

# Community Pride Reporter

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VOL. 4, Number 4

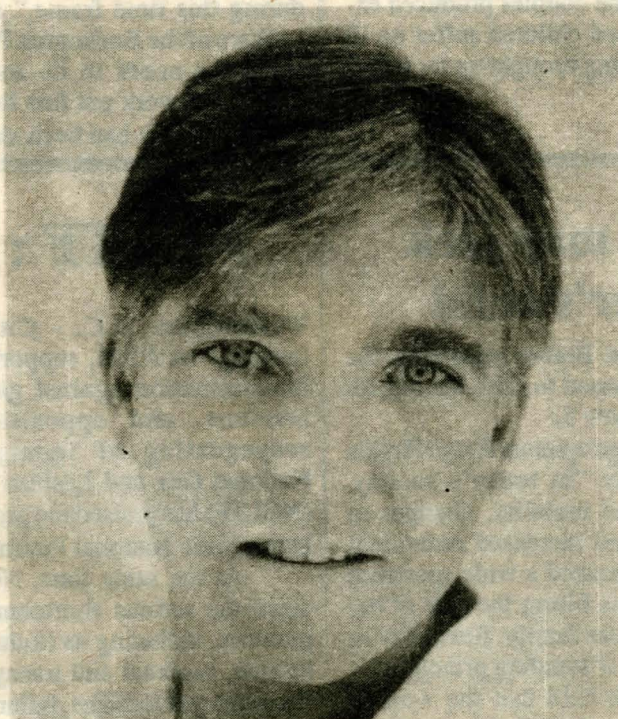
October, 1996

## MLGPA Presents Ed Karvoski, Jr

Ed Karvoski Jr., is a comedy writer, stand-up comedian, actor, and journalist, but he simply calls himself a renaissance Queen. He'll be doing a benefit for the Maine Lesbian, Gay Political Alliance on Sunday October 27 at 6:00 p.m. at the First Parish Church, 425 Congress Street, Portland. Joining him will be "Harmonies Extraordinaire" a local women's music group featuring Lynn Deeves, Erika Gilbert, and Val Bennett. Martin Swinger, local gay folk musician, will be the first performer of the evening.

MLGPA is a statewide, non-partisan group formed in 1984 to educate the public, politicians and the media about lesbian and gay issues. All of their work is done by volunteers. Although they have never had a full-time staff person, from time to time, they have used part-time consultants for specific organizing or lobbying projects. At the present time, the board of MLGPA is trying to determine how to move from an all volunteer organization to one with a staff presence.

In the last 12 months MLGPA raised \$24,000 from membership dues and the Annual Banquet. The money was used to pay an organizer during the



Ed Karvoski, Jr. will be appearing as part of a Decline to Sign benefit on October 27

"No on One" referendum; publish the semi-monthly newsletter; maintain their statewide, toll-free information line;

support their electoral work on behalf of gay positive candidates; maintain a very public presence in the media l/g/t/b

issues; continue their work to reduce anti-gay, homophobic bias and violence; and pay a part-time organizer and all start-up costs for the Decline to Sign project. MLGPA supports the "Decline to Sign" project in hopes of avoiding another costly and divisive referendum battle.

MLGPA has also continued its decade-long coalition building with national gay organizations, labor, women's groups, ethnic minorities, religious groups, the business community and environmentalists. They believe that through working together we can achieve lasting change.

During the next twelve months, their budget will certainly need to increase in order to meet demand. In addition to the work outlined above, MLGPA will need to raise funds to pass a statewide anti-discrimination bill.

For the first time in the history of our struggle for basic protections, we have a governor who is willing and ready to sign a bill to outlaw discrimination. We must take advantage of the opportunity this presents us. We can't lose sight of the fact that although Portland has an

See KARVOSKI page 3

## 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 heels of 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 "Honoring 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 frowsy in her robe, serenades herself in the bathroom mirror: "I feel

pretty, I feel pretty, I feel pretty and witty and —" whereupon she dips her 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 of new homes holds a girl doll against the screen and says, "Just think, Ellen, this could be you, walking up to your new home." Then the agent produces a boy doll, 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 ratings 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, Toyota, 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 Coca-Cola — each scheduled to advertise on the

See ELLEN, page 15



## 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 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 argued during the trial that allowing gays to legally marry will harm children. Attorneys for the couples produced experts who argued children suffer no ill effects from being brought up by same-sex parents.

## 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, and police found him the same night. "He is safe and that was our real focus during this time frame," said Lt. Bill LaWare of the Burlington Police. "He is where he needs to be and hopefully things will work out fine for Matthew."

Stickney had been showing up at

school in a dress, and the administration had been sending him home. Administrators said his clothing disrupts class and therefore violates the school's dress code. About 100 BHS students had cut class Friday morning to protest the school's decision to suspend him.

Stickney's situation has attracted national notoriety, as television shows have travelled 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.

## Court rules Lesbian mom may seek shared custody of ex-lover's child

PHILADELPHIA (AP) \_ A woman may seek shared custody of a child born to her former lesbian lover, the state Superior Court has ruled. The decision, made public Friday, is expected to affect other cases in the state in which lesbian couples have separated while raising a child.

A three-judge panel of the court reversed the decision of a Philadelphia Family Court judge, who had denied the woman the opportunity to seek custody and visitation rights for a girl born to

her former lover. Before separating, the woman had planned to raise the girl together. She is now 5.

In a 16-page opinion, Judge Phyllis W. Beck wrote: "In today's society, where increased mobility, changes in social mores and increased 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. Brosky. 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 10 months after the baby was born in 1991. Three years later, E.P.H. denied J.A.L. access to the girl, prompting the woman to sue for shared custody in Family Court.

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.

## 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 Paras, 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 contains strong and explicit support for AIDS research, prevention and 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 Republicans' mean-spirited Medicare and

Medicaid cuts...."

The GOP platform's statement on AIDS, while positive, was seriously lacking in terms of support 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." Paras questioned 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 further 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."

See NGLTF, page 12

## 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 are good 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.

Dist. #	Candidate
2	David Ott, R-York
3	Gary Wheeler, D-Eliot
4	David McDermott, D-So. Berwick

See ENDORSEMENTS, page 15

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## 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?

Do we, as a community and a state, want to allow Cosby to get an anti-gay bill on the books?

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 newspa-

pers. 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/b/t 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/b/t people across the country who will be holding similar rallies in their communities on this 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 targets. This rally is being held in conjunction with the YWCA's Week 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 Deeves (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 journalist. 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, Poz, 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 fun-filled evening, where only the best will do! Tickets are \$10.00, sliding scale available. Tickets may be reserved by called 1-800-556-5472 or 761-3732 in Portland. Tickets may also be purchased at the door. ΔΔ

### KARVOSKI, from page 1

ordinance to protect us in the city, there are many members of our community through out the state that are victims of discrimination that have no recourse.

At the same time that we are taking up the fight to pass anti-discrimination legislation, we are also be faced with several anti-gay bills that are being brought before the legislature. Unfortunately, this is also a first. Never have we seen our opposition so ready to mobilize against us in a legislative battle. Those that wish us harm don't just do referendums, they also attack us in the halls of the statehouse. We must be ready for it.

So, come out and show your support. Enjoy the lighter side of the life with Ed Karvoski, a nationally acclaimed comic observer of life. Perk up your Sunday with this extraordinary get together. Join your friends and neighbors for a lighthearted but heartfelt MLGPA fundraising effort.

All members of MLGPA will receive a copy of the 1997 budget as soon as it is complete, which should be November 21. If you are not a member and would like to request a copy of the budget, please call 1-800-55-MLGPA (1-800-556-5472).

## LAST CALL FOR EQUITY FUND SURVEYS

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.

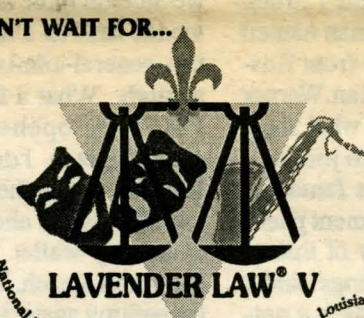
The results of the survey of community members, and of a separate survey of the service providers and community organizations currently serving the G/L/B/T communities, will determine the grant-making priorities of the Fund. The survey results will also pro-

vide 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 Lambda Nord, Outright in MDI, Outright, PFLAG, Rainbow Business and Professional Organization, SOLO, Speakout and Transsupport. In addition, it has been distributed through the bars, social networks, and at meetings such as Am Chofshi, Matlovich, and the Metropolitan Community Church. We hope that you received one! If not, you can still call Marjorie Love, the consultant coordinating the needs assessment at 207-773-6164 for your copy.

But, this offer ends on October 15th. 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.

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# News from the Granite State

## 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 care givers, 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? What do they find? And Meg Cartwright, the mother of a son who has AIDS, asks: "Why aren't there more?"

"If there are 1,000 people with AIDS/HIV in this area, then there are 4,000 people (parents, siblings, close friends) who are in need of support," Meg says. "Where are they? 'Connections' would like to get more people to come. Being able to present your feelings, just getting to express yourself, makes you feel better."

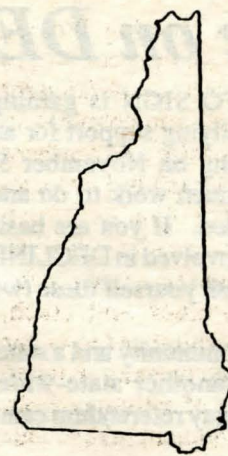
"Each of us comes here with a private urgency," Meg explains. "Each of us comes asking for time to speak, or to listen, or perhaps to cry. We are parents, loved ones, lovers, siblings or care givers." At "Connections" she finds support and encouragement when it is needed. "The compassion and under-

standing 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 back."

Like Meg Cartwright, Joan Ferguson was one of the "Connection" founders. Her son Brooke was diagnosed with AIDS in early 1992 and came to live with her in Portsmouth in the autumn of 1994. His 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 'child'. After all, I was healthy and 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 found ways to improve the emotional balances between us," Joan continued. "But still, I wanted to be able to share my thoughts and feelings with other care givers."

See CONNECTIONS, page 5

## Concert Overload

Could I handle it? Attend four concerts in four weeks by five of my favorite women? I know I'm not twenty anymore, but what a way to wear yourself out! August was gonna be my month. That first Wednesday night I was in Ogunquit at Jonathon's. Drove directly from work so I could be early enough to get a table right in front of the stage. This would be my fifth time seeing Susan Werner. While my friend Pam and I were standing in line I struck up a conversation with a woman named Michelle. Michelle came up from Boston and had never heard Susan Werner before. So I filled her in on what she's been missing and asked her to join us.

As usual, the show was fantastic. Susan is a real "full entertainment package." She can play a variety of instruments. With a voice like an angel and a wonderful sense of humor, she is a not-to-be-missed singer/songwriter. Let me tell you that Michelle was so impressed with Susan that she bought one of her CDs and told me she would definitely attend one of her shows again. I had brought my CD from home for Susan to sign. The idea made me feel like a fifteen year old. I never have been the type to talk to performers after a show or seek autographs. But this woman's music so moved me that I had to try to talk to her. The last three times I had tried, I had failed. So I was determined to break through my shyness. I got in line as she sat at one of the tables in the back of the room. When I got to the front, I was both surprised and pleased when Susan told me she recognized me from several of her shows. Thank God she did all the

talking, because whatever I had in my head to say at this point totally left me. I hope she could tell by the look on my face that she had just made my year. Besides, ya just gotta love a woman with a good firm handshake.

