

Community Pride Reporter

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Carolyn A. Jalbert (far left) and Sylvie G. Audet (far right) stand with their children following their Holy Union Service. All five children participated in the service celebrating the creation of a new family.

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 "gay baiting, pure and simple ... a classic use of wedge politics designed to provoke anxieties and fears."

Rep. Tom DeLay, R-Texas, another supporter, said that polls in Hawaii and across the country "show that a majority of people don't support legalizing same-sex marriage."

But opponents accused Republicans of engaging in presidential politicking. "This is nothing more than election year pandering," said Rep. Martin Meehan, D-Mass. "This will prevent or 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 principal 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 colleagues are 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 injunction 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 threaten the 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 they will one day succeed. "This is the last unfinished chapter of civil rights in this country," Studds said. "This country is going to rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed. ... There is no power on earth that can stop it."

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

Senate In No Hurry To Take Up Bill on Same Sex Marriage

by Carolyn Skorneck

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

Barr, 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, the presumptive GOP presidential nominee, cosponsored a similar measure in the Senate.

But Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., Dole's successor as Senate majority leader, said it wouldn't come up before September. Mandatory spending bills and Democratic attempts "to try to gridlock everything 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 prohibiting job discrimination against homosexuals. If that rider passed the Senate, the two chambers would have to negotiate a final version, and Barr said he expected the House to oppose that change.

Conservatives pressed the bill to deal in advance with a Hawaii court case that could make that state the first

to recognize gay marriage. If that happened, they fear the Constitution would require all other states to accept those marriages as legal. They also want to derail the possibility that gay spouses could become eligible for federal benefits now available to married couples.

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., who led the floor 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 denigrate marriage are 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," Frank said. "Scapegoating 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-Ill., argued: "Two men loving each other doesn't hurt anybody else's marriage. But it demeans, it lowers the concept of marriage by making it something that it shouldn't be and isn't a celebrating conduct that is not approved by the majority of the people. $\Delta\Delta$

RANT :

"I now pronounce you man and wife"

by David Cook



By promising to sign the Defense of Marriage Act, Bill Clinton's support for gay rights has reached

a new low; as if "Don't ask, don't tell" wasn't bad enough, now we have "Don't marry if you're a fairy." Congressional pandering to the right wing is nothing new, but I'm sorry to see Clinton's desperation for re-election drive him to support a piece of legislation that is nothing more than gay-baiting.

"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 nixed 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 is 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," the Act essentially bans 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, arrangements that have come about as a result of social evolution and economic necessity. (My partner Joe asserts that special economic privileges for marriage date from the time when a woman was part of her husband's property along with the house and the horse and that sweeping changes in the social and economic relationships of men and women render all of those old arrangements obsolete.) "Leave It to Beaver" no longer represents the way American families live (if, in fact, it ever did) and pretending it does is as 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 cer-

tain classes of adults. No public good can be identified to derive from this limitation; to the contrary, the only product of such a restriction is institutionalized discrimination, which interferes with the "pursuit of happiness" and thus contradicts one of the philosophical underpinnings of our democracy. And if you view marriage as a sacred estate, then government has no business regulating it at all, since our Constitution very wisely forbids any law "respecting an establishment of religion."

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 one white man and one white woman and allowing states not to honor interracial (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. $\Delta\Delta$

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1996 Marriage And Family Protection Bill

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

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

Title 19 MRSA

sec (2) FINDINGS AND PURPOSES (a) Findings — The People of the State of Maine find that -

(1) the union of one man and one woman joined in traditional monogamous marriage is of inestimable value to society; the state has a compelling interest to nurture and promote the unique institution of traditional monogamous marriage in the support of harmonious families and the physical and mental health of children; and that the state has the compelling interest in promoting the moral values inherent in traditional monogamous marriage.

(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. 33 Polygamy and other relationships prohibited

(1) Marriages contracted while either of the parties has a former wife of husband not divorced, living, are void.

(2) Persons of the same sex shall not be permitted to contract marriage.

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

Any marriage performed in another state that would violate sec. 31, 32 or 33 of this Act if performed in this state will not be recognized in this state and will be considered void if the parties take up residence 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 interjecting and educating at the point of signing.

DECLINE TO SIGN has two main focuses:

- 1) to station as many polling places as possible on election day.
- 2) to carry out a "search and send" strategy plan on all other days.

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

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

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

DECLINE TO SIGN has a toll free Hotline number.....

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

(DON'T FORGET IT!!) ΔΔ

Sanders, Sweetser Both Oppose Anti-Gay Marriage Bill

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

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

Sanders' wife and chief of staff, Jane, said the congressman opposed the proposal because he believed it improperly interfered with states' authority by violating the full faith and credit clause of the Constitution. "We're not legislating values. We have to follow the

Constitution," Jane Sanders said. "And anything that weakens the Constitution should be (addressed) by a constitutional amendment, not by a law passed by Congress."

"You're opening up a Pandora's box here," she added. "You're saying that any state can refuse to ... recognize the laws of another state if they don't like them."

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

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.

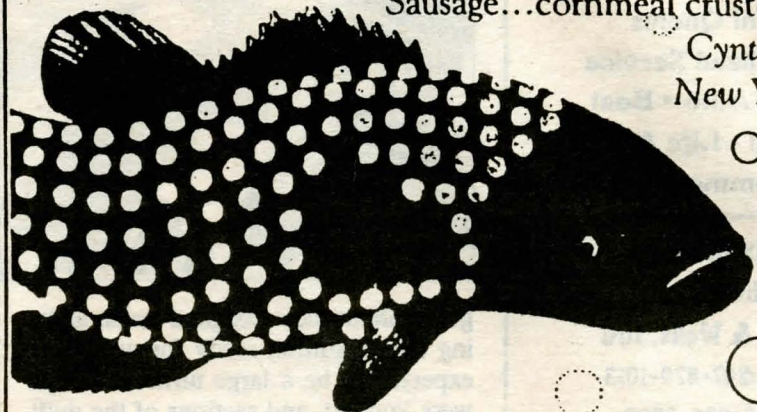
It said 66 of the 100 senators and 238 of the House's 435 members have similar staff-hiring policies. ΔΔ

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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 to reporters 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 wasn't completely over, however, minutes after the protest ended, David Maleh added a condition saying he would put the shirts back up for sale if other stores in Hampton Beach continued to sell them.

Since that night, Bletzer and his troops have circulated a "commercial

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

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



Standoff at The Shirt Factory continues in Hampton

HAMPTON, N.H. (AP) : The anti-gay T-shirts that touched off a demonstration at a Hampton Beach shop two weeks ago are back on the market, and the store manager says he will keep selling them despite threats of further protests.

After a July 9 protest by gay activists, owners of The Shirt Factory agreed to stop selling two styles of T-shirts that denigrate homosexuals if, they said, other stores on the beach did likewise.

Monday afternoon, however, one of the styles was being sold. Manager Danny Maleh said The Shirt Factory had complied with the agreement it made with the protesters, and blamed them for not following through with the other beach businesses. He is selling the T-shirts, he said, because other Hampton Beach shops are selling them. "They can protest as much as they want. They're just helping to boost my business," said Maleh, son of the shop's owners, David and Shirley Maleh.

The Maleh's and their relatives own nine of Hampton Beach's T-shirt shops. The leader of the July 9 protest, Carl Bletzer of Portsmouth, said Monday the continued sale was "very deceitful". I think it just depicts the type of fight we are going to have on the beach," said Bletzer, a member of Concerned Citizens of the Seacoast, a grassroots anti-defamatory group.

Bletzer said he has visited 41 businesses that sell T-shirts on Ocean Boulevard and asked them to sign a "Commercial Pledge of Decency." Thirty-one of the shops have signed the pledge, which reads: "We, the undersigned businesses, hereby pledge in good faith to the community of Hampton Beach and the town of Hampton, to immediately cease and desist sales, display or any form of distribution of the T-shirts that depict the (derogatory statements towards homosexuals) or any variation of those themes."

Bletzer also said he has kept David and Shirley Maleh up to date on his progress with other stores. The Malehs would not comment.

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.

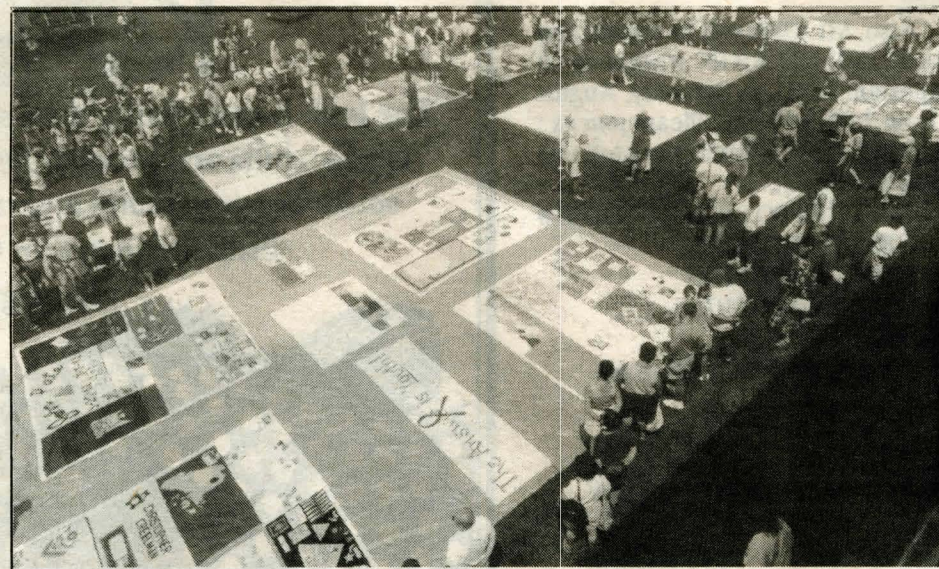
The day was July 14, a brilliant Sunday. The place was Portsmouth's Prescott Park, where the AIDS Quilt was making a much-anticipated appearance. For me, it was one more of many events

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

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



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

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

See QUILT, page 5

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Gay Pride March prompts question: "Why do we need to parade . . .?"

by Jasper M. F. Salach

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

June is Gay Pride Month around the nation, and within recent years our community has named it National Gay History Month. Many people ask me why do we need to parade in the streets and flaunt our sexuality?

