Community Pride Reporter, 08/1996

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

by Leslie Robinson,
New Hampshire Editor

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

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

The situation developed a week and a half prior to the demonstration, when Carl Bletzer of Portsmouth was on a date in Hampton Beach, a hugely popular resort town. He and his partner spotting 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.

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
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.

Replacing a bill that already passed the House. Barney Frank, D-Mass., one of Congress' three openly gay members, said many of his colleagues, in their second and third marriages despite other passages in the Bible that prohibit divorce or remarriage after divorce. "There are clearly members in this chamber - supporters of this bill - who do not think that Biblical injunction ought to be civil law. There are people who believe that Biblical injunctions that says if you divorce, you shall not remarry, should be disregarded by those who wish to disregard it," Frank said.

Frank argued it was silly to claim that gay relationships threaten traditional marriage. "I find it implausible that two men decide to commit themselves to each other 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 was 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. "This is gay marriage in the state of Hawaii. By defining marriage and spouse: whatever to protect families. Shame on Congress that amounts to the latter ultimately did."

"Every state has the right to determine who can marry, should be disregarded by those who wish to disregard it," Frank said.

As a “legal union between one man and a woman. Anything else threatens the survival of American society. We are doing an important piece of legislation that 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.

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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

(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 a 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 families 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 husband or wife divorced, living, are void.

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

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 Maineans feel marriage should be defined as the union of one man and one woman.

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

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

DECLINE TO SIGN has two main focuses:

1) to station as many polling places as possible on election day,

2) to carry out a “search and send” strategy plan on all other days.

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

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

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 HOTLINE 
1-888-DON'T-SIGN
1-888-DON'T-SIGN
1-888-DON'T-SIGN

(DON'T FORGET IT!!)

Sanders, Sweetser Both Oppose Anti-Gay Marriage Bill

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?"

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 60 of the 100 senators and 238 of the House's 435 members have similar staff-hiring policies.
PROTEST, from page 1 the "Silly Faggot" shirt down. Maleh said the "AIDS" shirt was a sample to test. Sent a dozen of them, the family put six in this store at 117 Ocean Blvd, and six in the other Shirt Factory store at 197 Ocean Blvd.

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

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

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

Spending an Afternoon Volunteering at the AIDS Quilt

by Allen McGee

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

The day started off innocuously enough, with the usual hustle and bustle of forty odd volunteers and festival staff going about their assigned tasks, making the exhibition ready for what was expected to be a large turnout. Tarps were laid out, and sections of the quilt were carefully placed on each in preparation for the opening ceremony, during which individual segments would be unfolded.

As the sections of the quilt were opened to view, I glimpsed a teddy bear attached to one panel. It resembled my daughter's much loved "T-Bear." A sudden wave of grief engulfed me with such ferocity that I could hardly breathe. In a desperate attempt to compose myself, I panned the other volunteers for my wife. There she stood with tears flowing freely.

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

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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 with our community has named it National Gay History Month. Many people ask me why do we need to parade in the streets and on television?

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 being denied gym memberships, messages of slander and untruths, protection from harassment in schools, where one-third of all teen-age suicides are gay and lesbian suicides, and protection to serve proudly for our country without the fear of losing our right to protect and defend because we happen to love people of the same sex. No institution has the right to teach hate and untruths and to practice discrimination.

We deserve as citizens of this country the same treatment and respect as our straight, inherent worth and dignity. We march as a community of men and women to say enough is enough. We march with the perseverance 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 parade on Friday, June 14 and I estimate about 250 people showed up to march. I can truthfully tell you our numbers are in the tens of thousands in this fine state of ours. I can also tell you one day we will pass a law in this state that will grant us our full civil liberties, because no one is free until all are protected under the law equally.

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

State Sen. Roberge remarks erode citizenship and school safety

GLSTN/NOJLecivenes to Anti-Gay, Anti-Government Statement

by Bredor Demody

The New Hampshire Coalition to End Discrimination (CED) is pleased to report that on Thursday, June 13, the Judiciary and Family Law Committee voted 11-4 to send House Bill 1294 to the full Legislature in its spring session. HB 1294 would add "sexual orientation" to New Hampshire's existing list of protected classes.

