Community Pride Reporter

Proudly serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community of Maine and New Hampshire.

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June, 1996

CAGLR holds Awards Night

by Leslie Robinson
New Hampshire Editor

The New Hampshire Citizens Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights (CAGLR) honored 10 individuals and organizations during its first annual awards night held April 27. The crowd of 250 — more than the organizers originally expected — at the Center of New Hampshire in Manchester schmoozed and dined before master of ceremonies Brendan Denehy started the program. He noted one legislator had said there are only about eight gays in New Hampshire. "Either this legislator was wrong, or there are a lot of gay wannabes here."

Denehy introduced keynote speaker David Scondras, the first openly gay elected official in Boston. Scondras praised lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgendered people and supportive straight people, and asked each group in turn to stand up and be thanked for their contributions.

Scondras called the audience "freedom fighters," and said they're making history. He joked that there will one day be statues to them. "Children are special! You can't teach them to hate themselves! That should be illegal!"

He said that genuine equality is what we want. The oppression that has lasted for 15 centuries must end with this generation, Scondras said, so that the 1,000 babies being born each day in this country who will grow up to be gay will also grow up unscarred.

Following Scondras' address, the awards were given out. The Gay Positive award went to the late Olivia Howe, member of Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) Board of Directors. Howe was described as a "freedom fighter," and said she "never gave up hope."

Merrimack voters resoundingly reject right-wing school board candidate

by Suzanne Pyle
NH Contributor

Community activists' work has paid off with the overwhelming victory of Gaye Cadarette in a race for a three-year term on the Merrimack School Board in a recent local election. The choice between candidates represented a clear choice between religious political extremism and mainstream educational values.

"Merrimack has proved once again that when voters experience the damage brought about by an extreme right-wing agenda, they will overwhelmingly reject that agenda in favor of a mainstream, truly pro-education approach," said People for the American Way Action Fund President, Carol Shields. "Merrimack joins communities in Round Rock, Texas, Vista, California, and Lake County, Florida, by replacing right-wing board members with members who are more concerned with improving education than appealing for approval from national Religious Right leaders."

With over 6,100 residents going out to vote, it was the largest turnout in a local election in Merrimack's history. The election was held to fill the seat to be vacated by school board chair Chris Ager, who chose not to seek re-election. Ager, a conservative who was supported by Religious Right groups such as the Christian Coalition and the Traditional Values Coalition, was responsible for implementing extremist policies in the Merrimack School District. The most notorious was Policy 6540, which restricted discussion of homosexuality in the school system. People for the American Way along with local New Hampshire organizations filed suit against the policy in February of this year charging that the policy abridged the Bill of Rights. A new executive director at Peabody House - page 2

New Hampshire PRIDE Complete Schedule - pages 6-7

Town of Merrimack Congratulated - page 8

Interview with Ani DiFranco - page 9

CPR's Guide to Downtown Portland - pages 14-15

So. Maine PRIDE Guide & Schedule - Centerefold pull-out

In this issue...
Peabody House hires new Executive Director

PORTLAND, ME - Thomas W. Cathcart has been appointed Executive Director of Peabody House in Portland. The announcement was made by Peter Haffenreffer, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Cathcart will begin his full-time duties on June 3, 1996.

“We are extremely fortunate to have someone with Tom’s skill in nonprofit management. His health care experience and personal commitment to lead the mission of Peabody House are added strengths. He brings a rich background in community service and human rights advocacy to this important work,” said Haffenreffer.

“I am very impressed with the way all of the pieces are coming together at Peabody House,” said Cathcart. “We have wonderful community support, a strong volunteer program, a highly qualified staff, and now a full house of six residents. I think Peabody House can become a mode of how Maine communities can provide a real home for people in the advanced stages of HIV disease.”

A former senior executive at Mercy Hospital, Cathcart has had a long career in health care administration, clinical services and community health. At Mercy he was Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, directing clinical and support services, chemical dependency services and human resources. Previously he served with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maine in planning, research and provider affairs. His career has included teaching at Westbrook College, probation officer in New York and street outreach worker in Chicago.

His current community activities include service as Chairman of the Board of Spinal Arts, Board of Directors at Day One, and Moderator at Immanuel Baptist Church. He is active with the Witness for Peace Program in Central America, Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights, the Religious Coalition Against Discrimination and United Way of Greater Portland. He holds a degree from Harvard College, and has done graduate work at Bangor Theological Seminary, University of Chicago Divinity School, and University of New England, where he was trained in substance abuse counseling.

Founded in 1994, Peabody House is the only residence in Maine dedicated to serving people in the advanced stages of AIDS. It is named for Portland AIDS activist and nonagenarian Frannie Peabody. With a team of clinical professionals and trained volunteers, Peabody House provides direct care to people with AIDS in a home-like setting.

DECLINE TO SIGN!

Karen Geraghty

“I wish Carolyn would find something to do to take her mind off this.” This was Governor King’s response to the announcement by Carolyn Cosby and Concerned Maine Families (CMF) that they intend to launch another anti-gay referendum.

Wide, I think he echoed the sentiments of tens of thousands of Mainers and certainly the sentiments of the bisexual, transgendered, lesbian and gay communities.

It makes you wonder — what part of “No” did Carolyn and her cohorts not understand?

This latest referendum is an “attempt to clarify Maine law with respect to marriage” according to CMF. They fear that if Hawaii legalizes same-gender marriage, they could be next. Carolyn et al. think every gay person who comes to Maine will fly to Hawaii, marry, and then come back to Maine and demand our unions be legally recognized.

Well, we could sit around all day and debate how many Maine gay people want to get married, how many can afford to travel to Hawaii (I enjoy it when I can get to Old Orchard Beach myself), and whether or not we should put this at the top of our list of things to work on this year.

But then we have to remind ourselves — this is not about same-gender marriage. The issue of same-gender marriage and the Hawaii case will be decided over the next several years in the federal courts, not at the ballot boxes in Maine.

So what is this about? Well — nationally it’s about splitting the country in an election year on a very emotional issue that people have very deep feelings about. All of a sudden the issue of same-gender marriage has been injected into every race from the Presidential on down to local elections.

And in Maine it’s about Carolyn Cosby scaring gay people in order to advance a very narrow minded political agenda. No matter how much she has protested over the last three referendum campaigns that she does not dislike gay people - her continued bashing of us, and now our families, speaks loudly to her true intentions. My mother often wonders how Carolyn Cosby and Larry Lockman sleep at night.

So the drill goes like this: CMF has gathered approximately 5,000 signatures between now and next January in order to put a question on the ballot in November 1997. Many activists around the state have had discussions about how to stop this latest petition from getting on the ballot. Thus, DECLINE TO SIGN was born. This is a project that we know has worked successfully in Washington and Oregon to keep anti-gay referenda off the ballot.

Since Larry Lockman of CMF read CPR on a regular basis - we won’t give away any strategy just now.

“Decline to Sign” had a strong presence and received great support at the Maine State Democratic Convention held in Portland on May 18 and 19. We were able to pass the following resolution:

Resolution by the Gay Democratic Caucus:

To state the opposition of the Maine Democratic Party to Concerned Maine Families petition to curtail rights for Maine’s gay citizens.

The Democratic Party cannot tolerate any further anti-gay legislation in Maine.

This is part of the radical right extremist agenda designed to divide the Democratic Party in Maine and across the country.

We will not be divided. We are a party of inclusion. We are all.

See PROFILE, page 20
Saturday, June 15, 8:00
State Theater, Portland

General Admission:
Cabaret/Dinner $22.50
(plus 12.50 dinner coupon)
3rd Tier Cabaret $22.50
(no dinner)
2nd Balcony $16.50

Reserved Seating:
1st Balcony $22.50
Main Floor $20.50
Main Floor $15.00
(slightly obstructed view)

Tickets available only by
calling the STATE THEATER
BOX office at 879-1112.

Doors open:
6:00 pm for Dinner
(dinner coupon required)
7:00 pm for show

This full page ad is made possible by the following co-sponsors: HONECK • O'TOOLE, SISTERS, PARKSIDE WOMEN'S COUNSELING (Vivian Waddas), VIDEOPORT, BLACKSTONES & COMMUNITY PRIDE REPORTER.
McCORMICK from page 1

in corporate tax policy, protect Maine's environment, protect the civil rights of all Maine citizens (and has consistently sponsored An Act to Prevent Discrimination a.k.a. the gay right bill), provide universal access to health care and supported increasing the minimum wage.

While her opponent, Tom Allen, has been quoted as saying universal health care is a world that is past, McCormick passionately reiterates her position. In a May 16 press conference to address Allen's remarks, McCormick said, "I am here today to reaffirm my absolute commitment to universal health care. I am announcing my intent to go forward with Congress with a universal plan based on five basic principles..."

After outlining the principles, she was asked how long it would take to get such a program started. She replied that she would be prepared to introduce her bill the day after she is sworn into office. "This is the nation's number one challenge," said McCormick. "It will be my number one priority in Congress."

McCormick's statement on taxes further reflects her concern for all Americans. "I will continue to fight for relief from the most unfair of our taxes—property taxes, taxes on the working poor. I will continue to support a balanced budget both in Maine and in Washington. And I will continue to ensure that the path to our prosperity is not paved on the backs of working Maine families, who simply cannot afford to absorb the bulk of the American tax burden."

McCormick has received the endorsement of the International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW). She is a member of Local 407 of the International Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, and in 1975, McCormick became the first woman to complete an apprenticeship and receive a journeyman's card. "McCormick's 100% 1995 rating from the Maine AFL-CIO, and her work on health care reform, the minimum wage, unemployment benefits and other labor issues as a state senator was a determining factor in this endorsement," reads this document.

During the Maine Democratic Convention, McCormick's campaign provided professional child care at the nominee's table and enlisted the help of youngsters to gather and recycle the trash from the convention floor. On her tours to local communities, she and campaign volunteers pitch in with the community to do a project in order "to give back to the people." That about sums up Dale McCormick. ΔΔ

FAIRCLOTH from page 1

the daily papers already carry all the standard information on all candidates, I asked Faircloth what he specifically wanted our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered readership to know about him.

Faircloth replied, "To the extent people would want me, as a freshman Senator, to introduce legislation opposing discrimination, I would be happy to do so... I intend to make civil rights an important part of my advocacy as a United States Senator. I feel that the time is overdue..."

Faircloth went on to say that he has received a great deal of support is southern Maine, where he is least known, from the gay community. "People who are in the gay community have helped me a lot and beyond the fact that I think it's morally right, (equal rights) I just appreciate it. People have helped me out and I think it's appropriate not only to say 'thank you,' but to say, 'I'll remember that.'"

I asked Faircloth how he felt now that the convention was over. "This past weekend the campaign really has gained tremendous momentum. Three weeks ago, it didn't matter what I said... as they say, I couldn't get arrested in Portland. But with the past fortnight, and especially with this convention, things have really turned our way with a tremendous amount of momentum and support."

Faircloth talked about the sense of excitement and unity he feels developing around the '96 elections generally, and specifically with his campaign. He feels that citizens are tired of the Gingrich tactic of divisiveness and are hungering for unity and justice. Faircloth is quick to name those who have endorsed his candidacy, particularly citing those whose endorsement he was told not to expect. They include翩翩 (the legislative director for AARP from York County is helping on the campaign) and Labor, with Local 1458 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, and Local 1825, representing the workers at Bangor Mental Health Institute, and a Lewiston local.

From the feminist community, Laura Fortman executive director of the Maine Women's Lobby, has taken vacation time to work on his campaign. Faircloth has gained a reputation as a powerful advocate for women's rights, from reproductive choice to protection from domestic violence. His innovative child abuse prevention legislation, Healthy Start, has gained wide recognition.

The National Association of Social Workers, in an unusual step, endorsed Faircloth on May 4 saying: "Sen. Faircloth's record on social issues is so strong it compelled us to come out and back him early."

In talking with Faircloth, one is struck by his enthusiasm, his drive, and his passion for justice and fair treatment for all Americans, his intellect, and his ability to think and articulate. An endorsement letter from Pat Pearl, Harry Gordon, Karen Geraghty and Robin Long said, "during the divisive state-wide fight against discrimination last year, Sean Faircloth was there when we needed him. When we needed an effective spokesman, Sean Faircloth stepped forward... Sean Faircloth doesn't just vote the right way. He speaks eloquently and openly for justice."

During our interview, Faircloth was adamant about continuing his advocacy for equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people in the US Senate, as well as his advocacy for children, seniors and labor. He has many innovative ideas which he has outlined in his Corporate Responsibility Initiative. For more information, call his campaign offices: Bangor - 207/947-8422, Portland - 207/775-SEAN.
Rita Kissen, author of "The Last Closet - The Real Lives of Lesbian and Gay Teachers," talks with CPR

by Bruce Balboni

Rita Kissen, an only child, was born and raised in Fair Rockaway in New York. Many gay and lesbian people in the Portland area knew her through her work as a member of PFLAG. "My parents came out of a very liberal tradition of... 1930s Jewish progressive people and that rubbed off while I was growing up, so that's a big part of who I am," said Kissen, who earned her B.A. at Cornell and her Ph.D. in English at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She later taught college in Massachusetts, Nebraska, and Michigan.

