Big Blue gives green light to Gays
IBM awards dp benefits,
Washington, DC: The IBM Corporation, nicknamed “Big Blue,” because of its dominant market position and size, has flexed its muscle in the diversity department and given green to the gay and lesbian community. The Fortune Top Ten giant recently announced it was extending domestic partnership benefits to its gay and lesbian employees and has made a financial contribution to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) for its coalition building efforts.

On September 19, IBM announced it would extend health-care coverage to the same-gender partners of its employees. This makes IBM the largest U.S. business to offer domestic partnership (DP) benefits. More than 400 American companies, universities, associations, municipalities and other groups extend DP benefits, including information processing concerns such as Microsoft, Apple, Intel, Xerox and Hewlett-Packard. An IBM spokesperson said the company was announcing the DP policy to remain competitive and attract gay and lesbian workers, and continue its “long-standing tradition of providing benefits plans for all employees.”

On the announcement, NGLTF has received an IBM gift of $3,000. The gift, which came from the IBM Chairman’s Fund, will be used as part of the Task Force’s “Honor Our Allies” event. The event recognizes the work of gay and non-gay individuals and groups who have championed fairness and equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. The next Honoring Our Allies event will be held in Washington, D.C., December 4, 1996, with plans to salute the work of members of the South African Government and the African National Congress who have advocated on behalf of inclusion of civil rights for gays in that nation’s new constitution.

“Corporate America is changing fast,” said Robert Bray, NGLTF media director and a former IBM employee. “More and more companies are doing what the U.S. Congress and its Defense of Marriage Act won’t do: give recognition and benefits to same-gender relationships. When I worked at IBM in the early 80’s there were few openly gay employees. Now, more and more gay and lesbian people are coming out in boardrooms and on assembly lines and are creating real change in the American workplace.”

NGLTF urges people to write and thank IBM. Contact Louis V. Gerstner, Jr., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, IBM Corporation, Old Orchard Rd., Armonk, NY 10504-1783. See BIG BLUE, page 15

Is Madison Avenue Ready for a Lesbian ‘Ellen’?
NEW YORK (AP) — Madison Avenue is staying tuned to “Ellen” these days as the ABC sitcom begins dropping hints its title character may be a lesbian. Advertising buyers say some sponsors may avoid the show if Ellen comes out of the closet, but they suspect ABC could find others to step in. The reaction, they say, depends on how the issue is handled.

If Ellen gets a girlfriend and “the two of them are going to the zoo together, it’s not a problem,” said Paul Schulman, who specializes in buying network advertising time. "If they are in bed together, it’s a problem." The series has become the television season’s hottest topic of conversation since TV Guide reported last week that the lead character, played by Ellen DeGeneres, might come out as a lesbian this season.

While gay characters have been turning up more frequently in supporting roles on TV, no network show has ever had a homosexual central character. The Walt Disney Co., which produces the series and owns ABC, has refused to comment on the report. But the season’s opening episode on Wednesday night heightened speculation that the series may be headed in that direction.

In the episode’s opening scene, Ellen Morgan, having just woken up and looking frowzy in her robe, serenades herself in the bathroom mirror: “I feel pretty, I feel pretty, I feel pretty and witty…” when her new toothbrush under the faucet, only to discover there’s no water. Instead of completing the lyric as written “…gay…” she says, “Hey!” Later in the show, a real estate agent showing Ellen and a friend slides the screen and says, “Just think, Ellen, this could be your new home!” Then the agent produces a 15-page brochure and says: “And here’s your husband coming home from work.” “Oh, I think that puppet’s in the wrong show,” Ellen replies.

The show finished second in its 8 p.m. time slot in the national ratings with an 8.9 rating compared with 10.9 for “The Nanny” on CBS and 7.8 for “Wings” on NBC. Overnight ratings from big markets released earlier had “Ellen” narrowly ahead. A national rating point is equal to 970,000 TV homes. ABC said there have been no defections among advertisers since the TV Guide report. Among the show’s advertisers in the New York area are Microsoft, Intel, Sears, J.C. Penney, Colgate-Palmolive, Nabisco and General Mills. J.C. Penney and Toyota said they would await developments before deciding if they should change their plans. Pepsi-Cola and Kodak — each scheduled to advertise on the
President signs Bill outlawing Same Sex Marriages

HONOLULU (AP) - One day after final arguments were concluded in the state's same-sex marriage case President Clinton on Saturday signed into a law a bill denying federal recognition of gay marriages. Clinton signed the bill sometime after midnight in an effort to avoid media scrutiny over the move that has angered his supporters in the gay community.

Clinton spokesman Mike McCurry says the bill was designed to embarrass the president and put him on the spot, so he felt it was appropriate to sign it in the "middle of the night." While the president said he agreed with the bill, he urged the measure not be used to discriminate against gays and lesbians.

In the state's gay marriage case, Circuit Judge Kevin Chang is expected to take until November before ruling on whether three same-sex couples have the legal right to marry in Hawaii. Whatever the judge rules, an appeal to the state Supreme Court is expected.

A final ruling from the high court isn't likely until late next year. The state attorney general has said he will appeal to the state Supreme Court. In the meantime, he has directed county clerks to refuse to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

In a 16-page opinion, Judge Phyllis W. Beck wrote: "In today's society, where increased mobility, changes in social mores and the continued growth of individual freedom have created a wide spectrum of arrangements filling the role of the traditional nuclear family, flexibility in the application of standing principles is required." Beck held that the woman seeking custody, identified in legal papers only as J.A.L., her former mate and the baby were "co-members of a non-traditional family," and that J.A.L. clearly filled the role of a parent.

The other members of the panel were Judges John T. Kelly Jr. and John G. Brooks. The ruling does not grant J.A.L. shared custody. It gives her the right to return to Family Court, to try to prove her claim that she is entitled to it. "She must still establish that (partial custody) would be in the best interest of the child," Beck wrote. The child's birth mother, identified in legal papers as E.P.H., separated from her mate only as J.A.L., her former mate and the baby were "co-members of a non-traditional family," and that J.A.L. clearly filled the role of a parent.

The Superior Court ruled that the woman seeking custody, identified in legal papers only as J.A.L., her former mate and the baby were "co-members of a non-traditional family," and that J.A.L. clearly filled the role of a parent.

In June 1995, Judge Allan L. Tereshko ruled that J.A.L. had no legal right to be heard in court, saying she was a "third party" without the role of a parent. The Superior Court judges overruled him, saying Tereshko was "overly technical and mechanistic" in his ruling.

Cross - Dressing boy turns up in South Burlington

SOUTH BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP) - The boy who insisted on wearing a dress to Burlington High School is back in state custody after running away from his state-supervised group home. Matt Stickney, 15, disappeared recently.

He called local television stations to tell them he was staying with a group who was providing him with food and shelter. He was in the Burlington area, hoped to land a job, and thought he was safe. "He is safe and that was our real focus during this time frame," said Lt. Bill LaWore of the Burlington Police. This is the second time he has run away.

Stickney's situation has attracted national notoriety, as television shows have traveled to Vermont seeking the story. Karin Eade, of Outright Vermont, a gay and lesbian advocacy group, has said the situation has turned into a media circus. Last week, he was assaulted by a fellow student. His attacker is now charged with a hate crime.

NGLTF: Democratic Platform

Washington, D.C. - Citing strong language on AIDS, support for ending discrimination against gay men and lesbians, and opposition to the scapegoating of immigrants, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has praised the proposed 1996 Democratic National Platform.

At the same time, NGLTF criticized the serious shortcomings of the platform, including its exclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender relationships and families, failure to address the continued witch hunts of gay people in the military, and attacks on welfare recipients.

"We applaud the Democratic platform's language of inclusivity for gay and lesbian people and people with AIDS," said Melinda Parra, NGLTF executive director. "Especially when you compare it to the GOP platform, which gave all of 16 words to AIDS and opposed the 'distortion' of civil rights laws to include sexual orientation."

The Good News

NGLTF cited several positive planks of the platform. These include:

Health and AIDS: The platform calls for strong and explicit support for AIDS research, prevention, treatment, and a commitment to "finding a cure for AIDS, combating HIV-related discrimination, supporting HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS Act) funding...and working to ensure that all Americans living with AIDS have access to new and potentially life-saving drugs." Also of importance to people with HIV and AIDS is the strong stand on holding "the line against Republican sponsored Medicaid cuts...."

The GOP platform's statement on AIDS, while positive, was seriously lacking in any mention of funding for research and care. The GOP language on AIDS in its entirety is: "We remain committed to, and place a high priority on, finding a cure for HIV disease."

The next sentence of the GOP platform went on to call for "increased funding for research targeted at conditions that touch the families of most [emphasis added] Americans, like Alzheimer's, breast cancer, prostate cancer and diabetes." That is in stark contrast to the GOP's "commitment to finding a cure for HIV when the Republican's Congressional record emphasizes cuts in funding and punitive AIDS laws.