The Judiciary Committee originally voted in February to send this bill into an extended study. However, a busy schedule and an urgent 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 (HB 1097) failed in the NH Senate by one vote in 1994.

"We are very excited by the Committee's vote," said CED spokesman Ben Demody, "and we hope the full Senate will pass this bill (HB 1294) with a majority vote in January 1997.

For more information please contact Brendan Demody, Coalition to End Discrimination spokesperson (603) 558-6160 (w) 603/358-2167, boderly@newpawgail.kenne.com

Coalition to End Discrimination Report

by Brendan Demody

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A Romantic Gateway to the Western Maine Mountains
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."

REFLECTING 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 policy 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 coalition in the tradition of our town, and that 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 unfooled rumors that have circulat ed 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 reassurance.

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 for the equality of all Americans, not merely a select group. This year, the voters had an opportunity to reject the policies of the old majority coalition in the strongest possible terms. "The elections of Coleman and 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 policy 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 coalition in the tradition of our town, and that 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 unfooled rumors that have circulat ed 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 reassurance.

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. The House of Representatives voted to pass the bill by a coalition made up of 222 representatives, and 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 or in favor of ENDA, we request your help in contacting the Senate. Please send the original to Nancy Buermeyer at Human Rights Campaign early this week (1101 14th St., NW, Washington, DC 20005; phone: 202-286-4166; See DOMA, page 16
Anti-gamy bill unconstitutional Federal intrusion says HRC

WASHINGTON — Legislation to give the federal government power over marriage for the first time in U.S. History is an 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,中关村 to the 342-67 roll call by which the House voted to ban gay marriages unconstitutionally, 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 does the Bill of Rights mean? It means the Congress can simply alter the Constitution at its whim, what does the Bill of Rights mean?" 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 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 permitted in other states. It would not prohibit any state from allowing such marriages."

The 342-67 roll call by which the House voted to ban gay marriages unconstitutional Federal intrusion says HRC

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

"The definition and administration of marriage has in all previous times in our history been left to the states," Birch told the House Judiciary subcommittee. "Before the 19th Amendment, women were denied the right to marry. It is an unprecedented intrusion into state sovereignty and is unconstitutional."

"The definition and administration of marriage has always been in the hands of the states, and is not a function of the federal government," Birch said. "The proposed legislation is not only a bad idea, it is an unprecedented intrusion into state sovereignty and is unconstitutional."

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Surviving HIV: Being Gay and Negative

by Victor R. Rash, LMSW

Community Educator

and The AIDS Project

While I was a social work student, I had two internships as part of my programs. The first internship was for Ac-

tion 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 profes-
sion he had always dreamed of. Ken had continued to work in restaurants for a number of years after we had worked together, and he continues to flounder for a message and an agenda.

The Human Rights Campaign is the largest national gay and lesbian political organization that campaigns to change laws, thereby creating opportunity for people to ask questions and provide services available in the county. 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 Cen-
ter makes it fast and easy! http:// www.hrcusa.org. ΔΔ

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 Partners (MCAP) announced Connie Sandstrom, ACAP Executive Director. The education and implementation of a program designed to build awareness of HIV/AIDS and to increase the amount and types of service available to persons with HIV, their families and caregivers.

Ten HIV/AIDS projects, including ACAP's from around the state, will share $150,000 in grants from MCAP. Bettianne Holmes, MCAP Chair said, "Last year, MCAP projects helped over 4,700 people of every age, from every background, in every corner of the state .... We can take great satis-
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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 “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. This response is a sign that gay men and lesbians won’t abandon Clinton over the issue, others are saying the president is prolonging the lover to re-enter the [couple’s] house,” Mixner said. “By signing that bill, comming to be matched by an equal amount of money raised locally to obtain 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 GLBT/BT individuals, as well as a wide variety of service providers and community organizations currently serving these communities.

