Suzanne Westenhoefer plays Portland

by Tania Jo Hathaway

"One of the worlds most visible and popular openly gay comedians, Suzanne Westenhoefer, makes a rare New England appearance Sunday March 2 at Portland's State Street Church. Showtime is 7 p.m. A post-show reception with Suzanne at Katahdin restaurant will benefit the Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine." Richard Lawlor, Above and Beyond. Read more about Suzanne on page 8.

The Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine (LHP/SM), now in its third year of operation, is a community-based organization whose goal is to improve the health and wellness of lesbians living in southern Maine. LHP/SM offers medical and educational services to lesbians; educational training to health professionals; and political advocacy around health issues affecting lesbian communities in southern Maine.

LHP/SM is coordinated by an Advisory Group who volunteer services in their particular area of expertise—health education, clinical nursing, mental health, social work, legal advice, organizational development, etc.

Since its formation in 1994, LHP/SM has conducted free cancer screening clinics for lesbians; conducted outreach efforts to other health-related organizations; offered workshops on lesbian-related health issues; provided telephone referral services; conducted a survey of local lesbian health needs; provided consultation on lesbians health issues to the Breast and Cervical Health (BCHP) program at Portland Public Health; provided statewide training to BCHP coordinators statewide; and served as the "rural" consult to a national organization developing educational materials for lesbians.

Plans for the spring of 1997 include a free cancer screening clinic and a day-long conference on lesbian health, "History of the Lesbian Health Movement."

Thirty-four years ago, the Commissioner of Public Health in New York City—a well-respected medical professional—came forward to speak to his colleagues in the public health field, thus breaking down enormous stereotypes mounting his peers and essentially birthing the gay and lesbian health movement. The Commissioner's primary agenda was the removal of homophobia as a mental illness from the American Psychological Association's guidelines, a battle he had been leading for some years. In 1973, the same year he came "out" to his colleagues, his battle was successful, marking a long-lasting victory for lesbians and gay men both nationally and internationally.

Early attempts to change the organization of America's health system came from professional associations like the Gay Nurses Alliance. These professional organizations formed to advocate on behalf of their specialty and their sexual orientation within the health system, and in 1976 these groups joined together under an umbrella organization which today we know as the National Lesbian and Gay Health Association.

See Suzanne, page 10

Holiday Inn reports mixed reaction to Transsexual Ad

NEW YORK (AP) Holiday Inn Worldwide got gripes as well as cheers for its Super Bowl commercial that tried to dramatize the chain's renovation program by showing a transsexual at a class reunion.

About two dozen people called corporate headquarters about the commercial, said Craig Smith, a spokesman for the Atlanta-based hotel chain. Half of the callers liked it and the other half didn't.

About 30 calls also came in from franchises, and were 5-to-1 in support of the ad, according to Gary Schabet, head of the hotel's franchise owner group.

The commercial showed a woman striding into a hall for a class reunion, drawing admiring glances as a narrator noted what it cost for her new nose, lips and chest.

She eventually runs into an old classmate who insists on guessing her name. The man shudders as he recognizes her as Bob Johnson from the old days.

"It's amazing the changes you can make for a few thousand dollars," the narrator says. The hotel chain is promoting its own $1 billion renovation program.

"There have been people who felt it was a very creative approach and funny, and there were those who did not like the creative treatment we took," Smith said. "If we offended anyone with the treatment we took, we apologize." But Smith also said he was speaking for himself, and not necessarily the company, when offering apologies.

He said company executives plan to meet this week to decide how the ad will be used in the future. It was not intended to be part of a more conventional campaign debuting by the end of March, he said.

"This was an attention-getter," Smith said.

Ellen Degeneres films an impromptu "Coming Out" episode

by David Bander

NEW YORK (AP) — At a rock 'n' roll fantasy camp with David Crosby, Bonnie Raitt and Aaron Neville, the TV character "Ellen" belts out a song with an eye-opening last verse: "By the way, I'm gay." "I'm OK. I'm gay!"

Just don't expect to see this particular episode on ABC anytime soon.

ABC executives have confirmed the months-long rumor that they are considering a story line on "Ellen" where comic Ellen Degeneres' character reveals she is a lesbian.

During a show taping Friday, Degeneres cut three takes of a segment where she sings a song, "I'm Scared of Being Afraid," according to Touchstone Productions, which makes the show.

The third take included the unscripted "coming out" declaration, which sources said was greeted by wild cheers.

A Touchstone official said privately that Degeneres was blowing off some steam after hearing that her show was being taken off the air during March and April to make room for a new Arsenio Hall comedy.

"It's not intended for a telecast. It is not going to become a "clustered" gay character," said ABC spokeswoman Janice Gretemeyer.

ABC Entertainment President Jamie Tarses said last week that a "coming out" episode was being worked on, but that the network wants to see if it works creatively before making a decision on going ahead.

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, which maintains an "Ellen watch" page on the Worldwide Web, criticized Tarses for "waffling" on the story line since rumors began last fall.

"We hope they stop dragging their feet," alliance spokesman Alan Klein said Monday. "The American public is ready, willing and able to see this as soon as possible."
King eyes same sex marriage issue as petition signatures are filed

BY FRANCIS X QUINN
Maine (AP) - Gov. Angus King has suggested that he would not oppose a citizen initiative to bar recognition of same-sex marriage in Maine, despite his comments that the effort may be constitutionally flawed.

King's comments came as Concerned Maine Families filed with the state what it said were 62,157 signatures with elections officials. If verified, the petitions would force a referendum on the same-sex marriage ban unless it wins approval in the Legislature.

The initiative is an outgrowth of a 1993 ruling by the Hawaii supreme court that said it might violate that state's Constitution to deny marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

The Concerned Maine Families proposal includes language declaring that "persons of the same sex may not contract marriage." It also would require the state to refuse to recognize such marriages performed in other states.

Critics of the initiative have maintained that same-sex marriages are not legally recognized in Maine now and that the Hawaii case has not yet reached a final resolution, making legislative action in Maine at least premature.

King partially allied himself with that view Tuesday, telling reporters he believed it "would be inclined to sign it" if it had been a strong supporter of so-called gay rights legislation aimed at outlawing discrimination against homosexuals in a number of areas.

In 1995, Concerned Maine Families spearheaded an unsuccessful campaign to restrict gay rights in Maine.

Survey authors said the results were based on interviews with 450 citizen statewide between Jan. 9-14 and carried a statistical margin of error ranging from plus or minus 7.7 percent to 8.3 percent.

The survey authors said this month's findings were similar to those in the organization's October 1996 poll.

"Homosexuals are like gold Visa cards - we're everywhere you want to be!"

łThe world - according to Westenhoefer

For Westenhoefer, Gay Activism is being herself."

Los Angeles Times

"A center stage diva, Suzanne bursts out of her closet with explosions that could make even Bette Midler blush."

The New York Daily News

"Dism空气中ny funny in all the unpolitically correct ways."

The Dallas Morning News

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House approved same-sex couples benefits bill falls short...

by Bruce Danford
HONOLULU (AP) A bill to give same-sex couples some of the benefits extended to married couples won overwhelming approval Friday by the state House, but it stays far short of the domestic partnership legislation sought by the gay community.

The 41-4 approval of the "Reciproc­cal Beneficiaries" measure comes on the heels of Thursday's House passage of a proposed constitutional amendment to undo state court rulings that same-sex marriages must be allowed.

The House action came just hours before more than 3,000 supporter­ ers of the ban on same-sex marriage con­­erged in the Capitol for an upbeat demon­­stration that included music and speeches.

"We are here to let them know how much we cherish traditional mar­riage in Hawaii," said Lamar Benavides, the master of ceremonies for the gather­­ing sponsored by the Hawaii's Future Today, a coalition of opponents to same-sex marriage.

"Honolulu not Honolulu," read one of the larger signs in the crowd.

Rush-hour traffic on South Beretania Street separated the crowd from a contingent of 33 sign-holding supporters of same-sex marriages. Passing motorists honked in support of the larger group, causing cheers to erupt from that crowd.

Both House measures go to the Senate where a bill combining the amendment and benefits for gay and lesbian couples was introduced Friday by Sens. Avery Chumbley and Matt Matsunaga, co-chairmen of the Judiciary Committee.

"We recognize that the public wants to decide whether marriage should be between one man and one woman, but why would anyone want to deny funda­mental civil rights on the basis of sex," Matsunaga said.

The Senate bill proposes a con­stitutional amendment to allow the state to limit marriage to the couples of the opposite sex, provided "that such reservation shall be effective only if laws do not deprive any person of civil rights on the basis of sex."

Differences between the House and Senate bills would be worked out in a conference committee, but lead­ers of both sides say they are committed to expediting the measure.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Terrance Tom said the ben­efits bill for same-sex couples and other legislation "are necessary but are barred from getting married addresses issues most frequently raised during hearings. They include the right for hospital visitation and health decisions, joint property rights, inheritance rights and the right to sue for wrongful death.

"This is not a domestic partnership bill because it does not create an economic union which can only be dis­solved in court," Tom said.