Discrimination and Inclusion: NGLTF saluted the platform's inclusion of sexual orientation in a list of those needing protection against discrimination. "We continue to lead the fight to end discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religion, age, ethnicity, disability, and sexual orientation," stated the platform. The document also calls for the vigorous enforcement of the Americans with Disability Act, which includes PWAs.

The platform goes far by supporting federal protections against discrimination for gay and lesbian people and the inclusion of gay people in society. It states, "We support continued efforts, like the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, to end discrimination against gay men and lesbians and further their full inclusion in the life of the nation."

Maine House: MLGPA

Endorsements as of Sept. 10

by Karen Geraghty, MLGPA President

As with the endorsements for the Maine Senate (See CPR September, 1996), the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance endorses candidates for the Legislature who support anti-discrimination legislation and the right of women to control their reproductive choices. In cases where both candidates in the same district run on the issues, we "co-endorse" in those districts.

Please call our office to find out how you can meet candidates running for the Maine House and Senate and help them get elected, or re-elected! 1-800-55-MLGPA, or 731-3732 in Greater Portland.

# Candidate

1 David Ort, R-York
2 Gary Wheeler, D-Eliot
3 David McDermott, D-South Berwick

See ENDORSEMENTS, page 15
Update on DECLINE TO SIGN:

DECLINE TO SIGN is gaining momentum and rallying support for an anti-Cosby showing on November 5. But there is still much work to do and many people needed. If you are hesitant about getting involved in DECLINE TO SIGN, please ask yourself these two quick questions:

Do we, as a community and a state, want to undergo another state-wide, million dollar anti-gay referendum campaign?

If you answered NO to the preceding questions, then you need to join the forces which are fighting to prevent both. The task is simple: we must not allow Cosby to collect enough signatures to put her hateful initiative on the ballot.

The need is urgent: she is well organized and we need your help to defeat her.

Please join us for DECLINE TO SIGN meetings. We meet every Tuesday evening at the YWCA in Portland from 7-9 pm. Dates are as follows: Tuesday, October 1 Tuesday, October 8 Tuesday, October 15 Tuesday, October 22 Tuesday, October 29

If you can’t make the meetings, but want to help..... please consider helping us on election day at the polls. We need hundreds of volunteers on election day, November 5. Also, we need people to write letters to editors of all newspapers.

Can you help us?
Time is of the essence...... we have none to waste! For more information and to request a volunteer form, please call 1-888-DON'T-SIGN.

MLGPA — DECLINE TO SIGN announces events:

“COCKTAIL PARTY and KICK-OFF” on Sunday, October 6, 3 - 6 pm at Katahdin Restaurant, corner of High and Spring Streets in Portland. Come join the “host committee of the year” while you chat with old friends, get caught up on the g/l/bt political scene, and support DECLINE TO SIGN through generous donations. We are not far from election day, when Cosby will be collecting signatures. We need your contributions to defeat her. Please join us and show your support for this effort. Admission is free, donations welcomed.

“A GATHERING for NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY” on Friday, October 11, 7:00 pm, at Congress Square, corner of High and Congress Streets, Portland. Our goal is to join in with hundreds of thousands of g/l/bt people across the country who will be holding events, bar parades, and other activities through the day — and to remember those in our communities who have suffered violence at the hands of haters. For when we are visible we are also sometimes targeted. This rally is being held in conjunction with the YWCA’s “No Hate Without Violence”. Proud sponsors include MLGPA, GLSTN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Teachers Network), PFLAG, OUTRIGHT, and Southern Maine PRIDE. The event is free and open to the public.

A “MUSIC AND COMIC REVIEW” on Sunday, October 27, 6:00 pm, at the First Parish Church, 425 Congress Street, Portland. Back by popular demand are the Harmonies Extraordinaire — Lynn Dees (who just released her first CD), Erika Gilbert, and Val Bennett. Together they create harmonies to please the ear. Joining them is national comic Ed Karvoski, author of “A Funny Time to Be Gay.” Ed has worked as a comedy writer, a stand-up comedian, an actor, and a juror.

But he simply calls himself a Renaissance Queen.

ED KARVOSKI has written comedy for Jay Leno and radio deejays at CBS, NBC, and the BBC. As a journalist, his entertainment reports have appeared in national magazines such as the Advocate, Out, Fox, and The Guide. He has also written for numerous regional publications, including Frontiers, Bay Windows, Windy City Times, Dallas Voice, Front Page, Southern Voice, California Nightlife, Orange County Blade, and Gay People’s Chronicle. As a performer, his television appearances include Facts of Life, Fantasy Island, and As The World Turns. Self-described as “bi-coastal, but all-gay.” Karvoski has lived in Boston, New York, and Los Angeles. Don’t miss this wonderful opportunity for a fund-raising event, where only the best will do!

By the time you read this, hopefully you will have already received your copy of the “survey of Community Members” that is part of the Maine Eq­uity Fund’s Gay/ Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Community Needs Assessment. To have a voice in this process, you need to complete and return the survey by October 15.

The Maine Equity Fund is an ini­tiative of the Maine Community Foundation, which has a challenge grant from the National Lesbian and Gay Community Funding Partnership which, when combined with matching funds raised locally, will allow it to distribute as much as $120,000 over the next two years to meet the needs of Maine’s gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities, and to address the issues of diversity and discrimination that we share with other minority communities.

The results of the survey of community members, and of a separate survey of the service providers and community organizations currently serving the G/L/B/T communities, will determine the grant-making priorities of the Fund. The survey results will also provide important and useful information about the needs, strengths and resources of the G/L/B/T communities in Maine.

The “Survey of Community Mem­bers” went out in the September mail­ings of organizations including the Bi­sexual Peoples’ Network, GLSTN, MLGPA, Northern Lamda Nord, Out­right in MDI, Outright, PFLAG, Rain­bow Business and Professional Organi­zation (RBO), Speaking for the Transp­ublic. In addition, it has been distributed through the bars, social net­works, and at meetings such as Am Chofshi, Matlovich, and the Maine Trans­gender Community Church. We hope that you received one! If not, you can still call Marjorie Love, the consultant coordinate­ting the needs assessment at 207-773-6164 for your copy.

But, this offer ends on October 15. That is the deadline for returning all surveys. So, fill out your survey to­day, fold it so that the return address is visible, slap on a 32 cent stamp and mail it back to us at the Maine Community Foundation/Maine Equity Fund, PO Box 148, Ellsworth, Maine 04605. We promise to put the survey to good use.

PARKSIDE WOMEN’S COUNSELING
Confidential Affairive Empowering Psychotherapy
Vivian Wades, L.C.P.C., Lesbian Feminist Practitioner
(207) 774-2403
236 Park Avenue, Portland, ME 04102-2928

LAVENDER LAW V
DON'T MISS! This conference addresses ONLY GAY & LESBIAN ISSUES, offers up to 14 hours of LEGAL CREDIT, and is held only every 2 years, so DON'T MISS IT! LAVENDER LAW V IN NEW ORLEANS October 22-27, 1996 - FUND Keynotes Addressed by
KAREN BURSTEIN, former legal adviser to New York Supreme Court judge who recently ran for New York’s Attorney General.
WANTED: Women who do not qualify for LEGAL FUND. Please apply.

KAREN WILLIAMS and ROMANOVSKY & PHILLIPS, PLLC.
EXETER SUPPORT GROUP

"Connections", a support group for those who are caring for a family member or a dear friend with HIV/AIDS, will be a year old in October. `Connections" opened its doors last Fall at the Exeter Congregational Church when several members of PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) saw a need for a safe, compassionate circle in which to share their concerns and experiences.

Although there are a number of support and resource centers available to Seacoast people living with HIV/AIDS, there are none locally that focused primarily on the harsh realities faced by the gay community, or by those who had lost a beloved family member or friend.

Somewhere between 30 and 40 people have come through the doors to monthly "Connections" meetings in the past year. What brings them to the meeting? And Meg Cartwright, the mother of a son who has AIDS, asks: "Why aren't there more?"

I brought my CD from home for Susan to autographs. At "Connections" she finds support and encouragement that is needed. The compassion and understanding of this group and a time just to be heard so I can communicate the feelings that I am dealing with is why I keep coming.

Like Meg Cartwright, Joan Ferguson was one of the "Connections" founders. Her son Brooke was diagnosed with AIDS in early 1992 and she moved to live with her in Portsmouth in the autumn of 1994. Her health had deteriorated to the point that he could no longer hold his job, or maintain his independence. "We decided, after a considerable discussion, that the most reasonable option was for him to move to New Hampshire to live with me," Joan said.

Joan says that she and Brooke always communicated openly, but when their relationship became one of care giver/mother and adult/son, some of the lines of communication frayed.

"When Brooke voiced his resentment and frustration, I felt that I had to restrain my responses. When we got into a real 'head banger', I would feel guilty for having been angry with my sick son. He was still so young and so strong; it was my son who was ill and at the mercy of a devastating, unpredictable virus. What could I say or do to comfort him without over-mothering him?"

"With time, and serious heart-to-heart talks, Brooke and I minimized ways to improve the emotional balances between us," Joan continued. "But still, I wanted to be able to share my thoughts and feelings, if that was what he was given."

