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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, punishing and simplifying. 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 legalizing 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 stop nothing, but it does effectively divide people in America. ... and that's exactly why it's wrong."

The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest lesbian and gay political organization, immediately denounced the House action as "ugly, cowardly and unconstitutional. "It is nothing more than gratuitous election-year gay-bashing," said Elizabeth Birch, the group's executive director.

During debate, some members quoted passages from the Bible, arguing that God meant marriage to be a union of a man and a woman. Anything else threatens the survival of American culture, they said. "A God-given principle is under attack," declared Rep. Steve Buyer, R-Ind.

But Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., one of Congress' three openly gay members, said many of his constituents in their second and third marriages despite other passages in the Bible that prohibit divorce or remarriage after divorce.

"There are clearly members in this chamber - supporters of this bill - who do not think that Biblical injunction ought to be civil law. There are people who believe that Biblical injunctions that says if you divorce, you shall not remarry, should be disregarded by those who wish to disregard it," Frank said.

Frank argued it was silly to claim that gay relationships threaten traditional marriage. "I find it implausible that two men decide to commit themselves to each other the very marriage of people who live two blocks away," he said.

Rep. Gerry Studds, D-Mass., who is gay, said gay Americans will continue to struggle for equal rights, and was one day succeed. "This is the last unfinished chapter of civil rights in this country," Studds said. "This country is not yet the country that it was intended to be by its founding fathers."

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

Senators in No Hurry To Take Up Bill on Same Sex Marriage

by Carolyn Skornek

WASHINGTON (AP) — Legislation that would deny any federal sanction to same-sex marriages is getting low priority from members of the Senate despite its easy passage in the House and President Clinton's general endorsement.

Look, 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, who presumes GOP presidential nominee, cosponsored a similar measure in the Senate.

But Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., Senate's second ranking Republican, said it 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 that would ban discrimination against homosexuals. If that ride past the Senate, the two chambers would have to negotiate a final version, and whether it would be expected the House to oppose that change.

Conservatives pressed the bill to deal in advance with a Senate 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 delay the new law while the groups who could become eligible for federal benefits now available to married couples.

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., who leads the fight against the measure and is openly gay, referred to the act's title, Defense of Marriage, and turned the accusation around. "The people who want to discriminate against 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," identified to decide from this limitation, but in 1996 all gay men and lesbians for the failure of marriages in this society is very good politics but very terrible social analysis.

On the other side, Judiciary Committee Chairman Henry Hyde, R-III., argued, "Two men loving each other doesn't hurt anybody else's marriage. But it threatened the very existence of marriage by making it something that it shouldn't be and isn't a celebratory conduct that is not approved by the majority of the people."

RANT:

"Now pronounce you man and wife"

by David Cook

All are pronouncing an end to the Defense of Marriage Act, Bill Clinton's signature law that restricts gay rights has reached a new low: if it "Don't ask, don't tell" wasn't bad enough, now we have "Don't marry, don't tell". Gay marriage is going to the right wing is nothing new, but I'm sorry to see Clinton's desperation for re-election drive him to support a policy that is nothing more than more gay-bashing.

"Defense of Marriage" — the name itself sounds like something straight out of Orwell's 1984. In the novel, Orwell's totalitarian government used names for government agencies that were the exact opposite of their real function. The Ministry of Love, for example, was a place in whose sub-basement, citizens were routinely tortured. "Defense of Marriage" may play well in Podunk, but, for those of us with functioning crap detectors, it seems a lot more like a cover-up for government inaction at the least and possibly something nastier at worst.

There's no question in my mind that families need defending (and I am using the term "family" in its broadest and most all-encompassing form) — defending from the consequences of Reagan's tax cut for the rich, defending from the machinations of a Congress that mixed health care reform and invented welfare reform," a code phrase for punishing the poor.

But The Defense of Marriage Act doesn't address the plight of families struggling to make it in difficult times. Rather, it's a response to the threat of legalized gay marriage in the state of Hawaii. By defining marriage and spouse as a "legal union between one man and one woman," Congress increasingly ban gay marriage and it further enables states that do not permit same-sex marriages to refuse reciprocity to states that do.

In my view, marriage and family in America encompass a much broader variety of domestic arrangements than Congress would like to believe, arrange- ments that have come about as a result of social evolution and economic necessities. (My partner Joe asserts that same-sex marriages should be excluded from the common law marriage, but the entire state of Hawaii has already extended the definition to domestic partnerships.)

"Leave it to Beaver" no longer represents the way American families live (if, in fact, ever did) and prejudice does as is pointless as insisting that the sun revolves around the Earth; public policy based on the former assumption is doomed to fail just as astronomy based on the latter ultimately did.

There is no defensible secular rationale for restricting marriage to certain classes of adults. No public good can be served by depriving people of the freedom to choose their own companions, and the attempt to do so is as pointless as insisting that the sun revolves around the Earth.

Whatever your views on marriage, allowing states to ignore each other's laws without a very compelling reason is opening up a can of worms. It takes us back to the early days of the Republic when inter-state lack of cooperation threatened the very existence of the new country. What is to stop Congress from re-defining marriage as a union between two people of the same sex and one white man and one white woman and allowing states not to honor inter-racial (or other-racial) marriages performed elsewhere?

Anyone whose brain is still working knows that this issue has nothing to do with families and everything to do with political posturing and positioning in an election year. The new law is simply an attempt to make voters feel that "family values" are being protected while politicians in fact do nothing whatever to protect families. Shame on Congress and shame on Bill Clinton for legitimating this homophobic scapegoating by granting it his support.
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. 1 (a) 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.