This survey data, followed by some targeted focus groups, will establish what needs and issues community members perceive to be most significant, what 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 need many important points of view are likely to go unheard unless we get a great deal of help in distributing the surveys widely and ensuring 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.

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 children, is the latest to join another northern Florida woman luck in a similar custody case next week.

Valerie Maradieu 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.”

This 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 Maradieu’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 there is a social environment that can create a traditional home environment and can adversely affect a child,” Tolton ruled.

In sending the case back to Tolton, the appeals panel agreed. “We do not mean to suggest that trial courts may not consider the parent’s sexual conduct,” the ruling said. “In considering whether that conduct is adverse, 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 Maradieu 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 be taken away,” Maradieu said. “Children see, and are a lot more astute than people think they are," the Niceville nurse added. "Prejudice is not talk. They are a lot more accepting of differences. Just because something is different, it’s not bad.”

First national survey of violence against transequity being distributed

by Jean Vermette

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

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

Gender PAC 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 or the perpetrator, or not, so that as wide and accurate a representation of the transcommunity as possible can be gotten.

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

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

Montreal

Enjoy a colorful tour by motorcoach to exciting Montreal during Fall foliage.

2 meals & more

September 27-29 $189 pp/do

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• Consultations
• Safe Home Inspections

O.S.P.R.E.Y. - Healthy Homes

• Mark Leckia 207 409-3409

HCR 80 Box 68, Penobscot, Maine 04476

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, thanks to an important new grant 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 $50,000 per year for two years, to be matched by an equal amount of money raised locally to obtain 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 GLBT/BT individuals, as well as a wide variety of service providers and community organizations currently serving these communities.

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INSURANCE TIPS: Are my fine arts, antiques & collections covered under my homeowners policy?  
by Carolyn A. Jabbert  Yes, and NO! The standard homeowners policy will have limitations. When there is coverage, the loss is usually settled on an actual cash value basis with depreciation taken into account. More importantly there is no coverage for fine arts breakage, and then only for the named perils listed in your policy.

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

But, understand how it all works. Read your policy carefully. These endorsements will likely state that the insurer is only obligated to make payments at the time of loss for:

1. The actual cash value at the time of the loss or damage.
2. The amount for which the insured could reasonably be expected to have the property repaired to its conditioned immediately prior to the loss.
3. The amount for which the insured could reasonably be expected to replace the property with property substantially identical to the article lost or damaged.
4. The amount of insurance stated in the policy.

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

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

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

All of you, that I have talked to, do what you do because you love it and would love to do more. By sharing your profiles with our community. The 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 really 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 ‘90s 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 international syndicated radio show, This Way OUT!

Support Groups at Mercy Hospital

PORTLAND ME - Coping with Caregiving provides for those who care for a chronically/terminally ill or disabled person. This group meets on the second and fourth Fridays of each month, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., at the Mercy Hospital Board Room, sixth floor. For more information, call 879-3303.

Growing through Grieving is intended to help those who have lost someone they loved through death. The group will meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Mercy Hospital in the Administrative Conference Room, level B1. If you or someone you know is struggling with the death of a loved one, come and join us. For more information, call 879-3477.

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

MONEY MATTERS:  
INSURANCE: What is it and What is it for
by Peter J. Callinan, CPA

My dictionary defines insurance as "a contract by which the insurer is 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 I am willing to take the less insurance they will want. The less risk a person is willing to take the more insurance they will want. Please be aware that insurance should be used to manage risk and not to eliminate it. After all, insurance does cost money.

Good Luck!

~

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.

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Every person is welcomed! Please join us!
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 illegal to discriminate against one sector of society.

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

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

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

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 "flame."

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

On the other hand, that such shirts are made and sold, that the one reading "Silly Faggot, Dix are for Chicks" is a hot seller, shows how acceptable it remains to use us as a 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 beated 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, insensitive 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.
Guest Editorial: Poll Watchers Hurting Movement

by Wayne R. Besen

It was a scorching June afternoon in 1969 when a group of drag queens were dancing and singing at Stonewall Bar, New York's Village, abruptly interrupting 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 home. 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 America’s are against 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), absoving 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 “minority 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 squabbling 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 movements 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 enlighten 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.