It does not include benefits for all unmarried couples living together "because I don't think we should adopt legislation that would act as an alterna­tive to marriage for opposite sex couples," Tom said.

It would be inappropriate to un­dermine the value of marriage or to dis­­ourage opposite-sex couples from get­­ting married, he said.

Rep. Bob McDermott, one of four freshmen Republicans who cast the only "no" votes, said the measure tries to give special rights to same-sex couples who already have equal rights like everyone else.

He cautioned his colleagues that passage of the bill would start the state on what he called "the slippery slopes to domestic partnerships."

Hawaii was thrown into the same-sex marriage issue when the State Supreme Court in 1993 ruled that the state could not deny marriage licenses to gay and lesbian couples unless it could show a compelling reason to do so because it violated the state Constitution's ban on gender discrimination.

Last month, Circuit Judge Kevin Chang ruled that the state had failed to show a compelling reason at a 10-day trial in September.

NGLTF Government Response to AIDS: A Decade Late

Keith A. Anastasi, Program Asso­ciate NGLTF Policy InstituteFifteen years into the AIDS epidemic and over 300,000 lives lost, and the federal gov­ernment recently released its first Na­tional AIDS Strategy. Outgoing National AIDS Policy Director Patricia Fleming said in the foreword: "The appendix of this report lay out, for the first time, detailed descriptions of the objectives and goals... involved in the Federal re­sponse to HIV."

Nearly two decades of sickness and death and the government is praising the release of its first strategy to deal with the worst public health crisis in modern history. Our government should be em­barrassed that it has taken over a decade to produce a National AIDS Strategy. I have lived with HIV, dealt with our fed­eral system of care, and fought for the needs of people with HIV/AIDS and those struggling to remain unin­fected for over 10 years. I had hoped the report would outline the programs and fund­ing we desperately need and that our government was finally getting serious about a solution for the complex prob­lems of the epidemic. The report falls well short of that hope.

The report shows that HIV infected

See NGLTF, page 12

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Anita Bryant's crusade two decades ago - a watershed for Gay Rights

BY WILL LESTER

MIMI (AP) - Singer Anita Bryant had celebrity, money and public sentiment behind her when she answered her pastor's challenge to lead the crusade to repeal a local gay rights ordinance.

The orange juice pitchwoman and former beauty queen, aided by conservatives across the country, helped gain the repeal of the Dade County gay rights ordinance that went into effect 20 years ago Tuesday.

Mimii Christian won that repeal election by June of 1977, but she found an unlikely and formidable foe in a little-known, former anti-war activist with a keen sense of publicity named Desiree Kunst and clinical psychologist Alan Rockway was a professional of the potentially dangerous campaign led by Kunst and clinical psychologist Alan Rockway was a professional of the potentially dangerous campaign led by Kunst and clinical psychologists Alan Rockway and Kenneth Rockway.

The gay rights ordinance failed twice with Dade County voters, but a state constitutional amendment passed in 1978 to address many of the same issues.

Nine states, more than 100 cities and hundreds of corporations ban discrimination based on sexual orientation, Rockway says. The culture looks at gays, lesbians and bisexuals in a completely different way, she says, noting that in an era when the movie industry with gay characters, storylines and gay actors playing straight characters are not unusual.

The gay rights battle is still controversial when it comes to institutions like the military with its "don't ask, don't tell" policy and the furor over gay marriage.

But conservatives two decades ago may have underestimated the widespread backlash against Bryant's "Save Our Children" campaign. Bryant focused on how the ordinance could force schools to hire gay teachers and deny the backing of church groups and conservative politicians across the country.

Kunst, with experience in sales and marketing, knew how to tell the story and protested to Ms. Bryant's corporate backers, who often dread such things. And so was Green's role as her nemesis.

Bryant, who then lived in Miami Beach, quickly lost her singing career, a waste of time," he says. "Not only did she lose her career, she lost her world." And so was Green's role as her nemesis.

"We lost just about everything you can lose," he says. "In retrospect, if God wanted the results to be what they were, he could have done it without Anita Bryant.

"From my perspective it was a waste of time," he says. "Not that the cause wasn't just, but if you had a referendum here now, the gays would win, hands down.

At her dinner theater in Branson, Mo., Ms. Bryant has rediscovered loyal listeners, "Lawrence Welk kind of people," says Green. Annette Scott, her personal assistant, said Ms. Bryant was on vacation and not available to discuss the anniversary.

When she released her book four years ago, Bryant said, "I want everything." She wants to be remembered as a woman, bar couples of the same gender from marrying, and prevent the state from recognizing a same-sex marriage performed in another state.

The legislation, sponsored on Thursday by Rep. Nancy Sheltra, R-Derby, and several other lawmakers, is similar to bills that have been introduced in legislatures around the country in response to a court case pending in Hawaii.

A court there has ruled that gay marriages are legal, but the Hawaii Supreme Court is now reviewing the decision. Opponents of same-sex unions fear that people might marry in Hawaii and then demand recognition in their home states.

Vermont law does not currently recognize same-sex marriages, but opponents fear that a state court might interpret state law to permit them.

Evelyn Hooker - Unsung Hero

BY John D'Emilio Director, NGLTF Policy Institute

Evelyn Hooker died in November at the ripe old age of 89. I'm willing to lay money that not many of us know who she is or what she did. Yet she deserves the status of hero in our community as a pioneering psychologist whose research has changed our world. Her career is also a fascinating case study of the potentially productive relationship between "the expert" and a social movement.

Hooker earned a Ph.D. in psychology in the early 1930s—not an easy achievement for an American woman of that era—and was teaching at UCLA when a former student who had become a friend challenged her to study him and his other gay male friends. "Science" was pretty clear in its attitudes toward homosexuality in the mid-20th century.

Physicians, psychoanalysts, and psychologists agreed that homosexuality was a mental disorder that needed treatment and cure. Since virtually all of the homosexuals whom professionals studied were either institutionalized or seeking medical help, it wasn't hard to prove that we were sick and disturbed. With the help of the recently formed Mattachine Society in southern California, Hooker became the first professional to assemble a group of non-patient gay men, and match them with a group of heterosexuals with similar demographic characteristics.

She then administered a series of standard psychological tests to each group and asked a panel of professionals, who were kept in the dark about the identity of the subjects, to evaluate the test results. Much to their surprise, and to Hooker's delight, they were unable to tell the homosexuals from the heterosexuals, and rated the gay subjects high in personality development and emotional adjustment.

Two decades later, when I interviewed Hooker for a book I was writing on the homosexual movement of the 1950s, she chuckled mischievously as she remembered how baffled the other professionals were by the outcome.

See Hooker, page 10

Vermont bill introduced to Ban Gay Marriages

By Montana Director, NGLTF Policy Institute

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - A bill that would ban gay marriages was introduced in the Vermont House, but it may not go anywhere.

The proposal would define a marriage as a union between a man and a woman, bar couples of the same gender from marrying, and prevent the state from recognizing a same-sex marriage performed in another state.

The legislation, sponsored on Thursday by Rep. Nancy Sheltra, R-Derby, and several other lawmakers, is similar to bills that have been introduced in legislatures around the country in response to a court case pending in Hawaii.

A court there has ruled that gay marriages are legal, but the Hawaii Supreme Court is now reviewing the decision. Opponents of same-sex unions fear that people might marry in Hawaii and then demand recognition in their home states.

Vermont law does not currently recognize same-sex marriages, but opponents fear that a state court might interpret state law to permit them.
Homosexuals, even viewed as one dimensional by others

by Brian Willechowsky

VANCOUVER (AP) - In a history class debate this year, Allison Hector volunteered to take the side opposing the legalization of gay marriages. She tiptoed off her arguments:

"It's morally wrong and says so in the Bible. And it's just very gross."

"Children shouldn't be raised in that kind of environment."

"And it doesn't matter anyway, because God's killing all queers with AIDS."

She paused, caught her breath.

"That last one was the hardest to say," the 15-year-old said. Hector has a shy, sometimes sly smile. She lives with her mother in Vancouver and attends the Vancouver School for Arts and Academics, where she is a sophomore. She plays in a band, attends the Unitarian church, wants to be a writer and doesn't back down from a challenge.

Proof of the latter is apparent in the side Hector chose for the debate; she is a lesbian.

No one knows how many gay teenagers are in Clark County, but Celeste Basket of Everett has encountered gay teenagers interested in his gay and lesbian youth group. A dozen young people typically attend meetings.

"I'm sure there are young (gay and lesbian) people who see the meeting files and run the other way," said Basket, a youth outreach worker for the Vancouver-based non-profit agency, which opened in April. "Either they're not able to admit their sexuality to themselves, or they're worried someone might see them locally and tell his family."

Jill Hector, 41 and a single mother, works as a substitute teacher in the Vancouver and Evergreen school districts. She and daughter Allison moved here 11 years ago from New Jersey. At first, Allison was confused about her sexuality.

"I had crushes on girls back in sixth and seventh grade," she said.

By eighth grade, it was clear to Allison that she was a lesbian. She told a few friends, then her mother.

"I wasn't that surprised," said Jill, who is heterosexual. "I had a semi-general feeling about it, and she knows I'm open-minded."