Monday night, August 12th found me waiting for my friend Deb to pick me up at work. We were heading to Hampton Beach to catch the Indigo Girls at Hampton Beach Casino. Now, we thought three hours before showtime would land us a decent place in line to this general-admission show. That was a laugh. What a line! Finally, about 8 PM, they opened the doors, but I couldn't get in. I didn't bring my license. Without an ID, there was no entry. So I took Deb's car and drove back to work to get my wallet. When I returned to Hampton Beach, I not only had to pay for parking again, but the line looked like it never moved. So I waited another 45 minutes to re-enter. By now I was stressed and annoyed. How was I ever gonna find Deb? Thankfully, she found me. At least I made it just in time for the show to start. And what a show! Just like stepping back in time—the Indigo Girls with just their instruments and no band. Playing mostly new material made it seem so intimate. I felt Emily's talents really shined that night. She played a variety of instruments, including the piano. I couldn't get enough of the new material. I wanted the new album in my hands right then and there. I guess we'll all have to wait till some time next year. All the hassle with my license was all but forgotten as we headed home.

Sunday, August 25th, I drove up to Portland to see Melissa Etheridge. Met up with some friends at Sisters before the concert. Going to Sisters before or after a Melissa show has become tradition. Pam had never seen Melissa before. I was anxious to experience her reaction. Making our way to the seats proved to be fun. We were in the last row on the upper level, with only the wall behind us. At least we didn't have to worry about anyone spilling drinks or putting gum in our hair. I even remem-

See NH A & E, page 5

## CRUISING & SCHMOOZING Over 200 Women Go on Portsmouth Cruise

by Leslie Robinson

As I walked on board the Thomas Lighton minutes before its scheduled 5:30 departure, I saw 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 fierce! So it goes each year on a Sunday in early September. Lesbians from Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine gather at the Isle of Shoals Steamship Co. in Portsmouth, NH, and board a boat for 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's had, as she told me: "I've already got a neck injury from rubbernecking." Another commented: "The view inside the boat is better than the view outside the boat." Others suggested headlines for this story: "The Lesbian Love Boat", or "Dykes on Deck". Soon, both the boat and the deejay were well under way. On the two inside decks, people munched finger foods or lined up at the cash bars. The weather was gray and damp, courtesy of the biggest dyke of all, Hurricane Fran, so the outer decks attracted a limited number of women. I asked people what they hoped to get out of this cruise. Sue, holding hands with her girlfriend, said, "To have a fun time, meet new women, talk to people I haven't seen in a long time, and drink in the spirit of 250 women all in one place with the freedom to do what they want." Cathy, presently unattached, said, "I'm just hoping to have a good time with my friends, because we don't get much of a chance to get together too often." I inquired—since it's my duty to ask annoying questions—whether she was really hoping to meet someone. "If it happens, it is fine. I won't complain," Cathy said, and laughed. Asked if she was looking, Renea, also single, responded, "I tend to be aware of what's around me." Above all, she was enjoying the upbeat atmosphere. "I'm looking to have fun," she said, and though "not actively

searching" for a girlfriend, she was open to the possibility. Pauli's breakup was fresh, and she was hurting. "I came here just to get out, to get out of myself," she said. The cruise's organizer, Leanne Cusimano, sitting at a table with her girlfriend and another couple who have been together a whopping 22 years, reported that the weather hadn't scared many people away. Of about 275 expected, about 235 showed up. Apparently, even Mother Nature can't stop women bent on cruising. This cruise is part of a set social schedule. Clay Hill Farm, a restaurant in Ogunquit, Maine, sponsors six events for women over the calendar year, and this cruise is one of them. It's the only event that happens outside of Ogunquit. The other affairs 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 providing lesbians with these opportunities. "It's about just being conscientious to the needs, especially the social needs....I'm a community builder. I am a social worker", she said with a laugh. Her case load was dancing all over the lower deck. Renea boogied feverishly to Melissa Etheridge's "Must Be Crazy for Me." The boat was rocking in both senses of the phrase, as it did some tipping side to side. A few people were bothered. One woman said that her friends felt seasick inside, so they were outside. She would get seasick if she were outside, so she stayed inside. And so it went. By a couple of hours into the journey, everybody had eyeballed everyone. Singles were either engaged, or getting to know someone, or making peace with the fact that they hadn't seen anyone they were interested in, or work-

See CRUISING, page 5

Have you  
registered to  
vote on  
November 5?  
Ask your friends  
this question.



## Women Meeting Women

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 and northern Massachusetts. We certainly have succeeded! We sponsor dances, lunch groups, dinners, theater and movie trips, Provincetown 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 walkers to mountain hikers. Our support groups are sometime quiet, sometimes intense. They help us explore and examine the things that are important in our lives. As we share our thoughts and feelings, we learn so much about one another - and ourselves. 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 and instructional needs. Past workshops have covered topics such as diversity, financial planning, the meaning of Stonewall, legal issues, self-defense and health issues. We've held line dancing 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 and bring information about their organization. We'll share news on important local and national issues and provide facts of interest such as which companies openly employ and support lesbians and gays. 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 subscriptions are \$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!

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

By Gael Boyd

Our Saturday outing to the third annual New Hampshire Women's Music Festival, on Saturday 7th in Northfield, was fun 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, Songweavers and Sweet, Hot & Sassy. Our violin playing friend, Sue, was very excited about the latter, and said she had not been disappointed. When I took the boy to the kids' tent to blow giant bubbles while my significant other dragged the toy bucket and beach chairs from the parking lot to 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 raw, original songs, then Peg Loughran gave us a set of traditional folk, followed by the white girl-group, the Lowe Profiles, with their hootenanny 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 had us in complete stitches. The percussion group Hands On regaled us with tribal drumming and dancing, which was contagious for some. Then we got what we had been waiting for all afternoon - Catie Curtis. A few friends present didn't quite get enough of Catie, 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 Cosy Sheridan number about simultaneous eating and driving, which definitely hit home. The New Hampshire feminist Connection, sponsor of the event, offered their time, energy and friendly volunteers to provide a gathering that we hope will return next year.

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### CONNECTIONS, from page 4

Brooke understood my need to speak a mother's mind and heart without self-recrimination. He encouraged me to be a part of the formation of "Connections", a place where I could find support and 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 on Tuesday October 8th, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Exeter Congregational Church, 21 Front Street. A staff mem-

ber of AIDS Response Seacoast will be present to share in planning for the coming year. All those who are now care givers, or who have been in the past, will be warmly welcomed.

"Connections" meets every month on the second Tuesday at the above time and place. Support discussions and informational sharing are offered in a friendly, private atmosphere. Confidentiality are assured. Wheelchair accessible.

For more information, call 603-772-6221 or 603-436-8963. ΔΔ

### CRUISING from page 4

ing up the nerve to talk to someone that they were interested in. Time was running out. When I asked how things were going, Cathy answered, "I'm feeling all kinds of pressure. I can't perform under pressure." We both laughed. I didn't mean to put pressure on her, of course, but here's betting that next year, den mother Cusimano throws my notebook overboard. Senior deck officer Garrick Olson, 22, has worked all three Clay Hill Farm cruises. He said, "We always end up snickering at the beginning, 'Oh no, not this cruise again.' The first 45 minutes are 'a little tense.'" But once he sees that first couple kiss, Olson said, "It's just like anyone else." The cruise had come to him to feel just like any other, but likely not so for another employee. A young woman wearing a uniform was asked to dance by one of the revelers. The young woman apologized and said crew members weren't allowed

to dance. Missed her chance! About 20 minutes before the boat pulled up at the dock, Renea said that she was having a good time. The cruisers were friendly, and she had chatted with folks she had never met before. She felt a "spark" with someone, but found out that the person had a drinking problem, so she didn't try to fan any flames. Pauli said of the cruise, "It was fun and all... everybody just seemed to be with somebody." She knew that wasn't true, but she wasn't the only one to note the difficulty in figuring out who was unattached. Last year, women were asked as they boarded if they were single. Anyone who answered yes received an angel sticker to wear. Cusimano said they decided to forego that this year, since alot of people prefer not to be so indentified. Just before the Thomas Loughton docked, Cathy reported, "I had an excellent time." She didn't meet anyone special having mostly socialized with her friends. She said, "Next time I'll mingle." ΔΔ

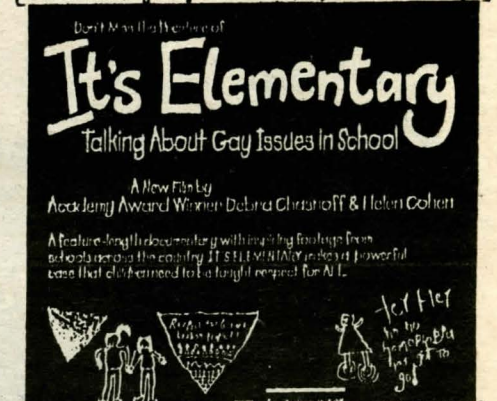
### NH A & E, from page 4

bered to bring my binoculars. When the "super rock chick" took the stage all decked out in black leather, nothing could have matched the expression on Pam's face. That expression remained throughout the entire show. She just couldn't take her eyes off her. Even though Melissa has reached superstar status, she can still reach in and rock you passionately. I do miss the sharing personal parts of herself. Now it seems to be more distant. But nobody can rock out like Melissa. Pam probably dreamed about her in that leather outfit and speaking in her sexy voice for weeks. This concert marathon was coming to the ultimate climax.

August 28th, I had front-row center seats to see k.d. lang in Boston. My friend Rita stood in line for 20 hours to get those tickets. May goddess bless her always. I'll admit right here and now, I'm a huge "k.d.-head." So excitement was high as I picked up my friend Cheryl at the airport. She came all the way from Indiana to see k.d. up close and personal. We struck out for Boston early. I knew it would be a small nightmare to find Harborlights. Driving into Boston is always a chore for me. After going around in circles three or four times, I finally zeroed in on the place. As I got out of the car in the parking lot, I could hear k.d.'s voice. We had gotten there in time for sound check. Standing outside the fence we watched k.d. and the band warm up for about a half an hour. By the time the show started, we were more than ready. There is nothing compared to seeing k.d. lang live. Even someone not familiar with her music couldn't get bored. Her shifting of musical categories is like a walk through

Tower Records. And what's so amazing is her grasp of every style. She knows just the right jokes to seduce and tease the audience. Her voice alone leaves your spine tingling and your heart aching. Two hours is never enough. I wanted it to go on all night. But the best things always come to an end. Cheryl and I headed home pumped from the show, but sad that it was the last time we would see k.d. for a while. Her tour is now over until she releases another album, which will probably be a few years away. The next day we got the Boston Herald to check out the review. The writer made a comment about k.d. earning the flowers presented by a fan for the standing ovation rendition of the Roy Orbison song "Crying." I was that fan—go girl! I couldn't have asked for a better end to the last four weeks of summer. If only I could do it over and over again like the movie "Groundhog Day." Unfortunately, all I have is a bad case of "k.d. withdrawal." ΔΔ

(A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z)



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# Arts & Entertainment



## Autumn Harvest of Music...

by Aimsel Ponti

Although the weather for sporting big heavy sweaters is upon us, there is an abundance of hot new music releases to keep your blood flowing.

