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Community Pride Reporter, 03/1997

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by Debra Madore

Aroostook County is located in northern Maine and often referred to simply as "The County". Aroostook County is the largest county east of the Mississippi, a mostly wilderness area larger than the states of Connecticut and Rhode Island combined. However, our population base is approximately 70,000, with an average of 13 people per square mile. It is a beautiful area full of lakes, forests, wildlife and farmland.

Because of the real (and perceived) isolation and rural nature of the area, many people living here don't believe that HIV is an important issue for them. Isolation has become a state of mind as well as a geographical fact. Educating people living here about HIV/AIDS is especially challenging because of this isolationism. The particular demographics make communication about sensitive issues especially difficult to address, creating an atmosphere conducive to fear, prejudice and discrimination.

A group of Aroostook County citizens formed in 1995 to address the very important issues. Calling themselves the Artists For AIDS Awareness (AFAA) they are dedicated to HIV/AIDS education and prevention. Their goal is to nurture a more compassionate, supportive, and understanding community.

This group's work centers mainly on their annual "Benefit to Celebrate Life" fund-raising event. All proceeds are used for HIV/AIDS prevention education projects in The County. Prevention efforts remain the best means of stopping the spread of HIV. Furthermore, effective prevention programs raise awareness and can positively impact the care and treatment of those already infected and affected by HIV. No single prevention technique can resolve the many-layered challenge of HIV. However, each effort builds on individual lessons learned to better address the complex epidemic.

Artists For AIDS Awareness has supported local projects including: coordinating World AIDS Day activities including "Day Without Art", Aroostook Teen Conference, Northern Lambda Nord - Health 1st HIV Prevention PhoneLine Project, financial support for services for people living with HIV/AIDS, and a modest granting program titled "HIV Prevention Education Using the Arts". This program promotes HIV/AIDS prevention education activities using the arts in Aroostook non-profit youth programs and public schools. AFAA believes that using the arts to promote HIV prevention education in local youth projects will benefit our communities in a number of ways. First, youth will learn about HIV/AIDS and the ways that they can reduce their risk of infection. Second, they will learn about HIV/AIDS and the ways that they can reduce their risk of infection. Third, it is our hope that, through this project, fear and discrimination towards those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS will be reduced, if not eliminated. Finally, arts programs in schools are ready targets for reduced funding. We believe the arts a necessary and vital part of youth education programs. In the end, we hope to encourage and support an effective and courageous response to the HIV/AIDS crisis by the Aroostook community.

AFAA is able to offer financial support for these kinds of projects through community support of fundraising efforts including the annual benefit. The 3rd Annual "Benefit to Celebrate Life" will be held on Saturday March 22 at the Caribou Inn and Convention Center. The evening includes "mocktails" by the pool, a buffet dinner, live entertainment, and an auction of original works of art by local artists, some of whom have shown internationally.

We are especially proud to have one particular piece. This is a quilt that
See AFAA, page 12

Marriage Bill LD1017 Hearing
Wednesday March 12 at 1:30 pm Augusta Civic Center. Held before the Judiciary Committee. Everyone is encouraged to attend and send cards and letters to their legislators.

LD1116 Anti-discrimination Bill Hearing
Tuesday April 8. Held before the Judiciary Committee at the Augusta Civic Center Auditorium 1 3:30pm. All are encouraged to attend and call their legislators and tell them to vote for this bill.

Lobbying Day
Tuesday April 8. MLGPA is sponsoring a lobbying day. PMI call Rich Couch at 207-622-1929 or MLGPA at 800-556-5472
"The time has come" for gay Rights in Maine

by Francis X. Quinn

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) - Expressing optimism over the prospects for passage of a bill to extend legal protections against discrimination to homosexuals, a Portland lawmaker sponsoring the legislation said Friday "the time has come" for gay rights in Maine.

"Frankly, I believe this bill was not necessary but, sadly, that is not the case," Republican Sen. Joel Abromson said in a prepared statement.

"Unfortunately, I also have the message that it is no longer permissible to allow discrimination against gays and lesbians when they fill out a job application, wish to buy a house or rent an apartment, want to eat in a restaurant or apply for credit," Abromson said.

The bill would amend state law to specify that "sexual orientation" could not be used to deny protection in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations and credit.

Currently, state law offers anti-discrimination protections in those areas in several cases involving race, color, religion, sex, age, ancestry or national origin and physical or mental disability.

Abromson's bill exempts religious groups.

"I have every confidence this bill will pass the Senate," Abromson said.

"I took special care to exempt religious organizations from this proposal to re-move those concerns from this debate. My proposal has support from Governor King and I am hopeful that we can marshal enough votes in the House for passage as well.

Among the co-sponsors of the legislation are the chairman of the Judiciary Committee that will review it, Sen. Susan Libby, D-Damariscotta, and Rep. Richard Thompson, D-Naples.

Co-sponsors include five Democrats and five Republicans, with four from the Senate and six from the House.

"As the extremist Right steps up its aggressive way these church burnings. The extremist Right steps up its aggressive way these church burnings.

In another letter to Attorney General Janet Reno, NGLTF's Lobel asked the Justice Department to closely monitor the situation and, if necessary, lend assistance to local law enforcement agencies "to ensure the collection of all needed information to determine whether or not this was a hate crime.

Georgia civil and hate crimes laws do not include sexual orientation. The state also has a same-sex marriage law. According to executive director Lobel, "We stand with Georgians who are working every day to fight against discrimination and for their civil rights. Like them, we will not rest until this bomber is brought to justice."

NGLTF urges anyone with information to call FBI and Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms hotline at 1-888-ATF-BOMB.

This message was issued by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Field Department.

Political Activism by reporters prohibited

by Hanter T. George

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) - A newspaper may prohibit political activism by its reporters to protect its credibility, the state's highest court ruled Thursday, in the case of a journalist who was reassigned after campaigning for a gay-rights measure.

The court held that a state law protecting employees from discrimination on the basis of their political activities does not apply to newspapers.

'Consumer protection and credibility are core objectives of editorial control and thus merit protection under the free press clauses," Justice Richard Sanders wrote.

The ruling dealt another blow to Sandy Nelson's bid to be reinstated as a reporter for The News Tribune of Tacoma.

"This is not over," said Ms. Nelson, a journalist for 17 years.

Ms. Nelson, 40, was an education reporter for the newspaper until six years ago, when she was assigned to an editing job against her will after her superiors learned she was campaigning for a gay rights initiative.

In 1995, Maine voters rejected a ballot question to restrict gay rights. The measure initiated by Concerned Maine Families was turned back, 53 percent to 47 percent.

But editors feared the state's third-largest newspaper would lose credibility with its readers if a reporter crossed the line between news-gathering and news making.

Ms. Nelson sued McClatchy Newspapers Inc., which owns The News Tribune, arguing that the reassignment violated the Fair Campaign Practices Act.

A judge dismissed the claim on grounds that the First Amendment allows newspapers to serve as a restraint on the publication of their publications. Five members of the high court agreed.

Two justices dissented, saying the newspaper cannot claim immunity from the Fair Campaign Practices Act since no one suggested that Ms. Nelson's reporting was influenced in any way by her political views.

Sixty-eight groups representing unions, gay rights, animal rights and the Freedom Socialist Party signed a brief in support of Ms. Nelson, who describes herself as a supporter of a variety of "socialist feminist" causes.

The News Tribune's position was backed by Allied Daily Newspapers, a trade group representing Washington newspapers. The group said most papers and The Associated Press follow industry guidelines that recommend avoiding situations that could cause a conflict of interest, or even the appearance of one.

Explosion Rocks Bar in Atlanta

Washington, DC, February 22, 1997. A pipe bomb covered with nails exploded in a crowded Atlanta gay bar injuring several people. A second pipe bomb was found outside the establishment and was found to be a hoax.

A second pipe bomb was sent to a gay bar in Fort Worth, Texas, a week later.