So far, Allison said, it's been a relief to live openly as a lesbian.

"You don't have to hide it anymore," she said. "There's a lot of bad things that could happen, name-calling and stuff, but I haven't experienced any of that yet. So far."

Allison finds that some people want to focus on her homosexuality at the expense of other aspects of her life, making her one-dimensional.

"Some people treat me differently when they find out," she said. "They think I should speak for all queer people, as if my opinion is the same as everyone else who is gay, as if I speak for all lesbians on the planet."

Others, she said, take a narrower approach, concentrating solely on the "sex" in homosexuality, or focusing on the more flamboyant members of the gay community.

"All some people see is drag queens, but there's so much more to it than that," she said. "And some people want to 'fix' me. Well, there's nothing to be fixed."

Some disagree with that. In October, Washington for Traditional Values, a Vancouver-based anti-homosexual group, promoted a campaign to "offer hope" to what Executive Director Robert Larmer Jr. described as "people involved in homosexual lifestyles (who) feel trapped, unfulfilled and frightened at the continued exposure to high risk behaviors."

"It's just who I am," she said.

Noel Stoup of Battle Ground has been called "fag" and "queer," but he doesn't consider himself a gay man.

"It didn't bother me in the least," the 18-year-old said. "My friends and family accept me, and that's what's important."

Noel's father, 44-year-old Dean Stoup, said he had an idea that Noel was gay, but he had no means of knowing.

"I wasn't surprised," he said.

Also he wasn't judgmental. "I told him it was nothing to be ashamed of," said Dean. "It's how you feel about it, what you want to do with it; it is her life."

Ban on training gay teachers sparks controversy

by Grant Peck

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) - A controversy over whether homosexuals should be barred from being trained as teachers has sparked a rare outburst of intolerance of gays.

Education Minister Sukhavich Rangsitpol, an outspoken supporter of the ban, even said that gay men are "sick... both physically and mentally" and prone to becoming male prostitutes.

The comments added to a debate triggered this month by the closure that Thailand's 36 teachers' colleges would not accept gay students in the belief that homosexuals serve as poor role models for youngsters.

The debate is unusual for this Southeast Asian country, which is markedly tolerant on issues of sexuality.

Amusement is normally the strongest reaction to the everyday sight of men who walk, talk and dress like the most feminine of women. Thai women are open-minded, not serious," said Dejdoej Srichai, a developer who received no protest when he launched a gay residential project. "They respect each other's privacy. They don't think it's a big deal.

So it came as a surprise when the Rajaphat Institute, the collective name for the teachers colleges recently announced it would not admit gay students.

"Homosexual teachers would affect young students just like younger brothers look at their teachers and absorb things," said Sirote Pholphutin, director of a Bangkok branch.

Those who would teach young students should be idealistic and perfect, they should be normal."

What galls supporters of gay rights is that Rajaphat officials have suggested that the real danger is that homosexuals are emotionally unstable.

The announcement of the ban followed a highly publicized murder of a lesbian university student by a gay male friend. Neither was training to be a teacher, and the killing had no evident link to their sexual orientations.

No one thing people are most concerned about is that certain homosexual people tend to have unstable feelings and have no parental instincts," said Rajaphat's Sirote.

Such attitudes have drawn criticism from human-rights groups and others who say there is no evidence that gay people are any more or less emotionally unstable than heterosexuals.

"It's not right and not fair," said Nato Tenearajaanapong, a well-known writer, gay-rights activist and director of the Preruksa Foundation for AIDS Cessation in Thailand. "They should understand that personality has nothing to do with sex preference, and they should think that no matter what sex people are, if they don't have the proper character, they should be disqualified to work as a teacher."

Representatives of about a dozen activist and academic organizations wrote a letter to the education minister protesting that the ban

See Ban, page 10
MLGPA Update

The Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance is in full legislative swing. On one front we have the statewide anti-discrimination bill (often nicknamed the gay rights bill). If passed, this bill would alter the Maine Human Rights Act to include "sexual orientation" as a group of individuals to be protected from discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and credit. On another front, we have Carolyn Cosby and her anti-gay marriage initiative. She recently submitted her signatures to the state, so she is well on her way to bringing this debate to the public. On yet another front, we will be working to defeat an alleged Christian Civic League-affiliated gay adoption and foster care bill attacking gay adoption and foster care.

MLGPA is devoting a significant amount of time and resources to the legislative campaign. We will lobby hard for the anti-discrimination bill, which has its first chance ever of being signed into law. We are looking for volunteers who are interested in being part of the legislative campaign. We have legislative branches in Portland, Augusta, and Bangor, with more groups in the making. Work to be done includes a letter writing campaign, phone banking, participating in constituent lobby days, mailings, and much more. If you are interested, please call the MLGPA office (1-800-55-MLGPA...... or 761-3732 in greater Portland) with your name, address, and phone.

12th Annual MLGPA Awards Banquet

MLGPA is holding its 12th Annual Awards Banquet on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1997, at the Augusta Civic Center. Tickets are $30 and reservations should be made by February 3. If you would like to attend and have not made reservations, please call Harold at 623-8383.

The Awards Banquet is a special celebratory event for the greater Portland community. Not only do we dine and dance in good spirits with good friends, but we use the occasion to honor individuals who have given of themselves to better our community. Too often we don't get to say thank you to those who are doing the work and fighting the fight. Though we are not able to honor all the people who have contributed significantly during the last year, we will at least thank some of them.

Please join us for a very special evening. Call 623-8383 for questions and reservations.

Women First offers Lesbian Peer Education

by Nina R. Mollicone

The two greatest risk factors for developing breast and cervical cancer are being female and growing older. Many women do not know this simple fact. In lieu of funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Maine is one of 40 states offering life-saving breast and cervical early detection screening and education. The Women First Breast and Cervical Health Program, sponsored by the City of Portland Health Division, provides breast and cervical cancer detection screening and education for women in Cumberland County and the surrounding rural regions. Emphasis is placed on reaching women over 40, low income women, lesbians and rural women.

A vital part of Women First's mission is education. To meet this end, Women First has trained peer educators, lesbian and non-lesbian, who are available to present programs in the Greater Portland area on breast and cervical health. The programs, which are about one hour in length, are designed to be presented to small groups of 5 to 15 women in comfortable, related settings. Although the presentations are available to any women's group, the target population is the lesbian and bisexual communities. Programs are free of charge and can be scheduled day or evenings. For more information, to schedule a life-saving program for women you know, or to find out if you qualify for free early detection screenings, call Maureen Clancy, Women First Coordinator, at 874-8774.

On Saturday, March 15, 1997 in Portland, the Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine, in conjunction with Women First, will offer free women's health screenings with lesbian knowledgeable providers. For more information, contact the Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine at 657-3864.

Full Circle of Women

A radically different, politically incorrect exploration of what it means to be a woman—that is Full Circle of Women.

According to the group's brochure, "it is time for a reformation of feminism, for a philosophy that embraces all women—not just those who are politically correct, not just those with a certain sexual orientation, not just "ge- netic" women, but all who identify as women."

"Full Circle of Women is for woman-identified individuals living their lives as women—transgendered, nontransgendered ("biological"), transsexual (preoperative and postoperative), and intersex people living as women."

One of the group's annual workshops will be held April 6-7 at the Essex Conference Center and Retreat in Essex, Massachusetts. Workshop participants come together as experts on their own lives, teaching and learning from one another.

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Full Circle of Women

Participation by women who identify as lesbian, bisexual, heterosexual, transgendered, nonsexual, or other-sexual is encouraged. Women of all colors, shapes, and sizes are welcome. Anyone unsure of whether the conference and workshops are for them can call 310-670-2222 for further information.

Cost of the weekend is $265, which includes double or triple accommodations, all meals from a light supper Friday night through lunch on Sunday, use of the hot tub and sauna and all workshops. If financial assistance is needed, contact the group as soon as possible. All fees must be paid by March 15, 1997.

Space is limited to 30 participants, so it is important to register as soon as possible. For further information on any aspect of Full Circle of Women, contact: Janis Walworth at the Center for Gender Sanity, PO Box 45427, Westchester CA 90045, phone 310-670-2222, fax 310-216-9463, email: merkin77@scil.com

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News from the Granite State

G L S T N New Hampshire ... teaching respect for all

The New Hampshire Chapter of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network (GLSTN) held its annual meeting for Tuesday, February 4, 1997 at 7:15 PM on the campus of Phillips Exeter Academy Exeter, New Hampshire. The meeting was held in the Lecture Hall, Park on Tan Lane and Enter from the Quad side. Members as well as interested individuals are cordially invited.

There will be special Focus on Issues Particular to Rural Chapters with guest colleagues from GLSTN Maine and GLSTN Southern Vermont.

New business will include GLSTN New Hampshire's year in review, Safe Schools Documentation and other future focus projects, how GLSTN works to ...ness or orientation, which are considered sexual orientation and expression. The primary philosophy realized in K-12 education.

2. Guiding Statistics (Summary) Sources available Upon Request

All high school students report regularly hearing derogatory remarks about gay people from their peers.