It was during this time that she got married, had two children, Michelle was born in 1967 and Andrew in 1970, and got divorced. She was on her own in Nebraska with the children. Kissen said she learned a lot from the dedicated peace activists she knew in Nebraska. It was while living in Nebraska that she met Norm Rauslis, whom she later married.

She wanted to move back East, so when she got a job at the University of Southern Maine in the College of Education, her family came to Portland with her. Kissen works supervising interns in a teacher education program based in Portland. While all this was happening, Kissen says she got involved in the liberal tradition ... 1980s Jewish progressive people and that rubbed off while I was growing up, so that's a big part of who I am," said Kissen, who earned her B.A. at Cornell and her Ph.D. in English at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She later taught college in Massachusetts, Nebraska, and Michigan.

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She wanted to move back East, so when she got a job at the University of Southern Maine in the College of Education, her family came to Portland with her. Kissen works supervising interns in a teacher education program based in Portland. While all this was happening, Kissen says she got involved in the women's movement and met some wonderful feminists, including some lesbians. "I got to know the lesbian and gay community, and in 1984 my daughter came out while we were still in Nebraska and that's been a process that is ongoing," Rita and I covered a lot of ground. Following is a sampling of our discussion:

Q: Why did you write this book?

A: My daughter came out just before she left for college at Smith. Later she became involved with Deaf Education and went to BU where there is a great program for Deaf Education, and I know teachers are on the front lines, along with the military, of gay bashing and gay bating. What she was doing put me in touch with the problems teachers face around this issue, and then, at the same time, I got the job at USM where I'm in the schools all the time, supervising my interns in their certification program. I got much more in touch with what it's like to teach and deal with homophobia, and by that time I was much more active in PFLAG. In 1991 I worked with Equal Protection Portland. I was on the Steering Committee of that organization which helped to uphold Portland's civil rights ordinance. It all kind of came together and what happened was teachers started coming out to me, which was pretty amazing given that it's not very safe to be a gay teacher, and it was even less so four or five years ago when I started this project. A number of teachers came out to me, some in the Portland area and some from other places and I thought, "Wow, they really want someone to know who they are.'

They came out to me because they knew I was a safe person, because I had worked in the community. I wanted to hear more, so I started talking to people about their stories and how they survived, and then I did a paper for a conference based on 10 interviews. I presented the paper at the conference and it went really well.

But it was Norm, my husband, who said to me, 'This is a book; this has to be a book, you have to turn this into a book' and he was right. Colorado and Oregon had their referenda and I thought wouldn't it be interesting to interview teachers there. The idea expanded and I drew up a flyer asking people if they wanted to be interviewed. I never had a problem finding people. I still have a folder with two dozen people whom I never even got to. I interviewed 105 people. People want to tell their stories. Q: Did you have any difficulty finding a publisher?

A: No. I talked to several publishers while I was at that conference where I presented my paper and when I got back, I got a letter from an editor at Heinemann saying she was very interested and did I want to talk. I discovered later that this editor is a lesbian and she wants to develop a lesbian collection at Heinemann, so this was the perfect moment for them and for me. It was just really lucky, and right before I left for my trip to Colorado, I was notified the contracts were on their way. That was great to go out there knowing I had a publisher. I wrote the whole thing last summer because I was teaching all year. I started in June and I finished in August. I did nothing but write. Norm became a terrific cook and I just spent the whole summer writing, but it was a good way to do it.

A: There was one teacher who was out who told me that when he was student teaching in elementary school his supervisor told him not to have any kids sit on his lap.

See KISSEN, page 21

MONEY TALK: Maine business Property Tax Reimbursement program

by Peter J. Callahan, CPA

Business owners such as sole proprietors, partnerships, corporations, etc. should be aware of a new program in the State of Maine designed to encourage capital investment by reimbursing a business for any property taxes paid on qualifying property first placed in service after April 1, 1995.

Qualifying property includes tangible personal property such as office equipment, machinery, computers, furniture, fixtures and other types of business-related items. It also includes construction-in-progress, repairs and replacement parts, improvements and inventory parts. The property must be used exclusively for a business purpose and be depreciable to qualify. Land and buildings do not qualify for this program.

There are procedures which must be followed to qualify for and obtain the reimbursement. The local tax assessor must first be provided with information about the property placed in service. They will provide a statement that must be attached to the claim for reimbursement when it is submitted. The Business Property Tax Reimbursement Application Form 800 must then be submitted within 60 DAYS after the tax is paid.

The State of Maine has started sending Business Property Tax Reimbursement Booklets to area businesses. If you have not received a booklet call the Bureau of Taxation at 207-624-7804 and request one be sent to you. This program is a great opportunity for businesses to reduce their overall tax burden. If you are an employee of a business inform your employer of the program. I'm certain they would be grateful. Good Luck!

Montreal

Whether you come to experience the Montreal Jazz Festival, Just For Laughs Festival or the Black & Blue Weekend, you will love our wonderful tours to one of the world's great cities.

June 28-30
Montreal Jazz Festival

October 12-14
Black & Blue Weekend

For more information about these tours or to be put on our mailing list please call:

(207) 879-1844
1-800-797-9850

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Over 20,000 current and out-of-print books in stock. 10 Third Street, Bangor • 942-3019 A reader's paradise since 1980
New Hampshire celebrates ninth year of PRIDE!

by Flora Piterak

The New Hampshire Pride Committee has once again been hard at work organizing the PRIDE '96 Celebration. The weekend of June 14-15 will afford our communities several opportunities to come out and celebrate who we are and what we have accomplished over the course of another year. All of the basic information you will need to celebrate PRIDE '96 is in this issue of "Community Pride Reporter." Save this schedule and bring it with you or pick up another copy as you enter the festival at Pat's Peak.

FLOATS

Once again we offer the opportunity for you creative souls out there to show your stuff. Why not organize your group around a float? Add color, add rainbow flags, add paper maché to any vehicle with wheels and call it a float. We would like to see some human, some Pride and some fun through floats. So give it a try and ride down Main Street in style. Ribbons will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place in each category. In order for floats to be considered for judging, they must reflect the 1996 theme, "Building Community." It is also helpful to know that Concord's streets are not that wide so remember to plan for turning space during the construction of your float(s).

Every float must have at least one monitor on each side for safety, and if your group is distributing materials, this must be done from the ground level, not off the float itself.

The categories for Parade Float Judging are:

- Most Outstanding Theme
- Best Selection of Diversity and Unity
- Most Creative
- Most Inspirational
- Most Outstanding Out-of-State Float

This is a great opportunity for your group to get recognition and show your PRIDE. So, start planning now. If you would like to enter a float or need more information, please contact Jim at 603 536-4011.

New Hampshire PRIDE

Dates:

June 14, 1996 - March and Rally Main Street, Concord, at 7:00 pm
June 15, 1996 - PRIDE Celebration Day - $15.00 - Pat's Peak, Henniker, begins at 7:00 pm
June 15, 1996 - PRIDE Dance - $5.00 with bracelet - Pat's Peak, Henniker, NH begins at 8:00 pm

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

For the past eight years, Pride Day has happened thanks to members of our community who have pitched in with volunteer hours to make it a well-organized success. This year is no different. Volunteers are needed to help set-up staging, tents and workshop areas. Traffic control is a major event and takes several people to coordinate parking, taking admission fees and "tagging" participants. Volunteers are also needed at the dance and for Sunday morning cleanup. Needless to say, there is much to do and we need your help. So sign up now. If the cost of admission is too much for you, give us three hours of work and get in free. This offer is limited in numbers, so take advantage now.

To arrange being a volunteer at Pride Day - Call Jim Bretz at 603 536-4011.

The Wedding

This year's wedding will take place at 12:15 pm. The Reverend Leanne Tigert, with assistance from Jim Bretz, will perform the ceremony. This is the time to commit to the person in your life, or to renew the commitment of sharing your lives. The ceremony is held outside, under the trees, on a hillside. For those planning to take part a pre-ceremony workshop will be held beginning at 10:30 am. For more information, call Jim at 603/556-4011.

VENDORS REGISTER NOW

One of the many highlights of Pride Day is the Vendors' area where our community and supporters show their wares. This year we are seeking to increase our Vendor space and encourage you to sign up now. Want to earn some friends for your group or organization? Consider selling food items or beverages.

The cost for booth space is $30.00 for "For Profit" groups with one person attending the booth and $15.00 for each additional person. There is no charge for "Non-profit" groups for booth space. Each person attending is $15.00.

For those who have not had the experience of setting up a booth this is what you need to know:

- You must bring your own tables, chairs, and tents or umbrellas (if you want to be out of the sun). The ground if very rocky and hard. It is almost impossible to put stakes in, so plan accordingly. There is no electricity available. Open fires are not allowed. Gas grills are allowed. We provide the space - you must bring what you will need to get set up and running. Vendors can begin set up at 8:00 AM. If you do not set up before 10:00 AM you will probably not be able to drive to your designated vending space. Early arrivals will be able to park near their vending booths. To register, use the vendor registration form. The deadline for Vendor Registration is June 12, 1996. For more information, call Flora at 603/382-9308.

HOW DO I GET THERE?

Easy directions to Pat's Peak:

Do you know the Gay Life in New Hampshire?

Gay Lifeline has it all!

The indispensable guide for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community of northern New England.

Available for $14.95 only from
the Gay Info Line of N11
26 South Main St., #181
Concord, NH 03301
NEW HAMPSHIRE GAY LIFELINE

Take route 93 N (if you live south of Concord, NH) to Route 89 N. Follow 89 N to exit 5 (a left hand exit) onto routes 202 and 9. Stay on 202 and 9 until Route 114 (Henniker, New England College). Go left at end of the ramp. Follow road through Henniker (past blinking yellow light, over bridge, curves to the left going out of town. Stay on 114 till you see a large brown and yellow sign on your right that will say Pat's Peak. Take a right and follow up the mountain till you see the entrance to Pat's Peak on your left. Hope to see you there!

**NH PRIDE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**JUNE 15, 1996**

**Pat's Peak, Henniker NH**

8:00-10:00 am - Gates open for vendors
10:00 am - Gates open to public
10:30 am - Pre-wedding workshop
11:00 am - Magic for Kids - 3rd Floor, Main Building
11:00 am - Workshops - Annex Upstairs: Hot Woods - Meeting Men of Granite
Downstairs: Legal & Financial Concerns for Non-Traditional Families
12:15 pm - The Wedding - Annex outside
1:00 pm - Workshops - Annex
1:00 pm - Magic for Kids - 3rd Floor, Main Building
Upstairs: Touch of Kink - for men
Downstairs: Hands on Massage
2:00 pm - Keynote Speaker: Rick Tromblay, Minority Whip, NH House of Representatives
3:00 pm - Hands on Massage
4:00 pm - Grant King
5:00 pm - Erica Wheeler
8:00 pm - Pride Dance - $5.00 with pride bracelet - Ends at 1:00 am.

**WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS**

**A Touch of Kink:**
S & M 101 for men. Everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask.
Open and frank discussion - the leather scene, bondage & discipline and S & M. Tools of the trade (show and tell), limits and trust.

**Hot Woods - Meeting Men of Granite:**
Men will have the opportunity to discuss what it means to be gay, bisexual or transgendered in New Hampshire, the challenges of meeting a date in a rural environment, and the impact of HIV/AIDS on our lives. We will talk about safer sex basics, making safer sex hot sex, and increasing intimacy and fantasy in safer sex. This will be your opportunity to see how to rope in your cowboy with hot talk of safer sex. Discussion-based, with plenty of opportunity to learn from each other.

**Legal & Financial Concerns for Non-Traditional Families:**
Learn about the Importance of Wills, Power of Attorney, Living Wills or a Medical Proxy. How do you make parenting agreements - or relationship agreements. What to do for your future financial security and safety. Should your future include retirement planning, life insurance. Get answers to all those sticky questions that you need answered!

**Hands on Massage:**
When you're stressed out - or everything hurts because of that cold front coming through, wouldn't it be nice to know just how to relax and get your partner to massage the tightness away in your shoulders. Learn a few techniques that can only enhance your physical and emotional well-being.

**Magic for Kids:**
Bring the kids upstairs in the main building for a wonderful time of pure magic and wonderment with Dan, Dan, the Magic Man. A new feature to keep all the young (and old) entertained and awed. Life is just an illusion

**NEW HAMPSHIRE PRIDE ENTERTAINMENT**

**ASL Interpreter - Diane Vlasky**

**Erica Wheeler:**
"Insightful, imaginative songs...her imagery can nail down relationships in a single verse." - The Washington Post
Erica Wheeler is a nationally touring singer/songwriter whose music captures landscapes and whose songs pull on the heart with assured passion and grace. She has appeared as a special guest with artists such as Indigo Girls, The Story, Shawn Colvin and Iris DeMent and as a headliner at prestigious concerts and projects designed to further celebration of Lesbian and Gay Singers and Songwriters."

Grant's song "To Hold and Be Held" was named a Critic's Choice in Billboard Magazine, which said "his voice shines with and emotional purity and honesty often missing from love songs." Last summer, Grant was seen on national TV serenading Jesse Helms on TV Nation.