P A W S

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’s mission is to help make it possible for people living with AIDS to keep their pets—providing food, veterinary care, dog walkers, etc. As you are aware, PAWS’s mission is to help make it possible for people living with AIDS to keep their pets—providing food, veterinary care, dog walkers, etc. As you are aware, PAWS 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. According to 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 needs and problems of 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 (7797).

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 Church, Reverend Kathleen Allen of the Westbrook Unitarian Universalist Church presided over the ceremony. There were 87 guests in attendance. Carolyn 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 Jalter Insurance Services in Portland, and Sylvie is employed by Kimberly Clark. They reside in Portland with their five children.

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 in material in some history of that evening. At the conclusion of the show, the owner of the club said that his club is a straight club and he was not happy with her material. He not only insulted her, but only partially paid her.

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

Kat (Kat’s Musical Enterprises)
Community Pride Reporter's Guide to

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Simply the finest in casual dining
Aimsel, check this out. With an old ily the music turned out to be equally amazing. Books you can't judge by the cover, does the same apply to cd's? 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 a baby photo of Danielle on the cover and had been ordered for the store and said, "Aimiel, 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 sneak the disc into the store's stereo system.

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 rocking 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.

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 Thomaston Latoh Island, Maine. The festival opens daily at 11 a.m. rain or shine and will host seven stages, over 1,000 performers, juried artists and craftspeople, 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, Kondal Morse, and Joe Perham; featured guest artists and NYNO Records' "New Orleans Rhythm Revue" featuring Allen Toussaint; Wallace Johnson, and Amadou Casteenel; Los Pleneros del Coco de Puerto Rico, country artist Dave Mallett, Boston's Impulse Dance Company, Ram Island Dance Company's world premiere "Porch Swing Blues," Fred Garbo's Inflatable Theater Company, and the Maine Brewer's Fest on Saturday featuring dozens of Maine micro-brews.

Dance Portland — A Festival of Dance

Dance Portland is a summer dance festival which has grown and developed over the past five years into a major event. This year it encourages the presentation of many diverse dance forms to include ballet, street funk, post modern, and dance-theater.

Founded by artistic Director Millicent S. Monks to promote innovative new choreography, it has become a significant annual dance forum for Maine companies of note to premiere new works.

An immediately popular event, this year's festival will feature a new ballet by Samuel Kurjian entitled "Witches of Salem" for the Portland Ballet Company as well as new dances by Brian Crabtree, Debbie Irons, Eduardo Mariscal, Melissa Cloutier, Kelly Holyoke, Randy James, Sara Whale, the group blink, and the choreography showcase winners in both student and professional categories.

See CPR Calendar for dates.

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

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

Libby is a poet, activist, singer, songwriter, and recording artist whose performances are fun, thought-provoking, and inspiring. Her concerts are filled with her beautiful, lyrical voice, her wise, funny, sly 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, $15 with dinner.

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

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

by Rose Mary Deman

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: Women's Spiritual & Celebrations, Ways of Communication, Ways of Being and Growing, Ways of Caring, Ways of Seeing and Understanding, and Ways of Planning and Creating. In turn, each of these sections is broken down into subsections.

I'll give you an example: Ways of Being and Growing, one of the major sections, is broken down into eight subsections: Wellness, Illness & Recovery, Stages & Transitions, Spirituality, Religion, Sexuality, Learning & Growing, and Journal Keeping & Reflections. In turn, each of these subsections is broken down even further into smaller, more manageable topics. For instance, Wellness has eleven topic headings: Women's Self-Care; Knowing Your Body; Personal Wellness; Body Image; Skin Care; Hair; Feeling Good; Nutrition/Diet; Health Hazards & Boosters; Medit­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­…
An August Wave of Live Music Approaches... As a July one leaves...  
by Aimsel Posti

Hey there. As usual I have much to tell of shows gone by and shows that are coming through Maine. disappearance 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 fans" songs "Sexual Telepathy" and "Sink the Silier" were two of the July 20th. This show and the one at Diver'' not to mention their tour that lasted almost two hours. The band truly were very happy by playing "Deep Soulbum "Seed in the Sahara" as well as several songs from their new album."  