53% of report hearing derogatory remarks about gay people from school staff.

80% of gay and lesbian youth report severe social isolation.

80% of prospective teachers report negative attitudes toward gay and lesbian people.

19% of gay and lesbian youth report being physically attacked based on their physical orientation.

20% of all hate crimes suicides are gay and lesbian youth. That averages out to an actual suicide every 5 hours, 48 minutes.

20% of all completed suicides are gay and lesbian youth. That averages out to an actual suicide every 5 hours, 48 minutes.

January The year brings in continuing and building tensions in Merrimack, with the dreaded Policy 6540 now receiving the scrutiny of national and international media at every board meeting.

GLSTN New Hampshire members Randy Kottwitz and Steve Birchall, fourteen year residents of the town, are key to organizing Merrimack's response to the Policy. They have been repeatedly interviewed by the media. GLSTN NH monitors the events, giving support and information to GLSTN chapters and the New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union.

The Vigil for the Victims of Gay Teen Suicide and Violence Against Gay, co-sponsored by GLSTN New Hampshire, held over 600 present, it was the largest public gathering of gay and lesbian youth that day.

Joni Sweeney, director of the New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union, said "it was a very powerful moment for all of us. The GLSTN is part of the larger GLBTQ movement, and this is the first time that we've been able to bring such a large group together to focus on these issues."

The New Hampshire chapter is pleased to announce that the New Hampshire chapter are new members of the GLSTN National Steering Committee.

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Young Gays and Lesbians are finding more solidarity in New Hampshire

Laconia, N.H. (AP) — Young gays and lesbians in the state are now more apt to remain in their home state instead of moving to urban areas that have larger gay and lesbian communities.

This observation was one of many made by a group of young people who shared their thoughts and experiences coming to grips with their own sexual preference or being loved ones who are gay or lesbian.

Eleven young people, who spoke during a Sunday morning meeting at the Unitarian Universalist Society in Laconia, said they hope to educate teens about what it really means to be gay or lesbian. They also shared their experiences with the challenges they face and issues they are currently dealing with.

Laconia, N.H. — Knox Turner, a youth coordinator/consultant who sits on the Concord Outreach’s board of directors, said the teens of the 1990s have a better chance to know the sense of rural community that things may be changing for gay and lesbian people in the Granite State.

In his address “New Hampshire Teens: Making Sense of Their Lives,” Turner said the teens of the 1990s have a better chance to know the sense of rural community because of intolerance, things are changing for the better, he said. And the gay teens are staying home instead of feeling forced to relocate to such cities as San Francisco, Chicago, Boston and New York City.

While gay and lesbian people who lived in New Hampshire in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s were afraid to come out of the closet because of intolerance, things are changing for the better, he said. And the gay teens of the 1990s are the ones who are making things change.

Outright groups in Concord, Portsmouth, Nashua and now Hanover and Chocorua, Turner said, gay teens are able to talk about the movements and have fun. They no longer feel isolated, alone or suicidal because they have discovered that God does love them.

The Internet is also providing gay teens with a way to talk to gay teens in other states who are experiencing the same challenges and issues they are, he said.

Turner said the Christian Coalition, a conservative political action group that is opposed to many aspects associated with the liberation movement, is encouraging gay teens to form their own sense of community.

By thrusting the societal war upon their shoulders at home, Turner said, the Christian Coalition has made the gay teens stronger and more firm in their resolve to stay home in New Hampshire.

“Gay teens and straight allies no longer have to find a definition of community. They have their own and remarkably, it looks a lot like the one we have all been trying to live up to,” Turner said.

Greg Root, chairman of the Unitarian Universalist Society’s Welcoming Committee, told the nearly 100 people seated at the Unitarian Church that it is imperative for anyone who believes that New Hampshire needs to have New Hampshire laws current with the needs support. They need financial assistance.

The New Hampshire legislators need to know that the vast majority of people in New Hampshire — gay and straight — do not agree with discrimination based on sexual orientation anywhere.

These are a few examples of discrimination that currently exist: Landlords who can evict tenants based on evidence that they are gay — IT’S LEGAL AND IT HAPPENS!!

* Restaurants and stores that deny service to people who are, or are even suspected of being gay — IT’S LEGAL AND IT HAPPENS!!

* Employers who fire employees solely on evidence or suspicion that they may be gay or lesbian — IT’S LEGAL AND IT HAPPENS!!

* And the many other wrongs that are done to exclude New Hampshire people from enjoying their full civil rights because of their sexual orientation — IT’S LEGAL AND IT HAPPENS!!

If you don’t agree with discrimination, the New Hampshire Coalition to End Discrimination needs your help.

In order to accomplish this, and keep New Hampshire laws current with the climate of acceptance, the NH-CED needs support. They need financial assistance as well as volunteers. If you believe that New Hampshire needs to stop discriminating against its citizens, then get involved. Your commitment will not only be appreciated, but will add a voice to the cry for and end to discrimination.

For more information, or to become involved, write to the NH-CED at: The New Hampshire Coalition to End Discrimination, PO Box 74, Concord, NH, 03302-0074.

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“Season of Awakening,”

Continuing with its 96-97 theme, the “Season of Awakening,” Seacoast Repertory Company has chosen to present "Getert the Wind" and "Clarence Darrow and One Man Play" running from late January until March 1st at its Portsmouth, New Hampshire theater.

The so-called Scoops Monkey Trial— which pitted Clarence Darrow and John Scopes, each other in the ongoing battle of teaching evolution and creationism—is the focus of "Getert the Wind" and "Clarence Darrow and One Man Play." The play will be staged by award-winning director Spiro Velott with a talented and star accomplishments actors Bill Humphries as Henry Drummond (the character drawn from
"Famous Lesbian Comic" Suzanne Westenhoefer Plays Portland on Sunday, March 2
Post-Show Party To Benefit Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine.

One of the world’s most visible and popular openly gay comedians, Suzanne Westenhoefer, makes a rare New England Appearance Sunday, March 2 at Portland’s State Street Church. Show time is 7 PM. A Post-show reception with Suzanne at Katahdin Restaurant will benefit the Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine.

The first lesbian to ever have her own HBO television special (for which she was nominated for the coveted ACE cable award), Suzanne Westenhoefer’s breakthrough TV appearances include Comedy Central’s Politically Incorrect, Ricki Lake, The Joan Rivers Show, Geraldo, Evening at the Improv and Caroline’s Comedy Hour. She was a featured performer on the most recent Comic Relief HBO special.

Suzanne Westenhoefer’s road to becoming a “famous Lesbian Comic” began in 1990 at talent contest in a small piano bar in New York City. Never having performed stand-up before, Suzanne did a three-minute routine on her life (and lifestyle) and won! Since those live performances have found comedy clubs and major theaters including: The Rainbow Room and Town Hall (New York City); The House of Blues and Wilshire Ebell auditorium (Los Angeles); The Great American Music Hall (San Francisco); and the Berklee Theater (Boston).

Suzanne was an emcee for the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian/Gay and Bixexual Rights, appeared as part of President Bill Clinton’s inaugural celebration and hosted the closing Ceremony of the 1994 Gay Games at New York’s Yankee Stadium. Her first comedy recording - “Nothing In My Closet But My Clothes” - was released in January on the Uproar Label.

Suzanne performs at the State Street Church (159 State Street, Portland) on Sunday, March 2 at 7 PM. Tickets are $20 (limited Preferred Seating) and $16.50 (general admission). A $35 VIP package is available which includes a Preferred Seating ticket and a ticket to a Post-Show Reception with Suzanne Westenhoefer. The reception will be held at Katahdin Restaurant (106 Eble Street, Portland). Proceeds will benefit The Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine.

The Lesbian Health Project, now in its third year of operation, is a community-based organization whose goal is to improve the health and wellness of lesbians living in Southern Maine. LHP/SM is coordinated by an Advisory Group who volunteer their services in their particular area of expertise including health education, clinical nursing, mental health, social work, legal advice and organizational development. Recent projects have included Cancer Screening Clinics, conferences on “Health and Sexuality” and workshops on health related legal issues.

Tickets for Suzanne Westenhoefer are available at Drop Me A Line, 611 Congress Street (Portland) and the CD Exchange, 2 Exchange Street (Portland) and Don Rich Plaza (Windham). Tickets can be charged by calling 207-773-6974.

Suzanne Westenhoefer’s Portland appearance is being presented by Abney, Whitty, Abood and Beyond is a new full service entertainment enterprise recently begun by Richard Lawlor and David Seneca. Lawlor is the former State Theater Marketing Director. Seneca is the State’s former Production Manager as well as the current Production Manager for Maine Arts. For information call 207-773-6974.
Positively Alive! Plans Annual Dinner Art Auction

Fine food, fine art, and fine company will be the main ingredients for a February 9th fundraising event put on by the local non-profit group Positively Alive! to benefit area residents living with AIDS and HIV. Area artists and businesses, restauranteur Carmen and Marco Giancotti, auctioneer John R. Hale, and musicians from Bates College have all responded to Positively Alive! to benefit area residents living with AIDS and HIV. Area artists and board members. "We started our group this spring with the idea that people in the Lewiston-Auburn area would really like to help those among us who have to struggle with HIV/AIDS, if only they knew how. We figured that we could create a roster of fun events that would make the best of everyone's goodwill while bringing an upbeat attitude to the work. I think the thing that actually makes HIV/AIDS such an uncomfortable subject for most people is the fear-and-guilt dilemma—fear that we can't do anything to help, and guilt that we haven't tried. Well, as a community we can just dump the negativity and be who we really are: compassionate people who take care of their own, no matter what."