Dan, with life-partner and lyricist Michael Biello, has written songs performed from La Mama to Lincoln Center, on ABC, PBS, and a variety of recordings. Martin performed their anthem "What We Believe Is Right" at the 1993 March On Washington. "Fairy Tales," their new musical, will premiere in Provincetown, MA this July.

**fem!e m'amie:**
"These voices soar and blend, deliberate and precise, yet passionate and expansive...The arrangements are accessible and the choral and solo parts divine." - Sing Out Magazine

**African Freedom songs are woven together with folk songs, spirituals, gospel, blues, jazz, Renaissance vocal music and original compositions. The group is striking for its clear, precise harmonies, but also for the excitement that the women bring to singing with each other.

The release of Song of Hands, available on both CD and cassette has heralded the "arrival" on the music scene of this group of seven women. However, they continue to be unassuming and passionate about their music and their values.

"Our unique sound is an extraordinary blend of seven women's voices whose soaring harmonies express our love of singing, and our commitment to making connections with each other, our audience, and the world." - fem!e m'amie

**REMEMBER THE DATE:**

**JUNE 14 - 15 AND CELEBRATE PRIDE - NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**DESSERT HEARTS**

**RT 1 BY-PASS, PORTSMOUTH NH 1-603-431-5400**

**Wednesday thru Sunday**

8:00 PM - 1:00 AM

**KARAOKE**

Every Sunday with DJ Kristin B

Thursday nights: Join former members DJ Conrad Friday and Saturday: Join the Desert Heart Staff for a night of fun and dancing

**Grant King and Dan Martin:**

New York based singer-songwriters Grant King and Dan Martin have collaborated on a number of concerts and projects designed to further
NEW YORK — The Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Teachers Network congratulated Merrimack, NH voters for their resounding rejection of the town’s far right school board majority in Tuesday’s election, when pro-education candidate Rosemarie Rung trounced her opponent by an over 2-1 majority in the largest-ever turnout in a school board election in the town’s history.

Merrimack activist, Randy Kottwitz, lead the fight against the school board’s gag order. He is shown here holding the ‘smoking gun,’ evidence of a national right-wing agenda to take over school boards.

Merrimack was thrust into a national spotlight last year, when it was used as a testing ground by the California-based "Traditional Values Coalition," a religious-extremist organization that coached local school board members in passing a policy that prohibited any program that had the "intent or effect of encouraging homosexuality as a positive life-style alternative."

"Tuesday’s election was a referendum on that policy, and Rueng’s overwhelming victory makes it clear that Merrimack voters have no intention of letting an intolerant minority set the agenda for their schools," said Kevin Jennings, GLSTN’s Executive Director, who cited the headline in the May 15 Nashua Telegraph— "Conservatives Clearly Crushed"— as evidence for his interpretation. "Local people saw that this was all about intolerance, and they rejected that as something that was unfit for children," he added.

Jennings, who attended the school board meeting where the policy was passed last August and spoke at a rally organized by townspersons in the aftermath of that vote, spoke of the national implications of the Merrimack election.

"This election is a wake-up call to the right wing extremists," Jennings said. "They now know that they won’t be able to pass such policies with impunity, and that their real agenda — using the schools to instuct young people in the lesson of bigotry — is being found out." Jennings added, "The recovery in Merrimack led directly to the founding of a GLSTN chapter by people in New Hampshire last fall, and there is a lesson to be learned here by the Right: the more you attack us, the more we will get organized and fight back — and we will win."

Jennings cited local activists such as Merrimack citizen Randy Kottwitz as the key to the success of the Merrimack effort. "The fact that local people led this drive made it clear that this wasn’t a ‘special rights agenda’ as the right would have you believe," Jennings said. "We plan to organize community by community every time they launch their campaign of bigotry, because we won’t let that lesson be taught in our schools anymore."

With over thirty chapters, and a membership of over three thousand teachers, parents, and concerned citizens, The Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Teachers Network (GLSTN) is the largest national organization working to ensure that schools are places where all people are respected and valued, regardless of sexual orientation. Find out more about GLSTN on our web site: http://www.glstn.org/ freedom/

Community Foundation awards grants promoting equality and understanding

PORTSMOUTH, NH - The Greater Piscataqua Community Foundation has awarded grants to two organization to improve programs and services for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people.

The Women’s Health Consortium, a volunteer collaborative of local service providers and community members, received funding for a breast and cervical cancer screening clinic and health and wellness workshops targeting lesbian, bisexual and transgendered women. The project will also provide awareness training to health care providers who work with sexual minorities.

The RAINBOW Network, a volunteer collaborative of local service providers and community members, received funding for a breast and cervical cancer screening clinic and health and wellness workshops targeting lesbian, bisexual and transgendered women. The project will also provide awareness training to health care providers who work with sexual minorities.

The next deadline for proposals to the Bob Kaman Fund if June 15, 1996. For more information, call the Greater Piscataqua Community Foundation at 603/430-9182. ΔΔ

MERRIMACK from pg. 1

Picnic Potluck hosted by Rainbow Net

by Leslie Robinson

New Hampshire Editor

Nearly 100 people took potluck in more ways than one in the basement of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Portsmouth on Saturday, May 11. The Rainbow Network hosted the "Picnic Potluck Extravaganza" in order to bring together gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered people and allies in a fun setting. The community-builder featured a potluck dinner, "potluck entertainment," and "potluck merchant." The room was decorated with balloons and streamers in the rainbow colors. A couple of vendors marketed GLBT goods. Picnickers, ranging from children to senior citizens, sat on blankets on the floor, eating and visiting. A sundae bar offered a particular chance to gorge.

The four-woman group, "Ladies’ Choice" kicked off the entertainment, followed by singer-songwriter Heidi Batchelder, and alternative rock band, "Spirit Varish." The evening also included door prizes, a hula hoop contest and a piñata that suffered at the whacks of children. Seacoast Outright members and Spirit Varishers.

The Rainbow Network works to unify and empower the New Hampshire Seacoast’s gay community. During the potluck event, organizers announced they’re going forward with plans for a gay community center.
Ager’s actions have actually led to homophobia being discussed in homes in Merrimack and across the state.

“We’ve got our smoking gun,” Kottwitz said, and held Time magazine aloft. The Time story revealed that a national group, the Traditional Values Coalition, provided guidance to the policy’s backers in the community. Ager has often said the policy was strictly home-grown. "We have 'em now," said Kottwitz. And in three weeks (when elections were due to be held) we’re taking our school board back! (See story on Merrimack Vote in this issue).

The Education award went to Penny Culliton, the embattled high school English teacher who lost her job over including gay-positive books in her curriculum. She had received the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Teachers Network (GLSTN) Pathfinder Award that morning.

Rick Trombly, a Democrat from Boscawen, was awarded the Legislator honor. He was described as a “voice of reason.”

The CAGLR Civil Rights Award went to Bill McCann, the primary sponsor of House Bill #1294. “In January, ‘97, I am convinced we can pass the anti-discrimination law,” he said.

“I get sick and tired of hearing Chuck Douglas and his friends in the Christian Coalition talk about ‘special rights.’ It’s about equal rights, he said. Everyone in New Hampshire is equal,” said McCann, “with no exceptions.”

After the awards, some attendees remained to dance and chat. Clara Amassa of Concord said it was her interest in politics that brought her to the event. She wants to see an end to discrimination, and to help those who are closeted. Speaking of gay youth, she said, “I want to make it so they don’t have to go through the crap I did.”

Jim Breitz of CAGLR said this evening came about because members had been “looking for a way to do some community-building and networking, and we thought this would be the best way to thank those people who have done so much over the years. The idea was born.”

INSURANCE TIPS:

by Carolyn A. Jabbert

Does your homeowners or auto policy provide coverage for your boat?

There is some physical damage coverage under your homeowners, condo or renters policy. It is specific and very limited! You have coverage for your watercraft, including trailers, furnishings and equipment generally limited to a maximum of $1,000 (check your policy or call your agent to confirm).

Direct loss to your watercraft, trailers, furnishings, outboard motors and equipment resulting from windstorm or hail is only covered if the property is inside a fully enclosed building and up to $1,000 or as your policy specifies. If your watercraft, trailers, furnishings, outboard motors and equipment is stolen while away from your residence, there is no coverage.

You also have limited personal liability coverage for your watercraft under your homeowners, condo or renters policy. If your boat is under a specified size or length and the horsepower is within the limit stated in your policy, you have liability coverage up to the limit you carry under the homeowners, condo or renters policy. Don’t assume you do. Be sure to check!

Example: Owned or rented sailboats exceeding 25 feet in length are excluded. Owned or rented watercraft exceeding 50 horsepower is usually excluded. Theft of your watercraft, trailers, furnishings, equipment and outboard motors away from the residence premises is usually specifically excluded.

Does your Auto policy provide coverage when your boat and trailer are in tow?

Your basic auto policy will not provide physical damage for your boat since it was not designed to cover this type of property. The boat trailer can be covered under your auto policy for an additional premium. However, if the boat trailer is set while being towed and a motorist is injured, the liability section of your policy will respond.

If you own a watercraft that is not insured under a watercraft policy or specifically endorsed under your homeowners, condo or renters policy, you may not have liability or physical damage protection. Insuring for liability only, is fairly inexpensive for boats with low horsepower.

Operating an uninsured watercraft leaves you open to a serious liability exposure. The State of Maine has passed a new statutory wrongful death benefit of $150,000 for a single male aged 20. Boating accidents can cause serious and permanent injury to others. It only takes a few minutes to check on your coverage and obtain advice on carrying the proper liability limits. Protect yourself for the upcoming season! Don’t go bare!

Northern Maine Pride Festival Scheduled Event to include all of northern Maine

by Sean Weber

On July 13, 1996 Bangor, Maine will hold its annual Gay Pride Festival. This year we have changed the name because we thought it would be nice to include the rest of the northern part of Maine. As it is in most states, it is almost impossible to hold a gay pride event in small towns, especially in the state of Maine with Carolyn Cosby ranting and raving. We need to be celebrating together and not as separate communities. This is one of the reasons we have decided to work with other groups from northern Maine. So this July 13, Northern Maine Pride Festival will kick up their heels, shout and scream and have one hell of a good time in Bangor.

This year we are pleased to announce that we will be having several events throughout the day. The biggest event, in addition to the parade, will be the cabaret show starring Sir Monty Rock III! Monty Rock, also known as Disco Tex and the Sex-O-Let’s, was the first openly gay disco singer in the 70s. He has been on the Late Show 84 times, from the staff and patrons of Sportsman’s

To the Maine and New Hampshire communities,

Happy Pride 1996!

2 Bates Street • Lewiston, Maine • 207-784-2251
city of Quebec has a lot to offer. It has a wonderful night life with lots of small restaurants, open-air cafes and bars. The food is fantastic and the people are incredibly friendly. Most of the people I came in contact with spoke a very understandable English (as opposed to my barely recognizable French). I had heard that, while people in Montreal were very bilingual, the people of Quebec City would make you suffer trying to make yourself understood. Boy, was I wrong. Most people under the age of 30 have had several years of English in high school and I had no problems understanding them or being understood. And if you made even the slightest attempt to speak French, they were most appreciative and helpful.

There are many other places outside of the city worth seeing. Most everything is within 20 minutes of the downtown area. One of the sights to see is Mt. Morency Falls - a waterfall that is taller than Niagara Falls. There is a cable car that takes you from the parking area to the top of the falls where there is a wonderful restaurant. Another 20 minute drive from downtown and you are in the Laurentian Mountains with several very large ski areas.

Also located throughout the region are many "sugar shacks" where you can see how maple syrup is made and sample the products. We visited one particular sugar shack where we were fed a traditional French Canadian meal consisting of ham, eggs, pork pie, beans, fried potatoes, and pea soup. For dessert, we were given hot maple syrup poured over snow making it into maple taffy. For a change of pace, you should visit Isle d'Orleans - a large island that sits in the middle of the St. Lawrence River. Located only 20 minutes from downtown, it is a community of small farms, boat yards and beautiful homes.

As I mentioned earlier, there is quite a bit of life in Quebec City - including a pretty fair gay nightlife. Along with another travel agent from Miami, I visited four gay bars in the Old City. One was La Balloon Rouge (the Red Balloon), it had levels with 2 dance floors, pool tables, and a cabaret area. The second one was called Le Drague which also had multiple levels. The fourth stage had a continuous flow of good looking guys in various stages of undress. If a particular guy caught your attention, you could pay him $7 and he would take you to a private area where he would perform a private dance just for you - only inches from your face.

If so you're looking for a great weekend escape, my recommendation would be to head north to Quebec City. It's like Europe being less than six hours away.

Willy "The Condom Man" Willette Leaves The AIDS Project
by Victor Rash

Anyone who has ever studied anything about organizational development or structure will know that agencies such as The AIDS Project (TAP) start out as grass roots altruism and begin to grow from that point. In order to survive in today's competitive world, however, grass roots groups inevitably grow into bigger, more bureaucratic creatures.

