is dark. One of my personal favorites of the year.

THEATRE REVIEW: "Private Lives"

by Janis Tyderle

Portland Stage Company's final offering of the 1995-96 season, Noel Coward's "Private Lives," is the story of Elyot and Amanda, once married to one another and now divorced. Greg Leaming, artistic director of PSC, captures these two characters perfectly when he writes: "Elyot and Amanda are examples of ego unchained, self-centered and melodramatic and self-involved, but also witty and charming and gracious, the perfect dinner guests but the worst possible weekend visitors."

As the play opens, we soon learn that Elyot and Amanda have each recently remarried and are on their respective honeymoons at the same French hotel, staying in adjacent rooms which have a common balcony. We watch and listen to separate, parallel scenes on the balcony in which the new spouses, Sybil and Victor, wheedle assurances that the new relationships are superior to the former relationship between Elyot and Amanda.

As their spouses stay in their rooms to prepare to go down to dinner, Elyot and Amanda each comes out onto the balcony, to spend some quiet time before having cocktails with their new beloveds—time in which each of them almost certainly thinks back to that other honeymoon several years before, back to that other, tempestuous relationship.

The strains of a tune can be heard floating up from the bar below. It is, of course, Elyot and Amanda's special song. Then the explosion as they become aware of one another on the balcony—the inevitable "You!" and "You! What are you doing here?" What to do? What to tell Victor and Sybil? Should both couples remain at this hotel? If one is to leave, which? Before Elyot and Amanda can happily answer these questions and resolve this awkward situation, they manage to create an exquisitely awkward situation by falling into one another's arms, declaring their love and passion for one another and deciding they must go off together immediately, leaving Sybil and Victor.

In Act 2, we watch as Elyot and Amanda alternately coo at one another and exchange witty, charged barbs as they try to live together, using "safe"

words to help them stop their arguments before they fall back into the kind of scenes which appear to have been typical during their marriage. They still don't know what to do about Sybil and Victor, of course. There is the inconvenient reality of the fact of their marriages to these other people.

Sybil and Victor make an unexpected appearance at the love nest in Act 3—just as Amanda and Elyot's "safe" word system has broken down, and they have once again decided that they detest one another. All four attempt to carry off this ticklish situation in the controlled, civilized manner of the 1930s British upper classes. (This was before

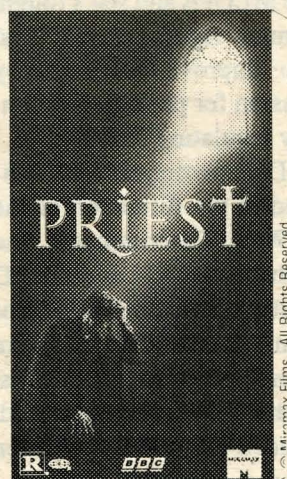


Philip Rogers Photo
Sybil Chase played by Enid Graham and
Elyot Chase played by Jonathan Wade.

the fun example currently being set by the British royals, of course.) The play ends with Victor and Sybil playing a scene which parallels an earlier shouting scene between Elyot and Amanda, arguing with the witty repartee typical of Coward's comedies of manners.

Melissa King strikes just the right notes as the elegant, sophisticated Amanda, who is alternately coy and peppery in her interactions with Elyot in the second act. Her movements and gestures capture Amanda perfectly. Jonathan Wade's portrayal of Elyot was adequate, though on this particular night he seemed just a beat off in capturing the character of Elyot.

See PRIVATE, pg. 19



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ARTIST PROFILE — Dave's World: The Visual Diary

by Aimsel Ponti

If you have lived in or around Portland for more than a day, the chances are you have seen some of the incredible art work of David Cedrone. Whether you've been at Coffee By Designs, Katahdin Restaurant or a number of other locales, you've seen it.

Whimsical is just one of the many words used to describe Cedrone's work; it's a style all his own that's he's been perfecting and re-creating for over eleven years. He's spent time at the Rhode Island School of Design, the Monteserrat School of Art as well as the Decordova Museum School. However, the school of life is perhaps where Cedrone's best education was to be found. His work has been shown all over Portland, Boston and several other cities and states.

Finally, he's got a place of his own

on 150 High Street in Portland that had its grand opening on April 5. Even before he officially opened for business, friends and folks passing by, like myself, were drawn into his gallery and into his world.

I met David Cedrone when I first moved to Portland. I was stripping wall-paper at a building my landlord owned while David was creating a "stained-glass" bathroom masterpiece at the house next door. I stood there mesmerized by the ease with which he seems to work. Before my eyes brightly colored mermaids were appearing on a window. It was as if they had always been there, they just needed David's paintbrush to bring them into being again.

Now, two years later, I got a chance to talk with David about his work, his gallery, and the life of an artist here in Portland. I started the conversation off

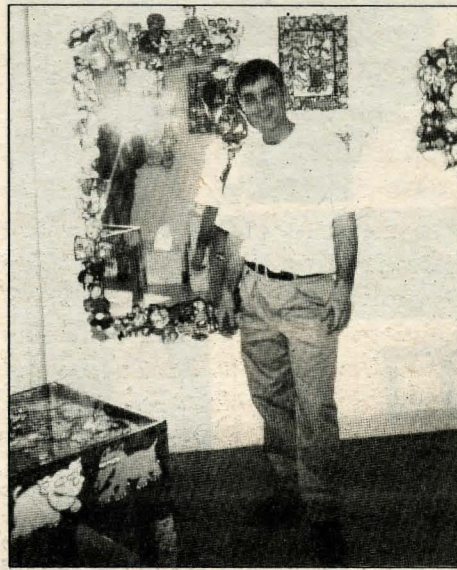


Photo by Ponti

The artist with his work in his new gallery on High Street in Portland.

with the question that anyone who has seen his work would ask, "How did you

get started in this whimsical style of art?"

"I started copying coloring books when I was a little kid at around six and then I started doing it on my own. I did that to learn the lines because I wanted to do cartoon-like work. Once I stopped looking at things and just worked from my imagination is when the style really took form. It just progresses and enhances throughout the years," said Cedrone. "I usually work with imagery that has some sort of significance or meaning."

Cedrone is a superb example of a person finding their niche at a very young age and then nurturing it and letting it evolve on its own. Cedrone's work is still evolving in the form of furniture i.e.; torchiere lights, 3-D tables, mirrors and I suspect more and more objects will be given their passport into David's world. "Where the work comes from is different dreams and events of my life. It's an on-going narrative or on-going visual diary," said Cedrone.

See ARTIST, pg. 19

Harvey Fierstein's "Safe Sex" at Portland's Oak Street Theatre

PORTLAND: - Oak Street Theatre in Portland announced recently that Acorn Productions will be presenting "Safe Sex," written by Harvey Fierstein. The play will run from May 2-9. This production, which examines how AIDS has changed the nature of modern relationships, is directed by Tim Grover and co-sponsored by Planned Parenthood of Northern New England and Condom Sense, Inc. (located in the Old Port). In addition to twelve performances, Acorn Productions will hold three Sunday evening educational forums in conjunction with the production on May 5, 12 and 19 immediately following the performances. The forums will be led by representatives from Planned Parenthood and The AIDS Project and will include an open discussion with the cast.

"Safe Sex" is a trilogy of one-act plays that examine different facets of



George Glum Photo

Stephen Gatta (l) & Scott Hammond (r) appear in "Safe Sex" - May 2-19.

AIDS and its indirect effects on people of both sexes who either have the disease or are scared of acquiring it. The

first piece, "Manny and Jake," takes a look at the fear of intimacy between two gay men who meet in a bar. The second play, the title piece, showcased a pair of gay lovers whose concern over AIDS has stifled the fun in their relationship. The final one-act, "On Tidy Endings" (later made into a film), is a powerful confrontation between a recently deceased man's estranged wife and his gay lover over who has the right to grieve more after his death.

"Safe Sex" was written in 1987 when facts about HIV were only beginning to surface and AIDS was still primarily thought of as a "gay disease." Since that time, incidents of heterosexual transmission have become increasingly common and tremendous amounts of new information about the disease has come to light. The purpose of the three forums is to clarify and update facts about HIV and how it is transmitted, and what to do if you or someone you know has HIV/AIDS.

For ticket information, call Oak Street Theatre box office at 207/775-5103.

"This Pretty Planet" presented May 11

Portland, ME: - Women In Harmony will present their spring concert, "This Pretty Planet: Songs of the Earth and Its Creatures," on Saturday, May 11, 1996 at 8:00 p.m. at Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High Street, Portland. The building is handicapped accessible.

Tickets are \$10 or \$8 for students and seniors and are available at Amadeus Music, 332 Fore Street, and Drop Me A Line, 615A Congress Street, both in Portland.

Women in Harmony is a Portland-based women's chorus in its third year. It is conducted by Sonja Dahlgren Pryor who is also the current director of the Rockport Community Chorus of Rockport, Massachusetts. She recently led a group of singers from the Chorus North Shore on its second international tour to Austria and the Czech Republic. For information call 207/774-4940.