The Positively Alive! First Annual Dinner Art Auction will take place at Marco's Restaurant on Lisbon Street in Lewiston, starting with a four o'clock cocktail hour, during which guests will enjoy musical entertainment and preview the eclectic assortment of auction items donated by artists and benefactors from all over the state, as well as from Massachusetts and Canada. Dinner will be served at 5:30, and the auction will begin at 7 pm. Attendance at this newest entry into Lewiston-Auburn's charity event calendar is by advance ticket only. Tickets are $50 each and can be purchased from any Positive Alive! board member, or by calling Positive Alive! at 786-8733.

Monday Night open poetry readings at the Oak Street Theatre

Oak Street Theatre, Inc. and the Cafe Review poetry magazine are pleased to continue their series of Monday night open poetry readings at the Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak Street in downtown Portland. These readings are free and open to the public, and are held once a month, generally on the last Monday of the month (the theatre's technical schedule permitting). Cafe Review's Steve Luntz moderates these evenings, co-ordinating the sign-ups and introducing the poets. Open sign-ups for the readings are from 7:30 to 8 pm, with the poetry beginning at 8 pm. Ten readers are permitted at each session, with a time limit of five minutes per reader. Readers are discouraged from reading anything other than their own original work. This series of readings offers a structured alternative to the slam atmosphere. Refreshments are served before the readings, and during intermission, but once the readings begin, they are conducted concert style. Information about upcoming readings may be obtained by calling the Oak Street Theatre box office at 775-5103.

The next reading is scheduled for Monday, February 17 at 8 pm. Sign-up will be at 7:30.

Mad Horse Theater receives anonymous Grant

The Mad Horse Theater Company has received an anonymous donation of $4,000 to be used as matching grant funds. Part of the funding was for sponsorship of "The Lonely Planet", which ran from Dec 5 - 29, 1995 and the balance sponsors the upcoming production of "Alabama Rain", which will run from January 30 - February 23, 1997.

Mad Horse has a group sponsorship program for small businesses at $500 and $1,000 levels. Under the matching grant program, businesses can give $250 or $500 and receive the benefits of the group sponsorship level of $500 and $1,000, respectively.

Mad Horse Theater Managing Director Ron Hersom notes that "this program should help the theater continue building and increasing business and corporate involvement with the theater. With a budgetary goal of $5,000 in sponsorships for each production, this matching grant program gives us the opportunity to meet, or exceed, our goal."

For the entire season, Mad Horse is seeking to have over 30 businesses involved in its group sponsorship program. For its first production, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum", which ran until November 3, 1996, Mad Horse had 2 businesses involved in a group sponsorship - Tabitha Jean's Restaurant and the law firm of Smith, Elliott, Smith, and Garmey.

Anne Tenpenney, owner of TEX'S Tortillas (and a sponsor of last year's production of "Women of my Father's House") says that "the group sponsorship program is a wonderful way to exhibit community involvement, provide much needed support for great theater, and get some marketing and PR to boot!"

For more information, or to become a sponsor, call Ron Hersom at 878-3547.

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Kind Hearted Woman

by Dixie Townsend

The first time I heard Michelle Shocked’s “Anchorage,” a sentimental, frank observance of friendship and the unexpected turns life can take, I became a Shocked fanatic.

Michelle’s unique haunting and sometimes mesmerizing voice and music had abscended me, heart and soul. Shocked has an amazing ability to pen lyrics about simple things, the everyday that helps shape our lives.

Shockted transports me back to my small town childhood and somehow makes me feel I am twelve years old again and discovering life for the first time.

Long before Ani DiFranco arried on the scene as this generation’s female idol of angst, Michelle Shocked took flight from the hills of east Texas, guitar in hand, to play her own revolutionary folk blues music.

In 1986 a British record company executive taped Shocked with a Sony Walkman at a Texas folk festival, then released the recording in England, "The Texas Tapes" went straight to the top of the indie charts. Now, ten years later, this formerly homeless, ex-skateboarding punk rocker and anarchist is still a premier force in American songwriting.

Nobody can spin a tale like Shocked, and with her new album "Kind Hearted Woman," Shocked proves she still has the goods.

With "Kind Hearted Woman," Shocked returns home to face death, loneliness, fear and isolation as only she can. Her first single "The Hard Way," could easily be describing any of our lives. "If I was smart I would take your advice, but I’m not so I have to think twice.

"Never a lesson have I learned without first being burned." Although saturated with sadness, Shocked’s R&B groove on songs like "Fever Breaks" and "Cold Comfort" beg you to listen to more and definitely makes this album worth the four-year wait.

Nixon

Would the government have started to act on the recommendations of its own Task Force? Meanwhile, Hooker’s work had started the ball rolling toward an historic achievement: the decision by the American Psychiatric Association in 1973 to remove homosexuality from its list of mental disorders. Sti-mulating, the Task Force’s broadened approach of this pioneering psychologist also had its effects on her own professional organization, the American Psychological Association.

Today, in the 1990s, the APA has probably done more than any other mainstream professional society to advocate for fair treatment of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgendered people. APA has a stafier dedicated to gay concerns; it produces publications that can be used effectively in a school setting; it files court briefs and testifies at legislative hearings; and it actively encourages and supports groundbreaking research on issues of sexuality and identity.

We can’t give Hooker credit for all these changes, of course. But it is possible to trace the historical lines of influence back to her pioneering scholarly work. Sometimes, as I work at the Task Force to develop its Policy Institute, I watch the swirl of activity around me as staff respond to the latest hot spot in some corner of the country. Frankly, I wonder whether it makes sense to be putting resources into community organization when there are so many immediate crises at hand. And then I remember the work of Evelyn Hooker, and the difference he has made. I know that I need to operate on many fronts at once, that knowledge, as someone famous once said, is a form of power.
National Association of Lesbian & Gay Community Centers

More than 60 people from across the United States attended a day-long organizing institute in November, convened by the National Association of Lesbian & Gay Community Centers (NALGCC), signaling the potential power and growth of grassroots organizing efforts for the gay and lesbian liberation movement. The NALGCC Institute gathered leaders from gay and lesbian community centers, who discussed the need to provide services, promote greater visibility of lesbian and gay issues, and foster community-based organizations as vital components to securing equal rights and protection under the law for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Co-founded by the Centers in Los Angeles, New York City, Minneapolis, and Dallas, the NALGCC was formally launched in November 1995 to encourage and support the development of lesbian and gay community centers throughout America. Among these, the National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference. For more information with the National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference every July.

Among other things, the November 1996 NALGCC Institute included a progress report on the national efforts to register and mobilize lesbian and gay voters through local community centers known as the “NALGCC.” The work that they are accomplishing with all this effort is examined.

The next bi-annual NALGCC conference will take place Saturday, July 26, 1997 in Atlanta, to be held in conjunction with the National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference. For more information about the NALGCC, or to register for the July 1997 conference, please contact the Center at (212) 620-7310.

Dimensional, from page 4

proud he’s had the courage to tell people who he is.

Many teens, though, aren’t as self-assured as Allison and Noah. And some gay teens have markedly different experiences.

Basket, of Evergreen AIDS Response, said gay and lesbian youth are two to three times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers.

There are young people who have lost friends, been called names, ostracized and isolated.

They have been kicked out of their homes, disowned by family members, given books and lectures designed to “cure” them of homosexuality.

One 17-year-old Vancouver boy said he holds up well for a while, then hides out in his room and cries, trying to make the pain go away.

Some see that pain as being caused by a society that doesn’t accept alternate sexualities.

Others, though, say it is caused by the choice of being gay.

“Truly compassionate people do not encourage others to continue in, or to become involved in behaviors which can result in sickness and death,” Larimer said.

Allison’s mother, Jill, talks about a different kind of compassion, one she contrasts to Larimer’s vision.

She worries not about Allison’s sexual orientation, but rather about the people who might harm her because of it.

“I’m afraid that some homophbic nut could hurt her,” Jill said. “What are they accomplishing with all this hate?”

How does Allison see her future? She returns to that same-sex marriage question.

“I someday see myself married, in the sense of commitment,” Allison said. “I really want that at some point in my life. The idea of having a child? Yeah, but only one, and not for a long, long time.”

Fifteen years ago, when Jill had her one-and-only child, she, too, had goals and dreams.

“I wanted to raise an intelligent, sensitive, caring person who is happy,” she said. “And that’s what I’ve got.”

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First ever Domestic Partner Legislation a worry to business

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - San Francisco is about to make a unique demand on thousands of U.S. companies: extend health insurance and other benefits to same-sex couples, or forget about doing business with the city.