Willy, the AIDS Project, which is in its 11th year, is no exception. The agency has grown and continues to grow at a quick pace. For people who describe themselves as a grass roots oriented, such as Willy, there are only two choices to be made in coping with these changes. One choice is to move into the growth and grwove the "grass roots" status; the other is to grow more away from the growth, which tends to leave one feeling polarized from the agency.

This is where Willy began to find himself: torn between his commitment and love for the work he has been doing for this agency and his need to be more fundamental. And so, after working for over seven years, the outreach worker known on the street as "the condom man" has left TAP. Willy, who began volunteering at TAP in 1987 when there were only a handful of people starting this agency, was involved in the earliest development of this organization doing everything from preparing meals to direct client services.

Willy says that whatever services the client needed, that is what TAP provided. Willy was hired by the agency as a street outreach worker. Not a conventional job by any means, but Willy has never been a conventional person. He is an imposing man of 49, with a large frame and a long white beard. If he sounds a little like Santa, well, he does have a gentle nature. Willy has a long history of work and interest in men's health issues; he also helped start the MAINELY MEN. He met someone early years of HIV, he got interested in this work. Like most people who have pioneered through the early years of HIV, he can't tell you how many losses he has experienced.

Willy is one of those people who not only got involved long before much was known about HIV, but he was one of those rare people who were literally on the front lines out on the streets working to educate sex industry workers about the risks of HIV, and teaching about safety with IV drug use and clean needles, as well as passing out condoms at public sex environments for men who have sex with men. It isn't exactly Ozzie and Harriet.

Willy looks back on his years of doing this work with fond memories, even though some may have been a little scary, like the drug dealer who saw Willy hanging out on "his" corner and chased him away. Willy patiently won the man over, and before too long, Willy was back on the same corner educating people. Or a sweeter remembrance is that of the Ohio homo who fancied Willy as something more, Willy, who was the first to give him a chance.

Willy leaves us to go to The Discovery House as a substance abuse counselor. He says that the experience has given him a greater appreciation for his own life, especially the everyday things. We here at TAP wish Willy well in his new endeavors. His departure is further evidence of the change that continues to occur here. Saying good-bye to Willy is also saying good-bye to a little more of the earlier innocence of our grass roots days, and it translates itself into many aspects of our lives. Making room for the changes means dealing with the sadness of letting Willy go. Good luck, Willy.
Gay, Lesbian, Straight Teachers Network forms in Maine

by Janis Tyderle

A group of gay, lesbian and straight teachers and community members has been meeting in the greater Portland area since early April to form a Maine chapter of GLSTN—The Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Teachers Network.

The national organization was begun in the Boston area in 1990 and was instrumental in making Massachusetts the first state in the nation to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation in its public schools. Since 1994, over twenty local chapters of GLSTN have been formed. Each local chapter defines its mission, with all chapters supporting the national mission of "to educate teachers, students, and the public at large about the damaging effects of homophobia and heterosexism on youth and adults.

GLSTN chapters work to help K-12 public, private and parochial schools develop climates in which the positive contributions of diversity are valued. GLSTN chapters support a variety of activities, including fostering communication among educators, helping schools understand the needs of gay youth, providing schools with strategies for guaranteeing equality for their students, and creating support for gay, lesbian and bisexual students and teachers.

The Maine chapter of GLSTN will work through the summer to define its specific mission and to design activities which will help realize that mission. Among the activities already planned by the group are participation in the Portland Pride March on June 15 and sponsorship of a book signing for chapter member Rita Kissen's book "The Last Closet: The Real Lives of Lesbian and Gay Teachers." The book signing, which will be at Drop Me a Line on Congress Street from 7 to 8 p.m. on June 12, will be preceded by a reception, sponsored by the Portland chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. The reception will be held at the Dead Space Gallery, 11 Avon Street, Portland at 5 p.m.

Anyone wanting more information about the Maine chapter of GLSTN can contact Rita Kissen at 766-538 or Betty Smith at 773-9547. Any person, regardless of sexual orientation or occupation, is committed to working toward creating schools where respect for all people is taught, is welcome to join. 

THE XXII most asked questions about Symposium XXII

A: We sympathize! Call us or write and we'll figure out a fair price.

It seems like a lot of money.
A: It is, compared to other Symposiums other years. But our fixed prices are steep, phenomenal food costs more, and you're paying to be on a gorgeous campus in a resort area at the peak of the summer season. You could pay $150-160 for a day and stay one night at a mid-quality hotel in Bar Harbor.

7: What if someone can't afford it?
A: We're asking people to specify what they need, in order to afford what they need, in order to attend. Beyond that, probably it will be first come, first serve. Of course, the more people who come, the sooner we can meet our expenses, and the more we can put into scholarships. We hope to let people know in July so they can plan.

9: Do you have childcare?
A: Yes. We plan a combination of parents and volunteers pitching in to cover, plus some hired baby-sitting for events like the keynotes which no one would want to miss. We will also offer signing and help for anyone with special needs.

10: Is it true that Lucie Blue Tremblay is doing a workshop?
A: Yes! It's entitled "Heart of the Song", open to both men and women, and it's about the process of creating anything which then takes on a life independent of you. It's free, but limited space, though, so register soon!

11: Is COA located right on the ocean?
A: Yes, and ideal for water sports.

12: I've heard there will be sea kayaking. Isn't this expensive?
A: There will be 3 times for sea kayaking, with room for 10 people in each time slot: Saturday (the first afternoon) 2-4 PM, Sunday morning 6:30-8 AM, and Sunday afternoon 3-5 PM. It will cost $20/person for two guides and all equipment. You would pay $35-50 for something comparable in Bar Harbor itself. Another good reason for quick registering!

13: What are some possible field trips?

14: Is it true that there will be lobster?
A: Yes! It's entitled "Heart of the Song", open to both men and women, and it's about the process of creating anything which then takes on a life independent of you. It's free, but limited space, though, so register soon!

Celebration Gay Pride at Drop Me a Line...

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12
7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Booksigning with Rita Kissen to celebrate the publication of her new book The Last Closet: The Real Lives of Lesbian and Gay Teachers (published by Heinemann).

THURSDAY, JUNE 13
Reception for Claudia Brenner following her address to the Matlovitch Society. Brenner is the author of Eight Bullets (published by Crossing Press).
Cosby claims Question 1 was defeated because of, "... rich Washington big shots and CORRUPT MAINE POLITICIANS who thwarted the will of Maine's people on special "gay rights ..." — fund-raising letter 5/19/96

26,000 vote margin. And Cosby lamely tried to attribute his electoral defeat to his inability to recruit children or anyone else. We do not recruit children or anyone else. Merrimack, NH be a lesson for all of us. Cosby is on the streets as you read this article wanting to recruit children, haven't you? Cosby acted out the sore loser on TV, it is easily understood why - ask Harmon.

We have many good friends running for office from national to local positions. I urge you to ask them the tough questions, ask them how they feel about you as a liberal person and how they will affect their voting on issues. Let Merrimack, NH be a lesson for all of us. Thankfully, the community at large rose to the occasion and demanded their schools back, but it wasn't without pain and expense.

Please, don't wait for someone else to watch out for our interests. Get involved. (The political campaigns of at least two folks I know can use some extra help down the stretch.) Be sure to cast your vote on June 11.

In Solidarity,

Warren Wells
I had originally intended to tell my story to seek support and to perhaps 'educate' those in our communities who may be contemplating a family. It was then pointed out to me that my story may also have an impact on the current events facing us in our fight for civil rights.

I am not a politically active member of the community and I'm ignorant of many of the issues facing us. I do know, however, that there have been considerable efforts made by many to speak our voice and obtain equal rights for us. I would like to applaud those who have accomplished what they have and support them to make further strides for us.

With the emphasis today on family values, it saddens me to tell my tale. When speaking of values, rights and my life as a lesbian, I feel unimportant and not recognized as someone who counts.

I would like to share a conversation between my son and me from July of 1995, just days after my eight year relationship with his father came to an end. This has kept me and Elijah from continuing our relationship. Tahsha has employed a legal advisor and I have been unable to see Elijah for nearly four months. Unfortunately, I now have been forced to employ legal assistance in an attempt to gain the right of visitation with our son. There will be a court date, and in the end I hope to be together with Eli. I also hope to set a precedence for similar situations in the future.

I would like Eli's and my story to educate those in similar situations to seek some sort of custodial agreement during the commitment phase of cohabitation. The children and non-biological parent should not be forced to give up so easily. Out of a lack of fairness and not being recognized in my relationship with my son, he and I are experiencing an unnecessary deterioration of our ever so important parent/child relationship. My love, as Tahsha's, is just as unconditional. I chose my life. I chose to have a child with Tahsha and I choose to continue my commitment. Now, however, I need to gain the right!

Kim Trott
30A Government Street
Kittery, ME 03904

Dear CPR:

On May 2, 1996 Peaches Bass was awarded the Mabel Wadsworth Woman of the Year Award for outstanding contributions to the health and lives of Maine Women (see "To Your Health" this issue). After 20 years of work, Peaches has done, the work nearest and behind the scenes" work with state and center, that first inspired my idea for a Lesbian Health Project at Mabel Wadsworth Southern Maine. This meant committing herself to twice-monthly meetings (always 2 hours long!) for a year, in addition to many long phone conversations; assistance with networking and fund-raising; reviewing drafts of written work; brainstorming; and lots of moral support. Her willingness to take on this responsibility is yet another example of her commitment to lesbian health issues in this state. This is especially true when considering the numerous other organizations she volunteers her time to.

The value of a good mentor is immeasurable; in fact, good mentoring is hard to come by, something most activists will attest to. The gift that I (and LH/PVM) have had through Peaches' skilled guidance is truly priceless.

So, Peaches, I'd like to say one more time: thank you for making such a big, big difference.

Sincerely,

Debra Madore, President
Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine

Dear Winnie:

As the announcement in this issue of CPR states, I will be closing down my private counseling practice in Portland in December of this year. As a result, I am no longer taking new referrals. Winnie, I would like to thank you and all those who have been involved with CPR for your wonderful help and cooperation in the establishment of my practice. Over the 2 years, I have served 40 clients. Of that number 22 (55%) have come in the CPR or were referred by you and your staff. I cannot stress enough how effective you have been at getting my name and the names of other gay/lesbian counselors out to your readers. Many of these clients have come from other parts of Maine, and even New Hampshire.

I would also like to thank you for your professional attitude regarding editorial opinion. As we both know, I have not always agreed with CPR's articles and editorials. I have written some pretty adamant letters in which I expressed strong opinions about the paper. Each time, you have given me a voice with which to express those opinions. That's journalism at its best (and better than most other local papers).

As my partner and I move to Chicago to further our educations (and reshape the learning curve, no doubt), I will keep you in my thoughts. I will also be subscribing to CPR so that I can stay abreast of Maine's gay, lesbian and transgender news. I will miss you, my friend.

Sincerely,

Bill Barte, Portland

Dear Ms. Winch:

I am currently working under a Maine Community AIDS Partnership (MCAP) grant providing public awareness and prevention education to Aroostook County. The goals of this grant include reducing fear and discrimination toward people with HIV, their families, friends and sexual partners. Increasing awareness of HIV and its prevention is a priority for the grant. I am seeking ways to reach African Americans and other groups that may be unfamiliar with or not aware of new or updated information.

RANT from page 12

racists like David Duke, (former leader of Louisiana's Ku Klux Klan), anti-Semites like the Buchanan crowd and homophobes like Representative Robert Dornan from California have found a political home in the Republican Party.

The Republicans consistently violate their own "philosophy" of less government. While they support innovative legislation regarding women's bodies, and people's private sexual practices, they also lie about taxes and money. What the hell does "more money and power in the hands of average people" mean? The Republicans keep saying they want to do this — yet, it is they who want to cut the Earned Income Credit which would take money directly out of the pockets of the nation's poorest people. And, if they who tripped the national debt under Ford and Carter, and now they scream about balancing the budget. And, of course, they oppose the increase in the minimum wage.

How can the members of this party support such outrageous hypocrisy? The answer is simple: Some of them would be unrecognized to him if he were alive today, and if people actually do spin in their graves at outrageous heaped on them after death, then you can bet Old Abe is a top...
Community Pride Reporter's Guide to Downtown Portland

STATE THEATRE
609 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101
Box Office: 207 879 1112

MESA VERDE
• Authentic Mexican Food
• Now Serving Fresh Fruit Margaritas
• Vegetarian Specials
Lunch & Dinner Mon-Sat
Lunch 11:30-2; Dinner 5:30-9
628 Congress Street, Portland
(Across from the State Theatre)
(207) 774-6089 Take-Out Available

COFFEE
By Design
Fine Coffees & Teas
620 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101
(207) 772-3533

the WHIMSICAL WORLD of DAVID CEDRONE
150 High Street, Portland, Maine 04101

BLACKSTONES
6 Pine St, Portland
Open Monday - Friday
4:00 pm until 1:00 am
Saturday and Sunday
1:00 pm until 1:00 am

Happy Hour
Buffet
Just off Longfellow Square!
AMOS was amazing! 

But, besides all that, TORI AMOS was amazing!

Now then, here's the music scoop:

Don't forget, Ani DiFranco's new one "Dilate," should be out by the time you read this.