MOVIE REVIEW:

"The Birdcage" is Not A Drag

by Travis Seawards

OK, so it seems that drag is very, very IN right now. Hollywood, never a place that can be said to be ahead of the times, seems to have suddenly caught drag fever. With last years big-budget and moderately successful "To Wong Foo," and now "The Birdcage," which is packing people into movie theaters as we speak, could it be that drag movies will be the new viable genre to come out of Hollywood.

Well, that may be wishful thinking because there is so much left to be desired when it comes to the movies Hollywood produces on gay issues. That said, I believe it is important to enjoy what little screen time us gays and lesbians are allowed to have right now.

Which brings us to "The Birdcage," which when all is said and done is actually a very easy film to enjoy af-

ter all. This film is loaded with talent. Although it is a remake of the classic 70s comedy "La Cage Aux Folles," Robin Williams and Nathan Lane bring the story into the 90s by playing two middle-aged gay men living in art-deco South Beach Miami who own a popular night club in which Lane is the star performer.

The movie's plot focuses on the attempt the couple make to accommodate their son's desire to hide their relationship from his new fiancée's family. You see, the bride-to-be's father is a U.S. Senator of the Jesse Helms mold. Very conservative, very Republican family values, which also means very homophobic. What ensues is a comedy of errors in which everyone tries to be something they are not, but in the end everyone comes clean and we all learn

See BIRDCAGE, pg. 19

Sister My Sister

THE CREW

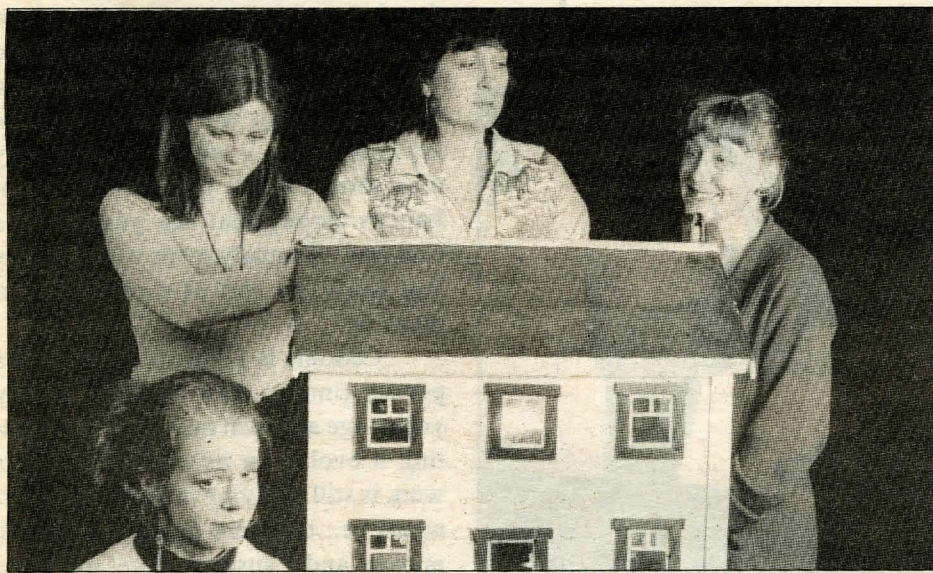
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MORE A & E



Kimberly Dakin (seated), Christine Marshall, Odelle Bowman, & Tootie Van Reenen Kelly in "The Women of My Father's House."

Annie Rose Photo

Theatre Review: "The Women of My Father's House"

Written by Carter W. Lewis
Directed by Andrew Sokoloff
Mad Horse Theatre Company

by Rose Mary Denman

Remembering is part of the healing, and so a woman named Jenny is catapulted by her father's death into remembering, re-assessing, re-arranging and re-evaluating her memories of the previous twenty years as she tries to make sense of her relationships with her mother, Amanda; her father; his second wife, Cynthia and his third wife, Jenny's best friend Kelly.

The play had a very slow start, and I was both bored by the acting and distracted by the hard seats throughout the first act. It was not until the appearance

of Cynthia, played by Tootie Van Reenen, that my interest was elevated. Cynthia's character seemed to liven Kym Dakin in her portrayal of Jenny, and the two played off each other well.

Odelle Bowman, playing Amanda, felt stiff and quite unbelievable, and her dominance during the first act made the play feel constricted.

The theme, a daughter's struggle to make peace with the memories of her mother, and the realization of how those memories have colored her relationships with others, is a dragon many of us must slay. In this, the play is both riveting and thought provoking. Perhaps the real problem with this performance was in the casting. ΔΔ

Review of "Love Don't Need A Reason" by The Maine Gay Men's Chorus

by Winnie Weir, Publishing Editor

Portland High School Auditorium was filled not only with people but with anticipation as the Maine Gay Men's Chorus presented their spring concert, "Love Don't Need A Reason." If you missed all three opportunities to hear this latest effort by Bruce Fithian and the Chorus, you missed something very special.

In contrast to what I said in my last review of the chorus, everyone appeared up to the performance; smiles had replaced the frowns, words were memorized, the men were ready to sing their hearts out and they did. The selections ranged from light-hearted to poignant, tear inducing songs of loss to songs that re-ignite activism and pride. In addition, the Chorus magnificently pre-

sented, "The Inner Room of the Soul," commissioned by them and written by Daniel Pinkam. Funding for this commission was provided by the Maine Arts Commission, The Alfred Nash Petterson Foundation for the Choral Arts, and the Gay & Lesbian Association of Choruses.

Special affects were well placed throughout the program, including the lowering of three rainbow flags, the appearance of a pink triangle on a backdrop and most touching of all, the photographs of those who have died from AIDS related illnesses as they were gently brought up on a backdrop during the Cole Porter song, "Everytime We Say Goodbye." Tom Antonik as soloist added to the poignancy of this song.

The Maritones livened things up a bit after intermission with renditions of "Masculine Women, Feminine Men," "Hold Your Man," "Pu-leeze! Mr. Hemingway" and that Mae West inspired "Come up and See Me Sometime" with Bruce Carver as soloist. The Maritones ended their set with "Gay Love" written by S. Clare and O. Levant in 1929.

Brad Morse soloed on "Some Hearts," an Ann Reed hit, that proved to be a hit this night as well. Brad warmed the audience up for emotion-packed con-

cluding songs of the performance. "Love Don't Need A Reason," written by Marsha Malamet, Michael Callen and Peter Allen, has become the unofficial anthem of the AIDS organizations worldwide. The Chorus' presentation, with soloist Neil Andersen, left many in the audience with more than just one tear running down their cheek. With no time to recover composure, the Chorus presented another Michael Callen, Marsha Malamet song, "A Love Worth Fighting For."

I have listened to the words of this song many times on a CD of the same name. It has always stirred a deep, emotional response within me. There was something even more emotionally stirring this night, whether it was my remembrance of the Question 1 battle or being at a live, powerful performance with the addition of Mark Pellerin's touching solo, the words seemed to permeate every fiber of my being and I was a puddle of tears and a river of rage.

"I believe that we can change the world. And I believe the change begins with you and me." So begins and ends this song. On the night of March 23, the Maine Gay Men's Chorus made believers out of all of us in the audience. Bravo! Bravo! ΔΔ

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BOOK REVIEW:

Title: Not Like Other Boys, Growing Up Gay: A Mother and Son Look Back
Authors: Marlene Fanta Shyer and Chris Shyer
Published by Houghton Mifflin Company, 288 PP, \$21.95 Cloth

by Chris Milliken

Has anyone read "Not Like Other Boys" by this mother and son team who write complementing chapters in a book about Chris's childhood and his mother's preoccupation with the possibility that he could be a homosexual?

The format is interesting and the book addresses a lot of issues about child rearing and the horrible things adults do to keep their children

"straight," as well as the crazy notions that we have as lesbigay people about ourselves as we grow up in isolation.

To admit that families enforce limited values and mores to sexuality in the home that are damaging and that a person's sexuality might be apparent before ADOLESCENCE is groundbreaking for a memoir type book. Too bad Mom sounds too good to be Martha Stewart, as if redecorating her son's room would make him straight (puh—leeze), and a son who writes as if he is in therapy to have his ego replaced.

What is most obvious in this book is that neither mother nor son wanted to loose their social prominence in their Westchester, New York life style because of gayness. The book is littered

See BOOK, pg. 19

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TRANS FORUM -- My Transsexual Manifesto - Part II

by Daralyn S. Maxwell

There are compelling reasons why MtF transsexuals reach out to the lesbian community. Some of them escape me, perhaps because I am not all MtF's, or because I have my own agenda. Not being post-op or a thrill-seeker, my chief interest in the lesbian community is simply friendship.

I have seldom felt any particular urge to bond with most males, nor have most MtF's. Quite the contrary; to me, men always seem to possess more of an animal instinct than women (with the exception of my ex-wife); seeking weakness for exploitation, dominance and, ultimately the kill. (Oh, I'm sorry, that was a description of my ex after all!) This is not to say that I stereotype women as passive or non-aggressive. The difference is that most women use their brains at a point long before it becomes apparent to some men that they have one. This has always been a problem for me as I don't seem to exude that macho demeanor, and once the scent was picked up, the pack went on the attack with me as the prey.