(b) Purposes — The purposes of this chapter are:

(1) to encourage the traditional monogamous family unit as the basic building block of our society, the foundation of harmonious and enriching family life;

(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 Maine families against improper interference 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 husband or wife 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.

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/bisexual/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. We, the Maine Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Association, will conduct a DECLINE TO SIGN workshop at Symphony XXII on Saturday, August 17, from 2:00-3:30 pm. Please join us!!! DECLINE TO SIGN has a toll free hotline number to sign.

DECLINE TO SIGN HOTLINE #
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

MONTEPELIER, 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.”

“I’m not 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?”

Gay Advocates Urge Amendment Barring Job Discrimination

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 in effect calls 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.
News from the Granite State

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 wasnt 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 Cures Fags" and "Silly Faggot, Dix are in Hampton Beach continued to sell 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
Author Takes Giant and Unexpected Spiritual Stride

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. 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 tinge 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 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 "T-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 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 "T-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.

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Standing up for decency.
Gay Pride March prompts question: "Why do we need to parade...?"

by Jasper M. E. 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 at Concord, N.H. And Saturday, June 15 in Henniker.

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

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 acts of violence including 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 gender. 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 as our fellow citizens, inherent worth and dignity. We march as a community of men and women to say enough is enough.

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

Enough with saying that all we are is about 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 were put into mental institutions and then given electric shock treatments to cure them of their homosexual tendencies. We march against these atrocity 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 our full civil liberties, because no one is fit with all are protected under the law equally.

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

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 decision in Evans vs. Board of Education: "Youffl, page 4

myself well for it. Being here to participate was one thing, becoming involved was quite another. Greeting visitors and asking, "Was he a family member?" I asked.

"My son. One of my six children. Funny how they're all raised the same, yet turn out so differently. He was such a joy!"

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 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 opposing to 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 that the NH Senate has not passed equal protection legislation, thus denying the basic intent of the Supreme Court decision. For an elected official to scoff at the validity of a US Supreme Court decision is unconscionable at best. Does she believe that NH is beyond the jurisdiction of the US Supreme Court?

CHILLING MESSAGE TO YOUTH

More to the point, Sen. Roberge, as a member of the Education Committee of the NH Senate, has sent a chilling message to all school boards, administrators, teachers, faculty, students, and parents. If a member of the Education Committee denounces homosexuality per se, calling it an unacceptable lifestyle, how can schools in New Hampshire develop a safe and accepting learning environment for all students?

ARBITRARY EXCLUSION AND HATE CRIMES

Adolescents of all sexual orientations need the loving help and support of their friends, classmates, and communities 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 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

ARBITRARY EXCLUSION

ARBITRARY EXCLUSION

AND HATE CRIMES

AND HATE CRIMES

by Brendan Donnelly

The New Hampshire Coalition to End Discrimination (CED) is pleased to report that on Thursday, June 13, the Judiciary and Family Law Subcommittee voted 11-4 to send House Bill 1294 to the full Legislature in its spring session. HB 1294 would add "sexual orientation" to New Hampshire's existing list of rights protected by civil rights law. The Judiciary Committee originally voted in February to send this bill into extended study. However, a busy schedule and the Supreme Court decision on Amendment Two made the committee reconsider their decision, and the vote was taken after little discussion.

An amendment was added to the bill which noted that the state recognizes that discrimination exists against gays and lesbians, but that by passing this legislation the state does not promote or endorse homosexuality.

This is the second attempt to add "sexual orientation" to New Hampshire's Civil Rights Legislation. The first attempt to pass this bill (HB 1207) failed in the NH Senate by one vote in 1994.

"We are very excited by the Committee's vote," said CED spokesperson Brendan Donnelly, Coalition to End Discrimination spokesperson (h) 603/538-6160. boderley@newpapagi.kenne.com

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Hate policy repealed after landslide election

Grateful community begins healing process

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 had to intervene on behalf of teachers for a lawsuit filed in US District Court by parents and teachers charging 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 tradi-
tion 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 sup-
ported the extremist agenda advocated by Ager's majority coalition. "Whenever the voters had an opportunity to make their wishes known, they rejected the old 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 direc-
tion of the School Board. I ran against the old majority coalition in a two to one margin (68 percent) in the largest turnout in town history (150 per-
cent of last year's record). The people have spoken loudly and clearly, and have mandated a return to our tradition of excellence."

PROMISES MADE, PROMISES KEPT

As her first official act, Rung moved to repeal Policy 6540, saying "This policy never should have been enacted." Superintendent Jared D. Neil remarked that no other district in the state or nation had ever enacted such a policy and none had followed our ex-
ample. Rung also proposed Policy 6541 to replace it. "I wish we could simply repeal 6540, but we need to clear the air after all the unfounded rumors that have circulated around town," Rung said. During the campaign, she discovered that many people believed the purpose of Policy 6540 was to prevent the schools from "promoting" homosexuality, or from persuading students to "choose" to become homosexual. People who have given serious thought to their own sexual orientation understand that sexual orientation is not a voluntary or arbitrary choice. Others needed reassur-

See HATE, page 19

President Clinton signed the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act; President Clinton strongly opposed anti-gay ballot initiatives in sev-
eral states; President Clinton directed the Justice Department and the Equal Em-
ployment Opportunity Commission to vigorously prosecute those who dis-
criminate against PWAs, leading to ac-
tions against health care providers and fac-
tories that discriminate against PWAs; and we have begun to incorporate the Americans with Disabilities Act in our Health Care Reform Efforts. Welcoming our contributions to public service President Clinton has appointed the most inclusive Administration in his-
story — over 80 openly gay and lesbian official appointments.