I peeked into her dressing room with George Michael, who I bet is on the verge of officially coming out, has a new one "Older." I can finally admit that some of his songs are really good. Why lie about it?

On June 4 a historic event will be happening at record stores around the globe. A new album by PATTI SMITH will be available. It's called "Gone Again" and I heard she's on tour too. State Theater??? I've never seen Smith live. I think I'd pass out.

June 18 is also a bright day in music land. disappear fear's new album comes out. It's called "Seed in the Sahara." Hopefully Sonia and company will visit Portland again.

On June 25, the always soul soothing group Dead Can Dance will be offering "SpiritChaser" to their devoted legion of fans.

Portland's Women in Harmony put on what I heard was another terrific show in May. Rock on Girls. . . And judging by the crowd at Sisters afterwards it was a well attended concert.

My friend Travis and I got a chance to see "Safe Sex" at the Oak Street Theater in Portland a couple of weeks ago. It was presented by Acorn Productions and written by Harvey Fierstein. "Safe Sex" is a trilogy of one-act plays with each piece taking a look at the effects of AIDS in the mid to late 80s. All three were well acted and just tried to spread the message across. The third piece, "On Tidy Endings" left the house with tear-stained eyes with its sobering portrayal of the conflict between an ex-wife and her ex-husband's gay lover. The two painfully clashed about grief, each stubborn in their convictions. Only after many harsh words and stinging tears are they able to come to terms with each other's emotions.

As far as theater goes, there are too many listings to mention. With all the blockbuster movies coming out it's easy to forget about local theater. Just remember, that "Twister" and "Mission Impossible" will have long runs at the theater and even wind up at the Nick. So get out to the Mad Horse and to Oak Street and to the Portland Stage Company. These folks, and others, produce good stuff and they deserve support. Same applies for local music.

Oh yeah, and finally, I hope to see everybody at all the amazing PRIDE '96 events. The dance, the music, the parade. . . Fun with a purpose...

---

Aimsel Hastings

The Portland show, on April 19, was at USM's (Portland) gym. So you can understand why I'm calling this piece "Locker Room Talk." Although I was initially denied an interview because of DiFranco's busy tour schedule, it happened, thanks to an understanding tour manager.

Ani led me up the stairs and through a room where Sara Lee was seated. I looked at her and said, "Hey, you're Sara Lee, and you rule." Lee is a very respected bass player in the music biz and has toured with the B-52's and more recently the Indigo Girls. Anyway, Ani and I found a little locker room and just started talking. Had scrubbed a few questions down, but mostly we just had a conversation. She's a very amiable, down to earth 25 year old woman. Oh, and currently she's sporting long, bright red hair extensions, and funky leather pants.

Aim: Dilate, the new album, is so excellent
Ani: Cool, good, I'm glad you like it. Aim: It seems like you're on tour an awful lot.
Ani: It seems that way to me too! Aim: How do you maintain your spark and enthusiasm for it?
Ani: Well, drugs! (laughing . . .)
Aim: It's the crack habit.
Ani: Yes, it's the crack habit, I just fly through the gigs. No, but it's getting harder, I am getting a bit burnt out, or whatever the cliché is. It is catching up with me. So, I keep saying I'm gonna take more time off. It's hard to retain a desire to go out and rock. Last night was a bad night . . .
Aim: Good crowd?
Ani: They were just really annoying. They would shout at me and tell me what to do.
Aim: You'll probably get some of that tonight . . .
Ani: It can be cute, it can be funny but then it's like, after a while I'm like "Shut up, quit telling me what to do. Yes, Yes, I'll play whatever you want me to play, I'll do whatever you want me to do."
Aim: Anyway, how long has Sara Lee been on tour with you?
Ani: Well, this is her second tour with me. We started in I think February.
Aim: How did that happen?
Ani: Well, we had met last summer and she wasn't doing anything right now, 'cause the Indigo Girls who she's been playing with lately are taking time off. So, I just called her up. I've been looking for a bass player for a long time and we just decided to do it for a while. Aim: Needless to say, it's probably been going well.
Ani: She's wonderful.
Aim: So, Ani, how old are you getting to be these days?
Ani: Twenty-five.
Aim: Really? And this will be your eighth album?
Ani: Yeah, I do them kind of quickly. Aim: You must have been about 17 or 18 when you did your first.
Ani: I'm kind of busy. A busy girl . . .
Aim: Back to the new album. Who is the woman's voice in the background of "Amazing Grace?"
Ani: So, I didn't know all the lyrics to "Amazing Grace." You know, all those verses that nobody knows. So there was an assistant engineer and he was like "Oh, my girlfriend has a hymnal with it in it." So he called her up and she said "Oh, well, that's at my mother's house in Ohio." So I call "Mom" in Ohio and I asked her to read me the words over the phone and she was reading them and I said, "Why don't you call back and say them into the answering machine and then I'll write them down. So then of course her voice on the answering machine was so beautiful that I had to put it in the song. It's Willie Mae from Ohio.

Aim: Is Righteous Babe Records ever going to put other people's music on the label?
Ani: Yep, in the fall. There's an album I just got finished doing with Utah Phillips. He's an old folk-singer, anarchist, unionist, travelling storyteller, heavily political, hysterically funny guy. I just finished an album of his stories actually and I sort of mix music behind them. It's kind of a spoken word, storytelling, rambling sage-like hip-hop acoustic dance-trance album.
Aim: It's you and him?
Aim: It's gonna be a Utah Phillips' album but I did all the music.
Aim: That ought to be cool.
Ani: Yeah, I'm excited about that one.
Aim: So about the song, "Napoleon" (on "Dilate") You've probably been offered contracts up the wazoo and that sort of thing. Is it a correct assessment of the song to say that "Napoleon" is kind of symbolic of the entire music industry bullshit scene?
Ani: Yep, that's my little "indie-girl" hymn. Yes, it's very much about that; to engage in and participate in and...
MOVIE TALK: "Wild Reeds" and "Bar Girls"

by Travis Seawards

"Wild Reeds" is set in rural France in 1962, when the French Algerian war was winding down. The movie explains in its opening credits that this war was like America's Vietnam, but in reverse. As the backdrop of this conflict is the setting from which the story unfolds, and no matter what happens, the war is a constant frame of reference for all the characters in the film. The story centers on four teenagers who, in the beginning, seem to represent four distinct and opposing roles in French society. There is the rural farm boy whose brother is fighting in the war, the innocent intellectual young man, the worldly daughter of the communist teacher in town, and finally, the Algerian-born boy whose anger over the war is the setting from which the story begins. It is not a tidy, happy ending. We are reminded of how unnecessarily life flows and how unexpectedly people can change and grow. Some grew more than others, some are happier than others, and life keeps going whether the answers are there or not.

It is completely amazing that Hollywood is unable to make films like "Wild Reeds." From the simple idea of exploring the lives of four teenagers in rural France we get a beautiful and touching movie. This is much more than a coming of age story, it also can fit into the "war" genre as well. But in "Wild Reeds" there are no bombs, guns, tanks and such. Nor is there gratuitous violence. Instead, we get a more subtle look at the consequences of war that are just as powerful as any hard-edged blood and guts blockbuster. "Wild Reeds" gives us a story of how politics is life and how politics defines us often without our even knowing it. It also touches on our roles in society that are as defined by our politics, and how these roles are not as concrete as they may seem to be. In this film, the young characters are virtually without any parental guidance. They are left to figure it all out on their own. I'm not sure if this made them stronger, wiser or even happier, but that is why "Wild Reeds" seemed so real and is a special movie. I highly recommend it when it becomes available on video.

For some, there was a sexual awakening, for others a new political understanding of the world, and a combination of the two. When the farm boy and the intellectual have a brief affair, it triggers an eventual coming out process for one while the other wants to forget it ever happened. When the female communist character and the nationalist boy meet, there seems to be a sexual attraction, but it is really more of an evolving or understanding of the "other side." It's a look into the world of someone who has always been seen as the enemy or the polar opposite.

In the end, all four characters have a completely new identity than when the story began. It is not a tidy, happy ending. We are reminded of how unexpectedly life flows and how unexpectedly people can change and grow. Some grew more than others, some are happier and others, and life keeps going whether the answers are there or not.

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Darshay S. Maxwell

Image and self-perception are two driving forces in all our lives. Without them, we drift through our allotted time directionless, unable to focus on what would make us happy; where to find this happiness; who we might be happy with.

For pre-op transsexuals, the awareness that something is biologically wrong causes the same concern that realizing that you gay may give.

Just as you reach the (then) unsettling conclusion that you are attracted to members of your own gender, we find that we are gender confused, leaving us with the knowledge that we too are different; isolated; no one will understand.

We are anatomically incorrect. I truly believed, as a child, that puberty would occur, and I didn't feel that where I was going was anywhere near where I thought I was supposed to go. As a child, for seven years I studied the Hebrew language, heritage, and customs so that at thirteen I could be Bar Mitzvah'd. This is a Jewish ritual whereby the youth is considered to be a man. All of my cousins stepped up and took their medicine; my siblings followed my false lead and became rebels for the wrong cause. The point of this (sappy but true) homily is that transsexuals, very much like the gay community, start early in the self-realization that they are different. In my life I wrestled, from my early youth to nearly forty, with an issue that I refused to acknowledge because it carries such a complex solution that it will occupy my attention for years to come to get to a peaceful place.

The only real difference between us is that your decision to accept your plight allows you to move on. If you elect to go public, as I am now attempting, you face the issues of rejection, ridicule, alienation from family, job discrimination, and loss of supposedly good friends. Although I don't minimize for one minute the difficulty in being gay, add to the fact that you're trying to turn your physical world upside down. You will need to learn things that were supposed to have been passed along as part of an accepted process. What forty year old man wakes up knowing about makeup, fashion, or deportment. And have you tried to find size 13 sneakers lately??

This is not about stereotyping. As a semi-aggressive woman I will feel much more plausible than as a passive male. I realized not long ago, with inner acceptance, that I will never be like a Visa card; universally accepted anywhere. At the same time, I know that there is a place in the world for me if I am patient, caring and extend myself (gee, sounds like real life!). Also, it's not like I can become invisible and hide what I am, once it is done. I am over six feet tall and the word invisible is not one that could ever come to mind. Despite that, I will persevere because to not do so is to admit defeat; to realize that what I am is all I will ever be; that I have no control over my own destiny.

A RESPONSE TO LAURIE DELL

by Dal Maxwell

Having read Laurie Dell's sweeping interpretation of my manifesto (Part I), I would like an opportunity to address a few of the more pressing concerns that she expresses.

At no time did I complain about the structure surrounding my passage into womanhood. In my effort to reach out to the lesbian community with information and an extended hand of friendship, I have not represented myself as anything other than what I am: a person on a mission to fulfillment. This includes, by the way, pre-disposing of any issues before I cross the line so that I will be empowered, not embittered by the experience.

I take polite issue with Ms. Dell's separatist feminist rhetoric dictating that for a transsexual it takes longer because the stakes are higher. Ultimately, if you are playing with a full deck, you succumb to the truth of the matter at hand. It matters not to others such as yourself; find a support group that provides safe haven. If you luck out, you find some people who have both feet on the ground and are not "To Wong Foo" caricatures that only want to play dress up. Which leads to my last point here. Transsexuality is NOT about playing dress up. For someone like me, oddly, it is only their bad fashion sense that leads them to do so. My issue is more complicated. I really do like to look nice and I have some lovely down to earth dresses in my closet (you know, the one I am coming out of) but jeans and a sweatshirt are still my favorite home attire.

What I aspire to is womanhood, pure and simple. I don't want to be Suzy Homemaker (no danger there). Certain aspects of the social order may be the reason that I have a life after surgery, but as it stands now my life is a blank, and I have the chance to rewrite my future. It will be as good or bad as I elect it to be. Just as good as my situation and allowing it to progress is rewarding for the moment.

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To Your Health: Lesbian Health Activist Honored

by Tanja Jo Hathaway

Peaches Bass was awarded the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Activist Award on May 2, 1996. This award, presented annually, recognizes a Maine person who has demonstrated "a remarkable contribution to feminist principles in women's health care...over a significant period of time."

Recipients of the award have demonstrated commitment to 1) grassroots health care education; 2) access to health care for women with low incomes; 3) full health care rights for lesbians and gay men; and 4) fostering connections among diverse groups in relation to women's health care issues.

"Peaches' influence has been felt throughout the state; the ripple effect has meant that dozens of many, many lesbians have been enhanced and their health improved," says Ruth Lockhart, director of Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center. She continues, "Peaches is a brilliant, articulate woman with a wonderful, quirky sense of humor who is one of the finest educators I have ever known."

"I feel proud about my work developing the Lesbian Health Project for Mabel Wadsworth Center," Bass said. "It's probably the best thing I've ever done."

Peaches' activism began in Chicago more than 20 years ago, prior to the legalization of abortion, where she and other members of a collective advocated for and obtained abortions for women. As this group, known as Jane, helped hundreds of women. Information on this "underground" collective is now just becoming available. Later, once abortion was legalized, Peaches helped create the Emma Goldman Women's Health Center.

