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

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

Sarah Luiz is a 5'10 metallic blonde bombshell and she knows it. Relaxing 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 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. He was going through a phase and told his parents to have a sex change. They hoped for it, and Jeff did wait, five years later appeared many times. wrong body and pleased 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

Gay & Lesbian Phoneline 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 phoneline 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 Aroostock County Action Program. The money is to improve HIV-prevention education for young men in Aroostock 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 Phoneline 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. Phoneline volunteers received educational information and training about HIV and AIDS as well as specific prevention information to convey to callers. The Phoneline has also added a toll-free number (800-468-2088) which enables statewide access without the barrier of long distance charges.

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

Susan Deschene, Director of See PHONELINE, pg. 18

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 Gagnons', 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 community's 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 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. Over all 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 saw ALIVE!, pg. 18
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 MLPGA representative to the Governor’s HIV Advisory Committee, I would appreciate hearing comments 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. This year, the Bureau of Health is proposing a public comment period (approximately 3 weeks) and a public hearing. The following changes to the Centers for Disease Control guidelines are officially adopted and become effective in 90 days.

2. A period for public comment is required by 22 MRSA Chapter 250, Sections 801-825. The proposed 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 that both the patient and another Health Care provider determine if notification is required by the disease report. For HIV infection (without AIDS), the patient name has not been required. The 1996 amendment adds 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.

   b. 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 regime 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.

   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 6-12 months after diagnosis. Many cases are only reported after a death certificate is received or other alternate 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.

Activist Network forming in Maine

According to information coming out of a series of follow-up meetings held after the Maine AIDS Task Force meeting in November 1995, there is definite interest among activists including members of Maine Won’t Discriminate and other AIDS activist groups, to form an Activist Network to fight for fair treatment of people with HIV/AIDS 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 resources,” 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 for the many people who have worked on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered rights as well as issues concerning social and economic justice, to form an Activist Network for Maine.

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 4th anniversary of the founding of "Community Pride Reporter," we are conducting a "Design a New Banner for "Community Pride Reporter" 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 4th 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 typexet, computer generated or hand-inked.
3. The design must be black and white with a successful 2 color application as needed.
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 communities, news or newspaper.
5. The dimensions for the banner must be 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 in this 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 __________)
9. Grand Prize is a fabulous "Romantic 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 your entry to: "Community Pride Reporter," 15 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 Woman’s Story of Surviving Anti-gay Violence. “Claudia will address the City Hall Parade Rally and Woman’s Story of Surviving Anti-gay Violence. “

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 6015-96

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 group of HIV-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 PRIDE 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.

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 parking area on the Presque Isle 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: 207/766-8095.
It just gets better!

Lin Gould, Symposium Committee

Symposium XXIII, 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 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 Mustang 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 tournamnet— 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 Symposiummania, a maniac 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'!!

Here are some workshop topics which we really hope someone will want to 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'.

Looking for a host for 1997 Symposium

by Susan Farnsworth, President
Symposium Forever Board

Planning for this year's wonderful Symposium XXVI weekend began at last year's Symposium in Desert Island. 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 a workshop 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, or if you're interested in working on Symposium Forever, please send mail to Lin Gould at 207/244-4062 or 469-3409 or write Symposium XXIII, POB 516, Mt. Desert, ME 04660.

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.

Lin Gould, reporting for the Symposium XXIII Committee: Trevor Akerley, Lin Gould, Rosemarie Hughes, Mark Leitzik, Larry L'Italien. For more information call (207) 244-4062 or 469-3409 or write Symposium XXIII, POB 516, Mt. Desert, ME 04660.
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 happened upon the plight 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 Apuzzo and Eric Roffses. Dale, motivated by the memory of Charlie, and really wanted to do something to help, 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 Mattovich...just a handful of out people who knew that 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! (Charm and the Beast is evidence of this.) 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 gay, lesbians and civil rights activists, Dale and State Rep. Charlene Ryder 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, pro­woman, pro-job, pro-environment, pro-healthcare 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 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. 