See CONNEcTIONS, page 5

CRUISING & SCHMOOZING

Over 200 Women Go on Portland Cruise

by Leslie Robinson

As I walked on board the Thomas Lawton minutes before its scheduled departure, I saw many women. Lots of women. And they saw me.

Everybody was trying to see everybody, without looking like that's what they were doing. The electricity was electric! So it goes every year on a Sunday in early September. Lesbians from Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine gather at late in the afternoon for Portland's annual singles cruise. It leaves Portland, NH, and north a boat a trip who-cares-where. This cruise, part of a year-long calendar of social events, magnetically attracts both couples and singles. The ship's engines hadn't even started yet, but one single woman, said, as she told me about her good fortune in not being seasick: "I am a social animal; it doesn't bother me. I am a social introvert."

I asked her if she had heard about the connection with the C.A.R.S. cruise. She hadn't. "I am not much of a reader," she laughed. "I will probably get seasick," she said, and though not actively searching for a girlfriend, she was open to the possibility. Paul's breakup was fresh, and she was hurting. "I came here just to get to know other women," she said. The cruise's organizer, Leanne Cusimano, sitting at a table with her girlfriend and another couple who have been going together for a year, commented that the weather hadn't scared many people away. Of about 275 expected, about 225 showed up. Apparently, even Mother Nature can't stop women on cruising. This cruise is part of a set social schedule. clay Hill Farm, a restaurant in Derry and Laconia, hosts six events for women over the calendar year, and this cruise is one of them. It's the only event that happens outside of Maine. "It's all good," said, "All the events have included a singles' party in January, a Valentine's dinner dance, and this November a fall weekend package. Cusimano said the cruise is "the most casual event that we do." Now in its third year, the trip has sold out each time. Next year Cusimano has scheduled the same cruise for the Sunday after Labor Day, to be followed the Sunday after by the singles' cruise. Each year a portion of the ticket price goes to the Center for Breast Care in Boston. Tickets for this excursion were $14. Cusimano likes being lesbians with these opportunities. "It's about just being conscientious to the needs, especially the social needs... I'm a community builder," she said with a laugh. Her case load was dancing all over the lower deck. Renea boisterously even(Cons)�"

Cruising & Schmoozing, page 5
When Women Meeting Women began in January 1993, its focus was to provide a social/support organization for lesbians - both singles and couples - in southern New Hampshire. We certainly have succeeded! We sponsor dances, lunch groups, dinners, theater and movie trips, picknicken adventures, game nights, the ever-popular potluck and much, much more...all opportunities for, as our name implies, women meeting women. We offer a full-range of activities, from gentle walks to mountain hikes. Our support groups are sometime quiet, sometimes intense. They help us examine and examine the things that are important in our lives. As we share our thoughts and feelings, we learn a lot about ourselves and our communities. Topics have included "Lesbian Motherhood," "Strengthening Your Relationship," "Being Single and Loving It," "Co-Dependent Relationships" and "Coming Out in Mid-Life." Women Meeting Women provides an on-going forum to meet many educational needs. The members have covered topics such as diversity, financial planning, the meaning of Stonewall, legal issues, self-defense, and many other subjects. We've held dance instruction and shared recipes, books and magazines. Women Meeting Women provides information on activities both in our area and the surrounding areas. We often invite guest speakers to join us at our meetings to share information about their organization. We'll share news on important local and national issues and provide facts of interest such as which communities employ and support lesbians and gay males. WMW provides its members with access to community organizations and events as well as access to women with interests similar to your own. The WMW network can connect you with women who offer professional skills or services - taxes, law, house cleaning, auto repair, printing, carpentry, yard work...you name it. So if you are looking for social, sports, educational, support, networking and informational opportunities for lesbians, WMW is for you.

Feel free to join us at our monthly general meetings, held either the first or second Saturday of the month. Full details of all WMW events are published in our monthly newsletter. Annual sub­scription fee is $8.00. For other information about WMW, call (603) 881-4268 or e-mail DBAlbat@aol.com

Women Meeting Women...it's the best way to meet other lesbians! DBAlbat@aol.com http://members.aol.com/DBAlbat/WMW/brochure.htm

N.H. FEMINIST CONNECTION HOLDS 3RD ANNUAL WOMEN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL

By Gail Boyd

Our Saturday outing to the third annual New Hampshire Women's Mu­sic Festival, on Saturday 7th in Northfield, was for the whole family. My partner, my son, and I arrived just as Wendy Keith was beginning her set. We had gotten a late start and missed On Our Way, Songwriters and Sweet, Hot & Sassy. Our violin playing friend, Sue, was very excited about the latter, and she was right. Our first program was New England. When I took the boy to the kids tent to blow giant bubbles while my significant other dragged the toy bucket and beach chairs to the parking lot at the foot of the Highlands ski hill. We then perused the vendor booths which offered jewelry (lots, mostly beaded), arts & crafts, clothing, massage, books and food. There were also information booths for services and organizations such as the Women's Business Center, NARAL, Zonta Club, and many others. Just as we got ourselves settled, the New Hamp­shire Seacoast bad Spirit Varnish rocked us with their earthy, original songs, then Peg Loughran gave us a set of traditional folk, followed by the white girl group, the Lowé Profiles, with their bohemian sing-along style. We loved Susie Burke, who was just recovering from walking pneumonia. She sang some songs from her children's album Sweet Potatoes and had some great personal anecdotes. She sang an acapella Peter & Lou Berryman song that was about a cake recipe relayed by a mother on the telephone while her three children constantly interrupted that was beautiful, yet we had in complete stitches. The percussion group Hands On your Car was what I wanted to dance to. The drumming was so contagious for some. Then we got what we had been waiting for all afternoon - Cate Curtis. She was just too good. She's one of the few people who get it all together. I enjoyed the开车, but her music would have to suffice. She led off with "Radical" from her new album Truth from Lies and I was happy hearing her continue on with many more songs from that album. We also got a kick out of the Coy Sheridan number about simultaneous eating and driving, which definitely hit home. The New Hampshire feminist Connection, sponsor of the event, provided the time, energy and friendly volunteers to provide a gathering that we hope will return next year.

CRUISING from page 4

Brooks understood my need to speak a mother's mind and heart without self-re­cognition. He encouraged me to be a part of the formation of "Connections," a group where I could find myself to be supportive during the final year of my son's life-journey, -and beyond."

"Connections," a support group for care givers, families and friends all those whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS will celebrate its first anniversary Tuesday October 8th, 8:30 p.m. at the Exeter Congregational Church, 21 Front Street. A staff mem­ber of AIDS Response Seacoast will be present through the entire event. The first 45 mins will be spent examining lhe things that happened in our lives. As we share our thoughts and feelings, we learn a lot about ourselves and our communities. Topics have included "Lesbian Motherhood," "Strengthening Your Relationship," "Being Single and Loving It," "Co-Dependent Relationships" and "Coming Out in Mid-Life." When I asked how things were going, Cathy answered, "I'm feeling all kinds of pathy. I can't perform under pressure." We both laughed. I didn't mean to put pressure on her, of course, but here's a feeling that next year, her son's life will become less chaotic. The WMW network can connect you with women who offer professional skills or services - taxes, law, house cleaning, auto repair, printing, carpentry, yard work...you name it. So if you are looking for social, sports, educational, support, networking and informational opportunities for lesbians, WMW is for you.

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Women Meeting Women...it's the best way to meet other lesbians! DBAlbat@aol.com http://members.aol.com/DBAlbat/WMW/brochure.htm

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Upcoming arts and entertainment notables...

Mad Horse Theater Company:
“A Funny thing happened on the Way to the Forum”
October 2 - November 3
955 Forest Ave. in Portland
For ticket information and reservations call ’em at 797-3338. Live theater rules,

Rockport Opera House
“Cruzhu Finn (Wild Energy)”
*An original collaboration by writer Lorraine Brown, musician Jeffrey Densmore and choreographer Kareb Tvarrin, this show features over 50 local talents. It’s billed as an “unusual musical exploration of heroes/heroines’ journey”

Oak Street Theater
“In my Head I’m Thin”
Now through October 13
Portland native Susan Poulin presents her show about women and body image. This also sounds very cool, and funny! Ticket information: 775-5103

Crow and Anchor (Provincetown, MA)
Comedian Karen Ripley will be performing as part of Women’s Week in P-Town this year. She’ll take the stage nightly at 9:00 p.m. the week of October 14-19 and again on the 20 at 4:00 p.m. From what I’ve read about her, she sounds like a real hoot. So if you’re heading to P-Town this may interest you. (and if you’re heading to P-town, I’m jealous!)

First Parish Church (Temple & Congress) Portland
Funny man Ed Karvoski, Jr. will be headlining at a benefit for Decline To Sign at the First Parish church on Sunday, October 27 at 6:00 p.m. Also appearing will be Harmonies Extraordinaire featuring Lynn Doves, Erika Gilbert and Val Bennett. The show is called “Music and Comic Review” and it supports a very worthy cause.

