Community Pride Reporter, 08/1996

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Protest results in removal of store's offensive T-shirts

by Leslie Robinson,
New Hampshire Editor

It was a virtual blueprint for direct action. First one person got angry. Then he organized. A protest was held, which concluded with a confrontation. Then, victory. All in under two weeks.

The protest took place Tuesday evening, July 9th, outside a T-shirt shop in Hampton Beach, New Hampshire. The protest was because The Shirt Factory had been selling T-shirts that say “AIDS Cures Fags” and “Silly Faggot, Dix are for Chicks.” But after a formal request to stop selling the shirts—and with all those demonstrators and media types surrounding him—the store’s manager agreed not to sell the T-shirts anymore, with one condition attached by the store owner.

The situation developed a week and a half prior to the demonstration, when Carl Bletzer of Portsmouth was on a date in Hampton Beach, a hugely popular resort town. He and his partner spotted the “AIDS Cures Fags” T-shirt, which was prominently displayed in the front of the shop. In addition to those words, the shirt also features two men having anal intercourse inside a circle with a line drawn through it. Bletzer asked the sales clerk to tell the owner how offensive they found the shirt.

Bletzer began calling local gay and AIDS advocacy groups. It was determined that this store and another also owned by David and Shirley Maleh were the only ones selling the “AIDS” shirt along Ocean Boulevard, Hampton Beach’s main drag. Several other establishments were also selling the “Silly Faggot” shirt. The repeated attempts of Bletzer and his allies to talk to David Maleh failed. “He dodged us,” Bletzer said.

This was what brought roughly 70 people together that humid summer night. The protesters included AIDS workers, people with AIDS, gay activists, and sympathizers. The town let them park for free in a municipal lot. The police chief, too, was supportive, saying anyone who heckled them would be arrested.

About 40 picketers walked in a circle outside the store and chanted slogans like, “Two, four, six, eight. Hampton has no place for hate,” and “Gay, straight, black, white. Same struggle, same fight.” Many carried signs reading “Hatred for Sale,” or “Boycott Homophobia Here and Everywhere,” or “Love and Respect are Better Values.” As if on cue, everyone put their signs down and entered the store, where earlier David Maleh had told Maine’s Channel 13 that he would continue to sell the shirts.

Bletzer, spokesman for the picketers, addressed Maleh and Maleh’s 17-year-old son, Danny, who manages the store. Bletzer said, “We formally request that you remove these T-shirts of hate, particularly the one that says ‘AIDS Cures Fags’.” Donna Roberts, speaking for those afflicted with AIDS, echoed the request.

David Maleh agreed that carrying the “AIDS” shirt wasn’t acceptable. But as to the “Silly Faggot” shirt, he said lots of local stores sell it, and “I think it’s funny.” It was suggested that he could set a precedent by removing it and get gay business into the bargain. One demonstrator volunteered to buy a Hampton Beach T-shirt immediately if Maleh would stop selling the other shirt.

With such assurances in his ears, Danny Maleh said, “In this case we will be proud to say we will stop selling them.” He looked at his father after starting to speak those words, who nodded slightly.

The demonstrators clapped and cheered. Bletzer declared the picketing and protest finished, and said his group will verify that the shirts have been removed. He reiterated that the Malehs’ stores will get gay business. “We’re not singling you out. You guys are taking the lead,” Bletzer said to the Malehs.

Afterwards, Danny Maleh said the issue for him is competition along the beach. But he said he really would take

See PROTEST, page 4
House Votes On Creating Federal Definition of Marriage

by Cassandra Burrell
WASHINGTON (AP) - Venturing into increasingly divisive social issues, the House overwhelmingly voted to outlaw gay marriage in federal law even if a state decides to allow same-sex couples to marry.

White House press secretary Mike McCurry called the legislation an attempt at "gagging, pure and simple - a classic use of wedge politics designed to provoke anxieties and fears." Rep. Tom DeLay, R-Texas, another supporter, said that polls in Hawaii and across the country "show that a majority of people don't support legalization of same-sex marriage."

But opponents accused Republicans of engaging in presidential politicking. "This is nothing more than election year pandering," said Rep. Martin Meehan, D-Mass. "This will prevent or discourage from struggling for equal rights, and they will lose two blocks away," he said.

Rep. Gerry Studds, D-Mass., who is gay, said gay Americans will continue to struggle for equal rights, even if one day succeed. "This is the last unfinished chapter of civil rights in this country," Studds said. "This country is going to rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed. There is no power on earth that can stop it."

Some opponents of the bill maintained that states already have the power to reject gay marriages performed in other states.

RANT:
("now pronounce you man and wife")

by David Cook

by Carolyn Skornek
WASHINGTON (AP) - Legislation that would deny any federal sanction to same-sex marriages is getting low-level attention in the Senate despite its easy passage in the House and President Clinton's general endorsement.

"There, the bill's chief sponsor, predicted the Senate would act "very expeditiously" to approve it, given Clinton's support and the fact that Bob Dole, a presumptive GOP presidential nominee, cosponsored a similar measure in the Senate.

But Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., who is in a tough re-election battle, said he wouldn't come up before September. Mandatory spending bills and Democratic attempts "to try to hijack anything that needs to be done" might get in the way, he told reporters.

In addition, Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., will try to add an amendment to block the threat of action against homosexuals. If that ride passes the Senate, the two chambers will have to negotiate a final version, and it's possible the House will oppose that change.

Conservatives pressed the bill to deal in advance with a Hawaii court case that could make that state the first to recognize gay marriage. If that happened, they fear the Constitution would require all other states to accept those marriages as legal. They also want to derail the momentum that gay marriage could become eligible for federal benefits now available to married couples.

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., who lobbies on behalf of the measure and is openly gay, referred to the act's title, Defense of Marriage, and turned the accusation around. "The people who argue that the marital bonds are so fragile between man and woman that knowing that two men can marry, each other will somehow erode them," he said.

No-fault divorces now allow people to "walk out for no good reason," identifiers devised to avoid this limitation.

On the other side, Judiciary Committee Chairman Henry Hyde, R-Ill., argued, "Two men loving each other doesn't hurt anybody else's marriage. But it is a declaration that marriage is an individual relationship, not a marriage of two people who argue that the marital bonds are so fragile between man and woman that knowing that two men can marry, each other will somehow erode them," he said.

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1996 Marriage And Family Protection Bill

An Act to Protect Traditional Marriage and Prohibit Same-Sex Marriages

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Title 19 MRSA
sec. 2 (FINDINGS AND PURPOSES) (a) Findings — The People of the State of Maine find that —
1) the union of one man and one woman joined in traditional monogamous marriage is of inestimable value to society; the state has a compelling interest to nurture and promote the unique institution of traditional monogamous marriage in the support of harmonious families and the physical and mental health of children; and that the state has the compelling interest in promoting the moral values inherent in traditional monogamous marriage.
2) to nurture, sustain and protect the traditional monogamous family in Maine society, its moral imperatives, its economic function and its unique contribution to the rearing of healthy children.
3) to support and strengthen traditional monogamous family against improperly interfered from out of state influences or edicts.
sec. 3 Polygamy and other relationships prohibited —
1) Marriages contracted while either of the parties has a former wife of husband not divorced, living, are void.
2) Persons of the same sex shall not be permitted to contract marriage.

sec. 93 Certain marriages performed in other states are not recognized in this state.

(2) to carry out a “search and send” campaign. We must educate the citizens of Maine as to why anti-gay initiatives are discriminatory, hateful, and often unconstitutional.

(2) by Cassandra Burrell WASHINGTON (AP) _ If Senate conservatives really oppose discrimination against homosexuals, they’ll add anti-discrimination provisions to a bill that would reject same-sex marriage.

The Human Rights Campaign urged the Senate to amend the Defense of Marriage Act to bar workplace discrimination against homosexuals. But Daniel Zingale, the group’s political director, vowed to continue opposing the bill with or without the amendment. “A lot of folks supporting this Defense of Marriage Act have come forward and said they’re not for discrimination, they’re just against same-sex marriage,” he said. “Well, this is the effect you call their bluff.”

The House voted overwhelmingly to pass a bill introduced by Rep. Bob Barr, R-Ga., that would allow states not to honor marriages performed in other states uniting couples of the same sex. The federal government would refuse to recognize gay marriages performed in states that legalize the institution, as Hawaii may do because of a gay-rights court case.

Sen. Don Nickles’ companion Senate bill would create the first federal definition of marriage as a “legal union of one man and one woman.”

Nickles, R-Okla., said he would not support an anti-discrimination amendment because it could force organizations like the Boy Scouts of America to hire homosexual scout leaders or require landlords to rent apartments to gays.

Barr said the bill was narrowly drafted to address one issue - the Hawaii case - and he didn’t want it to become a vehicle for another agenda. “I am opposed to amending this legislation in any way,” Barr said. “If others have new proposals they want to bring before the Congress, then they should draft those and raise them on their own merits.”

Zingale said polls have shown that most Americans, regardless of their thoughts on homosexuality, oppose discrimination against gays in the workplace.

The Human Rights Campaign released a study reporting that 251 of the nation’s Fortune 500 companies have policies forbidding such discrimination. They include IBM, Time-Warner, American Express and Johnson & Johnson, the study said.

It said 66 of the 100 senators and 238 of the House’s 435 members have similar staff-hiring policies.

Gay Advocates Urge Amendment Barring Job Discrimination

GREENCOOKIN'

KATHADIN

"The look is more funky than sleek, with wall murals, rustic memorabilia and mismatched antique chairs. The food is across between hearty and refined - grilled sliced London Broil marinated in Ginger and Scallions... Duck Sausage... eweal crusted Trout."

Cynthia Hacini New York Times

"Folks from away like our restaurant as much as our regular customers. They just can't come in as often. Don't miss out while you are in Portland."

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ML/GPA Presents ‘DECLINE TO SIGN’

Carolyn Cosby is back. She is once again attempting to put an anti-gay initiative on the ballot. This time her question asks whether Mainers feel marriage should be defined as the union of one man and one woman.

The gay/lesbian/biexual/transgendered community of Maine cannot and will not tolerate another state wide anti-gay referendum campaign. We must educate the citizens of Maine as to why anti-gay initiatives are discriminatory, hateful, and often unconstitutional.

The opportunity to educate is now, and the project is called DECLINE TO SIGN. The goal is to prevent Cosby from collecting enough signatures to put to referendum her newest anti-gay initiative. The means for preventing signature collection is by intercepting and educating at the point of signing.

DECLINE TO SIGN has two main focuses:
1) to station as many polling places as possible on election day.
2) to carry out a “search and send” strategy plan on all other days.

On election day we will be educating the voters on why they should not sign the petition. During the “search and send” strategy, we will train groups of individuals how to search for Cosby’s petitioners, then send out a group to educate potential signers on why they should not sign.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! DECLINE TO SIGN will be conducted state wide and will require the time and effort of many volunteers. Please call the DECLINE TO SIGN Hotline Number to get information on meetings and volunteering.

Also, ML/GPA will be conducting a DECLINE TO SIGN workshop at Symposium XXII on Saturday, August 17, from 2:00-3:30 pm. Please join us!

DECLINE TO SIGN has a toll free Hotline number for anyone who wishes to sign.

DECLINE TO SIGN HOTLINE #
1-888-DON'T-SIGN
1-888-DON'T-SIGN
1-888-DON'T-SIGN
1-888-DON'T-SIGN

(DON'T FORGET IT!!)

Sanders, Sweetser Both Oppose Anti-Gay Marriage Bill

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) _ Vermont’s incumbent congressman and his primary challenger agreed Friday that Congress had no business inserting itself into the emotional debate over gay marriage.

Rep. Bernard Sanders, I-Vt., voted against the bill to outlaw gay marriage in federal law even if a state decides to allow same-sex couples to marry. Nonetheless, the House voted 342-67 to pass the Defense of Marriage Act.

