Paula Cole flames with This Fire

by Aimsel Ponti

Whether you’ve heard her name before, let it be known: Paula Cole is back. Perhaps you saw the Sarah McLachlan show at the State Theater when Paula Cole was the opening act. I was there with my jaw dropped open while she bounded on VH-1.

This fall she embarks out on her own and will be singing duet with Kate Bush on “Don’t Give Up.” On the live album, Paula Cole’s pipes breath a new passion into an already powerful song.

Cole has continued on a journey that has seen her open many emotional doors. “Now the flower has opened, has been in the sun and is unafraid. I’m taking more chances; I’m bold and proud,” says Cole.

One of the softer tracks is “Hush, Hush.” Cole called on her friend Peter Gabriel for some vocals and the result is as sweet as it gets. This song is both a lullaby and a prayer.

But it’s when Cole really stretches out and sings with all her fury that really gets me. Both deep and soaring, Cole’s commanding vocals save her equally compelling lyrics just what they need.

I know this This Fire is something special and meaningful. Paula Cole is a rare song-bird amongst a lot of today’s empty music. If it’s her destiny to make music, it’s mine to listen to it. That’s what keeps the world spinning.

Local photographer and AIDS activist falls victim to thieves

Tom Antonik, a local photographer and AIDS activist, had his camera equipment stolen out of his car early on the morning of October 22, 1996. The car was parked in front of Antonik’s home on Atlantic Street in Portland.

Tom, one of the longest surviving people living with AIDS, has been documenting the HIV/AIDS community over the past ten years. He has also provided extensive education around people living with AIDS by sharing his personal story of living with AIDS. Additionally, Tom has helped students at the REAL School in Windham with their exhibit on people living with AIDS at the Vincent Boulanger Memorial Exhibit.

Tom’s face is a familiar one in the community, and many of us have enjoyed his photographs. Tom has made many of his photos available (through one-time donation or at cost) to a wide variety of organizations, including The AIDS Project, Peabody House, Outright, the Community Pride Reporter, the Maine Gay Men’s Chorus, GAYLA, and the Maine Speak Out Project.

Tom has done a great deal of work at Camp Chrysalis, and some of the photographs he has taken there over the past four years will be exhibited at The Underground from November 1 through November 10. In connection with the exhibit, a benefit for the kids of Camp Chrysalis is scheduled for Sunday, November 10 at The Underground AT 10 PM.

Tom Antonik’s work in documenting the HIV/AIDS community is vital to our community and our history. That work cannot continue, of course, without his equipment. Contributions and donations to help Tom replace his equipment can be sent to Tom Antonik, C/O The Community Pride Reporter, PO Box 178, Saco, ME 04072. No contribution is insignificant in the effort to help Tom get back to the important work he is doing with and for our community.
University of Maine System offers benefits to Domestic Partners

BANGOR, Maine (AP) — After years of negotiations, lesbian and gay faculty at the University of Maine System can now enroll their partners in their benefits package.

The system's board of trustees voted recently to grant health insurance, bereavement leave, tuition waivers and access to campus facilities to gay and lesbian partners.

This makes the University of Maine System the first public employer to offer domestic partnership benefits to qualified same-sex couples. Some private colleges in Maine Colby College and Bowdoin College offer similar benefits. And private companies including UNUM and Maine branches of Levi Strauss and Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream also offer benefits for gay and lesbian partners.

The change in domestic partner benefits was signed Sept. 29, said University of Maine System spokesman Kent Price. He said full-time gay and lesbian faculty can apply for the benefits immediately. The partners must meet certain criteria, including proof that they have lived together for at least two years.

"There are increasing number of business and industries that are now including this benefit," Price said. Price said he did not know exactly how many people would apply for the benefits, or how it would increase university costs. "In terms of the financial exposure it's not that significant," Price said. "It's not going to break the university budget. It will cost more, but it won't be significant."

Faculty members at campuses statewide worked with their union on the domestic partner issue for at least five years. Maggie Fournier, an associate professor of nursing at the University of Southern Maine, highlighted the issue when she tried to enroll her partner under her health insurance plan in 1990. Because she was not legally married, Fournier was refused, even though the university system adopted a policy in 1987 stating it wouldn't discriminate against people based on their sexual preference.

Union leadership threw its support behind the issue in 1992, and the university system in 1995 agreed to set up a joint committee to study the matter. The committee recommended that "same-sex domestic partners of faculty be considered the equivalents of spouses for eligibility in employee benefits programs." Fournier said the fight for benefits was a matter of principal for her and for others having to buy a separate policy is a financial hardship. "I'm absolutely delighted the trustees have put teeth into their policy," she said.

Survey finds Americans' Attitudes toward gays have softened

CHICAGO (AP) — A new study says more Americans are tolerant of gays, but more than six out of 10 still believe homosexual relations are always wrong.

The study, released Monday, was based on the General Social Survey conducted almost every year since 1972 at the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago.

Researchers asked 2,904 people across the country whether sexual relations between two consenting adults of the same sex are always wrong, almost always wrong, sometimes wrong or not wrong at all.

Sixty-one percent said homosexual relations are always wrong, while 28 percent said not wrong at all, with the rest split between the two milder choices. When the question was first asked in 1973, 73 percent said gay relations were always wrong and 11 percent said they were never wrong.

The margin of error was plus or minus 2 percentage points. The disapproval rate for gays was always 70 percent or higher until 1993, when it fell to 66 percent. And the percentage of people who said gay relations were not wrong at all never rose above 16 percent until 1993, when it hit 22 percent.

"More and more people are realizing that their uncle, cousin, neighbor or teacher is gay. When that happens, lots of the negative attitudes the people had about gay folks go right out the window," said Rick Garcia, executive director of the Illinois Federation for Human Rights.

Stuart Michaels, director of the university's National Health and Social Life Survey, attributed the change to the AIDS epidemic, which brought national attention to gay issues and gay life. "Americans became more and more aware in their own social networks of people who were gay, sometimes tragically because they found out the person was sick with AIDS or had relatives sick with AIDS," he said.

Fighting for money to combat and research AIDS also forced more gay people into the public and political arena, he said. "There was more than the stereotypical image of the drag queen out there," he said. The General Social Survey also tracks Americans' attitudes toward issues including welfare and crime.

It found that support for welfare has plummeted during the past six years. In 1990, 35 percent of people in cities supported spending more money on welfare but by 1996, the support fell to 19 percent. In the suburbs, support for more spending on welfare fell from 22 percent in 1990 to 12 percent in 1996.

Regarding crime, researchers found the percentage of people in support of capital punishment rose to 76 percent in 1996 from 70 percent in 1984 and 60 percent in 1974. The percentage of people who have a handgun in their home has stayed relatively stable over the years — 26 percent in 1972, 26 percent in 1987 and 22 percent in 1996.

Clinton Campaign Revises Radio Ad

WASHINGTON (AP) — After angry complaints from gay rights advocates, the Clinton campaign replaced an ad running on religious radio stations that boasted of the president's signature on a bill banning gay marriages.

Campaign spokesman Don Foley said the new 60-second spot was "an improved version of the ad ... a more direct response to the scurrilous ad that the Dole campaign has been running." After Dole ads on some 70 stations suggested Clinton approved of certain types of late-term abortions, the Clinton campaign responded with a spot pointing out specific reservations led to veto a bill that would have harmed the procedure.