From R.E.M. to Mazzy Star things are getting very interesting this fall and my music addiction is in full swing. First, let's talk about what's already been released over the last couple of weeks. One of the most esoteric and certainly cool record labels is 4 A.D. Their latest two offerings are from female vocalists extraordinaires, Lisa Germano and Heidi Berry. I dig both records, but I must say, Heidi Berry has a simply beautiful voice that soothes and chills these ears of mine. Stepping back into the mainstream, I was on the verge



Margo Timmins of Cowboy Junkies and CPR's Aimsel at Portland's State Street Church on September 17th

of seriously wondering what rock Sheryl Crow had hidden under when suddenly she's got a new song being played all over the place on FM radio. "If it Makes you Happy," marks Crow return the music scene and her self-titled follow up album (A&M) to "Tuesday Night Music Club," hit the stores on September

24th. Yeah she's a bit poppy, but I'd be lying if I said I didn't like her sound.

In the land of compilation albums there are a few noteworthy releases. First off, "Honor," a double benefit album on Amy "Indigo Girl" Ray's independent label, Daemon was just released. Its proceeds will benefit the

Honor the Earth Campaign. Featured on it is a new song, "Blood Quantum," by the Indigo Girls. Also, a great live Bonnie Raitt tune, a live track from a personal favorite of mine, Jane Siberry, and a bunch of other artists that are both well and un-known. Good cause, good music. Enough said. Blue Plate records also just released their latest "Mountain Stage" CD: Women live from Mountain Stage. With such artists as Ani DiFranco and the Indigo Girls, to name a few on it, this is a must have for fans of live music, especially when it's done by cool women.

Once again, stepping back into the mainstream. R.E.M. are back with their tenth album, "New Adventures in Hi-fi" (WB). Having only heard it all the way through a few times I can already say it is much better than "Monster." And Patti Smith does back-up vocals on one of it's tracks!

With all the hype that Weird Al, Jeff Foxworthy and Adam Sandler have gotten with their comedy albums, I am finally glad that a woman is adding to this mix. And who better than the icon herself, Ellen Degeneres. Yes, our pal

See HARVEST, page

## 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**  
"Cruthu Flain (Wild Energy)"

\* An original collaboration by writer Lorraine Brown, musician Jeffrey Densmore and choreographer Kareb Tvarian, this show features over 30 local talents. It's billed as an "unusual

musical exploration of heroes'/heroines' journey"

Friday and Saturday, November 1 and 2  
Call the Artists Associates in Belfast at 207-338-2734 for more information. This sounds pretty cool...

**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

**Crown 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!)

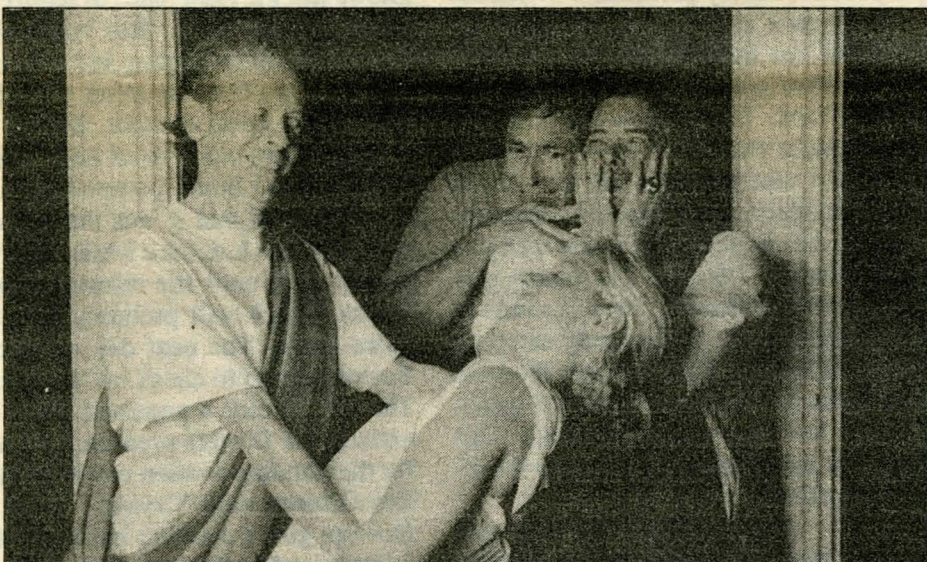
**First Parish Church (Temple & Congress) Portland**

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 Deeves, 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 p.m. Tickets for the show are \$10 in advance, \$12 the day of the show and are available at Bull Moose Music, Play it Again, Amadeus, 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." ΔΔ



"The biggest myth of all time is if you go looking for a relationship, you won't find one."

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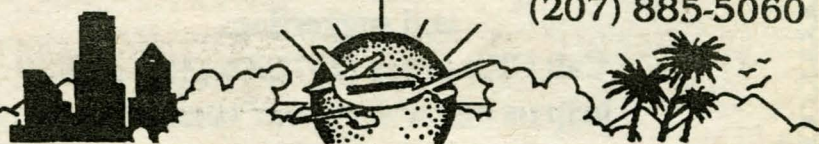
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# Dar, the Rising Star

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.

Add to that the fact that Dar's songwriting is nothing short of incredible. On her "Mortal City" album there's a song called "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.

One of my most cherished songs,

by anybody, is by Dar Williams. "When I was a Boy" from her "Honesty Room" album is the most sincere documentation of childhood I've ever seen anyone pen. When the memories of childhood innocence collide with today's reality, the results can make you crazy, or they can make you write a song like this one.

"I won't forget how Peter Pan came to my house, took my hand. I said I was a boy. I'm glad he didn't check," is the song's opening line. Then she goes on to say "But I know things have got to change, they got pills to sell, they got implants to put in, they got implants to remove, but I am not forgetting that I was a boy too." I don't think there are too many people out there who can't relate to a least a few lines of this one.

And now for the really good part. DAR is coming to Maine. Not once but twice. Take your pick: North or South. On Saturday, October 5th, she'll be at Lewiston Middle School at 8:00 p.m. Tix are \$14 (and well worth it)

For more scoop on that show call L/A Arts at 1-800-639-2919. Or, if you're local to that area, 782-7228.

And then on Friday the 11th, Dar will be at Jonathan's in Ogunquit. Call 1-800-464-9934 or 207-646-4777.

So Just say Dar. And Just see Dar



Dar Williams: She's not playing to only eight people in the audience anymore.

## ARTIST PROFILE: Kate Schrock

Kate Schrock sensed, at five years of age, that music would play a tremendous part in her life. Music 'in her head' became full compositions starkly reminiscent of early George Winston... with lyrics. "Refuge," Kate's debut album release, officially marks the beginning of her musical presence. With the pulse and honesty of an intimate conversation, her sparse, hypnotic piano style and rich vocals pull you into a lyrically intense realm. As raw and as candid as its critical comparison, Joni Mitchell's "Blue," "Refuge" transcends a full range of emotions with unparalleled grace.

Growing up in a small village on the coast of Maine, Kate learned early to foster her independence. After high school, she chose to travel. From the chaos of New York City to the streets of Paris, France, to the solace of Tunisia and finally to the University of Chicago to study philosophy. In Chicago, she fronted the five piece band Sin Embargo, who enjoyed college and local radio acclaim for several years. Fueled by the eventual breakup of the band, Kate began writing for piano and vocals, and developed her unique solo style.

From the midwest back to the



northeast, Kate attended Bennington College for a degree in theater performance, but spent most of her time there improvising with the jazz students. At school's end, she moved back to New York, scored an independent short film and began playing on Bleeker Street.

See PROFILE, page 8



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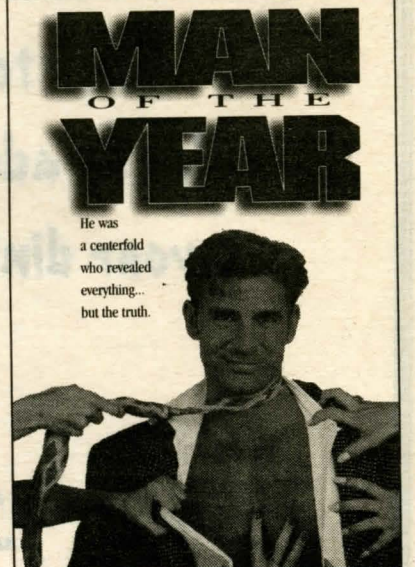
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**HARVEST, from page 6**

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 become gay this season. In fact, did you catch the season premiere? A real estate agent was showing Ellen slides of houses. When they came to Ellen's dream house, the agent held up a hand puppet to the screen, which was to represent Ellen in her own home. Then she held up another puppet to represent a husband. Ellen quickly remarked "I think that's the wrong puppet show!"

That's enough to glue me to my tiny little TV every Wednesday night. Anyway, look for "Taste This" at, you guessed it, your favorite independent record store.

I'm anxious to hear what the new **Mazzy Star** album will sound like. It's out on October 29th on Capitol records. Can't remember who they are? Well you probably remember their WCCY anthem "Fade Into You."

And then, there's **Paula Cole**. She's gone from Imago records and is now with Warner Brothers who are releasing "This Fire" on October 15th. It'll feature a duet with Cole's founding father of sorts, Peter Gabriel. When Paula Cole sings, the earth does indeed move. Her "Harbinger" album put her securely on the map and I suspect the new one will keep her there. She's doing a national tour and if Portland's

concert luck wasn't so damn bad, I would hope she'd play here. Well we'll just have to wait and hope. If you were among the 1500 people at the Sarah McLachlan show at the State Theater a couple of years ago then you probably remember Paula Cole. She opened the show, leaving me breathless with a set of pipes that would make even a healthy ceiling fall down.

That reminds me, if you heard a very loud, very devastating sobbing sound on Thursay, August 29th, then I apologize. That was me when I heard the **Tori Amos** show had been cancelled. Long faces were spotted everywhere on that bitter Saturday. I'd 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 one 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 re-located 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 Horses" CD which Timmins nicely signed after posing for a couple of photo opportunities with myself and a few other groupies, uh, I mean fans. Nothing else will do when you're in a Cowboy Junkies mood. Such was the case on the night of September 17th. This band seems to get better with time, and Margo Timmin's 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 **Luscious Jackson** on Capitol Records. It's due out on October 15th. I've heard it, it's very cool. ΔΔ



# SINGIN' OUT! STICK 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.*

O.K, we all know about **K.D.Lang**, **Indigo Girls**, **Melissa Ethridge**, **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 today so much as 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 that's how my heart sings. I want to hear a woman sing her love for another woman 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 fundraising efforts of Maine Won't Discriminate we've been treated to a grow-

ing number of gay musicians here in Maine, and I suspect there may be many more musicians we haven't heard 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. Does Maine have the courage (interest) to support what could be a nationwide movement to let our voices be heard? We've shown our support to 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 music with our 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 gay album SINGIN'OUT is available at A Different Light Bookstore in NYC and by mail. You may contact Martin in care of CPR. ΔΔ

## 2nd Annual Halloween Masquerade Ball

On Friday October 25, Portland's Pavilion located at 188 Middle Street, will come alive as costumed participants vie for top cash prizes for best costume. Sharon Rose of WCSH-TV 6Alive will be in attendance as guest host 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 Funraisers, 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 Sportsman's in Lewiston. For tickets and further information, call 207/871-9109. Don't miss out on the Halloween fun! Δ

## 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 **Kakelane 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 locale 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

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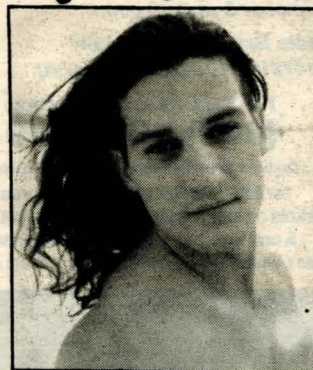
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by Tania Jo  
Hathaway

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 BHP 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 BHP staff from Massachusetts—the training was targeted toward health care providers who will be delivering services under the BHP. There are plans for LHP/SM and Women First to deliver this same training to the directors of the other 5 organizations implementing BHP 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 paps/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 gone an extra step and will join LHP/SM in offering a Cancer Screening Clinic specifically for lesbians. Services will be provided by LHP/SM's 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 (AFAA) 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. AFAA annual "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, AFAA will fund non-profit youth programs and public schools in the 1996-97 academic year. AFAA seeks 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 AFAA will fund projects/programs up to \$500.00. Applications must be received no later than November 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 sex decisions. All programs must involve youth in planning and implementing arts projects to achieve positive outcomes listed in the Request for Proposals and grant application," said Deb Madore, an AFAA member.