Sanders’ wife and chief of staff, Jane, said the congressman opposed the proposal because he believed it improperly interfered with states’ authority by violating the full faith and credit clause of the Constitution. “We’re not legislating values. We have to follow the Constitution,” Jane Sanders said. “And anything that weakens the Constitution should be (addressed) by a constitutional amendment, not by a law passed by Congress.”

Also, Sanders said, “You’re opening up a Pandora’s box here,” she added. “You’re saying that any state can refuse to… recognize the laws of another state if they don’t like them.”

State Sen. Susan Sweetser, Sanders’ main rival, said she agreed. “This is not a federal issue. It’s a state issue,” Sweetser said. “This was an issue that I think sidetracked Congress. Why are they voting on whether states should allow or ban gay marriages?”
PROTEST, from page 1

the "Silly Faggot" shirt down.

Maleh said the "AIDS" shirt was a sample to test. Sent a dozen of them, the family put six in this store at 117 Ocean Blvd. and six in the other Shirt Factory store at 197 Ocean Blvd.

Bletzer, speaking early in the demonstration, said he doesn’t believe the shirts are a First Amendment issue. "This is not freedom of expression. This is commercialism for a profit. There's a difference." The shirts are about hatred and ignorance, he said, and they erode tolerance.

He said part of the protest's purpose was to alert the public that bigotry exists. People who believe otherwise need to be educated, said Bletzer, especially since there is a bill protecting gays against discrimination currently before the New Hampshire House.

Another of the demonstration’s organizers, Joe Murphy, stood outside the store after the protest had ended and thanked the participants, along with the Hampton police. One of the police officers on the scene, Sgt. Knowles, shook Bletzer's hand and said, "You can organize anything for me anytime."

Carl Bletzer extends his hand to Danny Maleh of The Shirt Factory following protest and discussion. How much did the handshake actually mean?

The story of the offending T-shirts pledge of decency around town. As wasn't completely over, however, minutes after the protest ended, David Maleh added a condition saying he would put the shirts back up for sale if other stores in Hampton Beach continued to sell them.

Since that night, Bletzer and his troops had circulated a "commercial pledge of decency" around town. As CPR went to press, 31 of the 32 T-shirt shops approached had signed it. They pledged not to sell shirts reading "AIDS Cures Fags" and "Silly Faggot, Dix are for Chicks," or any variation thereof.

And the offending shirts had not gone back up at The Shirt Factory. ΔΔ

Spending an Afternoon Volunteering at the AIDS Quilt

by Allen McGee

Ebb and flow emotions on this day seemed to mirror the surging current of the nearby Piscataqua River.

The day was July 14, a brilliant Sunday. The place was Portsmouth's Prescott Park, where the AIDS Quilt was making a much-anticipated appearance. For me, it was one more of many events going about their assigned tasks, making the exhibition ready for what was expected to be a large turnout. Tarps were laid out, and sections of the quilt were carefully placed on each in preparation for the opening ceremony, during which individual segments would be unfolded.

As the sections of the quilt were opened to view, I glimpsed a teddy bear attached to one panel. It resembled my daughter's much loved 'Ff-Bear.' A sudden wave of grief engulfed me with such ferocity that I could hardly breathe. In a desperate attempt to compose myself, I panned the other volunteers for my wife. There she stood with tears flowing freely.

We had been told that to cry at the showing would be noble. What I had been struggling with was not nobility but wretchedness. Feelings of dread at the awful toll this disease exacts from its victims, fear for the susceptible innocents, indignation at losing so many promising and productive lives prematurely, sadness for those left behind, all coalesced into that wretchedness.

Subconsciously, I think I knew that this was coming, but I had not prepared a desperate attempt to compose myself, I panned the other volunteers for my wife. There she stood with tears flowing freely.

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I had agreed to become involved in as a part-time volunteer at the Prescott Park Arts Festival. True, I had recently lost a cousin in Georgia to the disease. I didn’t know him well, but his loss did ting the event with an added element of curiosity.

The day started off innocuously enough, with the usual hustle and bustle of forty odd volunteers and festival staff went to press, 31 of the 32 T-shirt shops approached had signed it. They pledged not to sell shirts reading "AIDS Cures Fags" and "Silly Faggot, Dix are for Chicks," or any variation thereof.

And the offending shirts had not gone back up at The Shirt Factory. ΔΔ

See QUILT, page 5
Gay Pride March prompts question: "Why do we need to parade..."

by Jasper M. F. Salach

I am writing this after seeing no coverage in the local newspapers or on Channel 9 news about the local gay pride events that took place Friday, June 14, in Concord, N.H. and Saturday, June 15 in Henniker.

June is Gay Pride Month around the nation, and within our smaller community has named it National Gay History Month. Many people ask me why we do we need to parade in the streets and display our colors.

This is my answer: We are not marching for what we do in our bedrooms. We march for equality, respect, affirmation, and to celebrate our added diversity to this great nation. We march in the streets to demand equal protection under the law through all the institutions of the U.S. Government. This means protection from acts of hate and discrimination in the workplace, protection from being evicted from our homes on the basis of our sexual orientation, protection from the sending of hate messages of slander and untruths, protection from harassment in schools, where one-third of all teen-age suicides are gay and lesbian suicides, and protection to serve proudly for our country without the fear of losing our right to protect and defend because we happen to love people of the same sex, or race.

Many obstacles are not in the path of the evolutionary movement. No institution has the right to teach hate and untruths and to practice discrimination. We deserve as citizens of this country the same treatment and respect of our inherent worth and dignity. We march as a community of men and women to say enough is enough.

We are dealing with the perception of same-gender relationships. Our love is as pure and honorable as your love.

Enough with saying that all we are about is sex. We are about love and families. We are about long-term committed relationships and growing old together with the welcoming blessings of God.

Enough with saying that we have no morals. We are church-going citizens and people striving to work on our fullest potential like most people do in their lives.

Enough with the oppression of trying to keep us from obtaining equal recognition in our communities that would affirm our committed, loving relationships. God blesses our unions too and one day we will obtain the right to marriage.

We also march for those who have died before us in the fight for equality. The thousands of men and women who were put into concentration camps during World War II because they were homosexual. The many gay men in the 1700s who were executed. And we can't forget about the many men and women who have been thrown into mental institutions and then given electric shock treatments to cure them of their homosexual tendencies. We march against these atrocities and we march to say no more!

There was a Concord gay pride parade on Friday, June 14 and I estimate about 250 people showed up to march. I can truthfully tell you our numbers are in the tens of thousands in this fine state of ours. I can also tell you one day we will pass a law in this state that will grant us full civil liberties, because no one is free until all are protected under the law equally.

May peace be with every action you take and all words you speak.

ΔΔ

State Sen. Roberge remarks erode citizenship and school safety

GLSTN/NH Objects to Anti-Gay, Anti-Government Statement

Northwood, NH — In the Manchester Union Leader, on May 21, 1996, State Senator Sheila Roberge made the following remarks concerning the Supreme Court's decision in Evans vs. Romer.

"Asserting that the landmark decision on gay rights would have no impact in New Hampshire, she said, "I don't only view homosexuality as an acceptable life-style. That legislation has come to New Hampshire and been defeated."

Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network of New Hampshire (GLSTN/NH) regards this statement as offensive to the basic values of Americans and to Senator Roberge's lesbian and gay constituents — along with their friends and families.

The US Supreme Court clearly affirmed the Fourteenth Amendment rights of all citizens to equal protection of the laws, and the right to participate in the political process. Senator Roberge plainly stated that, because she disapproves of lesbians and gays, they should have no rights. She implies that she is pleased Adolescents of all sexual orientations.

"I was told. I wasn't sure if the statement sexual orientation."

As our conversation continued, I learned that this woman had been on the AIDS lecture circuit for several years, since the loss of her 28-year-old son. He was a line dance instructor who had worked locally and in Boston. She had decided to channel her grief into a course of action that would pay tribute to his life. Her time of mourning had passed. Now she could talk of Mike with a warmth and affection she had never ashamed of my own unconfessed grief.

Later, I looked across the quilt and

"See QUILT, page 17"

ARBITRARY EXCLUSION AND HATE CRIMES

Adolescents of all sexual orientations need the loving help and support of their families, classmates, and communites as they grow and mature into adults. To single out an arbitrary group and deny it fair and equal protection of the laws constitutes the classic definition of discrimination. To characterize that group as ineligible for inclusion in our society and government, is to encourage hate speech and hatred behavior.

Knox Turner, State Chair of GLSTN/NH, observed, "That is not an example of responsible public discourse from a member of the Education Committee of the NH Senate. GLSTN/NH has grave concerns about the effects of Sen. Roberge's remarks in the schools of our state, and on our youth."

The HUMAN PRICE OF OPPRESSION: TEEN SUICIDE

GLSTN/NH works to ensure that schools are places where all people are respected and valued, regardless of sexual orientation. Turner said, "We urge Sen. Roberge to consider the devastating effects of her remarks on all adolescents struggling to understand their sexuality and that of their friends. We remind her that over 30 percent of completed teenage suicides are by gays and lesbians, often after multiple attempts."

See NH GLSTN, page 19
Merrimack, NH — On June 3, 1996, after ten months of heated controversy, and a bitterly contested election, the Merrimack School Board repealed the anti-gay Policy 6540 passed on August 14, 1995. The assembled townpeople gave the Board a standing ovation. The policy, proposed by then-Chairman Chris Ager, was identical to the failed amendment sponsored by US Senators Bob Smith (R-NH) and Jesse Helms (R-NC) to the 1994 Education Funding Act. Written by Rev. Lou Sheldon, of the California-based Traditional Values Coalition. Police were on duty to protect the meeting site from a lawsuit filed in US District Court by parents and teachers claiming violations of First and Fourteenth Amendment rights under the US Constitution. The far-reaching implications of the Sheldon-Ager (Smith-Helms) policy brought worldwide media attention.

RETURNING TO TRADITION OF COOPERATION

"Now that the hostilities of the past two years are subsiding, the healing process is beginning," observed School Board Chair Ken Coleman. "The people are drawing together once again to solve their problems as a community. This has been the tradition of our town, and that is why we have been able to build a school system recognized around the state for its quality and efficient use of taxes. To watch the return to this tradi­tion makes me proud to serve as an elected official in Merrimack," Coleman said. "The Sheldon-Ager (Smith-Helms) policy clearly did not represent the values of Merrimack. In retrospect, all the controversial issues of the past two years, such as school prayer, creation­ism, and this infamous anti-gay policy, came from the outside. Sheldon's per­sonal involvement and numerous trips to speak at local churches are only the most visible of many smoking guns in the Radical Religious Right's battle to subvert our schools. The people objected to this intrusion on local control, and have taken back control of their School Board. The power of democracy has brought out the noblest qualities of the people of Merrimack."

REJECTING THE EXTREMIST AGENDA

The elections of Coleman and Brenda Grady in 1995, and Rosemarie Rung in 1996 proved beyond doubt that the people of Merrimack never sup­ported the extremist agenda advocated by Ager's majority coalition. "Whenever the voters had an opportunity to make their wishes known, they rejected the Sheldon-Ager majority coalition in the strongest possible terms," com­mented Rung. "In 1995, Coleman and Grady won landslide victories in a record turnout, sending a clear message that the town did not support the Ager coalition. This year, the voters had an opportunity to change the fundamental policy direc­tion of the School Board. I ran against the Sheldon-Ager coalition in the largest vote in town history (150 percent of the people of Merrimack."