The ordinance, in a city with one of the nation's largest gay populations, affects many of the roughly 10,000 U.S. companies contracting with San Francisco, which has long been a leader from banking services to office supplies.

Critics call the policy ill-conceived, saying it forces companies to take an all-out study or public notice. Supporters say it's a basic anti-discrimination measure that encourages companies to grant benefits to gay employees, most of whom are same-sex couples, the same rights enjoyed by wedded couples.

"It would be important to me even if I didn't have a partner, simply as a moral matter," said Joe Leslie, a 52-year-old vice president at Bank of America who, with his partner Michael, stands to benefit from the policy.

Leslie said he and Michael are "as loving as any married couple that ever lived." This is why workers' spouses to receive better benefits is simply unfair.

"We do the same work, our spousal status is virtually the same. (Yet) they get benefits I don't get," Leslie said.

Whether or not to extend health insurance and other benefits, like bereavement or medical leave, to a worker's domestic partner has been debated by private industry for years. In San Francisco, the Bank of America officials have discussed the policy, but have not enacted it. The Gap, Levi Strauss & Co. and SanDisk are some of the companies that have such policies.

"It's not good enough for Mickey Mouse, it's not good enough for San Francisco," said city Supervisor Tom Ammiano, who co-authored the measure.

Yet despite unanimous approval from the Board of Supervisors and an endorsement from Mayor Willie Brown, the policy has its detractors.

"We really feel the supervisors didn't do their homework," said Carol Piasente, a spokeswoman for the city's 1,950-member Chamber of Commerce. "They're not prepared to answer all the questions that come up when they don't think about all the details."

According to Piasente, confusion abounds.

Who precisely is affected, and what is a contract? Does the legislation apply, for example, to hundreds of air lines that technically do business with the city every time they pay a gate tax at San Francisco International Airport? Or to non-profit agencies that have services for the city's homeless? Most importantly, how much will it cost?

"We don't have a clue about the costs. That's the problem. Nobody knows," Piasente said.

She also said the local business community needed to completely understand the legislation earlier because it was in the dark.

"This thing moved ahead very quickly and kind of caught people unawares," she said.

Most officials, still tinkering with some wording of the legislation, don't expect it to take effect for six months. But some companies are scrambling to plan.

"We're continuing to look at how the ordinance affects us and the relation­ship with the city. No decisions have yet been made on our part," said Dennis Wyss, a spokesman for Bank of America, the nation's third-largest bank, which employs 10,000 of its 93,000 workers in San Francisco, provides them with checking services, among other things.

But, Wyss added, "We don't think it's good public policy for the city to tie its hands in the way this ordinance mandates. We think San Francisco taxpayers get the highest quality services for their money when the city keeps its options open.

Others complain the ordinance demands extension of benefits only to "registered" domestic partners. While many cities have such registries, including San Francisco, where some 1,500 couples are on the books, most cities do not.

"When you do this kind of legis­lation at a local level, you're imposing costs on local companies that make them uncompetitive in the bigger marketplace," Piasente said. "It's a little bit of thing that, if done on a national level, some of the unfairness issues would be taken away."

"Toward that end, Ammiano hopes the measure spreads. Already, politicians in some cities, including New York, Seattle and West Hollywood, Calif, have inquired about the measure, he said.

Leslie, too, hopes the policy spreads to other cities.

"It's not simply discrimination. It's really stupid," he said.

NGLTF, from page 2

tion among young people, people of color, GLBT youths, Native Americans, and the poor continues to rise in dispropor­ tionate numbers. With HIV spreading dramatically in less developed parts of the world, the United Nations and WHO are calling on nations to deal with these problems remains inade­ quate. Letting local communities de­ termine and create "innovative preven­ tion efforts" is not sufficient when rac­ ism, sexism and homophobia continue to interfere with HIV/AIDS education efforts. The federal government work­ ing with HIV/AIDS educators from all communities must develop a basic stan­ dard of accurate, efficient, cultural and language appropriate education informa­ tion that schools and communities are required to provide.

The report contains virtually no mention of how the government plans to make up for the overriding of HIV in prisons and the specific need of pris­ oners living with HIV/AIDS. Condoms and other preventive measures are left out because of the "verge of collapse. As a person that de­ pends on ADAP for my HIV treatment, was concerned with getting additional funding to expand this program while my life hangs in the balance. The fact is, thousands of people with AIDS are not receiving this funding. We have can­ noting to say but improving the lives of those infected. The rise in infection among Intravenous Drug users indicates the government's failure to design and fund programs that work to prevent ad­ dicts and their partners from becoming infected. The report states, "HIV trans­ mission closely related to substance abuse" but its strategy fails to provide a National Needle Exchange Program. The Clinton administration has failed to display the political will to approve a program the governments own studies have been found to cost far less than treating those infected. The funding for substance abuse treatment programs in 1996 make it more difficult to educate addicts and help them recover.

The National strategy's section dealing with civil rights does not go far enough. The current National AIDS strategy legislation such as measures that criminalize sex by HIV positive people or deny them the opportunity to serve in the armed services. Access to comprehen­ sive, affordable health insurance for uninsured people with HIV/AIDS is still not a legally protected right. There is no strategy to deal with cross- border HIV/AIDS issues, a problem that se­ verely limits our ongoing fight and ability to coordinate education and service efforts with neighboring countries and deal with complex immigration issues. Our gov­ ernment should take the lead in dealing with these issues but again fail to do so.

The 1997 National AIDS Strategy is a long awaited and alarming begin­ ning. It simply provides a framework which is dependent on the AIDS strategy's strategy can develop. It is often a rehashing of information and ideas that the HIV/AIDS community has been discuss­ ing and trying to grapple with for years. The budgetary appendices of the report have not been published over the funding. Our communities will continue to struggle to care for people with HIV and AIDS.

At the time the report devotes as much space to praising the Clinton ad­ ministration for its past accomplishments as it does to laying out an effec­ tive plan for the future. We now must continue to fight for our lives and for funding to continue the fight, with over a decade of experience and information to work with, has failed to provide.

Lesbian who lost custody of daughter to killer dad dies

by Jackie Hallifax

cisco, Fla. (AP) - A lesbian was gunned down after she demanded custody of her 12-year-old daughter to ex-husband, even though he had murdered her first wife, has died in a murder trial.

Mary Ward, who was in her 40s, died Tuesday night, lawyer Charlene Carrara-Wilson said.

Twelve-year-old Casey Ward had lived with her mother until August 1995 when Circuit Judge Joseph Turbeck of Pensacola removed custody to the late Lisa Spears, who wanted to give Casey a chance to live in a "non-lesbian world."

Ward pleaded guilty to second-de­ gree murder for shooting his first wife in the parking lot of a Pensacola restaurant in 1974, reportedly after he argued over custody of their children. He served eight years in prison.

Ward appealed Turbeck's ruling, arguing that the judge changed his mind because she was a lesbian. Five years ago, the Florida 1st District Court of Ap­ peals, saying there was no evidence Casey was being harmed by conduct she was exposed to in her mother's home.

The evidence cited included com­ ments from Casey on sexual matters, which was called her bad table manners and per­ sonal hygiene habits, and her preference "for male fashions."

Ms. Ward had asked the appellate court to reconsider the unanimous ruling or send the case to the state Supreme Court. That request was pending when she died.
United appears closer to offering Domestic Partner Benefits

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) United Airlines moved a small step closer to offering domestic partner benefits to employees Thursday, but not if a city supervisor saying it was studying the law to see if compliance is possible.

In a statement, United is not committed to offering employees in registered domestic partnerships the same benefits as married couples. The letter received Thursday, is the latest development in a stalemate between United and the city over San Francisco's new domestic partners ordinance.

The new law requires companies doing business with the city to offer protective benefits to their employees' unmarried and same-sex partners.

United officials said in the letter that "they are going to take a full analysis of the legislation and make a decision whether they will implement it," Supervisor Leslie Katz said. "They have not taken a position as to the feasibility of compliance," she added.

United spokeswoman Mary Jo Holland did not immediately return a call from The Associated Press. But San Francisco officials were cautiously optimistic. "We’re still negotiating, and we’ll come up with a position satisfactory for all concerned," Katz said. "We have no indication that United doesn’t want to comply."

The airline had to consider offering domestic partner benefits when the Board of Supervisors’ Government Efficiency and Labor Committee sent a $13.4 million United lease back to the Airports Commission in January.

The airline, which makes up 40 percent of the airport’s business, wants a 25-year lease for a new kitchen and maintenance center. United says that if it were to offer domestic partner benefits to its 17,000 local employees, it would almost surely have to offer them to its 80,000 workers nationwide.

San Francisco’s domestic partners ordinance takes effect June 1, and the city has shown some flexibility in the deadline. On Monday, the Board of Supervisors gave Pacific Bell Mobile Services two years to comply with the law. The firm is erecting cellular phone equipment on a fire station.

Gore challenges to "Mold the events that are the raw material of History"

In his inaugural address, President Clinton challenged the American people to end the plague of prejudice in America: a theme of great significance to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. While the President focused on race and gender, the message will have profound meaning for many in the LGBT community. Below is a statement from NGLIF executive director Kerry Lobel on the new administration’s address and the challenge facing the LGBT community.