For more information or an application form, contact Deb Madore at HEALTH 1st in Presque Isle at (207)768-3056 or (800)432-7881. ΔΔ



by Heidi  
Vanderheiden

... and Richard Aldington and Alexander the Great and comedian Woody Allen and Brett Anderson and Marie

Antoinette and singer Joan Baez and Josephine Baker and Tallulah Bankhead and Djuna Barnes and actress Rosanne Barr and countess Elizabeth Bathory and former congressman Robert Bauman and Gladys Bentley and Ensign Vernon E. (Copy) Berg III, Playboy cover girl Sandra Bernhard and actress Sarah Bernhardt and composer Leonard Bernstein and ambassador's daughter Henrietta Bingham and Angela

## BY BI

Bowie and singer David Bowie and Paul Bowles and actor Marlon Brando and sex activist Susie Bright and poet Lord Byron and Julius Caesar and painter Dora Carrington and author John Cheever and Queen Christina of Sweden and writer Jean Clausen and Montgomery Clift and rock star Kurt Cobain and editor Rachel Cohen and Colette and Joan Crawford and poet Countee Cullen and heiress and author Nancy Cunard and Ram Dass and poet H.D. (Hilda Doolittle) and Ani DiFranco and Marlene Dietrich and Jeanne Eagels and Edith Lees Ellis and James Dean and Marianne Faithfull and Errol Flynn and

See BY BI, page 15

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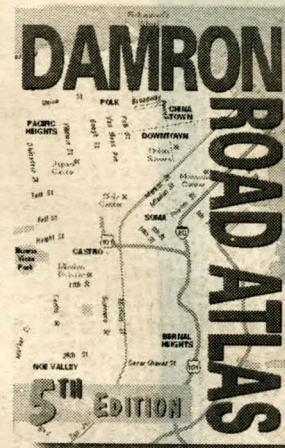
The Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine, in conjunction with Portland Public Health, will offer its third Cancer Screening Clinic for Lesbians on Saturday, December 7, 1996, from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

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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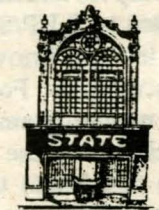
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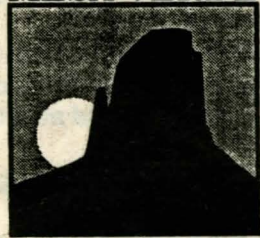
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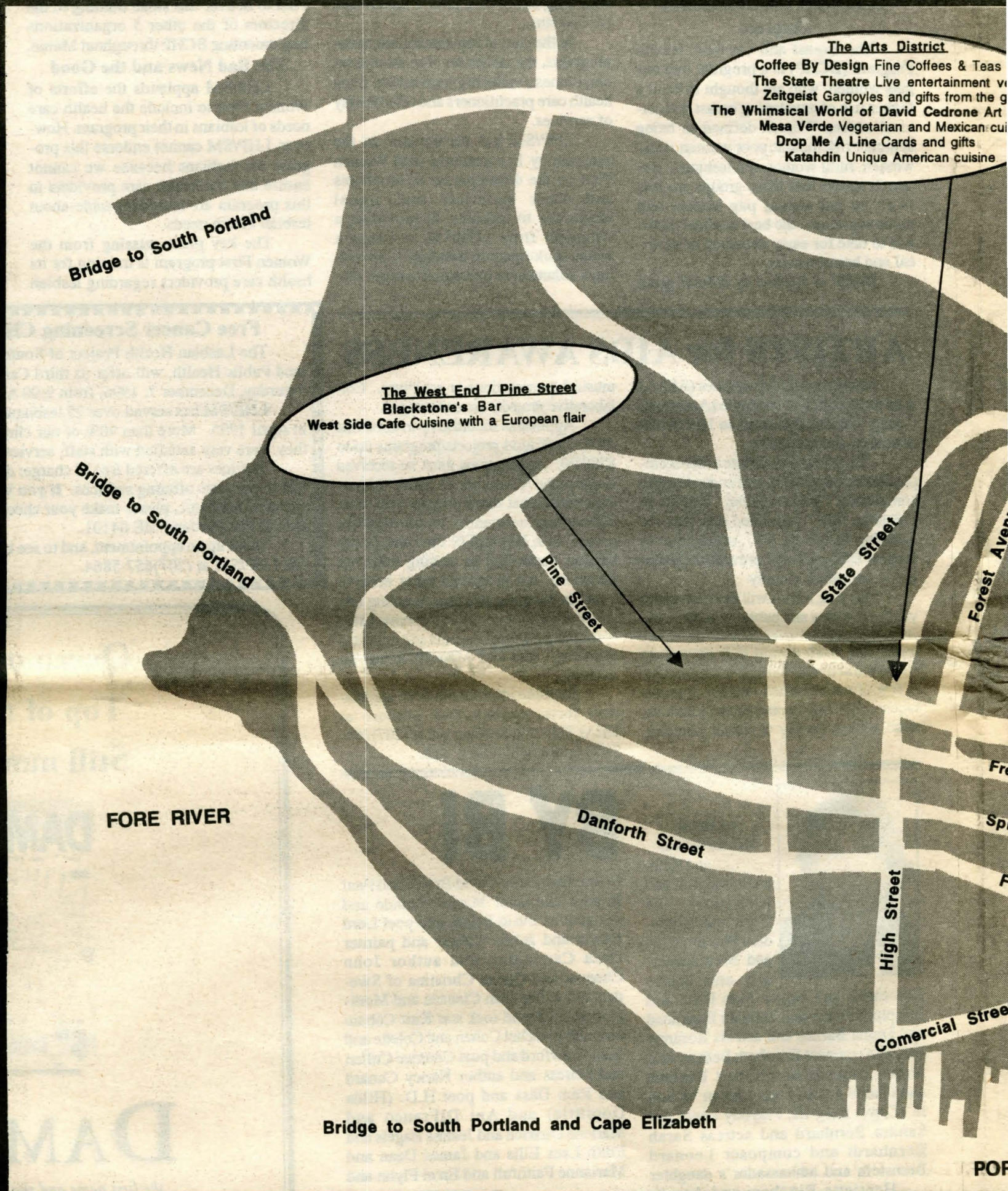
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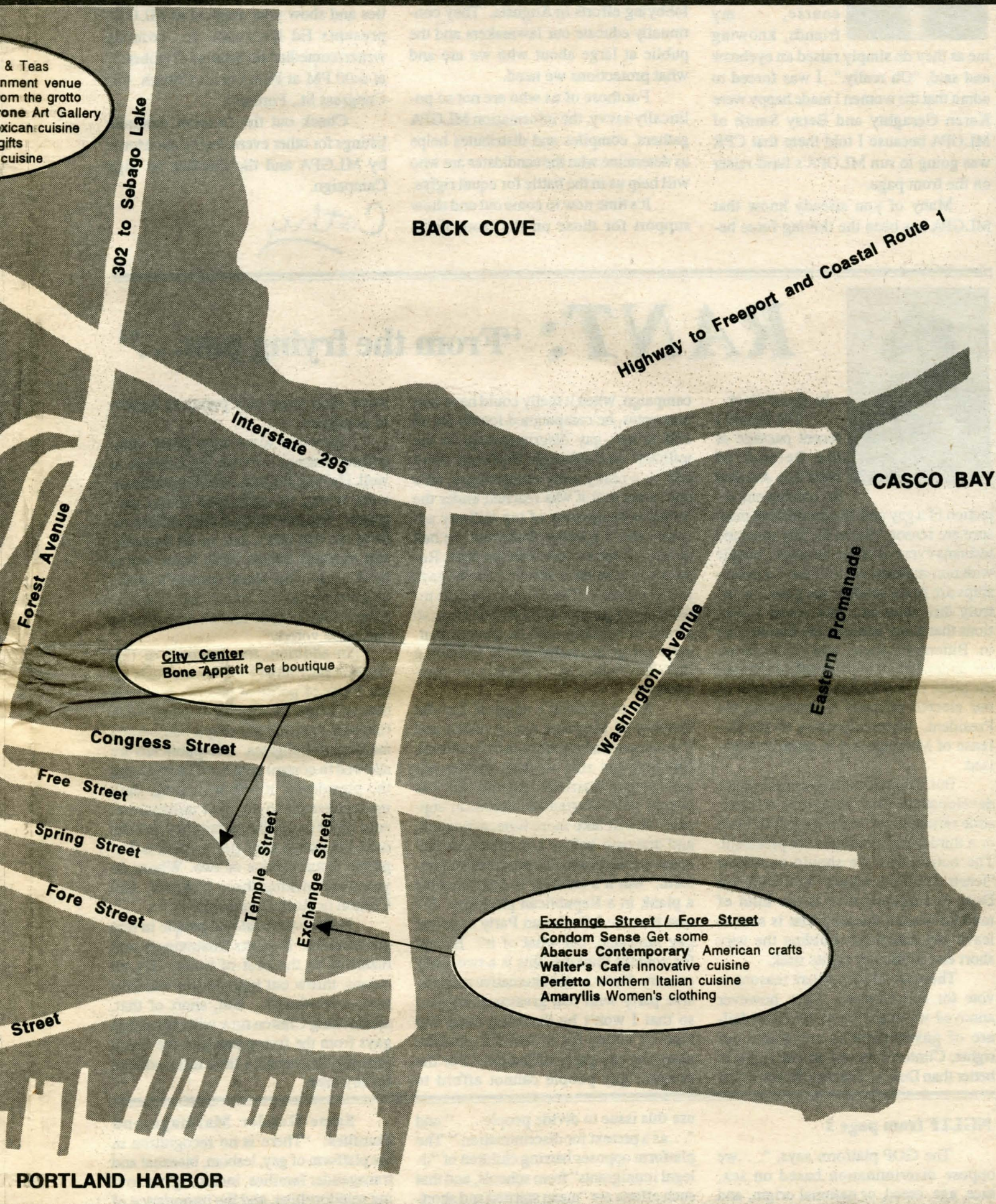
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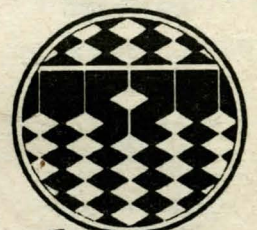
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# EDITORIAL- ME



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 be-

hind 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 and now 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.

Bring yourself, bring a friend, bring your checkbook. You may not feel like a political activist, you may not feel political in any way, but one thing is for sure. Every piece of positive ground this group gains, you get to enjoy as well.

So come out and enjoy the festivities and show your support as MLGPA presents Ed Karvoski, Jr., comedy writer/comedian on Sunday, October 27 at 6:00 PM at First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland.

Check out the October calendar listings for other events being sponsored by MLGPA and the Decline to Sign Campaign.