Democratic National Committee assesses President Clinton's record on gay, lesbian issues

According to a compilation of in­formation assembled by the Democratic National Committee's Gay and Lesbian Outreach Services, President Clinton has done more for gay and lesbian American­ans than all previous Presidents com­bined. He is the first President to be personally and publicly committed to the principles of equality and acceptance for gays and lesbians. The Clinton Admin­istration has won breakthrough victories for our community and continues to fight

OUTRIGHT/Lewiston-Auburn & OUTRIGHT/Portland are seeking adult volunteers to volunteer in our youth programs

We're looking for adult role models for G/L/B/T/Q youth.
We need adult advisors who can:
- provide support for G/L/B/T/Q youth
- staff youth drop-in programs
- coordinate social activities
- be OUT in the community

Interested candidates should be available for advisor training September 20 & 21 and September 27 & 28
to apply or get more information, call Cathy at 828-6560 or Nancy at 786-4697

Outright's mission is to create safe, positive, and affirming environments for young gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans, and questioning people, ages 22 and under, who are interested in a youth-driven philosophy in which youth needs and beliefs form decisions, and a collaboration of youth and adults provides support, education, advocacy, and social activities.

GREAT SUMMER ESCAPES from just $119 for two
Weekend: 2 nights, private bath, jacuzzi, breakfast daily, 4-star dinner 1 night, late Sunday checkout, - adults only
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1-800-THE HERB (800-843-4372)

DOMA/ENDA Action Alert

Re: The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)
From: People For the American Way Action Fund
Background: The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), a key piece of reli­gious right legislation which would al­low states to deny the legitimacy of same-sex marriages and deny federal recognition of all same-sex marriages, is rapidly moving through Congress. This assault on gays and lesbians is just one election year ploy to divide Amer­i­cans. Many members of Congress are likely to vote "yes" on DOMA because of the threat of being seen as "pro-gay" in an election year in which both major parties are gearing up for the 2000 election. People For the American Way Action Fund and other progressive organiza­tions is to change the subject of the debate away from an anti-gay diatribe toward a discussion of discrimination against gays and lesbians in the workplace. When DOMA comes to the Senate floor, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which prohibits employment discrimination based on sexual orientation, will be offered as an amendment to DOMA. We believe many senators would be willing to support this amendment since ENDA has 30 Senate co-sponsors and polls show that 84% of Americans support prohibiting job dis­crimination against gay and lesbians. Those supporting DOMA would then be forced either to vote against DOMA in order to prevent ENDA from becoming law or to vote to pass DOMA, and in so doing pass ENDA. Our goal is to get as many senators as possible to vote for ENDA and against DOMA when the Senate reconvenes this fall. This legislation is moving quickly. DOMA already passed the House of Representatives, and the Senate decided to bypass the committee process and place this legislation directly on the cal­endar. DOMA can be brought to the Senate floor at any time. We need your help now.

ACTIONS: 1. Please write a Dear Senator letter urging senators to vote YES for ENDA and NO on DOMA. If your organization does not have a posi­tion against DOMA, we urge you to write a letter in support of ENDA. Please send the original to Nancy Buermeyer at Hu­man Rights Campaign early this week (1101 14th St., NW, Washington, DC 20050; phone: 202-628-4166; See DOMA, page 16
WASHINGTON — Legislation to give sovereignity, Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, testified today.

"In the entire history of this nation — for over 200 years — never has the federal government intervened in the state regulation of marriage. Never," she said.

Birch pointed out that Congress is not empowered to limit the "full faith and credit" clause of the Constitution, under which states must recognize the laws and judicial proceedings of other states.

"If Congress can simply alter the definition of marriage at will, is it not true that Congress can also alter the definition of marriage to say that those who can enter into first marriages are not second or third?"

Birch also discussed the political context in which this legislation has been introduced. "The political climate is marked by increasing chaos, demagoguery, hatred, ignorance and upheaval — all directed at those who do not conform to the customs and values, marriage should only be extended to those who can procreate or reproduce," she said.

She noted that there is no state in the country where the same sex can be legally married.

Outside the hearing, HRC's political director, Daniel Zingale, said, "This hearing was nothing more than a Bob Dole for President publicity stunt."

The Senate majority leader made a political calculation to become an original co-sponsor of an identical bill in the Senate," Zingale added. "Clearly, Dole is trying to inject this issue into the presidential race as he continues to flounder for a message and an agenda."

"The Human Rights Campaign is the largest national lesbian and gay political organization in the country. It effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that lesbian and gay Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community."

We Need Your Help in Sending Messages To Congress And The President to Oppose This Bill. Our online Action Center makes it fast and easy! http://www.hrcusa.org .

HIV/AIDS Awareness Project Receives Continued Funding

The Aroostook County Action Program (ACAP), in conjunction with Visiting Nurses of Aroostook, was recently awarded a $20,000 continuing grant form the Maine Community AIDS Partnership (MCAP) announced Connie Sandstrom, ACAP Executive Director. The funding is the continuation of a program designed to build awareness of HIV/AIDS and to increase the amount and types of service available to persons with HIV, their families and caregivers.

Ten HIV/AIDS projects, including ACAP's from around the state, will share $150,000 in grants from MCAP. Bettianne Holmes, MCAP Chair said, "Last year, MCAP projects helped over 4,700 people of every age, from every background, in every corner of the state... "We can take great satisfaction in what we accomplished, but we cannot be satisfied until NOT one more person in Maine dies from this dreadful and preventable disease."

ACAP will expand upon its successful broad-based community training program. Educational programs in the county have reached doctors, nurses, social workers, hospice volunteers, and social service programs. Workplace training programs focus on needs identified by employers. "We are coordinating educational efforts in local business. Many employers are anxious to respond effectively to HIV/AIDS Community Education Specialist at HEALTH 1ST."

Services and support providers, for people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, have been identified and will be included in a Service Providers Directory for People with HIV in Aroostook. Madore added that "Continued funding will allow us to further identity service providers and increase services available in the county. It will also provide the opportunity to present educational programs that offer vital, timely information necessary for individuals responding to the AIDS crisis."

An established support group for families and friends of persons with HIV will be continued. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at the Academy House in Presque Isle. Family and friends Accepting Change Together (FFACT) is a support group for people whose personal life has been changed by the AIDS crisis. Madore stated, "People in this group come together from many different backgrounds and circumstances, but they all have one thing in common, their lives have been changed forever by HIV Disease."

A speaker's bureau has been developed with assistance from the American Red Cross. Individuals have been trained to speak to the media and share important information on AIDS and HIV. They will share information on the effects of HIV and AIDS and how to prevent transmission to others.

The presentation of the laws and judicial proceedings of other states. It effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that lesbian and gay Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community."

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The program is designed to build awareness of HIV and AIDS, have been identified and will be included in a Service Providers Directory for People with HIV in Aroostook. Madore added that "Continued funding will allow us to further identity service providers and increase services available in the county. It will also provide the opportunity to present educational programs that offer vital, timely information necessary for individuals responding to the AIDS crisis." The program is designed to educate the public to ensure that lesbian and gay Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community."

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Surviving HIV: Being Gay and Negative

by Victor R. Rash, LMSW

Community Educator

At The AIDS Project

While I was a social work student, I had two internships as part of my program. The first internship was for Ac­tion AIDS in Philadelphia. Later, the second was at a Vet Center where I did counseling for Vietnam veterans who were still struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Initially I thought that these two internships were about as far apart as one could get. That is, until one evening when I was having dinner with my friend Ken (not his real name). A few years earlier, Ken and I had worked together at a fashionable French restaurant in center city Philadelphia and still saw each other occasionally.

Since that time, I had become a social worker, and Ken had become a nurse. He was finally working in a profession he had always dreamed of. Ken had continued to work in restaurants for a number of years after we had worked together. The questions that are important to them.

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ECCLESOWORTH, ME. Over the next two years, as much as $120,000 will become available for grants to meet the needs of Maine's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities and to address issues of diversity and discrimination shared with other minority communities, through an important new fund created by the Maine Community Foundation.

With the help of a challenge grant from The National Lesbian and Gay Community Fund Partnership, one of sixteen made to date nationally, the Maine Community Fund has created the Maine Equity Fund. MCF will receive up to $50,000 per year for two years, to be matched by an equal amount of money raised locally to provide a $120,000 funding pool. The Maine Equity Fund is about to conduct a needs assessment that will inform our ultimate grantmaking strategy and priorities. Our needs assessment process will involve surveying as broad as possible a sample of G/L/B/T individuals, as well as a wide variety of service providers and community organizations currently serving these communities. This survey data, followed by some targeted focus groups, will establish what needs and issues community members perceive to be most significant, what re sources currently exist to meet those needs, what approaches are currently working, and what programs most need our support.

We need your help! We will do our best to get these surveys into the right hands, but to ensure that many important points of view are likely to go unheard unless we get a great deal of help in distributing the surveys widely and making sure the surveys are actually returned to us.

Because we know that you all have busy lives, we will do our best to make these surveys concise and to make sure the survey results are put to good use.

Watch your mailbox for the survey, which will be out in mid to late August. If there is any chance that we'll overlook you, or your more hard-to-find friends and colleagues, or if you have suggestions or energy to offer, please call Majorie Love, the consultant coordinating the needs assessment, at (207) 771-6164, or write to us c/o the Maine Community Foundation/Maine Equity Fund, P.O. Box 148, Ellsworth, Maine 04605.

Mother who was denied custody wins new hearing

by Bill Bergstrom

TALLHASSEE, Fla. (AP) - A Panhandler mother, ecstatic about a ruling that her lesbian lifestyle didn't sabotage taking away her child, is another northern Florida woman luck in a similar custody case next week.

Valerie Maradie was denied custody of her four-year-old daughter last September. But the 1st District Court of Appeal granted her a new hearing Tuesday, ruling that Okaloosa County Circuit Judge Jerry Tolton wasn't entitled to assume without evidence that "a homosexual environment ... can adversely affect a child.

This judge assumed something for which there was no evidence whatsoever," her attorney, Michael Webster, said Wednesday. "In fact the evidence was to the contrary." A court-appointed psychologist testified he saw no evidence that Maradie's sexual orientation hurt her ability as a parent or harmed the child, the three-judge Court of Appeal panel noted in its ruling.

Even so, Tolton had concluded that "the possibility of negative impact on the child is considerable.

"The court does not have to make expert evidence to reach this conclusion but can take judicial notice that a gay-friendly environment is a traditional home environment and can adversely affect a child," Tolton ruled.

In sending the case back to Tolton, the appeals panel agreed. "We do not mean to suggest that trial courts may not consider the parent's sexual conduct," the ruling said. "In considering the best interests of the child, however, the trial court should focus on whether the parent's behavior has a direct impact on the welfare of the child.

In the case of Valerie Maradie and her four-year-old, the mother said, the answer to that was "Absolutely not." "She's four and it's important to spend time with her mother. That shouldn't be allowed to take the child," Maradie said.

"Children see, and are a lot more astute than people think they are," the Niceville nurse added. "Prejudice is still talk. They are a lot more accepting of differences. Just because something is different, it's not bad."}

First national survey of violence against transpeople being distributed

by Jean Vermette

Whether you are a crossdresser, a drag king or queen, stone butch, a transgender, intersex, or intersexual, and whether you are lesbian, gay, or bisexual, this is a survey that you should be taking part in.

With hate crimes against members of the transcommunity continuing unabated, the Gender PAC lobby is fighting to have "gender identity/presentation" included in national and state hate crime legislation.

GenderPAC is hoping to remedy the situation by nationally distributing a short, anonymous survey for all interested transcommunity members to fill out. All transgendered people are urged to participate, whether they have been the victims of violence, or not, so that as wide and accurate a representation of the transcommunity as possible can be gotten.

Transpeople are interested in taking part in the survey can request their copy by contacting: Jean Vermette Maine Gender Resource & Support Service PO Box 1894 Bangor, ME 04402-1894 ph: 207-945-3902.
INSURANCE TIPS: Are my fine arts, antiques & collections covered under my homeowners policy?

by Carolyn A. Jabbert

Yes, and NO! The standard homeowners policy will have limitations. When there is coverage, the loss is usually settled on an actual cash value basis with depreciation taken into account. More importantly there is no coverage for fine arts breakage, and then only for the named perils listed in your policy.