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 and 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, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Network and the Colorado Gay and Lesbian Task Force. NGLTF is planning a Supreme Response in their community if there is not one already planned.

The NGLTF will be contacting the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force 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. 320 or email at kb@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.

Women in Harmony presents
Its Spring Concert
Our Pretty Planet
Songs of the Earth and Its Creatures

A Chorus of Women's Voices
Conducted by Sonja Dahlgren Pryor

Saturday, May 11, 1996 at 8 p.m.
Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High Street, Portland
Tickets $10 ($8 for seniors and students)
Tickets available at Amadeus and Drop Me A Line
Handicapped Accessible

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CALL 885-0995 OR 774-4940 FOR MORE INFO.
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/Northeast 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 Harry Harfield” by May Sarton, to her curriculum, and was promptly brought up on charges of “subordination” 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 Hutchinson and Henry David Thoreau, whose consciences told him 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 more a proper 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

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
Inclusive, non-homophobic, liberation-based
The Gospel of Jesus, The Christ, for all people

Northern Lights MCC of Augusta, ME
4:00 pm Sunday. Communion each week
2.3 miles from Cony circle on Rt. 101
FMI: Bill at 207.453.9750

Circle of Hope MCC of Portland, ME
4:00 pm Saturday
Immanuel Baptist, 156 High Street
FMI: 207.773.0119

Interpreted for the hearing impaired.
Every person is welcomed! Please join us!

“Whatever happened to sex being fun?
Whatever happened to sex being dirty?
Whatever happened to sex being something we did?”

Acorn Productions presents
SAFE SEX
by Harvey Fierstein
Directed by Tim Grover

MAY 2 - 19, 1996
OAK STREET THEATRE
92 Oak Street
Tickets - $12 (1/2 price Thursday nights)
CALL 775-5103

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 Cozza will be the emcee. Tickets are $35 each or $30 each if a table of eight is reserved. For more information, contact Dagne Clark at 1-800-886-8908.

Dagne Clark has been providing support and direction to the Public Policy Committee as bills are coming 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. (From ASMR Apr1-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 five was made with a grant from the Bob Karnan 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. P-FLAG 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.)
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, 32
"I think it's all in the smile myself." T, 38
"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-Portland 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 (1-800-659-7905). 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 603-537-6855. 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.

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 at 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 lesbigay and transgendered community to be held on Saturday, June 8th. The symposium will take place at Muckland 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
What is it?

Heart disease is caused by arteriosclerosis—also known widely as "hardening of the arteries." This colloquialism from orien-
terines." This colloquialism

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. Some 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 "good," HDL cholesterol level (to get this measurement, you must take

the "fasting" blood cholesterol test). Normal values for cholesterol are 200 milligrams per deciliter or less; 100 to 120 for HDL; 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 dis-
ease 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 con-
suming more than two alcoholic beverages per day can contribute to your risk of heart attack.

Had enough?! Don't despise
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 his-
tory of heart disease if you have a fe-
male relative (mother, aunt, grand-
mother) who died from heart disease before the age of 65.

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

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

What about Estrogen Replacement Therapy?

The debate still rages. Does estrogen "protect" a woman from heart disease? If increasing our risk of heart disease once menopause occurs? By taking estrogen replacement therapy (ERT), do the risks of breast and other forms of cancer in-
crease? By taking a synthetic form of progestrone, does that offset the risk? Recently, a female cardiologist told me that the choice of 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

Planned Parenthood committed to excellence &
truth in sexuality education

by Chris Millicent

Imagine a classroom of adoles-
cents talking openly about sexuality, sexual differences and the joys and con-
sequences of having a sex life. For most adolescents, such a wild and free idea because few people were raised in an open environment where sexuality could be discussed not 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 facili-
tator of this exciting workshop.