*Cathy*



## RANT: "From the frying pan..."

by David Cook

The Senate's recent passage of the Defense of Marriage Act and its concurrent rejection of a gay anti-discrimination measure are reason indeed for gay men and lesbians everywhere to be angry: people with non-mainstream domestic relationships are being made scapegoats for the truly dire economic and social conditions that many mainstream families are in. Bitterness, anger, and cynicism are the understandable products of this latest piece of malfeasance on the part of our elected officials — including the President, whose signature on the Defense of Marriage Act is already promised.

But, while revolting indeed, these developments don't constitute a defensible rationale for supporting Bob Dole or a third-party candidate for president. The notion that we should somehow "teach Clinton a lesson" by voting for Dole or someone else is the kind of muddle-headed thinking that is sure to leave gay Americans holding the very short end of the gay rights stick.

There are two excellent reasons to vote for Bill Clinton. First, however annoyed we 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 plank in a Republican platform. It's 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 other fairly-compelling reasons to vote for Clinton as well. He held the line when Republicans were trying to eviscerate social programs. The new budget and welfare reform are bad news, but an all-Republican version would have been worse news. And what about women's rights, affirmative action, and health care reform? Gay people are too smart to be one-issue voters.

In addition, the outcome of this election may have long-term effects on the focus of political process 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 pick a Supreme Court justice or two. Whom do you want picking those justices? Bill Clinton or Rush Limbaugh?

Politics 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.

### 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 urges 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 short-sighted." NGLTF agreed with the platform in "oppos[ing] Sen. 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 families and relationships, and our right to serve our country in the military. NGLTF also objected to language on welfare reform.

**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 foster."

The GOP platform is openly hostile to gay families, in particular on same-gender marriages. It "endorse[s] See NGLTF, page 19

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



# CPR MAIL BAG:

To the Editor:

**RE: the story on the NH T-shirts**

... 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 protestors continue to pick on this 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, or

simply shut the protest down. As a former New Hampshire resident, I believe beating this one store in the headlines will not do anything appreciable 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-Any 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) or my roommate -Exploring mortgage financing -Writing Jim's name as my spouse on medical information forms -Sending flowers through the local florist on Valentine's Day -Planning a Commitment Ceremony The ultimate recent self-censorship was failing to dance together at a wedding ceremony last week. And wouldn't you know it, the band played 3 Village People Songs in a Row, and then Gloria Gaynor's "I Will 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. Mohr (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 Fotter, Brunswick

# EDITORIAL- NH



by Leslie Robinson

A few Saturdays ago, I parked my car in downtown Dover and walked toward the coffee joint where I was supposed to meet a friend.

Soon I heard music in the evening air and saw, across the street from the cafe, a bunch of teenagers milling outside a storefront with an open door. Through the door, I saw a female singer backed by guys on instruments. The tune certainly was familiar. But the singer was monkeying around with the lyrics. Instead of "I'm the Only One," she sang "He's the Only One." Well, it didn't take long to see what was going on here. The band was stationed inside something called the Victory Chapel. They had al-

tered the words of Melissa Etheridge's passionate rock song to make it into a Christian ditty. The song ended, so I didn't get to hear how much more of it they had altered, but my friend Terry said there were other lyric changes that made it clear the song concerned Jesus. Terry takes her music seriously, as you can tell by reading her story on page X about her August concert goings. When I got to the coffee place, she was still recovering from this sacreligious treatment of Melissa. It is no wonder bands like that choose hit songs. Familiar tunes help draw people in.

And that particular song happens to be easily converted. The irony here is too good. A Christian band belts out a tune by Melissa Etheridge, lesbian star and star lesbian. It's hardly likely that hers is a "lifestyle" they approve of. But they certainly owe her a debt, using her music to entice people off the streets to hear their message. A message that, in

all likelihood, intones that homosexuality is evil. Terry wondered if they chose that song because a lesbian wrote it. By rewriting it, they "save" it, and send a message to their audience. At any rate, judging by the quality of the band, they won't be getting beyond storefront churches, whereas Melissa just played the Fleet Center in Boston. Sometimes justice is divine. ΔΔ

*Leslie Robinson*

(Editor's Note: With this issue of CPR we bid farewell to Leslie as our New Hampshire Editor. As she pursues other creative avenues, we wish her the best of luck and thank her for her work on behalf of Community Pride Reporter.)

## Blood donor limitations

by Laurie Dell

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 having passed a pre-screening by certified receptionist-medical technician Linda Weeks, I was asked to state the reason for my prescribed estrogen therapy medications. To be brief, I identified myself as Transsexual. After a few minutes wait, I was escorted into the examination room for a standard physical.

The physical never took place. Waiting for me was "Physicians Substitute" Pat Keene who said, "A chance exists you engage in sex with either men or women and are promiscuous, there-

fore 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 into any 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 bill of health from my 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 medication regimen. 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 USM and for CPR once before, and I 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." ΔΔ

## Community Pride Reporter

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## Our Mission

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

## Our Editorial Policy

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

## Submissions Welcome

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

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## Submission deadlines for November issue

Articles: October 10

Upcoming events & Classifieds: October 20

Advertising: Space reservation by October 22

News stories: October 25





# My Transsexual Manifest Part VII

by Daralyn S. Maxwell

Almost nine months ago, I sat down and tried to externalize what I thought were finalized feelings about my evolution towards womanhood. In my zeal to explain this amazing phenomenon to the larger community, I overlooked a few basic issues, such as the potential liberation of the soul.

Recently, during the Jewish holidays, I had the opportunity to examine where I am this year; what I see as my life goals 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 moment they are my future and not my present. Meanwhile, I am finding out that certain elements of life exist regardless, and are to be enjoyed at any point in your personal evolution.

I am discovering that I am not alone, and plenty of people in and out of the community are supportive of me and receptive to my need to have connection. This is astounding, but most welcome. I find that alot of the community sees me as a member, not an outsider, and I feel 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.

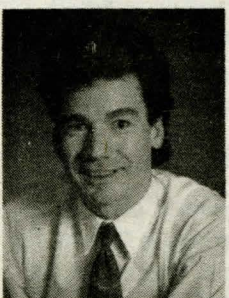
I realize that lightning won't strike every time I move forward in some

respect. Making friends becomes a matter of extending, not explaining, myself. And, when I make that effort, I am seldom rebuffed. People see the merit in me regardless of my life goal, allowing me to develop links that have long denied myself. To some "out" people, these are not startling revelations. But, they are the parts of self-discovery that allow us to build bridges, make connections and develop relationships. They are about origins. And while I don't expect that everyone will agree with what I have to say, or accept it at face value, I would hope that the readers of this would keep an open mind. This is what makes a community strong; the ability to accept diversity from within, as you would hope to have diversity accepted from without.

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

And so, after trying desperately to find the words to gain acceptance within the community, I find that it need not be so. It comes of its own accord; you can neither plan for, nor demand it. It is a warm and safe place, to be sure. It allows for personal growth, but requires reality and truth. There are probably a lot worse things to have expected of you.

Dal Maxwell lives, and continues to thrive, in southern Maine. Comments can be sent to her care of CPR, or e-mail her at dalmax@ime.net



## Money Matters: Retirement Planning

by Peter Callnan, CPA

Anyone that wants to stop working at some point in their life will need to do some planning to insure their financial security afterward. Planning 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 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 be able to do when you retire. Retirement will allow more time to pursue other interests. These interests will probably require money and should be considered when developing a retirement plan.

\* How much money will you need to live on? A basic component to a retirement plan is a budget for monthly living expenses. Take a look at your current expenses and try to project forward what they will be after you retire. Most likely some costs will decrease,

like a mortgage payment, and others will increase, like medical expenses. Give 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 question in retirement. This is what a good retirement plan will provide for. The income for your retirement will generally 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 only a 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.

These 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 have the lifestyle you desire is something which requires forethought and careful financial planning.

Good Luck! ΔΔ

## MA Governor's Commission releases recommendations

BOSTON (AP) \_ To a 15-year-old girl from a suburb north of Boston, the gay-straight group at her high school has meant 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 meeting 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 statewide who rallied Thursday at the Statehouse as the Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth released a set of recommendations to further protect gay

See COMMISSION, page 19



## Out of Town!

by Paul T. Bernard

So you are becoming proficient at surfing the world-wide-web.

Now you 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 a fairly well-traveled individual who feels comfortable making your own arrangements, you can probably do just about everything you need to make those arrangements. You can book your flights and pay for them by credit card, you can make reservations for cars and hotels, you can book cruises, and much more.

So why wouldn't you want to take care of your own arrangements? Actually, there are many reasons. The first and foremost reason is that making travel arrangements is not just buying an airline ticket and making reservations for a car rental and a hotel room. Just like going to an accountant or a lawyer, going to a travel agent is using the services of a professional who is knowledge in all aspects of travel. Another reason is time - even using the Internet still means having to contact many airlines before choosing the one that has the best schedule or price to meet your needs. For example, let's say you want to book a trip to Orlando. You can surf the net and hook into Delta Air Lines (<http://www.deltaair.com>). You can check their schedules and prices. But to be sure that you are getting the best flight schedule or price, you still have to check the other airlines. So you hook into Continental Airlines (<http://www.continental.com>) and check their schedules and prices. Then you would have to check out United Air or USAir - and so on. However, with just one phone call to your local travel agent, you can get the information that you need in just a couple of minutes. A travel agent has access to all of the airlines schedules and prices at the same time. He/she can pull up all of the airfares for all of the airlines to see who has the best price - or the best schedule.

A travel agent can easily tell you if there are any discounts available for children or senior citizens, or if any airline allows pets in the passenger cabin, or what the charges are for excess bag-

gage, or if an airline is offering any special deals with hotels and car rentals, or if you need a visa or passport for travel to a particular country, or if there are any travel advisories or restrictions to particular foreign destinations. Yes, you probably can find all of this information on the Internet - but it may take you several 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 Internet-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 of their travel needs so that they won't have to. For example, I have a client who is taking a trip to southeast Asia next month. 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 Newark last month, again he called me to take care of that simple trip.

If you feel comfortable on the Internet, give it a try. But if you are like most people, don't hesitate to call your local travel agent.

BITS & PIECES - Delta launched its Delta Express service to several Florida markets out of Boston with prices as low as \$79 each way. I just received a flyer from TOTO TOURS with the following listing of some of the tours available to gays and lesbians in 1997.