See CLINTON, page 19

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 religi-
ous right legislation which would al-
low 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 gay and lesbian rights is just an election year ploy to divide Ameri-
cans. Many members of Congress are likely to vote "yes" on DOMA because of the fear of being seen as "pro-gay" in an election year in which gays and lesbians are being demonized by the religion of right. A major strategy promoted by People For the American Way Ac-
tion Fund and other progressive organiza-
tions is to change the subject of the debate away from an anti-gay diatribe toward a discussion of discrimination against gay and lesbians in the workplace. When DOMA comes to the Sen-
te floor, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which prohib-
its 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 dis-


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The 342-67 roll call by which the House voted to ban gay marriages under federal law. Voting yes were 224 Republicans and 118 Democrats. Voting no were 146 Republicans, 6 Democrats, and 1 independent. Voting "present," de-noted by the letter P, were 2 Democrats. An X denotes members who did not vote.

Anti-gay marriage bill unconstitutional Federal intrusion says HRC

WASHINGTON — Legislation to give the federal government power over marriage for the first time in U.S. History is an unconstitutioational intrusion into state sovereignty, 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 power over marriage been left to the states," Birch said. "The proposed legislation is not only a bad idea, it is an unprecedented intrusion into state sovereignty and is unconstitutional.

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 to stop it from deciding at some future time that in the interest of family values, marriage should only be extended to those who can conceive or those who have entered into first marriages but 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 — with the scapegoating of gay Americans on the rise," she said. And 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 public 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 with members in every state and 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. AA

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 Partnershp (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/AIDS, their families and caretakers.

Ten HIV/AIDS projects, including ACAP's from around the state, will share $150,000 in grants from MCAP. Bettsamme 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 program of support group 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. A speaker's bureau has been deve-loped with assistance from the American Red Cross. Individuals have been trained to speak to their communities and to dispel the myths and misconceptions that prevent us from responding crea-tively, courageously and effectively to HIV Disease. Next funding cycle we will work at expanding the number of speakers available to speak to all types of audiences," said Madore.

Collaborative efforts with Artists For AIDS Awareness (AFAA), an organization of artists from across the country, have been very successful in raising funds for education and prevention projects in Aroostook. Funds raised this year will target youth and school HIV prevention programs as well as other projects in the planning stages. Madore, a member of AFAA stated, "This group has been instrumental in providing the foundation for grass-roots coalition building. Their goal is to nurture a more compassionate, supportive and understanding community. Their strength and commitment is derived from their own experiences within their communities. This group is committed to the realization of an AIDS service organization in Aroostook. AFAA projects include "A Day Without Art" commemoration. See HIV/AIDS, page 17

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Gay/Lesbian Business Directory published by RBPA

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Maine Equity Fund

Mother who was denied custody, wins new hearing.

First national survey of violence against transpeople being distributed.
INSURANCE TIPS:
Are my fine arts, antiques & collections covered under my homeowners policy?

by Carolyn A. Jahbert
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 art 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 own need it and don’t have it!

by Martin Swinger
I realized the other night that though I’ve received 6 or 7 responses to my request for a call back I’ve not really figured out how to make you artists accessible resources for other readers and interested readers. What comes to mind is the idea of introducing the varied artists through this column. Not a ‘review’ or a ten to one 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 I’ve not really figured how 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.

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 879-3477.

Growing through Grieving is intended to help those who have lost someone they loved through death. The group will meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month, 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Mercy Hospital in the Administrative Conference Room, level B1. If you or someone you know is struggling with the death of a loved one, come and join us. For more information, call 879-3477.

Caring and Sharing offers mutual support for cancer patients and survivors. This group meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Mercy Hospital Board Room, sixth floor. For more information, call 879-3303.

MONEY MATTERS:

Insurance: What is it and What is it for

by Peter J. Callahan, 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, even if 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. This 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 about anything 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 I am 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! ΔΔ

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EDITIORAL: ME

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 its 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

Fam-i-ly: n, a group of people united by certain convictions or affiliation.

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary

EDITIORAL - NH

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 hedonism, 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 is to use us as a dartboard. 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 conducted by seven gay and lesbian activists learned when their picket and protest against the protest's organizers that the protest's organizers that the protest was a robbery or a hate crime - but such an incident always raises the specter of the latter.

Some might say that we should have separate but equal rights but such an incident always raises the specter of the latter. Some may feel that marriage is a religious institution and that such a measure is a violation of religious freedom. 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.

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.
Guest Editorial: Poll Watchers Hurting Movement

by Wayne R. Besen

It was a scorching June afternoon in 1969 when Anita Ekberg and Peter Fonda were causing a commotion at the Stonewall Bar, in New York's Village, abruptly topless. A large, hairy man wearing leather chaps exposing his furry buttocks jetted out a terrible roars, 'Hold up, we can't riot!!!'

Before the terrified patrons could escape, New York's finest came through, the door wielding fearsome billyclubs and screaming hoards, but somehow it all was about to break loose one of the rioters screamed, "Hold up, we can't riot!!! The latest polls show that 95 percent of American's are opposed to gay marriage, has turned what should have been a robust debate into a right wing monologue. Our leading activists have forgotten that it is not their job to jump on the bandwagon of popular causes, according to the polls, but to champion the morally just in the attempt to persuade the masses.