First Parish Church (Temple & Congress) Portland
Maine’s own singer-songwriter, Kate Schrock, returns to Portland for a one-night solo performance on October 12 at 8:30 pm. Tickets for the show are $10 in advance, $12 the day of the show and are available at Bull Moose Music, Play it Again, Amadieu, and elsewhere. Kate returns to Maine to continue production on her second album, and to perform for her loyal fans. This concert will feature new material, as well as music from her well received debut album, “Refuge.”

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Dar, the Rising Star
by Aimsel L. Ponti

One of the most notable voices in folk music today belongs to a woman named Dar Williams. I remember seeing her play to a crowd of 8 people about four years ago in New Hampshire. She has come a long way since then—quite a long way. Her first album, "The Honesty Room" was re-issued on the Razor & Tie label two years ago and then "Mortal City" was released earlier this year. There's a few things about Dar that set her apart from so many other musicians of today. First, her voice. Hearing Dar sing is almost a spiritual experience as her voice covers three octaves and can hit you like a ten ton truck or the lightest feather.

To foster her independence. After high school, she went to study philosophy. In Chicago, she began writing for piano and vocals, and eventually formed her unique solo style. With only an acoustic guitar and a cello to back her, Dar sings about the bitterness, loneliness and hopelessness of winter. "The nights were long and cold and scary —I have lost to February." I think of sub-zero days in Portland with a grey sky overhead and a badly broken heart. Yes, leave it to Dar to write a killer song that you can't help but love.

One of my most cherished songs, "February," with only an acoustic guitar and a cello to back her, Dar sings about the bitterness, loneliness and hopelessness of winter. "The nights were long and cold and scary —I have lost to February." I think of sub-zero days in Portland with a grey sky overhead and a badly broken heart. Yes, leave it to Dar to write a killer song that you can't help but love.

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Ellen is releasing "Taste This" on Lava records on October 4th. Quite the title from a woman whose sexuality is under the microscope of lesbians nationwide. As someone who does not support the practice of "outing" people who are either not gay or not ready to come out for their own personal reasons I just want to say, leave Ellen alone! Love her 'cause she's so damn funny and terribly cute, not because of her mysterious sexuality. However, I've heard that her publicist for the TV show has said that DeGeneres' character may not be ready to come out for their own personal reasons.

She opened the show, leaving me breathless with a set of pipes that would make even a healthy ceiling fall down. It sounds to me, if you heard a very loud, very devastating sobbing sound on Thursday, August 29th, then I apologize. That was me when I heard the Tort Amos show had been cancelled. Long faces were spotted everywhere on that bitter Saturday. I like to think that there's magic still left in the State Theater. When all the angry dust settles, this music fan hopes that shows will once again take place at some of the best damn places I could ever hope to see a show, the State Theater.

Cowboy Junkies however did manage to get their cancelled State Theater show relocated to the State Street Church. They played for nearly two hours to a sold out crowd. Afterwards, singer Margo Timmins was nice enough to come out to the lobby and talk to people. I ran a few blocks home to grab my "Caution Hopes" CD which Timmins nicely signed after posing for a couple of photo opportunities with myself and a few other groups, uh, I mean fans.

Nothing else will happen when you're in a Cowboy Junkies mood. Such was the case on the night of September 17th. This trend seems to get better with time, and Margo Timmins' voice, well, you just got to hear her sing. Woah...

And really quick, before this article's over, also be on the lookout for the new Luxurious Jackson on Capitol Records. It's due out on October 15th. I've heard it, it's very cool. ΔΔ

SOMETHING QUEER IN YOUR EAR

by Martin Swinger

Due to busy performance schedule this month's Singin' Out is a reprint of the debut article. Martin will return next month.

We all know about K.D. Lang, Indigo Girls, Melissa Etheridge, Janis Ian and Michael Stipe. More and more mainstream artists are coming out after stardom and my hat is off to them. It takes a lot of nerve to come out to the whole world at one time. My interest here is not the gay superstars of tomorrow. There are out new artists across the country searching for friendly ears. It seems to me that very few people in Southern Maine even know that such a genre as 'gay music' exists, or why it might be desirable. The second part is easy: I want to hear a man sing his love to another man because it strengthens my vision of a world where love is good no matter who the recipient may be. The first part is getting easier- slowly. The word is getting out in the "big" cities that gay music is here. New York City celebrates "Gay Music Month" (October) with a full calendar of music events from "A Night of GLAMA" (Gay and Lesbian American Music Awards) to coffeehouse, church and bookstore venues featuring local and out of towners concerts.

Thanks to the organizers of Portland and Bangor Pride and the enormous efforts of Maine Won't Discriminate we've been treated to a growing number of gay musicians here in Maine, and I suspect there may be many more stores, damaged windows, other boxes of in the wings. I hope we'll be hearing from some new voices as the Decline to Sign campaign is just beginning it's gathering forces. Don't lose the courage (interest) to support what could be a nationwide movement to let our voices be heard? We've shown up before for the Gay Men's Chorus and The Flirtations but what about all the new voices? We ask the world to open their minds and hearts to us, can we open our hearts and ears to each other and listen to our love singing?

If you are a gay musician, drop me a line. Let's get the word out. There is strength in numbers. If you are interested in new gay music or if you have information about gay music events in Maine please let me know so we can spread the word. If we create the demand for our music the music stores, book stores and performance venues will naturally follow. If we wait to hear it on the radio, we won't hear it. Let's play gay music in our cars, kitchens, bars and bookstores. Share the name with local D.J.'s and make what we hear in our hearts, what we hear all around us. Till then keep Singin' OUT!

Martin Swinger is an out performer of traditional, contemporary and original folk music who is currently working on his second album of Gay Folk Music. His first album titled Singin' OUT is available at A Different Light Bookstore in NYC and by mail. You may contact Martin in care of CPR. ΔΔ

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Community Pride Reporter October, 1996
HARVEST, from page 6

2nd Annual Halloween Masquerade Ball

On Friday October 25, Portland's Pavilion located at 188 Middle Street, will come alive as costumed parties vie for top cash prizes for best costume. Sharon Rose of WCSH-TV 6Alive will be in attendance as host guest along with several celebrity judges. The judging will be held from 6-9 PM. The Ball is from 8 PM to 1 AM.

This event, produced by Fundraisers, is a benefit for the Maine AIDS Alliance. Tickets are $15 per person or $25 per couple and can be purchased through PAWS, 142 High St., #330, Drop Me A Line, 611 Congress St., The Underground, 3 Spring St., or Sportman's in Lewiston. For tickets and information, call 207/871-0109. Don't miss out on the Halloween fun! ΔΔ

PROFILE, from page 7

She eventually came full circle, back to Maine, to revisit her roots and to connect with a vital music community in Portland.

It was during her stay in Portland that she also completed her self-produced debut album on her own Kakelela Music label, which has been well received, not only in New England, but around the country as well.

The success of "Refuge" outside the remote locales of Maine has fueled Kate's move back to Chicago where she is continuing to write, record, and perform. As a live performer, she possesses the rare ability to genuinely captivate her audience with an emotional and musical intensity which is both familiar and riveting. ΔΔ

Gamerus, a benefit for the Maine AIDS Alliance. Tickets are $15 per person or $25 per couple and can be purchased through PAWS, 142 High St., #330, Drop Me A Line, 611 Congress St., The Underground, 3 Spring St., or Sportman's in Lewiston. For tickets and information, call 207/871-0109. Don't miss out on the Halloween fun! ΔΔ
To Your Health: Lesbian Health Project Update

by Tania Jo Hathaway

The Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine has been involved in several projects over the spring and summer. Here is an update on one project: watch for more updates in the future!

Breast and Cervical Health Program

The Breast and Cervical Health Program (BCHP) is a program that targets women who are thought to be at a higher risk of developing breast and cervical cancer. Women defined as being at higher risk include poor women, older women, rural women and lesbians. Research shows that these groups are less likely to get annual pap smears and mammograms — the best medical methods to date for early detection of cervical and breast cancer.

BCHP is funded by federal grant money and is administered in six areas in Maine by the Bureau of Health. The organization implementing the program in Portland is the city’s Public Health Division.

Last winter, Maureen Clancy, coordinator of the program for Portland Public Health, invited LHP/SM to be part of the local BCHP Coalition, Women First. Since that time, LHP/SM has served as a resource to Women First regarding issues of access to health care for lesbians.

In the case of pap smears and mammograms, the issues revolve around inclusiveness/visibility/sensitivity from health care practitioners and affordability of services.

LHP/SM has participated in the program by 1) consulting with Women First on the development of brochures and other materials that signal inclusivity to lesbians, 2) providing a volunteer from LHP/SM to attend a media spokesperson training, 3) providing a volunteer to be trained to teach others how to be peer health educators, and 4) providing a volunteer from LHP/SM to be trained as a peer health educator.

In addition, Maureen Clancy and an LHP/SM volunteer attended a lesbian awareness and sensitivity training sponsored by the BHCPS staff from Massachusetts — the training was targeted toward health care providers who will be delivering services under the BCHP.

There are plans for LHP/SM and Women First to deliver this same training to the directors of the other 5 organizations implementing BCHP throughout Maine.