- 8 Sheets to the Wind - Sailing the Windward Islands - February 6-14
- Whales & Males in Maui - Hawaii - February 13-23
- No Frills Mardi Gras Down Under - Sydney - February 20-March 3
- Lush Life - Tropical Adventures in Costa Rica - March 7-17
- The Forgotten Peninsula - Kayaking - Baja, Mexico - March 20-26
- Scots on the Rocks - Scotland - May 22-June 2
- Giraffic Park - Tanzania - June 9 - 22
- Westward, HO - Utah - June 21-28
- Swept Away I - Rafting Grand Canyon - July 1-8 ΔΔ

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# BIG BLUE, from page 1

NGLTF is a progressive organization that has supported grassroots organizing and pioneered in national advocacy since 1973. Since its inception, NGLTF has been at the forefront of virtually every major initiative for lesbian and gay rights. In all its efforts, NGLTF helps to strengthen the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender movement at the state level while connecting these activities to a national vision for change.ΔΔ

# BY BI, from page 9

Marjorie Garber and Greta Garbo and Judy Garland and writer David Garnett and Cary Grant and painter Duncan Grant and Robert Graves and Lady Emma Hamilton and Lorraine Hansberry and Mattachine Society founder Harry Hay and Ernest Hemingway and Billie Holiday and '20s singer Libby Holman and Rock Hudson and Howard Hughes and poet Langston Hughes and blues artist Alberta Hunter and activist Lorraine Hutchins and National Organization for Women President Patricia Ireland and Mick Jagger and James I of England and Janis Joplin and activist Lani Ka'ahumanu and painter Frida Kahlo and economist John Maynard Keynes and Billie Jean King and ballet impresario Lincoln Kirstein and Calvin Klein and D.H. Lawrence and Beatrice Lillie and Taos doyen Mabel Dodge Luhan and Madonna and Katherine Mansfield and W. Somerset Maugham and Erik Menendez of the Menendez brothers and Freddie Mercury and Michelangelo and first Afro-American author Claude McKay and poet and playwright Edna St. Vincent Millay and June Miller and Marilyn Miller and feminist Kate Millett and writer Paul Monette and tennis star Martina Navratilova and Holly Near and Judy Nelson and diplomat Harold Nicolson and Anais Nin and Lenore Norrgard and Robyn Ochs and painter and photographer Georgia O'Keeffe and Laurence Olivier and Jungian Camille Paglia and Julie Ann Park and Edith Piaf and Tyrone Power and Plato and Ezra Pound and Pythagoras and blues singer Ma Rainey and Natasha Rambova and Michael Redgrave and painter Larry Rivers and Eleanor Roosevelt and Maude Russell and writer Vita Sackville-West and Maria Schneider and William Shakespeare and Sappho and Randolph Scott and Socrates and blues singer Bessie Smith and writer Stephen Spender and Alix Strachey and Lytton Strachey and Saint Augustine and Michael Stipe and writer Michael Szymanski and Tchaikovsky and writer Wallace Thurman and writer, music critic and photographer Carl Van Vechten and Gore Vidal and wealthy socialite A'Leila Walker and Ethel Waters and Walt Whitman and Oscar Wilde and Ehtel Williams and psychiatrist Charlotte Wolff and Virginia Woolf and ... ΔΔ

Heidi has been published in Sojourner, Boston Magazine, Loci online Magazine and the Boston Bisexual Women's Newsletter. She facilitates bisexual coming out groups and helped coordinate Boston's 1995 bisexual conference.

# ELLEN, from page 1

show later in the year \_ released similar statements. Spokesmen for both Microsoft and Intel said they would continue their advertising regardless of the plot developments.

The Rev. Donald Wildmon, a frequent critic of sex and violence on television and head of the American Family Association, said it would be a "troubling moment in network programming" if the lead character were revealed to be homosexual. Wildmon threatened to organize a 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 gnaw at traditional family values."

But Gene DeWitt, who heads his own media buying service, said companies are more aware of the economic muscle of the gay community and pursue that audience. "I wonder if, except

for a few overly sensitive advertisers, whether it really is an issue," he said. John Lazarus, who heads network ad buying at Bozell's BJK&E Media Group, said the discussion about "Ellen" reminds him of the controversy that surrounded "NYPD 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 broadcast buying for Grey Advertising, said an openly gay lead character may drive "one or two" advertisers 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 problem."

# ENDORSEMENTS, from page 2

Dist.	Candidate	65	Elaine Graham, D-Bethel
		74	Brian Bolduc, D-Auburn
5	Thomas Wright, D-Berwick	79	Linda R. McKee, D-Wayne
7	Joe Carleton, R-Wells	80	Elaine Fuller, D-Manchester
8	Kathleen Perkins, D-Kennebunk	81	June Meres, R-Norridgewock
		82	Elizabeth Watson, D-Farmingdale
14	Lawrence Peters, Jr., D-West Buxton	83	Bonnie Green, D-Monmouth
15	Chris O'Neil, D-Saco	84	Nancy Chizmar, D-Lisbon Falls
17	Robert Melville, D-Biddeford Pool	85	Anna Boll, D-Brunswick
20	George Kerr, D-Old Orchard Beach	88	Patricia Lemaire, D-Lewiston
		89	Albert Gamache, D-Lewiston
24	Nadine Byram, D-So. Portland	91	Pat Colwell, D-Gardiner
25	Jean Marvin, R-Cape Elizabeth	92	Scott Cowger, D-Hallowell
	Pamela McNally, D-Cape Elizabeth	93	Randall Berry, D-Livermore Falls
29	William Lemke, D-Westbrook	94	Elizabth Mitchell, D-Vassalboro
30	J. Elizabeth Mitchell, D-Portland	96	Tom Doore, D-Augusta
		98	Pam Hatch, D-Skowhegan
31	Mike Saxl, D-Portland	100	Ken Gagnon, D-Waterville
33	Michael Quint, D-Portland	104	Sumner Jones, R-Pittsfield
35	Steve Rowe, D-Portland		Arthur Clement, D-Clinton
36	Eliza Townsend, D-Portland	105	David Lindahl, R-Northport
37	Mike Brennan, D-Portland	106	Gail Chase, D-South China
38	Thomas Tyler, D-Windham	107	Joseph Brooks, D-Winterport
39	Carol Kontos, D-Windham	108	Timothy Breen, D-St. Albans
44	Jennifer Willard, D-Yarmouth	109	Paula Roberts, D-Belfast
46	Herbert Adams, D-Center Lovell	110	Dale McGee, D-Palermo
		112	Jane Pieriboni, D-Dover Foxcroft
47	Richard Thompson, D-Naples		Clark Phinney, D-Bucksport
48	Bob Hamett, R-Freeport, Tom Bull, D-Freeport	113	Charles Fisher, D-Brewer
49	Ed Benedikt, D-Brunswick	115	Tina Baker, D-Bangor
50	Tom Davidson, D-Brunswick	117	Hugh Morrison, D-Bangor
51	David Etnier, D-So. Harpswell	119	Terence Bragdon, R-Bangor
52	Verdi Tripp, D-Topsham	120	Jane Saxl, D-Bangor
53	David Shiah, D-Bowdoinham	122	Julie Winn, D-Glenburn
54	Art Mayo, R-Bath	123	Kathleen Stevens, D-Orono
55	Judith Peavey, R-Woolwich	124	Donald Shepley, D-Bangor
56	Wendy Pieh, D-Medomak	126	Allen Ross, D-Dexter
58	Jeannie Hamrin, D-Boothbay	127	Ed Povich, D-Ellsworth
59	Steven Cartwright, D-Waldoboro	128	Royce Perkins, R-Penobscot
62	Paul Chartrand, D-Rockland	129	Paul Volenik, D-Sedgwick
63	Judy Powers, D-Rockport	130	Kyle Jones, D-Bar Harbor

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# Community Pride Resources

## ML/GPA

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

### Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG)

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

## Northern Lambda Nord

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

### The Matlovich Society

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

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

### Hate Crimes & Bias Incidents:

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

### Citizens Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights: (CAGLR),

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

## The Rainbow Business & Professional Association:

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

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

## Identity Support

### New Hampshire P-FLAG Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

### Maine P-FLAG Meetings

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

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

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

### Women's Center - Belfast

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

### NA: Just for Today

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

### Out and About

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

### Out Among Friends

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

### Out on MDI

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

### Am Chofshi

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

### Exeter Congregational Church

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

### Lesbian/Gay Catholics

The organization Dignity/Maine offers supportive Masses for L/g/b/a Catholics & their friends/families. Third Sunday of every month at 6:00 pm in St. Luke's Cathedral, side chapel, 143 State St., Portland. Coffee & dessert after the liturgy. FMI, Rosemary or Janet: 207/646-2820 or Laurie: 207/878-0546 or write: Dignity/Maine, POB 8113, Portland 04104. All replies kept confidential.

### The Appollo Society

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

### Community of Hope

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

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

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

### Support Group—Penobscot & Surrounding Counties

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

### Q-Squad

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

### TransSupport

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

### Gender Talk North

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

### Trans Counseling

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

### Maine Bisexual People's Network

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

### Polyamorous Life Support (PALS)

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

### Prisoners of Gender

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

### Lesbian/Bisexual Support Group

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

### Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered support Group

Dover, NH. Meets Sundays 7-8pm, Quaker

Mtg. House, Central Ave. Social times too. FMI, 603/743-GAY2ever.

### Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual support group

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

### Bangor: Lesbian Support Group

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

### S.N.A.P.

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

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

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

### All Maine Transgender Support Group - Bangor Meeting Place -

Open to all CD,TV,TG,TS gay, lesbian, bi, straight. FMI (207) 947-1686. AMT p.o. box 145 Brewer, ME 04412.

### Parents

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

### Mothers and Kids Group

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

## Youth Support - Outright

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

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

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

5077, Portland, ME. 04101.

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

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

Monadnock: Meets every Thurs., 7-9 pm at

"The Place To Go", 46 Concord St. (Rt. 202 N), Peterborough, 603/547-2545.

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

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

### COLAGE

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

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



# Maine AIDs Alliance

## Member Organizations

**AIDS Lodging House:** P.O. Box 3820, Portland, ME 04101-3820, Call 874-1000.  
**AIDS Coalition of Lewiston-Auburn:** P.O. Box 7977, Lewiston, Maine 04243-7977. Call 786-4697.  
**Community AIDS Awareness Program:** c/o Mexico Cong.Church/UCC, 43 Main St., Mexico, ME 04257. Call 364-8603.  
**Community Task Force on AIDS Educ.:** P.O. Box 941, Naples, ME 04055. Call 583-6608.  
**Dayspring AIDS Support Services:** 32 Winthrop St., Augusta, ME 04330. FMI, call 207/626-3432.  
**Down East AIDS Network:** 114 State St., Ellsworth, ME 04605. Call 667-3506.  
**Eastern Maine AIDS Network:** P.O. Box 2038, Bangor, ME 04401. Call 990-3626.  
**Merrymeeting AIDS Support Serv.:** P.O.

Box 57, Brunswick, ME 04011-0057. Call 725-4955.  
**Names Project/Maine:** P.O. Box 10248, Portland, ME 04104. Call 774-2198.  
**Oxford Hills Community AIDS Network:** P.O. Box 113, Paris, ME 04271-0113. Call 743-7451.  
**Peabody House:** 14 Orchard St., Portland, ME 04102. Call 774-6281.  
**People With AIDS Coalition of ME.:** 696 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101. Call 773-8500.  
**PAWS/Pets Are Wonderful Support:** 120 Brackett St. Portland, ME 04102. Call 775-PAWS. E-mail paws@ime.net. Home page: <http://www.ime.net/PAWS/>  
**The AIDS Project:** 142 High St., 6th fl., Portland, ME 04101. Call 774-6877.  
**Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition:** P.O. Box 956, Belfast, ME 04915. Call 338-1427.

# Medical Support

## Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic

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

## Planned Parenthood of Northern New England

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

## Free Family Therapy

available for individuals & families (of any type)

who are affected by HIV disease. FMI, contact Chris Behan, MSW at Center for Training and Special Programs. 207/773-6658.