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 churches spreading 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 of our inherent worth and dignity. We march as a community of men and women to say enough is enough!

Enough with the persecution 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 thrown into mental institutions and then given electric shock treatments to cure them of their homosexual tendencies. We march against these atrocities and we march to say no more!

There was a Concord gay pride march 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 free until all are protected under the law equally.

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

Coalition to End Discrimination Report

by Brendan Denehy

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. HB1294 would add 'sexual orientation' to New Hampshire's existing civil rights legislation.

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 legislation (HB1432) failed in the NH Senate by one vote in 1994.

"We are very excited by the Committee's vote", said CED spokesperson Brendan Denehy. "The committee noted in their discussion before the vote that several people spoke from the heart when they talked about the discrimination they faced living in New Hampshire. New Hampshire has a reputation of being a very conservative state, but discrimination is always wrong, and the Judiciary Committee saw this."

HB1294 will go before the full New Hampshire legislature when it meets in January 1997.

For more information please contact Brendan Denehy, Coalition to End Discrimination spokesperson (h) 603/358-6160, (w) 603/358-2167, bdenehy@newpishgah.keene.edu ΔΔ

State Sen. Roberge remarks erode citizenship and school safety GLSTN/NH Objects to Anti-Gay, Anti-Government Statement

Northwood, NH — In the Manchester Union Leader, on May 21, 1996, State Senator Sheila Roberge made the following remarks concerning the Supreme Court decision in *Evans vs. Romer*. "Asserting that the landmark decision on gay rights would have no impact in New Hampshire, she said, 'I don't view homosexuality as an acceptable life-style. That legislation has come to New Hampshire and been defeated.'"

The Gay Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network of New Hampshire (GLSTN/NH) regards this statement as offensive to the basic values of American citizenship, and to Senator Roberge's lesbian and gay constituents — along with their friends and families. The US Supreme Court clearly affirmed the Fourteenth Amendment rights of all citizens to equal protection of the laws, and the right to participate in the political process. Senator Roberge plainly

stated that, because she disapproves of lesbians and gays, they should have no rights. She implies that she is pleased that the NH Senate has not passed equal protection legislation, thus defying the basic intent of the Supreme Court decision. For an elected official to scoff at the validity of a US Supreme Court decision is unseemly 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 school boards, administrators, faculty, students, and parents. If a member of the Education Committee denounces homosexuality per se, calling it an unacceptable life-style, 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 schools, 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 destructive 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

QUILT, from page 4

myself well for it. Being here to participate was one thing, becoming involved was quite another. Greeting visitors and answering questions was possible. Actually viewing the panels spread before me and contemplating the lives they represented was not.

After the opening ceremony, I was assigned a panel to watch over and was able to settle myself a bit. Occasional attempts at sharing a message sent by a family who had lost a three-year-old child, a lover who had lost a soul mate, or a young child who had lost a parent, would only send me back to my watch with more tears welling.

"That's your Uncle Mike, Andy!" I looked across the quilt at what was obviously a grandmother, talking to her young grandson about a person represented by one of my panels. The boy was at that age where you really didn't know if he could comprehend what he'd

been told. I wasn't sure if the statement was meant for him, or if the woman was settling things in her own mind.

"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 had passed. Now she could talk of Mike with a warmth and affection that made me ashamed of my own unfocused grief.

Later, I looked across the quilt and

See QUILT, page 17



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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 townspeople 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. Policy 6540 provoked a lawsuit filed in US District Court by parents and teachers claiming violations of First and Fourteenth Amendment rights under the US Constitution. The far-reaching implications of the Sheldon-Ager (Smith-Helms) policy brought worldwide media attention.

RETURNING TO TRADITION OF COOPERATION

"Now that the hostilities of the past

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

Board. The power of democracy has brought out the noblest qualities of the people of Merrimack."

REJECTING THE EXTREMIST AGENDA

The elections of Coleman and Brenda Grady in 1995, and Rosemarie Rung in 1996 proved beyond doubt that the people of Merrimack never supported the extremist agenda advocated by Ager's majority coalition. "Whenever the voters had an opportunity to make their wishes known, they rejected the policies of 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 direction of the School Board. I ran against the old majority coalition and won by 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 James O'Neil remarked that no other district in the state or nation had ever enacted such a policy and none had followed our example. 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

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

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

on our side — against bigotry, hatred and the politics of division.

Promoting acceptance & fighting discrimination

* President Clinton ordered all federal agencies to implement non-discrimination policies that include gays and lesbians and issued an executive order mandating that security clearances no longer be denied based on sexual ori-

entation;

* President Clinton endorsed the Employment Non-discrimination Act, a bill to outlaw discrimination in hiring, firing, and promotion based on sexual orientation, making him the first U.S. President ever to back civil rights legislation for gays and lesbians;

* President Clinton successfully fought for the repeal of the Dornan amendment, which would have required the expulsion of all HIV-positive military service members regardless of their ability to do their jobs;

* President Clinton signed the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act;

* President Clinton strongly opposed anti-gay ballot initiatives in several states;

* President Clinton directed the Justice Department and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to vigorously prosecute those who discriminate against PWAs, leading to actions against health care providers and facilities that violate the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Welcoming our contributions to public service

* President Clinton has appointed the most inclusive Administration in history — over 100 openly gay and lesbian

See CLINTON, page 19

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

We're looking for adult role models for G/L/B/T/Q youth.

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to apply or get more information
call Cathy at 828-6560 or Nancy at 786-4697

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

DOMA/ENDA Action Alert

Re: The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)

From: People For the American Way Action Fund

Background: The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), a key piece of religious right legislation which would allow states to deny the legitimacy of same-sex marriages and deny federal recognition of all same-sex marriages, is rapidly moving through Congress. This assault on gays and lesbians is just an election year ploy to divide Americans. Many members of Congress are likely to vote "yes" on DOMA because of their fear of being seen as "pro-gay" in an election year in which gays and lesbians are being demonized by the religious right. A major strategy promoted by People For the American Way Action Fund and other progressive organizations is to change the subject of the debate away from an anti-gay diatribe toward a discussion of discrimination against gays and lesbians in the workplace. When DOMA comes to the Senate floor, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which prohibits employment discrimination based on sexual orientation, will be offered as an amendment to DOMA. We believe many

senators would be willing to support this amendment since ENDA has 30 Senate co-sponsors and polls show that 84% of Americans support prohibiting job discrimination against gays and lesbians. Those supporting DOMA would then be forced either to vote against DOMA in order to prevent ENDA from becoming law or to vote to pass DOMA, and in so doing pass ENDA. Our goal is to get as many senators as possible to vote and speak for ENDA and against DOMA when the bill comes to the Senate floor. This legislation is moving quickly. DOMA already passed the House of Representatives, and the Senate decided to bypass the committee process and place this legislation directly on the calendar. DOMA can be brought to the Senate floor at any time. We need your help now!

ACTIONS: 1. Please write a Dear Senator letter urging senators to vote YES for ENDA and NO on DOMA. If your organization does not have a position against DOMA, at least write a letter in support of ENDA. Please send the original to Nancy Buermeier at Human Rights Campaign early this week (1101 14th St., NW, Ste. 200, Washington, DC 20005; phone: 202-628-4160;

See DOMA, page 16

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House roll call results on gay marriage ban

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 1 Republican, 65 Democrats and 1 independent. Voting "present," denoted by the letter P, were 2 Democrats. An X denotes members who did not

vote.

How did Maine vote? Republican Longley didn't vote, and Democrat Baldacci voted yes..

The legislation passed by the House and sent to the Senate would:

Create a federal definition of marriage specifying it is between one man

and one woman and defining spouse as a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or a wife.

Give states the right to recognize or not recognize same-sex marriages or those performed in other states. It would not prohibit any state from allowing such marriages. $\Delta\Delta$

Anti-gay marriage bill unconstitutional Federal intrusion says HRC

Largest national gay political group dubs Congressional hearing, "A Bob Dole for President publicity stunt"

WASHINGTON — Legislation to give the federal government power over marriage for the first time in U.S. History is an unconstitutional 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 intervened in the state regulation of marriage. Never," Birch told the House Judiciary subcommittee on the Constitution. "So what is really going on here? I am afraid this legislation will be viewed as a mean-spirited, cynical election-year ploy Surely the Congress has much better things to do — like attend to the business of the nation."

Birch, former chief litigator for Apple Computer, explained how the bill — H.R. 3396 — unconstitutionally infringes on states' rights.

"The definition and administration of marriage has in all previous times in our history 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 its whim, what is 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 procreate 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 people of the same sex can be legally married.

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

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

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

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

Surviving HIV: Being Gay and Negative

by Victor R. Rash, LMSW
Community Educator
at The AIDS Project

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

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

Since that time, I had become a social worker, and Ken had become a nurse. He was finally working in a profession he had always dreamed of. Ken had continued to work in restaurants for a number of years after we had worked together, when he decided rather routinely to be tested for HIV. Ken tested positive; however, his CD4 count was still within normal range. Surprised by the results, Ken decided that, if he were ever to become a nurse, this was the time to stop putting off going to school especially since he was still healthy. So, he spent the next two years getting his nursing degree and occasionally seeing his doctor for routine tests.