Aimsel, you gave me your cold last week, but the lack of your advances on to Bow Street for GREASE. Maybe if it's my age, I didn't much care for the 50's when I was a young girl, so why would I enjoy watching it? And 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 girlfriend... oh... well... need I say more? What was scary was listening to comments from other patrons during the intermission. Those in their 40's and 50's were really into it, as if they were reliving the "good old days." Enough about the lack of sexual political 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 one she wanted. The actors in this production during intermission, and the second half was a bit better.  

On to dessert and tea at Cafe Brioches! 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 squirre 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 too much seriousness and not enough camp. So, if your shirt is cutting off the arm or if your sense of humor, get a fix; see this play!
My Transsexual Manifesto - Part V

by Daralyn S. Maxwell

How sad that the title "As Worlds Collide" was fostered 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 business associates in a social setting and they get a glimmer of my emerging existence. It proves to be interesting and although I certainly don't consider myself 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 new male/female life are not surprised. So, as far as they are concerned, the "red menace." Although Friedan and the hysteria linked to international movements (such as when some groups had tried to silence lesbian feminism) is easy to forget the mindset of the mid-1990s, it is a reality of being an intimate of leadership who were being silenced or forced out of office. A group of women called the "gay liberation movement." It was a loaded slogan. From the perspective of the early 1970s, it was 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 Christopher Street Liberation Day. As the light was restored, twenty women in purple T-shirts which proclaimed "Lavender Menace" stood in front of the audiovisual wall 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 movements (such as when some lesbians came out publicly for the first time), it was a turning point as a legitimate concern of feminism. On Sunday, the conclave 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 there by the day, and continued to work. 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 little character on "Mauve" 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 worried 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 thrilled to see any portrayal of their lives on television, and relished the opportunities for conversational with their families that the show - and the mere existence of the film - afforded. Others were offended, such as the man who wrote the New York Times to complain that Holbrook's character's "fleshy body" at the end of the film was a "repudiation of the life he had chosen for himself."

"That Certain Summer" also prompted the usual protests from offended religious conservatives. But it was probably more important for alerting gays to see PAST OUT, page 17.

DOMA, from page 6

2. Please urge your chapters, members, and activists to contact Senators Campbell, Conrad, D'Amato, Dorgan, Graham, Hatfield, McCain, Simpson, Snowe, Specter at 202-224-3121. Hear­ ing from their constituents is critical. Please contact Melissa Goldberg at People For the American Way (202-457-2373) for an extended list of key sena­ tors.

A few talking points on ENDA, which you may want to use in your letters to your congres­ sional representatives. 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 discrimi­ nation. ENDA prohibits preferential treatment, including quotas, based on sexual orientation. ENDA exempts small businesses, as doing existing discrimi­ nation laws, and only applies to employers with fewer than 15 employ­ ees.

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

ENDA has strong, broad-based support. (202-347-5323).

2. Please urge your chapters, members, and activists to contact Senators Campbell, Conrad, D'Amato, Dorgan, Graham, Hatfield, McCain, Simpson, Snowe, Specter at 202-224-3121. Hear­ ing from their constituents is critical. Please contact Melissa Goldberg at People For the American Way (202-457-2373) for an extended list of key sena­ tors.

A few talking points on ENDA, which you may want to use in your letters to your congres­ sional representatives. 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 discrimi­ nation. ENDA prohibits preferential treatment, including quotas, based on sexual orientation. ENDA exempts small businesses, as doing existing discrimi­ nation laws, and only applies to employers with fewer than 15 employ­ ees.