Lobel emphasized the action that must accompany the hopes and vigilance of lesbians, gay, bisexual, and transgender people over the next four years. Lobel charged the community with making history instead of witnessing it. In her statement, Lobel’s mood characterized the mood of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force as hopeful and its mission as formidable as it gears up for the next four years.

History is not the President’s to make alone. History is written by all Americans each day, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans.

Gore Pledges continued advocacy for LGBT community

Washington, D.C.- Just days prior to the 53rd Presidential inauguration, Vice President Al Gore pledged to continue to advocate on behalf of the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender (LGBT) community in the Administration’s second term. The commitment occurred in a meeting with gay and lesbian leaders at the Vice President’s office.

Attending the meeting was Roberta Achtenburg, Director of National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; Martin Ornelas-Quintero, Latino/a Lesbian and Gay Organization; Jeff Soref, Connecticut Fair Housing Commissioner; and Traci Tran, a volunteer and parent from Portland.

Lobel told Gore that proposed S. 1136, the Breast Cancer Prevention Act (BCPA), could be devastating to LGBT families by anti-gender discrimination.

For the next four years, the job of the LGBT community is not just to hope for equality, but to act decisively for it. The use of sodomy laws to criminalize our right to parent and create families as we choose, the actions of bigots to keep us from working because we are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender will not end because Bill Clinton made it so.

The next four years are our opportunity to change the landscape of the country. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force will mobilize and organize so that the next millennium marks a new and progressive chapter in our struggle for liberation.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force 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.

Are you an HIV+ man or woman? Are you using alternative medicine or treatments?

If you are: HIV positive (any stage)

We need you for the First Nationwide Study of Alternative Medicine and HIV/AIDS

The Bastyr University AIDS Research Center is recruiting eligible volunteers to participate in the first nationwide study on alternative medicine and HIV/AIDS.

Our goal is to gather information about alternative treatments and therapies that may slow disease progression, improve quality of life, or lead to a cure. We will not be prescribing or recommending specific treatments.

Here’s your chance to be heard and be a part of a groundbreaking study.

If you are: HIV positive (any stage)

* Using alternative medicine or treatments (such as massage, homeopathy, acupuncture, nutrition therapy...) or a combination of alternative and conventional treatments

* Able and willing to give informed consent and complete questionnaires

* At least 18 years old

We are a part of the solution! Your participation is completely confidential

1-800-475-0135

Bastyr University AIDS Research Center

800 SW 10th Ave

Suite 330

Portland, Oregon 97205

Website: http://www.bastyr.edu/research/aids/medical.html

Funded by the National Institute of Health Office of Alternative Medicine

* Please print or circulate

AIDS RESEARCH CENTER
Community Pride Reporter

February 1997

P.O. Box 178
Saco, Maine
04072
Phone: 207/282-4311
Fax: 207/282-4551

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 tint. However, we feel this is a small price to pay as Community Pride Reporter does its part to "Color ME Green!"

RANT: “Dear Mr. President”

by David Cook

In your first term, you fired the imagination with talk of universal health care, gay rights, respect for our cities, the information superhighway, a sane foreign policy. Your first few months in office seemed like the fulfillment of a dream: tolerance and inclusiveness brought bright, young faces into the White House. You hired minorities and even the mainstream establishment. You were different, intelligent, and commanding when answering questions from the press or meeting with foreign leaders. You had plans for America. You knew what you were talking about and seemed to mean what you said. You found out pretty early, though, that just wanting things didn’t guarantee you’d get them. The head warmonger threatened to resign over gays in the military. And the medical aristocracy slammed health care reform with all the propaganda they could muster. Still, when you came up with “don’t ask, don’t tell,” I was philosophical: after all, you can’t change a homophbic institution like the military overnight. And when health care reform fizzled, I was disappointed but still optimistic: I knew you could fix it in the next six years or so. As it turned out, I dogged your heels, I was able to shrug it off. Frankly, I didn’t care where the presidential pudendum had been just so long as it was attached to a president who would do the job we elected him for. And Whitewater was as silly as it was unrelated—at least our predecessors were up to their necks in dirty dealings and no one seemed to mind. And I was actually proud of you when you shut down the government during the budget standoff. I even wrote you an e-mail thanking you for standing up to neo-conservative thugs (or words to that effect). And you were on ground for quite a while. But gradually as accommodation was reached over the budget, something seemed to be going wrong. It was as though you had suddenly been replaced by your evil twin in a kind of rhetorical coup d’etat. The new Bill Clinton seemed much more aligned with the Republican consensus over fundamental questions like “Should the budget be balanced?” “In how many years?” and “How?” The answers: Yes, seven years; and just killing it. The real change was that Clinton seemed much more aligned with the Republican consensus over fundamental questions like “Should the budget be balanced?” “In how many years?” and “How?” The answers: Yes, seven years; and just killing it. The real change was that Clinton seemed much more aligned with the Republican consensus over fundamental questions like “Should the budget be balanced?” “In how many years?” and “How?” The answers: Yes, seven years; and just killing it.

Gay and Bi Men’s roundtable

A program for an April 5th, gay and bi men’s roundtable in Augusta has been planned and will be a little different from most conferences in that the program will be designed on site by the participants. The direct input format will give a control of what in the Augusta roundtable. The first few months in have a dizziness about the being in the Augusta home of one of the planners. The coffee lounge will be open throughout the discussions for those who have adopted policies that prohibit discriminatory practices by its employees during the registration fee will be broken up by a short lunch break. A recap session of the roundtable comments will follow. In addition, a fourth session on developing personal awareness as a form of mutual support will be facilitated. The fourth roundtable will close about 5 pm and be followed by a buffet and social event at the Augusta home of one of the planners. The coffee lounge will be open throughout the discussions for those who have adopted policies that prohibit discriminatory practices by its employees.

Postal Regulation Causes stir

Washington, D.C., Some anti-gay, right-wing political groups are concerned that the new Postal Service regulations will regulate employees’ off-duty conduct and have called on their members to contact the Postal Service in protest. Such interpretation of the regulation is patently incorrect. While no longer a federal agency, the Postal Inspection Service’s action is one that falls in line with actions taken by most federal agencies. To evict someone from your apartment or portray that discrimination on the job will not be tolerated. The provision does not seek to regulate off-duty conduct. The regulations, which are based on the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the enforcement branch of the Postal Service are contained within a five page code of conduct. Signed last November, the anti-discrimination provision prohibits employees, acting in an official capacity, to directly or indirectly discriminate on the basis of age, gender, ethnic origin, physical or mental disability or sexual orientation. The regulation applies to the agency’s 6,400 inspectors, police officers and support personnel who investigate crimes committed through the mail. The provision does not state or imply that employees must accept homosexuality or grants other rights to argue against pro-gay policies or actions. It is interesting to note how concerned the right wing extremists, such as the American NGLT executive-director, Terry Lobel. “State and local governments, as well as private employers throughout the country have adopted similar non-discrimination policies which make clear that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation by its employees is as obvious and unacceptable as other forms of discrimination,” added Lobel. The provision does not state or imply that employees must accept homosexuality or grants other rights to argue against pro-gay policies or actions. It is interesting to note how concerned the right wing extremists, such as the American NGLT executive-director, Terry Lobel. “State and local governments, as well as private employers throughout the country have adopted similar non-discrimination policies
Maine’s Grandest “Gay Marriage” in 1997

You may not be hearing wedding bells but the organizers have decided to call it a “seemless” marriage between Southern Maine Pride, Portland, now on its 11th year and Symposium, Maine’s 20 plus year old statewide annual conference on bisexuality, transgender, gay and lesbian issues.

The Southern Maine Pride Community Festival will taking over downtown Portland and the Old Port waterfront from Wednesday, June 18 to Sunday, June 22. Symposium is scheduled to be just over the bridge in South Portland on the SMVTI Casco Bay campus from Friday June 13 to Sunday June 15.

Planners from both committees met on Saturday, January 18, to bring the two camps together. It was sketched out that Symposium will concentrate on workshop presentations, while So.Me.Pride will present art exhibits and festival events. A major Keynote speaker will be left to Symposium, while Pride speakers will be more local. Both will be hosting a variety of concerts, comedy events, dinners and dances, crowning the 10 day stretch with the annual Pier Family, which features 20 “gay and lesbian” families will be on display in downtown Portland. The intimate and sweetly honest exhibit, which successfully withstood a rightwing attempt at censorship in May of 1996, is one of a set of six that travel the nation.

To reach the widest possible audience for the photo exhibit, it’s hoped to have the exhibit travel the state of Maine throughout the summer and early fall, including several Portland showings besides Pride/Symposium. Venues for the photo exhibit are being researched with an open request to those interested to contact So.Me.Pride.

Other decisions were settled amicably. Volunteer help will be required and shared to handle the tasks as they develop. Both committees have sorted out a list of what possible entertainers are best for which. While sponsorship of events and entertainment will be pursued separately, further meetings have been agreed upon to deal with issues as they’re expected to arise.