What made this workshop (and others organized by Planned Parent-
thood) 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 educa-
tors 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 plaucards with ages ranging from 0-25 and older as he asked questions regarding when someone should undertake certain sexual practices and other rites of passage into adulthood and adoles-

attitude, 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 emo-
tional damage, what age would be ap-
propriate to begin engaging in sex. The responses ranged from 0-3 years to over 15 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 expe-
riences as a male role model in a Ver-
mont School systems adolescent sexu-
ality 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 de-
signed to help people make reproduc-
tive choices as well as educate the pub-
clic on the dangers of sexually transmit-
ted diseases. These workshops demon-
strate their professionalism and caring as well as their commitment to well be-
ing for all genders and orientations.
Sarah's life has changed dramatically, but is she a real woman? Living for years uncertain as a man, being a woman means a different preliminary treatments such as the heavy doses of estrogen pill and and 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 psychiatric 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 her as she 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. Because of the delay 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 insurance paid for 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 in a special "youth track" organized by 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 the Northeastern Conference's opening session. The old­timers with me on these issues," Sarah says in a silky voice. 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.

Students & host families sought for student exchange program

The American International Youth Student Exchange Program is a nonprofit high school foreign exchange program in the United States, Europe and other parts of the world. AYSEP 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 and 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 received a call from AYSEP that they ran this announcement the last time they were looking for families, for 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 Tiberon, California. ΔΔ

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

CULLITON, from pg. 6

Sarah, who has just finished writing a book called, Transcending Illusions, continues to provide the story and wisdom 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 TV.

"You know, I had the operation to fit in with society," Sarah says. She discovered how long her struggle to become a woman that it really didn't change how she felt inside. "I could have remained a man practicing a gay lifestyle, 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 bas­ed herself on 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 star­studded 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 provide the 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 mixed up in the mind, soul and body. "We have to allow people the grace and dignity to be themselves, and to let them learn from their mistakes." ΔΔ

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- Ottawa Tulip Festival - May 16-19
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- (Memorial weekend)
- Geraldo Show Tour - June 6-7
- Amish Country Tour - June 19-23
- Montreal Jazz Festival - June 28-30

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EDITORIAL

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

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, "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.

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 we have 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 local 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,

CPR MAIL BAG:

Dear Editor:

Please pass this on to your readers:

Dear ML/GPA Banquet Attendees,

How very grateful are some of us at ML/GPA to each and every one of you 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:

I've got 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 your 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 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.

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
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 transsexuals pay the price to be women?

A woman, from birth, sets out to survive a series of gauntlets of second class citizenship, co-dependent stereotyping, lesser than men stigmatism’s and beliefs that have plagued them since the dawning 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 define us. But when did the curse of bi-born feminity fall upon us to survive and rise above?

Since our male births, we were induced into the male dominated club of domineering, superior, aggressive, got it made in the shade lifestyle 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 you join 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 foot 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 remember everyone that you are a transsexual female or to solve your discord’s? Now is that you that 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!” Darulyn Maxwell, in April’s issue of the CPR, raised some valid points. Not every transsexual is looking to be on the Gerald 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 dysphoria and find our place in life and be loved. But we must be realistic in our roles and how we think. 

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 Burube that purported to protect 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 1996, Dale McCormick challenged a well-known conservative, incumbent (5 term) Republican Senator. In those days her “electability” was 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. Dale was top vote winner in the primary.

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. 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 be a woman? Dale McCormick takes action.

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 ACLU 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 that 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.

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

We are fighting for our lives.

Sincerely,
Richard A. Waizkin, Portland

John Holverson, Portland
From the A & E desk...

by Ainsel 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 Ainsel’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 other two other musicians are amazing. A fairly new entry into my list of favorite bands, The Nields vocals are very cool, very powerful.

Available April 30th:
Paule 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.

Coe Tuaw 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 Ndegcello - “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.