MtF's and lesbians share the common trait that although lesbians were here first, both communities become women fighting the worst sort of discrimination; dealing with feelings that can alienate us from our families,

friends, co-workers and society in general. Transsexuals may have it tougher only because we also need to learn to look like women whereas lesbians often just try not to let it be an issue in public. MtF's just want an integration somewhere that validates us as women. Not fashion plates, Barbie dolls or window dressing, but female human beings.

Even before I approached the end of denial (that Egyptian hotbed of transgendered activity), I dreamt that if I ever did achieve womanhood I would become a happy hetero (expecting to get pregnant, too!). What I have come to realize is that I need to realign my thinking across the board; that the rules that I have had to live by not only don't apply, I need to recognize new ones. This can be a heady and scary thing; the ability to start with a clean slate. I need to decide such major issues as where I work and live; how I socialize and who I really want to be with sexually. All pretty much in a short period of time. My decisions loom large as I sort out the aspects of my life.

The point is that transsexual's are not trying to re-engineer your existences. We are not trying to take your space; merely integrate into it. As they say (whoever the hell they are, and if they are so smart why don't they just fix me!)

"Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery".

Okay, I lied. Perhaps I do know one or two reasons why I think lesbians and transsexuals should not have such a jaundiced view of one another. To illuminate the point, I will now rely on one of my finer skills: really weird lists!

* MtF's make great dance partners. They are so determined to be female (and yes, feminine!) that they will rarely if ever try to lead.

* MtF's are like Jewish men; willing to put their women on a pedestal and cater to their every need.

* MtF's so like to look nice that the lesbian friend or partner will always get to wear the pants in the family.

Well, on a serious note, it seems to me from my (Oh God!) forty plus years of life that even with my altered perceptions, the transsexual and lesbian communities can offer each other plenty of support. MtF's get that much needed validation from their sisters and the lesbian community benefits from a stronger voice for establishing greater political visibility. But it goes deeper than that as it becomes a most fundamental issue. It is humane to accept another person into your heart.

You represent the prospect of role models that we were never able to connect with before. You appear before us not only as women, but women with an identity that is outside the so-called mainstream of society; women who have had to deal with agendas that are alien to many; women who formed their own micro-society so that they would have a comfort zone.

Of all of the things I have done in my life, I have always remembered that I am a human being above all else. I am not superperson, nor am I a saint. I am, however, in almost full possession of my faculties and would never pull my hand away from someone reaching out in need. I am now extending my hand, as a transsexual, to the lesbian community. I know that, as in life, we will not all get along. At the same time, if we extend ourselves just that tiny bit beyond the norm, we might well enrich each others' lives in unimaginable ways.

If this sounds somewhat idealistic to you battle scarred veterans of homophobic discrimination, perhaps it is. But then again, it is also the ticket to remembering that each of us has at some time stood utterly alone and afraid, isolated from anything approaching a friendly face. I am at times wary that my good nature will be taken advantage of, but I am also willing to extend the benefit of the doubt. My hand is out. I do not want your identity, your soul or your life; just your company. Are you game? ΔΔ

SINGIN' OUT

by Martin Swinger



I know you're out there, I can hear you rearranging the coat hangers . . . Three months into my articles

about gay music and I have had no responses. Maybe I'm wrong. Maybe there are no gay singer/songwriter/musicians in this readership other than myself (though I know for a fact there are others). Maybe the idea doesn't appeal to you of sharing, collaborating, supporting each other. Maybe I'm not the leader we need. Maybe gay musicians in Maine don't see any advantages to collaborating. OK, fine. I will continue to network and seek others like myself because somewhere in me is a need to acknowledge and communicate about this common experience of being gay. I still welcome any response, feedback or interest from any of you out there.

Meanwhile, in another world gay music continues to grow and be recognized as a powerful tool for breaking down walls. My friend Tom McCormack of Brooklyn, NY was lucky enough and OUT enough to be chosen to present his program "SHOW AND TELL" at the National

Association of Campus Activities last fall. NACA is a nationwide organization which links college programmers with lecturers, entertainers and films to facilitate talent acquisition and scheduling on college campuses.

So now "SHOW AND TELL," a collaborative performance between Tom, Grant King, Melinda DiMaio and Zenobia, is touring to college campuses all around New England. (Info: 718-3907251) In fact, they will be performing in Boston on April 24 — sorry I didn't find this out last month, we could all ride down together. I'm beginning to formulate a plan to bring their show, or some part of it to Maine this fall and hope to set up at least three performances, one in Portland, one in Augusta or somewhere central and one in Bangor or at Orono. Am I excited for their growing success? Very! Am I jealous? You bet!

I am also making a connection with Steve Cohen of Philadelphia-based OUTMUSIC to learn of his experience starting a group. I suspect the larger cities offer anonymity and success through volume of people which Maine does not have, but we've gotta start somewhere and here is where we are.

The FORUM-A presentation of MTV award-winning QUEER performers, Y'ALL, will be held at

Jewett Hall, UMA on Saturday, May 18 with an open house reception to follow and it would make my heart proud to know that you all came forward to support FORUM-A for having the nerve to present gay friendly programs. If we don't show our support and offer our input we will lose an important friend in the arts. We all need friends. Thanks for reading CPR and my articles. If you have performing friends please encourage them to contact me and keep SINGIN' OUT!

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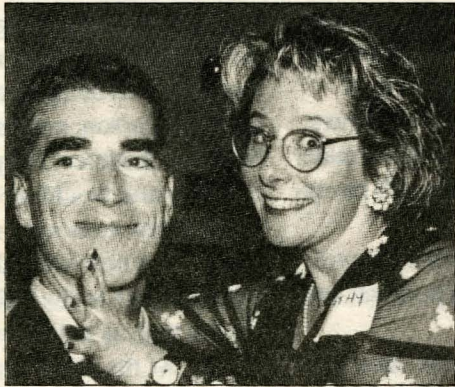
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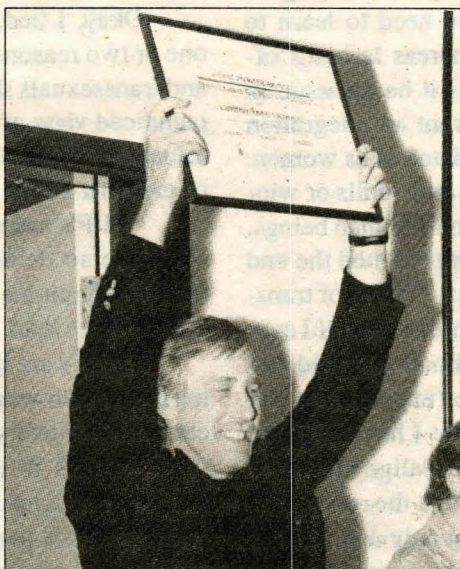
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Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance Annual Banquet



Balboni Photo

Kathy Kidman, former Coordinator of Education & Prevention at The AIDS Project, presented Steve Fleming, Public Health Educator in the Maine Bureau of Health's HIV program, the Cameron Duncan Award for his efforts to ensure HIV prevention programs (through funding allocations) for men who have sex with men, and for demonstrating true leadership in this epidemic.



Tom Antonik Photo

Gov. Angus King arrived late . . . to thunderous applause. King received the "Great Pioneer Award" for his work in support of "No on 1." He told the crowd about meeting President Clinton at a formal White House reception. Clinton told King that he and Hillary admired what the Governor & his wife, Mary had done to defeat the referendum.



Celeste Gosselin received the Presidential Award for her devotion to duty and her excellent example as an ever-ready and consistent volunteer to MLGPA. Gosselin serves the organization as Recording Secretary, and at one time was Vice-President. She is also a Board Member of TAP.



Balboni Photo

Dale McCormick, State Senator and candidate for the US House, shares a moment with Victor Rash, the Community Educator at TAP. McCormick received the Larry Connolly Award for her continuing work in the legislature around what is known as "the gay rights bill."



Tom Antonik Photo

Karen Geraghty, (left) President of MLGPA, gave a "Year in Review" speech. She concluded her remarks with a look to the future. . . "Among the greatest challenges ahead is to broaden our base of support by continuing to be visible and to speak our truths. We need to talk about our lives and not be afraid. . . We need to end violence against us & support our young people. We need to elect gay public officials & public officials who support basic civil rights. We must reduce the spread of HIV & we must continue to embrace our brothers & sisters living with HIV/AIDS."



Balboni Photo

F. E. Pentlarge attended the banquet. The award, established in her name, for her work in helping to establish P-FLAG (Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays) in Maine went to Sally and Eugene DeBor. Sally DeBor is pictured below.



Tom Antonik Photo

Sheila Everett, volunteer for Maine Won't Discriminate, accepted one of three Community Service Awards for MWD in recognition of their central role in defeating Question 1 last November. Other Community Service Awards went to Sharon Nichols, of the Holocaust Human Rights Center and to Kenneth Morgan of the AFL-CIO.



Balboni Photo

Students from Colby College in Waterville attended the Banquet.