Your homeowners can be endorsed to provide coverage for the appraised value of the antique or fine arts piece. All companies require a recent sales invoice specifically describing the item and its value and prefer a professional appraisal with photo. The item is then insured for its appraised value. The premium rates charged are surprisingly inexpensive and afford your broadened coverage for that specific item insured to full value.

But, understand how it all works. Read your policy carefully.

These endorsements will likely state that the insurer is only obligated to make payments at the time of loss for:
1. The actual cash value at the time of the loss or damage.
2. The amount for which the insured could reasonably be expected to have the property repaired to its condition immediately prior to the loss.
3. The amount for which the insured could reasonably be expected to replace the property with property substantially identical to the article lost or damaged.
4. The amount of insurance stated in the policy.

Much of the property usually insured on the floater can be easily purchased by the insurer at discounted prices. Thus, the insurer is likely to offer to replace the lost or damaged property rather than make a cash settlement. If the replacement offer is rejected by the insured, the insurer’s cash settlement is limited to the amount for which the insured could reasonably be expected to replace the item at that price.

In the case of rare items such as art and collections, detailed negotiations and experts are brought in for consultation by all parties involved. It is best to keep records and update your appraisals every three to five years.

As always, check with your policy and phone your agent to discuss any questions or concerns that you may have regarding coverage issues. The time to ask “is it covered?” is before you find your truly need it and don’t have it

by Martin Swinger

I realized the other night that thought. As I’ve received 6 or 7 responses to my request for a song, I’ve not really figured out how to make you artists accessible resources for each other and interested readers. What comes to mind is the idea of introducing the varied artists through this column. Not a ‘review’ or one to ten scale opinion of your work, but a paragraph or so about your work, as artists, what effect sexual identity has on your art, maybe what you feel you have to contribute to the community. I’ve done this somewhat with the artists I am meeting in NY and Boston and Philadelphia.

All of you, that I have talked to, do what you do because you love it and would love to do more. By sharing your profiles with our community, you may make connections you wouldn’t expect.

The purpose of insurance is to minimize or eliminate the amount of possible financial loss that could be experienced. To determine the amount of insurance I need, I have to evaluate the amount of financial risk I’m willing to take. If my house burns down, do I want to have enough insurance to replace it or just cover what I have invested in it? How much of a financial loss am I willing to risk? Insurance is used to cover the amount of financial loss I AM NOT willing to risk. That is the amount of insurance I am willing to pay an insurance company for.

Why would anyone promise to give me money if I suffer a loss? They promise because they are gambling that you really need it and don’t have it

MONEY MATTERS: INSURANCE: What is it and What is it for

by Peter J. Callman, CPA

My dictionary defines insurance as “a contract of insurance purchased to guarantee compensation for a specific loss”. This means that I will pay someone money in exchange for their promise to give me money if I suffer a loss of some sort, such as my home burning or my car being in an accident.

The purpose of insurance is to minimize or eliminate the amount of possible financial loss that could be experienced. To determine the amount of insurance I need, I have to evaluate the amount of financial risk I’m willing to take. If my house burns down, do I want to have enough insurance to replace it or just cover what I have invested in it? How much of a financial loss am I willing to risk? Insurance is used to cover the amount of financial loss I AM NOT willing to risk. That is the amount of insurance I am willing to pay an insurance company for.

Why would anyone promise to give me money if I suffer a loss? They promise because they are gambling that the loss won’t occur or, if even it does, it won’t cost as much money as I, and the other people they insure, will have paid them and will continue to pay them.

Insurance companies evaluate the risk of loss very precisely. That is what an Actuary does. They determine what the likelihood is that the loss will occur and how much the insurance company needs to charge in premiums over what period of time to cover that loss and make a profit. The key to minimizing their risk is to have a large and diverse population of people being insured.

There are many different types of insurance such as, life, disability, liability, health, property, etc., etc. Just anything about which can be insured. The overall financial planning concept that insurance directly addresses is RISK MANAGEMENT. Insurance is used to manage the risk of financial loss. The more risk that you are willing to take the less insurance they will want. The less risk a person is willing to take the more insurance they will want. Please be aware that insurance should be used to manage risk and not to eliminate it. After all, insurance does cost money.

Good Luck! ∆∆

SINGIN’ OUT!

Support Groups at Mercy Hospital

PORTLAND ME - Coping with Caregiving provides for those who care for a chronically/terminally ill or disabled person. This group meets on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at noon in the Mercy Hospital Board Room, sixth floor. For more information, call 879-3303. ∆∆

Medical attention available at Portland Street Clinic

PORTLAND, ME - The Portland Street Clinic, located in the Community Resource Center, 15 Portland Street, Portland, provides free comprehensive health care for adults with limited income or who have no insurance or doctor.

The Clinic is open evening from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays, by appointment only. To make an appointment, please call 874-8982.

This clinic is sponsored by Mercy Hospital and administered by the City of Portland Public Health Division. The clinic’s staff works closely with Mercy Hospital and other health care providers to arrange whatever tests or medical procedures patients need. All of the services are free. ∆∆

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Northern Lights MCC of Augusta, ME
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FMI: Bill at 207.453.9750

Circle of Hope MCC of Portland, ME
4:00 pm Saturday
Immanuel Baptist, 136 High Street
FMI: 207.773.0119

Interpreted for the hearing impaired.

Every person is welcomed! Please join us!
Fam-i-ly: n, a group of people united by certain convictions or affiliation.

Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary

It seems our court system may be beginning to recognize that we still have rights regardless of our orientation. A Florida judge found this to be true when his decision to deny a mother custody of her child because of her lesbian lifestyle was overturned. (See story, page 8.) Well it’s about time; cheers to the 1st District Court of Appeals.

We make progress with the court systems. Slowly our rights are being recognized, and yet at the same time, Congress can to pass bills into law based on assumption, unsubstantiated claim and lack of evidence which will restrict human rights and make it illegal to discriminate against one sector of society.

The Anti Gay Marriage Bill that has just passed the House and is on it’s way to the Senate was passed with no compelling reason to do so, except perhaps haps, fear and prejudice. No evidence has been offered to show that our family life has an adverse effect on society or our children.

What gives anyone the right to judge, without evidence, what type of family has the greatest value. There are “traditional homes” with one father and one mother, where the children grow up in abuse and neglect, where they learn bigotry and hate. There are “non-traditional” homes where children grow and thrive with nurturing love and learn respect and acceptance of diversity. While the reverse is also true, that doesn’t invalidate “non-traditional” families.

With the divorce rate for heterosexuals fast approaching fifty percent, few children are raised in “traditional” homes in our society. There are many “families” consisting of step-parents and step-children, and yet there isn’t anyone rushing to congress to pass bills to invalidate these families. It seems that it is all right to break with tradition if you are heterosexual, yet it is not if you are not. At the same time, we are supposed to believe that the Anti Gay Marriage bill is not an issue of bigotry or discrimination.

Some may feel that marriage is not an issue to them, or that the bill before Congress is a smoke screen, a political ploy. It doesn’t matter what you call it, if that bill gets passed, and gets put into law, it robs us of our right to choose marriage and to participate equally in it’s privileges, benefits and responsibilities.

This goes against the very principles this country was founded on, that all people are created equal, with the same rights and privileges under the law. Some might say that we should have separate but equal rights but I hear the echo of the not so distant past and another civil rights battle. It seems we’ve already proven once in history that if it is separate then it is NOT equal.

by Leslie Robinson

We are in an interesting period, as we try to push forward and others try to push us back.

The signs of the times seem to be everywhere recently. Nationally, it has looked like the previously unthinkable could happen - a state could legalize gay marriage. But in the face of Hawaii’s potential action, the House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly on July 12 to define marriage federally as a union of one woman and one man.

Georgia Republican and bill sponsor Bob Barr was in a tizzy. “The flames of homedonism, the flames of narcissism, the flames of self-centered morality are licking at the very foundations of our society, the family unit,” he said, giving new meaning to the term “flames.”

Here at home, gay and AIDS activists learned of their own power when their picket and protest against a T-shirt shop in Hampton Beach convinced the manager to remove gay-bashing T-shirts. (See story on pages 1 & 4)

On the other hand, that such shirts are made and sold, that the one reading “Silly Faggot, Dix are for Chicks” is a hot seller, shows how acceptable it remains to use us as a billboard. You can be sure the people at The Shirt Factory wouldn’t dare, if they were so inclined, to display T-shirts with racial slurs.

I admit to having some qualms about the T-shirt issue. The first Amendment is a friend of mine; I’m not a big fan of censorship. But I agree with the protest’s organizers that the shirts promote hate, and I’m certainly not a fan of that, either.

Perhaps if the store’s owners had looked upon the AIDS quilt, on display in Portsmouth last month (see story on p...), they would have berated themselves for ever having sold shirts saying "AIDS Cures Fags.”

Other sign of the ebb and flow we’re experiencing occurred on the same weekend in the same town. On June 29 in Portsmouth, a man was beaten to death on Pierce Island, a cruising locale. Two suspects were later arrested. So far it’s unknown if this was a robbery or a hate crime - but such an incident always raises the specter of the latter.

On June 30, many sitting in the pews of the Unitarian Universalist Church had not yet heard of the horrific crime. They had come for this church’s first gay pride service.

There were many striking moments during the service, which was conducted by seven gay and lesbian church members to a packed house. To me, the sweetest moment came as Marc Fredette wound up his talk about his life, often painful, as a gay man.

“Perhaps if you stand up with me?” A moment passed. Then everyone, straight and gay shot to their feet. All applauded. Fredette was ecstatic, the beam on his face lighting up the church. "Very nice."

Leslie Robinson

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

by Wayne R. Bessey

It was a scorching June afternoon in 1969 when my colleagues and I were watching a large crowd gathering at Stonewall Bar in New York City. The bar was owned by a large, hairy man wearing leather chaps exposing his furry buttocks. We were all surprised when a large group of drag queens, transvestites, and leather men started screaming and waving billy clubs outside the bar. The police were on their way to the bar, but the crowd was already prepared for a fight. It was clear that this was a political explosion.

Perhaps it was the stifling hot weather that brought out the crowd. Instead of shrinking from the challenge, the oppressed minority rebelled. They were prepared for battle. But as all hell broke loose, the rioters werechemistry in action. The police were unable to stop the crowd. This might be interpreted as an act of defiance, but it was also a show of force. The police were metaphysically defeated.

The right wing sponsored the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which was intended to recognize gay marriage. But this divide was going to be the next battleground for gay and lesbian rights. We had ample time to prepare for the upcoming conservative onslaught and could have organized a national advertising campaign, a celebrity speakers tour, and formed a grass roots educational effort in every region of the country. To the point, we could have made a strong case for the American public to support gay and lesbian marriage. Instead, because of squeamishness about an unpopular issue, we did nothing except shrug our shoulders and blame President Clinton for not defending a cause that we had abandoned long before it was on the national agenda. The fact is that there is only one full time activist, from Lambda Legal Defense, working on this issue, proving our lack of resolve to defend our right to marry. Thanks to our tepidity and lack of foresight, our community now faces an embarrassing backlash at least as damaging to our political clout as the gay ops in the military.

Though our politicians are correct in assuming that this is an unwinnable battle — even with a full-scale effort, they have woefully missed the point. That is that the gay rights movement is a long-term struggle and we will lose many battles, the only way we can lose the war is by not fighting. If we would have held our ground and educated rather than retreated, we most likely would have swayed another ten percent of the population to support gay and lesbian marriage. Sure, this isn’t the majority we needed, however we would have enlightened millions of people, creating allies for future fights. In retrospect, the acquiescence of our right to marry will be seen as one of the biggest mistakes in our movements history.