According to executive director Lobel, "The rhetoric of hate in this country and its devastat-ing results," wrote executive director Kerry Lobel in a letter to the President dated Feb­­­­uary 22. We ask you to speak out loudy against this crime, as you did in double­bombing of the women's health clinic, deadly attacks at the Olympic Games, and burnings of black and multi-racial churches.

"As the extremist Right steps up its verbal and legislative assault, violence against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people is on the rise," said Kerry Lobel.

In another letter to Attorney General Janet Reno, NGLTF's Lobel asked the Justice Department to closely monitor the situation and, if necessary, lend assistance to local law enforcement agencies "to ensure the collection of all needed information to determine whether or not this was a hate crime.

Georgia civil rights laws do not include sexual orientation. The state also has a same-sex marriage law. According to executive director Lobel, "Today we stand with Georgians who are working every day to fight against discrimination and for their civil rights. Like them, we will not rest until this bomber is brought to justice."

Today Attorney General Janet Reno also issued a statement condemning the bombing of the Otherside Lounge, a bar patronized by lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgenders," stated NGLTF executive director Kerry Lobel. "Let this violent and despised attack serve as a reminder that more leadership and action is needed in ensuring the safety and equality of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Americans," added Lobel.

Today's bombing highlights the lack of civil rights laws in Georgia for its gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender citizens. According to NGLTF, Georgia's civil rights laws do not include sexual orientation. The state also has a same-sex marriage law. "This bombing underscores the vital importance of hate crime laws in every state, including Georgia, and the absolute necessity that crimes based on sexual orientation be included in those laws," stated Lobel. According to NGLTF 19 states and the District of Columbia have hate crimes laws that include sexual orientation. 19 states have hate crime laws that do not include sexual orientation. Georgia is one of 12 states with no hate crimes laws.

NGLTF urges anyone with information about Atlanta bombings to call FBI and Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms hotline at 1-888-ATF-BOMB.
Partisans Eye Effect of Same-Sex marriage ban on Gay Rights

by Francis X. Quinn

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) — Could the Maine referendum drive to ban same-sex marriage help promote passage of a state gay rights bill? With both measures pending before the Legislature's Judiciary Committee, it is too early to say. But some gay rights advocates believe the passage of the marriage ban on the legislative agenda may work to their advantage.

"I suppose on the one hand, it could," said Sen. Joel Abromson, R-Portland, the chief sponsor of the bill to add sexual orientation to the list of protected categories in Maine's human rights law.

Abromson reasons that for lawmakers weighing the issue of gay marriage, "there may be some who say, well, that's going too far, but I'm willing to support the human rights bill."

"On the other hand," Abromson adds, "I think it does motivate people, because from that point of view it could hurt." Some proponents of the gay rights measure, however, view the debate as a necessary one that motivated discussion about letting the Legislature take up the citizen initiative immediately without referring it to committee. Their thinking assumed that the same-sex marriage ban will be enacted one way or the other, either by lawmakers themselves or by state voters at referendum.

"If the bill passes," said Rep. Peter C. Lockman of Concerned Maine Families, the organization that spearheaded the proposed ban on same-sex marriage, "that's a 'good question' whether the push for gay rights will benefit from the debate over the citizen initiative.

The issue of same-sex marriage may make gay rights "look moderate by comparison" to some lawmakers, said Lockman. But, he adds, "the way we look at it, ... they are at root the very same issues because they are based on the same legal premise ... Do gays and lesbians qualify as a group that gets protected group status?"

Lockman said gay rights opponents want gay rights advocates to make a successful stand in the House of Representatives, which Abromson suggests will be the key battleground. In the event that the measure is enacted, Lockman said it was likely the opponents would mount a referendums challenge known as a people's veto.

Abromson's bill would cover employment, housing, public accommodations and credit, exempting religious organizations.

Co-sponsors include the chairman of the Judiciary Committee that will review it.

28 States Ban Gay Marriages

Here's a list of the 28 states that have laws banning same-sex marriages, including the 17 that have acted in the past year. The Hawaii law has been voided by a court.


Source: The Mississipi Family Council

Stop LD 1017: The Marriage and Family Protection bill

If passed, this bill will prohibit same-gender couples from receiving the same legal protections accorded heterosexual couples through one of the most widely recognized civil rights measures.

Key Points: Without the legal right to a civil marriage, same-gender couples do not have family health coverage, medical and bereavement leave, child custody, tax benefits and pension plans.

*LD 1017 is Unfair!*

This bill will not require any religion to perform or recognize these marriages.

The U.S. Supreme Court declared marriage a fundamental right under the constitution!

*LD 1017 is Unconstitutional!*

Here's how you can help: Contact your legislator and tell him or her to vote NO on LD 1017.

MLGPA, P.O. Box 232, Hallowell, ME 04347 AN ACT TO PREVENT DISCRIMINATION MLGPA Lobby's Equal Protection

This bill will finally make it illegal to discriminate against people in Maine based solely on their sexual orientation. It says that you cannot be fired from a job, evicted from an apartment, denied a loan, or turned away from a restaurant or hotel if you are, or someone just thinks you are gay, lesbian, or bisexual. This bill will provide the same protections that are now set on the basis of age, race, marital status, disability, religion and national origin under the Maine Human Rights Act. Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Rhode Island have already outlawed this kind of discrimination.

Maine still has discrimination.

In a recent Maine survey, ninety-four percent of gays, lesbians, and bisexuals responding have been victims of some form of discrimination. Hate-crime statistics prove that the number of anti-gay beatings and harassment is rising throughout the state. Some victims are afraid to press charges, when it means they could be fired or evicted just for coming forward. Special remedies, not special rights.

Some people think it's their right to discriminate against lesbians, gays and bisexuals. Remember — this kind of prejudice is still legal in the State of Maine. All across this country the religious right is battling to impose its fundamentalist doctrine on lawmakers and citizens alike. These same extremists have opposed almost every civil rights effort in the past. Now they want us all to believe that these basic human rights we seek are special. Religious freedom will be maintained.

This bill specifically says that all religious organizations are guaranteed the right to practice their faith according to their beliefs. What you can do to help: write your legislator, express your concern for equal treatment for everyone! Phone your legislator (for representatives call 1-800-423-2900, for senators call 1-800-423-6900) volunteer your time (we have a constituent lobby day and a public hearing on the bill coming soon)! call MLGPA, leave your name, address, and phone number, and we'll call you soon about when, where and how you can volunteer your time (we have a constituent lobby day and a public hearing on the bill coming soon)! call MLGPA, leave your name, address, and phone number, and we'll call you soon about when, where and how you can volunteer your time (we have a constituent lobby day and a public hearing on the bill coming soon)!
“Don’t ask Don’t tell” Doesn’t work

by Robert Burns

WASHINGTON (AP) — More members of the military are being kicked out for homosexuality than when President Clinton entered office pledging to stop discrimination against gays in uniform, according to Pentagon figures released Wednesday.

The Pentagon said it couldn’t explain the increase, but a legal aid group that is an advocate for gay rights said it shows commanders are conducting witch hunts and investigating women who spur men’s sexual advances.

 Asked about the figures during a photo session, Defense Secretary William Cohen said he wasn’t familiar with the details but said it was his understanding that “grievances” occur from year to year in the numbers. The current numbers do not “warrant a change in policy,” he said.

“I don’t think you can call it a dis­

mal failure,” Cohen said of the Pentagon’s approach.

The Service members Legal De­

fense Network, which provides legal aid to troops accused of homosexuality, pub­lished Defense Department figures that show the number of service members discharged for homosexuality jumped to 850 in 1994 from 722 in 1995. The num­

ber was 682 in 1993, Clinton’s first year in office.

That figure represents an 18 per­

cent increase over the previous year and a 42 percent increase from 1994, the year in which the policy, designed to help end discrimination against gays in the mil­

itary, was put into effect. Of that, 29 per­

cent of those discharged for homosexu­

ality in the last fiscal year were women, even though women make up only 13 percent of active-duty service members.