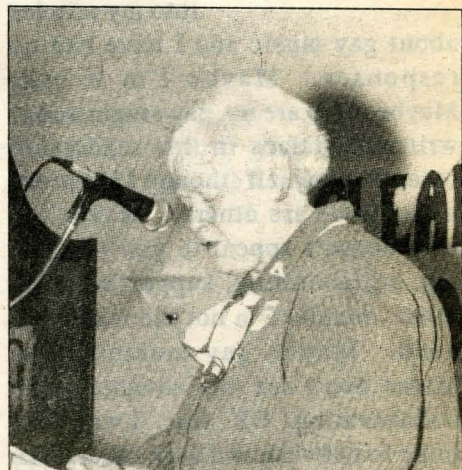
Balboni Photo

Del Wilson, former MWD volunteer & current MLGPA Treasurer, was a presenter during awards ceremony.



Balboni Photo

Harry Gordon, (left) longtime gay activist from Bangor talks with State Senator Sean Faircloth. Faircloth is running for the U.S. Senate. He faces a tough primary fight against Joe Brennan, Dick Spencer and Jean Hay. Gordon, Pat Peard, Karran Geraghty and Robin Long have come out publicly in support of Faircloth.



Tom Antonik Photo

Sally DeBor, accepts the F. E. Pentlarge Award on behalf of her husband, Eugene, who was unable to attend because of illness. The DeBors, parents of a gay child, received the award for their outstanding service to P-FLAG, and in turn the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community.

A special thanks to
Bruce Balboni
for the layout of this page.

BY BI



by Heidi L. Vanderheiden

William Wedin, Ph.D., Manhattan psychologist and director of the Bisexual Information and Counseling Services, defines bisexuality as

"the capacity to be aroused by either gender." Dr. Gail Elizabeth Wyatt, UCLA psychiatry professor has a slightly different but related definition: "The individual must define for herself what [her] sexual preference is. . . . Someone cannot identify [her] sexual orientation for her based solely on behavior."

According to Lani Ka'ahumanu, co-editor of "Bi Any Other Name," "Bisexuality shakes up the rigid assumptions that people have about sexuality, that there is only heterosexuality and homosexuality when in fact sexual behavior is fluid." Many experts agree that sexuality is a continuum, with heterosexuality and homosexuality on either

end, and bisexuality covering all of the ground in between.

Bisexuality has many stereotypes. One is the promiscuity of bisexuals. But in their study, Weinburg, Williams, and Pryor asked, "Is it possible that someday you could behave either exclusively homosexual or exclusively heterosexual?" Over 80% hoped for long-term monogamy.

Other people think bisexuals are confused, fence-sitters, abnormal, or 'in a phase'. As with any other group, although some bisexuals may have these characteristics, many consider themselves bi for most of their lives.

Bisexuality is frequently not treated as a real category, although Alfred Kinsey's 1940s and 1950s behavioral survey found that 46% of middle class men and 12% of women admitted to sexual experiences with both sexes. According to Wayne Bryant, board member of the Boston-based Bisexual Resource Center, "Society tends to view sexuality in a dichotomous way, either/or, straight or gay. Bisexual people are

marginalized by this. They're treated as if they don't exist. Even gay groups, when mentioning events for gays, lesbians, and bisexuals, will often leave the bi' part out."

Many gays and lesbians believe bisexuals are more accepted, and find it easier to hide in the straight community, which gives us "heterosexual privilege"—freedom from discrimination. But this is untrue. "The fluidity of bisexuality is scary for most," says Ka'ahumanu. Homosexuals and heterosexuals are often threatened by the possibility of being bisexual. Straight women are frequently repulsed by bisexual women who they are afraid will make a pass at them or their boyfriends, or by bi men, who they fear have AIDS.

When National Organization for Women president Patricia Ireland announced her bisexuality, Sally Quinn wrote a Washington Post column predicting that the women's movement would be seen as "a fringe cause, with overtones of lesbianism and man-hating." Besides negative attitudes from some queers, bisexuals deal with the same stereotypes as gays.

Behavior typical of heterosexuals is considered especially negative when

seen in queers—whether bi or gay. When two girls kiss or hold hands, straights do not question whether the girls are lesbians or bisexuals, they just react. Additionally, some Christians use the Bible's modern interpretations (which are different from the original) to argue that bisexuality is morally wrong and unnatural, just as they do for homosexuals.

But bisexuals are little different than anyone else—gay or straight. Their main difference lies in their attitudes towards gender. Supermodel Rachel Williams says, "I'll tell you this about sexual orientation. Gender is a detail. It's not what makes a person, what they've got between their legs." $\Delta\Delta$

Heidi is a columnist for Loci: (<http://www.loci.com/HO/opinion/friday.html>).

She's been published in "Sojourner," "the Boston Bisexual Women's Newsletter," "Written In Granite," "The Comment" and "Beyond the Silence," and accepted for publication in "Gray Areas," "Boston Magazine" and "Forum." She facilitates bisexual coming out groups, and helped coordinate Boston's 1995 bisexual conference.

OUT! of Town



by Paul Bernard

I never cease to be amazed at some of the phone calls I get. I've been running a business display ad in the personal section of the Casco Bay Weekly.

I got a call from a guy last week who saw the ad. He wanted the names and phone numbers of some gay resorts/hotels in Puerto Rico. As I started to reach for my reference books on gay travel, I started by asking his name. He wouldn't give it to me! I asked him how he expected me to help him if I didn't know his name. He said that he just wanted the names and numbers for the gay resorts/hotels. I had to tell him that travel agents don't work that way. The only way a travel agent makes money is by selling something or booking something. At that point, he hung up.

In a way, that call was both upsetting and maddening. It was upsetting that this person was still very much in the closet and didn't trust me enough to take care of his travel needs. It was also maddening that someone would expect a travel agent to give away his ability to make a living. Don't get me wrong - I'm always more than willing to do whatever it takes to take care of a client's travel needs - but I do so in order to make a living.

So why deal with a travel agent at all? Good question! The answer is that a travel agent is a travel specialist - a very knowledgeable reference person. You go to this person to assist you in putting together a trip somewhere - ei-

ther for business or for pleasure. I get calls every week from people who want to buy airline tickets. After taking care of their reservation and ticketing, I always ask if they will need to rent a car and/or make a hotel reservation. The most common reply is "I didn't know you did that, too!" Yes, we do that - and a whole lot more.

In addition to making reservations, selling airline tickets, and making seat assignments, a good travel agent can: make reservations and sell tickets for AMTRAK; book a cruise; arrange a tour package; reserve a hotel room almost anywhere in the world; reserve a car rental for you anywhere in the world; sell a EURAIL pass; sell special subway passes for visitors in Europe; reserve theater tickets in most major cities; reserve a limousine; sell a White Water Rafting Trip in the Grand Canyon; sell a helicopter tour of the volcanoes in Hawaii; reserve a room at many Bed & Breakfasts throughout the world; contact any Visitor Bureau in any city or country; assist in applying for a passport and/or visa; sell travel and baggage insurance; arrange for foreign currency and/or traveler's checks; and much, much more.

So what does this all cost? In most cases, absolutely nothing. Travel agents earn a commission on what they sell - the airlines, cruise lines, trains, car rental companies, hotels, etc. pay the agent for generating the business. In some cases, some agents are charging for their services - usually in cases where there is little or no commission on an item. For example, some Bed & Breakfasts don't

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PAST OUT

BY DAVID BIANCO



A reader from Hialeah Gardens, FL writes:

How and why is it that the U.S. military will not knowingly accept gays voluntarily but they have no problem with drafting gays during a war?

It is true that during wartime, the military has often allowed gays and lesbians to serve, only to discharge them when the war ends. During World War II, there were dozens of cases of the army overlooking evidence of homosexuality among otherwise-wanted military personnel. In perhaps the most famous example, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower ordered Johnnie Phelps, a sergeant in the Women's Army Corps, to produce a list of lesbians in her battalion. When Phelps warned the general that the list would be quite long and begin with her name at the top, Ike replied, "Forget the order."

During the Vietnam War, increased acceptance of homosexuality within society led to what the armed forces saw as a new problem: straight recruits pretending to be gay to avoid the draft. The solution was to demand "proof" from potential inductees who insisted they were gay - a psychiatrist's note or sworn statements from sexual partners. Of course, since sodomy was a felony in nearly every state, both straight and gay malingerers looked for other ways to resist the draft.

Journalist Randy Shilts has documented many instances of military per-

sonnel sent to the Middle East to fight in the Gulf War, who returned to face discharge proceedings. Indeed, beginning in September 1990, the Department of Defense's "Stop/Loss" policy phased out nearly all discharges of personnel the army deemed useful, and lesbian and gay soldiers (some relatively out) fought and risked their lives in the Persian Gulf.

The Defense Department's policy in the Reagan and Bush years insisted that homosexuality is incompatible with military service for a host of reasons - from good order and discipline to security. But under what many gay military insiders jokingly called the "Queen for a Day" clause, commanders who had evidence of a servicemember's having engaged in homosexual behavior were allowed to NOT discharge him or her as long as the behavior occurred only once and the individual regretted it. Needless to say, this policy gave the military the discretion to keep some gay and lesbian soldiers and discharge others (and to let "wayward straights" off with just a warning if they misbehaved only once).