This right wing sponsored Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), absorbing states from having to recognize gay marriages which may eventually be performed in other states such as Hawaii, is zipping through Congress and President Clinton has vowed to sign it into law. Our leading advocacy groups have described it as a "trainwreck train" which they are unable to stop. This might be so, but it didn't have to be.

It has been crystal clear for more than two years, that this divisive issue 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 grassroots 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 of embracing 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 that there is only one full time activist, from Lambda Legal Defense, working on this issue proves our lack of resolve to defend our right to marry. Thanks to our tepidity and lack of foresight, our community now faces an embarrassing rout at least as damaging to our political clout as the gays in the military disaster.

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 though 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 debacles in our movements history.

Wayne Besen has been previously published in the Miami Herald, TNN, 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 which educated the public about our lives. Most recently he was a television news reporter for a CBS affiliate in Bangor, ME. He also served as the press secretary for a U.S. Senate candidate.
Community Pride Reporter's Guide to Downtown Portland

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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 Thorne Hall 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 crafters, 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 NYNO Records' New Orleans Rhythm Revue featuring Allen Toussaint, Wallace Johnson, and Amadeo Castenell; Los Pleneros del Coco of 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. ΔΔ

Libby Roderick to do benefit concert at Jonathan's in Ogunquit

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,1

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. It encourages the presentation of many diverse dance forms to include ballet, street-funk, post modern, and dance theater. Founded by artistic director Millicent S. Monks to promote innovative new choreography, it has become a significant annual dance forum for Maine companies of note to premiere new works.

An immediately popular event, this year's festival will feature a new ballet by Samuel Kurkjian 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. ΔΔ

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

by Rose Mary Demman

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 topics 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; Feeling Good; Nutrition/Diet; Health Hazards & Boosters; Meditation & Yoga; Massage/Backcare; Eye, Teeth & Tongue; Environmental Wellness/Safety.

Each of these topics covered gives listings of the latest books on the issues, including either excerpts 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 carried in the book.

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.

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An August Wave of Live Music Approaches . . . As a July one leaves . . .

by Aimed Post

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, 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. A few times they delved back a few years to relive on stage in the 90’s? I mean, please boys ... yuk! And watching a 50’s when I was a young girl, so why would I think my ... on to the performance.

Also gracing the Raoul’s stage on Saturday was Kate Brockie, local piano playing goddess with an incredible voice. She has a really great voice. It was quite refreshing to walk into the office and get a pen!” So yes, I actually wrote to this an absolutely exquisite voice. We love you, Jonathan...

Kate Brockie, 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, Erikka 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 Jonathan’s in Ogunquit. On August 2nd, Libby Roderick will performing and the very next day, the Flirtations. So you’re set for Friday and Saturday. Then on Wednesday the 7th, Susan Werner will be performing 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 uncon-firmed. I just thought I’d throw my low Tori obsessors into a tizzy. Seriously though, I think she’s coming. Keep your ears open.

And keep passing the Open Windows, ALP. ∆∆

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

by Rose Mary Denman

Wow! Two plays in one night at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre! 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 wasn’t I refreshingly delighted to see this version of the show? I mean, seeing a play about girls using all their charm to seduce the guys... yuk! And watching a 50’s when I was a young girl, so why would I think my ... on to the performance.

Enough about the lack of sexual political savvy... 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 Briode! 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 a 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 "wall of heart. One must open mind, sweeping into a world of shadows, 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. So, if your stiff shirt is cutting off the blood circulation to your sense of humor, get a fix; see this play!}

VIDEOPORT

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She could have any man. But the one she wanted.

EMMA THOMPSON

ARRINGTON

PolyGram Video
by Daralyn S. Maxwell
How sad that the title "As Worlds Collide" was frosted 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 smash into each other.

It is like that most transsexuals head 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 that 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 encounters.

At the same time, there are the more frequent situations whereby I turn up in business associating 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 outed 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 in my weaving business are not aware of it (at least suspect) where I am going. I guess that either I am not hiding my feelings well, hormones are affecting me more than I thought, or else these guys are smarter than I give them credit for. Or all of the above.

What was my association work waited so long for me to come forward that he finally confronted me and expressed his feelings of betray that I had not trusted him with my "personal growth project." It was more than a little odd that something was going on and it seemed not to take a rocket scientist to get to the heart of it.

Confidentially, my worlds do collide on occasion, and little psychic asteroids come in contact with otherwise unconnected bodies. I can only hope that the exploding remains of this phenomenon stays light and that my planet doesn't spin out of orbit.

Comments about this series can be sent to Dal Maxwell at CPR or email her at dalmax@ime.net.
SURVIVING, from page 7

by Heidi L. Vanderheiden

I am amusing. Some time after getting my undergraduate degree from UCONN, I decided to host a Halloween party with an unusual theme: cross-dressing. The men had to show up as women, and the women had to be men. I had a reputation for throwing good parties in my Willimantic, Conn., apartment, and my friends decided it would be a lark.

The effect, I stuck a pair of sports socks down into the face of one of my friends. Again there was no contact at a panel with his younger brother's name on it. In the group of friends in the bedroom, we were all being teased for my flamboyant garb.

Heidi has been published in Sojourn, Boston Magazine, Loci on-line magazine and the Boston Bisexual Women's Newsletter. She facilitates bisexual coming-out groups and helped coordinate Boston's 1995 bisexual conference.