THERE ARE REVIEW:
“Private Lives”

by Janis Tyler

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 lovers—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 cool 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

THEATRE REVIEW:
“Love and Human Remains”

by Philip Rogers

This is one interesting film that came out on video a few months ago. It has many elements to it: homosexuality, violence, sadism, murder, a psychotic 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.

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

Sybil and Elyot in 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 hootenanny situation 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 alternates between conviviality, homosexuality and violence in her interactions with Elyot in the second act. Her movements and gestures capture Amanda perfectly, arguing with the witty repartee typical of Coward’s comedies of manners.

SEEN PRIVATE, pg. 19
Decordova Museum School. However, you've been at Coffee By Designs, eleven years. He's spent time at the Montserrat School of Art as the school of life is perhaps where lies and states.

I met David Cedrone when I first moved to Portland. I was stripping wallpaper 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 case 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 with the question that anyone who has seen his work would ask, "How did you 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.

MOVIE REVIEW:

"The Birdcage" is Not A Drag

by Travis Seaward

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 we gay 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 after 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 easy.

Theatrical PROFILES - Dave's World: The Visual Diary

by Aimset 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 he's been perfecting and re-creating for over eleven years. He's spent time at the Rhode Island School of Design, the Montserrat 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 it's 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 wallpaper 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 case 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 with the question that anyone who has seen his work would ask, "How did you..."
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 re-membering, 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; her 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 stuffy 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. AA

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 ranged from light-hearted to poignant, including: Domestic Relations, Civil Rights, Attorneys-at-Law (761-209) and John (828-4906).

The play was directed by Rose Mary Denman, whose father was Lewis My Father's House. She is the director of the Theatre Company of Maine Gay Men's Chorus. 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 Reenan, 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 stuffy and quite unbelievable, and her dominance during the first act made the play feel constricted.

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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 lezzy body 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 ground-breaking for a memoir type book. Too bad Mom sounds too good to be Martha Stewart, as if reeducating her son’s room would make him straight (pub-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 lose their social prominence in their Westchester, New York, life style because of gyness. The book is littered with the words “we have as lezzy body people about ourselves as we grow up in isolation.

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by Daryl 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.

Now they argue with Barbies over window dressing, but female human beings.

Even before I approached the end of denial (that Egyptian hothead 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 picked up on 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 illustrate 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 the 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 benefit 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 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 other's 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?
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.

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.

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 must reduce the spread of HIV & we must continue to embrace our brothers & sisters living with HIV/AIDS."

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Tom Antonik Photo

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Tom Antonik Photo
By BI
Heidi L. Vanderheiden
William Wedin, Ph.D., Manhattan psychologist and director of the Bi-Sexual 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 himself 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 there is only heterosexual 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 some day you could behave either exclusively homosexual or exclusively heterosexual?" Over 80% hoped for long-term monogamy.

Some people believe 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 maleness." 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, straight 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.

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. It's not what makes a person, what they've got between their legs."

OUT: of Town
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 gay 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 got a call from a guy last week who was also out of the closet and didn't trust me enough to talk to a travel agent. He wanted the names and phone numbers of some gay resorts/hotels for my reference books on gay travel, I was able to reach my phone numbers of some gay resorts/hotels for my reference books on gay travel, I was able to reach any Visitor Bureau in any city or country. I've even replied, "Forget the order."

In a way, that call was both upsetting and maddening. It was upsetting that this person was so 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 anything I know a thing 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—either 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. Most common reply is "I don'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; reserve a charter flight; and/or charter a plane; or hotel room; reser va"etc. In deed, beginning in 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 Gulf War.

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 reformed it. Needless to say, this policy gave the military the discretion to keep some gay and lesbian soldiers and discharge others.