The Queen for a Day clause and the fact that gays and lesbians have rarely been discharged when the army needs them point to a clear contradiction in the military's policy. If gay people are a threat to security, good order and discipline, then wartime should be the time when gays are ferreted out most meticulously. Indeed, by the early 1990s most supporters of the military's ban on gays and lesbians admitted that homosexuals had the capability to be excellent soldiers. Even pro-ban Sen. Sam Nunn - who until 1995 was the chair

See PAST, pg. 18

TOWN, from pg. 17

pay commissions to travel agents. In this case, an agent make charge a flat fee - say \$20, or a percentage of the total booking amount. This is true especially in dealing with B&B's in foreign countries. The fees that are charged make it possible for the agent to stay in business and cover his costs.

So how do you pick a good travel agent? The best way is to "interview" the agent. Go visit his/her office and get to know him/her. Don't be afraid to ask questions. If you don't feel comfortable with a particular agent, try another one. Once you find an agent that you feel comfortable with, give him/her your business.

Remember that all agents and agencies work off from the same database of prices and have the same information available to them. The biggest difference between agents is their willingness (or lack thereof) to help you find what you are looking for. The best agents always listen first, and recommend second. $\Delta\Delta$

PAST, from pg. 18

of the Senate Armed Services Committee — indicated that it was only open homosexuality that was a threat to the military, and that discreet lesbian soldiers and celibate gay sailors were all right by him.

The current policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" was supposed to have rectified the situation as outlined above, by allowing gays to serve as long as they did not engage in same-sex behavior or share their sexual orientation with anyone. But recent reports show that this policy has resulted in more witch-hunts and discharge proceedings against gays and lesbians, rather than fewer. If history is any guide, the discharges are likely to proceed until the United States goes to war again and gay and lesbian servicemembers are needed to defend the country.

What did gays and lesbians write President Reagan about?

While many lesbian and gay Americans vilified President Ronald Reagan for his right-wing politics and inaction during the AIDS epidemic, Reagan received more than just hate mail from America's lesbian and gay citizens during his presidency.

A recent Freedom of Information Act request produced a variety of letters to President and Mrs. Reagan on lesbian and gay concerns, some of which were quite poignant. A Florida man wrote the president in 1988 about being fired for being gay, then finding that he had no legal recourse to get his job back. The White House's response was to pass the letter along to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (even though firing gay employees has never been against federal law). A young man dying of AIDS in 1983 wrote the president anonymously, and a note in the Reagan files indicates the letter was considered "extremely sensitive" and passed on to the Secret Service — presumably because the young man was considered a threat to the president's safety in some way.

Other letters were much more friendly. One, from Houston's Gay Political Caucus, invited President Reagan or a representative of his administration to speak at the 1983 Gay Pride Week Rally in Houston. In a similar vein, a director of

GINGRICH, from pg. 1

back to DC, relax and be a regular person again. Every week I do something. It's not always as busy at this itinerary in Maine.

CPR: What have you learned about yourself since you've been in the spotlight; have there been any surprises?

CG: Well, the biggest surprise was how well I've taken to it! When I was in high school and college, there was nothing I wanted to do less than stand in front of a group of people and speak. I'm like most people in the country, whose fear of talking in front of a crowd is second only to dying. Now it's become second nature. I never knew I was good at it, (P.S.) but I am good at it. Everything has been so positive from speaking engagement to radio shows, everything has been so positive.

CPR: Why is it so important that Mainers support HRC financially?

CG: Something that is so vital is the work we're doing at the national level. Sometimes this work is hard to follow because the news gets diluted as it goes out to the rest of the country. We have led the fight on the HIV+ discharge bill for people in the military to getting ENDA reintroduced and hearings set up for it. The work we do at a federal level is vital, but we also know that we need to work with Mainers because things that happen locally and nationally impact your lives. We have a lot to learn from Mainers and Mainers can benefit from learning about what we are

doing at the national level.

CPR: Queer leaders are more often self-appointed or created by the media. How do you validate your right to represent Queer America?

CG: I've never thought about that! Every gay person has the right to represent queer America. We are all very different, like the non-gay community, I've just been lucky enough to have born with someone who is in a "position" to make my being a gay person more interesting. I can show people unfamiliar with gays as well as out gay people that we are parts of all families. Even a lesbian can have an ultra conservative for a brother. It's a pretty interesting predicament, but I've taken the opportunity to do what good I can under the circumstances.

CPR: It seems as though you've taken on a lot of responsibilities to the lesbian community. How do you define those responsibilities.

CG: There again, I don't see it as a responsibility, except for becoming more aware of the facts and maybe knowing more details about the facts. I don't feel any different. I'm the same lesbian that cared about equality as before. Now I'm in the position to help other gay people realize that we all have responsibility. No longer is it OK to just sit by and let others take care of what's going on. This campaign year we have to elect fair-minded people or there will be more extremism and more divisiveness. 39% of the people voted in '94. We have to get more people

out there to vote. We should all take part!

CPR: How can Queer Mainers support campaign's without making financial contributions?

CG: Register more people to vote. Volunteer on campaigns, whether it's local, state or national office. Time is very important, from phone banking to leafletting you can physically help to get someone elected. HRC is offering a first ever gay convention, "Get 'Out' Vote '96." Raising funds, communications, as well as get out the vote techniques are all part of this three day event. Mainers could learn these skills to use how ever they wanted.

CPR: How does someone become a member of HRC?

CG: Call the HRC office at 1-800-777-HRC3.

CPR: What is HRC doing for youth outreach?

CG: We are having the first ever youth college campaign training. We're taking applications for 26 positions from youth, ages 18-24. We will fly them to Chicago for a week of training. Then we will send them to campaigns across the country. We'll give them a stipend and they will work from August through November. This will be the beginning of generations of people who have skills to campaign. Perhaps they will someday run for office!

HRC is taking applications. Applicants need to show they have been gay/lesbian advocates prior to applying. Call 202/628-4060 and ask for Gary Schiff. $\Delta\Delta$

PHONELINE, from pg. 1

Health 1st, stated, "We are pleased to enhance prevention efforts directed toward a most vulnerable population for this disease." Phonenumber Coordinator, Donald Weatherford added that, "with new volunteers we have been able to increase services 300%, but we'd like to build our pool of volunteers; we're always looking for people who want to help provide this important HIV and AIDS prevention service. The toll-free AIDSline in Portland operates daily, but not past 7:00 pm. We've purposely set

our hours from 7-9 pm to increase the availability of this important service in Maine. Until there's a cure for AIDS, our efforts must focus on prevention, providing people with factual information so they will know how to avoid exposure to HIV."

In addition to the HIV/AIDS prevention information, the Phonenumber continues to offer peer support, education and information to callers from within Maine and "from away." Over the years they have referred callers to gay-positive health care and legal providers, pro-

vided information about gay-friendly tourist destinations, answered questions from confused parents with gay children, and offered information about bars and other nightlife in the state's major urban centers. In order to provide a more comprehensive listing of such services, they solicit help from the rest of the community in Maine: gay-owned, gay-friendly and gay-supportive service providers are encouraged to contact the Gay & Lesbian Phonenumber of Maine to be included on their referral sheets. Please write them at P. O. Box 990, Caribou, ME 04376-0990. $\Delta\Delta$

the International Gay Bowling Tournament, held in Washington in May, 1988, requested a letter of welcome from Reagan to be distributed to the 1,500 gay bowlers who came to the nation's capital from all over the world.

It is difficult to say whether these letter-writers were aware of the irony of their requests to an administration that regularly vilified gays and lesbians. Clearly, the Reagan White House would never have considered allowing the president to address a gay pride event or to welcome gays of any persuasion to Washington. But perhaps such requests were a self-conscious political maneuver to remind Reagan that he was the president of a country which included gay and lesbian Americans, too.

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

ALIVE! from pg. 1

began to 'dream' about how great it would be if there were a fund raising organization in our community that would benefit people living with HIV and AIDS. Well, one thing led to another and we decided to take on the challenge ourselves! "Positively Alive!" was born!"

This grass roots community based organization now has a board of directors and their first fund raiser is being held on May 18 at 7:00 PM at the Olin Arts Center Concert Hall at Bates College in Lewiston. "Queens With A Cause" will benefit the AIDS Coalition of Lewiston/Auburn. It is being sponsored by the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Alliance of Bates College and tickets for the event are now on sale. They are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Call 207/786-8733 for ticket information.

"Positively Alive!" is a group of concerned citizens who live in the Lewiston-Auburn area who recognize the importance of supporting members of their community who are living with HIV and AIDS.

They represent a cross-section of the L/A community and are committed to increasing awareness and response to the ever increasing needs of people living with HIV and AIDS in Lewiston/Auburn.

If you would like to become involved in the mission of "Positively Alive!," call the office at 207/786-8733. No amount participation is considered too small. The survival of this new organization depends on the involvement of people in the L/A community and beyond. Will you assist in direct fund raising, public relations, making donations of goods and services? Are you willing to purchase or sell tickets to fund raisers? How about helping to identify people or organizations who would benefit from "Positively Alive's" help?