The Bad News and the Good

LHP/SM applauds the efforts of Women First to include the health care needs of lesbians in their program. However, LHP/SM cannot endorse this program for lesbians because we cannot ensure that the health care providers in this program are knowledgeable about lesbian health needs.

The key piece missing from the Women First program is training for its health care providers regarding lesbian health. Without it, a lesbian client in the Women First program may not receive lesbian specific services — and in fact is in danger of encountering the very same negative responses (invisibility, homophobic remarks, etc.) that keep lesbians away from pap/mammograms in the first place.

Women First recognizes this programmatic flaw and continues to raise discussion about training for health care providers. In addition, Women First has taken an extra step and will join LHP/SM in offering a Cancer Screening Clinic specifically for lesbians. Services will be provided by LHP/SM volunteer staff of lesbian knowledgeable health care practitioners. For those who qualify, a free mammogram will be offered to participants in the Clinic (see related article this issue) through the Women First program.

Tania Jo Hathaway is the coordinator of the Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine, PO Box 11048 Port­land ME 04104. (207) 657-5864.

ARTISTS for AIDS AWARENESS

Artists for AIDS Awareness (APAA) is an organization of concerned Aroostook County citizens dedicated to HIV/AIDS education and prevention.

Their goal is to nurture a more compassionate, supportive, and understanding community. APAA annually “Benefit to Celebrate Life,” scheduled this year for Saturday, March 22, 1997, raises funds to support education and prevention activities in Aroostook County.

This year, APAA will fund non-profit youth programs and public schools in the 1042geführt von APAA von AIDS project proposals that work toward HIV prevention education activities through using the Arts.

A few of the unlimited number of possibilities might include theater presentations, short stories, poetry or poster contests, musical presentations or sculpture. Collaborative projects are encouraged.

Applicants should keep in mind that APAA will fund projects/projects up to $500.00. Applications must be received no later than October 30, 1996. “It’s our expectation that these projects will raise community awareness to the barriers people with HIV/AIDS face and to the barriers youth face in making safer decisions. All programs must involve youth in planning and implementing arts projects to achieve positive outcomes listed on the Request for Proposal and grant application,” said Deb Madore, an APAA member.

For more information or an application form, contact Deb Madore at HEALTH 1st at Presque Isle at (207) 758-3056 or (800) 453-7881.

Free Cancer Screening Clinic offered by LHP/SM

The Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine, in conjunction with Portland Public Health, will offer its third Cancer Screening Clinic for Lesbians on Saturday, December 7, 1996, from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

LHP/SM has served over 25 lesbians since it began sponsoring free clinics in April 1995. More than 90% of our clients have returned surveys stating that they were very satisfied with staff, services, and follow up care.

Services are offered free of charge; donations large and small enable LHP/SM to continue offering services. If you would like to send a donation to help sponsor this clinic, please make your check payable to LHP/SM and mail to PO Box 11048 Portland ME 04101.

To set up an appointment, and to see if you qualify for a free mammogram, call LHP/SM at (207) 657-5864.

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EDITORIAL- ME

Okay, so I went around telling my friends that I made two women extremely happy over the weekend. Of course, my friends, knowing me as they do simply raised an eyebrow and said, "Oh really?" I was forced to admit that the women I made happy were Karen Geraghty and Betsy Smith of MLGPA because I told them that CPR was going to run MLGPA's fund-raiser on the front page.

Many of you already know that MLGPA has been the driving force behind much of the positive political activism in our community. MLGPA was there during the struggle for the Portland ordinance, during the Vote No on 1 battle with the Decline to Sign campaign. They are advocates for our rights on many fronts, including their lobbying efforts in Augusta. They continually educate our lawmakers and the public at large about who we are and what protections we need.

For those of us who are not so politically savvy, the information MLGPA gathers, compiles and distributes helps us determine who the candidates are who will help us in the battle for equal rights. It's time now to come out and show support for those on the front lines.

NGLTF from page 2

The GOP platform says, "...we oppose discrimination based on sex, race, age, creed, or national origin, and will vigorously enforce anti-discrimination statutes. We reject the distortion of those laws to cover sexual preference..." NGLTF also praised the platform's appeal to stop the scapegoating of immigrants and opposition to ending affirmative action. "We deplore those who blame immigrants for economic and social problems," stated the platform. While calling for an end to illegal immigration, the platform urged all Americans "to avoid the temptation to use this issue to divide people..." and "...as a pretext for discrimination."

The platform opposes barring children of "illegal immigrants" from schools, and that such efforts are "mean spirited and shortsighted." NGLTF agreed with the platform in "opposing[en] Soc. Dole's promise to end affirmative action."

The Bad News

The Task Force strongly criticized the platform's lack of attention to two critical issues affecting gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans: our legal rights, and activism before gay rights can come a solid plank in a progressive platform. While the Libertarian Party supports the part, it is the kind of muddled-headed thinking that is sure to annoy us might be at the latest failure of government to recognize our rights. Clinton's record on gay rights is better than Dole's. During Clinton's first campaign, when it really could have cost him votes, he campaigned loudly for an end to anti-gay discrimination in the military. And although "don't ask, don't tell" is a pretty sorry compromise, let's not forget that it was reached under the threat of resignation of top military advisors and it is better than what we had before. Contrast this with the basic Republican attitude of intolerance for gays in the military. Dole's own attitude toward gay rights is unclear, but he is so afraid of looking soft on queers that early on in the campaign, he rejected a donation from a gay Republican organization.

As to Clinton's support for the Defense of Marriage Act, it stinks and I've denounced it before in this column. But let's get real — both parties are against gay marriage and the bill was passed with substantial bipartisan support. It will take more time, education, and activism before gay rights can become a solid plank in a progressive platform. But it's unlikely to ever become a part of the Republican platform. It is true that the Libertarian Party supports gay marriage, but what of it? Except for wishful thinking, this is a two-party country. Show me an alternative progressive party with real grassroots support so that I won't be throwing away my vote by voting for it, and I'll consider changing my party affiliation. For the present, gay people cannot afford to waste their votes on a pointless display of petulance.

There are some fairly compelling reasons to vote for Clinton as well. The Republicans were trying to eviscerate social programs. The new budget and welfare reform are bad news, but an all-Republican Congress means we are going to have to do without the things we cherished under Reagan. And don't forget the possibility that the next President may get to name a Supreme Court justice or two. Whom do you want picking those justices? Bill Clinton has promised to veto the Portman, Gramm-Rudman, and balanced budget bills, and he has vowed to oppose any tax cut unless it is revenue-neutral.

In addition, the outcome of this election may have long-term effects on the focus of political power for some time to come. A vote for Clinton is the first step toward restoring a democratic majority in Congress. If Republicans are allowed to control both the Congress and the presidency, it will be a long, dark miserable start to the next millennium. And don't forget the possibility that the next President may get to name a Supreme Court justice or two. Whom do you want picking those justices? Bill Clinton has promised to veto the Portman, Gramm-Rudman, and balanced budget bills, and he has vowed to oppose any tax cut unless it is revenue-neutral.

The current political climate is about real people in real government. It works frustratingly and bizarrely at the best of times. By all means, throw out both parties and let's have a revolution. But, short of that, abandoning Clinton now will only dump gays from the frying pan into the fire, a prospect that seems a little too medieval for my taste.

Same-Gender Marriage and Families: "There is no recognition in the platform of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender families, including our loving relationships, and the importance of ending discrimination against our families," said NGLTF's Melinda Paras. "Same-gender marriage and our right to keep or adopt children all are key issues for us. The platform spends considerable space talking about strong heterosexual families, but ignores the loving, caring, but vulnerable families we as gay people are a part of."

The GOP platform is openly hostile to gay families, in particular on same-gender marriage. It endorses the Defense of Marriage Act.
To the Editor:

As is,
... This is the same town that in 1991 the police were threatening to arrest patrons and store owners that wore or sold T-shirts with a condom on it that said "cover me I'm going in!". There seems to be something unproductive and misguided with this new T-shirt scandal. I see it as superficial outrage if the queer protesters continue to pick on one person while the same shirts are sold nearby (and they are sold nearby, more so now). Is the issue that the community's standard promotes homophobia all over town or that a store owner broke his promise to a group many straights may see as gay wackos and buffoons, missing the whole point.

... Unless they clarify they're direction to make some larger sense, I'm inclined to side with the store owner's posture to do what's acceptable in the community. The protest is in fact causing more of those crappy T-shirts to spread across New Hampshire (to God, a motorcycle club) and promote homophobia, not stop it.

... the town, all the stores, not this one store, needs to be taken on.

simply shut the protest down. As a former New Hampshire resident, I believe beating this one store in the headlines will not do anymore approachable to stop homophobia.

... As is, I can't support this protest.

Michael Rossetti, Portland

Simple things

When my partner and I left Wyoming, I wanted to move to some gay ghetto so we could hold hands in public. Instead, we ended up in Caribou—must have missed a turn somewhere.