The Clinton spot also touted his signing of the Defense of Marriage Act, in spite of earlier White House complaints that the Republicans' use of the issue amounted to "gay baiting."
**Northern Lights Ordains Minister**

Northern Lights Metropolitan Community Church of Augusta, Maine ordained its founding pastor, Rev. William Gordon, in a special ceremony on Sunday, September 29, 1996. Gordon pastors a congregation composed of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, questioning, and supportive people, and is himself a gay man. Over seventy people gathered at this church’s new home at 436 Riverside Drive in Augusta where, in a laying on of hands by the Northeast District Coordinator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Churches, the Rev. Sheila Rawls, and members and friends of the congregation, Gordon’s credentials and call to ministry were affirmed both by the community and the denomination.

Gordon is a former pastor of thirteen years in the United Methodist Church, and had withdrawn from that denomination in 1993 because of the church’s official policy reproving the ordained ministry of homosexuals.

In the same service, Northern Lights MCC received three new members by profession of faith during this service, bringing its total membership to twenty-one, and anticipating a fifty-percent increase in 1996 over 1995.

Northern Lights Metropolitan Community Church is a ministry of the gay/lesbian/bisexual and transgendered community in central Maine. Gordon is now the only fully credentialed MMC pastor serving a local congregation in the three state area of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. There is an MMC congregation in Portland, Maine, which is served by lay pastoral leaders. Northern Lights is a Christian, non-homophobic, liberation based congregation dedicated to service to the disenfranchised and those who do not feel welcome in other congregations. Services are held each Sunday at 4:00 p.m., with Holy Communion served each service.

**Maine University Benefits to same-sex Partners could Spur Backlash**

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) - The University of Maine System’s decision to extend job benefits to partners of gay employees could trigger a backlash during the upcoming session of the Legislature, leaders agree.

UMS trustees last month approved a new faculty contract that extends to same-sex partners such benefits as health insurance, tuition waivers, bereavement leave and access to campus facilities.

Conservative lawmakers who question the morality of homosexuality may try to rescind the benefits next year or prevent other government agencies from following suit.

Legislators who do not necessary oppose such benefits on principle may use the decision to attack the system’s upcoming request for more state aid.

Senate President Jeffrey Butland, R-Cumberland, said he believes the university system’s action is likely to draw legislative opposition. “I suspect there would be some people out there who would take exception to the university doing that,” either for moral or financial reasons, Butland said. “I would not have made that decision. There is a cost.

That’s why it raises my eyebrows.”

While recommending that the Legislature steer clear of contract issues, House Speaker Dan Gwadowsky, D-Fairfield, said it is “reasonable to assume that somebody will put legislation in” next year to outlaw benefits for same-sex partners. “The political issue for the university is whether those who oppose the policy will try to take it out of (the system’s state) appropriation,” he said.

Some lawmakers said the assumption of added benefit costs that could have been avoided will make it tougher for the system to make a case that its appropriation should be increased.

Kent Price, a spokesman for the university system, has said the expansion of benefits should not be too costly because other organizations with similar programs report about 1 percent of their employees apply.

The university system appears to be the only public agency at any level of government to offer such benefits in Maine. Some private employers, including private colleges, have similar programs.

**In This Election**

Support the US Senate Candidate

Who Supports You—JOE BRENNAN

Will vote for Employment Non-Discrimination Act

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This year, support JOE BRENNAN. He has always been there for us. This election can bring us the Senate leadership team of Barbara Boxer, Dianne Feinstein, Ted Kennedy, and Barbara Mikulski. A vote for Susan Collins will bring you the team of Orrin Hatch, Jesse Helms, Al D’Amato and Strom Thurmond. “For gays and lesbians this should be a no brainer.” Senator Dale McCormick

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William Trosch, Treasurer
Parents, politicians have different agendas

NEW YORK (AP) Parents struggling to raise their children are too worried about survival to focus on conservative family values like ending abortion and gay marriage, a new survey says.

In an open-ended way, "not one single response mentioned gay marriage," said economist Sylvia Ann Hewlett, president and founder of the National Parenting Association. "Because they're dealing with survival."

The poll, conducted by Penn and Schoen Associates, found that safety issues, drugs and education were the top priorities of parents surveyed. Penn and Schoen first asked parents what was on their radar before soliciting feedback on specific issues.

"Clearly the newly stretched American parent is battling for survival, out there juggling work and family," Hewlett said.

Thirty percent, when asked to name their biggest worries for their children, mentioned safety issues in a broad category that included crime, violence and gang. The poll had a sampling error of plus or minus 5 percent.

"I think that the great stunning surprise is that across income, race and gender, there's this enormous uniting behind solutions to economic pressures and solutions to the time crunch," said Hewlett.

Penn and Schoen interviewed 500 parents, politicians have different agendas
Activists rally for Cross-dressing boy

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP) A group of about 40 protesters rallied to support the boy who was forbidden from wearing a dress to Burlington High School last month.

The demonstration took place on the steps of the Unitarian Universalist Church on Pearl Street, and was sponsored by a national protest group, Transexual Menace, and several local organizations.

"An integral part of democracy is diversity," said Worcester resident Lani Krasnow, who used to be a boy but after an operation, became a woman. "Diversity is messy, exciting, wonderful and it moves us forward.

Matt Stickney wore a dress to school Sept. 9. School officials told the 15-year-old he could not wear the dress to school again because it was "OK to be yourself." Diane Manfied of Burlington brought her 4-year-old daughter, Katherine, to the rally. "I want her to have good values, and this helps her see people who are different and teach her the values we have," Manfied said. "But she was hoping we'd march down the street with a sign."

Others, like Ricki Anne Wilchins, a New York City resident and founder of the club gay and lesbian people have been looking up to. "I consider myself a role model. Hopefully, I'm just the first of many who want clubs like this. Some­times kids come up to me and tell me 'I'm brave and I did something they could never do, but it really wasn't just me doing it,' she said. Peterson plans to start college during winter quarter. She hasn't decided where.

Girl who proposed gay club becomes a National Advocate

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) Kelli Peterson created a firestorm a year ago when she proposed forming a Gay-Straight Student Alliance at East High School.

As a result, the Salt Lake City school board banned noncurricular clubs and the Legislature enacted a measure prohibiting school clubs dealing with gay and lesbian rights. Peterson graduated in May. Since then, she has crossed the country as a spokeswoman for young people's gay rights. She spent last week in Washington at the "Free To Be Me Festival." She returned to Salt Lake City for one day and headed to Los Angeles to receive one of the 1996 Lambda Liberty Awards. The Lambda Legal Defense and Educa­tion Fund is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of homosexuals and people with HIV/AIDS.

The program for the event lists Peterson as founder of the Gay-Straight Alliance who "spoke out bravely when political extremists moved to bar such clubs from the Utah public schools."

Peterson said accepting the award in front of an audience of Hollywood­types doesn't bother her at all. In fact, she is anxious to thank the gay and lesbian celebrities she looked up to when she was younger.

Lately, she is a person younger people have been looking up to. "I really wouldn't consider myself a role model. Hopefully, I'm just the first of many who want clubs like this. Sometimes kids come up to me and tell me 'I'm brave and I did something they could never do, but it really wasn't just me doing it,'" she said. Peterson plans to start college during winter quarter. She hasn't decided where.

The Vermont Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights encourages members and supporters to attend the Conferences.

Awards and Town Meeting "Politics as (un) Usual" on Saturday, November 23, from 9 am to 6 pm at Brattleboro Union High School in Brattleboro, Vermont. This event takes place on the interests of Vermont's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities. The Vermont Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights encourages members and supporters to attend the Conferences.
Arnie Arnesen for Congress

by Mo Baxley

Arnie Arnesen is a candidate for congress and a well known political figure in N.H. One of the few who have taken a public stand against discrimination based on sexual orientation. When contacted by CAGLR about the possibility of doing an interview for Breath­ ing Space, she quickly agreed. So a couple of weeks ago she sat down with CAGLR's Mo Baxley over Chinese food and here is the result.