The chorus of "Love Don't Need A Reason," says it best: "Love don't need a reason, Love don't always rhyme. And love is all we have for now, What we don't have it time." In the name of love... call. $\Delta\Delta$

ARTIST, from pg. 13

An image will come to mind and Cedrone will transform it into a piece of art, or he'll put pencil to paper and start scribbling and go on from there. Cedrone also does quite a bit of commission work. In these instances he will work with other people's ideas and bring them to life. This last reason is the primary one that David decided to open his store on High Street, so as to be better able to meet directly with his clients. This location allows him both work space and room to display his work. Cedrone also has started to work with a blacksmith to make the lights as well as some of the end-tables and dressing screens. A jeweler has also been called upon to work with Cedrone in the creation of sterling silver jewelry.

Although originally from Boston, Cedrone has made Maine his home, and

very much enjoys the community spirit and support of Portland. "People in Portland live for each other, it's just amazing. I've never experienced a better sense of community than I have here," said David. His list of galleries and businesses that have shown support for his work is endless. All of these people applaud his decision to set up shop on High Street, and even while I was talking with him, folks were stopping in to take a look around and offer their kind words.

Davis Cedrone is one of many artists who believes in helping The AIDS Project raise funds. His manner of donating is in the form of artwork. For over 6 years he has donated works to the annual art auction. This years donation was a game co-created with another artist and it fetched \$1200. "My donation to the AIDS auction is primarily a spiritual thing for me. It's for the people

that I've loved, that I've lost and for the people who are still living with AIDS," explained Cedrone. "It's really nice to know that I can do something."

Besides artwork, Dave spends his time with his animals. He has two African grey parrots, an orange-winged amazon, a miniature parrot, some fish and then there's Sweetie, the 165 pound Vietnamese pig. They are great models for Dave and apparently the birds talk a lot, mostly to Sweetie the Pig. Look out, Babe, you've got competition.

Although Cedrone works "from when I wake up until I have to go asleep," he is not without a social life and said he does make time for dinner with friends and the usual errands of daily life.

Remember when Dorothy opened her front door and entered into the mystical, colorful and enchanted

Munchkinland? Remember how vivid the colors were and how the munchkins were so pleasing, quirky, silly and wonderful all at once? Open the door of Dave's Whimsical World on High Street and see what happens . . . ΔΔ

PRIVATE, from pg. 12

Bill Crist was a wonderful, pompous Victor, capturing the puffed chest, pulling-himself-up-to-his-full height mannerisms beautifully as he tries to deal with this awkwardness as a gentleman should. Enid Graham played Sybil's whining, bewildered character well, coming into her own nicely in the final scene with Crist. Set designer Bill Clarke's work made significant contributions to the success and fun of this production.

This play provides a light, entertaining evening, though the dialogue seems dated in terms of contemporary ideas of equality in relationships, attitudes toward women, etc. That does not mean, however, that the play lacks appeal for audiences of the 1990s. It lets us watch four people who seem to pair up in most unlikely ways, reminding us of friends and acquaintances, prompting thoughts of "How can these people think they are right for one another? It's so obvious to all the rest of us—why can't they see it?" Of course, one never makes such relationship mistakes oneself.

"Private Lives" played at Portland Stage Company through April 28. ΔΔ

BIRDCAGE from pg. 13

a little something about acceptance, tolerance, and a new 90s kind of family values.

The performances in "The Birdcage" are outstanding. Robin Williams can do no wrong, and although he is not completely the outrageous genius of past films, his subdued acting in the film is very touching and revealing. Nathan Lane as the "wife" and companion steals the show. This guy will be a star after this film and he is simply hilarious. Then there is the always great Gene Hackman and Dianne Wiest who play the conservative parents, and Hank Azaria rounds out the cast as a flamboyant housekeeper who keeps the mayhem moving by simply being a part of the family.

There is no doubt that "The Birdcage" is a smart and funny movie, but there is a lot going on in this film underneath its comic surface. Most obviously this film is trying to portray new kinds of family values, values that are not being discussed in the current political debate of this country. What a thrill it is to simply walk into a theater and begin to watch a movie and have the lead characters be gay and unapologetic about it. Nobody comes out and proclaims their sexuality as the focus of the plot, nor is there any anguish from the lead characters over being gay. They are who they are, and we have to accept them for that. Acceptance of the differences in people is a running theme throughout the film, and there are also a few interesting points being made on gender. But the point the film is trying to drive home underneath its slap-stick humor is simple. There are many types of families in this country, and therefore it is only logical to conclude that there are also several types of "family values." One type is no better

than the other, we should live in a non-judgemental way, and then what we would have is an enlightened, peaceful and respectful way of living where everyone is accepted for who they are. No apologies, no regrets. It may sound too good to be true, and this may be the case, but it sure is fun seeing this scenario played out on film.

Going off in another direction, there is also talk in the gay press about the movie perpetuating stereotypes because one lead character is a drag queen and effeminate, and the South Beach locale makes Miami look like a gay carnival, etc. etc. Therefore, gays and lesbians may once again be disappointed or offended by "The Birdcage" because once more Hollywood cannot give a fair representation of gay life. Yes, Hollywood can be homophobic, and there are definitely not enough gay images in movies that give a fair representation of the whole gay community. But this is not a surprise anymore.

Let's take "The Birdcage" for what it is. At a time when the political landscape of this country is often hostile to gays and lesbians, and politicians are attacking Hollywood left and right for its so-called liberalism, isn't it nice to be able to go out and have a good laugh. And better yet, in The Birdcage it is not at the expense of gays and lesbians. In "The Birdcage," it is gays who have unconditional family values and a love and acceptance for people who are different. So go out and enjoy a good laugh, because a good laugh is something that Hollywood does not give us much of these days.

I also wanted to make a note of some new movies out on video. The first is "Jeffrey" starring Steven Weber (Wings) and Patrick Stewart (Star Trek,

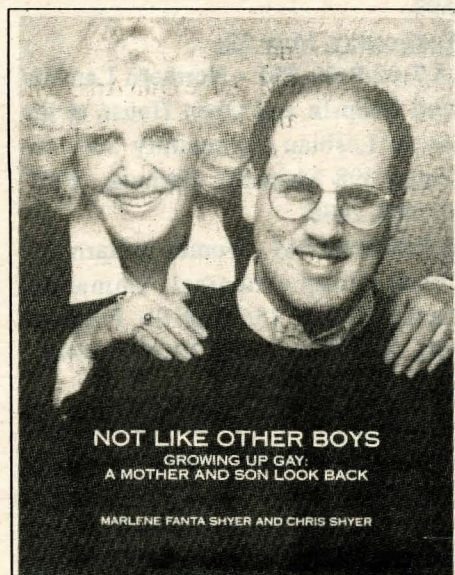
The Next Generation). This is a wonderful, wonderful movie with a lot of laughs and a lot of heart and I cannot wait to see it again.

And on a campier side, there is the ever notorious "Showgirls." Now as a gay guy I did not have any real desire to see this movie, but I am staying with two lesbian friends right now so I was coaxed into watching it the other day. Well, what can I say. Yeah it's bad, but it's so bad that it's good. I bet you know what I am talking about. At times this movie is just plain crazy, but surrender to it and have a cheap thrill. I think this one is destined to be a camp classic. See ya next time. ΔΔ

BOOK from pg. 14

with "people like us" and "our kind" phrases as well as little comments in French that add a certain preppie "je ne sais quoi."

The book will leave you thinking you have golden retriever hairs on you and that pink and green are colour de rigor for P-FLAG meetings. Give it a try anyway. The book's got some redeeming features. I'm sure you'll find them. ΔΔ



Homo Sweep Hono



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MAY, 1996 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, May 4:

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

ΔΔ **8:00 pm-1:00 am** - Northern Lambda Nord Spring Bash Beach Party & Dance. Presque Isle Snowmobile Club. Entertainment, dancing and Karaoke. Much more. FMI, 207/764-8095. Tix: \$7 in beach attire, \$8 if not. (\$5 & \$6 if NLN member).

Sunday, May 5: MAINE AIDS WALK '96

•**Δ Ames & Speckled Mountains Dayhike:** distance 8.5 miles. Bring camera and lunch & hike in Maine's Evan Notch, past Bickford Falls. Eastern Mountain Sports sponsored. Call 207/772-3776 for information. Free.

•**Δ 1:00 PM** - Maine AIDS Walk '96 - Ten locations around Maine. Call the Walk Line for more information: 1-800-416-8769. See insert in this CPR for pledge sheets.

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

Monday, May 6:

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

Tuesday, May 7:

•**Δ 7:00-9:00 PM** - Seacoast (NH) PFLAG meeting. Stratham Community Church, Emery Lane, Stratham, NH. FMI: 603/772-3893 or 5196. Topic: "Transgender 101", the experiences of transgendered, transsexual and cross-dressing people.

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

Wednesday, May 8:

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

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

Thursday, May 9:

•**Δ 7:30-9:00 PM** - The Matlovich Society presents: "Speakout" a presentation by The Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights. The Speakout Project trains volunteer speakers across the state to speak with the "mainstream public" about the affects of discrimination. Holiday Inn by The Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Handicapped accessible. Free hotel parking. FMI, 207/761-4380.

Saturday, May 11:

•**Δ 9:00 am-4:00 pm** - Speak Out training at UU Church in Ellsworth, ME. \$10 registration fee, bring a bag lunch. FMI call Peter Rees 207/667-2358

ΔΔ Chiltern Mountain Club seacoast New Hampshire bike tour. Call Mike @ 603/644-7658.