Army Gen. John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy adopted in the first Clinton administra­

tion was intended to “make life more tolerable and to be more inclusive then exclusive.”

“If the allegations in the study are in fact correct, that’s an aberration that must be corrected,” Shalikashvili said during a conference session at American University.

Michelle Benecke, a retired Army captain who is a co-director of the legal aid group, told a news conference that the military is routinely violating its own policy by investigating suspicions or rumors of homosexuality without cred­

ible evidence.

She said women, both lesbians and heterosexuals, are accused of being gay when they reject sexual advances or re­

port sexual abuse. She said some women report giving in to sexual demands in order to avoid being rumored to be a les­

bian.

The result is a command climate where “anything goes” in the pursuit of suspected gay personnel,” she said.

After resistance from the Pentagon and the Congress to his original prom­

ise of a blanket moratorium on anti-gay discrimination in the military, Clinton struck an awkward “don’t ask, don’t tell” compromise in 1994.

The policy is supposed to allow homosexuals to serve if they keep their sexual orientation private, and punish those who engage in homosexual acts or take actions that call attention to their orientation. Commanders are not to ask about sexual orientation or launch inves­

tigations without credible evidence.

Benecke said her organization, through its contact with service mem­

bers fighting dismissals, had recorded hundreds of instances of “don’t ask, don’t tell violations. Some are deliberate, but many are the result of commanders not having been adequately trained in executing the policy, Benecke said.

She said there is a “wink-and-smile attitude” among senior commanders to­

ward witch hunts.

Bishop under fire for offering services

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) — The spiritual leader of Rochester’s Roman Catholics says he can uphold the church’s teachings on homosexuality while offering gays and lesbians a chance to participate in a special service.

Bishop Matthew Clark, head of the 400,000-member Diocese of Rochester, plans to offer a Mass for gay and lesb­

ian Catholics on March 1 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, the Rochester Demo­

crat and Chronicle reported today.

The Mass has already generated phone calls and letters, diocesan officials said.

“I really don’t think it’s a very good idea,” said Dee Dries, a member of the local chapter of Catholics United for the Faith. “The bishop is disloyal to the Holy See, and he is not a fit representative of the church. He should be removed.”

“The bishop is doing a great service in allowing those people, you are blessing ar­

ning those people, you are blessing abom­i­

ination.”

Clark told the newspaper that he hopes to make gays and lesbians feel welcome in the church, and said Catho­

lics should not equate offering Mass for homosexuals with endorsing homosexu­

ality.

“That puzzles me in light of the fact that I have gone to the Monroe County Jail every Christmas morning for 18 years and no one says to me, ‘by gath­

ering those people, you are blessing an­

son and grand theft and murder and rape,” Clark said. “We have gathered all kinds of people all through the years without making any dreadful judg­

ments.”

The Mass for gays and lesbians will be a relatively rare one. Only ahand­

ful of the 150 dioceses in the United States have held such liturgies, and about only about 30 have any form of outreach min­

istry for gays and lesbians, church officials said.

While the church recognizes ho­

mosexuality as an orientation, it de­

scribes homosexual activity as a sin.

Minorities increasingly feel the effects of AIDS

Milwaukee (AP) Women, minorities and children increasingly are feeling the effect of the AIDS epidemic, a report on Milwaukee-area HIV cases shows.

Minorities accounted for 75 percent of newly-reported cases of HIV infection in the city of Milwaukee in 1995.

New cases among women have doubled in the past five years, according to the report by community and government health agencies. In the past, gay white men have borne the brunt of the epidemic.

The trends show the need to move beyond safe-sex campaigns aimed at gay men and needle exchange programs for drug users and to offer additional prevention programs to reach women of child-bearing age and youths, said City Health Commissioner Paul Nannis.

The report was prepared by the HIV Planning Council and the Ryan White HIV Services Coordinating Council, which oversees use of federal Ryan White Care Act money. The groups include representatives of community and AIDS service groups.

Two years ago, city officials called a meeting of some of the groups to develop a strategy for dealing with AIDS on the local level. The intent was to build on a preven­

tion plan by the Milwaukee Indian Health Board in 1993 and a care and treatment plan by the consortium in 1991.

It was estimated in 1991 that 12,600 people in the Milwaukee area would be infected with HIV by 1995, but only 5,300 were.

Pat McManus, director of the Black Health Coalition, which wrote the prevention part of the report, said it affirmed trends that local health officials knew were happening on a national scale, especially the boom in cases among African-Americans.

Janice Hard, program director of pediatrics at the Medical College of Wisconsin and chairwoman of the Ryan White consortium, agreed.

“The second wave is now much more evident to us. Women and people of color are a bigger concern,” she said.
Sexual Harassment can be same sex

by Paul Ricer
WASHINGTON (AP) - Deaths and infections were reduced by half among AIDS patients taking a three-drug combination that includes a new protease inhibitor drug, researchers say.

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases announced Monday that a national test of drug combinations found that AIDS patients taking zidovudine, lamivudine and indinavir had half the cancers, infections and deaths of patients who were taking a two-drug combination.

Dr. Scott Hammer of Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital at Harvard Medical School in Boston, national coordinator of the study, said all patients in the study are now being given the opportunity to swing to the three-drug combination or to other experimental regimens.

"We have moved very quickly on this," he said.

Hammer said that by last Friday letters had gone out to all of the centers and patients in the drug trials, notifying them of the findings and offering patients the chance to select a new drug combination.

He emphasized, however, that no patients should change their medication routine until they have consulted with their doctors.

Zidovudine is also known as AZT and lamivudine is known as 3TC. They are in a class of drugs known as reverse transcriptase inhibitors. The third drug, indinavir, is one of a new class of compounds called protease inhibitors. The two classes of drugs attack HIV, the AIDS virus, in different ways.

The drug trials, said Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, "confirm the importance of including protease inhibitors in treatment regimens for patients with advanced HIV disease."

"Significantly, the current study provides additional evidence that combination approaches using protease inhibitors can reduce the risk of death," said Fauci, director of the NIAID, the agency that supported the drug trial.

Spencer Cox, a director at TAG. "For example, a federal judge said 'We have moved very quickly on this," he said.

The Treatment Action Group, an AIDS activist organization, said the results of the triple combination drug trial "could help to revolutionize treatment for most people with AIDS."

"This study is helping us to rethink the way we use anti-HIV drugs," said Spencer Cox, a director at TAG. "For now, the era of one-drug treatments with modesty potent anti-virals is over."

### Daffodil Days and the American Cancer Society

The Cumberland Unit of the American Cancer Society is pleased to announce that a committee has decided to plan the upcoming Daffodil Days. This event, held by the American Cancer Society, raises money to support its efforts to eliminate cancer as a major health problem.

The chairwoman this year is Carol Lavin. Carol works as a financial analyst at Diversified Communications in Portland. When asked why she became involved in this event, she stated "I wanted to volunteer because it was an opportunity to serve."

Daffodil Days, in particular, offers an opportunity for everyone in the community to participate in the fund-raising efforts of the American Cancer Society.

Other committee members are: Rebecca Andrews, Amber Grant, Earl Jeffries, Debbie Manning, Terri Powell, Stacey Silvers, Carla Steben, Charlotte Sullivan, Gordon Keenan, Peter Rager, ACS Prestige Group, and the Woodfords High School National Honor Society.

In addition, Andy McLean is serving as Income Development Leader and Jennifer West as Communications Leader, with Linda Rhobet as Executive Director.

The Daffodil Days will be held on March 20, 21, and 22nd. Please contact the American Cancer Society at 1-800-464-3102 if you are interested in either volunteering for this event or ordering flowers.

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3.1 by Robin Estrin
BOSTON (AP) - Lewd gestures, raucous comments, requests for sexual favors.

If they happen in the workplace, they're grounds for a sexual harassment lawsuit - even if both the aggressor and the victim are heterosexual men, Massachusetts' highest court ruled Tuesday.