The Queen for a Day clause and the fact that gays and lesbians have rarely been discharged when the army needs them to 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 of the Senate Armed Services Committee—said: "In the event of a war, I would not discharge gay personnel at that time, because I would regard them as being more valuablefäh..."
of the Senate Armed Services Committee — is the committee that considered the Uniform Code of Military Justice. For instance, homosexuality was declared to be a threat to military readiness and the military personnel's ability to perform effectively, regardless of one's sexual orientation.

In 1993, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Bowers v. Hardwick that laws criminalizing sex between consenting adults in private were constitutional, as long as they applied to same-sex behavior. This decision allowed states to continue to ban consensual same-sex interactions.

The 1994 election was also significant because it marked the first time that a majority of American voters rejected an incumbent president at the polls. This was due in part to the ongoing AIDS epidemic and the perceived failure of the government to address this crisis effectively.

In 1995, the United States went to war in the Gulf War, and the discharges were likely to proceed until the end of the conflict. The White House's response was to remove gay and lesbian employees from positions of influence, and to establish the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to investigate complaints of discrimination.

In 1996, Diana, Princess of Wales, became the first member of the royal family to publicly announce her sexual orientation. She revealed that she was living with a woman and that they were planning to get married.

In 1997, the Lewiston-Auburn AIDS Coalition (LAA) was established to provide support and resources for those affected by AIDS. The organization continues to operate today, offering a range of services to individuals and communities affected by the epidemic.
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 those ideas 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 blank canvas, just as well as he used 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 those people applied 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.

Dave Cedrone is one of many artists who believes in helping The AIDS Project raise funds. His manner of doing so 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 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 amazo, 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 the moment 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 "Wizard of Oz."

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 camper 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.

BIRDCA9E from pg. 13

a little something about acceptance, tolerance, and a new 90's 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 in this film, which is way 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-judgmental 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 uncondi tional 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 camper 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.

PRIVATE, from pg. 12

Bill Crist was a wonderful, pommous Vic. Now he's a man wearing the puffed chest, palling 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 winning, 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 unlikel y 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. 

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 ....

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. 

Find your vacation getaway with the premier guide to gay inns, B&Bs, hotels, and more

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May 1996 Calendar of Events

Saturday, May 4:
\(\Delta\) 10:30-11:30 AM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/892-2192.
\(\Delta\) 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 in for NC members.)

Sunday, May 5: MAINE AIDS WALK '96

\(\Delta\) Ames & Speckled Mountains Dayhike: distance 8.5 miles. Bring camera and lunch & hike in Maine's Evan Notch, past Bickford Falls.

Tuesday, May 7:
\(\Delta\) 7:00-9:00 PM - Plymouth (NH) PFLAG meeting. Plymouth Congregational Church. FMI: 603/968-7252 or 603/761-0112.

Wednesday, May 8:
\(\Delta\) 7:00-9:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Drop-In and Open House at the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.

Thursday, May 9:
\(\Delta\) 7:00-9:00 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/892-2192.
\(\Delta\) 1:00-4:00 PM - Organizational meeting for the formation of an activist network in Maine. Pine Tree State Baptist Church, 153 Hospital St., Augusta, ME. (See interface for contact phone numbers.)
\(\Delta\) 6:00 PM - The Rainbow Network Picnic Pot-Luck Extravaganza at the UU Church, State St., Portsmouth, NH. A potluck, 'People, 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:
\(\Delta\) 10:00 AM-12:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord's monthly business meeting. Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.

Monday, May 13:
\(\Delta\) 6:30 PM - Rainbow Business & Professional Association networking meeting at Italian Heritage Center, behind Shaw's at Westgate Mall in Portland (Outer Congress Street). FMI, Paul Bernard, 207/885-5060.
\(\Delta\) 7:00-8:00 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women's Center. FMI, Jana at 772-6599.