In the mid-70s Peaches moved to Maine, where for many years she worked for Midcoast Family Planning in Rockland. Working her way from lab technician to counselor to clinic director, she continued to carve out her specialty area—abortion. Later, she developed expertise in the area of gay and lesbian health and began training statewide on these issues. Shortly after, she became one of the first volunteer educators for the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, thereby joining the only grassroots, non-governmental dependent organization providing women's health care in Maine.

In the early 1980s, when AIDS came to the national forefront, Peaches began to follow the epidemic closely—especially interested in the impact of AIDS on women. She began writing a column on health issues for "Our Paper," which continued through the 1980s and into the 1990s with "Community Pride Reporter."

For many years, Peaches worked as a private consultant with state and local agencies on AIDS related issues, always with an eye to how the disease was effecting women. In 1990, she and Mabel Wadsworth Center organized the first conference on women and AIDS in Maine.

During this time, Peaches conceived of the Lesbian Health Project, and with the Mabel Wadsworth Center, formed a volunteer-based program providing education, information, and clinical health services for lesbians, and professional education and training for health care and social service professionals. She organized the first cancer screening clinic for Symposium in 1990—serving lesbians who had delayed health care for up to ten years. This year's Symposium marks the sixth such clinic to be offered.

Fulfilling a lifelong personal wish, Peaches organized Maine's first conference on lesbian health issues held in Bangor in 1994, attended by more than 100 people from around the state.

In addition, Peaches has represented Maine at national advisory meetings on lesbian health; and she has held prominent the issue of lesbian health at Maine's Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program.

Passing her expertise along, she acted as internship supervisor in order to assist with the development of a lesbian health project in southern Maine. "Peaches fits the criteria of this award perfectly," said Lockhart, "We are proud to have her receive it."

Tanja Jo Hathaway is the Coordinator of the Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine. Call or write: (207)657-5864 PO Box 11048 Portland 04104. ΔΔ

SINGING WITH PRIDE!

by Martin Swinger

Simmons College in Boston gave me a real treat last week. Tom McCormack, Grant King, Marcia Donahue, and Zoeonika performed their informal and provocative SHOW AND TELL (4 GAY, AND LESBIAN SONGWRITERS SING OUT AND TELL ALL) to an enthusiastic crowd of 40 or so students in the college pub. The audience was asked to write out questions for the group and the show consisted of the musicians answering the questions and singing songs related to the question in some way.

Zoeonika's music is insightful and rich, Tom's music is insightful and rich, and Zenobia is a bluesy powerhouse of rhythm. Metinda is a wild woman who doesn't have time for the blues, and Grant, sensitive and strong in lyric and voice. Altogether an enjoyable concert and meeting conversation. Unfortunately they had a really long day and were staying on the outskirts of Boston so afterwards I didn't get the in depth interview I would have liked.

Tom McCormack's music may be heard in Lewiston on WRBC, in Orono on WMED and in Presque Isle on WUPI. Queer music on your radio! I still envied some familiar faces from Maine if you're down that way. Enjoy PRIDE MONTH wherever you are. (Especially the LIVE music.) Remember young people need role models. Be a hero, stand tall, march with pride and keep SINGIN' OUT! 

Maine Gay and Lesbian Running Club

BY BI, from page 18

Many people, and in large groups of people, I didn't talk with anyone else, and I never found out whether or not they would have accepted bisexuals. Unlike some of my bisexual friends, my experiences in coming out have been mainly good.

At my first day at the OutWrite '96 conference, I felt as if I were accepted simply because everyone assumed I was a lesbian. But this time, I took care to talk with people once I felt I knew them enough. And after mentioning my bisexuality, I began to feel accepted for who I really was. This made the rest of the conference much more relaxing and enjoyable. Next year, I will go one step further, and walk in wearing my pins: Visibly Bi, Pride and Half-Gay.

For me, coming out is a process of making myself feel comfortable and to have enough people to hold an open mike night, and then only 5 people showed up. Their most recent event (two years later) drew an audience of 50 people. If that is the rate of growth in Philly I guess I can find more patience for Maine musicians to gather momentum. Speaking of Maine musicians, look for my good friend Stephanie Poulsen who will be singing at Sisters soon (in Portland). I hope you will take time to go hear her, as her voice is husky and soulful, and her sense of humor and charm will captivate you.

If you plan to be in New York City for any of the June Gay Pride events, I'll be performing at Different Light Bookstore in Greenwich Village on Sunday, June 23 at 3 PM. I'd love to see some familiar faces from Maine if you're down that way. Enjoy PRIDE MONTH wherever you are. (Especially the LIVE music.) Remember young people need role models. Be a hero, stand tall, march with pride and keep SINGIN' OUT! 

Gay and Lesbian Running Club

Celebrate the start of our 2nd year! Come run with Us!
We meet every Saturday at 9 AM in the Preble St. Extension parking lot next to Back Cove (access from Shop & Save).
For more information, call Jim (761-2059) or John (826-4996).

Bill Barter, LCPC

...is closing his Portland counseling practice on December 6, 1996. Beginning immediately, no new clients will be accepted.

If you have question about this change, call (207) 773-0205.

"I will be leaving for Chicago in December to pursue doctoral studies in Counseling Psychology. It has been an honor to serve the Greater Portland Community as a counselor, particularly the many gay, lesbian, and transgender clients I have met."
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Susan Far·nsworth, Esq. William Lesnl 11ervice11111111l11edi111s: llomeiitic: Rclntiou~. 20 CPR '--/v--Juiae, 19 -96
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Employment. Wills, Pnmante, IJnukrupll'y. Real li.'llnlc, nud Penumal
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SORRY, from page 16
perpetuate the whole commercial corporate structure . Or Not. And I think I’ve spent a few years questioning why it is that artists, especially musicians, feel they need to go to bed with business people in order to live their art, in order to have a job. I think that there must be another way.
And the song “Napoleon” is directed at that. I’ve seen a lot of people come from behind me. One day they’re opening for me and then a year later they are on the cover of Rolling Stone. On my bad mornings I am like “What the fuck am I doing?”
Aim: Do you ever get tempted?
Ani: Well, not tempted, I never get tempted because I would never do it. I have other priorities. But I do get better sometimes. I feel like a little one woman crusade . . . I’m happy with my life, which I think is a real good start. I like life. Why is it that you need all these things like “faster, harder, more, bigger” if you have what you need already?
Aim: You know you could be, and hopefully you are, an influence-role-model on young and older musicians. Because what does it really mean? What does a major label contract really mean?
Ani: It means a lot of comfort, it means money it means exposure. It means a lot of things.
Aim: Yes, but for so many bands it seems like that is their priority.
Ani: I just think that if you do have other priorities, political or otherwise, that are pre-eminent to sort of personal ambition, then there is a way. I want to prove it can be done, that this little “schick” of mine isn’t just a means to an end. It’s really an end in itself. It’s not some sort of “best unsigned band” thing that I’m eventually gonna become involved in in the whole traditional structure.
Aim: And you’re selling a shit load of records and yet the only radio stations that are playing yea are college stations. You’re not like, say, Alanis (Morissette) who gets her songs played 3 billion times a day all over the universe. Yet your shows sell out and your fans are semi-obsessed with you.
Ani: My career is based on constant touring and performance. Music to me is a living thing, it happens between people in a room and it’s all related to that time and place and albums really are kind of weird.
Aim: You’re, you’re live show is amazing. I know, if you go into a little h crowded seat room and you make music for nobody and its sort of stagnant it’s not my thing. For me it’s sort of an activism, it’s about gathering and communicating.
Aim: For me, once you saw you lived, the next time I listened to an album of yours it was all the more fab to hear. Have you ever done any videos?
Ani: I did a video for the song “Shy.”
Aim: And my last question is, what is your favorite breakfast cereal?
Ani: Well, you know Cheerios . . . I’m a fashioned girl.
Aim: Honey Nut?
Ani: The Honey Nut are really good and the four gram ones are even sweeter. Aim: Yeah, but let’s get serious. Have you had new frosted Cheerios?
Ani: No, Frosteds?
Aim: Yeah
Ani: They have frosted ones now? I’m out of the loop (laughing)

The gyn was packed and Ani played and she rocked and she took a break, then she played some more. And the people danced and yelled and carried on . . . Can you believe that none of my pictures came out? They look kind of 3-d and bizarre. Apparently I was shaking too much from the excitement of it all, or perhaps from too many frosted Cheerios before the show.
By the time you read this, Ani’s new album “Dilate” should be in stores Run Run Run and get it. Support indepen dent artists like Ani. She continues to boldly just say NO to the corporate music industry world. Yet, not unlike many Tyler Moore “She just might make a good down.” Well, actually, in my mind she has made it. Go, Ani, Go. . .

SYMPOSIUM, from page 11
A: The Committee is known to be VERY hospitable! Send picture I.D.!
B: What’s the high point so far planning Symposium?
C: When we knew we had our speakers and entertainers. College of the Atlantic is such a great place, we know all the rest would work out.
D: Seeing Michelangelo Signorile’s picture! Walking around campus and seeing how psyched everyone there is.
E: Collecting the phone numbers of all the girls and boys we’re going to meet.
F: Watching Musty Chuffin’s video and laughing at our ribs hurt.
21: What’s the low point?
A: Coming early to a meeting and the building was dark. I thought it had been cancelled and nobody told me. Then people showed up, phew!

FRANNIE, from page 17
The third piece featured Mariscal as the lead dancer. I have no clue what was going on in this piece, but the feeling was like that of a carnival. The colors were vibrant , echoing the scattered singing was like a cast of performers.
A: Coming early to a meeting and the building was dark. I thought it had been cancelled and nobody told me. Then people showed up, phew!

DECLINE from page 2
are a party that preserves civil rights for all citizens in Maine.
This resolution was passed by a unanimous voice vote on the floor of the convention by the approximately 1,500 delegates to the convention.
We will be in Augusta on May 31 and June 1 to ask the Maine Republican Party to pass a similar resolution.

What is the Decline to Sign Project
Goal: To prevent the collection of adequate numbers of signatures on Concerned Maine Families’ latest referendum.
We consider this referendum to be a successful attack on the lives and dignity of gay and lesbian Mainer’s. Carolyn Cosby is a religious political extremist and she is attempting to draw media attention and money to herself by pretending that the gay community is demanding something. In reality it is Ms. Cosby who is demanding something - she is asking once again that the entire State of Maine focus attention and scarce resources on another exhausting and discrediting story referendum campaign.
Carolyn Cosby does not speak for the majority of Maine citizens, as was evidenced by her defeat at the polls last November. Her referendum track record shows that she has been wrong more than 28,000 votes. For her to immediately turn around, create a false issue, and do another referendum this in the face of so-called “concerns” for lay of Maine’s citizens.
The gay community refuses to be scape-goated by Ms. Cosby anymore. The truth is that there are many pressuring issues facing gay people in Maine - namely, a lack of protection from job and housing discrimination. In addition, there are many pressing issues fac ing the State of Maine - e.g. schools, health care, the education of our children, and struggling to keep our families together through hard economic times.
We refuse to be pulled into another Ms. Cosby’s wild fracas. We agree with Governor King - we wish Ms. Cosby would find something useful to do with her time.
Through counter-petitioning, we will expose the national radical right agenda, and show people why we should not let it tear gay people, or our state apart again.
Gay and lesbian Mainer’s should be supported. The other Big Names were harder to track down.
Worrying about whether or not anyone would come.
22: What you look forward to the most?
A: Seeing Michelangelo Signorile!
B: The sense of community that happens at Symposium. How connected we all feel.
C: Getting to know new people. And it’s not a bar, you can talk and hike and just hang out. You can flirt too!
D: The dance. The doors on the side of the hall open so we’ll be able to dance on the grass.

This sounds terrific! Thanks very much!
(The Symposium XXII Committee: P.O. Box 516, Mt. Desert, Me. 04660, 207/244-4062 or 207/246-3409, or bet@post.acadianet .)

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The Supreme Court today handed gay-rights advocates their biggest legal victory, throwing out a Colorado constitutional amendment that forbids laws protecting homosexuals from discrimination.

The Colorado amendment violates homosexuals' constitutional right to equal protection, the court ruled, 6-3, in its most significant gay-rights case in a decade. In 1986, the justices upheld a Georgia law that criminalized homosexual sex for consenting adults.

Today's ruling did not decide the legal standard for homosexual conduct. The justices said the Colorado amendment denies gays a political right enjoyed by everyone else - the chance to seek protection from discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations.

"We must conclude that Amendment 2 classifies homosexuals not to further a proper legislative end but to make them unequal to everyone else," Justice Anthony M. Kennedy wrote for the court. "This Colorado cannot do. A state cannot so deem a class of persons a stranger to its laws."

The amendment, approved in 1992, has never been enforced because there hasn't been a legal challenge in court by gay men and women as well as three Colorado cities that had enacted gay-rights ordinances.

"We will be offering off-site testing to those who like to be tested for HIV. Please call to set up a time and get directions to the testing site."