I had always wanted to do drag, but wondered if I could pull it off with my petite figure, feminine features and tiny face. But, I must say, I looked rather hot as a man. I was exactly the type of androgynous, semi-feminine man I would ogle at the theaters. Everyone else seemed to agree, and I had women (and men) flirting with me left and right.

I really must take up the practice again sometime.

Martin, who is a punk and straight, looked adorable, but rather silly, in dark-brown spandex suit, and huge black lace-up boots on his freshly-shaven cheeks, and a borrowed flowered skirt.

Heidi, a lesbian friend, wore her usual made "drag," as she was rather butch. 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 whistles 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 said, 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 it'd like to see if I really was bisexual. She kissed. 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 appearance. Being somewhat drugged, I ran and hid in the closet of the master bedroom. My housemate Byron said, "Someone should get her out of there." So Vicky came in to get me, and we started kissing. Byron then opened the door, Vicky and I walked out, and I heard someone in the group of friends in the bedroom say, "Heidi's come out of the closet." I was a little surprised, but that night I realized that I could be bisexual and stay with that person.

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Gay people had always had to struggle with internalized homophobia simply because it is assumed that everyone (especially growing up) is straight. We learned the stereotypes 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 The AIDS Project Education Department (we are trying to come up with a better name for this part of our outreach) is sponsoring a three-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.

If you are interested in being a part of this group, then please call Victor at The AIDS Project at 774-6877.

Remember: STAYING HIV NEGATIVE IS STEPPING 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.

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August, 1996 Page 17
OUT OF TOWN!
by Paul T. Bernard

One of the most common statements I hear from passengers 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: "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 - the seller of a service or product - the other is an AGENT - someone who acts as a specialist in someone else's business. Hence, an agent really do? - deserves an answer.

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 away, those trips are important to you and you want to make sure that everthing goes as you want. 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 let your 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 you know about your agent, the more you will look forward to 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; Train reservations; Airport Limousine service or transportation; Theater tickets; Sight-seeing tours; Travelers checks; Foreign currency; Travel insurance; Make travel arrangements on short notice or last minute; Passport/Visa applications; Brochures.

Next time you need to make 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 brochures from at least 20 companies that market to the gay/lesbian community. If you'd like to receive one, give me a call at (888-5906) and I'll make sure that you get one.

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 passenger vans and passenger buses, the longest luxury stretch and superstretch limousines and a modern video-equipped motorcoach fleet that includes 22 passenger mini-motorcoaches and 47 passenger 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 operated 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, meticulously maintained equipment and hire the best possible professional drivers. Our drivers make your transportation 100% carefree," says Greg Isherwood, founder and president.

DEFEND, from page 8 needs to recommence his commitment to equality for gay men and lesbians by making a strong statement in his convention speech. At this point, there are no firm plans to force a fight on the convention 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 delegates 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 Congress is far more important than creating a divisive television battle over this issue."

In an attempt to ensure that unity, Bauman squashed Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Hattoy's 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 values. It's just to inflame passions, to create prejudices, to drive wedges between gays and straights."

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 lesbians have not gotten all of the positions from the president they want, but almost nobody else has either." One person rejecting such reasoning is Tom Podlodowski, an open lesbian city councilwoman, who quit as co-chair of Clinton's Washington state campaign.

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 draw attention to jobs they can be with gays. Allen White, a publicist 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 president to be at the wedding."
Traditional Values Coalition, the language failed in the US Senate in 1994 when it was sponsored by Senators Bob Dole and Deborah Batts, the first openly lesbian federal judge in the nation's history.

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 Senator to the gay and lesbian community, Marsha Scott;

* President Clinton appointed openly gay Massachusetts Senator Scott Harkins 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 healthcare;

* President Clinton increased public health spending for HIV/AIDS programs by nearly 40%, including a 120% increase in AIDS Research programs by nearly 40%, including a 120% increase.

* President Clinton fought to protect Medicare from hundreds of billions of dollars in proposed cuts by the 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. ∆

HOMOPHOBIA AND POLITICS IN SENATE DISTRICT 9

Sen. Roberge is well aware of the problems that homophobic statements can cause. For example, in Bedford, where she lives, homophobia recently was used as a political weapon. The outcome of the recent school board election was heavily influenced by a last-minute campaign of homophobic literature and phone calls. In Merrimack, a neighboring town in Sen. Roberge's district, the school board forced passage of the most severely restrictive anti-gay policy in the country. Written by Rev. Lou Sheldon, of the California-based Traditional Values Coalition, the language failed in the US Senate in 1994 when it was sponsored by Senators Bob Smith and Jesse Helms. So serious and far-reaching were the effects of the Sheldon-Ager (Smith-Helms) policy that a group of parents filed suit in US District Court, claiming violation of their First and Fourteenth Amendment rights.

ROKECH REJECTS THE VOTERS OF MERRIMACK

Against that volatile background in her own district, Sen. Roberge spoke in apparent defiance of a closely related US Supreme Court decision. "In the Evans vs. Roman decision," commented Turner, "the Supreme Court unmistakably said that the Fourteenth Amendment applies to everyone. The Merrimack case, which raises several Fourteenth Amendment issues, has not even gone to trial, but Sen. Roberge could not wait to voice her opposition to the Evans vs. Roman 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."

TROUBLING ASSOCIATIONS AND LOCAL INTERVENTION

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 anti-gay policy. Cadarette's campaign manager, Bert Tenhave, 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 Uscinski, 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."