Tuesday, May 14:
\(\Delta\) 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:
\(\Delta\) 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.
\(\Delta\) 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.
\(\Delta\) 7:00-9:00 PM - Ulver Valley (NH) Region PFLAG meeting. 43 Lebanon St., Northfield, NH. FMI, 603/381-3600.
\(\Delta\) 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:
\(\Delta\) 10:30-11:30 AM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/892-2192.
\(\Delta\) 12:00 PM-3:00 PM - MLGPA Committee Meetings and General Meeting. Augusta UU Church. FMI, 207/761-3732 or 1-800-556-5472.
\(\Delta\) 7:00 PM - "Positively Alive!" present, "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.

Sunday, May 19:
\(\Delta\) Chiltern Mountain Club takes an historic walking tour through picturesque East Greenwich (RI). Call David, 207/921-2800.
\(\Delta\) 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.
\(\Delta\) 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, 603/537-6855 or 1-800-6397903.
\(\Delta\) 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:
\(\Delta\) 6:00-8:00 PM - Southern Maine Pride Committee meeting. Holiday Inn By The Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. All Welcome. FMI, 879-7327.
\(\Delta\) 7:00-8:00 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women's Center. FMI, Jana at 772-6599.

Wednesday, May 22:
\(\Delta\) 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.
\(\Delta\) 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:

Friday, May 24:
\(\Delta\) Chiltern Mountain Club bikes the valleys of Vermont. Call Bob, 617/266-3812 or 802/333-9448.

Saturday, May 25:
\(\Delta\) 10:30-11:30 AM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/892-2192.

Monday, May 27:
\(\Delta\) 7:00-8:00 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women's Center. FMI, Jana at 772-6599.

Wednesday, May 29:
\(\Delta\) 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.
\(\Delta\) 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:
\(\Delta\) Springfest '96 - with Suede, Justinia and Joyce, Alex Dobkin-Pat D., Erika Gilbert, Kathy Poole, Lynn Decribes, and many others. Concerts, dance, workshops, pet show, auction, dyke olympics, and more. Capacity limited to 550 women. 80 acre AAA campground wಪn the coast. Adults only. FMI, or to book 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: Friday - $22.50 plus $1.50 dinner coupon
Upper balcony - $16.50
Reserved Seating: 3rd Tier Cabaret - $22.50 (does not include dinner coupon)
1st Balcony - $28.50
Main Floor - $30.50
Main Floor - $15.00
(*slightly obstructed view)
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∆ 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 in Down east Maine, 20 minutes reservations: (207) 726-5807. ∆

∆ 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. 800/588-4770. ∆

∆ 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. Riding is not for you, there are miles of great hiking trails from the back door. Call 207-836-2908, Bethel, Maine. ∆

∆ 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. PML, 207-787-2379. ∆

Personals

∆ 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, flea, yard sales, antiques, exploring, kink, etc. Serious only. Ron, PO Box 1169, Sanford, ME 04073. ∆

∆ 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. I'm a GWM, 25, 6', 190 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, etc. I'm a GWM, very athletic, single, HIV, looking for an older, supportive professional man for companionship. Tim Murphy, #114185, P.O. Box 128, Eddyville, KY 42038. ∆


∆ Pride '96 Vendors: 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. ∆

Educational Services

∆ Spanish Lessons: Affordable, private tutoring. Individuals or small groups. Chris Miliken 207/883-4802. ∆

House to Share

∆ Stick 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 10 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 978-985-8085 or email PerKe1@cybertours.com ∆

Business

∆ Marti L. Lay, Maine State Certified Massage Practitioner, will provide massage therapy at two new convenient locations. Offices located at Hair Exotodinaire (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. ∆

Help Wanted

∆ Home Typing Jobs: $20/hour, up to $500/week. Call 24 hours, 207-892-1423, extension 449. ∆

∆ 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. ∆

Support Group


Volunteers Needed

∆ 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 Clif at 626-3435. ∆

Advertisements on Back Pages
Meetings are on the 3rd Saturday of every month

MUSIC & ART
Women in Harmony is an eclectic choral ensemble open to all regardless of age, race, religion, or sexual orientation. If you are interested in becoming a member or volunteer, contact an organizational skills, and SASE (including your phone number) to P.O.Box 51566 A.St.A, Portland, ME 04101, or call 707774-9490.