After three years or so, just before Christmas, Ken told me that his CD4 count was still within normal range, and that his doctor wanted him to get re-tested. I saw Ken again in February, and he still had not been re-tested. He said

See SURVIVING, page 17

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 from the Maine Community AIDS Partnership (MCAP) announced Connie Sandstrom, ACAP Executive Director. The funding will allow continuation of a program designed to build awareness of HIV/AIDS and to increase the amount and types of service available to persons with HIV, their families, friends and careproviders. Ten HIV/AIDS projects, including ACAP's from around the state, will share \$150,000 in grants from MCAP. Bettsanne Holmes, MCAP Chair said, "Last year, MCAP projects helped over 4,700 people of every age, from every background, in every corner of the state... We can take great satisfaction in what we accomplished, but we cannot be satisfied until NOT one more person in Maine dies from this dreadful and preventable disease."

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

Current services and service providers, for people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, have been identified and

will be included in a Service Providers Directory for People with HIV in Aroostook. Madore added that "Continued funding will allow us to further identify service providers and increase services available in the county. It will also provide the opportunity to present more educational programs that offer vital, timely information necessary for individuals responding to the AIDS crisis"

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

A speaker's bureau has been developed with assistance from the American Red Cross. Individuals have been trained to speak to their communities, sharing acts about HIV and providing opportunities for people to ask questions about AIDS. "What we are trying to do is create an opportunity for dialogue. We present the facts as we know them and participants have the opportunity to ask the questions that are important to them. In this way we have the opportunity to dispel the myths and misconceptions that prevent us from responding cre-

atively, courageously and effectively to HIV Disease. Next funding cycle we will work at expanding the number of speakers as well as speaking opportunities," said Madore.

Collaborative efforts with Artists For AIDS Awareness (AFAA), an organization of concerned Aroostook County citizens dedicated to HIV/AIDS education and prevention, 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" commemorat-

See HIV/AIDS, page 17

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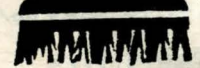


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Defending Clinton

Gays Debate Response to President's Stance on Marriage

by Jamie Wolters

Can same-gender marriage become for Democrats the albatross that abortion has been to the Republican Party?

That's certainly the hope of GOP leaders who are pushing through Congress the misnamed "Defense of Marriage Act," or DOMA, an attempt to preempt the future possibility of legal same-gender marriages.

On May 22, President Clinton took the bait by announcing that he would sign the bill if it is passed by Congress in its present form, touching off a series of mixed reactions in the gay and lesbian community.

A lesbian campaign co-chair in Washington state abruptly quit following the announcement, while in San Francisco, Mayor Willie Brown told the president to cancel a scheduled June 9 visit. Clinton ignored the advice and the massive protests Brown warned of did not materialize.

While Stonewall Democratic Club President Eric Bauman said that muted response is a sign that gay men and lesbians won't abandon Clinton over the issue, others are saying the president shouldn't start feeling too certain that the community will quietly accept his decision.

Republicans claim the bill is necessary because of a pending Hawaii court case, scheduled to go to trial in

September, that could end by legalizing same-gender marriages in that state. Because the U.S. Constitution's Full Faith and Credit Clause generally obligates states to honor contracts performed in other states, many believe the ruling essentially opens the door to legal gay marriages across the country. A final decision in the Hawaii case is years off, however.

The issue was a hot topic at a June 10 West Hollywood forum, sponsored by Out There, an entertainment-industry advocacy group.

"Everyone of us must act out of our own individual consciousness," said David Mixner, a former Clinton advisor. "I'm going to work like hell to kick Newt Gingrich out as Speaker of the House and defeat Jesse Helms."

Mixner said he will vote for Clinton, but he will contribute no more money to his campaign. Mixner described an incident of a few years ago when he was in the hospital room with a sick friend and the man's lover of 10 years.

"The family came in with a court order and an armed guard escorted the lover out of the room and didn't permit the lover to re-enter the [couple's] house," Mixner said. "By signing that bill, Clinton is prolonging that pain."

Attorney John Duran, who also attended the forum, said the president

See DEFEND, page 18

Maine Equity Fund

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

With the help of a challenge grant from The National Lesbian and Gay Community Funding Partnership, one of sixteen made to date nationally, the Maine Community Fund has created the Maine Equity Fund. MCF will receive up to \$30,000 per year for two years, to be matched by an equal amount of money raised locally to provide a \$120,000 funding pool.

The Maine Equity fund is about to conduct a needs assessment that will inform our ultimate grantmaking strategy and priorities. Our needs assessment process will involve surveying as broad as possible a sample of G/L/B/T individuals, as well as a wide variety of service providers and community organizations currently serving these communities. This survey data, followed by some targeted focus groups, will estab-

lish what needs and issues community members perceive to be most significant, what resources currently exist to meet those needs, what approaches are currently working, and what programs most need our support.

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

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

Watch your mailbox for the survey, which will be out in mid to late August. If there is any chance that we'll overlook you, or your more hard-to-find friends and colleagues, or if you have suggestions or energy to offer, please call Majorie Love, the consultant coordinating the needs assessment, at (207) 773-6164, or write to us c/o the Maine Community Foundation/Maine Equity Fund, P.O. Box 148, Ellsworth, Maine 04605. **ΔΔ**

Gay/Lesbian Business Directory published by RBPA

The Rainbow Business & Professional Association has published Maine's first gay/lesbian business & professional directory. RBPA was formed a little over a year ago to promote gay/lesbian owned, operated, and gay-friendly businesses and professionals. In their first year, over 100 people have joined the organization.

The group sponsors monthly meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month.

Dinner meetings are alternated with Networking Sessions. At the dinner meetings, some of the speakers have included Ann Houser, Vice President of Human Resources at UNUM and local doctor Robert McArdle.

The membership directory lists everything from Accountants to Bed & Breakfasts to Electricians to Landscaping to Restaurants to Travel Agencies to Water Bottlers. Directories are available for \$2 each and can be ordered by sending a check, made payable to Rainbow Business & Professional Association, PO Box 6627, Scarborough, ME 04070-6627 or by calling 775-0077. Membership information can also be obtained from either location. **ΔΔ**

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Mother who was denied custody, wins new hearing.

by Bill Bergstrom

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — A Panhandle mother, ecstatic about a ruling that her lesbian lifestyle didn't justify taking away her child, wished another northern Florida woman luck in a similar custody case next week.

Valerie Maradie was denied custody of her 4-year-old daughter last September. But the 1st District Court of Appeal granted her a new hearing Tuesday, ruling that Okaloosa County Circuit Judge Jere Tolton wasn't entitled to assume without evidence that "a homosexual environment . . . can adversely affect a child."

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

Even so, Tolton had concluded that "the possibility of negative impact

on the child . . . is considerable."

"The court does not have to have expert evidence to reach this conclusion but can take judicial notice that a homosexual home environment is not a traditional home environment and can adversely affect a child," Tolton ruled. In sending the case back to Tolton, the appellate panel disagreed. "We do not mean to suggest that trial courts may not consider the parent's sexual conduct," the ruling said. "In considering the parent's moral fitness, however, the trial court should focus on whether the parent's behavior has a direct impact on the welfare of the child."

In the case of Valerie Maradie and her four-year-old, the mother said, the answer to that was "Absolutely not." "She's four and it's important to spend time with her mother. That shouldn't be allowed to interfere," Maradie said. "Children see, and are a lot more astute than people think they are," the Niceville nurse added. "Prejudice is just talk. They are a lot more accepting of differences. Just because something is different, it's not bad." **ΔΔ**

First national survey of violence against transpeople being distributed

by Jean Vermette

Whether you are a crossdresser, a drag king or queen, stone butch, a transgenderist, transsexual, or intersexed, and whether you are lesbian, gay, bi, or straight, this is a survey that you should be taking part in.

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

GenderPAC is hoping to remedy the situation by nationally distributing a

short, anonymous survey for all interested transcommunity members to fill out. All transgendered people are urged to participate, whether they have been the victim of a trans-bi based hate crime or not, so that as wide and accurate a representation of the transcommunity as possible can be gotten.

Transpeople interested in taking part in the survey can request their copy by contacting:

Jean Vermette Maine Gender Resource & Support Service PO Box 1894 Bangor, ME 04402-1894 ph: 207-945-3902. **ΔΔ**



INSURANCE TIPS:

Are my fine arts, antiques & collections covered under my homeowners policy?

by Carolyn A. Jalbert

Yes, and NO!
The standard homeowners, condo and tenant

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

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

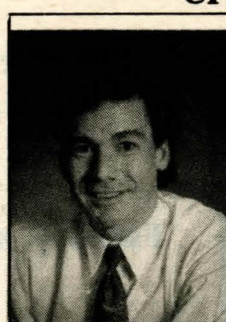
3. The amount for which the insured could reasonably be expected to replace the property with property substantially identical to the article lost or damaged.

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. This amount is the insurer's discounted price since the insured can 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 out you really need it and don't have it!



MONEY MATTERS:

INSURANCE: What is it and What is it for

by Peter J. Callnan, CPA

My dictionary defines insurance as "a contract

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

There are many different types of insurance such as, life, disability, liability, health, property, etc., etc., 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 a person is 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



by Martin Swinger

I realized the other night that though I've received 6 or 7 responses to my request for a network I've not really figured

out how to make you artists accessible resources for each other and interested readers. What comes to mind is the idea of introducing the varied artists through this column. Not a 'review' or one to ten scale opinion of your work, but a paragraph or so about your work as artists, what effect sexual identity has

Singin' OUT!

on your art, maybe what you feel you have to contribute to the community. I've done this somewhat with the artists I am meeting in NY and Boston and Philadelphia.

All of you, that I have talked to, do what you do because you love it and would love to do more. By sharing your profiles with our community you may make connections you wouldn't expect. Is this worth a shot? You who have written let me know if you're interested and I'll start writing profiles. Even if you don't want your name in print — musicians, supporters, writers and composers — please drop me a line and give me an address I could send gathering/jam session/workshop/songswap information to. If we support each other the rest will follow.