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 Sheldon-Ager (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 6450 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 Righter 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 decisively and without hesitation. In winning back their town, they set an example for other communities throughout the nation to follow." ∆

Queen of the hill. Top of the heap. Still number one.
AUGUST, 1996 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

7/21 - 8/31
- 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 clifftop above 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 woman/girl group will also be available. FMI (207)533-6890.
- 20th Annual Quaker Lesbian Conference - Newburyport, 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)772-7178 or (207)666-3343.

August 23 - 25
- Women’s Outdoor Adventure Coop. Overnight/Backpack the Southern trout stream with the Baldface Circle. FMI call Kathy at (207)688-4737.
- August 10-15:30 AM - Women’s Empowerment 16 Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI (207)892-2192.

Saturday, August 10
- 10:30-11:30 AM - Women’s Empowerment 16 Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI (207)892-2192.

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

Sunday, August 12
- 7:00-8:00 PM - Women’s Empowerment 16 Step Group, USM Women’s Center. FMI Jana (207)772-6599.

Monday, August 13
- 7:00 PM - PFLAG Portland, ME meets at Woodfords Congregational Church, Woodfords Corner, Portland. FMI, Rita (207)771-5158 or Sue (207)774-3441.

Wednesday, August 14
- 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.

Tuesday, August 15
- 7:00-9:30 PM: PFLAG Seacoast Area, NH meets at Stratham Community Church, Emery Lane, Stratham. FMI (603)772-5196.

Wednesday, August 17
- 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.
- 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, August 17 & 18
- Women’s Outdoor Adventure Coop. - Overnight for women with kids FMI (603) 843-0456 & 6 pm.
- Women’s Outdoor Challenges - Intro. to Canoe Camping on the Connecticut River. FMI (603)763-5400.

Saturday/Sunday, Aug. 17 & 18
- Women’s Empowerment 16 Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI (207)892-2192.
- 7:00-8:00 PM - PFLAG - Upper Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland, ME. Admission $5. FMI (207)777-5453.
- 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 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)777-5453

Sunday, August 25

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

Tuesday, August 27
- 7:00-9:00 PM: PFLAG Portland, ME meets at Woodfords Congregational Church, Woodfords Corner, Portland. FMI, Rita (207)776-5158 or Sue (207)774-3441.
- 7:00 PM - PFLAG Upper Valley Region, NH - Meets at the Hanover CC. FMI (603)448-1982.

Wednesday, August 28
- 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.
- 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 Nord - Labor Day Weekend Dance - Community Center 16 Champlain St., Van Buren, ME. Admission NLN members $5, non-members $7. BYOB FMI (207)498-0900

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.

Symposium XXII
Enjoy Keynote Speakers, Live Entertainment and workshops. Call 207-244-4062 for more detailed information and registration.
Symposium XXII is brought to you by members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Community of Hancock County.

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
**Travel/Vacation**

**Δ△ Lesbian Paradise!** 20 charming rooms, 100 mountain acres, pool, hot tub, hiking/skiing trails, yummy breakfasts, peace and privacy. We're your perfect vacation choice year round! Week-long and midweek yummy breakfasts, peace and privacy. Charmed rooms, 100 mountain acres, We're your perfect vacation choice year round studio on working organic farm in Down east Maine, 20 minutes from Eastport. Absolute peace and quiet. Beautiful, remote, unpoloched Cobbooke Bay. B & B or weekly rental. Brochure, reservations: (207) 726-5807. Δ△

**Δ△ Yellow Birch Farm:** Romantic, seasonal cottage or year round studio on working organic farm in Down east Maine, 20 minutes from Eastport. Absolute peace and quiet. Beautiful, remote, unpoloched Cobbooke Bay. B & B or weekly rental. Brochure, reservations: (207) 726-5807. Δ△

**Δ△ 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.Δ△**

**Δ△ 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. PMI, 207/787-2379. Δ△

**Δ△ Calendar Island Sailing School:** Learn to sail this summer! Private & group lessons. Women's camping & sailing adventures on the islands of Casco Bay. Special cruise to Monhegan Island. Sunset cruises. Charters. Call 207/828-5289. Δ△

**Δ△ Shared Living Situations**

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

**Δ△ Roommate Wanted:** Professional female, non-smoker. Share Kennebunk country cape. Garage on 3 acres. Vegetable and flower gardens. Near turnpike. $280 a month plus half of utilities. Call 207/985-9811. Δ△

**Δ△ Personality Plus:** LF with 2 cats seeks non-smoking, drug free female for beautiful West End apartment in Portland. Off street parking, laundry, warm atmosphere and neighborhood. Available August 1. $313 per month plus half of reasonable utilities. Call Elizabeth, 207/773-9681. Leave message. Δ△

**Δ△ Roommate Wanted:** Lesbian with two cats and two dogs looking for animal lover to share my home. Large house with deck, 2 car garage and 6 acres of woodland in beautiful East Sebago. Personal garden space available. $400 monthly plus half electric, own phone. 207/767-3443 for details. Δ△

**Δ△ 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. Δ△

**Miscellaneous**

**Δ△ 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 our community survey, call Marjorie Love at 945-3092.

**Advertisements**

**Advertise with CPR**

- **Classifieds:** $10 for 40 words, 15¢ per word over 40
- **Business Cards:** $35
- **Display Ads:** $12 per column inch (2.5" wide by 1" high)
- **Inserts:** $45 per 1,000 (you provide insert)

**Classifieds:**

- **Roommate Wanted:** Lesbian with two cats and two dogs looking for animal lover to share my home. Large house with deck, 2 car garage and 6 acres of woodland in beautiful East Sebago. Personal garden space available. $400 monthly plus half electric, own phone. Call Dal at 775-6435.
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**Subscription Form**

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

Name:

Address:

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 Checks should be made payable to Community Pride Reporter and mailed to: P.O. Box 178, Saco, Maine 04072.