Wayne Bessey has been previously published in the Miami Herald, TWW, Bay Windows, and The San Jose Mercury News. He was the founder of Sons & Daughters of America, a Ft. Lauderdale based gay and lesbian organization and is asking for volunteers to serve on the organization and is asking for volunteers to serve on the organization.

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

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

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

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CPR MAIL BAG:

Dear Editor,
I manage and book a comic (stand-up) by the name of Julianne Gavin. On March 29, 1996, I booked a show for her in York County Maine. Julianne being an out lesbian comic used Gay and Lesbian material in her show that evening. At the conclusion of the show, the owner of the club said that his club is a straight club and he was not happy with her material. He not only insulted her, but only partially paid her.

Julianne is on tour through the U.S.A. now, so I have power of attorney, took this discriminating man to small claims court in York County and won the case. It does pay to make the time to go to the courts when necessary.

Kat (Kat’s Musical Enterprises)
Aimsel, check this out. With an old ily the music turned out to be equally amazing. Books you can't judge by the cover, but does the same apply to cd's? Who knows.

Anyway, the case of Danielle Howle is a quirky one too. One of the music buyers at the store I work at came to me clutching Howle's cd that had a baby photo of Danielle on the cover, and I'm going to light them up and let it be Christmas.

The entire cd, 16 songs in all, has found its way into my cd player several times now and I find myself singing along with Danielle and cleaning my apartment too, as some of the tracks certainly provide a rockin' sound-track to vacuuming and washing windows. Howle's sound is also perfect to listen to while driving with the windows rolled down.

There's something especially satisfying about finding a musical gem on an independent label. Look for "About to Burst." If the store you shop at doesn't have it, ask them to order it. It's on Simple Machines, out of Arlington, Virginia.

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The Maine Festival - Celebrating Maine's Creative Spirit

Maine Arts presents the twentieth Maine Festival, a four day event celebrating Maine's creative spirit August 1 through 4 at Thomas Point Beach in Brunswick, Maine. The festival opens daily at 11 a.m. rain or shine and will host seven stages, over 1,000 performers, juried artists and craftsmen, traditional and ethnic food, exhibitions, workshops, and family entertainment.

The extended weekend is Maine's largest presentation of Maine artists, dance and music, storytelling, theater, literature, folk arts, visual arts, children's creative events and craft demonstrations. Highlights of this year's festival include: "a Humor Theme" with an extensive comedy and storytelling line-up including Tim Sample, Kendal Morse, and Joe Perham; featured guest artists and NYNO Records' New Orleans Rhythm Revue featuring Allen Toussaint; Wallace Johnson, and Amadeo Canestrelli; Los Pleneros del Coco de Puerto Rico, country artist Dave Mallett, Boston's Impulse Dance Company, Ram Island Dance Company's world premiere "Porch Swing Blues," Fred Garbo's Inflatable Theater Company, and the Maine Brewer's Fest on Saturday featuring dozens of Maine micro-brews.

The Turtle Island recording artist Libby Roderick will appear in a benefit concert at Jonathan's in Ogunquit on Friday, August 2nd. The 9 p.m. concert will benefit the Portland chapter of the National Organization of Women. Roderick has played sold-out performances in her previous Maine concerts. This will be her only performance in Maine this summer.

Libby is a poet, activist, singer, songwriter, and recording artist whose performances are fun, thought-provoking, and inspiring. Her concerts are filled with her beautiful, lyrical voice, her wise, witty lyrics, and her engaging humor. As a veteran of several Libby concerts, I recommend her enthusiastically, even fervently, as a balm for what ails your soul.

Tickets for this performance are $12.50 in advance, $14.50 the day of the show, $35 with dinner.

For tickets, call 207-646-4777 or 800-464-9934. Seating is limited.

Dance Portland - A Festival of Dance

Dance Portland is a summer dance festival which has grown and developed over the past five years into a major event. This year's festival will feature a new ballet by Samuel Kurjikian entitled "Witches of Salem" for the Portland Ballet Company as well as new dances by Brian Crabtree, Debbie Irons, Eduardo Mariscal, Melissa Cloutier, Kelly Holyoke, Randy James, Sara Whale, the group blink, and the choreography showcase winners in both student and professional categories.

See CPR Calendar for dates.

The Turtle Island recording artist Libby Roderick will appear in a benefit concert at Jonathan's in Ogunquit on Friday, August 2nd. The 9 p.m. concert will benefit the Portland chapter of the National Organization of Women. Roderick has played sold-out performances in her previous Maine concerts. This will be her only performance in Maine this summer.

Libby is a poet, activist, singer, songwriter, and recording artist whose performances are fun, thought-provoking, and inspiring. Her concerts are filled with her beautiful, lyrical voice, her wise, witty lyrics, and her engaging humor. As a veteran of several Libby concerts, I recommend her enthusiastically, even fervently, as a balm for what ails your soul.

Tickets for this performance are $12.50 in advance, $14.50 the day of the show, $35 with dinner.

For tickets, call 207-646-4777 or 800-464-9934. Seating is limited.

Dance Portland - A Festival of Dance

Dance Portland is a summer dance festival which has grown and developed over the past five years into a major event. This year's festival will feature a new ballet by Samuel Kurjikian entitled "Witches of Salem" for the Portland Ballet Company as well as new dances by Brian Crabtree, Debbie Irons, Eduardo Mariscal, Melissa Cloutier, Kelly Holyoke, Randy James, Sara Whale, the group blink, and the choreography showcase winners in both student and professional categories.

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See CPR Calendar for dates.

BOOK REVIEW: "The Woman Source Catalog and Review: Tools for Connecting the Community of Women"

by Rose Mary Deeman

Edited by Irene Rosoff and a project of The Launch Pad, this is certainly a resource book for any woman looking to learn more on varying tops of particular interest to women. Think of it as something of an annotated bibliography.

The book is divided into seven major sections: Women's Spirituality & Celebrations, Ways of Communication, Ways of Being and Growing, Ways of Caring, Ways of Seeing and Understanding, and Ways of Playing and Creating. In turn, each of these sections is broken down into subsections.

I'll give you an example: Ways of Being and Growing, one of the major sections, is broken down into eight subsections: Wellness, Illness & Recovery, Stages & Transitions, Spirituality, Religion, Sexuality, Learning & Growing, and Journal Keeping & Reflections. In turn, each of these subsections is broken down even further into smaller, more manageable topics. For instance, Wellness has eleven topic headings: Women's Self-Care; Knowing Your Body; Personal Wellness; Body Image; Skin Care; Hair; Feel Good; Nutrition/Diet; Health/Drains & Boosters; Meditation & Yoga; Music/Backgrounds; Eye, Teeth & Touch; Environmental Wellness/Responsibility.

Each of these topics covered gives listings of the latest books on the issue, including editor's excerpt or short synopses, as well as price and ordering information. Other resources include the location and scope of women's centers, as well as their addresses and phone numbers and tidbits of information concerning the particular topic.

I found this to be a fun book to peruse, as well as a great vehicle from which to draw a wealth of information about what's going on in the world of women. No matter what your interest, from trekking to sewing, from planning your retirement to dreaming about your next vacation, this is the book to have!

There is one slight drawback -- a book of this nature will become dated very quickly. This one almost is already. For instance, Chris Northrup's book, "Creating Health," is listed and discussed. This book, although excellent, and well worth the reading, is already three years old. However, what is not included in the book is that Northrup now has a monthly newsletter available, and this is truly a resource that will never be outdated, because each month provides the newest information available.

Dance Portland 1996

Maine's Annual Festival of Dance

Eduardo Mariscal · Sara Whale with the Maine State Ballet

Brian Crabtree · Randy James with Ram Island Dance

Melissa Cloutier and the Rhythm Factor · Debi Irons

Samuel Kurjikian with Portland Ballet Company · blink

Robinson Ballet Company · Choreography Showcase Winners

At the Portland Performing Arts Center · $145/10 rocket ticket $75-4253

Aug 23-24
An August Wave of Live Music Approaches... As a July one leaves...

by Aimiel Posti

Hey there. As usual I have much to tell of shows gone by and shows that are coming through Maine. disappear fear were at Raoul's on Saturday night, July 20th. This show and the one at Mama Kin in Boston a few nights earlier were two of the best performances I've seen them put on. First of all, Rick, their new guitarist, was amazing, adding his finesse to an already tight sound that lasted almost two hours. The band played many songs from their new album "Seed in the Sahara" as well as several from their '94 self-titled album. Kris McKay. Besides being terribly adorable, she has a really great voice. She's got a new album out too. I love it.

Kris played many songs from their new album "Plumb." This performance was particularly excellent as Brooke's sense of humor and knack for telling anecdotes were in perfect form. She has the unique ability to make an audience crack up one minute and then choke up the next while she sings one of the many beautiful written songs she continues to pen. Add to this an absolutely exquisite voice. We love you, Jonatha...

Kate Schroeck, local piano playing goddess with an incredible voice who moved to Chicago a few months ago, also visited Raoul's. Kate was in town to do some work at a recording studio and she also performed at Border's Bookstore. Although the attendance at Raoul's wasn't so hot, Kate played some new songs and some music from her "Refuge" album and those of us who were there very much appreciated the music.

Now it is time to get out your August calendar and mark a bunch of dates.

On Thursday, August 8th, Sisters (45 Danforth St.) will be featuring three women who are well worth the $5 cover. Lynn Deves and Diana Daniel will be playing live along with their special guest, Erika Gilbert.

Deves is celebrating the release of her tape "Connecting the Dots," which contains 11 original songs. Besides your $5, bring a little more cash so you can support a local artist and get yourself a great tape. The show at Sisters promises to be fun, entertaining and certainly full of terrific music.

And then there's Jonatha's in Ogunquit. On August 2nd, Libby Roderick will be performing and the very next day, the Flirtations. So you're set for Friday and Saturday. Then on Monday 7th, Susan Werner will be playing along with Ann Clark. And on the 9th you can see Odetta live.

For more listing of shows and ticket info, call Jonathan's, at 1-800-464-9934 in Maine or they can also be reached at 207-646-4777.

And finally, I heard Tori Amos might be playing at The State Theater. Take a deep breath as this is unconfirmed. I just thought I'd throw my fellow Tori obsessors into a tizzy. Seriously though, I think she's coming. Keep your ears open.

And keep Passing the Open Windows. A.L.P. ΔΔ

THEATRE REVIEWS: "Grease" & "The Rocky Horror Picture Show"

by Rose Mary Denman

Wow! Two plays in one night at the Seacoast Repertory Theater! Gonna party!! First, dinner in town with a good friend, then on to Bow Street for GREASE. Maybe it's my age, I didn't much care for the 50's when I was a young girl, so why would I want to enjoy watching it? As for the Rocky Horror Picture Show, I mean, seeing a play about girls using all their time and energy trying to catch and please boys... yuck! And watching a sweet, thoughtful, young woman slowly being pulled into the lure of her less-than-thoughtful girlfriend... oh, well... need I say more? What was scary was listening to comments from other patrons during the intermission. Those in their 40's and 50's were really into it, as if they were reliving the "good old days."

Enough about the lack of sexual political savviness... on to the performance. The acting was OK, but not up the caliber of the earlier performances in Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat. During the first half, the live music was so loud it overshadowed the singing to the point that, much of the time, I couldn't make out the lyrics. I reported this at the intermission, and the second half was a bit better.

On to dessert and tea at Cafe Brioche! What a treat! Now... back to Bow Street for what I found out is referred to as my "virgin" journey into the land of The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Quite honestly, I wasn't really looking forward to this play. I knew nothing about the story line, except that it was audience interactive and has, for more than thirty years, gained quite the following of people who see it time after time. I had, however been updated regarding the props I needed to bring: a roll of toilet tissue, a squirt bottle filled with water, toast, newspaper and rice. The first thing I noticed was the costumes; not those of the actors, but the audience members! The second thing to come to my attention was the fact that out of the whole audience, there were only five of us anywhere near over thirty. I'm pleased to say that The Rocky Horror Picture Show was a really wonderful surprise. It's zany, crazy, profane and just plain fun. The antics of the audience members who know the cadence of the anticipated reactions are what makes the play the cult phenomenon it has become. This play is not for the faint of heart. One must attend The Rocky Horror Picture show with an open mind, an impish curiosity and willingness to be released from conventional behavior and swept away into a world of shadow, laughter and vulgarity.