The gift of the Caribou experience was practicing being out in a community of 9,400 where one doesn't get lost in the crowd. I should note that I was married to a woman for 12 years prior to coming out. The interesting life comparison is that things I took for granted during my "heterosexual life" now have become political statements: Simple things—Amy Display of Public Affection—Choosing to Have a Joint Checking Account—Raised a few eyebrows at Caribou Shop and Save—Renting an apartment together and not creating the appearance of separate bedrooms —Refusing to refer to Jim as my "friend" (although he is)—My roommate financing—Writing Jim's name as my spouse on medical information forms—Selling flowers through the local florist on Valentine's Day—Planning a Communion Ceremony The ultimate recent self-censorship was failing to dance together at a wedding ceremony last week. And wouldn't you know it, I've played 3 Village People Songs in a Row, and then Gloria Gaynor's "I'll Survive". We've got to work on that one. One last thought, I was very troubled by the article in the most recent CPR where Mr. Mofr (first name escapes me) said he was voting for Bob Dole to punish Bill Clinton's compromised positions on gay issues. While I remain angry about Mr. Clinton's position, it seems rather pointless to take the "worse evil."

Talk about "cutting off your vote to spite your race!!!" Wouldn't a vote for the Green Party candidate make a lot more sense if one is choosing to make an anti-Clinton statement??? Oh well... thanks for indulging my ramblings— not that you had any choice.

Be well.
Jim Fetter, Brunswick

Blood donor limitations

by Laurie Doll

On September 17th I went to Portland Biologicals Inc., Plasma Center donor site on Congress Street, to donate plasma and quickly found myself a victim of discrimination. After passing a pre-screening by certified receptionist-medical technician Linda Weeks, I was asked to state the reason for my prescribed regimen of chemotherapy medications. To be brief, I identified myself as Transsexual. After a few minutes wait, I was escorted into the examination room for a standard blood test.

The physical never took place. Waiting for me was "Physicians Substitue" Pat Keene who said, "A "catch" exists you engage in sex with either men or women and are promiscuous, therefor you may not donate. I'm sorry."

When did you last have sex?

Are you promiscuous?

Do you use narcotics?

Dirty needles? Engage in unprotected sex? These questions never entered my mind during our conversation, and my sexual orientation was only presumed. That I have been HIV tested twice a year for the last three years or that I have an excellent blood of health from my recovering physician was never brought up. No one seemed to identify me as a transsexual until the end when I gave a medical reason for my history.

I was passing with flying colors until I "outed" myself.

... I've written for the Coastal Journal and the Times Record in Brunswick, a Free Press article here at the CPR. Usually when you hear that someone knew that I had a story for one of these papers. After leaving the Center, I ran to my apartment to retrieve a tape recorder and then returned. Once there I identified myself, only this time as a reporter. I asked Plasma Center manager "Charles" for a statement, to which he replied, "No." I asked him to provide forms or paperwork expressing the reason I was denied. His response was again, "No." I asked him if there was anything he would like to say in defense of the company. His answer was, "No." When I asked to speak to "Physicians Substitute" Keene, she suddenly became "unavailable" and was "too busy."

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Advertising: Space reservation by October 22
News stories: October 25

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OUR MISSION

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

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My Transsexual Manifest Part VII

by Darilyn S
March 20-26

Almost nine months ago, I sat down and tried at it. I thought we were finalized
needed to examine my evolution toward womanhood. It was to be the first step in
my ability to look at the large phenomenon. I have been working on a few basic issues,
as the potential liberation of the soul.

Recently, during the Jewish holidays, I had the opportunity to examine where I am now; this year, I see myself as
my life at this point; to renew my mission along with my faith. I have found out that while some of my previ-
ous assumptions will eventually be true, at the same time, many will be proven wrong.

I am discovering that I am not alone, and a great number of people in and
out of the community are supportive of me and receptive to my work. This
is astounding, but most welcome. I find that there is a lot of the commun-
ity sees me as a member, not an outsider. This feels like a participant in life,
not a bystander. This allows me to accept
that I have human value and am not just a curiosity, something I sometimes still feel.

I realize that lightning won't strike every time I move forward in some
respect. Making friends becomes a matter of extending, not expecting everyone to
live with you. Now, when I make that effort, I am sel-
dom rebuffed. People see the merit in me regardless of my life goal, allowing
me to build bridges, make connections and develop relationships. They are
my own in retirement. This is the biggest question in retirement. This
means setting aside current earnings in
the future income needs will be.

Where will your income come from during retirement? This is of course the
biggest single issue in retirement. This is a good retirement plan will provide
for the income for your retirement will come from spending down the
investments you made during your working years. Do not plan on Social Security to be your primary source of income in retirement. It is the only supplement Plan on having other investments to generate income. That probably means setting aside current earnings in
an IRA or other form of retirement plan for your future needs.

There are three broad questions to consider when developing a retirement plan. Most of us go to work every day
looking forward to eventually retiring. However, a successful retirement where you feel fulfilled while you are alive is
to something which requires forethought and careful planning.
Good Luck! ΔΔ

Money Matters: Retirement Planning
by Peter Callman, CPA

Anyone who wants to stop working at some point in their life will need to do some planning to ensure their financial security afterward. Plan-
ning for retirement involves more than just putting money aside in a retirement
fund for later use. It is necessary to consider what your lifestyle will be like af
after retirement. This will determine when you can retire and how much money will be needed during retirement.

- What do you want to do while you are retired? Give some consideration to the activities which you will want to do when you retire. Rep-
- How much money will you need to live on? A basic component to a re-
tirement plan is a budget for monthly living expenses. Take a look at your current expenses and try to project for-
ward what they will be after you retire. Most likely some costs will decrease,

like a mortgage payment, and others will increase like medical expenses. Consideration to what lifestyle changes will occur as you grow older and what the related costs may be. Keep inflation in mind when projecting what your future income needs will be.

- Where will your income come from during retirement? This is of course the biggest single issue in retirement. This is a good retirement plan will provide
for the income for your retirement will come from spending down the
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an IRA or other form of retirement plan for your future needs.

Out of Town!

by Paul T. Bernard

You are becoming profi-
cient at surfing the world-wide-web.

You now have all the tools to take care
of your own travel arrangements. But
do you really want to do that? For some,
the answer is yes - others, no. If you are
fearful of travel advisories or restrictions to par-
ticular foreign destinations. Yes, you
probably can't get that information from your
local travel agent as he or she has access to
information on the Internet - but it may take you sev-
eral hours of computer to get to it. But
you can call your local travel agent and he/she can give you that information almost immediately and usually at no cost to you.

I have many clients who are Inter-
net-literate who still call me when it's
time for them to take a trip somewhere.

- Why? Because they know that I'll take care of all their travel needs so that they don't have to. For example, I have a client who is taking a trip to southern Maine. His itinerary includes
Tokyo, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Sydney, Auckland, and Fiji. He could have mapped out his entire trip and made all of the arrangements himself, but he felt more comfortable having me take care of it. And for his last trip to New York last month, again he called me to take care of that simple trip.

If you think going online to the Inter-
net, give it a try. But if you are like many others, don't hesitate to call your local travel agent.

BOSTON (AP) - A 15-year-old


girl from a suburb north of Boston, the
gay-straight group at her high school has
made a lot . maybe even her life. She says she was suicidal, hiding the fact that
she was a lesbian, until she found the

group. One day, she walked in on a meet-
ing while pretending she had some other
business in that classroom. Now, "it feels

better because I can talk openly and not have to pretend," she says. The girl, who didn't want her name used, was one of about 300 gay and lesbian youth state-
wide who rallied Thursday at the State
house as the Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth released a

recommendations to further protect gay

See COMMISSION, page 19

MA Governor's Commission
releases recommendations

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For those of us whose paths are slightly different, it is important to ac-
knowledge those who have gone before. At the same time, I hope that they would be willing to listen to those of us who follow, and offer a light to guide
the way. It is a truly strong community when the links are forged by the
similarity of acceptance and tolerance.

And so, after trying desperately to find words to gain acceptance without being misunderstood, I see that the only thing that is needed is to come
of its accord; you can neither plan for, nor demand it. It is a warm and safe place, to be sure. It is a world for people of all colors, and
realities and truth. There are probably a lot worse things to have expected of you. I am just one in a community of others who can
ability to accept diversity from within, as you would hope to have diversity ac-
cepted from without.
ELLEN, from page 1
show late in the year _ released similar statements. Spokesmen for both Microsoft and Intel said they would continue their advertising regardless of the political developments.

The Rev. Donald Wildmon, a frequent critic of sex and violence on television, has threatened to end his boycott of the show's advertisers if it happens. He said those advertisers that stay with "Ellen" will "reveal their true allegiances to themes which, in general, are more about the economic muscle of the gay community and pursue that audience. "I wonder if, except for a few overtly sex-positive advertisers, whether it really is an issue," he said. John Lazarus, who heads network ad buying at Bozell's BJ&E Media Group, said the discussion about "Ellen" reminds him of the controversy that surrounded "NYTD Blue," which debuted a few years ago promising to stretch television's boundaries with nudity and rough talk. Lazarus said that the program had a hard time attracting advertisers but that the controversy has quieted, and "most advertisers have no problem with that show now." Jon Mandel, who heads network ad buying for Grey Advertising, said an openly gay lead character may be "a few years away. If being a lesbian becomes the primary focus of the show, he said, that could turn off advertisers. But if the character "happens to be gay just like she happens to have blonde hair, that would not be a problem."