We are looking for groups or individuals to march in the parade. We are also looking for vendors to sell items at the parade. If you are interested, call Bob Long from the Fleet Bank Center in downtown Bangor and ending at the Paul Bunyan Park on Main Street. At the park there will be vendors, speakers, food and entertainment. At 3:00 pm there will be a BBQ at The Bar followed by music and games. Come play the games and win some great prizes! The Monty Rock show starts at 7:00 pm and lasts until 9:00 pm with a retro 70s dance at the end of the night.

One other point of interest is that we will be offering off-site testing to those who like to be tested for HIV. Please call to set up a time and get directions to the testing site.

The Pride Day will feature the parade at 2:00 pm and the Monty Rock show starts at 7:00 pm and lasts until 9:00 pm with a retro 70s dance at the end of the night.
COMMUNITY PRIDE RESOURCES

GENERAL

ML/GPA is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the general public, politicians, and media on L/G issues. Primary goals are to involve the L/G community in Maine's political process, promote civil rights, develop and review legislation, endorse candidates, build a coalition, and oppose anti-gay legislation and referenda.

Meetings are the 2nd Saturday of each month in Augusta. FMI call 1-800-55-ML/GPA.

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

Northern Lambda Nord is an educational, informational, social, and service organization serving lesbian, gay, and bisexual people in northern Maine and New Brunswick. Meetings are 2nd Sunday of every month at 1 pm (ME), 2 pm (NB), at the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 S. Main St., Caribou, and can be reached every Wednesday by The PhoneLine. Call 207/496-2088.

The Matlovich Foundation is an educational and cultural organization of lesbians, bisexuals, gay men, and friends committed to sharing our history as well as providing person-affirming presentations and discussions in a supportive environment. Meetings on the second and fourth Thursday every month at 7:30 pm at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St. Portland. Free parking and accessible to the mobility-impaired. Call 207/767-4380.

National Association of Social Workers, ME. Chapter, Sexual Minority Issues Committee welcomes new social work members. Our purpose is to provide, promote resources, and lobby legislators on issues involving sexual minorities in Maine. FMI call NASW, 207/672-5592.

HATE CRIMES &BIAS INCIDENTS

Have you or someone you know been a victim? Call the Civil Rights Section of the Maine Department of the Attorney General 626-8844.

Citizen Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights (CAGL), New Hampshire's oldest gay organization, welcomes all those interested in these goals to weekly meetings, programs, and social events. 85-2nd Street, Keene. FMI call 603/463-3761.

Heather Rosemary or Janet: 207/646-1481.

Dennis Wilson, Community Task Force on AIDS: 832-6665.

Annually, 1st Saturday of each month, 6:00 pm at Portland High. Confidential information and support group, meets on 1st & 3rd Saturdays of every month at 6:00 pm in Room 308 of the Portland High School. For more information, call 207/787-3484.


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Wadsworth Women's Health Center, 334 Harlow St, Bangor, FMI: 207-947-3337.
Mountain Valley Men (MVM) A group of gay men of all ages in the western Maine area who get together for lunch dinners, hiking, canoeing, skiing and other activities. FMI, write to Box 36, Center Conway, NH 03833-0036 or call 603/868-7414.
S.N.A.P. Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests. Monthly support group for men & women whose sexual abuse as children is a result of clerical abuse. In Portland location on third Friday of the month. FMI, call 207/774-5025.
D.E.G.O. Down East Gay & Lesbian Group; meets 3rd Monday at the UU Church, Park Street, Bangor.
Lavender Women is a gathering of lesbian, bisexual and questioning women for discussion and mutual support. Wednesdays, 7-8:00 PM. First Universalist Church, Pleasant St., Bangor. FMI: 207-783-0461.
Maine Frontrunners: a gay, straight and transgender club sponsoring weekly runs in Portland. FMI, call 207-773-5083.
TransSupport : Support group for cross-genders, transgender, transgender, and straight friends. Meets in secure locations to provide support, education & social activities. Write TransSupport, P.O. Box 1762, Portland, ME 04101-1762.
Gender Talk North: Gender support. Write for newsletter, P.O. Box 211, Keene, NH 03431, 603/354-8823.
Trans Counselling, Cheshire Counseling Assoc., PO Box 1124, Keene, NH 03431, 603/557-5544.
Maine Bisexual People's Network: Meets to affirm a positive nature of bisexuality & work toward greater acceptance in the bisexual, gay, lesbian, and straight communities. Support & referrals available. FMI, write P.O. Box 10818, Portland, ME 04104-0818.
Polyamorous Life Support (PALS): Do you love more than one person? You may be polyamorous. Polyamorous Life Support (PALS) is a discussion/support group for people interested in creating/nourishing committed, loving, multipartner relationships. Whether curious or already multiply intimate, call 773-6132 FMI.
Wilde-Stein Club: Meets every Thursday at 6:30 pm at Memorial Union, Sutton Lounge, UM at Orono. FMI, call 207-581-2059 or John-828-4896.
Support Group--Penobscot & Surround Counties, based at UM Farmington. FMI call and leave message, (207) 778-7380.
TransAssoc., PO Box 1124, Keene, NH 03431. To affirm in all a positive nature of bisexual-polyamorous. Polyamorous Life Support
Wilde-Stein Club; Meets every Thursday at 6:30 PM at the People's Building, 155 To volunteer or FMI on the program call 207/774-5025.
Lavender Women is a gathering of lesbian, bisexual and questioning women for discussion and mutual support. Wednesdays, 7-8:00 PM. First Universalist Church, Pleasant St., Bangor. FMI: 207-783-0461.
Parents
Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Parents Group: For dates, places and times write GLB Parent Group, P.O. Box 1081, Portland, ME 04104-0818.
 Mothers and Kids Group: Social events and group support for lesbian and their children. Emphasis on inclusion of lesbians in all family-centered activities. Meets monthly in the greater Portland area. FMI write: P.O. Box 2235, South Portland, ME 04116.
Youth Support
OUTRIGHT Too: Fridays, 5:00-7:30 pm, Urunia's Universal Church, Park St., held in conjunction with the Portland County MVM. FMI write: P.O. Box 10818, Portland, ME 04104-0818.
OUTRIGHT/Central Maine: Weekly, confidential meetings for gay, lesbian, & questioning youth 22 & under and allies. FMI call 207-792-9690 or 1-800-339-4042 and ask about OUTRIGHT.
OUTRIGHT/Portland: Meets every Friday, 7:30-8:30 pm, The People's Building, 155 Brackett St., 2nd floor, Portland. Safe & supportive discussions with and for gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning young people. FMI call 774-TALK or 774-HELP or write to P.O. Box 5077, Portland, ME 04101.
Cumberland OutRight Inc: Meets every 2nd & 4th Thursday at UU Church corner of Canal & Lowell St. (near Dublin Donuts). Call Steve or Gypsy at 603/672-0792. Email: Outreach@NH.AOL.com.
OutRight/Bar Harbor: Meets every 5th Sunday, 5-7 pm (movie night), Tues. 6-8 pm (drop in), & Friday from 7 to 9 pm (support group) at the UU Church Annex (next to fire station). FMI write: Pleasant St., Portmouth, NH. FMI call 603/431-1013, P.O. Box 842, Portsmouth NH 03801.
COLAGE: A national support group both for the children of gay, lesbian, bisexual parents. FMI, COLAGE, 2300 Market St., #165, Dept. P, San Francisco, CA 94110.
The MAINE YOUTH PROTECTION COUNCIL: Works to create safer communities and schools for minority youth. If racism, bullying or violence affect you, help us by part of the help. Call 207/774-4944 for information on the council and sub-committees. There is a place for people of all ages and backgrounds.
Saturday, June 1:
- **10:30-11:30 AM** - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/892-2192.
- **Δ Chiltern Mountain Club celebrates National Trails Day in the Blue Hills (MA). Join our 3rd trail maintenance trip. FMI, call Arthur, 617/482-7229.**

Sunday, June 2:
- **7:00-9:00 PM** - PFLAG meets at Stratham Community Church, Emery Lane, Stratham. Call 603/772-5196.
- **Δ 7:00-8:00 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women's Center. FMI, Jana 207/772-6590.**

Tuesday, June 4:
- **Δ 7:00 PM - Drop-In & Open House, Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center of Northern Maine, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI: 207/498-2088.**

Wednesday, June 5:
- **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, June 6:
- **Δ 6:30 PM - Northern Lambda Nord meeting, Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center of Northern Maine, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI: 207/498-2088.**
- **Δ 7:30-9:00 PM - The Matlovich Society presents Rita Kissin, Professor of American History and author of "The Last Closet: The Real Lives of Lesbian and Gay Teachers," who will share her research and stories of teachers she interviewed. Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Handicapped accessible, free hotel parking.**

Saturday, June 8:
- **Δ Chiltern Mountain Club walks Maudslay State Park in Newburyport, MA. Picnic after. Call Andrew, 508/486-8642.**
- **Δ 9:00 - 5:30 PM - Statewide Symposium and Town Meeting at University of New Hampshire, Rm. 110, Mink Hall. FMI: 603/546-4011.**
- **Δ 10:30-11:30 AM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/892-2192.**
- **Δ 5:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord BBQ & Fun, Mapleton, (near Presque Isle), Limo Bus, 207/498-2088.**

Sunday, June 9:
- **Δ 11:00 AM - Meeting at Sportsmen's Club, 2 Bates St., Lewiston for those interested in starting motorcycle club for Maine. All models welcome. Motorcycle run at 12:30 PM. FMI, Roland at 207/784-2251.**
- **Δ Eastern Mountain Sports association hosts "Orienteering & Anti-Gay Violence Stops Here." Open House by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Handicapped accessible, free hotel parking.**

**JUNE, 1996 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Saturday, June 22:**
- **Δ Chiltern Mountain Club hikes Mt. Passaconaway & Mt. Whiteface (NH) (10 miles total). Limit: 10. Call Mike 401/453-4027.**
- **Δ Chiltern Mountain Club hikes Mt. Monadnock (NH). Call Ed, 860-726-9189.**

**Sunday, June 23:**
- **Δ Chiltern Mountain Club beginner backpack weekend on the Long Trail (VT). Limit 8. Call Steve, 617/512-9043.**
- **Δ Eastern Mountain Sports Three Ponds Overnight. Enjoy birds and wildflowers while hiking the three ponds trail to Middle Pond. 2nd day hike to Mt. Kineo Trail. 5.5 miles, easy. Limit 8. FMI call 207/772-3776.**
- **Δ 10:30-11:30 AM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/892-2192.**
- **Δ 5:00 PM - Friends of Lamba Day with parents, friends and family of lesbians and gays (PFLAG) and members and friends of Northern Lambda Nord join for a BBQ. Lawn Games & Fun. In New Sweden. FMI: 207/498-2088.**

**Sunday, June 24:**
- **Δ 7:00-8:00 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women's Center. FMI, Jana 207/772-6590.**

**Wednesday, June 26:**
- **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.**
- **Δ 7:00-9:00 PM - PFLAG Meeting, Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center of Northern Maine, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI: 207/498-2088.**

**Thursday, June 27:**
- **Δ 7:00-9:00 PM - PFLAG Meeting, Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center of Northern Maine, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI: 207/498-2088.**
- **Δ 5:00 PM - Matlovich Society hosts "Video Night." As always, a thought provoking and entertaining video will be shown followed by discussion. Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland.**

**Saturday, June 29:**
- **Δ 10:30-11:30 AM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/892-2192.**
- **Δ Chiltern Mountain Club beginner's Cathedral Lodge, Whitehorse Lodge, Diana's Bath House (No. Conway, NH). Moderate hike; waterfall reward. Limit: 10. Call Mike, 603/644-7658.**

**Sunday, June 30:**
- **Δ Eastern Mountain Sports leading Mt. Washington Alpine Garden Dayhike. Strenuous. 8.5 miles. This unique area is home to tiny fragile plants which are typically found much further north. Wildflowers should be in bloom. Limit: 8. FMI, call 207/772-3776.**
HELP WANTED

HOME TypING JOBS: $20/hour, up to $500/week. Call 24 hours, 207-892-1423, extension 449. 

GROUP SUPPORT


PRIDE '96 VENDORS

Pride '96 Rally and Festival is taking reservations and applications from VENDORS for crafts, t-shirts, jewelry, books, etc., etc. Call now at 207/773-7393 (Penny), to reserve your space and/or ask questions. Leave your name, telephone number and address. Come one, come all to the best & biggest Festival in our 10 year history. Rent space at a nominal fee. 

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

SPANISH LESSONS: Affordable, private tutoring. Individuals or small groups. Chris Milliken 207/883-4802. 

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT CLASSES

Personal development classes for business, health, pleasure! Classes Mondays 12:00-1:30 pm or Wednesdays 5-6:30 pm. Mind clearing, focusing, using energies productively, relaxation, healing meditation, automatic (spiritual/intuitive) writing, seeing auras, intuition enhancement. Limited space. FMI, Director Carole B. Curran, 207/871-0032. 

HOUSE CLEANING

Housekeeping services provided by self-employed woman on a weekly, monthly or one-time basis in Portland and surrounding areas. Please call 773-6781 for more information or to set up appointment. 

SHARED LIVING SITUATIONS

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. 