With Caroline Cosby gearing up for another campaign of ignorance (The MARRIED FAGGOTS are coming! The MARRIED FAGGOTS are coming!) Our community will need all the resources we can muster to educate those narrow minded souls who think being gay means rejecting God. Music can re-

ally unify a group of people in a way little else can— just ask any member of the Gay Men's Chorus or Women in Harmony. One thing our community needs more of is anthems. "We Shall Over Come" and "Blowin' in the Wind" are still as powerful and full of meaning as ever, but in the '90's maybe we need to be a little more specific with our 'agenda'.

Martin Swinger is an award-winning singer/songwriter living in Gardiner, Maine. He has performed in gay and non-gay venues throughout the east coast, and his music has been heard on the internationally syndicated radio show, *This way OUT!*. ΔΔ

Medical attention available at Portland Street Clinic

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

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

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

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, please 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 Thursday 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 879-3030. ΔΔ



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EDITORIAL- ME



Fam-i-ly: n, a group of people united by certain convictions or affiliation.
Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary

It seems our court system may be beginning to recognize that we still have rights regardless of our orientation. A

Florida judge found this to be true when his decision to deny a mother custody of her child because of her lesbian life-style 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 legal to discriminate against one sector of society.

The Anti Gay Marriage Bill that has just passed the House and is on it's way to the Senate was passed with no compelling reason to do so, except per-

haps, fear and prejudice. No evidence has been offered to show that our family life has an adverse effect on society or our children.

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

With the divorce rate for heterosexuals fast approaching fifty percent, few children are raised in "traditional" homes in our society. There are many "families" consisting of step-parents and step-children, and yet there isn't anyone rushing to congress to pass bills to invalidate these families. It seems that it is all right to break with tradition if you are heterosexual, yet

it is not if you are not. At the same time, we are supposed to believe that the Anti Gay Marriage bill is not an issue of bigotry or discrimination.

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

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

Cathy

EDITORIAL- 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 "flamer."

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 con-

vinced the manager to remove gay-bashing T-shirts. (See story on pages 1 & 4)

On the other hand, that such shirts are made and sold, that the one reading "Silly Faggot, Dix are for Chicks" is a hot seller, shows how acceptable it remains to use us as a 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 about the T-shirt issue. The first Amendment is a friend of mine; I'm not a big fan of censorship. But I agree with the protest's organizers that the shirts promote hate, and I'm certainly not a fan of that, either.

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

Other sign of the ebb and flow we're experiencing occurred on the same weekend in the same town.. On June 29 in Portsmouth, a man was beaten to death on Pierce Island, a

cruising locale. Two suspects were later arrested. So far it's unknown if this was a robbery or a hate crime - but such an incident always raises the specter of the latter.

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

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

This retiring, inoffensive man said, "I'm standing up for myself. Will you stand up with me?" A moment passed. Then everyone, straight and gay shot to their feet. All applauded. Fredette was ecstatic, the beam on his face lighting up the church. ΔΔ

Leslie Robinson

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

Guest Editorial: Poll Watchers Hurting Movement



by Wayne R.
Besen

It was a scorching June afternoon in 1969 when the pulsating music at the Stonewall Bar, in New York's Village, abruptly stopped. A large, hairy man wearing leather chaps exposing his furry buttocks let out a terrible shriek and bellowed, "Everybody run, the cops are coming."

Before the terrified patrons could escape, New York's finest came through the door wielding fearsome billyclubs and screaming homophobic epithets. Perhaps it was the stifling hot weather or one too many queens had a bad hair day, but something was different this time. Instead of shrinking from the challenge, the oppressed minority rebelled. Drag queens grabbed beer bottles and scraggly leathermen picked up chairs and prepared for battle. But as all hell was about to break loose one of the rioters screamed, "Hold up, we can't riot!! The latest polls show that 95 percent of New Yorkers are opposed to drag queens, transvestites, and leathermen throwing rocks and bottles at police." Upon hearing this devastating information, the radical bunch of instigators put down their rudimentary weapons and dutifully marched off to the pokey. This was the end of the gay rights movement.

Of course this didn't happen, but one gets the distinct impression after watching today's gay leaders fumbling

of the gay marriage issue, that this is how they would have behaved if they were at Stonewall. The reticence of our organizations to tackle the marriage issue, based exclusively on polls showing most Americans 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.

The right wing sponsored Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), absolving 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 "runaway 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 grass roots educational effort in every region of the country. To the point, we could have made a strong case for the American public to support gay and lesbian marriage.

Instead, because of squeamishness 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*, *TWN*, *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

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Our Mission

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

Our Editorial Policy

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

Submissions Welcome

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

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PAWS Appeal

PAWS / Maine (Pets Are Wonderful Support) was founded four years ago by Charlie Wynott and

the late Jon Pifer to provide caring, compassionate help to pet owners living with AIDS.

Pets have been shown to have positive effects on the health of their owners, and PAWS' mission is to help make it possible for people living with AIDS to keep their pets—providing food, veterinary care, cat litter, dog walkers, etc.

In the past, PAWS/Maine has been maintained by a small core of dedicated volunteers. The organization is now desperately in need of additional help. According to Wynott, there is a very real danger that PAWS/Maine will have to be put on inactive status if more volunteers don't come forward soon.

Wynott has recently sent out a first annual appeal letter and has issued an appeal in the latest PAWS/Maine newsletter for additional help. He is restructuring the organization and is asking for volunteers at all levels, including those who would be willing to serve on the Advisory Board.

If you love animals, if you understand the crucial role they play in the lives of many of us, if you can help, or if you would like more information about volunteering or donating (time, money, pet food, litter), call 775-PAWS (7297). ΔΔ

Just Married

Carolyn A. Jalbert & Sylvie G. Audet

Carolyn A. Jalbert of Portland and Sylvie G. Audet of Waterville were pronounced life partners after exchanging vows on June 21st at their Holy Union Ceremony. Reverend Kathleen Allen of the Westbrook Unitarian Universalist Church presided over the ceremony. There were 87 guests in attendance. Carolyn's and Sylvie's five children were attendants for their mothers. A reception at the Westbrook American Legion Hall followed the ceremony.

Carolyn is President of Jalbert Insurance Services in Portland, and Sylvie is employed by Kimberly Clark. They reside in Portland with their five children. ΔΔ



Julianne Gavin

CPR MAIL BAG:

Dear Editor,

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

with her material.. He not only insulted her, but only partially paid her.

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

Kat (Kat's Musical Enterprises)

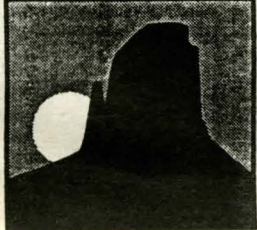
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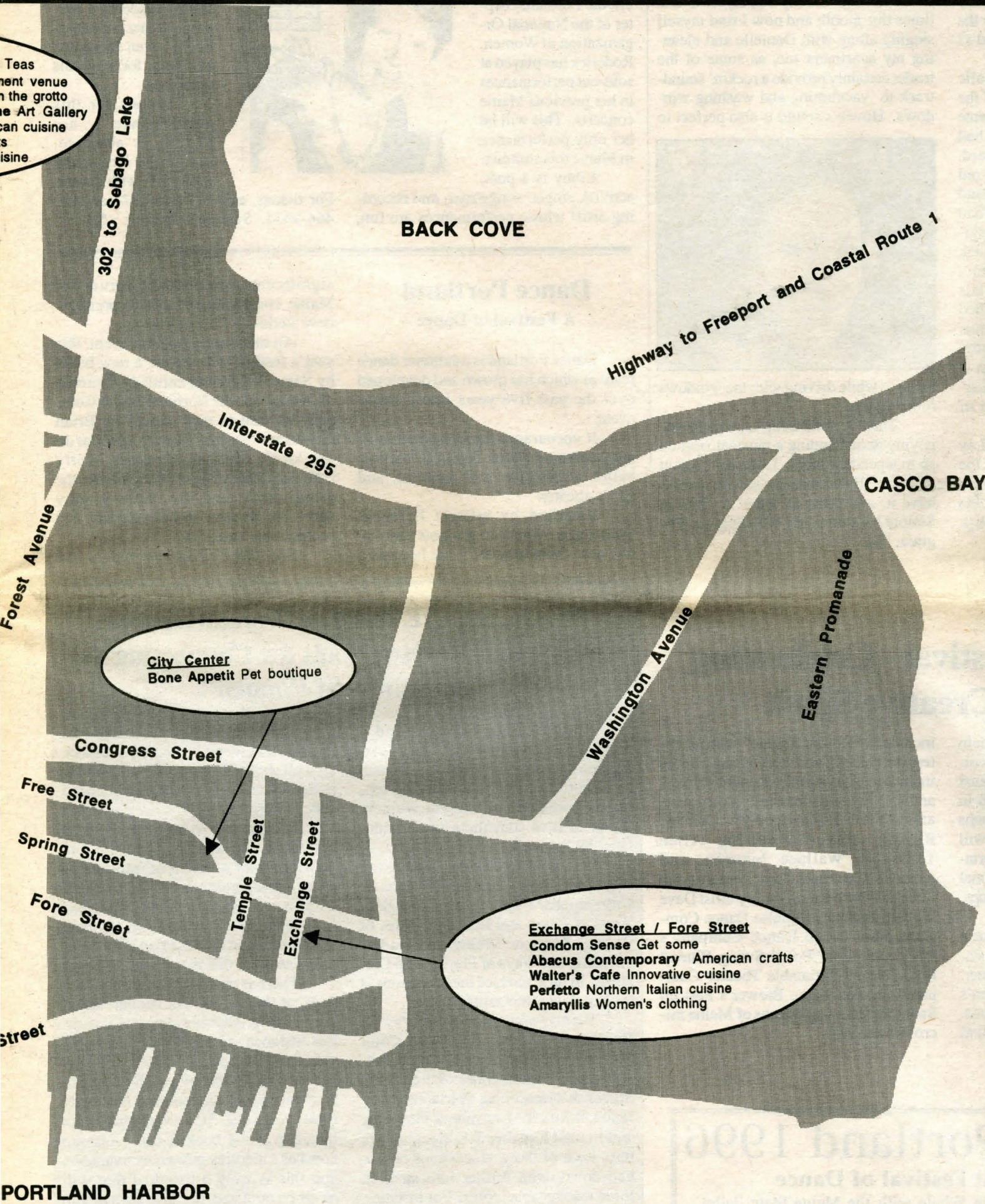
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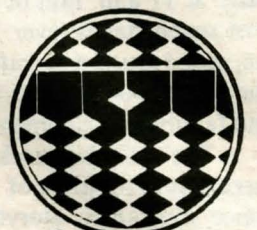
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Arts & Entertainment



by Aimsel L. Ponti

Sometimes music chooses to enter my life in the strangest ways. I remember buying the Toni Child's album "Union" 'cause the cover looked neat. Luck-

ily the music turned out to be equally amazing. Books you can't judge by the cover, but does the same apply to cd's? Who knows.