The actors in this performance are young, but they have enough enthusiasm and raw talent to carry the play. I'm afraid that it probably takes youth to pull this one off well. The older among us would most likely botch it up with too much seriousness and not enough camp.

I'm sure your shirt is cutting off the circulation to your sense of humor, get a fix; see this play!.

Ema Thompson
My Transsexual Manifesto - Part V

by Darlayn S. Maxwell

How sad that the title "As Worlds Collide" was frittered away on that non-epic 1950's sci-fi movie. It should have been available for me, or one like me, so that I could better illustrate what happens when parts of your personal life smack into each other.

It is likely that most transsexuals heading toward transition, and their trial year, have at some point faced a person from "another area" of life who just kind of pops up. On my planet, the cross connection is amplified by the fact I work in a service industry that many of the people I associate with in my budding female life might inadvertently drift into, where the last traces of my male life are playing out. Seeing me so "out of context" is sort of a shock and they may not have been prepared for the encounter.

At the same time, there are the more frequent situations whereby I run into business associates in a social setting and they get a glimmer of my emerging existence. It proves to be interesting and although I certainly don't consider myself ousted by these interactions, it is awkward for a moment until we both regain our footing.

The truly intriguing part of this is that I find that most of my contemporaries are so eager to learn the latest and greatest when it comes to my personal life that they have not taken the time to learn the history of their new friends, or why they stayed quiet and that my planet doesn't spin out of orbit. One man who was just a "lavender herring" to diurnal consciousness-raising, and planned an evening for the summer with the National Organization for Women that she was just a "lavender herring" to diurnal consciousness-raising, and planned an evening for the summer with the National Organization for Women that she was supposed to attend. So, as the hysteria linked to feminism's public image would be marred by a too-visible lesbian presence within NOW, where lesbians in the '70s were feeling increasingly marginalized, lesbians understandably felt that their concerns were being ignored.

The rest of the scheduled speakers were canceled, and the assembled women spent the rest of the evening listening to the concerns of lesbians. Although the event had its angry and emotional movements (such as when some lesbians came out publicly for the first time), for the most part the "Lavender Menace" kept a sense of humor about what they were doing, which helped relax many women present who had never before been exposed to open discussions of lesbianism.

When the lesbians who had prepared remarks finished speaking, an open microphone was declared, and one of the women who chose to come forward and talk about her struggles with her own sexuality had actually been a scheduled speaker (on another topic) for the evening. She was the well-known professor and author Kate Millett, who herself would later become a lightning rod for debates over sexuality in the women's movement.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, some straight feminists, most notably National Organization for Women founder Betty Friedan, thought feminism's public image would be marred by a too-visible lesbian presence in the movement. In Friedan's choice phrase, lesbians represented a "lavender menace" to American feminism.

It was a loaded slogan. From the perspective of the mid-1990s, it is easy to forget the mindset of the Cold War, and the hysteria linked to such phrases as the "red menace." Although Friedan later backed off and said the lesbian issue was just a "lavender herring" to divert attention from the real issues facing women, lesbians understandably felt strenuous by both phrases.

Complicating Friedan's statements was evidence of actual discrimination within NOW, where lesbians in positions of leadership were being silenced or forced out of office. A group of women from the Gay Liberation Front felt that the feminist movement needed some consciousness-raising, and planned an incident that would mark a turning point in the relationship between lesbians and the women's movement. It would also be one of the most creative direct actions in the early history of what was then called the "gay liberation movement."

On Friday night, May 1, 1970, the lights went out on the hundreds of women gathered for the second annual "That Certain Summer," and the women on the stage and in the audience did not know what was coming. When the lights came back on, twenty women in purple T-shirts which proclaimed "Lavender Menace" stood in front of the audi­torium, and there were signs along the walls which read, "Take a Lesbian to Lunch" and "Is the Statue of Liberty a Lesbian?" The "Menace" demanded the "Menace" stood in front of the audience, was evidence of actual discrimination against lesbians.

The Lavender Menace action was a landmark in an ongoing struggle within the lesbian movement. Lesbians in the early 1970s were feeling increasingly like tokens or showpieces in male-domi­nated groups like the Gay Activists Alliance, Women, the Redstockings, and other groups had tried to silence lesbian issues. After the 1970 Congress to Unite Women, the women's movement was more open to lesbian concerns, and just 16 months later NOW passed a resolution declaring, "The oppression of lesbians as a legitimate concern of feminist movements."

It took Friedan many more years to come around to support of lesbian rights, and she is said to have told a reporter in 1973 that lesbians in NOW had been there by the end of the film were a "reup­holstering of the life he had chosen for him­self."

"That Certain Summer" also provoked the usual protests from offended religious conservatives. But it was probably more important for alerting gays to the ongoing struggle within the women's movement.

DOMA, from page 6

2. Please urge your chapters, members, and activists to contact Senators Campbell, Conrad, D'Amato, Dorgan, Graham, Hatfield, McCain, Simpson, Snowe, Specter at 202-224-3212. Hear­ing from their constituents is critical. Please contact Melissa Goldberg at People For the American Way (202-467-2373) for an extended list of key sena­tors.

A few talking points on ENDA, which the in-house experts may want to use in your local media:

- ENDA would prohibit employment discrimination based on sexual orientation. This protection is currently pro­vided based on race, religion, gender, national origin, age and disability.

- ENDA will simply give basic workplace protection against discrimi­nation. ENDA prohibits preferential treatment, including quotas, based on sexual orientation. ENDA exempts small businesses, as do existing discrimi­nation laws, and a deal can apply to employers with fewer than 15 employ­ees.

- ENDA provides the same remedies (injuries, back pay and damages) as are permitted under existing civil rights statutes.

- ENDA has strong, broad-based support. 

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Vicky, a lesbian friend, wore her usual make "drag," as she was rather butch. She was extremely attractive. She was wearing jeans, a white shirt with a black vest over it, and cowboy boots. She had short blond hair, and a cute freckled nose. We had beauty pages, and all the "girls" took their little walk across the floor to the hoots and whispers of us "men.

Later on, after becoming a bit tipsy, I followed Vicky out to the front porch. It was a nice night, with a cool breeze, and I, with alcoholic courage. "Can I kiss you?" She was surprised and amused and replied that she thought I was "hot." I explained that I'd been thinking about it for some time, and I'd like to see if really was bisexual. We kissed, and it seemed odd that it felt so natural. Afterward, Vicky asked if it was different from kissing men. "Yeah," I managed. It was much softer, less forceful. I really enjoyed it. It made me wonder why it took so long to decide I was bisexual. After that night, we never kissed again, but remained good friends with a very special connection.

We went inside, and an hour or so later I was being teased for my flamboyant garb by one of my friends. "What do you think of this, the face of one of my best friends Martin: a Misfits shirt, with thick pigtails, big blotches of rouge on his chin. And his freshly-shaven brown beard ruined the effect.

A new theme: cross-dressing. The women had to be men. I had a reputation for throwing great parties in my Willimantic, Conn. apartment, and my friends decided it would be a lark. One time after getting my undergraduate degree from UCONN, I was amusing. Some time after getting my degree, I moved to the Western Blot, was usually performed which screens specifically for HIV antibodies. For some reason, this confirming test was never run, and he was given the false positive results from the ELIZA test.

When Ken told me that he was negative, I immediately commented how stupid it was of me to be being HIV positive. His being HIV positive had been a powerful motivator for him to do something he had always wanted to do: become a nurse. Now a piece of his identity had been taken away as quickly as it seemed to be acquired.

I soon realized that Ken was not alone. Not only were HIV-negative gay men in Philadelphia feeling a sense of relief and hopelessness in the age of AIDS, gay men everywhere were struggling to find a sense of themselves in an era of fear and anxiety about being HIV-negative. For the past 15 years social workers, medical professionals, and counselors have focused our efforts on HIV-positive gay men, without addressing the issues that arise for those affected but not infected with HIV.

The issues and conflicts that continue to plague HIV-negative gay men such as survival guilt, loss, and failure to have children create a sense of helplessness as well as hopelessness in terms of thinking that HIV infection is inevitable if one is gay and sexually active. For many gay men, a cross-dressing party can be dangerous and fatalistic conclusion that it is only a matter of time before they, too, become infected.

Gay people had always had to struggle with internalized homophobia simply because it is assumed that everyone (especially growing up) is straight. We learned to struggle with internalized homophobia in grade school just like everyone else. Separating the myths from the realities of our lives is always a process. Today, when so many think that "gay" is an acronym for "Got AIDS Yet?", we must be careful not to permit a part of us to believe the myth. Believing the myth adds to the despair; it also is hell on self-esteem. And self-esteem is an important part of staying HIV negative. That is why AIDS Project Education Department (we are trying to come up with a better name for this part of our outreach) is sponsoring a one-week workshop for HIV-negative gay men. This workshop will explore issues relevant to gay men who want to explore being negative and ways to remain negative. Other workshops may also be offered in the future dealing with issues of self-esteem in gay men.

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OUT OF TOWN!
by Paul T. Bernard

One of the most common statements I hear from travelers is: "I didn't know you could do that!"

It's usually in reference to something like car rentals or hotel reservations. So maybe the question is: "What does a travel agent really do?" - deserves an answer.

As the name implies, a travel agent is an AGENT - someone who acts as a middleman or broker between two parties - one party wishing to sell a service or product - the other party wishing to buy a service or product. In this case, the agent represents literally hundreds of "sellers" or "vendors". At current count, there are close to a thousand airlines located all over the globe - some major ones, like Delta, British, Air, or Air France - some really small ones like Mike's Flying Service in Alaska, or Viet Air in Vietnam. By being "recognized" and "licensed", an agent has the ability to sell the products of all of them. In a like manner, an agent can make reservations for hotels, motels, cottages, bed & breakfasts, guest houses, etc. all over the world.

On the other end of the transaction is the customer or consumer. A customer calls his/her local travel agent and utilizes the services of the agency to set up a vacation or business trip. And here's where the real worth of the agent comes in. The agent is the "expert" - someone you go to who has the necessary knowledge and ability to take care of the proper arrangements for your trip.

There are some agents out there in the world who are what we call "order takers." They'll gladly take your "order" for plane tickets, hotel reservations, car rental, etc. and add nothing to the transaction. This type of agent is doing nothing that you couldn't do yourself - except maybe a little faster. This is not the type of agent to whom you could go with an open-ended question like "Where can I go for a vacation this year?"

"The best agent is the one who 1) has a good knowledge of geography, 2) has a little bit of imagination, 3) knows where to get hard-to-find information, and 4) knows his customers. If you are looking for that one special place to visit on your next vacation, go see a good travel agent.

Even if you take only one or two trips a year, those trips are important to you and you want to make sure that everything goes as you want it. It's really important to deal with a travel agent who understands what you want. Whatever your major concern is, be it price or the quality of the product, you need to take that travel agent know this up front. It will save you and him/her a lot of time and energy. But the important key is that you should try to build a relationship or friendship with your agent. The more she/he knows about you and what you're looking for, the better the service and products that he can arrange for you.

The following is a partial list of some of the things a good travel agent can do for you:

- Plane reservations, seat assignments, & boarding passes
- Car Rentals
- Hotel Reservations; Cruise reservations
- Vacation packages; Train reservations
- Airport Limousine service or transporta-
- Photo-ouching tour
- Theater tickets; Sight-seeing tours
- Travelers checks; Foreign currency
- Travel insurance; Make travel arrange-
- Short notice tours
- Destination Weddings; Guide books; Maps
- Passport and visa applications; Brochures

The next time you need to make ar-
arrangements for a trip somewhere - whether it's business or pleasure - make an appointment to see your travel agent, and let him/her take care of the details for you.