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

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

Support groups
Women In Harmony is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to educate elected public officials, and media on LG issues. Primary goals are to involve the LG community in Maine's political process, promote civil rights for gender variant individuals, and endorse candidates, build a coalition, and oppose anti-gay legislation and referenda. Meetings are on the 3rd Saturday of every month in August. For info, call 942-6652.

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gay (P-FLAG) promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth and their families. Information and support via phone and email. Contact 774-3441

Gays & (P-FLAG) promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, and their friends and families. Information and support via phone and email. Contact 207-643-3434.

ML/GPA is a statewide, non-partisan organization serving lesbian, gay, and bisexual people under PHONE SUPPORT and SUPPORT GROUPS.

ML/GPA's mission is to educate the general public, provide resources, and lobby legislators on issues involving gay, lesbian, and bisexual civil rights: (CAGLR), New Hampshire's oldest progressive gay/lesbian civil rights organization established in 1975. Call Info-line (603) 224-1686 or write to 874-1030.

ML/GPA is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the general public, provide resources, and lobby legislators on issues involving gay, lesbian, and bisexual civil rights: (CAGLR), New Hampshire's oldest progressive gay/lesbian civil rights organization established in 1975. Call Info-line (603) 224-1686 or write to 874-1030.

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Activities: biking, hiking, camping, canoeing, kayaking. FBI: Jene at 207-7787-2379 or 207-775-5083.

Maine Volunteers: a gay and lesbian running club sponsoring weekly run in Portland. We meet at the beginning of Back Cove Walkway (corner Baxter Blvd. & Proctor St.) 7:30 am, Fri., May 20, 206-751-8699.

Support Group—Penobscot & Surrounding Counties: For men who have sex with men. Monthly meetings to talk about issues and concerns. Call 207-790-2095 for more info & meeting times.

TransSupport, P.O. Box 17622, Portland, 04112.

Rainbow People’s Network: Meets 1st and 3rd Fridays each month, 7-9 pm. First Universalist Church, 234 Harlow St., Bangor. FBI: 207-947-5337.

Mountain Valley Men (MVM): A group of gay men who meet all ages in the western Maine area. Members of Eastern NH area who get together for potluck dinners, hiking, canoeing, skiing and other activities. FBI, write to Box 36, Center Conway, NH 03813-0026 or call Paul at 207-792-1034.

S.N.A.R.S.: Survivors Network of Those Affected by AIDS. Monthly support group for men who are healing from sexual abuse, by clergy of any denomination. Meets in Portland location on third Friday of the month, 6-8 pm, call 207-794-0520.

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

Men’s Discussion Groups: 7:00 pm, fourth Saturday of each month at St. James Episcopal Church, Center & Main Streets, Old Town.

Lavender Women: 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. FBI, 207-7783-0461.

Parents

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Parent Groups: For families, places & times write GLB Parent 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. Monthly meetings in the group are free. FBI: write P.O. Box 2235, South Portland, ME 04106.

Youth Support

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

OUTRIGHT Center/Maine, weekly, confidential meetings for gay/lesbian and questioning youth 22 years and under. Call “First Call” at 795-6671 or 1-800-339-4042 and ask about OUTRIGHT.

OUTRIGHT Portland: Meets 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. FBI, call 774-TALK, or 774-HELP or write to P.O. Box 5071, Portland, ME 04107.

Outright Outright Inc; Meets every Thurs., 7-9 pm at UU Church, 274 Pleasant St., next to concord Hospital & Orthopedics Clinic. 603/694-9199.

Outright Oakland: Meets every Thurs., 7-9 pm at “The Place To Go,” 46 Concord St. (Rt. 202N), Peterborough, 603/547-2541.

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: Outright@AOL.com.