Anyways, the case of Danielle Howle is a quirky one too. One of the music buyers at the store I work at came up to me clutching Howle's cd that had been ordered for the store and said, "Aimsel, check this out." With an old baby photo of Danielle on the cover and a very cool title, "About to Burst," I had to hear it. So, we proceeded to surgically remove the shrink wrap and snuck the disc into the store's stereo system.

Good move on our part. I love this album. Danielle rules. I promptly called her label, Simple Machines, in Virginia. About three days after leaving a lengthy message about how great the album is and how I'd love to review it, a cd arrived along with a complete bio of Howle. Then it all made sense.

She used to be in the band "Lay Quite Awhile." They were part of the South Carolina music scene for five years and were asked to tour with the Indigo Girls twice. Now a solo artist,

Howle is making a name for herself with the release of "About to Burst." Her voice is quite catchy, with a slight southern-punk-country-folky thing happening. And she writes equally catchy songs. I have taken quite a liking to "Red Candles." "There are some red candles from the closet, I'm going to light them up and let it be Christmas."

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



listen to while driving with the windows rolled down.

There's something especially satisfying about finding a musical gem on an independent label. Look for "About to Burst." If the store you shop at doesn't have it, ask them to order it. It's on Simple Machines out of Arlington, Virginia. 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 at sold-out performances in her previous Maine concerts. This will be her only performance in Maine this summer.

Libby is a poet, activist, singer, songwriter, and recording artist whose performances are fun,

thought-provoking, and inspiring. Her concerts are filled with her beautiful, lyrical voice, her wise, warm lyrics, and her engaging humor. As a veteran of several Libby concerts, I recommend her enthusiastically, even fervently, as a balm for what ails your soul.

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

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



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, streetfunk, 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 immensely 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, Debie Irons, Esduardo 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

The Maine Festival - Celebrating Maine's Creative Spirit

Maine Arts presents the twentieth Maine Festival, a four day event celebrating Maine's creative spirit August 1 through 4 at Thomas Point Beach in Brunswick, Maine. The festival opens daily at 11 a.m. rain or shine and will host seven stages, over 1,000 performers, juried artists and 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, Kendall Morse, and Joe Perham; featured guest artists and NYNO Records' New Orleans Rhythm Revue featuring Allen Toussaint, Wallace Johnson, and Amadee 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-breeds. ΔΔ

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

by Rose Mary Denman

Edited by Ilene 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: WomenSpirations & 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 & Hair; Feeling Good; Nutrition/Diet; Health Drains & Boosters; Meditation & Yoga; Massage/Backcare; Eye, Teeth & Touch; Environmental Wellness/Immunity.

Each of these topics covered gives listings of the latest books on the issue, including either an excerpt or short syn-

opsis, 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 called "Parlor Talk."

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.

Keeping this limitation in mind, if you have the extra \$19.95 and want to have a fun year or two of spending an occasional hour or evening browsing and getting ideas, then by all means, buy this book! My own experience is that once I've been exposed to a few resources on any given topic, they automatically lead me to others... so enjoy! ΔΔ

Aug 23 & 24

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

by Aimsel Ponti

Hey there. As usual I have much to tell of shows gone by and shows that are coming through Maine. **disappear fear** were at Raoul's on Saturday night, July 20th. This show and the one at Mama Kin in Boston a few nights earlier were two of the best performances I've seen them put on. First of all, Rick, their new guitarist, was amazing, adding his finesse to an already tight sound that lasted almost two hours. The band played many songs from their new album "Seed in the Sahara" as well as several from their '94 self-titled album. A few times they delved back a few years and played the "classic among df fans"; songs "Sexual Telepathy" and "Sink the Censorship." At the end of the Portland show, Sonia and the band made yours truly very happy by playing "Deep Soul Diver" not to mention their opening act; Kris McKay. Besides being terribly adorable, she has a really great voice. She's got a new album out too. I love it when the opening acts are really good. **disappear fear** will no doubt make it back this way. I'll let you know, don't worry.

Also gracing the Raoul's stage on the 25th, **Jonathan Brooke of the Story**. It was quite refreshing to walk into Raoul's and see the place packed. A few minutes after grabbing a table, Jonatha walked by so I said hello. Her first words to me were "Oh yeah, I remember you Aimsel, you gave me your cold last

year!" She was referring to the Story's visit to Portland last December. Chances are I did have a cold, but what can you do? Anyway, this time around the band stayed home and Brooke performed solo with an acoustic guitar and a local guy named John who played the bongo drums on three songs. Jonatha sat down with me and we chatted for a while about what's happened over the last few months. She then told me she had to write a set list so I simply said "Just give me a pen!" So yes, I actually wrote out a set list for her, and she performed just about every song I had written down, plus a few more from her most recent release "Plumb." This performance was particularly excellent as Brooke's sense of humor and knack for telling anecdotes were in perfect form. She has the unique ability to make an audience crack up one minute and then choke up the next while she sings one of the many beautifully written songs she continue to pen. Add to this an absolutely exquisite voice. We love you, Jonatha...

Kate Schrock, 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 local 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 Deeves** and **Diana Daniel** will be playing live along with their special guest, **Erika Gilbert**.

Deeves 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 playing along with **Anni Clark**. And on the 9th you can see **Odetta** live.

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

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

And keep Passing the Open Windows. ALP. ΔΔ

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

by Rose Mary Denman



Wow! Two plays in one night at the Seacoast Repertory Theater! Gonna party!! First, dinner in town with a good friend, then

on to Bow Street for **GREASE**. Maybe it's my age, I didn't much care for the 50's when I was a young girl, so why would I think I would enjoy watching it relived on stage in the 90's? I mean, seeing a play about girls using all their time and energy trying to catch and please boys... yuk! And watching a sweet, thoughtful, young woman slowly being pulled into the lure of her less-than-thoughtful girlfriends... oh.. well... need I say more? What was scary was listening to comments from other patrons during the intermission. Those in their 40's and 50's were really into it, as if they were reliving the "good old days."

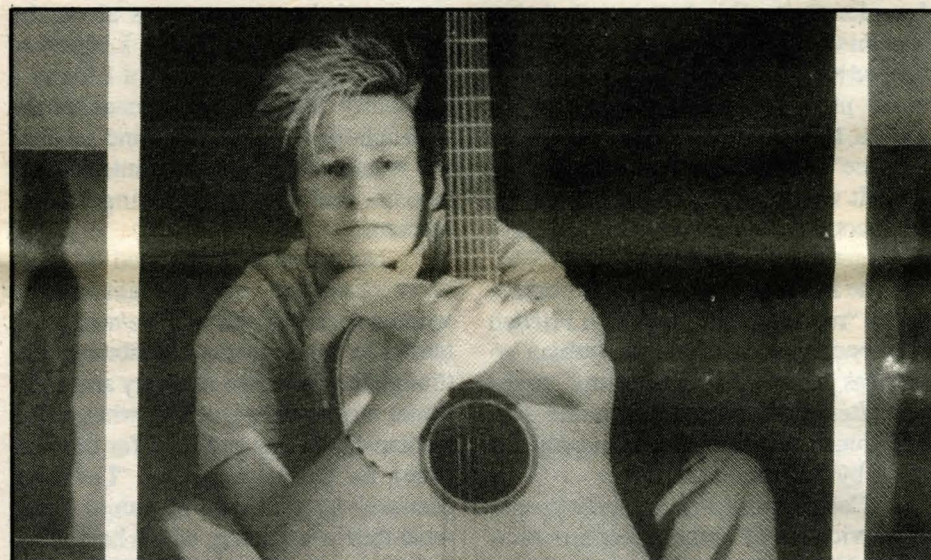
Enough about the lack of sexual political savvy... on to the performance. The acting was OK, but not up the caliber of the earlier performances in Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat. During the first half, the live music was so loud it overshadowed the singing to the point that, much of the time, I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

On to dessert and tea at Cafe Brioche! What a treat! now... back to Bow Street for what I found out is referred to as my "virgin" journey into the

land of **The Rocky Horror Picture Show**. Quite honestly, I wasn't really looking forward to this play. I knew nothing about the story line, except that it was audience interactive and has, for more than thirty years, gained quite the following of people who see it time after time. I had, however been updated regarding the props I needed to bring: a roll of toilet tissue, a squirt bottle filled with water, toast, newspaper and rice. The first thing I noticed was the costumes; not those of the actors, but the audience members! The second thing to come to my attention was the fact that out of the whole audience, there were only five of us anywhere near over thirty.

I'm pleased to say that **The Rocky Horror Picture Show** was a really wonderful surprise. It's zany, crazy, profane and just plain fun. The antics of the audience members who know the cadence of the anticipated reactions are what makes the play the cult phenomenon it has become. This play is not for the faint of heart. One must attend **The Rocky Horror Picture Show** with an open mind, an impish curiosity and willingness to be released from conventional behavior and swept away into a world of 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 circulation to your sense of humor, get a fix; see this play!



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by Daralyn S.
Maxwell

How sad that the title "As Worlds Collide" was frittered away on that non-epic 1950's sci-fi movie. It

should have been available for me, or one like me, so that I could better illustrate what happens when parts of your personal life smack into each other.