The issue of same-sex harassment has confronted courts around the nation, with varying results.

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled Tuesday that three former male employees of a Massachusetts lumber yard were entitled to compensation after being sexually harassed by two male supervisors.

Leonid Melnychenko, James Quill and Stephen LaRochelle worked at a West Springfield branch of the national chain 84 Lumber Co. between 1989 and 1990. All three eventually quit.

The men claimed that their supervisors, Richard Raab and Eliaisel Roque, subjected them to a constant stream of verbal and physical abuse. They said Raab grabbed their genitals, fondled their buttocks, exposed himself to them and requested sexual favors.

Raab and Roque were fired after the allegations were raised.

The employees sued the company, and Hampden County Judge Daniel Ford awarded the men a total of about $144,000 in June 1993 on the grounds of sexual harassment. Lawyers for the men said the total figure will nearly triple including interest and attorneys fees following the SJC's decision.

Ford described Raab's conduct as "demented, revolting and positively outrageous."

The lumber company, which is based just south of Pittsfield, appealed to the SJC, arguing the conduct could not be sexual harassment because all the men involved were heterosexual.

If the victims were women, it would have been sexual harassment; if the victims were gay, it might have been sexual harassment as well, the lawyers said.

"We felt that the conduct no matter how gross it is if it's not based upon the person's sex, it's not actionable," said 84 Lumber attorney Robert Boskovic.

The SJC, however, agreed with the employees, saying sexual harassment can apply to situations where both the harasser and the harassed are the same gender and the same sexual orientation.

"Nowhere is discrimination because of a victim's sex made an essential element of a sexual harassment claim in Massachusetts," Chief Justice Herbert Wilkins wrote.

Massachusetts law defines sexual harassment as "sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature."

Justices Francis O'Connor and Neil Lynch dissented, saying the plaintiffs didn't prove that they were sexually harassed because of their gender.

The U.S. Supreme Court has never ruled on the matter, although several attorneys interviewed said they feel it's only a matter of time before it does.

Federal courts have come to different conclusions. In Chicago last year, for example, a federal judge said same-gender sexual harassment is not a basis for court action under civil rights law.

Charlie Ryan, one of the lawyers for the former employees, hailed the Massachusetts decision.

Ryan said he and others feared that the lumber company's reasoning would require plaintiffs and defendants to discuss their sexual orientation in court.

"That really would be a devastating exercise," he said. "I don't think there's anything more personal or more intimate than one's sexual orientation."

Moreover, observers said, sexual orientation shouldn't matter.

"I think that the progress of our civilization is to recognize that exploitation is exploitation regardless of the sex of the person or the sexual orientation," said Paul Berry, a Boston attorney who specializes in employment discrimination cases.

Mary Bonauto, a lawyer for Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, said the SJC's decision will avoid a "goose chase" into proving whether a victim of harassment or a harasser is gay.

### Three-Drug combination effective against AIDS

The trial had tested 1,156 HIV patients at 33 different hospitals or clinics across the nation. The patients had been enrolled in the study for up to a year, with a median participation of 38 weeks.

Patients were randomly assigned to receive either all three of the drugs, or AZT, 3TC and a placebo.

"Survival and a delay in disease progression were significantly better in patients receiving the triple combination therapy," the NIAID reported.

Among patients on the triple drug combination, there were 33 instances of disease progression while there were 66 instances among patients taking only AZT, 3TC and a placebo. Eight patients on the triple drug combination died, while 18 among the other group did.

For patients with a CD4 T-cell count of fewer than 50 per cubic millimeter, a very low level, "the benefit was statistically significant," the agency said.

CD4 T-cells, the white blood cells that are a key element of the body's immune system, are the primary targets of HIV. Healthy levels are 800 to 1,200 per cubic millimeter of blood.

The Treatment Action Group, an AIDS activist organization, said the results of the triple combination drug trial "could help to revolutionize treatment for most people with AIDS."

"This study is helping us to rethink the way we use anti-HIV drugs," said Spencer Cox, a director at TAG. "For now, the era of one-drug treatments with modesty potent anti-virals is over."
News from the Granite State

CVS sued for sexual, Anti-Gay harassment

by Katharine Webster

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) - Richard Provencer says he’s always been a private person who minded his own business but found himself harassed for being gay and ultimately being fired when he protested.

He is suing the Woonsocket, R.I.-based CVS drug store chain. He says he was harassed sexually by his woman boss and taunted for being homosexual but managers failed to intervene and found a pretext to fire him.

“I’ve always grown up a private person,” he said. “You live your private life. But I just wanted equal rights I basically found a pretext to fire him.”

Provencer said he had never been an activist for gay rights.

In a telephone interview last week, however, Provencer said he could not discuss details of the case in which jury selection was set to begin today in U.S. District Court.

Although New Hampshire law does not prohibit workplace discrimination against gays and lesbians, Provencer argues the harassment was a breach of contract because it violated CVS’ own anti-discrimination policy, according to court records.

Jill Blackmer, a Concord lawyer specializing in employment law, said such lawsuits can be successful if the company explicitly prohibits discrimination against homosexuals. However, many companies say they “strive” for a discrimination-free workplace, but make no promises, she said.

Provencer also is suing for sexual harassment and illegal retaliation under the federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, Title VII. He also names several individual managers, claiming “intentional infliction of emotional distress.”

Provencer, a Manchester resident, was hired by CVS as an assistant store manager in 1988 and was promoted to manager at a different store before being fired in 1995, a few months after filing discrimination complaints with the state Human Rights Commission and the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

He suffered no harassment at his first store placement, in Plaistow, but after he was transferred to the Hudson store in November 1989, his new boss made it clear “she didn’t want a man in the store” and it was “her goal to have the first all-female store,” court records said.

The store manager, Deborah Banaian, called him a “faggot,” a “queer,” and a “dick,” and made him ask permission to use the bathroom. She also grabbed his buttocks and crotch and took off her pants and shirt in front of him, making sexual gestures and claiming she could make him into “a real man,” court records said.

Meanwhile, she gave him an excess number of written warnings about his job performance, court records said. Later, Banaian told him she had acted at the encouragement of the district manager.

When Provencer complained to CVS managers, including one who gave a company workshop on sexual harassment, he was told to keep quiet or to put the harassment behind him, court records said; when he filed written grievances with the company, CVS failed to investigate.

That changed when he filed complaints with the state and federal civil rights agencies, the lawsuit said. CVS initiated an investigation and banned Banaian from the Salem store Provencer was managing at the time.

However, Provencer was fired in May 1995 after refusing to turn over his checks for jury duty to a different district manager. He said the district manager refused to give him a receipt; CVS said he was fired for falsifying or altering payroll records.

Deborah Banaian has counter-sued.

Dear Friend of Dignity

On behalf of the Board of Dignity/New England, we are seeking your help in assisting us in obtaining prizes/donations for our Raffle which will take place in April 1997. The proceeds from this raffle will enable us to offer prizes during vacations, holidays away, etc. As always, any offerings which you may give to us, to be presented as a prize, will be subject to any restrictions as deemed by yourself.

Please do not hesitate to call us at the following numbers: Jim Profio-Bond (603-464-6546) or Philippe Lachance (603-647-9712) for more information. Mary the Lord bless you in your business and support of Dignity.

Sincerely

James F. Profio-Bond, Treasurer, Dignity/New Hampshire Philippe M. Lachance, President, Dignity/New Hampshire

DIGNITY/New HAMPSHIRE PO Box 7 Manchester, New Hampshire 03105 603-647-0206

Free Women’s Health Exams

Saturdays from 9:00am - 12:00pm
March 8th, March 22nd, April 5th and April 19th

Please call for an appointment at 431-1669

If you are a woman over 40 and need health services or have any questions, please give us a call at 431-1669
The Coalition to End Discrimination (CED) is preparing for the upcoming hearings on the bill which will add "sexual orientation" to New Hampshire's Law Against Discrimination. The bill now has a number: HB 421 (it is currently and fondly referred to as "the Bill formerly known as 1294"). It is anticipated that it will be heard by the House Judiciary and Family Law Committee in late February or early March. Last year, after putting the bill into extended study, the Judiciary Committee overwhelmingly voted that "it ought to pass," but no action was taken before the end of the 1996 session.