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

ENDA has strong, broad-based support.
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 have liked.
Finally, in April, Ken got another HIV test. It came back negative. The clinic that had done the first test had only administered the Eliza test which can give a false positive for a variety of reasons. When an Eliza test yields a positives result, one 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 amazing it was. Ken was the only one who knew the news, and he 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 Vietnamese veteran friends with PTSD had been sharing with me. "Why did I survive when so many of my friends died?"
Suddenly these two internships seemed much closer then I had ever imagined. Ken went on to tell me of 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 inferiority and hopelessness in the age of AIDS, gay men everywhere were struggling to find a sense of themselves in an era of fear and anxiety about being HIV negative. For the past 15 years social workers, medical professionals, and counselors have focused their 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 are felt by the gay community to be 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 is a difficult message for gay men to a dangerous and fatalistic conclusion that it is only a matter of time before they too, become infected.
Gay people, hosts of have had to struggle with internalized homophobia simply because it is assumed that everyone (especially growing up) is straight. We legitimate 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.
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OUT OF TOWN!

by Paul T. Bernas

One of the most common statements I hear from patrons 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 air lines located all over the globe - some major ones, like Delta, British, Air, or Air France - some really small ones like Mike's Flying Service in Alaska, or Viet Air in Vietnam. By being "recognized" and "licensed", an agent has the ability to sell the products of all of them. In a like manner, an agent can make reservations for hotels, motels, cottages, bed & breakfasts, guest houses, etc. all over the world.

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

There are some agents out there in the world who are what we call "order takers." They'll gladly take your "order" for plane tickets, hotel reservations, car rental, etc. and add nothing to the transaction. This type of agent is doing nothing that you couldn't do yourself - except maybe a little faster. This is not the type of agent 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, if those trips are important to you and you want to make sure that everything goes as you want it. It's really important to deal with a travel agent who understands what you want. Whatever your major concern is, be it price or the quality of the product, you need to 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 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:

BUSINESS PROFILE: Custom Coach and Limousine

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

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

Knowledgeable reservationsists are accessible 24 hours a day and can arrange for clients' ground transportation needs locally or worldwide, with their own fleet or with affiliate companies in over 400 cities.

Isherwood states, "Our clients have very high standards. We handle a 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 service, 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 & Limousine at 358-3589 or in greater Portland at 207-774-2200. Their motto states, "You'll Get Accustomed to Custom."

DEFEND, from page 8

needs to reconfirm his commitment to equality for gay men and lesbians by making a strong statement in his 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 squirmed Democratic National Chairman William D. White and former Rep. Don Fowler, D-Ark., 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 are 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," Fowler said.

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

"I think he should be given more credit," Fowler said. "Gays and 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.

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

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

Hattot 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.

"Grasp your boyfriend's or girlfriend's hand and go get married," Hattot said. "Just don't expect the president to be at the wedding."
CLINTON, from page 6

appointees, including former Assistant HHS 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 Senator La Courtois to the gay and lesbian community, Marsha Scott; 

President Clinton appointed openly gay Massachusetts State Senator Ed Markey to 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 48%, including a 120% increase in AIDS Research grants and 26% rise for AIDS-related research; 

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

* President Clinton convened the National Task Force on AIDS Drug Development, accelerated the approval of protease inhibitors, and removed dozens of bureaucratic obstacles to the effective and dignified 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.  

HATE, from page 6

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

RESTORING 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, locking 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 Randi 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 decided to try Bishop Bishop 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."

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 unsubstantial 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 contributed to easing tensions that school district. Her remarks only perpetuate and inflame the difficulties.

HOMOPHOBIA AND POLITICS IN SENEATE 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 supported 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
AUGUST, 1996 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

August 22 - 25
• Δ Maine-ly For You Women’s Campout - This Women’s Campout is held at a private campground on a pristine lake in Western Maine. Cabins and Campsites are available. Children under 17 are welcome. FMI (207)783-6980.

• Δ 20th Annual Quaker Lesbian Conference - Newbury, NY. FMI QLC, 52 Greenleaf St., Medford, MA 02155.

August 30 - September 2
• Δ 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 person. FMI (207)782-7178 or FMI (207)498-2088.

• Δ Women’s Outdoor Adventure Coop. Overnight/Backpack the Exposed Ridgetop hiking in the state of Maine. Limit 8. FMI (207)772-3776.