Contact information is as follows: for Symposium call Deb Howard at 207-625-8499, for So.Me.Pride call Laurie at 207-878-0546. For information on “Love Makes a Family” exhibit, call Michael at 207-879-7323.

THE HAPPY COUPLE HAVE FORGONE HONEYMOON PLANS IN LIEU OF A WORKING FUTURE.

Michael Rossetti at 207-879-7323 c/o So.Me.Pride pox 11502 Portland, Maine 04104

TAX PLANNING
It’s all in the timing.

by Peter Callnan, CPA

Everyone wants to make money but nobody wants to pay taxes. Unfortunately, it is very unlikely that anyone can earn money and not pay some taxes. The true objective is to pay the least amount in taxes as possible. This is what tax planning is all about.

Tax planning generally involves the timing of the recognition of income and deductible expenses to postpone the payment of tax. The general rule of thumb is to recognize income when your tax bracket is low and maximize deductible expenses when it is high. Therefore, you need to consider approximately what tax bracket you are presently in. This can be done by reviewing last years tax return and comparing its information to what you estimate will be on this years return. The top rate of tax you pay determines what tax bracket you are in but, be careful if you are close to another bracket or you may be in for an unpleasant surprise. If someone prepares your tax return for you they can likely tell you what bracket you are in.

Recognizing income when your tax bracket is low also means you should delay recognizing income when your bracket is high. For example, let’s suppose for 1996 you are in the 15% tax bracket but for 1997 you will be in the 28% bracket. Here it would be better to recognize more income in 1996 than was reversed and in 1996 your tax rate was 28% but in 1997 you expect it to be 15% then it would be a good idea to delay income recognition until 1997. As you can see there is a 13% difference in the two lowest federal tax rates which is the possible tax savings you could have by doing tax planning. This timing principle applies also to the recognition of deductible expenses but in the reverse of income. Deductible expenses should be accelerated when you are in a high tax bracket and postponed if you are in a low one but may be in a high one next year. The idea is to put the deductible expenses in the year where they will offset income which would be taxed at a higher rate.

There are many different methods or strategies that can be used to manipulate income and deductible expenses to minimize tax liability depending upon your specific tax situation. If you have a tax preparer, sit down and discuss what your possible opportunities may be with them. If you don’t have a preparer then estimate your current taxable income and explore methods to time recognition of income and deductible expenses to keep your tax liability low. Even when there is no change in your tax bracket, delaying the recognition of income will postpone the payment of tax for a year which allows you to have that cash available for other purposes. Tax planning may seem needless or overwhelming but, with a little review and imagination it’s possible that it could be very beneficial. Good Luck!

Springfield Police Chief - Recruiting Gay Officers.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP) _ The city’s police chief is actively recruiting gay and lesbian officers.

That word came Thursday in a statement released from Chief Paula Mata.

She said she was intent on shaping a police department that reflects the community.

Meara herself made news earlier this year by bucking traditional stereotypes. She took over the biggest police department in New England to be run by a woman.
**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 and all friends, families, lovers and caregivers, 10:30 AM Noon.
- TAP, 142 High Street Suite 632, Portland, ME 04101.
- 2nd & 4th Tuesdays: Living Well focused on quality of life and empowerment.
- Saturdays: Drop-in discussion group for married/gay/bisexual/questioning men. FMI call 207-774-6877.
- 1st Wednesday: PAMS (Pete Are Wonderful Support), 5-9 PM Call 775-8777. Charles Wyosett, Program Coordinator.
- Thursdays: People living with HIV from 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM. TAP, 142 High Street Suite 632, Portland, ME 04101.
- 2nd Thursday: Client Advisory Board, open to anyone.
- The above Portland support groups meet at The AIDS Project, 142 High St, 6th floor except the Tuesday evening group meets at the St. Francis Community Task Force on Sexual Health Care, Jane O’Rourke at 207-774-6877 or 1-800-851-2437 for more information.

**Family and Friends Accepting Change Together (FFACT), support group sponsored by Northen Maine AIDS Network for friends, family and caregivers. Meets every 2nd Thursday, 5:30-7:00 PM at the Aroostook Medical Center, conference room A. Please contact FMI, DHEB Madre of Health Inc, 207-766-0206 or 1-800-432-7811.

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**Lewiston:**
- AIDS Project: 774-6877. Located at 142 High St. downtown, Lewiston, Brunswick.
- AIDS Project: Eastern Maine AIDS Network Information: 900-3626

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**Highland County: HIV/AIDS Hotline:**
- 1-800-851-2437

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**Walden, NY:**
- AIDS Project: 774-6877. Located at 142 High St. downtown, Lewiston, Brunswick.
- AIDS Project: Eastern Maine AIDS Network Information: 900-3626

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**New Hampshire:**
- DM: Support Network: open group to anyone infected with AIDS/HIV. Meets at the Salvation Army, St. Thomas Aquinas, PO Box 4601, Manchester, NH 03102.
- Rumford: AIDS Project: Sponsor Group: Confidential support group of men and women on Thursday evenings.
- Farmington: 7:00-8:00 PM: Support group for Carol Fister at Town County Health Services, 778-4553, for location.
- Berlin: 3rd Wednesday: People Living with HIV from 1:30-3:30 PM at the Physicians Building behind KVRHA Annex. Call M2M at 724-4555.
- Keene: Support group for families, friends, partners of persons living with AIDS who have died of AIDS. Confidential & nonanonymous. Meets every other Wed., at Planned Parenthood, 7-8:30 PM. Call Dorothy Anderson at 603-766-4735.
- Keene: Support group for HIV positive people and those living with AIDS meets alternate Mon. 6:30 PM.

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**Kentucky:**
- FMI, call 207-774-6877.
- Lewiston: AIDS Coalition of Lewiston. 774-6877.
- Waterville: Dayspring: 626-0342.
- Auburn: Support for people living with HIV/AIDS. Call Christie Foster, Tri-County AIDS Support Services, 678-2577.
- Bangor: Call 207-774-6877.
- Lewiston: An online merchant-sponsored Internet site geared to gay and lesbian travellers to New England.
- The Maine GayNet Home Page: www.gaysf.com
- Wikle-Stein Cub: Meets every Thursday at Monitor's Park Audio-Visual Center, conference room A, 207-766-0206 or 1-800-432-7811.

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**Social Groups**

**Women In Harmony**
- an eclectic choir manageable open to all women regardless of age, race, religion, or sexual orientation. If you are interested in becoming a member or simply wish to explore your vocal skills, send SASE (including your phone number) to P.O. Box 5136 Sta. A, Portland, ME 04101.

---

**Maine Gay Men’s Chorus**
- a community chorus which brings men together to enhance social tolerance and diversity in the Greater Portland area, as well as affirming the gay/bisexual experience with creative and lively musical entertainment. FMI call 774-2704 or write G.M.G.C., P.O. Box 10391, Portland, ME 04104.

---

**Maine Gay Village’s Artist’s League**
- meets 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.

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**MUSIC & ART**

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Free Cancer Screening Clinic offered by LHP/SM

The Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine, in conjunction with Portland Public Health, will offer a Cancer Screening Clinic for Lesbians on Saturday, March 15 from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

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)657-5564.

COLLEGE STUDENT OR 90's GRAD?

Editors Kim Howard and Annie Stevens are in search of true, first person stories for a proposed anthology describing undergraduate experiences of coming out to family and friends, or to fellow college campuses.

For guidelines, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: PO Box 5345, Tacoma Park, MD 20913 or you can e-mail them to: 154@email.umd.edu.

The deadline for submissions in March 1997. Discretion and confidentiality are assured, if that is a concern.


Greater Portland YMCA

Greater Portland YMCA, Pine Tree Swim Team will be hosting an Auction/ Brunch to benefit the YMCA Youth Programs and the Eddie Beckwith Recovery Fund.

The Auction/Brunch will be held on Sunday February 9th from 12:00 - 3:30 pm at the Yarmouth High School Cafeteria, a Greater Portland YMCA Family Membership will be raffled off. We'd love to see you there!

Answers, from page 8

ANSWERS 1. (a) ten-pound gay nose 2. (a) choreographers 3. (b) the Navy 4. (a) Madonna "Like a Virgin" 5. (b) "The Dresser and Dancer" video 5. (c) Sigourney Weaver 6. (c) Sharon Stone "Basic Instinct" 7. (b) "The Fruit" 8. (a) AT woodchopper in Chicago 9. (b) Art Fleming 10. (a) Charles Pierce 11. (c) comic Suzanne Westenhofer 12. (a) "Car Wash" 13. (b) "Jeffrey" 14. (b) The AFOUS Donor Award 15. (d) Whoopi Goldberg in "Boys on the Side"
The Buddy Program needs you. This program pairs trained volunteers with persons living with HIV disease. A buddy provides emotional support one to five hours weekly. Training for volunteers to become Buddies will be held at the following locations and on these dates:

- Portland: February 21, March 28, and March 1, 1997
- Augusta: March 7, 14, 15
- Lewiston: April 4, 11, 12

Contact Deb Stone at 725-4935, Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services, PO Box 57, Brunswick, ME 04011-0057.

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