We have reason to hope that this year's Legislature will vote favorably on the bill. In addition, Governor Jeanne Shaheen voted for a previous version of this bill (HB1432) in 1994, and we expect that once this bill reaches her desk that she will sign it into law.

What you can do NOW to help get this legislation passed: Contact members of the House Committee to let them know that you are in favor of this bill. Letters are good, but phone calls and personal visits are best. The names, phone numbers and addresses of the committee members are included in this issue of CPR. Also, contact your friends and family and let them know about this bill and why it is important.

Anti-Same Sex Marriage Bill in House Judiciary Committee

House Bill 260, defining marriage in New Hampshire as a union of "one man and one woman," was heard by the House Judiciary Committee on February 6 and 13. This bill, sponsored by Representative Paul Mirski of Enfield, would place the language of the so-called "Defense of Marriage Act" (passed by the US Congress last August), into New Hampshire law. Current law already prohibits same gender marriage. A recent court case in Hawaii showed that there is no valid reason to prohibit same gender marriage. Although a majority of US citizens still do not approve of these marriages, opposition continues to shrink as more and more people meet lesbian and gay couples and recognize the unfair disadvantages that these couples face.

At the hearings, Representative Mirski indicated he thought it was important that the legislature take up the issue. He believes that differences in the treatment of same-sex couples should be based on real social interests rather than discrimination and that the only justification he could see for giving legal privileges to married couples involved creating strong units to care for children. He is certainly not homophobic. For example, he said his reading of the scientific literature showed gay and lesbian parents to be just as good at raising children as heterosexuals. During discussions between the hearings, Representatives Mirski and other members of the Committee began to understand how many of our people have or want to have children and how much the denial of equal legal status hurts our families.

Unfortunately, his bill drew out the usual "family values" crowd who think they can somehow build up their families by slandering ours. The head of the Christian Coalition sent a letter of endorsement. On the other hand, CAGLR's Mo Baxley denounced the bill in blunt and forceful terms (that made the Channel 9 news), and Marcus Hurn had the Committee laughing as he satirized some of the supporters' reasoning. Marcus also did a live point-counterpoint against the head of the Christian Coalition for Channel 9's cable affiliate, making the point that several religious denominations now recognize same-sex marriage or unions. The introduction of the bill has turned into a positive educational opportunity. There is some sentiment in the committee for turning the whole thing around into a bill allowing domestic partnerships with many of the legal rights of marriage. However, the original bill will still come up on the floor of the House, and despite Rep. Mirski's best intentions, if it passes, it will be a serious setback for our community.

You can help stop this legislation by contacting representatives on the House Judiciary Committee, asking them to vote either for further study (so it can be turned into a domestic partnership bill) or to kill it outright. Their addresses and phone numbers are included in this issue of CPR.

Outright Facilitators being Recruited

Concord Outright, a support and social group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning youth is seeking new facilitators. It meets weekly on Thursdays from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Three volunteer facilitators are present each week, on a rotating basis to provide structure and support to the 25 - 25 youth attending. Since late 1995, Concord Outright serves a variety of purposes, from simply a safe place to go to once a week, to an affirming peer group network, to a place where the hard issues of dealing with sexual orientation get listened to.

Current facilitators come from diverse backgrounds and while some have professional skills which are valuable to the group, the most important skill that one can bring is willingness to listen and help members help each other. The group in many ways is successful at managing its own issues - so don't feel that you have to be an experienced group leader.

A social hour and potluck dinner, provided by current facilitators, will be held on March 21 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm in Concord, location TBA. This is an opportunity for folks who may be interested in being a facilitator to hear some of the experiences (and stories) from the current facilitators. If you would like to attend, or just want more information about Outright, call Knot Turner at 603-463-5608. Help provide today's youth with an experience to grow.

The NH House Judiciary and Family Law Committee

Here is the list of members of the key house committee for the anti-discrimination bill (and the marriage definition bill). We need to respectfully contact people in support of the anti-discrimination bill. Historically, this committee has been very supportive, but they need to know how important this bill is to their constituents. Some committee members may not favor the bill - be polite and brief with them. Don't wrangle, get angry or threaten anyone for the fanatics on the other side.

Representatives:
John J. McCarthy, Jr. (Rock. 24) (Chair) 603-416-4189; 116 Main Street Box 111 New New Hampshire, 03854-0111
Deborah L. Woods (Rock 25) (Vice Chair) 603-772-4205; 8 Tucker's Trail Brentwood, NH 03833
Majorie H. Battles (Rock 18) 603-642-7728; 25 Lake Road Brentwood, NH 03833
David A. Bickford (Straf 01) 603-859-7899; 183 Brckett Road New Durham, NH 03855-2329
Julie M. Brown (Straf 17) 603-322-1084; 414 Little City East Rochester, NH 03867-5672
Susan J. Clark (Hills 04) 603-487-2171; 150 Bunker Hill Road P.O. Box 92 New Boston, NH 03007-0092
Thom Taft (Rock 9) 603-226-0963; 423 Cross Country Road Pembroke, NH 03275
Carol H. Holden (Hills 14) 603-673-8167; 868 1/2 North Road PO. Box 13 Amherst, NH 03031-0013
Aft Etherson (Mer. 02) 603-256-6654; 55 Purcell Hill Road P.O. Box 488 New Hampshire 03257-0188
Sandra B. Keans (Straf 16) 603-332-5472; 1 Sweetbriar Lane Rochester, NH 03867-5377
Evelyn S. Letendre (Hills 15) 603-472-3607; 4 West Wind Drive Bedford NH 03110-5610
Paul M. Mirski (Graft. 12) 603-632-2468; RR 1 Box 244 Enfield, NH 03748
Neil J. Reardon (Rock. 15) 603-329-5772; Stage Road Junction Hampton, NH 03826
Kevin H. Smith (Rock. 29) 603-437-2032; 4 Overlook Avenue Londonderry, NH 03053

Contact:
Janet G. Wall (Straf 09) 603-749-3051; 4 Pudding Hill Road Madbury, NH 03820-7001
David C. Allison (Sull. 10) 603-543-5486; RR 2 Box 889 Cornwall, NH 03745-9743
Lionel W. Johnson (Hills 40) 603-668-4486; 276 Central Street Manchester, NH 03103-4744
Cynthia A. McGovern (Rock 35) 603-427-1702; 7A South Mill Street Portsmouth, NH 03801
Walter P. Morano (Coos 02) 603-449-2058; Plain Road RR 3 Box 3460 Berlin, NH 03570-9310
Irene A. Pratt (Ches. 05) 603-239-4579; 102 Clark Road Winchester, NH 03470-7201
Barbara Hull Richardson (Ches. 12) 603-239-8346; 101 Morgan Road Richmond, NH 03470-4909
Mary Kinna-Parry (Coos) 603-868-7500; P.O. Box 136 Durham, NH 03824-0136

Community Pride Reporter March 1997 Page 7
A Special Donation in memory of a beloved Classmate

The Ashland Community High School Class of 1976 recently made a $400 donation to the HEALTH 1st "Aroostook Community and Maine HIV/AIDS Education Project". This donation was made in the memory of their beloved friend and classmate Byron Daniel Felder. Originally from Portage Lake, Byron was salutatorian of the ACHS class of 1976. He went on to study French at the University of Maine at Orono, including studying abroad in Rennes, France. After graduating from UMO, Byron lived in San Francisco until his death in 1993 from AIDS-related complications.

According to Debra Madore, Community Education Specialist for HEALTH 1st, "This donation will assist with a very special effort. People infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in Aroostook County often feel a sense of isolation. They may be afraid to talk about what is happening, or has happened, to them or their loved ones. This fear may prevent them from seeking the services that could be helpful to them. Byron's class and our own community is in accessing helpful services, a directory of support people and agencies is being developed. This directory will provide time, provide a vision of systemic change."