How do you feel about the Defense of Marriage Act?

I just found a quote that sums it up for me, "At one point in history, people don't understand the difference between a religious marriage and a civil marriage. Nobody's talking about forcing anybody's churches to do anything. What I want is a level playing field for everyone. We make our own heaven here on Earth. The door should be open for everyone. Whether you go through the door is up to you. We all have our own prejudices, but my flaws shouldn't be the flaws of a nation. The point is, equal doesn't mean the same. Two people are equal but the rights of all people should be equal. I think the right wing thinks that equal means you have to be the same. That's not America. Do you remember the fight over N.H. foster care law, making it illegal for gays and lesbians to adopt or become foster parents? I voted against it, I trusted the professionals to do their job and place children in good, stable homes. Not a popular position at the time. Did that vote hurt you politically? I do what I believe, and I think that protects me. People who vote for what is politically expedient at the time are the ones who get hurt.

You've said health care needs to be a priority. Will you explain your position on health care reform?

We need universal health care. Either we're all in the boat or not. Rational reform that contains cost, ensures quality, addresses portability and pre-existing conditions. I don't want to pick a job because of the health care they carry. It is my opinion that there is plenty of money in the current system, the problem is where those dollars are being spent. Health care reform should help to reprioritize spending so that health is the goal, not corporate profits, public relations and redundant paper work. Spending money on real care and not on paper motivates us to find cures.

For AIDS. For breast cancer. I support, at a paper motivates us to find cures. For those who get hurt.

Continuing on health care, what about abortion?

I'm pro-choice. It's about power and respect. Until you understand that, you're fighting the wrong fight. Choice respects people who disagree with you.

What do you see as the other priorities?

Redefining the national commitment to education by recognizing the concept of lifelong learning. By that I mean commitment to Head Start, support of our public schools, expanding access to student loans and encouraging partnerships with business to establish needed worker retraining programs.

And the economy?

Quality job creation in an environment that is clean, safe, and supportive of entrepreneurship. "It's the paycheck stupid." Increasing the minimum wage, not only to keep pace with the 1970's, but that recognize the true value of work. Frankly, by not increasing the minimum wage and refusing to address health care reform, we are undermining our ability to address substantive changes in welfare. Another area of job creation that could be a win-win strategy for America is in environmental protection, such as expanded activity in the areas of renewable energy. We reduce our dependence on foreign oil, protect our fragile environment, and create jobs in the design, sale and manufacturing of such resources here and around the world.

What do you think of today's political process?

We need campaign finance reform, for Democracies to flourish, requires trust. Trust in the electoral system and in the process that assures access to the candidates and knowledge of their issues is critical. Today, the vast majority of Americans are disgusted by a system that they see is controlled by monied interests and not them. I support the bi-partisan legislation offered by Shays and Smith. It's a step in the right direction.

And the "far right"?

They're wrong. They think the mission is search and destroy, not find and fix. They got it wrong.

Are you aware that your detractors call you a lesbian, and how do you feel about that?

Yes, I'm aware of it. People also think I'm Jewish, but I'm not, like you can tell those things by looking at someone. I think it means that they are terrified of me. They can't win on the issues so they try name calling. In their minds they're trying to demonize me but they just make themselves look foolish. You know what I really think it means? I think it means I'm winning!
CONCORD, N.H. (AP) Children are never too young to learn how to respect people who are different from them, including homosexuals, according to a documentary shown over the weekend.

A New Hampshire educators group sponsored the premiere of "It's Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues in School" on Sunday at the Concord City Auditorium.

The documentary, expected to be nominated for an Oscar, takes viewers into eight classrooms around the country where teachers and students, grades one through eight, openly discuss gay and lesbian issues. The film opens with U.S. Sen. Bob Smith giving a speech before the Senate about withholding federal funding from school districts that discuss homosexuality in the classroom. A very angry Smith waves his hands around and yells, "We must protect the taxpayers by keeping this trash out of our schools. And that's what it is. It's trash."

The filmmakers contrast Smith's comments with those by young students, who react to homosexuality with comments like, "What's the big whoop?" or, "They're gay. Well so what." The documentary also includes a quick shot of a newspaper article about the New Hampshire school board that tried to ban a book discussing homosexuality.

Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network (GLSTN) brings to the public at large about the damaging effects those forces could have on youth and adults alike. GLSTN's mission is to develop and promote a GLSTN member, and...
by Martin Thompson

I am writing this a couple of days before the MLGPA fund-raiser concert in Portland and hoping that we will have had a huge turnout.

Carolyn Cosby, Goddess love her, has made one thing clear. There’s nothing quite so unifying and sufficient energy and I do mean COMMON. Carolyn, whatever closet you may be hiding in, I want to thank you for making us strong! Who’d have thought ago the gay community would be hosting a concert of both gay AND lesbian music in the same venue?

My friend from Germany sends me tapes of live concerts with thousands of G&L audience members and of live shows in the bars where performers are singing their own words with their own voices and it reminds me what a young country we are. We have some catching up to do. At least up here in good ol’ New England do we.

By the time you get this I will have returned from the North East Folklife Alliance Conference in La Point, Pennsylvania. I hear that the National Conference last year in Washington D.C. had quite a gathering of out musicians even an open mic coffeehouse. It was my understanding that one or two or perhaps even 20 people have claimed the office and I don’t know if they were North Easterners or not but I intend to put up a notice as soon as I arrive to at least arrange a meeting place and time so we can swap addresses and road stories. I’d be proud to host sisters and brothers on the road in a safe environment.

I know one other gay folkie I met when I went to Boston for Show And Tell (Four Gay and Lesbian Singer Songwriters Sing Out and Tell All) and we intend to meet at Passistin of these trips. I’ve been traveling to Boston open mics to get my feet wet and to make myself seem familiar to the shakers and I think it’s a big investment when I have to leave immediately after work and return to work the next day but it’s like being in the closet no one can open the door but me.

Meanwhile, Lynn Deoves of the MLGPA concert will be doing a solo show at Slates Restaurant in Hallowell on Monday, November 25 at 8:00 (622 9575 info) and I hope you all south central Maine Lesbians will show up to hear this wonderful performer in this very supportive atmosphere.

Thanks to you new people who have contacted me - I’m still gathering names of gay musicians interested in networking (That means YOU). Send me off the 6th of this month or paper and they will forward it. I’m hoping to report the winners of this years Gay and Lesbian American Music Awards next month.

Well, here’s praying that Dole guy doesn’t end up in the white house and if he does, I’ll see you all in Canada... Let’s celebrate Thanksgiving with all the gaiety we can muster and 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’

My Transsexual Manifesto Part VIII

by Daralyn S Maxwell

There are certain life situations which cannot be surveyed. Much like life growth, these are part of one’s personal evolution that must be experienced, and no amount of theorizing and scholarship can account for the eventuality of it. So it is with being outed. To me, "outed" was an alien concept; an occurrence that happened to me, a development which cannot be so casually as to share it with people who might not be interested in my personal life, and who would not thereby be in a position to see just how fragile relationships are. Trust, the element which my revelation brings only nods and even less to the one but their closest friends. Thompson even voted for Ronald Reagan for President.

In 1980, my employer, a fairly open-minded business man, was well aware of my situation, and chose to maintain my employment for what seems to be apparent professional reasons. My employees, young and ill-equipped for this, still seem to. I will never forget the shock of the "outing" and elect to get on with things, including ignoring the juvenile snickering that goes on behind my back. Basically, I have decided to be the grown-up.