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

COLAGE: A national support group run by and for the children of gay and bisexual parents. FBI, COLAGE, 2300 Market St., #105, Dept. P, San Francisco, CA 94115.

The MAINE YOUTH PROTECTION COUNCIL: Works to create safe haven and communities for school of young people. If you need help, contact the council for resources and non-confidential 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:

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

Tuesday: People Living with HIV disease and all friends, families, lovers, and caregivers. 10:30 am - 12:00 noon.

1st Wednesdays: PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support), 5:30 pm. Call 775-PAWS, Charley Wyost, Program Coordinator.

3rd Wednesdays: People living with HIV meets from 5:30-7:00 pm.

2nd Thursdays: Client Advisory Board, open to all clients of The AIDS Project. 1:30 pm. For info call Portland support groups meet at The AIDS Project, 142 High St. 6th floor except the Tuesday group, Living Well. FBI on that call Sandy Titus at Strasglen Health Care. Call Jane O’Rourke at 774-6877 or 1-800-851-2477 for more information.

Auburn: People living with HIV disease, 1:30-5:30 pm at Auburn Family Care Call 774-3479. Andrewosogin and Oxford Case Manager and Support Services Coordinator for TAP in the Aubh office, 739-4313.

Every Thursday 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 6:00-7:15 pm, Dayspring AIDS Support Services offers support for people with HIV & AIDS and their families. Call them at 707-2624-3534.

Bangor: Man 2 Man HIV prevention program for men who have sex with men. M2M offers education, HIV testing, support group for HIV/AIDS House and workshops. To volunteer or find M2M on the program call 207-990-2595 or write: Man 2 Man, P.O. Box 2217, Bangor, ME 04402.

Biddford: People affected or infected by HIV, Mon., 5:30-7:00 pm, So. ME Medical Center campus outside cafe in room 29. Call John Bean, York County Case Manager, 774-6877.

Brunswick: Meetings for family and friends who have loved ones with HIV/AIDS at Meredith AIDS Support Services, 84 Church Street. FBI on meeting days and times call 725-4955.

Farmington: Thursdays: 6:30-8:30 pm, People’s Building. FBI to support group. Call Christie Foster at Tri-County Health Services, 778-4553, for location.

Gardiner: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays People living with HIV meets from 5:30-8 pm at Gardiner Community Center, 875 Main St. Gardiner.

New Hampton:

Exeter: “Connectors,” connection support for care-giver parents, families, friends whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS, meets second Tues. from 7-8:30 pm. Exeter Congregational Church, 211 Front St, Discussion, info, sharing of support. Confidentiality assured. Wheelchair access. FBI, 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, 28 Elm St., 7-8:30 pm. Call Dorothy Anderson at 603/756-4775.

Keegan: Support group for family, friends, partners of persons living with AIDS who have died of AIDS. Confidential & anonymous. Meets every other Wed., at Planned Parenthood, 28 Elm St., 7-8:30 pm. Call Dorothy Anderson at 603/756-4775.

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Kittery: Support group for families, friends, partners of persons living with AIDS who have died of AIDS. Confidential & anonymous. Meets every other Wed., at Planned Parenthood, 28 Elm St., 7-8:30 pm. Call Dorothy Anderson at 603/756-4775.


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

## Online Resources for Maine’s LGBT Community

The Maine Gay Network

**The Maine GayNet Mail List:** Share your ideas and opinions or just plain chat with other list members. To subscribe to this list, send e-mail to majordomo@abacus.oxford.edu. In the message part, write “subscribe 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/usalmaine

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Call Maria Rosario: 603/924-7911, ext. 1126 for details.

Monadnock Region: For info, referrals, networking, meeting opportunities call AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region at 603/537-6855 or 1-800-659-7933 or visit our web site, http://www.yoakiln.comประเด็นภาษาไทย.
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95 High Street  
Portland, ME 04101  
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