BITS & PIECES - I'm getting ready to send out a huge package of travel packages geared towards gays and lesbians. The package will contain bro-
aches; Weddings; Guide books; Maps; Passport and visa applications; Brochures.

BUSINESS PROFILE: Custom Coach and Limousine

Custom Coach and Limousine was founded in 1988 with one mini-
motorcoach. Today their fleet includes the latest styles of professionally driven sedans and passenger vans, the longest luxurious stretch and superstretch limousines and a modern video-equipped motorcoach fleet that includes 22 pas-
senger mini-motorcoaches and 47 pas-
senger full-size motorcoaches. The company is based at 35 Rigby Road in South Portland and employs 25 people, including their own full-time on-site maintenance staff. They keep all of the vehicles in like-new condition at all times.

There is no other transportation company in the state offering as many choices of 1st class, professionally op-
erated vehicles available for hire. We cater to the type of individual who is looking for the very best transportation possible for corporate, individual or group needs or to celebrate a very special occasion. There is no secret to our success—we operate all modern, me-
ticulously maintained equipment and employ the best possible professional drivers. Our drivers make your transporta-
tion 100% carefree," says Greg Isherwood, founder and president.

Knwledgeable reservationists are accessible 24 hours a day and can ar-
range for clients' ground transportation needs locally or worldwide, with their own fleet or with affiliate companies in over 400 cities.

Isherwood states, "Our clients have very high standards. We handle a tremen-
dous amount of celebrity and digni-
tary travel and we offer a variety of corporate transportation programs for many Fortune 500 companies doing business in Maine. We also offer our services for private individuals to en-
chance their special occasions and cel-
brations. Our mid-week stretch limou-
sine and limousine rates, along with our dinner packages, for example, make treating yourself or someone special to surpris-
ingly affordable stretch limousine serv-
ices.

The Motorcoach Division offers group charter service from Maine to any
destination in North America for organ-
izations of all kinds. "We provide se-
veral colleges, tour planners, dance-
camps, etc. with charter motorcoach ser-
cices, customized to fit their needs," says Isherwood. "Our motorcoach charter rates are competitive, yet the extra ser-
ces that come with our chartered coaches are unsurpassed. In addition, the people in our motorcoach tour de-
partment are always busy planning memorable day and overnight excursions to many wonderful locations such as Quebec, Montreal, and New York City, just to name a few. A quarterly newsletter that includes our upcoming trips is always available.

The next time an occasion presents itself requiring nothing less than the luxury of a stretch limousine, call Cus-
	Isherwood at 588-5389 or in greater Portland at 207-774-
	2200. Their motto states, "You'll get Ac-
customed to Custom." 

DEFEND, from page 8

needs to reconfirm his commitment to equality for gay men and lesbians by making a strong statement in his con-
vention speech. At this point, there are no firm plans to force a fight on the con-
vention floor, said Duran, a delegate. But he noted pointedly that "some of us have been trained by ACT UP and we can disrupt a convention."

Bauman said a convention fight is unlikely. "The vast majority of the dele-
egates we've spoken with from the openly gay delegations are not in favor of a fight," Bauman said. "We believe that the unity that is necessary for us to win this election and retake this Con-
gress is far more important than creat-
ing a divisive television battle over this issue."

In an attempt to ensure that unity, Bauman squared Democratic National Chairman Don Fowler to a June 10 luncheon at Off-Vine Restaurant in Hollywood, where gay leaders vented their frustration over the president's stand.

The president has said long ago that he did not support same-gender marriage," Fowler said in an interview with Frontiers after the luncheon.

"What the Republicans have done in the past several weeks ... is not based on any real desire to protect family val-
ues. It's just to inflame passions, to cre-
ate prejudices, to drive wedges between gays and straights," Fowler said.

President Clinton has done more for gay and lesbian Americans than all previous presidents combined, Fowler said.

"I think he should be given more credit," Fowler said. "Gays and lesbi-
ans have not gotten all of the positions from the president they want, but almost nobody else has either."

One person rejecting such reason-
ing is Tina Podlodowski, an open le-
sian Seattle city councilwoman, who quit as co-chair of Clinton's Washing-
ton state campaign.

"This is Bob Dole's bill and [Re-
publicans] are trying to force the president's hand," Podlodowski said. "They would love the president to veto this bill, so that they could go into every congressional district in the country and say that Bill Clinton does not support marriage between men and women."

Other gay leaders said Clinton and his advisors may be hoping for a fight, so they can distance themselves from being with gays. Allen White, a publi-
cist and gay activist, said that was the reason only a paltry 200 people turned out to protest Clinton's San Francisco visit.

"There is now a new day in San Francisco and we no longer will accept being used as a scapegoat for political gain," White said.

Hattoy said gay men and lesbians need to look beyond Clinton and realize that much work needs to be done before mainstream America will accept the idea of gay marriage.

"Get your boyfriend's or girlfriend's hand and go get married," Hattoy said. "Just don't expect the presi-
dent to be at the wedding."
President Clinton signed a law re­quiring that women, including lesbians and minorities, are included in National Insti­tute of Health supported research;

President Clinton named the first Senate Caucus on the gay and lesbian community, Marsha Scott; *President Clinton appointed openly gay Congressman Scott Hard to head the President’s Council on HIV/AIDS, along with several other openly gay Council members; *President Clinton invited openly lesbian health advocates to policy form­ulation meetings for the first time in history;

Working to save lives and improve health care; *President Clinton increased pub­lic health spending for HIV/AIDS pro­grams by nearly 40%, including a 120% increase for those affected by AIDS; and 26% rise for AIDS-related research;

"President Clinton fought to protect Medicare from hundreds of billions of dollars in proposed cuts by Congress. These cuts would have been devastating to 50% of PWA’s relying on Medicare;

President Clinton convened the National Task Force on AIDS Development, accelerated the approval of protease inhibitors, and removed dozens of bureaucratic obstacles to the effective and decent treatment of people with AIDS; *President Clinton established the Office of AIDS Research at the National Institutes of Health, created the Office of National AIDS Policy, and convened the first White House summit of HIV/AIDS;

President Clinton created the first Office of AIDS Housing at the Department of Housing and Urban Development to specifically address the issue; *President Clinton created a permanent Office of Women’s Health Research, and increased funding for women’s health issues, including a 65% increase in breast cancer-related funding; *President Clinton’s Department of Health and Human Services sponsored a national conference to examine the causes of and solutions to gay youth suicide.

Information compiled by Demo­cratic National Committee, Gay and Les­bian Outreach Services, and provided courtesy of MLGPA. ΔΔ

CLINTON, from page 6

appointees, including former Assistance HUD Secretary Roberta Ackerman and Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Bruce Lehman, the first open les­bian and gay man to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate, and Deborah Batts, the first openly lesbian federal judge in the nation’s history.

The President named the Sheldon-Ager (Smith-Helms) policy. Cadarette’s campaign manager, Bert Ten have, had previously described the election as “the Christian Coalition victory has not even gone to trial, but Sen. Roberge could not wait to voice her opposition to the Evans vs. Roberge decision, and its implications for a school system in her district. She has sent a hostile message to the voters of Merrimack, who rejected the homophobic policy with a super­majority (68 percent) mandate in the largest turnout in town election history.

Information compiled by Demo­cratic National Committee, Gay and Les­bian Outreach Services, and provided courtesy of MLGPA. ΔΔ

QUEEN OF THE HILL, from page 6

increased tensions or focus on education?

At Mascenic High School, in New Ipswich, teacher Penny Calliston was fired by the school board on an unsub­stantial charge of insubordination be­cause she had used textbooks with lesbian and gay characters purchased by the school board. After binding arbitration, Calliston was reinstated, but the school board is appealing the decision of the arbitrator. As a member of the Educa­tion Committee, Sen. Roberge has interfered even more directly in local control of the Merrimack school board. She partici­pated in fund-raising activities for de­feated school board candidate Ginny Cadarette, who supported the anti­gay policy. Cadarette’s campaign manager, Bert Ten have, had previously described the election as “the Christian Coalition vs. the Gay agenda.” Among the other participants in Cadarette’s fundraising activities were Christian Coalition activ­ists Shelly Uschinski, and Chuck Douglas, who had conducted a highly flattering interview of Lou Sheldon on his television pro­gram, Right For New Hamp­shire. Sen. Roberge’s personal involve­ment and support for the extreme reli­gious right agenda raise troubling ques­tions.

THE MOST DISTURBING QUESTION: DOES CITIZENSHIP MATTER?

When a state Senator, in this case one who sits on the Senate Education Committee, states publicly that a US Supreme Court decision has no impact on New Hampshire, the logical question to ask is: What message does that send to New Hampshire schools about the responsibilities of US citizenship? “We are a nation of laws,” concluded Turner. “It is quite clear from Senator Roberge’s remarks that she holds in contempt that fundamental principle of American gov­ernment.” ΔΔ

HATE, from page 6

once the schools would not “promote” homosexuality. Policy 6541 states: “The Merrimack school district shall have no program or activity which is intended to promote sexual activity or any sexual orientation.” This policy permits factual discussion of sexuality without infringing on Constitutional rights, pre-judging anyone, or imposing sectarian moral values on the pub­lic schools.

RESTORING LOGIC AND REASON

After the repeal of the Sheldon­Ager (Smith-Helms) policy, Vice Chair Brenda Grady called for a return to the traditional focus on education. “More than any other action taken by this body, Policy 6440 has diverted attention from the legitimate business of the School Board,” Grady commented. “For two years, the Ager coalition dabbled with political ‘hot-button’ issues. At the same time, new curricula in several dis­ciplines remained stalled in committees, lacking encouragement and proper di­rection from the Board. The old major­ity coalition actually removed analyti­cal thinking and problem solving skills from the basic goals of the school sys­tem. Now, we can improve the quality of education.”

TRIPLE MESSAGE AFFIRMS AMERICAN VALUES

Merrimack resident Randal L. Kottwitz, an education equity advocate, expressed appreciation for the repeal of the Sheldon-Ager (Smith-Helms) policy. “Within one week, we heard from the people, the church, and the courts,” he said. “Rung’s landslide victory sent the message that the American people reject the politics of hate. The Episcopal Church declined to try Bishop Ruh­ter on heresy charges, sending the message that people of faith do not condone hate as a moral value. The US Supreme Court ruled Colorado Amendment 2 unconstit­utional, affirming the Fourteenth Amendment’s guarantee of equal protec­tion for all citizens. Taken together, these three landmark events show that dis­crimination violates the moral values of the American people,” concluded Kottwitz. “The people of Merrimack set aside their differences and worked to­gether to defeat the politics of hate, fear, and discrimination. Armed with nothing more than their innate goodness, the compassionate, loving people who live in this wonderful town opened their hearts and defeated the extremists de­cidedly and without hesitation. In winning back their town, they set an example for other communities throughout the nation to follow.” ΔΔ

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AUGUST, 1996 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 21 - August 31
- A Coffee by Design 620 Congress St. presents Richard Sandifer’s “The Environmental Landscape,” a collection of color photographs. An open house will be held on Thursday, August 1 from 5 - 8 pm. FMI (207)772-5533

August 17 - 19
- Symposium XXII - College of the Atlantic, on the ocean, Bar Harbor, ME. FMI (207)244-4062.

August 22 - 25
- Maine-ly For You Women’s Campout - This Women’s Campout is held at a private campground on a pristine lake in Western Maine. Cabins and Campsites are available. Children under 17 are welcome. An Adult only section will be available. A local Womanist/African American woman will be available. FMI (207)873-6980.
- 20th Annual Quaker Lesbian Conference - Newburgh, NY. FMI QLC, 52 Greenleaf St., Medford, MA 02155.