## Teen Life Center

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

## Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic

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

# HIV Related Support Meetings

## HIV Related Support Meetings

### Portland:

**Mondays:** People Living with HIV disease and all friends, families, partners & caregivers, 6:30-8:00 PM.  
**Tuesdays:** People Living with HIV disease and all friends, families, lovers, and caregivers, 10:30 am-Noon.  
**2nd & 4th Tuesdays:** Living Well focusing on quality of life and empowerment.  
**1st Wednesday:** PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support), 5:30 pm. Call 775-PAWS. Charles Wynott, Program Coordinator.  
**Thursdays:** People living with HIV meets from 5:30-7 pm.  
**2nd Thursday:** Client Advisory Board, open to all clients of The AIDS Project, 1:30 pm.  
 The above Portland support groups meet at The AIDS Project, 142 High St., 6th floor, except the Tuesday group, Living Well. FMI on that call Sandy Titus at Stratogen Health Care. Call Jane O'Rourke at 774-6877 or 1-800-851-2437 for more information.  
**Arroostook County:** Family and Friends Accepting Change Together (FFACT), a support group sponsored by Northern Maine AIDS

Network for friends, families & careproviders. Meets every 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 pm, at the Arroostook Medical Center, conference room A. Presque Isle. FMI, Deb Madore of Health 1st, 207/768-3056 or 1-800-432-7881.  
**Auburn:** People living with HIV disease, Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00 pm at Auburn Family Planning. Call Diana Carrigan, Androscoggin and Oxford Case Manager and Support Services Coordinator for TAP at the Auburn office, 783-4301.  
**Augusta:** Every 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 6:00-7:15 pm, Dayspring AIDS Support Services offers support for people with HIV & those who care about them. FMI, call 207/626-3435.  
**Bangor:** Man 2 Man HIV prevention program for men who have sex with men. M2M offers education, HIV testing, support groups, HIV/AIDS Hotline and workshops. To volunteer or FMI on the program call 207/990-2095 or write: Man 2 Man, POB 2038, Bangor, ME 04402.  
**Biddeford:** People affected or infected by HIV, Mondays, 5:30-7:00 pm. So. ME. Medical Center classroom opposite cafeteria on 2nd floor. Call John Bean, York County Case

Manager, 774-6877.  
**Brunswick:** Meetings for family and friends who have loved ones with HIV/AIDS at Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services, 8 Lincoln Street. FMI on meeting days and times call 725-4955.  
**Farmington:** Thursdays: 6:30-8:30 pm. HIV+ support group. Call Christie Foster at Tri-County Health Services, 778-4553, for location.  
**Gardiner:** 1st & 3rd Wednesdays: People Living with HIV meets from 1:30-3 pm at the Physicians Building behind KVRHA Annex. Call MASS at 725-4955.  
**Lewiston:** 4th Thursday: Great Sexpectations monthly drop-ins for gay, bi & questioning men of all ages. 7:00-10:00 PM, ACLA office (4 Lafayette St.) FMI, Sean-207/786-4697.  
**Rumford/Mexico Area:** Mondays: AIDS Support Group/Phoneline meets from 7-8:30 pm at Mexico Congregational Church, Main Street, Mexico. Call 364-8603.  
**New Hampshire:**  
**Exeter:** "Connections," support group for care-givers: parents, families, friends whose

lives are affected by HIV/AIDS, meets second Tues. from 7-8:30 pm. Exeter Congregational Church, 21 Front St., Discussions, info. sharing and support. Confidentiality assured. Wheelchair access. FMI, 603/772-6221 or 603/778-0102.  
**Keene:** Support group for families, friends, partners of persons living with AIDS or who have died of AIDS. Confidential & anonymous. Meets every other Wed., at Planned Parenthood, 7-8:30 pm. Call Dorothy Anderson at 603/756-4735.  
**Keene:** Support group for HIV positive people and those living with AIDS meets alternate Mon. 6:30 pm. For details call Schultz, 603/357-5270.  
**Peterborough:** Support group for family, partners and friends whose lives have been affected by HIV/AIDS meets Tues. at noon. Call Maria Rosario-603/924-7191, ext. 1126 for details.  
**Monadnock Region:** For info., referrals, testing, buddies, speakers & volunteer opportunities call AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region at 603/357-6855 or 1-800-639-7903 or call United Way Help-Line, 1800-368-4357.

# Phone Support By Region

**National Center for Lesbian Rights Youth Project:** 1-800-528-NCLR.  
**Boston Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Youth (BAGLY):** 1-800-347-TEEN.  
 National Hotline for gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender youth:  
 Call 1-800-347-TEEN, Sponsored by the Indianapolis Youth Group. 7-10 pm Sunday to Thursday, 7 pm to midnight Friday and Saturday. Staffed & trained, peer (youth) counselors. Confidential and anonymous.  
**New Hampshire:** Teen Crisis Line - 1-800-639-6095.  
**Portland:**  
 The AIDS Line: 1-800-851-AIDS or 775-1267. HIV/AIDS related questions, call Mon.-Sat. 9 am-5 pm, Mon. & Wed. evenings until 7:30 pm. Anonymous.  
**DIAL KIDS:** 774-TALK. For lesbian, gay,

bi & questioning youth under 19 yrs.  
**Ingraham Volunteers:** Call 774-HELP (774-4357).  
 The AIDS Project: 774-6877. Located at 142 High St., 6th floor, Portland 04101. Call for information and support group meetings in Portland, Lewiston, Brunswick.  
**Bangor:** Eastern Maine AIDS Network: 990-3626  
**Penobscot County:** HIV/AIDS Hotline-1-800-429-1481  
**Belfast:** Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: 338-1427  
**Brunswick:** Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services: 725-4995  
**Bridgton:** Community Task Force on AIDS: 583-6608  
**Rumford:** Community AIDS Awareness Program: 823-4170

**Lewiston:** AIDS Coalition of Lewiston/  
**Auburn:** 786-4697  
**Waterville:** Dayspring: 626-3432  
**Ellsworth:** Down East AIDS Network: 667-3506  
**Oxford Hills:** Oxford Hills Community AIDS Network: 743-7451.  
**Mid coast:** Gay men's HELP LINE, 6:00-9:00 pm (only) M-F. 207/863-2728, FAX, 207/863-2794. Also, gay youth info.  
**Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG)**  
**Contacts in Maine**  
 (\* indicates monthly meetings)  
 Augusta/Hallowell: 623-2349 - F.E.  
 \*Dover-Foxcroft: 564-7986 - Sharon  
 \*Brunswick/Bath: 729-0519 - Sally & Gene  
 \*Lewiston/Auburn: 783-6964 - Estelle  
 \*Portland: Rita, 766-5158 or Sue, 774-3441

**Waldoboro:** 832-5859 - Sue  
**Contacts in New Hampshire**  
 P-FLAG NH 24 hour Helpline:  
 603/623-6023  
**Concord:** Judy, 603/485-3943  
**Webster:** Betsy, 603/746-3818  
**Nashua:** Nancy, 603/880-8709  
**Kensington:** Nora/John, 603/772-3893  
**Stratham:** Betty, 603/772-5196  
**Francestown:** Cy/Gordon, 603/547-2545  
**Holderness:** Olivia, 603/968-7254  
**Rumney:** Ann, 603/786-9812  
**Center Sandwich:** Tish, 603/284-6434  
**DOVER, NH:** Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Helpline for information, referral or need to talk. M-F 6-10 pm, Sat.-Sun. 9am-2pm. 603/743-GAY2.

# 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 P.O. Box 5136 Sta. A, Portland, ME. 04101, or call 207/774-4940.

## Maine Gay Men's Chorus

is a community chorus which brings men

together to enhance social tolerance and diversity in the Greater Portland area, as well as affirming the gay/lesbian experience with creative and lively musical entertainment. FMI call 774-2704 or write M.G.M.C., P.O. Box 10391, Portland, ME. 04104.

## The Maine Gay Visual Artist's League

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

# Social Groups

## W.O.W. (Wild Outdoor Women)

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

## Maine Frontrunners

a gay and lesbian running club sponsoring weekly run in Portland. We meet at the beginning of Back Cove Walkway (corner Baxter Blvd. & Preble St. Ext.), Saturdays, 9 am. FMI, Jim-761-2059 or John-828-4896.  
**SOLO:** Monthly Gatherings for Older, Single Lesbians for fun & friendship. FMI, Kathy 207/688-4737 or 207/725-0179.

## Wilde-Stein Club

Meets every Thursday at 6:30 pm at

Memorial Union, Sutton Lounge, UM at Orono.

## Seacoast Gay Men

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

## Mountain Valley Men (MVM)

A social support group of gay men in western ME and eastern NH. Monthly pot luck meetings the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm; programs vary from video viewing to experts on pertinent topics; monthly newsletter. FMI: Dave (207) 925-1034 or Box 36, Center Conway, NH 03813. e-mail dfispalp@aol.com.



# OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**October 1 - October 3**  
Railroad Square Cinema, Waterville, "Stonewall," 5:05 PM and 7:00 PM, FMI (207)873-4021

**through December 9**  
A Collective Vision: A Decade of Patronage from the Friends of the Collection. Portland Art Museum. FMI (207)773-ARTS

**through December 15**  
Tom Asunder: Collage in Twentieth-Century Art. Portland Art Museum. FMI (207)773-ARTS.

**October 10 - 14**  
Washington, DC - 15th Annual PFLAG Conference, "Love Takes Action: Building a Nation of Equality." FMI (202)686-0474

**October 14 - 20**  
Provincetown, MA - Twelfth Annual Women's Week. FMI (800)648-0364

**Tuesday, October 1**  
7 - 9 PM - Decline To Sign meeting, YWCA, Spring St., Portland

**Tuesday, October 1**  
7 - 9 PM "A Dialogue on Same-Gender Marriage" with Amelia Craig, Esq. and Mary Bonauto, Esq. of GLAD, USM Portland, Luther Bonney Auditorium, FMI (617)426-1350

**Tuesday, October 1**  
8 PM - Rita Kissen, author of The Last Closet, will speak about the lives of gay and lesbian teachers, Stratham Community Church, Emery Ln. off Route 1. Sponsored by PFLAG. FMI(603)772-3893 or (603)772-5196

**Thursday, October 3**  
7 PM - Gallery talk with JoAnn Haeberle: Cubism and the Human Form. Portland Museum of Art. 7 Congress Square, Portland ME. FMI (207)773-ARTS.

**Thursday, October 3**  
7 - 8:30 PM - Art in the Dark film series at Portland Museum of Art. Three films by artists who lived and worked in Paris between 1919 and 1939. Portland Museum of Art, 7 Congress Square, Portland, ME. Free with museum admission. FMI (207)773-ARTS.

**Thursday, October 3**  
7 PM - Picasso, Braque, Leger: The Artist's Spirit. Lecture, free with Museum admission. Portland Museum of Art Auditorium. 7 Congress Square, Portland, ME. FMI (207)773-ARTS.

**Friday, October 4**  
12:30 PM - Gallery talk with JoAnn Haeberle: Cubism and the Human Form. Portland Museum of Art. 7 Congress Square, Portland ME. FMI (207)773-ARTS.