In retrospect, I now find one more compelling reason for having reached out as I have; finding solace in those for whom my revelation brings only nods of understanding. "Yep, she found out what it's all about." Well yes and no. I wish, more than ever, that I could stop pretending at work; stop playing gay stuff I don’t care about; move forward all the faster. But then, I take the same risks that I have tried so hard to avoid all this time. It’s not time yet.

So, I will do as everyone else seems to. I will carry on and pretend that it’s a problem. I will move forward cautiously but with determination. I will also walk alittle taller, less afraid of the consequences and more aware of just how fragile relationships are. Trust, while not out the wind so will be harder to come by for a while. What a sad casualty of life.

Comments about this series can be addressed to Dal Maxwell at CPR, or by e-mail to her at dalmaxx@me.com.

Past Out: What was the custody battle over Sharon Kowalski?

By David Bianco

The recent discussions and debates over the question of same-sex marriage have to be understood against the context of the decades-long struggle by same-sex couples for legal recognition of their relationships. In the 1980s, no couple more to raise awareness of the injustice of American family law than Karen Thompson and Sharon Kowalski.

In 1979, Thompson and Kowalski became lovers, exchanging rings and naming each other as life insurance beneficiaries. Living in the town of St. Cloud, Minnesota, neither was public about her lesbian identity, nor was the nature of their relationship clear to anyone but their closest friends. Thompson and Kowalski were anything but gay-rights activists - Thompson even voted for Ronald Reagan for President in 1980. A tragic accident on a Sunday night in November 1983 changed all that. Kowalski, then 28, was hit by a drunk driver while crossing the street on her way home, even though several doctors had tried so hard to avoid all this time. It’s not time yet.

The Kowalskis did not take the news well. Calling Thompson "sick" and "crazy," they denied her further visitation rights and even accused her of sexually abusing their disabled daughter. They moved Sharon to another Minnesota facility several hours from Thompson’s home, even though several doctors had noted that Sharon responded best to therapy when she was in Thompson’s presence, and even though Sharon repeatedly indicated her desire to be reunited with her lover.

An intense legal battle ensued. At first, Thompson focused on the right to visit her lover. The Kowalskis and Minnesota courts denied her that right for almost four years. Thompson gave speeches and raised funds for her legal battle throughout the nation, even writing a book entitled Why Didn’t Sharon Kowalski Come Home? The couple’s plight became a rallying point for lesbian activists throughout the country - but it also found much resonance for gay men, many of whom were themselves dealing with legal issues surrounding visitation and guardianship rights as AIDS repeatedly pitted devoted lovers against each other. August 1988, more than a dozen cities around the country held "Free Sharon Kowalski Day" rallies to raise public awareness of the case.

In January 1989, Thompson finally won the right to visit her lover, although Sharon’s father Donald remained Sharon’s legal guardian. When the pair reunited, Sharon was moved to tears and typed "I love you" on her keyboard. But Thompson’s legal battle was far from over. Donald Kowalski had recently petitioned the court to be released from his legal guardianship of his daughter due to his own health concerns. Despite the fact that Thompson was the only individual to petition for guardianship, a
Money Matters:

by Peter Callnan, CPA

It is inevitable that we all are going to die and like it or not you really can’t take anything with you when you do. This is why having an estate plan is important. It will provide for the distribution of your accumulated wealth and assets. A good estate plan will insure that assets are transferred during life or after death and minimize any possible estate taxes. Taxes are the other inevitable thing, remember?

Estate Planning

All property including real estate, investments, cash and life insurance a person owns at the time of death comprise their assets. Assets in an estate receive a “step up” in value or increase in basis to their fair market value regardless of their actual cost. Each person can generally pass $600,000 worth of assets through their estate without any tax liability. The Unified Estate and Gift Tax Credit of $192,800 will offset $600,000 of estate value.

Do not presume that because you don’t have an estate of $600,000 or more that you don’t need to do estate planning. The primary purpose of estate planning is to distribute assets. If you can’t take it with you, who do you want it to go to? The document used to do this is a Will. It appoints someone, an executor, to oversee the distribution of your assets in accordance with your wishes as spelled out in the Will. They are also responsible for the filing of all required tax returns. If you die without a Will your assets are distributed in accordance with the provisions of state law by a court appointed administrator.

AGENDA from page 4

parents with children living at home or those dependents over three days in mid-September, including an oversampling of 50 black parents to allow analysis of differences between races. Welfare parents were excluded because the survey was intended to target depressed households.

Hewlett founded the National Parenting Association, a non-aligned, non-partisan group founded in early 1993 to “re-value the enterprise of parenting.”

VERMONT from page 5

tures a dynamic drag scene on Sunday evenings, should anyone wish to make a weekend of their Conference attendance.

Restaurants such as Peter Havens, T.J. Buckley’s, and coffeehouses are conveniently located downtown. Bookshops abound, with Everyone’s Books committed to peace and social justice and offering the largest selection of g/l/b/t merchandise north of Northampton and south of Burlington. Main Street is lined with specialty shops and boutiques, two art galleries, a food coop, an international award-winning bakery, two microbreweries, and the renovated art deco Latchis Hotel.

Cabar AIDS, a successful entertainment feature of past Conferences, will feature the gay male cabaret “Some Boys and Lovers” in a competition to benefit the Brattleboro Area AIDS Project.

Community Pride Reporter November, 1996 Page 9
PRESIDENT CLINTON A Record of Respect for Gay and Lesbian Americans

"My administration has taken more steps than any previous in bringing the gay and lesbian communities to the table. I am proud of my record, and it is a record to build on. I remain dedicated to ensuring equalization and protection of the civil rights of every citizen. In public life, I have worked relentlessly to empower people who historically have been on the losing end based on race, class, gender, disability, or sexual orientation. I remain committed to achieving that goal." President Bill Clinton

President Clinton is the first president to be personally and publicly committed to the principle of equality and acceptance for gays and lesbians. The Clinton Administration has broken through the barriers for gay rights and lesbians and continues to fight on their side—against bigotry, hatred, and the politics of division. Because of President Clinton's commitment to fairness, his Administration has promoted equality to gays and lesbians by:

* Signing an Executive Order eliminating the barriers to gays and lesbians receiving security clearances in the entire Executive branch, including the Departments of Defense, Justice and State, and instructing the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to direct Cabinet agencies and departments to issue policy statements banning discrimination based on sexual orientation;
* Endorsing the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which would outlaw discrimination in hiring, firing, and promotion based on sexual orientation by private employers—making President Clinton the first President to back civil rights legislation for gays and lesbians;
* Fighting successfully to repeal the Doman Amendment, which would have required the expulsion of all HIV-positive military service members, regardless of their ability;
* Signing the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act;
* Speaking out against anti-gay referenda and ballot initiatives in various states;
* Appointing the most inclusive Administration in history—over 100 openly gay and lesbian appointees, including former Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Roberta Achtenburg, and Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Bruce Lehman, the first openly gay individual confirmed by the U.S. Senate.
* Created a permanent Office of Women's Health Research and increased funding for women's health issues, including a 65 percent increase in breast cancer-related funding;
* Doubled funding for AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAP) helping people with AIDS gain access to prescription inhibitors and other AIDS drugs, and;
* Signed a law requiring that women, including lesbians, are included in the National Institutes of Health supported research.