August 30 - September 2
- Portland Roundup Up Conference - Sponsored by Lesbian and Gay Members of AA. University of Southern Maine Campus. Labor Day Weekend. Registration $35 or one day $20. Sunday night Dance tickets available at the door for $6.00 per person. FMI (207)772-1717 or (207)666-3343.

August 23 - 25
- Women’s Outdoor Adventure Coop. Overnight/Backpack the top of the hill. We provide the beverages and the grill. Go east on Congress St., left at the Observatory, four blocks to the 3 story white house. Try to be on time. If you get lost call (207)761-2059.
- 7:00 PM - Eastern Mountain Sports - Compass clinic. Learn basic map and compass skills. A hands on course which focuses on off-trail hiking. Limited space. FMI (207)772-3776

Saturday, August 10
- 10:30-11:30 AM - Women’s Empowerment 16 Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI (207)892-2192.
- 2:30-6:00 PM - Women Meeting Women A Lesbian social/support group for women in southern N.H. and northern MA, meets at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Nashua. FMI (603)881-4268 or e-mail DBalbat@aol.com.

Sunday, August 11
- Women’s Outdoor Adventure Coop. Hike Mt Monroe, Franklin & Ellisbounier, in Coos County, NH. FMI (603)228-5692 b&w & 6 pm.

Monday, August 12
- 7:00-9:00 PM - Women’s Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women’s Center. FMI Jana (207)772-6599.

Tuesday, August 6
- 7:00-9:30 PM PFLAG Seacoast Area, NH meets at Stratham Community Church, Emery Lane, Stratham. FMI (603) 772-5196

Wednesday, August 7
- 7:00-9:00 PM - Drop-In & Open House, Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center of Northern Maine, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI (207)498-2088.

Thursday, August 8
- 7:00 PM - PFLAG Northern ME meets at the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center of Northern Maine, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI (207)498-2088.

Thursday, August 15
- 6:00 PM - PFLAG Nashua, NH Meets at the Unitarian Universalist Church, Lowell & Canal Sts., Nashua. FMI (603)880-8709

Saturday, August 17
- 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM - Dance Portland - A festival of dance. Choreographer’s Showcase. FMI Tickets and Reservations call (207)775-4253.
- 10:30-11:30 AM - Women’s Empowerment 16 Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI (207)892-2192.
- 2:00 PM - An Amelia’s Event - Volleyball, Croquet, and Yard Games followed by a Clambake at Kim’s. FMI (603)675-6865.

Saturday/Sunday, Aug. 17 & 18
- Women’s Outdoor Adventure Coop. - Overnight for women with kids FMI (603) 483-0436 $6 & 9 PM.
- Women’s Outdoor Challenges - Intro. to Canoe Camping on the Connecticut River. FMI (603)763-5400.
- Eastern Mountain Sports - Bigelow Range Overnight. The Bigelow Range provides some of the best exposed ridgeline hiking in the state of Maine. Limit 8. FMI (207)772-3776.

Sunday, August 18
- 1:00 PM - Equal Rights Network Planning Meeting. This meeting will be held during SYMPOSIUM XXII at the College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor, ME, and is open to Symposium participants and non-participants. FMI call Jean Vernette (207)945-3092.

Monday, August 19
- 3:00 - 4:00 PM - PFLAG Concord, NH. Meets at the 1st Congregational Church, Washington St. Concord, N.H. Door. FMI (633) 472-4944.

Monday, August 26
- 7:00-9:00 PM - Women’s Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women’s Center. FMI Jana (207)772-6599.

Tuesday, August 27
- 7:00-9:00 PM - Women’s Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women’s Center. FMI Jana (207)772-6599.

Wednesday, August 28
- 6:00-8:00 PM - Women’s Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women’s Center. FMI Jana (207)772-6599.
- 7:00 PM PFLAG Upper Valley Region, NH - Meets at the Hanover CC. FMI (603) 448-1982.

Wednesday, August 21
- 7:00:00 PM - Drop-In & Open House, Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center of Northern Maine, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI (207)498-2088.

Thursday, August 22
- 7:00 PM - PFLAG Northern ME meets at the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center of Northern Maine, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI (207)498-3508.
- 7:30-9:00 PM - Matlovich & Tony McCann - Coming Out Stories. Come hear the stories of our members. Some will be happy, some funny, some sad, some angry and some will be all of these. Bring your story to share. Tony McCann will guide this memorable evening. Holiday Inn By The Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland, ME. Handicapped Accessible; free hotel parking.

Friday, August 23
- 6:00 PM - Karaoke Night at Sisters-to-benefit Women in Harmony. 45 Danforth St Portland, Me.
- 8:00 PM - Dance Portland - Performance - FMI (207)775-2543.

Saturday, August 24
- 10:30-11:30 AM - Women’s Empowerment 16 Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI (207)892-2192.
- 3:00 PM - Down East AIDS Network 4th Annual Auction (DEAN) Ellsworth City Hall. Preview begins at 3pm the Auction starts at 6pm. Items include: crafts, antiques, art and services. Monies raised will be used to support DEAN’s ongoing community prevention education and support services. FMI and donations call Ron King (207) 667-3506.
- 8:00 PM - Dance Portland - Performance - FMI (207)775-2543

Sunday, August 25
- 2:00 PM - Eastern Mountain Sports - North & South Baldface Dayhike - Hike the Baldface Circle Trail. Limit 10. FMI (207)772-3776.

Monday, August 26
- 7:00-8:00 PM - Women’s Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women’s Center. FMI Jana (207)772-6599.

Wednesday, August 28
- 6:00-9:00 PM - Drop-In & Open House, Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center of Northern Maine, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI (207)498-2088.

Saturday, August 31
- 10:30-11:30 AM - Women’s Empowerment 16 Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI (207)892-2192.
- 8:00 PM - 1 AM - Northern Lambda Nordic Dance - Community Center 16 Champlain St. Van Buren, ME. Admission $6. BYOB FMI (207)498-0990.

Notice - MLGPA Fundraiser

MLGPA will be holding a yard sale fundraiser. If you have any items you’d like to donate, call Celeste at the beginning of September at (207) 657-6092.
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△ BACKPACKING, Canoeing, X-Country skiing, Native American cultural trips, Teen trip. Wilderness skills and environmental awareness. Small groups, vegetarian food, all abilities. Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, Maine, Newfoundland. Contact: Earth Treks, Dept C, RR 2, Box 785, Montville, ME 04941. 800/589-4770.

△ 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. PMT, 207/787-2379.


△ LIVING SITUATIONS

△ MATURE, quiet, non-smoking professional, self-employed, mostly out, pre-op male-to-female transsexual seeks house sharing arrangement in trans-friendly Bangor household. Contact Jean at 945-3092.


△ ROOMMATE WANTED: Lesbian with two cats and two dogs looking for animal lover to share my home. Large house with deck, 2 cars garage on 3 acres of woodland in beautiful East Sebago. Personal garden space available. $400 monthly plus half electric, own phone. 207/877-3443 for details.

△ ROOMMATES WANTED: Pre-op T/S without much baggage but an engaging personality looking to share huge 3br apt in greater Portland with GFs. All utilities included. Call Dal at 775-6435.

△ MISCELLANEOUS

△ ENQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW you think is most important to the future of Maine's gay/lesbian/bi/trans communities. Maine Equity Fund has a challenge grant from National Lesbian and Gay Community Funding Partnership, will raise more locally and distribute $120,000 over the next two years to meet our communities' needs. Have a voice as we set our funding priorities; tell us what's important, what works, what doesn't. For your copy of community survey, call Marjorie Love at (207) 773-6114, or write c/o the Maine Community Foundation/Maine Equity Fund, P.O. Box 148, Ellsworth, Maine 04605.


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△ CPR--....August, 1996 Page 21

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Women In Harmony is an ecletic choral ensemble open to all women regardless of age, race, religion, or sexual orientation. If you are interested in becoming a member or volunteer, you can contact us at SASIE (including your phone number) to P.O. Box 516 Sta. A, Portland, ME 04101, or call 207/774-8940.

Maine Gay Men’s Chorus is a community chorus which brings men together to enhance social tolerance and diversity in the Greater Portland area, as well as affirming the chorus members’ experience with creative and lively musical entertainment. FMI call 774-2704 or write M.G.M.C., P.O. Box 1039, Portland, ME 04104.

The Maine Gay Visual Artist’s League will meet on the third Wednesday of every month. The League is a non-profit, creative support network for Maine’s gay & lesbian visual artists, FMI call 775-3240.

PHONE SUPPORT Region by region

National Center for Lesbian Rights Youth Projects: 1-800-528-NCLR
Boston Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Youth: 617/343-7322
National Hotline for gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgendered youth: 1-800-448-7869

Regional Youth Group 1: Contact Lesi-Bel of Portland Sunday to Thursday, 7 pm to midnight Friday and Saturday. Staffed & trained, peer (younger counselors. Confidential and anonymous. FMI call Teen Crisis Line - 1-800-639-6095

Teen TALK: Call 774-HELP (745-4357)
The AIDS Projects: 774-6877. Located at 142 High St., 6th floor, Portland O4101. Call for information and support group meetings in Portland, Lewistown, Brunswick.

Columbia: Eastern Maine AIDS Network: 990-3626
Penobscot County: HIV/AIDS Hotline: 1-800-222-1222
Belfast: Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: 338-1427
Brunswick: Merry meet AIDS Support Network: 725-0495
Bridgton: Community Task Force on AIDS: 583-6608

FREE FAMILY THERAPY available for individuals & families of any age who are affected by HIV disease. FMI, contact Chris Behan, MSW at Center for Training and Special Programs. 720773-6658
Teen Life Center: Volunteering service to AIDS victims. Volunteers: Call 774-HELP.

Identity Support New Hampshire P-FLAG Meetings Concord: Meets 3rd Sunday from 3-5 pm at 1st Congregational Church, Washington North Main Sts. (use Washington St. entrance), FMI call 603/472-4944
Seacoast: Meets 1st Monday from 7-9 pm at Stratham Community Church, Emory Lane, Stratham. (1/2 mi. W of Rte 101 circle), FMI call 603/772-5196.
Nashua: Meets 3rd Thursday at 7:30 pm at Uunatian-Universit viewed Church, Lowell & Caual Sts., FMI call 603/890-8090.
Portsmouth: Meets first Sunday, 7-9 pm, Plymouth Congregational Church, FMI call 603/452-6303 or 663/786-9507.

Central MA Gay Men’s Support Groups: Sundays from 7-8:30 pm. FMI call 622-1888 or 622-4254

Lewiston/Auburn: Meets last Sunday, 6:30 pm, St. John’s Congregational Church, Lewiston. FMI call 753-5700.

Women’s Center—Belfast: Weekly meetings, 9A Main St., 2nd floor (above Jaret & Cohn) FMI, 338-3702. Group meetings are open to women of all ages. FMI call 774-8322.

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NA: Just for Today meetings every Wednesday, 8:30 pm. St. Luke’s Cathedr Hall, State Street, Portland. United Methodist Church, 2nd floor, Portland. FMI call 774-8972.

Out and About: a lesbian support and educational group, meets on 1st & 3rd Wednesday monthly, 7:00 pm, United Methodist Church, 2nd floor, Portland.

NA: Just for Today meetings every Wednesday, 8:30 pm. St. Luke’s Cathedr Hall, State Street, Portland. United Methodist Church, 2nd floor, Portland. FMI call 774-8972.

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August, 1996 Page 23

Maine HIV/AIDS: A list of groups and services for GLBT communities in Maine.

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ATTENTION: Organizations & groups please check your free listing for accuracy of information. Call 207/282-4311 to change.

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The Maine Gay NetMail List: Share your ideas, opinions or just plan chat with any other list members. To subscribe to this list, send an e-mail to majordomo@abacus.oxy.edu. In the message part, write "subscribe me-gaynet".

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