**Saturday, October 5**  
6 PM - First Annual Women In Harmony Spaghetti Supper and Auction (services, antiques, artwork), great food. Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland, FMI (207)773-9681

**Saturday, October 5**  
4 - 6PM - SOLO (Single Older Lesbians Organization) meeting FMI 77-0390

**Saturday, October 5**  
12 PM - Hike up "Old Baldy"—followed by pot luck. An Amelia's Event. FMI (802)672-5280

**Saturday, October 5**  
Chiltern Mountain Club's foliage hiking and biking in Vershire, VT, FMI (617)859-2843

**Saturday, October 5**  
Chiltern Mountain Club's fourth trail maintenance trip to the Blue Hills. Barbeque to follow, FMI(617)859-2843

**Saturday, October 5**  
8 - 12 PM - Women Meeting Women October Dance, Elk's hall on Route 110, Chelmsford, MA, \$8 at the door, full bar, for singles and coupled women, music by BCN & Co., no smoking, FMI (603)881-4268

**Saturday, October 5**  
Chiltern Mountain Club hikes Wildcat Ridge of the Carter-Moriah Range (NH), 9 miles (strenuous), FMI (617)859-2843

**Saturday, October 5**  
7:30 PM - Solo piano concert featuring Dana Ashworth at Denmark Arts Center, Route 160, Denmark ME. \$5.00 donationn requested, with all funds benefitting the Denmark Arts Center and its commitment to local artists, musicians, storytellers, crafts people and residents of the Lakes Region. FMI (207)452-2412

**Saturday/Sunday, October 5 - 6**  
Eastern Mountain Sports Fall Clinic Series-Mt. Chocorua Overnight, sign up at the store, limited to 8 hikers

**Sunday, October 6**  
3 - 6 PM - Decline To Sign cocktail party and kick off at Katahdin Restaurant, free admission, donations welcomed, High St., Portland

**Monday, October 7**  
6:30 - 8:30 PM - Alternative Approaches & Self Care to Women's Common Health Concerns, sponsored by the Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portsmouth NH. FMI (603)431-1669

**Tuesday, October 8**  
7 - 9 PM - Decline To Sign meeting, YWCA, Spring St., Portland

**Tuesday, October 8**  
7 - 8:30 - Connections (a support group for caregivers, family and friends of all those whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS) will celebrate its first anniversary at the Exeter Congregational Church, 21 Front St., Exeter, NH. FMI (603)772-6221 or (603)436-8973.

**Thursday, October 10**  
5:30 PM - Gallery talk with Barbara Schenkel: The Life and Career of Georges Braque. Portland Museum of Art. 7 Congress Square, Portland ME. FMI (207)773-ARTS.

**Thursday, October 10**  
7 - 8 PM - Art in the Dark Film series—four films by artists who lived and worked in Paris between 1919 and 1939. Portland Museum of Art, 7 Congress Square, Portland ME. Free with museum admission. FMI (207)773-ARTS.

**Thursday, October 10**  
7:30 - 9 PM - The Matlovich Society presents "The Reverend Robert W. Wood: A Discussion with a Hero," Holiday Inn By the Bay, Spring St., Portland, FMI (207)761-4380

**Friday, October 11**

7 PM - A Gathering for National Coming Out Day in Congress Square (corner of High & Congress), Portland, free and open to the public

**Friday, October 11**  
12:30 PM - Gallery talk with Barbara Schenkel: The Life and Career of Georges Braque. Portland Museum of Art. 7 Congress Square, Portland, ME. FMI (207)773-ARTS.

**Saturday, October 12**  
Washington, DC - First Ever Gay Youth March on Washington, a part of the 2nd Annual International Gay Youth Festival. FMI (317)960-5051

**Saturday, October 12**  
8 - 12 PM - Harvest Diversity Dance, sponsored by DownEast Gay and Lesbian Organization, UU Church, 120 Park St., Bangor ME. All ages, chem free, smoke free, costumes optional, prizes for best costumes, DJ (all styles), \$7 w/o costume, \$5 w/costume, potluck supper before dance (5:30), FMI call Phil (207)942-2855 or Lloyd (207)947-8230

**Saturday, October 12**  
6:30 PM - 1 AM Northern Lambda Nord Membership Drive Dinner and Dance. Presque Isle Snowmobile Club

**Sunday, October 13**  
10 AM - Episcopal Bishop Walter C. Righter, who was charged with heresy for presiding at the diaconal ordination of a non-celibate gay man in a committed relationship, will speak. Meet Bishop Righter at a special coffee hour after the service. Christ Church, 1035 Lafayette Rd., Portsmouth, NH. FMI (603)436-8842

**Monday, October 14**  
7 - 8 PM - Women's Self-Help Group starting at USM, Women's Center, Payson-Smith, Room 40. Meeting Monday nights, facilitated by Jana McAuliffe. FMI (207)772-6599

**Tuesday, October 15**  
7 - 9 PM - "A Dialogue on Same-Gender Marriage" with Amelia Criag, Esq. and Mary Bonauto, Esq. of GLAD, Bangor Theological Seminary, Bangor, FMI (617)426-1350

**Tuesday, October 15**  
7 - 9 PM - Decline To Sign meeting, YWCA, Spring St., Portland

**Thursday, October 17**  
7 - 8:30 PM - Art in the Dark film series—films by artists who lived and worked in Paris between 1919 and 1939. Portland Museum of Art, 7 Congress Square, Portland ME. FMI (207)773-ARTS.

**Saturday, October 19**  
Chiltern Mountain Club takes an easy 30-mile bike ride along Narragansett Bay (Providence, RI), FMI (617)859-2843

**Sunday, October 20**  
12 PM - Hike the Appalachian Trail. Meet at Bernard's Store, Barnard VT. An Amelia's Event. FMI (802)234-5670

**Sunday, October 20**  
1 PM - Wild Outdoor Women hike Pleasant Mt., Bridgton, ME (offers excellent views of White Mtns on continuous open ledges and meadows; moderate difficulty — approximately 4 hrs. round trip; meet at Naples Causeway

across from Rick's Cafe, Rt. 302); potluck in Naples to follow hike, FMI (207)787-2379

**Sunday, October 20**  
Portsmouth - 2nd Annual Walkathon in honor of GLBT History. Prescott Park. FMI (603)430-9182

**Tuesday, October 22**  
7 - 9 PM - Decline To Sign meeting, YWCA, Spring St., Portland

**Thursday, October 24**  
7:30 - 9 PM - The Matlovich Society presents "Hilary's Class" with discussion/questions after the video, Holiday Inn By the Bay, Spring St., Portland, FMI (207)761-4380

**Friday, October 25**  
7 PM Eastern Mountain Sports Winter Gear Clinic at the store

**Friday, October 25**  
8 PM 2nd Annual Halloween Masquerade Ball, The Pavillion, 188 Middle St., Portland. \$15/\$25 to benefit Maine AIDS Alliance. FMI:207/775-7297

**Saturday, October 26**  
Van Buren - Northern Lambda Nord Halloween Costume and Party and Dance

**Saturday, October 26**  
8:30 PM - 12 AM - Halloween Costume Ball sponsored by Seacoast Gay Men. Unitarian Church, Portsmouth NH. \$10 per person. Proceeds to benefit Rainbow Network.

**Saturday, October 26**  
9 AM - 4 PM - "Coalitions for the Common Good," a gathering for grassroots organizers and educators. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Eastern Ave., Augusta ME. \$10.00 registration. FMI (207)525-7776

**Sunday, October 27**  
6 PM - Music and Comic Revue (Harmonies Extraordinaire and comic Ed Karvoski-author of "A Funny Time to be Gay," admission \$10.00 (sliding scale available), First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland, tickets at the door or reserved at 1-800-556-5472 or (207)761-3732

**Monday, October 28**  
6:30 - 8:30 PM - The Empowered Health Care Consumer (including how to come out to your provider) sponsored by the Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portsmouth NH FMI (603)431-1669

**Tuesday, October 29**  
7 - 9 PM - Decline To Sign meeting, YWCA, Spring St., Portland

**Thursday, October 31**  
7:30 PM - Reading by 5 Astraea Lesbian Writers Fund grant winners at A Different Light Bookstore, 151 W 19th St. NYC. FMI (212)529-8021

**Friday, November 1**  
Fifth Annual Astraea Lesbian Writers Fund Gala at Cooper Union, 7 East 7th St. NYC. FMI (212)529-8021

**Thursday, November 7**  
9 AM - 3 PM - "Dealing With Controversy," discussion of skill building, conflict management, and social marketing, sponsored by the AIDS Coalition of L-A. Space is limited. FMI or registration (207)786-4697. Central Maine Medical Center, Wilson Classroom, 300 Main St., Lewiston Me.



# Classified Ads

## TRAVEL/VACATION

**ΔΔ LESBIAN PARADISE!** 20 charming rooms, 100 mountain acres, pool, hot tub, hiking/skiing trails, yummy breakfasts, peace and privacy. We're your perfect vacation choice year round! Week-long and midweek discounts. **HIGHLANDS INN**, Box 1180P, Bethlehem, NH 03574, (603) 869-3978. ΔΔ

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

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**ΔΔ GWM** 30 YR. 5'8" brown hair & eyes seeking older Professional GM supportive for friendship and maybe more. will answer all. Randy Kiper #100254 KY State Penitentiary Box #128 Eddyville, KY 42038.

or come out in support of, gay-straight alliances. "Our goal is that every high school in Massachusetts have a gay-straight alliance," said Ed LeMay, a commission member. "We have come a long way but... there's still 75 percent to go."

The state passed a law in 1993, prohibiting discrimination against any student in a public school based on sexual orientation. The state acted in response to studies that showed gay and lesbian youth were more likely to commit suicide than heterosexual youth. "I felt alone because in my family, they're pretty close-minded and there's all these derogatory remarks toward homosexuals. So I felt like I couldn't tell anyone. So I figured the way to end it would be to end my life," the unidentified 15-year-old said. Now, "I've made a lot more friends and also lost a few. But I'm more happy that I made these friends because I can be open to them," she says.

discrimination policies make clear that state law prohibits discrimination against people in school because of their sexual orientation. The commission said it would conduct a survey to make sure every high school was in compliance with the law.

Irwin Blumer, president of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, said he believed school officials would be willing. "I have not heard any opposition to the concept of making sure schools are safe and secure environments for all our kids," he said. The commission also called on parents to help form,

mosexuality is incompatible with military service."

**Welfare Reform:** While the Task Force agrees with the importance of providing job opportunities as stated in the platform, it is critical of both the GOP and Democratic platforms and attacks on the poor. "We are very concerned that welfare families will be left with no safety net of support as they are taken off of welfare," said Paras. "The President and both platforms all approach this issue by cutting off assistance first and then hoping recipients get jobs so they can buy health care and other critical needs."

"Ultimately, both the Democratic and GOP platforms should be rated on the basis that they reflect the actual records of the Clinton Administration and of the Gingrich-Dole Republican Congress," concluded Paras. "Despite attempts by the Republicans to downplay the importance of their platform, it remains the foundation of the party's ideology and was clearly dominated by the Hard Right in San Diego. At the same time, the Democratic platform, while clearly more positive, has much room for improvement."

## COMMISSION, from page 14

students from harassment in school.

The commission recommended that the state Legislature double funding so that every high school in the state can receive a grant to form groups known as gay-straight alliances for gay and lesbian youths, along with heterosexual friends. The current grant funding stands at \$167,000 and only reaches 75 to 90 schools statewide. The commission also recommended high school principals and superintendents make sure that school handbooks, disciplinary codes and anti-

## NGLTF, from page 12

the Defense of Marriage Act to prevent states from being forced to recognize same-sex unions." President Clinton has also opposed same-gender marriage and said he will sign DOMA if passed.

**Gays in the Military:** Paras also criticized the lack of mention in the platform of the continued witch hunts by the U.S. military of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender service members. Paras commended the Administration's strong fight against Rep. Bob Dornan's attempt to oust HIV-positive service members. At the same time she said the lack of inclusion of gays and lesbians in the military was an insult to their brave and courageous contributions, despite the "don't ask, don't tell" policy — which many experts say has actually resulted 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 traditions of the Armed Forces, especially his attempt to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military. We affirm that ho-

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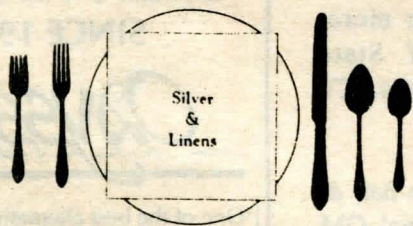


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