BUILDING ON OUR PROGRESS

Because President Clinton strongly believes in the value of fairness, equality, and non-discrimination, he will:

* Continue to oppose discrimination against gay and lesbian Americans and to fight for the passage of ENDA;
* Continue to appoint men and women to his administration who reflect the strength and diversity of the American people;
* Fight to protect Medicaid, the largest single source of medical assistance for people living with AIDS, including 90 percent of the children living with the disease, and;
* Maintain his strong commitment to finding a cure for AIDS and to provide quality care for those living with HIV/AIDS.

DOLE/KEMP

On the Issues

Throughout his career, Bob Dole has been committed to the values of tolerance, equal rights, and equal opportunity for every American. However, Bob Dole does not support federal legislation that would create special rights for the gay community. He opposes lifting the ban on gays in the military. And he does not believe that homosexuality should be recognized as an acceptable "alternative lifestyle" or that the states should sanction same-sex marriages. Bob Dole is a co-sponsor of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

Bob Dole believes in helping HIV positive Americans and those with AIDS and those infected with the HIV virus. He has supported emergency grants to metropolitan areas reporting more than 2,000 cases of AIDS. Bob Dole has also voted for the re-authorization of the Ryan White legislation, which provides funding for primary care and support services for individuals who are HIV positive or have AIDS.
FROM: John Rensenbrink  Date: October 25, 1996

I am a very strong supporter of gay and lesbian rights and will if elected fight for their rights in the Senate of the United States.

TO: Community Pride Reporter
FROM: John Rensenbrink  Date: October 25, 1996

I have had and continue to have close connections and relationships with gays and lesbians among neighbors, students, friends and family.

I have supported the emerging gay and lesbian studies program at Bowdoin College and have counseled, helped, and become close friends with gay and lesbian students.

I supported and worked for the campaign last year for No On One. In my campaign appearances and canvassing, I have argued forcefully for the value of families and for a society in which people have the right to have the kind of family they want.

I abhor discrimination of any kind and feel that homophobia is the sort of hatred, which if it could/can be overcome, will free all human beings, free them to grow and develop their full potential and free to form genuine communities.

In other words, I am not only concerned to gain rights for gays and lesbians, but I am also deeply committed to celebrating the creative power of gays and lesbians for the greater good of society as a whole.

The Candidates

John Rensenbrink

I continue to support openly gay and lesbian staff people.

Joe Brennan

Joe Brennan absolutely will support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

Joe Brennan supports civil rights protections in employment, housing, credit, and public accommodations on the state and national levels.

Joe Brennan has a record as Governor and as US Congressman in supporting AIDS services and research. He will continue this record as a US Senator.

Joe Brennan has hired and will continue to employ openly gay and lesbian staff people.

Tom Allen

Tom Allen will have the power and the vote to defeat Jim Longley in Congress. I also want to pay tribute to your founder, Dale McCormick, on the outstanding campaign that she waged and for the enthusiastic support she has shown me since the primary.

Dale and I share a common objective: To defeat Jim Longley and to do our part in retiring Newt Gingrich and the extremists who currently control the House of Representatives. Just recently we have seen how important a single vote is when the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) failed to pass in the U.S. Senate on a vote of 50 to 49.

We also learned how important control of leadership is when Gingrich brought the ill-conceived Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) before the house. At best, this bill is unnecessary and constitutionally suspect. At worst, it represents contemptible "gay bashing", cynically employed to create and exploit divisions in our society. Yet with Gingrich and his mentor Trent Lott in charge, it passed in both houses of Congress.

Let me assure you that I support ENDA and oppose DOMA. You must never doubt my commitment to fight tirelessly to end discrimination in all forms.

In the coming campaign, I am determined not to let the extremists use divisive tactics to divert attention from the real problems that today threaten to undermine the nation's families; the growing income disparity between the very wealthy and the overwhelming majority of Americans; job insecurity and diminishing opportunity; quality education and job training; affordable universal health care; and a clean healthy environment. I believe that I am connected to the people of this district far better than my opponent is, or could ever hope to be.

I will challenge Jim Longley to defend his record of voting to further an extreme party agenda at the expense of Maine's working people.

In addition to my commitment to human rights, I will also work in Congress to fully fund the Ryan White Act and find ways to assure that the encouraging new AIDS treatments are readily available and affordable. I will be an advocate for women, especially to restore the barriers to keep them from achieving economic prosperity. I will staunchly oppose any effort to limit their right to choose.

I am confident that I can defeat Jim Longley, but to succeed, I will need vigorous support from groups like MLGPA and its members. Please call me at 774-9696 or send me any comments and suggestions by FAX at 774-7096, or e-mail at TomAllen96@hotmail.net.

Sincerely

Tom Allen

You've got the Power - VOTE!

by Karen Geraghty, President, MLGPA

The Candidates

John Rensenbrink

1 Judy Paradis, D-Frenchville

5 Jill Goldthwait, U-Bar Harbor

10 Tom Allen

11 Richard Ruhlin, D-Brewer

12 Joe Brennan

13 Mary Cathcart, D-Orono

14 Robert Murray, Jr., D-Bangor

15 Susan Longley, D-Liberty

16 Rochelle Pingree, D-No. Haven

17 Karen Geraghty, President, MLGPA

18 Dale McCormick, on the outstanding campaign that she waged and for the enthusiastic support she has shown me since the primary.

19 Barbara C. Holt, D-Alfred

20 S. Peter Mills, R-Skowhegan

21 Richard Carey, D-Belgrade

22 Anne Rand, D-Portland

23 Peggy Pendleton, D-Scarborough

24 John Portela, D-Brunswick

25 Brian Sessions, D-Norway

26 Jeffrey Butland, R-Cumberland

27 Lloyd LaFountain, D-Biddeford

28 Frederick Williams, D-Windham

29 Joel Abromson, R-Portland

30 Peggy Pendleton, D-Scarborough

31 Joan Pendexter, R-Scarborough

32 Brian Sessions, D-Norway

33 Joel Abromson, R-Portland

34 Peggy Pendleton, D-Scarborough
to playing in bands, touring the country more than once when it comes of the first full length solo album by Eugene, Oregon released a single and try and being recording music. She's then a full length album in 1993 on Butter, musical handiwork of DiFranco. So all you Ani fans out there, keep offering featuring the stories and rantings of Phillips backed by the inventive, musical handiwork of DiFranco. All you Ani fans out there, keep offering featuring the stories and rantings of Phillips backed by the inventive, musical handiwork of DiFranco.

...Self-Discovery Through Body, Mind & Spirit
Shiatsu & Transformational Breathwork

Louise L. Sims
Certified Shiatsu Practitioner
Certified Breath Facilitator

780-1208
111 Commercial St., Portland

Noonan Building & Wrecking

by Aimsel L. Ponti
Take a 61 year old travelling storyteller, songwriter and political activist. Then take Ani DiFranco, 26 year old folk-punk diva. What you end up with is the album "The Past didn't Go Anywhere." Yes folks, DiFranco's Righteous Babe label proudly release the collaborative offering featuring the stories and rantings of Phillips backed by the inventive, musical handiwork of DiFranco. All you Ani fans out there, keep offering featuring the stories and rantings of Phillips backed by the inventive, musical handiwork of DiFranco. All you Ani fans out there, keep offering featuring the stories and rantings of Phillips backed by the inventive, musical handiwork of DiFranco.