August 31
• Δ Women’s Outdoor Adventure Coop. Hike Mts Monroe, Franklin & Eisenhower, in Coos County, NH. FMI (603)483-0436 btw 6 & 9 PM. FMI (207)772-3776.

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.

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
• Δ 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.

Thursday, August 15
• Δ 7:00 PM - Matlovich Society - Annual Lawn Party. 105 North Street, Portland. Bring something to share, plan to eat heavy. 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 - Ski & 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 7:00 PM - PFLAG Northern ME, Cumberland, ME hosts the Auction starts at 6pm. 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.

Sunday, August 11
• Δ Women’s Outdoor Adventure Coop. Hike Mt’s Monroe, Franklin & Eisenhower, in Coos County, NH. FMI (207)772-3776.

Sunday, August 18
• Δ 7:00 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.

Monday, August 19
• Δ 7:00-9:00 PM - Women’s Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women’s Center. FMI Jana (207)772-6599.

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

Symposium XXII

College of the Atlantic, on the Ocean, Bar Harbor, Maine.

Enjoy Keynote Speakers, Live Entertainment and workshops. Call 207-244-4062 for more detailed information and registration.

Symposium XXII is brought to you by members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bi, and Transgender Community of Hancock County.
**Travel/Vacation**

**ΔΔ Lesbian Paradise!** 20 charming rooms, 100 mountain acres, pool, hot tub, hiking/skiing trails, yummy breakfasts, peace and privacy. You're your perfect vacation choice year round! Week-long and midweek yummy breakfasts, peace and privacy. Pool, hot tub, hiking/skiing trails. Romantic, seasonal cottage or year round studio on working organic farm. Call 207/726-5807. **ΔΔ**

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


**ΔΔ Mountain Bike Adventures for Women:** Secluded, primitive camping and guided mountain bike tours. Enjoy personalized tour of beautiful Lakes Region in Naples, Maine. Ride from your tent to the trails or country roads. PMI, 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**

**ΔΔ Shared Living Situations**

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


**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. 207/787-3443 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**

**ΔΔ MisceIlanous**

**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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**Subscription Form**

Yes, I want to subscribe to the Community Pride Reporter. Subscription rate is $25.00 for 12 issues. (More if you can, less if you can't.) CPR is mailed in a plain envelope. Checks should be made payable to Community Pride Reporter and mailed to: P.O. Box 178, Saco, Maine 04072.

When we clear away the accumulation of hurt and anger, the love is still there, shining and clear...

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GENERAL

ML/GPA is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the general public, politicians, and media on LGTQ issues. It promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bi, and transgender people in Maine and encourages activism and legislation. Meetings are the 3rd Saturday of every month in Augusta. FMI call 1-800-55-ML/GPA.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) provides a community for parents and friends of gay, lesbian, and bisexual persons. Meetings are the 2nd Sunday of every month at 2 pm (ME), 2 pm (N-B), at the Gay-Lesbian Center, Sexual Rights Section of the Maine Department of the Attorney General.

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 for more information about practices, send SASE (including your phone number) to P.O. Box 516 St. A, Portland, ME 04101, or call 207/774-8940.

Men 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 men's experience with creativity and lively musical entertainment. FMI call 774-2704 or write M.G.M.C., P.O. Box 1039, Portland, ME 04104.

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 Sunday of the month. FMI write PO Box 6627, Scarborough, ME 04070-6627, call 207.775.0015 or e-mail rbaĐTmaine.com.

Statewide Support for Queer People with Disabilities (P-FLG)

The Maine Gay Men's Chorus will meet on the third Wednesday of every month. The League is a non-profit, creative support network for Maine's gay & lesbian visual arts community. FMI call 775-3240.

PHONE SUPPORT Region by region

National Center for Lesbian Rights Youth Projects: 1-800-528-5104.

Boston Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Youth (BAGY): 617-345-7251.

National Hotline for gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender youth: 1-800-448-7869.

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

Eastern Maine AIDS Network: 990-3626.