ΔΔ Chiltern Mountain Club hikes the Welch-Dickey Loop Trail in Waterville Valley, New Hampshire. Beginning day hikers especially encouraged. 4.5 miles. Call Carlos, 617/524-3866.

ΔΔ Chiltern Mountain Club bikes at Bluff Point (SE CT.) This 10 mile ride takes you through all kinds of terrain in a wildlife preserve. Call John (203)848-4522.

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

•**Δ 1:00-4:00 PM** - Organizational meeting for the formation of an activist network in Maine. Pine Tree State Arboretum, 153 Hospital St., Augusta, ME. (See article for contact phone numbers.)

ΔΔ **6:00 PM** - The Rainbow Network Picnic Pot-Luck Extravaganza at the UU Church, State St., Portsmouth, NH. A community building, pride-filled event for the g/l/b/t community of the Seacoast. No cost, bring your favorite dish and a blanket to sit on. RSVP before May 8, 207/384-4836.

•**Δ 8:00 PM** - Women in Harmony present, "This Pretty Planet: Songs of the Earth and Its Creatures," at Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. Tickets are \$10 or \$8 for seniors and students. FMI, call 207/774-4940.

Sunday, May 12:

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

Monday, May 13:

ΔΔ **6:30 PM** - Rainbow Business & Professional Association networking meeting at Italian Heritage Center, behind Shaws at Westgate Mall in Portland (Outer Congress Street). FMI, Paul Bernard, 207/885-5060.

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

Tuesday, May 14:

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

Wednesday, May 15:

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

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

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

Thursday, May 16:

•**Δ 7:30 PM** - Nashua (NH) chapter PFLAG meeting. Unitarian Universalist

Church, corner of Lowell & Canal Sts., Nashua. FMI, call 603/880-8709.

Saturday, May 18:

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

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

ΔΔ **7:00 PM** - "Positively Alive!" presents "Queens With A Cause," a benefit for the AIDS Coalition of Lewiston/Auburn. Olin Arts Center Concert Hall, Bates College, Lewiston. Tix: \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. FMI, 207/786-8733.

ΔΔ **7:30 PM** - Songweavers Concert, Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord, NH. Over 150 women's voices with drummers. FMI on tickets call Concord Community Music School.

ΔΔ **8:00 PM** - Womensphere & Rainbow Ridge present French Canadian singer-songwriter, Lucie Blue Tremblay appearing at UU Church, State St., Portsmouth, NH. \$16 in advance, \$18 at the door. Call 603/942-9941.

Sunday, May 19:

ΔΔ Chiltern Mountain Club takes an historic walking tour through picturesque East Greenwich (RI). Call David, 401/821-2679.

•**Δ Baldpate Mountain Dayhike:** Distance 8.8 miles, strenuous. Hike the Appalachian Trail from Grafton Notch to the summits of Baldpate Mountain. Sponsored by Eastern Mountain Sports. FMI, call 207/772-3776. Free.

•**Δ 1:30 PM** - 13th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial and Mobilization observed world wide and at the fields behind Keene (NH) High School. Call AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region (ASMR) FMI, 603/357-6855 or 1-800-6397903.

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

Monday, May 20:

ΔΔ **6:00-8:00 PM** - Southern Maine Pride Committee meeting. Holiday Inn By The Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. All Welcome. FMI, 879-7323.

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

Wednesday, May 22:

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

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

Thursday, May 23:

•**Δ 7:30-9:00 PM** - The Matlovich Society presents: "Safe, Sane and Consensual-S & M in the 90s." Join educator and activist Mark Bond-Webster for intro to "Safe Magic" in the

90s. Bring your questions for discussion. Mark is an experienced player, well versed in the subject. Holiday Inn By The Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Handicapped accessible. Free hotel parking. FMI, 207/761-4380.

Friday, May 24:

ΔΔ Chiltern Mountain Club bikes the valleys of Vermont. Call Bob, 617/266-3812 or 802/333-9448.

Saturday, May 25:

•**Δ 10:00 am-4:00 pm** - Eastern Mountain Sports Kayak Demo Day, Great Island Common, New Castle, NH. They supply boats and instructions. FMI, 207/772-3776 or stop by the store, Maine Mall, So. Portland.

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

Monday, May 27:

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

Wednesday, May 29:

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

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

Thursday, May 30 thru Sunday, June 2nd:

ΔΔ **Springfest '96** - with Suede, Justina and Joyce, Alix Dobkin, Pat D., Erika Gilbert, Kathy Poole, Lynn Deeves, and many others. Concerts, dance, workshops, pet show, auction, dyke olympix, and more. Capacity limited to 550 women. 80 acre AAA campground w/pool on the coast. Adults only. FMI, or to receive a registration form, call 207/993-2177.

**HOLLY NEAR joins the
Maine Gay Men's Chorus
for their PRIDE CONCERT
on June 15 at 8:00 pm
The State Theatre
609 Congress St., Portland**

**Tickets go on sale
May 8th & are
available only by
calling State Theatre
Box Office
207/ 879-1112**

General Admission:

Cabaret - \$22.50 plus \$12.50
dinner coupon
Upper balcony - \$16.50

Reserved Seating:

3rd Tier Cabaret - \$22.50 (does
not include dinner coupon)
1st Balcony - \$22.50
Main Floor - \$20.50
Main Floor - \$15.00*
*(slightly obstructed view)

Classified Ads

TRAVEL/VACATION

ΔΔ LESBIAN PARADISE! 20 charming rooms, 100 mountain acres, pool, hot tub, hiking/skiing trails, yummy breakfasts, peace and privacy. We're your perfect vacation choice year round! Week-long and midweek discounts. **HIGHLANDS INN**, Box 1180P, Bethlehem, NH 03574, (603) 869-3978. ΔΔ

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

ΔΔ BACKPACKING, Canoeing, X-Country skiing, Native American cultural trips, Teen trip. Wilderness skills and environmental awareness. Small groups, vegetarian food, all abilities. Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, Maine, Newfoundland. Contact: Earth Treks, Dept. C, RR 2, Box 785, Montville, ME 04941. 800/589-4770.

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

ΔΔ MOUNTAIN BIKE ADVENTURES FOR WOMEN: Secluded, primitive camping and guided mountain bike tours. Enjoy personalized tour of beautiful Lakes Region in Naples, Maine. Ride from your tent to the trails or country roads. FMI, 207/787-2379. ΔΔ

PERSONALS

ΔΔ LOVE, UNDERSTANDING & MORE OFFERED! To a trim, decent young man looking for love, friendship, rapport, new experiences, fun times, sex, home, etc. I'm a GWM, 50s into travel, health, the outdoors, animals, nature, arts, auctions, fleas, yard sales, antiques, exploring, kink, etc. Serious only. Ron, PO Box 1169, Sanford, ME 04073. ΔΔ

ΔΔ FRIENDSHIP OFFERED to gay men with HIV/AIDS. (My friendship only.) My lover and I, we are early 40s, live in Portland, we have the virus. If interested in meeting, send short letter about yourself and how to contact you to: R.O., P.O. Box 5168, Portland, Maine 04101. ΔΔ

ΔΔ GWM, 25, 5'7", 165 lbs. Blue eyes, brown hair, GQ looks, very athletic, single, HIV-, looking for an older, supportive professional man for companionship. Tim Murphy, #114185, P. O. Box 128, Eddyville, KY 42038.

ΔΔ GWM, 25, 6', 190 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, clean cut, defined and muscular. Friendly loveable, sincere.

Love long walks, reading, sports and cuddling with that special someone. Wants to meet caring, honest, sincere gay males for friendship or possible relationship. Will respond to all who write. Todd Justice #107368, KSP, Box 128, Eddyville, KY 42038. ΔΔ

HELP WANTED

ΔΔ HOME TYPING JOBS: \$20/hour, up to \$500/week. Call 24 hours, 207-892-1423, extension 449. ΔΔ

ΔΔ Looking for Spiritual Counselor/Director. Prefer woman who has experience in spiritual direction. Also looking for information on books or seminars that would be helpful. You can call Suzen at 741-2083. ΔΔ

SUPPORT GROUP

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

PRIDE '96 VENDORS

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

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

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

HOUSE TO SHARE

ΔΔ Sick of the city? Dog-loving coastal woman at heart? New to area and don't want to get stuck in a long lease? You've found the right ad. Kennebunk lesbian and her pet dog seek female (human) to rent large sunny bedroom in 1810 federal style home on Route 1. Shared house space includes large unfenced yard, garden space. LR with fireplace, storage, kitchen, and few modern amenities. Easy access to shops and turnpike, only 30 minutes to Portland or 40 minutes to Portsmouth. No smoking, no drugs. You pet is welcome if she gets the nod from resident alpha dog. Call 207/985-8085 or email PerKe1@cybertours.com ΔΔ

BUSINESS EXPANSION

ΔΔ Marti P. Lay, Maine State Certified Massage Practitioner, will provide massage therapy at two new convenient locations. Offices located at Hair

Extrodinaire (RT. 302, N. Windham) and 222 St. John Street in Portland. Ms. Lay combines Swedish and deep tissue massage with breath work to enhance relaxation and recovery from injuries. 10% discount on treatments in April and May. FMI, call 207/893-0344 or 207/773-0763. ΔΔ

BUSINESS

ΔΔ Gold Leaf Restorations creates AIDS memorials from your photographs. Allow us the honor of designing a tribute to your loved one. Call 207/893-0434 for a brochure of our design packages and printing styles.

INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY

ΔΔ Brunswick: Rural neighborhood forming - inclusive, cooperative, multigenerational. Private homes clustered along pedestrian lane and common green. 70 acres commonly owned, field/forest. Shared garden space, common house, play areas, more. Resident designed/managed. Construction 1996-97. Join us! (207) 773-5915. ΔΔ

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT CLASSES

ΔΔ Personal development classes for business, health, pleasure! Classes Mondays 12:00-1:30 pm or Wednesdays 5-6:30 pm. Mind clearing, focusing, using energies productively, relaxation, healing meditation, automatic (spiritual/intuitive) writing, seeing auras, intuition enhancement. Limited space. FMI, Director Carole B. Curran, 207/871-0032. ΔΔ

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

ΔΔ Project Survival looking for caring people who are concerned about HIV and its impact on our society. Now is your chance to do something about it. Get involved in a new program in Kennebec County that targets the people most at risk. Even 5 minutes of your time will help make this program a success. Pick up the phone and call Cliff at 626-3435. ΔΔ

BBQ
and annual meeting

MASS invites you...

Friday, May 17th
Pilgrim House of the
First Parish Church
9 Cleaveland Street
Brunswick

BBQ chicken and
corn on the cob
salads, fresh fruit

Annual Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
Social Gathering - 7:00 p.m.
Dinner - 7:30 p.m.
Entertainment and Raffle
Following Dinner

For further info, call (207) 726-4855
Merry Meeting AIDS Support Services

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Yes, I want to subscribe to the Community Pride Reporter. Subscription rate is \$25.00 for 12 issues. (More if you can, less if you can't.) CPR is mailed in a plain envelope.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Checks should be made payable to Community Pride Reporter and mailed to: 142 High Street, Suite #623, Portland, Maine 04101

COMMUNITY PRIDE RESOURCES

GENERAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MUSIC & ART

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

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

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

PHONE SUPPORT

Region by region

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

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

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

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

Portland:

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

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

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

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

Bangor: Eastern Maine AIDS Network: 990-3626

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

Belfast: Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: 338-1427

Brunswick: Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services: 725-4995

Bridgton: Community Task Force on AIDS: 583-6608 -

Rumford: Community AIDS Awareness Program: 823-4170

Lewiston: Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition: 786-4697

Waterville: Dayspring: 626-3432

Ellsworth: Down East AIDS Network: 667-3506

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

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

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

Contacts in Maine

(* indicates monthly meetings)

Augusta/Hallowell: 623-2349 - F.E.

*Dover-Foxcroft: 564-7986 - Sharon

*Brunswick/Bath: 729-0519 - Sally & Gene

*Lewiston/Auburn: 783-9789 - Estelle

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

Waldoboro: 832-5859 - Sue

Contacts in New Hampshire

P-FLAG NH 24 hour Helpline:

603/623-6023

Concord: Judy, 603/485-3943

Webster: Betsy, 603/746-3818

Nashua: Nancy, 603/880-8709

Kensington: Nora/John, 603/772-3893

Stratham: Betty, 603/772-5196

Francestown: Cy/Gordon, 603/547-2545

Holderness: Olivia, 603/968-7254

Rumney: Ann, 603/786-9812

Center Sandwich: Tish, 603/284-6434

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

Medical Support

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

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

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

Teen Life Center: Youth Clinic sponsored by City of Portland Public Health, Monday-Friday (10:00-11:30 am) The homeless health team's youth clinic is a place where you can receive free health care in a friendly environment. Located on Chestnut St. across from Portland High. Confidential health services with access to other support you may need. Drop in between 10 to 10:45 am. **Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic:** Portland STD Clinic provides full range of services from screening & treatment, education & counseling and HIV antibody testing and counseling. Located in Room 303 of City Hall. Anonymous HIV testing by appointment on weekdays from 8 am to 5 pm. Call 874-8784. For other STD services: 874-8446.

Identity Support

New Hampshire P-FLAG Meetings

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

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

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

Plymouth: Meets first Sunday, 7-9 pm, Plymouth Congregational Church. FMI, call

603/968-7254 or 603/786-9812.

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

Maine P-FLAG Meetings

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

Brunswick/Bath: Meets 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Wed. FMI, 729-0519.

Lewiston/Auburn: Meets last Sunday, 6:30-8:30 pm. FMI, 783-9789.

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

NA: Just for Today meetings every Wednesday, 8:15 pm, at St. Luke's Cathedral, State St., Portland. Use Park St. entrance in rear. Also Friday meeting, 8:00 pm, Immanuel Baptist Church, corner Deering & High St., Use entrance off Deering St.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Discussion Group:

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

W.O.W. (Wild Outdoor Women): Recreational group meets monthly for outdoor activities followed by pot luck socials. Activities: biking, hiking, camping, canoeing, kayaking. FMI: Jen @ 207/787-2379 or 207/773-5083.

Maine Frontrunners: a gay and lesbian running club sponsoring weekly run in Portland. We meet at the beginning of Back Cove Walkway (corner Baxter Blvd. & Preble St. Ext.), Saturdays, 9 am. FMI, Jim-761-2059 or John-828-4896.

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

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

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

TransSupport: Support group for cross-dressers, transsexuals, their families, friends. Meets in secure locations to provide support, education & social activities. Write TransSupport, P.O. Box 17622, Portland, 04112.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bangor Lesbian Support Group: This Lesbian Support Group welcomes any woman who self-identifies as a lesbian. They seek to create woman-only, lesbian-positive space to explore issues and affirm themselves and each another as lesbians. Confidentiality, open-mindedness and respect are required. Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 pm, Mabel

Wadsworth Women's Health Center, 334 Harlow St., Bangor. FMI: (207) 947-5337.

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

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

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

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

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

Parents

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

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

Youth Support

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

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

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

Concord OUTRIGHT Inc.: Meets every Thurs., 7-9 pm at UU Church, 274 Pleasant St., next to concord Hospital & Orthopedics Clinic. 603/664-9169.

Monadnock OUTRIGHT: Meets every Thurs., 7-9 pm at "The Place To Go", 46 Concord St. (Rt. 202 N), Peterborough, 603/547-2545.

Nashua OUTRIGHT: Meets every 2nd & 4th Thursday at UU Church corner of Canal & Lowell Sts. (near Dunkin Donuts). Call Steve or Gypsy at 603/672-0792. Email: OutrightNH@AOL.com

OUTRIGHT/Seacoast: Meets every Sun. 5-7 pm (movie night), Tues. 6-8 pm (drop in), & Friday from 7 to 9 pm (support group) at the UU Church Annex (next to fire station), 206 Court St., Portsmouth NH. FMI call 603/431-1013, P.O. Box 842, Portsmouth NH 03801.

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

THE MAINE YOUTH PROTECTION COUNCIL: Works to create safer communities and schools for minority youth. If racism or homophobia affect you, help be part of the solution. Call 207/775-4944 for information on the council and sub-committees. There is a place for people of all ages and

backgrounds.

HIV Related Support Meetings

Portland:

Mondays: People Living with HIV disease and all friends, families, partners & caregivers, 6:30-8:00 PM.

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

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

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

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

2nd Thursday: Client Advisory Board, open to all clients of The AIDS Project, 1:30 pm.

The above Portland support groups meet at The AIDS Project, 142 High St., 6th floor, except the Tuesday group, Living Well. FMI on that call Sandy Titus at Stratogen Health Care. Call Jane O'Rourke at 774-6877 or 1-800-851-2437 for more information.

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

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

Bangor: Man 2 Man HIV prevention program for men who have sex with men. M2M offers education, HIV testing, support groups, HIV/AIDS Hotline and workshops. To volunteer or FMI on the program call 207/990-2095 or write: Man 2 Man, POB 2038, Bangor, ME 04402.

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

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

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

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

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

New Hampshire:

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

Keene: Support group for families, friends, partners of persons living with AIDS or who have died of AIDS. Confidential & anonymous. Meets every other Wed., at Planned Parenthood, 7-8:30 pm. Call Dorothy Anderson at 603/756-4735.

Keene: Support group for HIV positive people and those living with AIDS meets alternate Mon. 6:30 pm. For details call Schultz, 603/357-5270.

Peterborough: Support group for family, partners and friends whose lives have been affected by HIV/AIDS meets Tues. at noon.

Call Maria Rosario-603/924-7191, ext. 1126 for details.

Monadnock Region: For info., referrals, testing, buddies, speakers & volunteer opportunities call AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region at 603/357-6855 or 1-800-639-7903 or call United Way Help-Line, 1800-368-4357.

Maine AIDS Alliance

Member Organizations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Have you checked your organizations resource listing lately for accurate and timely information?

If not, please do and notify the CPR office of any changes, including dropping or adding a listing.

Pride Resources works only if the information is up-to-date & accurate.

Online Resources for
Maine's LGBT Community

The Maine Gay Network

△The Maine GayNet Mail List:

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

△The Maine GayNet Home Page:

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

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