"Finally a Dyke Album for the Whole Family"

by Aimsel L. Ponti
Well, maybe not the whole family, but that's what it says on the back of the first full length solo album by Team Dresch member, Kaia. Just 22 years old, Kaia has been around the block more than once when it comes to playing in bands, touring the country and being recording music. She's been doing her thing since the age of 17. Her first band, ADICKDD, from Eugene, Oregon released a single and then a full length album in 1993 on their own label, G records. And then that band broke up. So Kaia hit the road with another musician, Mary Lou Lord (remind me to tell you all about her sometime...) for two months and played all over the country. In 1994 the band Team Dresch was formed and they released the album Personal Best on the Chainsaw/Candyass records, and followed it up this year with the album Captain My Captain. With this band, Kaia did a west coast tour as well as stints in Europe with the band Bikini Kill. Team Dresch also had the honor of headlining at 1995's Michigan Women's Music Festival. Also in '95, Kaia did some solo U.S. touring with the New York City band Vitapop.

I'm sitting here on this sunny Wednesday afternoon listening to the Kaia cd for about the fourth time through and I would have to say that it has officially grown on me. No it is not an earth shattering brilliant album, but who cares? This woman puts her heart and soul into her guitar playing, writes honest, catchy, sometimes painful songs and is damn cool. "I never thought I could act so strange, I always wanted to make sense," a line from the song Salamander is a sample of how Kaia's lyricist tell it like it is from her perspective. She doesn't go for the fancy, symbolic words and images. Instead she crafts her songs in a way that makes their stark honesty throb with a life of their own.

Noonan Building & Wrecking

by Dixie J. Townsend
Carol Noonan and her band recently released Noonan Building & Wrecking. This is Noonan's second solo album since her days with Knots & Crosses, a band that helped her earn a Boston Music Award for Best Female Vocalist in 1993.

I first heard Noonan when "Till I See You Again," from her first album Absolution, was playing on a Portland radio station. I have since become a Noonan fan. Noonan's music is hard to classify. It lies somewhere between folk and country while holding onto an edge that definitely rocks.

I have seen Noonan live a handful of times. Once seen in person you will be amazed by her voice and her band. Especially good live is "Ballad of Brownfield" a true account of a crime committed in Brownfield. The song takes on a much more eerie feel and sound live than it does on the CD.

Noonan Building & Wrecking is a good album and is getting more airplay in Nashville, (where Noonan is now managed) than in New England. The first two songs on the new album, "Love You Till the End," and "Come Up For Air," which happen to be my favorites, really rock. "Leavin' on Your Mind," a cover of a Patsy Cline song, is very well done and "Gettin'," a Mary Chapin-Carpenter sounding tune, is also catchy.

Although Noonan Building & Wrecking is thought by most to be a better album, I am particularly partial to Absolution. Either way you can't go wrong.
It’s not where you’ve been, it’s where you’re BOUND...

Film review by Aimsel L. Ponti

I saw it once, I was it twice. Now I think I’m ready to tell you about the movie “Bound.” This is the new, long-anticipated suspense thriller from directors Andy and Larry Wachowski. I’ve been seeing ads for it over the last several months in various publications, gay and otherwise. Jennifer Tilly and Gina Gershon, the films two stars have been making their way around the talk show circuit. The film, of course, took a couple of weeks from it’s national release date to make it here to Maine, but alas, we got BOUND.

I definitely liked this film. First, lets look at who’s in it. Jennifer Tilly... Here’s a woman who was pricelessly hysterical in last year’s “Bullets Over Broadway.” Second, Gina Gershon, who’s claim to fame was her role in last year’s “Showgirls.” Of course, it’s not necessarily admitting that I saw that film. And we can’t forget the actor, Joe Pantoliano. This guy’s been in a bunch of movies, usually playing seedy characters. This time around, he’s seedy and has mafia ties. I though his portrayal of the character “Cesar” was convincing. I mean, there could have been a dozen actors cast for that part, but I think they made a wise decision going with Pantoliano.

Now then, there’s the LESBIAN factor to look at. Gershon’s Corky character is both stereotypical and breathtakingly, well, the woman’s hot. I do feel the need to do a quick rundown of Corky’s lesbian stereotypes: Who the hell is named Corky? Nice men’s underwear. Love the old pick-up truck. Boy, you can fix anything... Want another bottle of beer? And finally, have a few more tattoos... Don’t get me wrong, despite all these silly characteristics, the Corky character is a force to be reckoned with. She’s smart, tough, and seductive. And she looks absolutely stunning with grease all over her. On the other hand, Jennifer Tilly’s “Violet” wears slinky black dresses, speaks with a sultry, if not slightly annoying, voice, and has a boyfriend. But, we soon discover that deep down inside she’s really a lesbian trapped inside of the body of a mafia-guy’s obedient girlfriend’s body. When Corky and Violet first see each other in the elevator of the building that the first woman is working at the and the second woman lives in, sparks are almost visible.

Soon after, the seduction... I’m not gonna tell you the details, this one you’ll want to see for yourself. Let’s just say that the temperature in the theater rose about 100 degrees. But you know something, BOUND is not a lesbian love story. After the two women get out of bed, the plot really begins. Violet convinces Corky to help her get away from the mob, but not before they steal two million bucks from under Cesar’s nose in a meticulously orchestrated scheme. This is when the romance takes back burner to painfully tense suspense, an obscenely violent mafia torture scene, and some serious butt-kicking of the physical and emotional kind. Although this is the first film from the Wackowski Brothes directors, I give them high marks for not making the lesbian element the focus of the film. Maybe next time you could spare us some of the blood, but keep up the suspense, I left the theater with knots in my back and shoulders. Try to catch it on the big screen if you can. Just one question, when’s Gina Gershon gonna be in another movie? I need to know...

Final Thoughts from Aimsel’s A&E Desk...

Hey there... It’s getting late on this post-flood Thursday night and I’m gonna head home soon. Just a few quick thoughts to welcome in November.

First off, much thanks to CPR contributor Dixie J. Townsend. In this issue she reviews albums by Carol Noonan and Shawn Colvin. Shawn’s album is great... Also, be on the lookout at your favorite independent record store for the new one by Luscious Jackson. It’s called Fever in, Fever Out. I’ve listened to it about 5 billion times and am left wondering why I wasn’t a fan of theirs sooner. Anyway, their album as well as the Josephine Wiggs Experience one are both on the very cool Royal Crown label. Jennifer Tilly and Gina Gershon, the films two stars have been making their way around the talk show circuit. The film, of course, took a couple of weeks from it’s national release date to make it here to Maine, but alas, we got BOUND.
Out of Town!

Paul T. Bernard
Have you heard the news? (I can't believe that you haven't): Walt Disney World is 25 years old! Can you believe it? It's hard to believe that 25 years have passed since Disney World opened. In the late 1960's, a team of Disney employees started buying land and set up under various corporations. They then bought all of the dummy corporations and transferred title for all of the land.

And the Disney Co. has come a long way in those 25 years also. About 5 years ago, they made sexual persuasion a protected status in their company policies. And just recently, they announced that company health benefits would be available to partners of gay and lesbian employees. This brought out a threat of a boycott from the Christian Right. But Disney has held its ground and hasn't budged an inch.

For those of you who are Disney nuts, like I am, will be interested in knowing just what Disney has planned for its 25 year birthday celebration. The year long party was kicked off on October 1st. Disney World has made some major changes at its parks. One of the most visible is a remake of the Cinderella Castle into a huge birthday cake. In addition to creating new parks for each of the three parks, Disney has rebuilt the Tomorrow World at EPCOT - updating its technology exhibits to be more in line with today's technological advances. Also at EPCOT, they've made major changes to Illuminations - the nighttime show, water, and lasers -- to include a more international flavor. At Disney-MGM Studios, they have doubled the size and capacity of the park.