ROOMMATE WANTED


MICKY OF THE CITY? Dog loving, coastal woman at heart? New to area and don't want to get stuck in a long lease? You've found the right ad. Kennebunk lesbian and her pet dog seek female (human) to rent large sunny bedroom in 1810 federal style home on Route 1. Shared housespace includes large unfenced yard, garden space, livingroom with fireplace, storage, kitchen, and few modern amenities. Easy access to shops and turnpike, only 30 minutes to Portland or 40 minutes to Portsmouth. No smoking, no drugs. Your pet is welcome if she gets the nod from resident alpha dog. Call 207/985-8085 or email PerK1@cyberout.com.
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VICTORIA ZAVASNIK, PH.D.
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Licensed Substance Abuse Counselor
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KEZIAH HINCHEN
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- Merchandise

**Keynote Speaker:**
Claudia Brenner
Author of Eight Bullets, One Woman’s Story of Surviving Anti-Gay Violence, will tell the story of the assault that changed her own life. Claudia, a national anti-violence advocate, will help us to introduce a special effort to help fight gay bashing in Maine.

**Pride Kick Off Party**
June 7

**Join us at Boston Pride**
(Blackstone’s)

**Pride Lights Concert**
(Congress Street)

**Speaker’s Night**
(at Matlovich)

**Speaker’s Reception**
(PierDance)

**Interfaith, Parade Festival, Concert**

**Cruise on Casco Bay**

**Pridelights Celebration**
What better way to celebrate Pride, that will last beyond the events, then to decorate our homes and businesses in Pink Pridelights™. The concert ends in a grand tree lighting (with Frannie Peabody) to honor our families and the contribution of our community to the life of southern Maine.
Schedule:

June 7, Friday, 4-6 PM Pride's Kickoff Party
@ Blackstone’s 6 Pine Street
Want a peak at the July Fourth, Women’s Dyke Concert or Pier Dance? Tickets, a set of pride lights, Pride buttons, or gift certificates at this special version of Blackstone’s Friday Buffet. (Especially beered up for Pride) A $2 donation is appreciated, but everyone gets a raffle ticket at the door regardless. Don’t be a member of the pride committee at Pool and win an additional ticket. (Cash ticket is good for several wins.) We’ll also have a chance to see some of the new Young Pride pictures and memorabilia, video’s of Boston’s pride, along with a coparison board for Boston Pride on Saturday, June 8.

June 6, Saturday, Boston Pride Parade starts at noon, Causey Sq. Pride slate volunteers needed (879-7323)

June 10, Monday, 6-8 PM Volunteer Orientation
@ Holiday Inn by the Bay 88 Spring Street
All pride volunteers get a pride "t-shirt" and an invitation to the volunteer's party on Casco Bay in July where we will be joined by Pride Committee people from all over the northeastern U.S. Come by and enjoy some friendly crowd management and safety techniques that you can put to use as a Pride volunteer. (T-shirts are distributed at the Festival in Deering Oaks.)

June 11, vote Gay on Primary Day
In order for a candidate to run in the fall elections, they must win their party’s spot on the November ticket. To vote Democrat, you must register a candidate to run in the fall elections, they must win their party’s spot on the November ticket. Get a feel for the Democratic organization.

June 12, Wednesday, 5-6:30 PM Reception for Author Rita Kissen @ the Dead Space Gallery
Tina Avning (behind Joe’s Smoke Shop)
Rita will be honored for her new book: The last Closet : The Real lives of lesbians and Gay Teachers. Author Rita Kissen

June 14, Friday, 9 PM to 1AM Pride’s Pier Dance @ Maine State Pier Commercial Street and Franklin Arterial. Tickets: $10.00 at the gate. 5% in advance. 9% positive picture ID required. 2% positive picture ID required for Bar. In non-alcohol bar will be provided for the non bar area. Sponsored by CIDP. Rain location: Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring Street.

Richie Rich (voted Boston’s number 1 DJ), Kris Stark, Lisa Viczary along with sound by GMP & Street Sound and sights by Ted Boston Lighting & Video Production and an array of stage entertainment will make the Pier a place to party, anywhere in Portland for 1996. It’s going to be bigger and better than last year.

Parking can be found on the street or at the Fish Pier, 1/2 mile east on Commercial Street for $5. No parking will be available to dance participants at the Pier terminal. We also ask that in order not to impede the Island Ferry users, that you unload your passengers on Commercial Street and not at the Pier entrance.

To get here from out of town, take I-295 to the Franklin Arterial exit (exit 7A) and follow the arterial straight to the end. There she be.

Advance tickets can be purchased at Good Sense, Drop Me A Line, Ferranti’s or Blackstone’s. You can also write for tickets (via 1st class checks) to Pride, PO Box 15102, Portland, ME 04103, until June 7. For non residents call 879-7233 (but don’t call on Friday, June 14)!

Lest we say it too many times, admission is by positive picture ID only or special Pride Committee invitation.

June 15, Saturday, 10 AM Interfaith Service @ First Parish 425 Congress Street
This service, well attended last year, has become a feature of Pride Day.

June 15, Saturday, 11 to 1:30AM Pride Day Opening Ceremonies @ Portland City Hall Plaza
Entertainment begins at 10:30 AM, the rally starts at 11 AM and features our keynote speaker: Claudia Brenner, Speak Out, MLGA and our Grand Marshal: Outright.

June 15, Saturday, 11:30 AM, Parade: Congress Square to Deering Oaks via High Street
Registration and pick-up of groups and floats must be registered.

The parade starts from in front of City Hall Plaza, where your group or float is located. Registration is $25 for groups. A decorated car or riding vehicle is allowed for each registered group free of charge. Individuals must register as a group. Trucks or cars with floats in low cost rental as a float. The fee is $50 and enters the float in the $200 posing in show contest. Please check in with the registration table in City Hall Plaza by 11 AM. Every vehicle driver should be prepared to show parade registration (with the exception of motorcycles), a valid registration and insurance certificate, or Southern Maine Pride may judge to exclude it from the parade.

June 15, Saturday, 1 PM to 4 PM, Festival @ Deering Oaks
Concert/concert, paddle boats, games, Farmer’s market, pride vendors, the Maine Grill display, and the Barking Squirrel (raspberries no caloric) Sponsor: Community Pride Reporter.

The Festival starts with the Grand Flag raising and entertainment includes:

Miss Maine 1996
Destini Choron & Co-drag
Butthole vocalists
Cathy Poole and Erik Gilbert-vocal duet
June 15, Saturday, 10 PM "Two Consenting Adults" @ Blackstone’s, 6 Pine Street
Take a wierdness ride from the Bronx and team her up with a sweet and not so innocent gay boyfriend from the suburbs and you have the Duo "Two Consenting Adults" appearing for a special night of raucous comedy at Blackstone’s. 6 Pine Street, cover $5 starts at 9PM. (The performance will be waiting for the release of the Gay Men’s Chorus Concert.)

June 16, Sunday, 6 to 9 PM, PAWS Casa Coyote Cruise @ Casa Coyote Lines Terminal, Commercial and Franklin Streets. Early Check-ins, Check-out or Money Order to PM, 2101 Brattle St. Portland, 04102 or call 775-PAWS (800-466-6769).

June 16, Sunday, A Show of Pride @ The Underground, 3 Spring Street
with some of a Maine’s Crowned Queens, hosted by beauteous comedian George Hams.

Community Pride Reporter
P.O. Box 178
Saco, Maine 04072
Phone: 207-282-4311
Fax: 207-282-4551
E-mail: CPRPRIDE@Mainelink.net
Proudly serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people of Maine and New Hampshire.

CONDOM sense! inc.
Top Quality Products – Well Informed Staff
424 Fore Street • Portland, Maine 04101 • (207) 871-0356

June 12, 7:30-9:30 PM Pridelights Concert @ Congress Square
Pridelights Foundation founder, and Boston Pride Committee member Ed McGinty will lead a special event and Gemma Peckley, will feature the contributions of parades and lesbians to the lesbian and gay community. This will be a free-form free concert which will feature male vocals! Chris Nemec’s, Maine Gay Men’s Chorus and the summer music groups, along with some community celebrities who will participate in the show.

For the Grand Finale, Frankie will flip a switch that will "light up" Pride '96 and Congress Square for Pride week, in the hope that others will display the same fabulous pink Gay pride holiday windows in their windows or support the Congress Square new support for the Lesbians, Gays, and Lesbian, Transgendered and Concurrently Pride lights are 25 foot strings of 50 small pink light, that cost $5 and are available at all pride events and Drop Me A Line, until we run out. Or by phone call 775-9569 by June 5. Sponsored by Sister’s 4, 45 Danforth St.

June 13, 7:30 to 9:00 PM Claudia Brenner at Matlocki
@ Holiday Inn by the Bay 88 Spring Street
Book signing to follow. (Immediately) after Drop Me A Line, (see insert on Pride Speaker)

June 14, Friday, 3 to 5:30 PM Pride’s Speaker’s Reception @ Agape 647 Congress Street
The reception will be preceded by a panel discussion on anti-gay violence from 3 to 4 PM. Doors open at 2:30 PM. President will be: Claudia Brenner, Assistant Attorney General Steve Wheler, MLGA President Karen Geraty, members of the Portland Bias Crimes task force and local anti-violence survivors. A buffet and chem free environment will be provided. Claudia and the other guests will be available to speak personally. Claudia will be available for book signings. This event is co-sponsored by the Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance.

June 15, Saturday, 8 PM to 11 PM, Maine Gay Men’s Chorus with Holly Near @ State Theater, Congress Square, Tickets: 879-7102, Doors open at 6:30 for dinner seating and 7:30 for concert. General Admission plus dinner is $25.00, advanced sale tickets are $22.50, call 942-8650 for reservations. This concert will feature the Maine Gay Men’s Chorus as guests artists in a special collaboration of music and dance. The performance will be waiting for the release of the Gay Men’s Chorus Concert.

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with some of a Maine’s Crowned Queens, hosted by beauteous comedian George Hams.
Choose Pride:
Pride started in 1987 with about $250 of expenses. We produced a 45 minute demonstration with about 200 people. That came to about $13.25 per participant. Pride for 1996, with many events, security, props, sound systems, etc will cost over $15,000. These costs are passed on through merchandising, passing the hat, and tickets sales from the dance. The rest is paid by seeking sponsors and ads for this Pride '96 guide. If you see a photo, ad or a specific write up in this guide other than the schedule, be certain that it's an event or sponsor that helped fund the celebration. If you must make choices, please choose to support those who support Pride '96 first and don't forget to thank them.

USPS Pride Station:
Pride will have its own post office station at the festival and a commemorative postal cancellation if mailed from that station. The cancellation has the original logo for Portland Pride and reads *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Station, Portland, Maine, 04104, June 15, 1996.

At the pride table Pride '96 postcards will be on sale for you to send to yourself, a friend, or perhaps a favorite president or legislator. We will also have a number of pre-cancelled cards available for collectors until July 30. Please, do not use this wonderful service to "out" anyone or send any militant referenda or figures on your household income.

Pride Merchandise:
This year we have an entire catalog of merchandise for our tenth anniversary. Pride '96 t-shirts, buttons, bottled water, post cards, Pride Lights, and a 100 page coupon book all of which help to support Pride. In addition, the PWA coalition will be selling balloons to support their work.

Southern Maine Pride Committee:
Michael Rossetti, Laurie Fortman, Michele Heiser, Penny Rich, Nate Barker, Marvin Elison, Penny Rich, Dennis Ferrante, Kris Clark, Edie Hoffman, Shawn Walsh, Carolyn Jalber and a host of others.
The Committee wishes to thank KINDA Murphy, Jeffrey Clifford and Joanna Anato for their generous support, talents and presence.

Claudia Brenner:
"Hate violence is purposefully designed not only to hurt the victim but to hurt and intimidate an entire population of people...If we allow fear to paralyze us, then in a sense, the perpetrators have succeeded."
Claudia Brenner, Author of Eight Bullets In Western Pennsylvania because they were lesbians. Claudia and Rebecca were gunned down on the Appalachian Trail in western Pennsylvania. Rebecca died on the trail. Claudia's fight to get help and later to prosecute the assailant highlight the trauma of antigay violence and will help the Pride Committee to reach every participant at this year's celebration.

We are honored by her presence and pleased that she has brought her son Reuben with her to join us in our 10th anniversary.

Grand Marshals:
Outright: Gay, Lesbian, and questioning youth are our grand marshals. They will officially open Pride Day, lead the parade and address both the rally and the festival. We hope, that by highlighting Outright in this way, everyone will get the opportunity to learn about their work and to support their efforts.

Festival Raffle:
Buy a raffle ticket for the Festival drawing for a pair of tickets to the following fabulous shows at the State Theater (you must be present at the festival drawing at 3 PM to win):
The Maine Gay Men's Chorus with Holly Near, Saturday, June 15
Robert Cray, Tuesday June 25
Sugar Babies (Starring Mickey Rooney) Thursday, July 11
Tickets are made available to Pride '96 through the generosity and support of your source of major professional entertainment in Portland. The State Theater, 609 Congress Street in Congress Square. Tickets: 207-879-1112
supportive masses for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered catholics:

6 p.m. sundays
at St. Luke’s Cathedral
143 State Street, Portland.

dignity/maine
box 8113, Portland Maine 04104