ENDORSEMENTS, from page 2

Dist. Candidate
1 5 Thomas Wright, D-Berwick
2 7 Joe Carleton, R-Wells
3 8 Kathleen Perkins, D
4 11 Kenneth Bubnack
5 14 Lawrence Peters, Jr., D-West
6 17 Chris O'Neill, D-Saco
7 19 Robert Melville, D-Biddeford
8 20 George Keer, D-Old Orchard
9 24 Dave Byram, D-Portland
10 25 Jean Marvin, R-Cape Elizabeth
11 28 Pamela McNally, D-Cape
12 30 Elizabeth Grant
13 32 William Lenke, D-Westbrook
14 34 J. Elizabeth Mitchell, D-Portland
15 36 land
16 39 Mike Saxl, D-Portland
17 40 Michael Quinter, D-Portland
18 41 Steve Rowe, D-Portland
19 42 Eliza Townsend, D-Portland
20 43 Mike Brennan, D-Portland
21 44 Thomas Tyler, D-Windham
22 46 Carol Konto, D-Windham
23 48 Jennifer Willard, D-Yarmouth
24 50 Herbert Adams, D-Center
25 52 Lovell
26 53 Richard Thompson, D-Naples
27 54 Bob Harnet, D-Freeport
28 55 Tom Bull, D-Freeport
29 57 Ed Benedikt, D-Brunswick
30 59 Tom Davidson, D-Brunswick
31 60 David Emir, D-South Harpswell
32 61 Verdi Tripp, D-Todahm
33 62 David Shiah, D-Bowdoinham
34 64 Art May, R-Bath
35 65 Judith Peavey, R-Woolwich
36 68 Wendy Pie, D-Momedak
37 69 Jeannie Hamrin, D-Boothbay
38 70 Steven Cartwright, D-Waldoboro
39 72 Paul Charrard, D-Rockport
40 76 Judy Powers, D-Rockport

Elaine Graham, D-Bethel
Brian Bolduc, D-Auburn
Linda R. McKee, D-Wayne
Elaine Fuller, D-Manchester
June Meres, R-Norridgewock
Elizabeth Watson, D-Farmingdale
Bonnie Green, D-Monmouth
Nancy Chizmar, D-Lisbon
Falls
Falls
Pam Hatch, D-Skowhegan
Ken Gagnon, D-Waterville
Summer Jones, R-Pittsfield
Arthur Clement, D-Clinton
David Lindahl, R-Northport
Gail Chase, D-South China
Joseph Brooks, D-Winterport
Timothy Breen, D-St. Albans
Paula Roberts, D-Belfast
Dale McGee, D-Palermo
Jane Pierboni, D-Dover
Foxcroft
Clark Phinney, D-Bucksport
Charles Fis, D-Brewster
Tina Baker, D-Bangor
Hugh Morrison, D-Bangor
Terence Bradgon, R-Bangor
Jane Saxl, D-Bangor
Julie Winn, D-Glennburn
Kathleen Stevens, D-Oroon
Donald Shepard, D-Ellsworth
Allen Ross, D-Dexter
Ed Povich, D-Ellsworth
Royce Perkins, R-Penobscot
Paul Volenik, D-Dedgwick
Kyle Jones, D-Bar Harbor

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THE HERBERT
Community Pride Resources

New Hampshire P-FLAG Meetings

Portsmouth: Meets 2nd Thursday 7-9 pm at Woodward Church, 129 Market St., Portsmouth, NH. 603-439-3001.

Manchester Community Center: Meets 1st Tuesday 7:30 pm at New Hampshire University, Community Center, 5509 Main St., Manchester, NH. 603-645-3903.

Belfast/Piscataquis County: Meets 3rd Tuesday 7-9 pm at the Capital City Inn, 95 Main St., Belfast, ME. 207-688-2895.

Eastern Maine P-FLAG: Meets 2nd Tuesday 7-9 pm at the Salvation Army, 401 State St., Bangor, ME. 207-947-1011.

Greater Portland Area: Meets 3rd Wednesday 7-9 pm at the Portland Public Library, 514 Congress St., Portland, ME. 207-878-7777.

Support Group—Penobscot & Surrounding Counties

For more information call: 207-790-2005 or visit the website: pflagmaine.org.

Mental Health Center of Portland: Meets Monday 7-9 pm at 686 Congress St., Portland, ME. 207-774-4521.

Greater Portland Community Center: Meets 2nd Tuesday 7-9 pm at 1331 Congress St., Portland, ME. 207-774-4521.

Greater Portland LGBT Community Center: Meets 2nd Tuesday 7-9 pm at First Congregational Church, 35 Church St., Portland, ME. 207-774-4521.

Northern Lambda Nord 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 (NH), at the Gay/Lesbian Community Services Center, 389 S Main St., Carroll, and can be reached every Wednesday by The PhoneNet. 207-498-2088.

The Southern New England P-FLAG promotes the health and safety of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender 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.)

Identity Support

Out on MDI

For gay, lesbian, it's our friends. Very active social/support group. Meetings are every Tuesday. For more info: info@outonmdi.org. P.O. Box 2027, 970 Main St., Bar Harbor, ME. 207-289-6202 and have a great time.

Urgent Community Support

United Church of Christ

Open and Accessing Statement & Welcomes all God’s children to worship on Sunday, 15 Jan, 21 Neenach St., St. John’s Church, St. John’s Community Church. 207-368-0450.

Lesbian/Gay Community Center

The organization promotes a positive self-image among gay and lesbian community members. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 7 pm at the Portland State Center, 1150 Congress St., Portland, ME. 207-288-8033.

 Lesbians/Gay Catholics

An association of gay Catholics and interested individuals. Open to all. You are welcome to attend. 207-774-7980.

Community of Hope

A Christian congregation which claims a primary ministry with gay and lesbian people and others to be indispensable of all. Meets on Wednesday at 7 pm at the Metropolitan Community Church, 10 Chase St., Portland, ME. 207-774-7980.

Central Maine Gay Men’s Support Group

Meets every Tuesday at 7:30 pm at 325 High St., Waterville, ME. 207-428-8125.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Discussion Group

Meets every Tuesday at 7:30 pm at 325 High St., Waterville, ME. 207-428-8125.

Support Group—Penobscot & Surrounding Counties

For more information call: 207-790-2005 or visit the website: pflagmaine.org.

Q-Squad Support group for gay men, bi & transgender.

Sitting Pretty, located at 475 Congress St., Portland, ME. 207-774-0033.

TransSupport Support group for transgender individuals, their families, friends. Meets in secure location to provide support, education & social activities. TransSupport, P.O. Box 1722, Portland, ME 04102 or phone 207-765-7401.

Gender Talk North

Gender support, Wing for the Peace Notes, P.O. Box 311, Kennebunk, ME 04043.

Trans Counseling

Christian Counseling Agency, 115 Howe St., Kennebunk, ME 04043.

Polyamorous Life Support (PALS)

Do we love more than one person? You may be polyamorous. Polyamorous Life Support (PALS) is a discussion/support group for people interested in consensual non-monogamy. Meetings are second and fourth Sunday, 1-3 pm, 123 Northern Ave, Portland, ME 04109.

Prisoners of Gender

Meeting on 1st and 3rd Sundays at 1:15 pm at 1715 Congress St., Portland, ME 04102.

Kids and Gender Support Group

Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, 7-9 pm at the UU Church, Park Street, Bangor. Meets 2nd Sunday of the month, 7-9 pm at the UU Church, Park Street, Bangor.

Greater Portland Women’s Health Center: 36 Hadwen St., Bangor, ME 04401.

S.N.A.P. Support Network of America: P.O. Box 17622, South Portland, ME 04109.

The Rainbow Business & Professional Network

A statewide, non-profit organization established to create a gay, lesbian, bi and transgendered “community of commerce” in Maine. Meetings for networking or dinner with speaker events, held in the Greater Portland area, second Monday of the month. P.O. Box 6627, Scarborough, ME 04074-6627, call Lisa Kowal at 207-774-2672 or email: wbsptf@mainelinek.com.