New Hampshire ACTION ALERT:
Now is the Time to help end discrimination based on Sexual Orientation!
House Bill 421, which adds "Sexual Orientation" to our state's civil rights, is being voted on this month in Concord State House. Please contact your local representative to support this bill. Any amount will help. See the option to make a donation to help the Statehouse campaign to our state's civil rights!

ACTION ALERT:
Walden University - Call 800-422-9001
New Hampshire House Bill 421, which will add "Sexual Orientation" to our state's civil rights, is being voted on this month in Concord State House. Please contact your local representative to support this bill. Any amount will help.

PAWS forced to close Pet Food Bank

Portland, Maine Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS) an AIDS Service Organization formed in 1993 is forced to close the Pet Food Distribution Center located in Portland due to lack of funding and support from the community. It is one of the hardest things that I ever had to do to tell these clients that there will be no more pet food and kitty litter available after the office closes. For approximately 3 Years PAWS has offered this service to People with AIDS in Maine, along with several other pet-related services. The decision to discontinue these services was due to the lack of funds to pay the rent ($300.00 a month) and the monthly expenses of phone and utilities.

Maine Initiatives 1996 Grantees

Maine Initiatives is pleased to announce two grantees for the 1996 grant cycle. Mainely Girls, based in Rockland, and Outright, based in Portland, will both receive three-year funding totaling $35,000 each to expand their programs to new communities in Maine.

"While many of the thirty-one proposals submitted this year were worthy of support," acknowledged Deborah Felder, Maine Initiative's Executive Director, "these two projects rose to the top in their ability to use grassroots community-based strategies to achieve meaningful social change." Mainely Girls will hire a full-time staff person to work with five rural communities in Maine to develop a program similar to one that has already been successfully established in the Camden/ Rockport area. In each community, women and girls organize and identify unmet needs and create an action plan.

In Camden/Rockport, this includes advising a student-organized gender equity organization, working with the local hospital to coordinate an eating disorders support group, initiate a high school program about acquaintance rape, create a Mainely Girls Student Executive Board and organizing an annual conference for girls. The vision of Mainely Girls is to create empowered teams of women and girls who are capable of making change in their own communities by improving the environment in which girls grow to maturity.

Outright seeks to create a safer, positive living environment for gay, lesbian and questioning youth, ages 12 and under. Gay youth are at high risk of alienation, suicide, violence from others, substance abuse and AIDS. Outright currently works with the Civil Rights Unit of the Maine Attorney General's office to establish the Civil Rights Rights of students and staff in pilot schools across the state. For nine years, Outright did all its work through volunteers. Over the past year, Outright has helped community members in Bangor, Belfast and Lewiston to develop autonomous Outright groups. Outright will use Maine Initiatives funding to hire a volunteer coordinator and expand the successful Portland-based program to three additional Maine communities and create a coalition of Outright groups statewide.

Maine Initiatives was formed in 1993 as a public foundation, providing grants solely through funds raised from individual donors. Its purpose is to provide sustainable funding for projects or programs that offer grassroots solutions to social, economic or environmental problems. Grantees must have limited access initially to traditional funding sources, involve the constituency served in both leadership and membership, emphasize volunteerism and support democratic values in the search for common ground among diverse groups.

Women's Health Consortium

The Women's Health Consortium is a volunteer collaboration of many local service providers and community members working to improve the health and wellness of women in the Greater Seacoast. The Steering Committee includes Families First Greater Seacoast, Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, Sexual Assault Support Services and Columbia Portsmouth Regional Hospital. Among the programs offered are free women's health exams for women 40 and over in downtown Portsmouth and Portland. The clinic includes a Pap smear, pelvic exam, clinical breast exam and referral for mammograms as needed. These services are provided for women who do not have insurance, a health care provider or are lacking the means for health care.

The Women's Health Consortium offers a Mammogram voucher program for women who need mammograms (an x-ray of the breast) but are unable to afford it. The first step in the process is to be screened. Women who do not have the provider can call the Consortium to obtain a mammogram voucher.

The free women's health exams are available on Saturdays, March 8th, March 22nd, April 5th and April 19th, from 9 am -12 pm. If you are a woman 40 or over and in need of health services or have any questions, call 603-431-1669.

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The MLGPA 12th Annual Awards Banquet was held Saturday, February 8, at the Augusta Civic Center. Attendance was almost 300 and the evening was enjoyed by all. Most notable were the awards presented to individuals who have contributed significantly to our community.

The Cameron Duncan Award (Outstanding AIDS Community Service) presented to Peter Haffenreffer of Portland. Peter Haffenreffer is a founding member and the president of the Board of Directors of the Peabody House in Portland. The Peabody House is a residential house for AIDS patients in the advanced stages. Without Peter's vision, contributions, and leadership over the last several years, Peabody House may never have become a reality. The F.E. Pentlarge Award (Outstanding Demonstration of Family Values) presented to Peter Rees of Ellsworth. Peter Rees has advocated for gay / lesbian / bisexual / transgendered rights for many years, in many different arenas. He was co-chair of the Hancock County Maine Won't Discriminate chapter in 1995, he was co-chair of the Decline to Sign project of MLGPA in 1996, and he is a founding member the fledgling Downeast Chapter of the Gay Lesbian, Straight Teachers Network (GLSTN). As a non-gay member of the community, Peter's actions demonstrate what family values are really all about.

The Media Award presented to Maine Public Radio for Maine Things Considered. Maine Things Considered was awarded for their fair and balanced reporting of issues important to the g/l/b/t community. Hardly a story went by that they did not cover fairly and consistently, with respect and dignity, much more than any other radio or TV news network.

Community Service Award presented to Laura Fortman, Director of the Maine Women’s Lobby. According to Laura's presenter at the banquet, Laura Fortman is a bridge. A bridge is a solid structure, under which there are swamps, dangerous waters, and untrekable territory. Laura serves as that solid structure in our community, being the means by which we are able to pass over untrekable territory. Laura Fortman is a tireless leader and advocate for women, g/l/b/t, and people of disadvantaged status. She is one of the most effective lobbyists in Augusta and the gay community owes a tremendous amount of gratitude to her leadership and companionship.

Community Service Award presented to Paula Stodholm, founder of Maine GayNet. Paula Stockhol most responsible for bringing Maine GayNet to the gay community of this state. Paula (at Paula@maine.com) has opened an avenue of communication that never existed in the history of the Maine gay community. People in rural Maine are now able to keep abreast of information and events happening across the state. And organizations now have an additional forum by which to communicate their most important information. Thank you Paula!
It's official; the votes have been tallied—KATE CLINTON is now the Madame President of comedy! Her agenda includes political material as fresh as the daily news, savvy send-ups of modern family relationships and illuminating perspectives on life as a gay American. No skeletons in this Clinton's closet, Kate began performing as an openly gay comic from the closet, Kate began performing as an openly gay comic from the closet, Kate began performing as an openly gay comic from the closet, Kate began performing as an openly gay comic from the closet, Kate began performing as an openly gay comic from the closet. But once stand-up is in the blood, it has to stay away from the thrill of live performance, so KATE has returned to her first love with a new show for the new year, "The Mad Vow Tour". At the same time, she is pursuing her "wishing touches" on her first book, "CommunionKATE", to be published by Ballantine in '97. Based on her past and present monologues, it's filled with thoughts both insightful and riotous. Also, KATE writes a monthly column titled "Unplugged" in The Progressive, a magazine politically skewed to the left, in which she waxes by turns comical and philosophical about the state of our nation and those who have put us in such a state.