It is likely that most transsexuals heading toward transition, and their trial year, have at some point faced a person from "another area" of life who just kind

of pops up. On my planet, the cross connection is amplified by the fact 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 encounter.

At the same time, there are the more frequent situations whereby I run into a business associate 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 waning male existence seem to know (or 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.

One of my peers at work waited so long for me to come forward that he finally confronted me and expressed his feelings of betrayal that I had not trusted

him with my "personal growth project". It was more than a little obvious that something was going on and it seemed not to take a rocket scientist to get to the heart of it.

So, as my worlds do collide on occasion, and little psychic asteroids come in contact with otherwise unconnected bodies, I can only hope that the explosions remain small, the fallout 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 ΔΔ

My Transsexual Manifesto - Part V



PAST/OUT

BY DAVID BIANCO

What was the "Lavender Menace"?

By David Bianco

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

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

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

On Friday night, May 1, 1970, the

lights went out on the hundreds of women gathered for the second annual Congress to Unite Women. When they came back on, twenty women in purple T-shirts which proclaimed "Lavender Menace" stood in front of the auditorium, and there were signs along the walls which read, "Take a Lesbian to Lunch" and "Is the Statue of Liberty a Lesbian?" The "Menace" demanded the microphone from the stage and accused the women's movement of internalized sexism, and of discriminating against lesbians.

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

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

rod for debates over sexuality in the women's movement.

During the rest of the weekend, the Lavender Menace put together well-attended discussions and workshops on issues related to sexual orientation and feminism. On Sunday, the congress even passed a tongue-in-cheek Menace resolution declaring, "Be it resolved that Women's Liberation is a Lesbian plot."

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

It took Friedan many more years to come around to support of lesbian rights, and she is said to have told a reporter in 1973 that lesbians in NOW had been sent there by the CIA.

As for the Lavender Menace themselves, they did not disappear after their highly public debut. They marched in that summer's first-ever New York City Christopher Street Liberation Day Parade, and (under the name Radicalesbians) published an influential

essay, "The Woman-identified Woman."

What was the first gay-themed TV movie?

"That Certain Summer," which aired November 1, 1972 on ABC. The movie stars Hal Holbrook, whose 14-year old son comes to spend the summer with him and discovers that Dad is in love with Martin Sheen. It appeared at a time when television was beginning to explore controversial topics - including, later that month, the decision by the title character on "Maude" to have an abortion.

But "That Certain Summer" was extremely tame, especially when compared to films that had recently played in the cinemas such as "The Boys in the Band" and "Sunday, Bloody Sunday." Sheen and Holbrook played the very model of an "acceptable" gay couple - they never touched, denounced open displays of affection, and wondered out loud if homosexuality was a sickness. At the end of the film, the son leaves his weeping father, and - unlike in the original script - doesn't even show any regrets.

Gay and lesbian reaction to "That Certain Summer" was mixed. Some gays and lesbians were thrilled to see any portrayal of their lives on television, and relished the opportunities for conversation with their families that the show - and the surrounding controversy - afforded. Others were offended, such as the man who wrote the New York Times to complain that Holbrook's character's tears at the end of the film were a "repudiation of the life he had chosen for himself."

"That Certain Summer" also provoked the usual protests from offended religious conservatives. But it was probably more important for alerting gays

See PAST OUT, page 17



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DOMA, from page 6

fax:202-347-5323).

2. Please urge your chapters, members, and activists to contact Senators Campbell, Conrad, D'Amato, Dorgan, Graham, Hatfield, McCain, Simpson, Snowe, Spector at 202-224-3121. Hearing from their constituents is critical. Please contact Melissa Goldberg at People For the American Way (202-467-2373) for an extended list of key senators.

A few talking points on ENDA, which you may want to use in your letters: ENDA would prohibit employment discrimination based on sexual orientation. This protection is currently pro-

vided based on race, religion, gender, national origin, age and disability.

ENDA will simply give basic workplace protection against discrimination. ENDA prohibits preferential treatment, including quotas, based on sexual orientation. ENDA exempts small businesses, as do existing discrimination laws, and it does not apply to employers with fewer than 15 employees.

ENDA provides the same remedies (injunctive relief and damages) as are permitted under existing civil rights statutes. ENDA has strong, broad-based support. ΔΔ



BY BI

by: Heidi L. Vanderheiden

People have all sorts of stories of how they came out. I think mine is particularly 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.

Steve, who is heterosexual, looked gorgeous in his tight candy apple-red dress, and high shiny-red shoes. He had quite the shapely figure — from behind. When he turned around, his full dark-brown beard ruined the effect.

I pulled my (then-) long, blond hair into a Steven Segal ponytail, and drew a scruffy goatee on my chin with eyebrow pencil. I wore garb borrowed from my best friend Martin: a Misfits shirt, with a skull face on it, and his heavy chain and thick padlock around my neck. For effect, I stuck a pair of sports socks down my Lee blue jeans.

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 pigtails, big blotches of rouge on his freshly-shaven cheeks, and a borrowed flowered skirt.

Vicky, a lesbian friend, wore her usual male "drag", as she was rather butch ... and extremely attractive. She was wearing jeans, a white shirt with a black vest over it, and cowboy boots. She had short blond hair, and a cute freckled nose.

We had beauty pageants, 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 "het". I explained that I'd been thinking about it for some time, and I'd like to see if I really was bisexual. We 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 flamboyance. Being somewhat drunk, 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."

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

QUILT, from page 4



into the face of one of my sports heroes from school days of long ago. He was staring at a panel with his younger brother's name on it. Again there was that dignity and serenity in his bearing which I had seen in Mike's mother. He was surprised and pleased that his brother's panel had been part of the day's memorial. As we talked, the conversation took on a decidedly upbeat tone, with optimism about emerging AIDS treatments and the prospect of a cure in the not too distant future.

As the day progressed, I realized that I had gone through a compressed grieving process of my own. The occurrence of the memorial quilt visiting Prescott Park had given me the opportunity to come to

terms with many unexamined thoughts and emotions. I was able to transform my self-indulgent grief into the life-affirming experience that the quilt exhibition was intended to provide. This was accomplished with the help of people who had trod a *via delarosa* in a much more personal journey than I hope I will ever have to make.

Thank you George Hosker, exhibit coordinator, for making this possible. Thank you to everyone I came into contact with on this special day. You gave me the opportunity to take a giant stride along the path of spiritual enlightenment. I hope to have taken enough advantage of that opportunity to be more worthy of your companionship.

SURVIVING, from page 7

he was afraid to find out the results. I told him I understood, and I thought I did, but not as well as either of us would soon understand. Finally, in

April, Ken got another HIV test. It came back negative. The clinic that had tested him the first time had only administered the Eliza test which can give a false positive for a variety of reasons. When an Eliza test yields a positive result, a second test, known as the Western Blot, is usually performed which screens specifically for HIV antibodies. For some reason, this confirming test was never run, and he was given the false positive results from the Eliza.

When Ken told me that he was negative, I immediately commented how happy he must be. He said that he was OK with the news now that he had had a couple of weeks to get used to the idea. The feelings and experiences he began to describe to me echoed many of the same feelings and experiences that my Vietnam veteran clients with PTSD had been sharing with me. "Why did I survive when so many of my friends died?"

Suddenly these two internships seemed a lot closer than I had ever imagined. Ken went on to tell me that his being HIV positive had been a powerful motivator for him to do something he had always wanted to do: become a nurse. Now a piece of his identity had been taken away as quickly as it seemed to be acquired.

I soon realized that Ken was not alone. Not only were HIV-negative gay men in Philadelphia feeling a sense of loss and hopelessness in the age of AIDS, gay men everywhere were struggling to find a sense of themselves in an era of fear and anxiety about being and staying HIV negative. For the past 15 years social workers, medical professionals, and counselors have focused

our efforts on HIV-positive gay men, without addressing the issues that arise for those affected but not infected with HIV.

The issues and conflicts that continue to plague HIV-negative gay men such as survival guilt, loss, and failure to find validation often create a sense of helplessness as well as hopelessness in terms of thinking that HIV infection is inevitable if one is gay and sexually active. This despair often leads many gay men to a dangerous and fatalistic conclusion that it is only a matter of time before they, too, become infected.

Gay people have 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 AN OPTION FOR SEXUALLY ACTIVE GAY MEN. ΔΔ

PAST OUT from page 16

and lesbians to the power of television to shape straight perceptions of gays and lesbians. Two years later, the Gay Activists Alliance and the National Gay Task Force were protesting a homophobic episode of "Marcus Welby" before it even aired - and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation continues such activities today.

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

HIV/AIDS from page 7

ing World AIDS Day, December 1, and the 3rd Annual Benefit to Celebrate life, scheduled for March 22, 1997.

Madore concluded, "We're very grateful for the support of MCAP in continuing this vital project in Aroostook. It is through this funding that we are able to continue the progress we have made to date. We are also grateful for the special collaborative efforts of the American Red Cross and Artists For AIDS Awareness (AFAA). Many other County businesses and organizations too numerous to mention have assisted us in working toward achieving our goals of reducing fear and discrimination and increasing services for people affected and infected by HIV." ΔΔ

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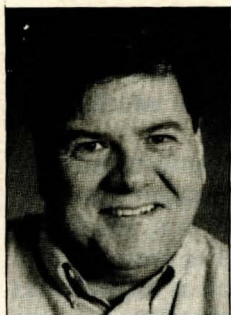
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OUT OF TOWN!

by Paul T. Bernard

One of the most common statements I hear from customers 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 - one party wishing to sell a service or product - the other party wishing to buy a service or product. In this case, the agent represents literally hundreds of "sellers" or "vendors." At current count, there are close to a thousand airlines located all over the globe - some major ones, like Delta, United, British Air, or Air France - some really small ones like Mike's Flying Service in Alaska, or Viet Air in Vietnam. By be-

ing "recognized" and "licensed", an agent has the ability to sell the products of all of them. In a like manner, an agent can make reservations for hotels, motels, cottages, bed & breakfasts, guest houses, etc. all over the world.