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**Service Directory**

- **Windsor Court**
  - **Key West Luxury Accommodations**
  - **Spring Rate Special**
  - **P.O. Box 466, Casco, ME 04015**
  - **1-800-FLY-GAYS**
  - **Low Fares All Airlines**

- **Balfour Real Estate**
  - **295 Ocean House Road**
  - **Dawn H. Baumer**
  - **Cape Elizabeth, Maine 04107**
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**WANT HIM? GET HIM!**

**MIDCOAST MAINE GAY MEN'S HELP LINE**

**CALL NUMBER ACCEPTED**

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COMMUNITY PRIDE RESOURCES

GENERAL
ML/GPA is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the general public, politicians, and media on LG issues. ML/GPA has 30 chapters in Maine's political process, promote civil rights, develop and review legislation, endorse candidates, build a coalition, and oppose anti-gay legislation and referenda. Meetings are the 3rd Saturday of every month in Augusta. FMI call 1-800-55-ML/GPA.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is a community organization whose mission is to involve the LG community and the greater community in the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons, and their families and friends through support, education, and advocacy. PFLAG encourages our children and friends just the way they are! (See listings for Maine & New Hampshire under PHONE SUPPORT and SUPPORT GROUPS)

Northern Lambda Nord is an educational, informational, social, and service organization serving lesbian, gay, and bisexual people in northern Maine. Meetings are 2nd Sunday of every month at 1 pm (ME), 2-pm (NB), at the Gay/Lesbian Community Center, 403-347-7721. Northern Lambda Nord is a nationwide organization formed to educate the general public, parents, families and friends of lesbians, gay, and bisexual people on issues involving lesbian, gay, and bisexual people in northern Maine. Parents, families, and friends committed to sharing our history as well as providing person-to-person and group activities to those interested. The organization is open to all. Meetings are held in the Greater Portland area, second Sunday of every month at 7pm-9pm. Staffed & trained, peer (young) counselors. Confidential and anonymous.

Women in Harmony is an eclectic choral ensemble open to all women regardless of age, race, religion, or sexual orientation. If you are interested in becoming a member of Women in Harmony, you must meet with our organizing body, send us SASE (including your phone number) to P.O. Box 516 St. A, Portland, ME 04101, or call 207/774-9400.

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 men’s musical 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 community, FMI call 775-3240.


Nashua: Teen Crisis Line 1-800-639-6095.

Portland: Teens Line: 1-800-851-AIDS or 775-2627. HIV/AIDS related questions, call Mon.-Sat. 9 am-5 pm, Mon. & Wed. evenings until 7:30 pm. Anonymous.

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


Penobscot County: HIV/AIDS Hotline-1-888-289-1481.


Brunswick: Merrill Clinic AIDS Support Services: 725-4985.


Buxton: Community AIDS Awareness Program: 423-1470.

Lewiston: AIDS Coalition of Lewiston/Auburndale: 786-4697.

Waterville: Daycare: 626-3432.


Parents’ Friends and Lesbians of Gays (P-FLG)

Contacts in Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights: 785-8622. Trains and deploys volunteers statewide to speak with citizens in their towns and regions about their lives and their experiences with misgendering, bias, and discrimination in Maine. For information on activities in your county: 207/879-0480 or write: MSOP, 123 Congress St., #1, Portland 04101. You can’t be a speaker to work with Speakout!

MUSIC & ART

Concord: Judy, 603/485-3493

Wells: 207/367-4124

Nashua: Nancy, 603/480-8709

Kensington: Nora/John, 603/772-3893

Stratham: Betty, 603/772-3196

Gardiner, 207/543-2545

Holderness: Olivia, 636/688-7254

Rumney: Ann, 630/786-9812

Central Sandwich: Tish, 630/284-6434

DOVER, NH: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Helpline for information, referral or to talk. M-F 9-10 pm, Sat.-Sun. 9am-2pm. 603/743-GAY2Y.

SUPPORT GROUPS Medical Support Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic: Confidential screening and treatment for STD’s for residents and non-residents at a walk-in clinic. Low cost, Medicaid accepted. Anonymous, confidential HIV testing by appointment only. Clinic open Tues. & Thurs., 3-6 pm at Portland City Hall Room 108. Please call 874-8784.

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England: Serves men and women, offering annual exams, pregnancy testing, birth control methods (free condoms available), and treatment for infections and STD’s, menopause support and more. Evenings, affordable services, and complete confidentiality. Meets 1 day per week. 707 Forest Ave., Portland. FMI call 207/874-1095.

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. 207/773-6658.

Teen Line Center: Youth Clinic sponsored by Portland Public Health, Monday (10:00-11:30am) The homeless youth team's youth clinic is a place where you can receive free health care in a friendly environment. Located on Chestnut St. across from Portland High. Confidential health services with access to other support you may need. Drop in between 10 to 10:45 am.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic: Portland STD Clinic provides full range of services from screening & treatment, education and HIV antibody testing and counseling. Located in Room 303 of City Hall. Anonymous HIV testing by appointment on weekdays from 8 am to 5 pm. Call 874-7847. For other STD services: 874-8446.