In 1993 her one-woman show "Out Is In" debuted to sold-out crowds in Los Angeles, after which KATE moved it to New York for a 3 month run off-Broadway. The Los Angeles Times noted, "Kathleen Clinton, dark lesbian wearing baggy jeans and a t-shirt and no makeup, takes the audience on a high-speed ride..." And she "...never quite far out of the closet, natural in her sexual identity, that a homophobe would beg her to spend the night in her room..." She's smart, and above all - amusing. Not liking her new goal is to "perform comedies on Broadway, "Arsenic Hall", "Comedy Central" ," Good Morning America" "Nightline" , CNN, "The Man" ("I'll kill on C-span", she deadpanned), "Entertainment Tonight", "Food Network", "FX" and PBS. Additional credits include hosting "In The Life", a televised gay news/variety show, collaborating on WGBH's acclaimed summer series "The World According to Us" which also appears as three specials on the Lifetime network; appearing on Comedy Central's "Out There II" stand-up special; and participating in a staged reading of Tony Award winner Tony Kushner's newest pay, "SLAVES!", with Olympia Dukakis, Tracey Ulmann and Madeleine Kahn at the Walter Kerr Theatre in New York. In addition KATE has four comedy albums to her credit.

A self-described Fumrist (that's feminist and humorist) and "gal comedienne" par excellence, KATE was formerly an English teacher for eight years. Teaching taught her a thing or two about audience captivation. "Being a teacher is the same as being a comic in the room. You learn to deal with hecklers. You plan a show. And you try things to get laughs." A writing workshop, and an improvisational class with future comic Bob Goldthwait, convinced KATE that her political views deserved a public hearing, so she quit teaching, took a job at a joke workshop, and started airing her opinions in church basements and bars. Speaking out about the important things on her mind, KATE started her professional stand-up career in 1981 using politics, Catholicism and her lesbianism to compose a repertoire of topics. "performing is a little like juggling. You have the basic themes and then you improvise and return to them from time to time.

Growing up, KATE made her first inroads toward comedy at the dinner table where her goal was to get her older brother to fall off his chair. Yes, KATE CLINTON has a brother Bill (although no relation to the man in the White House, the common surname has made for some interesting material! At one point she considered changing her name to Hiliary Clinton but more recently has thoughts of calling herself Kate Elisabeth.) One never knows just what will strike KATE's heightened sense of whiny- her new goal is to write a novel. But, when it comes to the tough political questions of our times (Shouldn't Newt's last name be Gingrich? Really, really rich? ) it's without a doubt that KATE CLINTON has all the answers. A consummate family entertainer, KATE continues to prove that this is the soft-spoken character of the year really a funny woman. Kate will be coming soon to Portland. For more information see the April issue of CPR.

**Spring for Life Art Auction**

Spring for Life, one of Maine's most prestigious art auctions, is entering its second decade as a major fundraiser for The AIDS Project. Last year's auction was attended by more than 800 people, and raised $70,000 for The AIDS Project. This year's event promises to be bigger than ever, and features signed feature artist Jamie Wyeth lithograph, "Herring Gulls", which was donated to the auction by NYNEX. Other artists whose works will be auctioned off on March 15th to benefit The AIDS Project include Connie Hayes (last year's signature artist), Wendy Newcomb, Scott Potter, Carol Sebold and Michael McNally.

Spring for Life would not be possible without the strong support of Maine's artistic community, said Larry Bliss, chair of the 1997 Spring for Life Committee. "The body of work that Spring for Life offers has grown in quality and quantity every year, and that is central to what makes this such an exciting event. And of course, our corporate sponsors and volunteers have also been instrumental in growing Spring for Life into its second decade of funding for The AIDS Project."

After several years of support for Spring for Life, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maine has once again provided a major grant to support Spring for Life. Other corporate sponsors of the 1997 auction include the Holiday Inn by the Bay, the harbor's Barton's and Communications, Letterworks and NYNEX. Bliss estimates that when this 11th annual Spring for Life auction concludes, more than 300 volunteers will have been a part of making the event a reality.

The public will have many ways to get an early glimpse of some of the artwork that will be auctioned on March 15th. Works from this year's Spring for Life Art Auction will be accessible online at http://www.mainela.com/adsart. Low-tech art aficionados can take advantage of the special art previews, March 1-12, at Katahdin restaurant, Perfetto Restaurant, Barbara's Kitchen and Coastal Dining Room.

"The money raised by Spring for Life supports our mission of providing high quality AIDS services and education to the people of southern Maine," said Stephen T. Monkey, executive director for The AIDS Project. The 1997 Spring for Life Art Auction will be held at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland on Saturday, March 15. The public can preview live and silent auction pieces, free of charge, at the Holiday Inn by the Bay on Friday, March 14, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 15, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Doors will reopen at 5:30 pm and general admission, which includes a bidder's number, will be $15.00. Tickets may be purchased at the door. Silent auction bids can be made can be made throughout the day on Saturday, with final silent bids tallied at 7:30 pm. The live auction will begin at 8:00 pm in the Grand Ballroom, with Tom Selleck serving as Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

A festive artists' reception will be held from 5:30 - 7:00 pm on Saturday, March 15, featuring complimentary champagne and beverages, and hors d'oeuvres prepared by Portland's finest chefs. Tickets for the artists' reception are $40.00 per person, which includes admission to the auction, and can be purchased at the door or by calling The AIDS Project at 207-774-8677.
Lettice and Lovage

By Rosemary Denman

Two women... couldn't be more different... yet united by fate. Friends of theirs, Lettice, a middle-aged, rather lonely woman who discovers that her theatrical flair for telling historical half-truths actually draws people to her. Then there's Lotte, also a woman in her middle years, whose dreams long ago been forgotten, and who plods through each day putting one foot in front of the other working in middle management. Bring these two women together, add Lettice's potent homebrew called "Lovage" and now we have a story coming together.

"Ellen" is coming out

NEW YORK (AP) _ The much-rumored episode about the TV character "Ellen" coming out as a lesbian has been written.

The special one-hour episode, targeted to run during the May sweeps, has Ellen's character finally revealing to her therapist that she is in love with a single guy that Ellen went to college with.

Lettice is employed as a tour guide at what she considers to be one of the most boring historical houses in all of England. Lotte is the manager of the office that employs Lettice. They have never met, until Lotte calls Lettice into her office to fire her. Suddenly, Lettice has been spicing up the historical facts about the house at which she serves as guide. Lettice has gotten some very nice letters and tips, from some very satisfied tourists. Lotte, on the other hand, has received all of the complaint letters about Lettice from the more disgruntled executives, who also must sign off on it.

The ABC series has been moved to Tuesday nights starting March 4. The show was scheduled to go off the air in March and April so the network could use its 9:30 p.m. Wednesday time slot to introduce a sitcom starring Arsenio Hall. During the May sweeps, "Ellen" will return to its regular Wednesday time period, and Hall's as-yet-un titled show, if it does well, will be moved to another time slot.

Ellen's coming out episode is scheduled to air April 30th.

Seattle School accepts grant to buy Gay, Lesbian family books

SEATTLE (AP) _ On the cover of "Daddy's Wedding," by Michael Willhoite are pictures showing a wedding cake, a man with his arm around another man and the two men giving each other pieces of cake.

The books are part of a project designed to increase understanding of different kinds of families and "dispel myths and stereotypes," according to the school system's grant application. The project amounts to promoting the understanding of homosexuality, said state Sen. Harold Hochstatter, R-Moses Lake, who supports a bill to bar discussion of homosexuality as a normal or acceptable lifestyle in the public schools.

"It is very, very subtle," Hochstatter said Friday. "The subtext is the poison in this whole thing. It is the kind of thing these children would be vulnerable to and needs to be resisted."

Tracy Flynn, a school system health curriculum specialist, denied that the schools were promoting any lifestyle. "We are just acknowledging what already exists," Flynn said. "Our goal is to support all families. Gay and lesbian families exist in our district."