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

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

"Where can I go for a vacation this year?"

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

Even if you take only one or two trips a year, those trips are important to you and you want to make sure that everything goes as you want. It'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 she/he knows about you and what you're looking for, the better the service and products that he can arrange for you.

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

Plane reservations, seat assignments, & boarding passes; Car Rentals; Hotel Reservations; Cruise reservations; Vacation packages; Train reservations; Airport limousine service or transportation; Theater tickets; Sight-seeing tours; Travelers checks; Foreign currency; Travel insurance; Make travel arrangements on short notice for funerals; Honeymoon packages; Anniversary packages; Weddings; Guide books; Maps; 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 Adventure Travel at 885-5060 and I'll make sure that you get one. ΔΔ

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Custom Coach and Limousine was founded in 1988 with one mini-motorcoach. Today their fleet includes the latest styles of professionally driven sedans and passenger vans, the longest luxurious stretch and superstretch limousines and a modern video-equipped motorcoach fleet that includes 22 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.

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Isherwood states, "Our clients have very high standards. We handle a tremendous amount of celebrity and dignitary travel and we offer a variety of corporate transportation programs for many Fortune 500 companies doing business in Maine. We also offer our services for private individuals to enhance their special occasions and celebrations. Our mid-week stretch limousine and limousine rates, along with our dinner packages, for example, make treating yourself or someone special to surprisingly affordable stretch limousine service."

The Motorcoach Division offers group charter service from Maine to any

destination in North America for organizations of all kinds. "We provide several colleges, tour planners, summer camps, etc. with charter motorcoach services, customized to fit their needs," says Isherwood. "Our motorcoach charter rates are competitive, yet the extra services that come with our chartered coaches are unsurpassed. In addition, the people in our motorcoach tour department are always busy planning memorable day and overnight excursions to many wonderful locations such as Quebec, Montreal, and New York City, just to name a few. A quarterly newsletter that includes our up-coming trips is always available."

The next time an occasion presents itself requiring nothing less than the luxury of a stretch limousine, call Custom Coach and Limousine at 1-800-585-3589 or in greater Portland at 207-774-2200. Their motto states, "You'll get Accustomed to Custom." ΔΔ

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DEFEND, from page 4

needs to reconfirm 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 squired Democratic National Party Chairman Don Fowler to a June 10 luncheon at Off-Vine Restaurant in Hollywood, where gay leaders vented their frustration over the president's stand.

The president has said long ago that he did not support same-gender

marriage," Fowler said in an interview with Frontiers after the luncheon.

"What the Republicans have done in the past several weeks... is not based on any real desire to protect family 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 Tina Podlodowski, an open lesbian Seattle city councilwoman, who quit as co-chair of Clinton's Washington state campaign.

"Given his commitment against discrimination, it was unbelievable to me that he would sign a bill like DOMA," she said.

Clinton advisor Bob Hattoy, who is openly gay, urged others not to follow Podlodowski's example.

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

Other gay leaders said Clinton and his advisors may be hoping for a fight, so they can demonstrate how tough 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 marriages.

"Grab your boyfriend's or girlfriend's hand and go get married," Hattoy said. "Just don't expect the president to be at the wedding." ΔΔ

CLINTON, from page 6

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

* 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 Presidential Liaison to the gay and lesbian community, Marsha Scott;

* President Clinton appointed openly gay physician Scott Hitt to head the President's Council on HIV/AIDS, along with several other openly gay Council members;

* President Clinton invited openly lesbian health advocates to policy formulation meetings for the first time in history.

Working to save lives and improve health care

* President Clinton increased public health spending for HIV/AIDS programs by nearly 40%, including a 120% increase for Ryan White CARE programs and 26% rise for AIDS-related research;

* 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 Drug Development, accelerated the approval of protease inhibitors, and removed dozens of bureaucratic obstacles to the effective and decent treatment of people with AIDS.

* President Clinton established the Office of AIDS Research at the National Institutes of Health, created the Office of National AIDS Policy, and convened the first White House summit of HIV/AIDS;

* President Clinton created the first Office of AIDS Housing at the Department of Housing and Urban Development to specifically address the issue;

* President Clinton created a permanent Office of Women's Health Research, and increased funding for women's health issues, including a 65% increase in breast cancer-related funding;

* President Clinton's Department of Health and Human Services sponsored a national conference to examine the causes of and solutions to gay youth suicide.

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

NH GLSTN, from page 5**INCREASED TENSIONS OR FOCUS ON EDUCATION?**

At Mascenic High School, in New Ipswich, teacher Penny Culliton was fired by the school board on an insubstantial charge of insubordination because she used textbooks with lesbian and gay characters purchased by the school board. After binding arbitration, Culliton was reinstated, but the school board is appealing the decision of the arbitrator. As a member of the Education Committee, Sen. Roberge has not contributed to easing tensions in that school district. Her remarks only perpetuate and inflame the difficulties.

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.

ROBERGE 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. Romer decision," commented Turner, "the Supreme Court unmistakably said that the Fourteenth Amend-

ment 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. Romer 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 Ten have, had previously described the election as "the Christian Coalition vs. the Gay agenda." Among the other participants in Cadarette's fundraising activities were Christian Coalition activist 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." ΔΔ

HATE, from page 6

ance 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 6540 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."

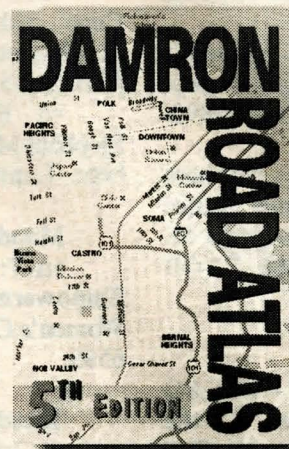
TRIPLE MESSAGE AFFIRMS**AMERICAN VALUES**

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." ΔΔ

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AUGUST, 1996 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 21 - August 31

•Δ 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, call (207)772-5533

August 17 - 19

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

August 22 - 25

ΔΔ Maine-ly For You Womens' Campout - This Women's Campout is held at a private campground on a pristine lake in Western Maine. Cabins and Campsites are available. Children under 17 are welcome. An Adult only section will be available. A local Womens' B&B will also be available. FMI (207)583-6980.

ΔΔ 20th Annual Quaker Lesbian Conference. Newburgh, NY. FMI QLC, 52 Greenleaf St., Medford, MA 02155.

August 30 - September 2

ΔΔ Portland Round 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)782-7178 or (207)666-3343.

August 23 - 25

•Δ Women's Outdoor Adventure Coop. Overnight/Backpack the Southern Presidentials near Crawford Notch, NH. FMI (603)483-0436 btw 6 & 9 pm.

Saturday, August 3

ΔΔ SOLO - Single Older Lesbian Organization - Canoeing, Potluck, fun & friendship, Alna. FMI call Kathy at (207)688-4737.

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

ΔΔ 8:00 PM - 1 AM - Northern Lambda Nord - Mid-Summer Dance Community Center 16 Champlain St. Van Buren, ME. Admission \$6. BYOB FMI (207)498-0900

Sunday, August 4

•Δ 7:00-9:00 PM - PFLAG Plymouth, NH Meets at the Congregational Church, Plymouth. FMI (603) 968-7254 or (603) 786-9812.

Monday, August 5

•Δ 7:00-8:00 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women's Center. FMI Jana (207)772-6599.

Tuesday, August 6

•Δ 7:00-9:30 PM PFLAG Seacoast Area, NH Meets at Stratham Community Church, Emery Lane, Stratham. FMI (603) 772-5196

Wednesday, August 7

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

Thursday, August 8

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

•Δ 7:00 PM - Matlovich Society - Annual Lawn Party. 105 North Street, Portland. Bring something to share, plan to eat hearty. Watch the sunset from the top of the hill. We provide the beverages and the grill. Go east on Congress St., left at the Observatory, four blocks to the 3 story white house. Try to be on time. If you get lost call (207)761-2059.

•Δ 7:00 PM - Eastern Mountain Sports Map & Compass clinic. Learn basic map and compass skills. A hands on course which focuses on off-trail hiking. Limited space. FMI (207)772-3776

Saturday, August 10

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

ΔΔ 2:30-6:00 PM - Women Meeting Women A Lesbian social/support group for women in southern N.H. and northern MA, meets at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Nashua. FMI (603)881-4268 or e-mail DBalbat@aol.com.

Sunday, August 11

•Δ Women's Outdoor Adventure Coop. Hike Mts Monroe, Franklin & Eishower, in Coos County, NH. FMI (603)228-5692 btw 6 & 9 pm.

•Δ Eastern Mountain Sports - Elephant Mountain Bushwhack, off trail hike. Limit 8. FMI (207)772-3776.

Monday, August 12

•Δ 7:00-8:00 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women's Center. FMI Jana (207)772-6599.

Tuesday, August 13

•Δ 7:00 PM - PFLAG Portland, ME meets at Woodfords Congregational Church, Woodfords Corner, Portland. FMI, Rita (207)766-5158 or Sue (207)774-3441.

Wednesday, August 14

ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM - Drop-In &

Open House, Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center of Northern Maine, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI (207)498-2088.

Thursday, August 15

•Δ 7:30 PM - PFLAG Nashua, NH Meets at the Unitarian Universalist Church, Lowell & Canal Sts., Nashua. FMI (603)880-8709

Saturday, August 17

•Δ 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM - Dance Portland - A festival of dance. Choreographer's Showcase. FMI, Tickets and Reservations call, (207)775-4253.

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

ΔΔ 2:00 PM - An Amelia's Event - Volleyball, Croquet, and Yard Games followed by a Clambake at Kim's. FMI (603)675-6865.