Identity Support

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

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

Nashua, 3rd Thursday at 7:30 pm at Unitarian-Universalist Church, Lowell & Casablan Street S., FMI call 603/890-0820.

Plymouth: Meets first Sunday, 7-9 pm, Plymouth Congregational Church, FMI call 207/773-8956 or 653/786-9875. HP. Scout House, 156 High St., Portland. FMI write Community of Hope. P.OB 5301, Portland, ME 04101.

Community of Hope: A Christian congregation which claims a primary ministry with gay and lesbian people and strives to be inclusive of all persons. Worship on Saturday 4:00 PM at Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI write Community of Hope. POB 1671, Portland, ME 04102.

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

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Discussion Groups: 1st and 3rd Friedays at Immanuel Baptist, 7-9 pm. First Universalist Church, 345 Broadway, Rockland, ME. FMI, Larry Godfrey, (207) 990-1941.

W.O.W. (Wild Outdoor Women): Recreational group meets monthly for outdoor activities followed by pot luck social activities. Activities: hiking, biking, camping, canoeing, kayaking. FMI call @ 207/778-2729 or 207/773-5083.


Support Group for the Legal Community: Group meets at the beginning of Buck Cove Walkway (corner Baxter Blvd. & Preble St. Ext.), Saturdays, 9 am. FMI, 766-5732; 835-9582.

Support Group for Transgendered People: For men who have sex with men. Monthly meetings to talk about issues and concerns. Call 207-990-2059 for more info and meeting times. O-Squad: Support group for lesbian, gay, bisexual & transgendered. Serving Franklin County, based at UMF Farmington. FMI call has message. 207-778-7730.

TransSupport: Support group for the transgender community, helping professionals and the general public. Write McOress, PO Box 1894, Bangor, ME 04402-1894 or call 207-945-3092.

Parents
Gay/Lesbian/ Bisexual Parents Group: For parents of children of any sexual orientation. Meets 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month at the UU Church, Park Street, Bangor. FMI, Maine Parenting Group on Spring St., 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH 03802-1394.

Youth Support
OUTRIGHT: Fridays, 5-7:00 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, Park St., behind City Hall in Bangor. 207-990-3626. Outright: Central Maine: Contact: Laura Pratt, FMI, 207-873-3088.

OUTRIGHT/Portland: Meets every Fri, 7-9:30-9:30 pm. The People's Building, 155 Brackett St., 2nd floor, Portland. Safe & supportive discussions and for gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning youth under 22 and their families. FMI, OUTRIGHT, Portland, 725-4955.

CONCORD OUTRIGHT: Meets every Thurs.-7:30 pm at UU Church, 274 Pleasant St., next to consecrated Hospital & Orthopedics Clinic. Concord, NH 03301.

MONADNOCK OUTRIGHT: Meets every Thurs.-7 pm at The Place To Go, 46 Concord Rd. (Rt. 202), New Milford, NH 03457-2545.

NASHUA OUTRIGHT: Meets every 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 7:00 pm at Concord United Church of Christ, 260 High St., Nashua, NH 03060.

OUTRIGHT/Sconset: Meets every Sun.- 5-7 pm (movie night), Tues.- 6-8 pm (drop in), and Friday from 7-9 pm (support group) at the UU Church Annex (next to fire station), 205 Court St., Stoughton, MA 02072, FMI, 603-453-1013, P.O. Box 441, Northwood, NH 03268.

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

MAINE YOUTH PROTECTION COUNCIL: Works to create safer communities and schools for minority youth. If racism or homophobia affect you, help be part of the solution. Call 207-773-5100 or join the council on the sub-committees. There is a place for people of all ages and backgrounds.

LGBT Related Support Meetings Portland
MONADNOCK Pride: Monthly meetings with LGBT and all friends, families, partners & caregivers, 6:30-8:00 PM. Email mosaic@monadnockpride.org. People Living with HIV disease and all friends, families, lovers, and caregivers, 10:30 am -noon.

2nd & 4th Tuesdays: Living Well focusing on access to services & support. FMI: 207-777-3052.

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

2nd Wednesdays: Fridays, Referrals, Concerns and Social group meets at the AIDS Project, 142 High St., floor except the Tuesday group, Living Well.

3rd Wednesdays: So you call that Sandy Beach AIDS Support, MetroHealth Care. Call Jane O'Rourke at 775-6477 or 1-800-851-2437 for more information.

Aroostook County: Family and Friends Accepting Change Together (FFACT), a support group sponsored by Northern Maine AIDS Network for friends, families & support groups. HIV/AIDS Hotline and workshops. FMI, call 207/774-4955.

BANGOR: Man 2 Man HIV prevention program for men who have sex with men. 2nd Thursday; 6:00-7:30 pm. AIDS Support Services offers support for HIV & those who care about them. FMI, 207-773-4345.

BANGOR: Meet 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 6:00-7:15 pm. Dayspring AIDS Support Services offers support for HIV & those who care about them. FMI, 207-773-4345.

BANGOR: Meet 2nd & 4th Tuesdays; 6:00-7:00 pm. The people's Building, 155 Brackett St., 2nd floor, Portland. Safe & supportive discussions and for gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning young people. FMI, 725-4955.

BANGOR: Meet 2nd & 4th Tuesdays; 6:00-7:00 pm. The people's Building, 155 Brackett St., 2nd floor, Portland. Safe & supportive discussions and for gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning young people. FMI, 725-4955.

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