One of the newest additions in the Orlando area is the Tower of Terror - which features a "Tilted Zone" type of elevator ride in which the riders are dropped 13 stories, lifted again in a high speed manner, and dropped again. Along here is Lion King - a combination of animatronics, puppets, and live actors. Back at the Magic Kingdom, they have remodeled Tomorrow Land to update its appearance. The newest attraction there is called "Alien Encounter" - which has to be the scariest attraction in Florida. The "Encounter" actually opened a year ago, but after the first month, it was decided to "tone it down" as it was really scaring people - children especially. After it was toned down, Disney honcho Mike Eisner took the ride and gave the order to put it back to the original design - he said it was supposed to be scary. And from what I've heard from people who have tried it, I can confirm it. If you're not into an scary ride, Disney's Pleasure Island has also expanded and now boasts a Planet Hollywood restaurant. In addition, they have created a new shopping area near EPCOT. The best time to visit may be during January up until mid-February or in May - early June.

RANT: "Didja watch the (yawn) debate?"

by David Cook

As I write this Rant, I am queasy from the morning-after symptoms of the first presidential debate - in particular, the creeping sense that honesty and spontaneity may have to be removed from the American political dictionary due to lack of relevance. As always, the President looked more 'presidential' than Bob Dole, whose rambling, shambling, babbling reminds us of Ronald Reagan on a good day. But was the debate a real election? When was the last time the ideas discussed or was it just a free chance to deliver what would normally be paid political announcements? In the aftermath of this exercise in "democracy" and the fatuous analysis that followed it, I found myself yearning for the galvanizing presence of a Jesse Jackson or a Ross Perot. Perot played a critical role in the debates. Declaring his presence and his pugnacious out-spokenness embarrassed the mainstream candidates into discussing the issues more fully than they had ever wanted to. In much the same way, when Jesse Jackson ran for President, he was the only candidate who spoke up for working people's real concerns.) But Perot is not to be a part of the debates; having discovered how unpredictable and tenuous he can be, neither party is anxious to share the podium with him. Don't get me wrong - for me to vote for Perot, there'd have to be an election in which Newt Gingrich was somehow running against Jesse Helms! But this is quite beside the point: limiting participation in the debates to only the well-behaved is a disservice to the electorate and to democratic principles. In some countries, a Jackson or a Perot would have a role in the formation of a new government. In America, with so much, so little, so many ideas discussed or was it just a free chance to deliver what would normally be paid political announcements? In the aftermath of this exercise in "democracy" and the fatuous analysis that followed it, I found myself yearning for the galvanizing presence of a Jesse Jackson or a Ross Perot. Perot played a critical role in the debates. Declaring his presence and his pugnacious out-spokenness embarrassed the mainstream candidates into discussing the issues more fully than they had ever wanted to. In much the same way, when Jesse Jackson ran for President, he was the only candidate who spoke up for working people's real concerns.) But Perot is not

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

The advantages would be great. The educational value would be enormous. The opportunity would also bring practical benefits to many couples. And, it lays the groundwork for future change, creates more options for many folks, and may open unexpected possibilities.

The marriage issue has tapped into a very deep emotional place for many people. At the same time, movement leaders thought strategically about how to make change. They did not begin with a full-frontal assault on the heart of segregation. They worked around the perimeter at first, attacking the separate but equal doctrine in places like medical schools and graduate education. Only when they had built up a base of initial victories did they go after segregation in the public schools; the smaller victories laid the groundwork for the big ones.

It would be a shame if we let the emotional power of the marriage issue die down after segregation in the public schools; the smaller victories laid the groundwork for the big ones.

Dear Editors/Publisher:

The subject of AIDS is very near and dear to my heart, being diagnosed with full-blown (where on earth did they get that term?) for about two years now, I know how important it is for me to get my hands on as much information as possible. I am a control over my life. May I suggest that CPR MAIL BAG: Community Pride Reporter November, 1996 Page 15
identity support

New Hampshire P-FLAG Meetings
Concord: Meets 3rd Saturday from 3-5 pm at Downtown Congregational Church, 100 Main Street, PO Box 1910, Concord, NH 03301. Call 603/775-9145.

Manchester: Meets 1st Tuesday from 5:30-7 pm at The Portland Community Center, 540 Hanover Street, Manchester, NH 03104. Call 603/626-0078.

Plymouth: Meets 1st Tuesday from 5:30-7 pm at the Mary D. Emerson Community Center, 1565 Stoney Brook Rd., Plymouth, NH 03265. Call 603/769-9145.

Upper Valley Region: Meets second Wednesday, 7:30 pm. Hanover. Call 603/643-8331.

Maine P-FLAG Meetings
Portland: Meets 2nd Tuesday at 7 PM at Portland Congregational Church, 202 Woodfords St, Portland, ME 04102. Call 207/774-6281.


A new gay, lesbian, bisexual support group for the Lewiston/Auburn area meets Mondays at 7 pm at the University of Maine, 87 St. Aubun. Call 207-774-3023.

LGBTQ Support Group
This LGBTQ Support Group welcomes all who identify as LGBTQ. It seeks to create a community where LGBTQ people can share their stories and support each other. Meetings are held on the first and third Thursday of the month. Call 207-774-3022.

SUNY, Support Network of those Affected by HIV, Monthly meetings for gay men, or women from the same community. Meetings are held on the first, third, and last Thursday of the month. Call 207/774-3022.

Maine AIDS Alliance
Member Organizations
AIDS Lodging House P.O. Box 3820, Portland, ME 04101-3820, Call 877-1000.

AIDS Coalition of Lewiston-Auburn: P.O. Box 7577, Lewiston, ME 04243-7577, Call 784-4637.

Community AIDS Awareness Program: c/o Maine Council on AIDS, 750 North St., Auburn, ME 04210, Call 784-4637.

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, Call 207/862-3432.

Dawn 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.

Nan’s Project/Maine P.O. Box 10248, Portland, ME 04107, Call 774-2198.

Oxford Hills Community AIDS Network: P.O. Box 113, Paris, ME 04271-0113, Call 743-6706.

Peabody House: 14 Orchard St., Portland, ME 04102, Call 774-6721.

PATS: P.O. Box 677, 100 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101, Call 774-8500.

PATS/Wets Are Wonderful Support 120 Maine Ave., Portland, ME 04101, Call 774-8500.

Peabody House: 14 Orchard St., Portland, ME 04102, Call 774-6721.

Waldos-Waldo AIDS Coalition: P.O. Box 536, Belfast, ME 04915, Call 515-1427.

Medical Support

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic
Confidential screening and treatment for STDs for residents or non-residents at a walk-in clinic. Low cost, medicaid accepted. Anonymous, confidential HIV testing by appointment only. Call 774-2198.

Teen Life Center
Youth Clinic sponsored by City of Portland Public Health. Monday-Friday, 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM. The homeless health team’s youth clinic is a place where you can receive free health care in a friendly environment. Meetings are held on St. Francis St., across from Portland High. Confidential health services with access to other support you may need. Drop in Wednesday 10-4; call 774-2198.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic
Portland STI Clinic provides full range of services from screening & treatment, education & counseling and HIV antibody testing and counseling. Located in Room 305 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.

The Rainbow Business & Professional Association
A statewide, non-profit organization established to create a gay, lesbian, b and transgendered "chamber of commerce" for Maine. Meetings for networking and sharing ideas on open issues and events, held in the Greater Portland area, second Monday of the month. Call 800/407-6822, Scarborough, ME 04070-6822, call 207/775-0015 or email webmaster@rainbow-me.net.