Saturday/Sunday, Aug. 17 & 18

•Δ Women's Outdoor Adventure Coop. - Overnight for women with kids FMI (603) 483-0436 btw 6 & 9 PM.

•Δ Women's Outdoor Challenges - Intro. to Canoe Camping on the Connecticut River. FMI (603)763-5400.

•Δ Eastern Mountain Sports - Bigelow Range Overnight. The Bigelow Range provides some of the best exposed ridgetop hiking in the state of Maine. Limit 8. FMI (207)772-3776.

Sunday, August 18

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

•Δ 3:00 - 5:00 PM - PFLAG Concord, NH. Meets at the 1st Congregational Church, Washington & N. Main Sts., Concord, Washington St. Door. FMI (603) 472-4944.

Monday, August 19

•Δ 7:00-8:00 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women's Center. FMI Jana (207)772-6599.

•Δ 7:00 PM PFLAG - Upper Valley Region, NH - Meets at the Hanover CC. FMI (603) 448-1982.

Wednesday, August 21

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

Thursday, August 22

•Δ 7:00 PM - PFLAG Northern

ME meets at the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center of Northern Maine, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI (207)498-2088.

•Δ 7:30-9:00 PM - Matlovich & Tony McCann - Coming Out Stories. Come listen to the stories of our members. Some will be happy, some funny, some sad, some angry and some will be all of these. Bring your story to share. Tony McCann will guide this memorable evening. Holiday Inn By The Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland, ME. Handicapped Accessible; free hotel parking.

Friday, August 23

•Δ 8:00 PM - Karaoke Night at Sisters- to benefit Women in Harmony. 45 Danforth St Portland, Me.

•Δ 8:00 PM - Dance Portland - Performance - FMI (207)7754253

Saturday, August 24

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

•Δ 3:00 PM - Down East Aids Network Fourth 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.

•Δ 8:00 PM - Dance Portland - Performance - FMI (207)7754253

Sunday, August 25

•Δ Eastern Mountain Sports - North & South Baldface Dayhike - Hike the Baldface Circle trail. Limit 10. FMI (207) 772-3776.

Monday, August 26

•Δ 7:00-8:00 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women's Center. FMI Jana (207)772-6599.

Wednesday, August 28

ΔΔ 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.

Saturday, August 31

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

ΔΔ 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

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ΔΔ MOUNTAIN BIKE ADVENTURES FOR WOMEN: Secluded, primitive camping and guided mountain bike tours. Enjoy personalized

tour of beautiful Lakes Region in Naples, Maine. Ride from your tent to the trails or country roads. FMI, 207/787-2379. ΔΔ

ΔΔ CALENDAR ISLANDS 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. ΔΔ

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ΔΔ 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. ΔΔ

ΔΔ ROOMMATE WANTED: Lesbian with two cats and two dogs looking for animal lover to share my home. Large house with deck, 2 car garage on 3 acres of woodland in beautiful East Sebago. Personal garden space available. \$400 monthly plus half electric, own phone. 207/787-2443 for details. ΔΔ

ΔΔ ROOMMATES WANTED: Pre-op T/S without much baggage but an engaging personality looking to share huge 3br apt in greater Portland with GF's. All utilities included. Call Dal at 775-6435. ΔΔ

MISCELLANEOUS

ΔΔ ENQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW you think is most important to the future of Maine's gay/lesbian/bi/trans communities. Maine Equity Fund has a challenge grant from National Lesbian and Gay Community Funding Partnership, will raise more locally and distribute \$120,000 over the next two years to meet our communities' needs. Have a voice as we set our funding priorities; tell us what's important, what works, what doesn't. For your copy of community survey, call Marjorie Love at (207) 773-6164, or write c/o the Maine Community Foundation/Maine Equity Fund, P.O. Box 148, Ellsworth, Maine 04605. ΔΔ

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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 L/G issues. Primary goals are to involve the L/G community in Maine's political process, promote civil rights, develop and review legislation, endorse candidates, build a coalition, and oppose anti-gay legislation and referenda. Meetings are the 3rd Saturday of every month in Augusta. FMI call 1-800-55-MLGPA.

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

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

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

National Association of Social Workers, ME Chapter, Sexual Minority Issues Committee welcomes new social work members. Our purpose is to educate, provide resources, and lobby legislators on issues involving sexual minorities in Maine. FMI call NASW, 207/622-7592.

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

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

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

Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights: Trains and deploys volunteers statewide to speak with citizen groups in their towns and regions about their lives and the lives of others who experience discrimination in Maine. For information on activities in your county: 207/879-0480 or write: MSOP, 123 Congress St., #1, Portland 04101. You need not be a speaker to work with Speakout!

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

Maine Gay Men's Chorus is a community chorus which brings men together to enhance social tolerance and diversity in the Greater Portland area, as well as affirming the gay/lesbian experience with creative and lively musical entertainment. FMI call 774-2704 or write M.G.M.C., P.O. Box 10391, Portland, ME. 04104.

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

PHONE SUPPORT

Region by region

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

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

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

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

Portland:

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

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

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

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

Bangor: Eastern Maine AIDS Network: 990-3626

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

Belfast: Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: 338-1427

Brunswick: Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services: 725-4995

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

Rumford: Community AIDS Awareness Program: 823-4170

Lewiston: AIDS Coalition of Lewiston/Auburn: 786-4697

Waterville: Dayspring: 626-3432

Ellsworth: Down East AIDS Network: 667-3506

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

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

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

Contacts in Maine

(* indicates monthly meetings)

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

*Dover-Foxcroft: 564-7986 - Sharon

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

*Lewiston/Auburn: 783-6964 - Estelle

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

Waldoboro: 832-5859 - Sue

Contacts in New Hampshire

P-FLAG NH 24 hour Helpline:

603/623-6023

Concord: Judy, 603/485-3943

Webster: Betsy, 603/746-3818

Nashua: Nancy, 603/880-8709

Kensington: Nora/John, 603/772-3893

Stratham: Betty, 603/772-5196

Francetown: Cy/Gordon, 603/547-2545

Holderness: Olivia, 603/968-7254

Rumney: Ann, 603/786-9812

Center Sandwich: Tish, 603/284-6434

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

Medical Support

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

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

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

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

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic: Portland STD Clinic provides full range of services from screening & treatment, education & counseling and HIV antibody testing and counseling. Located in Room 303 of City Hall. Anonymous HIV testing by appointment on weekdays from 8 am to 5 pm. Call 874-8784. For other STD services: 874-8446.

Identity Support

New Hampshire P-FLAG Meetings

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

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

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

Plymouth: Meets first Sunday, 7-9 pm, Plymouth Congregational Church. FMI, call 603/968-7254 or 603/786-9812.

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

Maine P-FLAG Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MUSIC & ART

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

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

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

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

TransSupport: Support group for cross-dressers, transsexuals, their families, friends. Meets in secure locations to provide support, education & social activities. Write TransSupport, P.O. Box 17622, Portland, 04112 or phone 207/945-3092.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bangor Lesbian Support Group: This Lesbian Support Group welcomes any woman who self-identifies as a lesbian. They seek to create woman-only, lesbian-positive space to explore issues and affirm themselves and each another as lesbians. Confidentiality, open-mindedness and respect are required. Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 pm, Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, 334 Harlow St., Bangor. FMI: (207) 947-5337.

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

S.N.A.P.: Survivors Network of Those

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

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

Maine Gender Resource & Support Service: Information, referrals and education for the transgender community, helping professionals and the general public. Write McGRESS, PO Box 1894, Bangor, ME 04402-1894 or call (207) 945-3092.

Parents

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

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

Youth Support

OUTRIGHT TOO: Fridays, 5:00-7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, Park St., behind City Hall in Bangor. 207/990-3626.

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

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

Waldo-Knox OUTRIGHT: Meets every other Sunday in Camden for g/l/b or questioning youth 22 & under. Confidential, supportive, safe space for growth, discussion & fun. FMI Lisa at Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition 338-1427 or write P.O. Box 956, Belfast, ME 04915. Collect calls okay.

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

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

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

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

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

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

HIV Related Support Meetings

Portland:

Mondays: People Living with HIV disease

and all friends, families, partners & caregivers, 6:30-8:00 PM.

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

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

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

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

2nd Thursday: Client Advisory Board, open to all clients of The AIDS Project, 1:30 pm. *The above Portland support groups meet at The AIDS Project, 142 High St., 6th floor, except the Tuesday group, Living Well. FMI on that call Sandy Titus at Stratogen Health Care. Call Jane O'Rourke at 774-6877 or 1-800-851-2437 for more information.*

Arroostook County: Family and Friends Accepting Change Together (FFACT), a support group sponsored by Northern Maine AIDS Network for friends, families & careproviders. Meets every 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 pm, at the Arroostook Medical Center, conference room A. Presque Isle. FMI, Deb Madore of Health 1st, 207/768-3056 or 1-800-432-7881.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lewiston: 4th Thursday: Great Sex expectations monthly drop-ins for gay, bi & questioning men of all ages. 7:00-10:00 PM, ACLA office (4 Lafayette St.) FMI, Sean-207/786-4697.

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

New Hampshire:

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

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

son at 603/756-4735.

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

Peterborough: Support group for family, partners and friends whose lives have been affected by HIV/AIDS meets Tues. at noon. Call Maria Rosario-603/924-7191, ext. 1126 for details.

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

Maine AIDS Alliance

Member Organizations

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

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

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

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

Dayspring AIDS Support Services: 32 Winthrop St., Augusta, ME 04330. FMI, call 207/626-3432.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PAWS/Pets Are Wonderful Support 120 Brackett St. Portland, ME 04102. Call 775-PAWS. E-mail paw@ime.net. Homepage: <http://www.ime.net/PAWS/>

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

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

ATTENTION:
Organizations & groups
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Call 207/282-4311 to
change.

Online Resources for
Maine's LGBT Community

The Maine Gay Network

The Maine GayNet Mail List:

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

The Maine GayNet Home Page:

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

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