Maine Support Network for Equal Rights

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

Member Organizations
AIDS Lodging House: P.O. Box 1820, Portland, ME 04101-1820, Call 874-1000.
AIDS Coalition of Lewiston-Auburn: P.O. Box 7977, Lewiston, ME 04243-7977, Call 786-4697.
Community AIDS Awareness Program: 461 State St., 8th Flr., Portland, ME 04101, Call 774-2188.
Continuity Task Force on AIDS Educ.: P.O. Box 941, Naples, ME 04056, Call 583-6608.
Dayspring AIDS Support Services: 32 Weiperg St., Auburn, ME 04210, Call 667-3502.
Eastern Maine AIDS Alliance: P.O. Box 2038, Bangor, ME 04401, Call 590-3626.
Hymenectomy Support. Meet P.O. Box 57, Brunswick, ME 04011-0057. Call 725-4928.
Names Project/Maine: P.O. Box 10248, Portland, ME 04104, Call 774-2188.
Oxford Hills Community AIDS Net: P.O. Box 113, Paris, ME 04211-0113, Call 743-7451.
Peabody House: 14 Orchard St., Portland, ME 04102, Call 774-6281.
Project ALC: Coalition of ME.: 696 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101, Call 725-4500.
PWA/Sets/Pets Are Wonderful Support for 120 Brackett St. Portland, ME 04102, Call 775-PAWS. E-mail pwa/pwase@maine.net, Home page: http://www.mainenet/pwase/.

Medical Support
Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinics: Confidential screening and treatment for STD's for residents and non-residents at a walk-in clinic. Low cost, medical accepted. Anonymous, except local HIV testing requested only. Clinic open Tues., Thurs. 3:30 to 6 pm at Portland City Hall Room 303. FM call 784-8163.
Planned Parenthood of Northern New England: Serving men and women, offering annual exams, pregnancy testing, birth control info. & supplies (non-planned), testing for STD's, menopause support groups, etc. Ongoing hours, affordable services, and complete confidentiality. Medical welcome. 970 Forest Ave., Portland. FM call 207-874-1051.

Free Family Therapy: available for individuals & families of any type which are affected by HIV/AIDS, meets second Tues. from 7:30-8 pm. Easter Congregational Church, 21 Front St., discussion, information, sharing, support and spirituality. Wheelchair access. FM 603/772-6221 or 603/778-0715.

Phone Support By Region
National Center for Lesbian Rights Youth Project: 1-800-528-NCLR. Boston, MA.
Gay Youth (BAGLY): 1-800-347-TEEN. National Hotline for gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender youth. Call 1-800-347-TEEN. Sponsored by the Gay Youth Alliance. 7-10 pm Sunday to Thursday, 7 pm to midnight Friday and Saturday. Staffed and trained, peer (younger) youth workers. Confidential. Area: New Hampshire: Teen Crisis Line – 1-800-639-6065.
DIAL KIDS: 774-7TLK. for lesbian, gay, bisexual & questioning youth under 19 yrs.
Ingram Volunteers: Call 774-HELP (4357).

Music and Art
Women In Harmony
an eclectic choral ensemble open to all women regardless of age, race, religion, or sexual orientation. If you are interested in becoming a member or volunteering organizational skills, send SASE (including your phone number) to Box 513 Eda St., A, Portland, ME 04011, or call 207-774-4340.
Maine Gay Men's Chorus
is a community chorus which brings men together to enhance social tolerance and diversity in the Greater Portland area, as well as affirming the gay/lesbian experience with creative and lively musical entertainment. Call 774-7404 or write M.G.M. C., P.O. Box 1039, Portland, ME 04104, Call 207-774-4340.

Social Groups
W.O.W. (Wild Outdoor Women) recreational group meets monthly for outdoor activities followed by gay/soc. activities: biking, hiking, camping, canoeing, kayaking. FM Jen @ 207-778-2379 or 207-773-5083.
Maine Frontrunners gay and lesbian running club sponsoring weekly run in Portland. We meet at the beginning of Back Cove Walkway (corner Back Cove Blvd. & Preble St. Ext.), Saturdays, 9 am. FM, Jim-761-2059 or John-828-4829.
Wilde-Stein Club
Meets every Thursday at 6:30 pm at Memorial Union, Sutton Lounge, U at Orono.

Community Pride Reader October, 1996 Page 17
Teens Life Center
Youth Clinic sponsored by City of Portland. Pub. Monday-Friday (10:00-11:30 am) The homeless health team's youth clinic is a place where you can talk to healthcare providers. Located at 73 Forest Ave., Portland. Call 874-6837.

This Clinic is funded by the City of Portland and the Maine AIDS Coalition.

Concord: Judy, 603/485-5934
Waterville: emergency services, clinics, etc., 1121 Main St., Waterville, FM 603/926-9767.
Nashua: Nancy, 603/880-8709
Kennebunk: Lisa, 603/968-4156
Stratham: Betty, 603/772-5196
Franconia: Cy/Gordon, 603/547-2547
Hanover: Lisa, 603/368-7254
Rumney, Amy, 603/786-8151
Center Sandwich: Tish, 603/284-6434
Dover, NH: Gay/lesbian, bisexual & transgender help for information, referral or need to talk. M-F 10-6 pm, Sat.-Sun. 9-2 am, 603/743-4927.
**October Calendar of Events**

**October 1 - October 3**
Railroad Square Cinema, Waterville, "Stonewall," 5:05 PM and 7:00 PM (207)775-5566.

**October 4**
through December 9

**October 15**
Solo piano concert featuring Lori Chisholm. Portland Museum of Art. FMI (207)773-ARTS.

**October 16 - 20**
Province House, MA - Twelfth Annual Women's Week. FMI (800)648-0364.

**Tuesday, October 1**
7:30 PM - YouTube Service, YWCA. FMI (207)773-9681.

**Wednesday, October 2**
12:30 PM - Gallery Talk with Barbara Schenkel. FMI (207)775-5566.

**Thursday, October 3**
7:30 PM - Art in the Dark Film series at Portland Museum of Art. Thirty films by artists who lived and worked in Paris between 1919 and 1939. Portland Museum of Art. FMI (207)773-ARTS.

**Friday, October 4**

**Saturday, October 5**
7:00 PM - Concert at the Portland Museum of Art. FMI (207)773-ARTS.

**Sunday, October 6**
9:00 AM - Free Yoga Class for singles and couples with Mary Bonauto at a special coffee hour reserved at 1-800-556-5472 or (207)787-2379.

**Monday, October 7**
10:00 AM - "A Dialogue on Same Sex Marriage" with Amelia Craig, Esq. and Mary Bonauto, Esq. of GLAD. Portland Museum of Art. FMI (207)773-ARTS.

**Tuesday, October 8**
11:00 AM - "A Dialogue on Same Sex Marriage" with Amelia Craig, Esq. and Mary Bonauto, Esq. of GLAD. Portland Museum of Art. FMI (207)773-ARTS.

**Wednesday, October 9**
12:30 PM - "A Dialogue on Same Sex Marriage" with Amelia Craig, Esq. and Mary Bonauto, Esq. of GLAD. Portland Museum of Art. FMI (207)773-ARTS.

**Thursday, October 10**
1:30 PM - "A Dialogue on Same Sex Marriage" with Amelia Craig, Esq. and Mary Bonauto, Esq. of GLAD. Portland Museum of Art. FMI (207)773-ARTS.

**Friday, October 11**
12:30 PM - "A Dialogue on Same Sex Marriage" with Amelia Craig, Esq. and Mary Bonauto, Esq. of GLAD. Portland Museum of Art. FMI (207)773-ARTS.

**Saturday, October 12**
9:00 AM - Free Yoga Class for singles and couples with Mary Bonauto at a special coffee hour reserved at 1-800-556-5472 or (207)787-2379.

**Sunday, October 13**
7:30 PM - "A Dialogue on Same Sex Marriage" with Amelia Craig, Esq. and Mary Bonauto, Esq. of GLAD. Portland Museum of Art. FMI (207)773-ARTS.

**Monday, October 14**
7:30 PM - "A Dialogue on Same Sex Marriage" with Amelia Craig, Esq. and Mary Bonauto, Esq. of GLAD. Portland Museum of Art. FMI (207)773-ARTS.

**Tuesday, October 15**

**Wednesday, October 16**
1:30 PM - "A Dialogue on Same Sex Marriage" with Amelia Craig, Esq. and Mary Bonauto, Esq. of GLAD. Portland Museum of Art. FMI (207)773-ARTS.

**Thursday, October 17**
7:30 PM - "A Dialogue on Same Sex Marriage" with Amelia Craig, Esq. and Mary Bonauto, Esq. of GLAD. Portland Museum of Art. FMI (207)773-ARTS.

**Friday, October 18**
12:30 PM - "A Dialogue on Same Sex Marriage" with Amelia Craig, Esq. and Mary Bonauto, Esq. of GLAD. Portland Museum of Art. FMI (207)773-ARTS.

**Saturday, October 19**
7:30 PM - "A Dialogue on Same Sex Marriage" with Amelia Craig, Esq. and Mary Bonauto, Esq. of GLAD. Portland Museum of Art. FMI (207)773-ARTS.
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community forming . Come build or buy

The current grant funding stands at

that

recommended high school principals and

mosexuality is incompatible with mili-

troops, and transgender service members. Paras

"don' t ask , don' t tell" po licy -which

courageous contribu ti ons, despite the

in more hardships for gays in the armed

 platform states, " W e oppo se Bill

platform ?

“ don' t ask , don' t tell" po licy -which

courageous contribu ti ons, despite the

in more hardships for gays in the armed

forces. While the Democratic platform is

silent on gays in the military, the GOP

platform states, "We oppose Bill

Clinton's assault on the culture and tra-
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