Maine Speaks! Project for Equal Rights:
Trains and deploys volunteers statewide to speak with citizens in groups in their towns and regions about their lives and the lives of others who experience discrimination. Information on events, held on various dates in your county. 207/879-0480 or write: MSF, 123 Congress St., #1, Portland 04101. You need not be a speaker to work with Speaker!

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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, Portland: 155 Forest St., 2nd floor. Portland. Safe & supportive discussions with and for gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning youth (incl. 14-18), TTY/HP or write to P.O. Box 5077, Portland, ME 04101.
Waldo-Knox: Meets every 2nd & 4th Thursday at UU Church corner of Canal & Lowell Sts. (near Dunkin Donuts). Call Steve or Gypsy at 603/792-0292. 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 Mid Island Church Annex (next to fire station), 206 Court St., Portsmouth NH. Call 603/431-1013, P.O. Box 842, Portsmouth NH 03801.

HIV Related Support Meetings

Portland: Mondays: People living with HIV disease and AIDS, caregivers, partners & caregivers, 6:30-8:00 PM. Tuesdays: People living with HIV disease and all friends, caregivers, lovers, and caregivers, 10:30 am-Noon.
2nd & 4th Tuesdays: Living Well focusing on quality of life & empowerment. 1st Wednesday: PAMS (Pets Are Wonderful Support), 5:30 pm. Call 775-532-3500, Ingraham Volunteers, Program Coordinator.
Thursday: 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., 4th floor.except the Tuesday group, Living Well. HIV on call that Sandy Titus at Stratton Health Care. Call Jane O'Kourke at 774-6877 or 1-800-851-2437 for more information.

National Center for Lesbian Rights Youth Project: 1-800-528-NCLR
Boston Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Youth (BAGLY): 1-800-324-1076.
National Hotline for gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender youth Call 1-800-208-0102. Sponsored by the Indianapolis Youth Center. 7-10 pm Sunday to Thursday, 7 pm to midnight Friday and Saturday. Staffed & trained, peer youth counselors. Confidential and anonymous.

DIAL AIDS: 774-TALK. For lesbian, gay, bisexual & questioning youth under 19 yrs.
Ingram Volunteers: Call 774-HHELP (774-4355).
Bridgton: Community Task Force on AIDS: 583-6608.
Rumford: Community AIDS Awareness Program: 823-4170.

Lewiston: AIDS Coalition of Lewiston/AIDS: 786-4697
Mid Coast: Gay men's HELP Line, 6-10 pm (only): 207/863-2272, FAX: 207/863-2749. Also, gay youth info.
Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG)

Contacts in Maine

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 207/773-5033.
Maine Frontrunners A gay and lesbian running club sponsoring weekly run in Portland. We meet at 7:30 pm. Contact the beginning of Back Cove Walkway (corner Baxter Blvd. & Preble St. Ext.), Saturdays, 9 am. FMI: Jen, 761-2059 or Jen@828-8896.
SOLO Monthly Gatherings for Older, Single Lesbians for fun & friendship. FMI: Kathy 207/688-4737 or 207/725-0179.

Seacoast Gay Men Social group for gay men (except holidays), 7 pm Unitarian Universalist Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH. FMI call (603) 430-4052, or write to P.O. Box 1384, Portsmouth 03802-1394.

Mountain Valley (VMV) A group of gay men of all ages in the western mountains. Volunteers who get together for pot luck dinners, hiking, canoeing, skiing and other activities. FMI: Written to Box 306, Center Conway, NH 03813-0036 or call Paul at 207/925-1034.

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, Southport, WA, 98669. FMI: (206) 289-2502 and leave a message.

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

The 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 MDMC, P.O. Box 1035, Portland, ME 04104.
The Maine Gay Visual Artist's League will meet on the third Wednesday of every month. The League is a nonprofit, creative support network for Maine's gay & lesbian visual artists community. FMI, call 775-3420.

Phone Support By Region

DIAL AIDS: 774-TALK. For lesbian, gay, bisexual & questioning youth under 19 yrs.
Ingram Volunteers: Call 774-HHELP (774-4355).
Bayside: Veterans Affairs HIV/AIDS Hotline 1-800-429-1481.
Bridgton: Community Task Force on AIDS: 583-6608.
Rumford: Community AIDS Awareness Program: 823-4170.

MUSIC & ART

Online/Internet

The Maine GayNet Mail List

Share your ideas and opinions with other list members. To subscribe to this list, send a blank email to majordomo@abacus.oxyc.edu. In the message part, write "subscribe gaynet"

The Maine GayNet Home Page

An ever-changing display of events and meetings. Contact people, resources, & referrals. Point your WEB Browser to: http://www.qrd.org/QRD/

Social Groups

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>November 7 - November 10</td>
<td>Community Pride Reporter November, 1996</td>
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| November 7 | "Dealing With Con­drop-in discussion group at the Black Swan Restaurant,207-769-0073.  
  That evening has always been a great deal of fun at Camp Chrysalis, and some of the photographs he has taken over the past four years will be exhibited at The Underground. In connection with the exhibit, a benefit for the kids of Camp Chrysalis is scheduled for Sunday, October 10 at The Underground at 10 PM. |

Rainbow Business & Professional Association sponsors 2nd Annual Bizarre Bazaar

RBPA’s 2nd Annual Bizarre Bazaar will be held on Sunday, December 8th at the Embassy Suites in Portland from noon to 5 p.m. Over forty vendors of crafts, gifts, and wares are expected to participate in the exhibit. Following the bazaar, there will be a cocktail reception and dinner. The highlight of the evening will be an auction at the end of the dinner, with a visit by Santa Claus. Admission to the Bizarre Bazaar and Auction are free. Cost of the Christmas Buffet Dinner is $30 per person.

H.O.P.E. CONCERT

For the fourth year, the HIV/AIDS peer education team at the College of the Atlantic is presenting the H.O.P.E. concert. H.O.P.E. stands for Helping Ordinary People Exist...with AIDS. The concert is an evening of glittering entertainment with Maine’s foremost female impersonators. This year’s concert is in tribute to Lexie Love (Alex Guerette) who died of complications from AIDS on April 11th. Alex had raised thousands of dollars for AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region, 25 Roxbury St., Keene NH. FMI Rodney or Jan 603-357-6855 or 800-639-7903.

Free Cancer Screening Clinic offered by LHP/SM

The Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine, in conjunction with Portland Public Health, will offer its third Cancer Screening Clinic for Lesbians on Saturday, December 7, 1996, from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. LHP/SM has served over 25,000 women 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 make 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)657-8564.

November 1 through November 10

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Come on out to the Bazaar and find a gift for that special person or persons in your life. For more information, please call 775-0077.

RBPA also is selling its membership directory listing over 100 gay/lesbian businesses and professionals in Maine. Why not spend your dollars with gay and gay-friendly businesses and professionals and support your community? The directory sells for $2. Call 775-0077 for more information.

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HELP WANTED

ΔΔ HOUSEMATE WANTED: LF, Professional, 40's seeks N/S to share 2 bdrm country home. 10 minutes from L.L. Bean. Your own 2 rooms + common space. $350 month + 1/2 utilities. (207) 688-4905.

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HELP WANTED

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

COMMUNITY PRIDE REPORTER

Subscription Form

Yes, I want to subscribe to the Community Pride Reporter. Subscription rate is $25.00 for 12 issues. (more if you can, less if you can't) CPR is mailed in a plain envelope, the return address reads: CPR, PO Box 178, Saco, ME 04072.

Name:

Address:

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Please make check payable to: Community Pride Reporter & mail to: PO. Box 178, Saco, ME 04072. *We acknowledge the varying degrees to which members of our community can pay, and we respect their choice. If printing a return address is ever a problem, please let us know.
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