Penobscot County: HIV/AIDS Hotline-1-800-347-TEEN, located at 142 High St., 6th floor, Portland 04101.

HIV/AIDS Testing Services: 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, 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. FMI call 874-8464. For other STD services: 874-8464.

Identity Support

Maine PFLAG Meeting

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

Seacoast: Meet 1st Monday from 7-9 pm at Stratham Congregational Church, 152 Stratham Meetinghouse Rd., Stratham, NH 03885. (use entrance off Stratham St.) FMI, 773-5726.]

Community of Hope: A Christian congregation which claims a primary ministry with gay and lesbian people and strives to be inclusive of all persons. Worship on Saturday 4:00 p.m. In Manse Parish Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI write Community of Hope. P.OB 1571, Portland, ME 04101.

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


W.O.W. (Wild Outdoor Women): Recreational group meets monthly for outdoor activities followed by pot luck social activities. Activities: hiking, biking, camping, canoeing, kayaking. FMI, Jen @ 207/778-2759 or 207/773-5083.

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES

ANCHORS AWE ARE

MUSIC & ART
Maine Frontrunners: a gay and lesbian running club sponsoring weekly run in Portland on Thursdays at the beginning of Back Cove Walkway (corner Baxter Blvd. & Preble St. E.), Saturdays, 9 am. FMI, Jim 766-0362, 603/431-8383.


Support Groups: Jacksonville AIDS Support Group: Connects people for mutual support. FMI, call 775-9213.


New Hampshire:

Sexual Support Group for the Lewiston/Montland Valley: Phone line 603/774-5025.

MD: Group; for women & men healing from sexual abuse by clergy, or any group member. Meets 2nd Saturday of each month at the University of New Hampshire, 5:30 to 9 pm. FMI, call 775-9213.


MD: A group of parents, friends, and homosexuals who have been affected by HIV/AIDS meets at noon. FMI, call Sandy Titus at Stratogen Group, 207/990-2095 or write: Man 2 Man, 207/990-2095.

MD: A support group for women who have been affected by HIV/AIDS. FMI, call 207/779-1717.

MD: A support group for gay men & lesbians who experience racism. A group for men who have sex with men. FMI, call 603/779-1717.

MD: A support group for women only. FMI, call 603/779-1717.

MD: A support group for HIV positive individuals. FMI, call 603/779-1717.

MD: A support group for men with HIV. FMI, call 603/779-1717.

MD: A legal clinic for gay men & lesbians. FMI, call 603/779-1717.

MD: A group of gay men for those who identify as gay men, at least once a year. FMI, call 603/779-1717.

MD: A support group for gay men who are under stress from living with HIV/AIDS. FMI, call 603/779-1717.

MD: A support group for gay men, their significant others, and friends of people living with HIV/AIDS. FMI, call 603/779-1717.

MD: A support group for gay men. FMI, call 603/779-1717.

MD: A support group for men and/or women living with HIV. FMI, call 603/779-1717.

MD: A support group for parents, friends, and homosexual men. FMI, call 603/779-1717.

MD: A support group for AIDS patients of all ages. FMI, call 603/779-1717.

MD: A support group for parents of gay children. FMI, call 603/779-1717.

MD: A support group for gay men only. FMI, call 603/779-1717.

MD: A support group for gay men, their significant others, and friends of people living with HIV/AIDS. FMI, call 603/779-1717.

MD: A support group for men with HIV. FMI, call 603/779-1717.

MD: A support group for gay men & lesbians who experience racism. A group for men who have sex with men. FMI, call 603/779-1717.

MD: A group of parents, friends, and homosexuals who have been affected by HIV/AIDS meets at noon. FMI, call Sandy Titus at Stratogen Group, 207/990-2095 or write: Man 2 Man, 207/990-2095.

MD: A support group for women who have been affected by HIV/AIDS. FMI, call 207/779-1717.

MD: A support group for women only. FMI, call 603/779-1717.

MD: A support group for men with HIV. FMI, call 603/779-1717.

MD: A support group for parents, friends, and homosexual men. FMI, call 603/779-1717.

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