"Iphigenia and Other Daughters"

Celebrating Women's History Month, Portland Stage Company presents "Iphigenia and Other Daughters" which begins previews on March 2 and plays through March 23, 1997. Playwright and director Tracy Flynn has adapted for the stage three of the classic Greek myths surrounding the Trojan War, removed the men as the focal point and given a 20th century tongue to the women in the House of Atreus while giving history a distinctly feminine voice. What remains is a powerful drama as seen through the eyes of Agamemnon's wife, Clytemnestra, and her daughters Electra, Chrysothemis and Iphigenia.

It's a Girl for Melissa Etheridge and partner Julie Cypher

LOS ANGELES (AP) It's a girl for singer Melissa Etheridge and her partner, Julie Cypher.

Bailey Jean Cypher, weighing 8 pounds, 10 ounces, was born to Cypher early Monday, February 10, said Etheridge spokeswoman Gayle Fine. Etheridge, the Grammy-winning singer of "Come to My Window," and Cypher, the former wife of "La Bamba" star Lou Diamond Phillips, disclosed last year that Cypher was carrying their child. The method of fertilization and the identity of the sperm donor weren't disclosed.

Fine said only that the birth took place in the Los Angeles area.
Afas, from page 1

was hand-pieced by local artisan and AFAA member Pam Glidden. Pam's quilt is truly a special work of art and labor of love. Her story about creating this piece is also included in this issue of CPR.

Members of the AFAA have asked me to write to Rosie O'Donnell and let her know about our efforts in the hopes that she would be our guest at our benefit in March. We invited Rosie because of her particular (perceived by us) interest in HIV/AIDS issues and grass roots responses to the epidemic. We would be honored to have her there supporting us in our project. We do hope that she can come.

by Pam Glidden

In January 1995, my family lost one of our family members to AIDS. Although we knew of the illness for several years, the impact of the death was profound. Once I had the time to reflect, I decided that I wanted to use my skills and gifts to bring service and comfort to other individuals and their families who have been touched by this disease.

I have been making ABC Quilts, for infants and young children who were HIV positive, for several years. In the fall of 1995 I attended a local, Aroostook County group meeting of 'Artists For AIDS Awareness'. This group was a collection of artists who wanted to donate their time and work to raise money to support prevention education and treatment for Aroostook County. The largest effort of this group is to host an annual dinner and art auction in Caribou.

Artpark

Shortly after the 1996 dinner I was asked to create and donate a quilted work for the '97 event. In my travels to New York, I had seen a poster in a subway kiosk in Buffalo, advertising 'Artpark', a theater in Niagara Falls. I knew that it would make a perfect wall hanging because of the wonderful lines and colors, as well as the artistic themes within it.

In March 1996, I contacted Kathleen Rooney of 'Artpark', who in turn contacted Parsons Advertising and the illustrator, Andrew Lewis. All parties gave me permission to use the design: one time only!

After I enlarged the design, I realized that I could never find commercially produced fabric to represent the coloration in the poster. (I had committed myself to a faithful representation) In April I bought commercial dyes and several books, and began hand dying many of the fabrics to be used in the quilt.

I began hand piecing and quilting on May 1, 1996. I hand quilted the entire piece in a variety of metallic threads. It was completed on July 2nd, 1996. The day after completion I took the quilt to Artpark (it had been previously arranged). The piece was shown at the theater for the summer season and also traveled to Parsons Advertising in Ontario for a short time.

The quilt is made entirely of cotton. It is hand pieced and quilted (except for the "frame" which was done on the machine for strength).

The quilt will be auctioned at the 3rd Annual "Benefit to Celebrate Life", co-ordinated by Artists For AIDS awareness, on March 22, 1997 at the Caribou Inn and Convention Center.

Artists For AIDS Awareness
(AFAA) Art Auction Preview

The public is cordially invited to attend the Artists For AIDS Awareness (AFAA) Art Auction Preview. This event is being held on Saturday March 8, 1997, from 2:00 to 5:00 pm at the University of Maine at Presque Isle Pulled Art Gallery. Refreshments will be served. There is no charge for attending this event.

Original pieces by the area's finest artists will be displayed. The impressive list of artists includes: Anderson Giles, Wendy Kindred, Richard Clark, Lisa Myers, Pam Glidden, Paul Carlson, Don Cyr, Mark Huff, Clifford Broadcom, Constance Tucker, Rosilang Morgan, Li Turner, Stephen Hatch, Troy Cunningham, Vicky Kennedy and John Hafford.

Art work displayed at the preview will be auctioned during the AFAA "3RD Annual Benefit to Celebrate Life" scheduled for Saturday March 22, 1997 at the Caribou Inn and Convention Center. All proceeds are used for HIV/AIDS prevention education projects in The County.

For more information please contact Debra Madore, AFAA member, at 708-3056 or toll-free at 1-800-432-7881.
Couple denied marriage license

by Ashley H. Grant

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Harriet Clarke and Becky Thacker have matching outfits for their big day. The two women donned black slacks, white blouses and red sweaters, then drove downtown Friday morning to apply for a marriage license.

As they expected, though, the lesbian couple was denied. Their bid to become legally bound to each other was purely symbolic because same-gender marriage is not legally recognized in Indiana.

“We’re still married, as far as I’m concerned,” Ms. Clarke said after being turned away at the Marion County clerk’s office. “The people were very nice. They were very sympathetic. She couldn’t give us a license.”

The couple met and fell in love nine years ago. They have lived together for five years. They had a private union ceremony four years ago.

Still, the state doesn’t recognize them as partners. “We would like very much to be legally married,” Ms. Clarke, 54, said. “I would like to see that happen in our lifetime.”

Ms. Clarke said she wants people to understand that she and her partner aren’t trying to undermine heterosexual marriage. “We love each other the same way,” she said. “We live together the same way. We do laundry together. We take out the garbage. We live the responsibilities. We would like to get some of the benefits.”

That’s why the couple decided to apply for a marriage license as part of a national campaign by the National Organization for Women on Friday. “Maybe by doing this action, we can do a little educating,” she said. “We’re wanting to be recognized the same way heterosexual couples are recognized.”

That may not happen for awhile at least in Indiana.

Sexual Assault Response Services

Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Indiana is a non-profit organization serving all male and female victims and survivors of sexual assault, child sexual abuse, incest and sexual harassment.

SARS also serves family members, friends, co-workers and anyone needing information. They provide a 24 hour hotline which can be reached 24 hour a day, 365 days a year. Services are free and confiden­

tial and advocates are volunteers - trained and supervised by professionals. 

SARS offer’s support groups, provides referrals to area professionals and will accompany a victim, if requested, to the hospital police station or court.

If you or someone you know has been sexually assaulted, you are not alone. Please call the hotline and speak to an advocate at 1-800-313-9900.

MERCY HOSPITAL SUPPORT GROUP

The Breast Health Resource Center at Mercy Hospital is sponsoring a new Transition Support Group for women who have recently finished breast cancer treatment.

Group discussions will focus on stress reduction, sexuality, health maintenance, and back to normal expectations of family, friends and colleagues.

The group begins Wednesday March 26 from noon to 2:00 pm, in Mercy Hospital’s Breast Health Resource Center. Plan to bring a bag lunch, beverages will be available. To register, or for more information, call 879-3790.

Metropolitan Community Church

Inclusive, non-homophobic, liberation-based

The Gospel of Jesus, The Christ, for all people

Northern Lights MCC of Augusta, ME

4:00 pm Sunday, Communion each week

2.5 miles from Cony circle on Rt. 201

FMI: Bill at 207.455.9750

Northern Lights MCC of Augusta, ME

4:00 pm Sunday, Communion each week

2.5 miles from Cony circle on Rt. 201

FMI: Bill at 207.455.9750

Circle of Hope MCC of Portland, ME

4:00 pm Saturday, Immanuel Baptist, 156 High Street

FMI: 207.775.6664 ex #32

Interpreted for the hearing impaired

Every person is welcomed! Please join us!
Position Paper on the Defense of Marriage Act

The following is an open letter to Maine legislators sent by Jean Vermette, Director of Maine Gender Resource and Support Services (MeGReSS).

Dear Legislator,

The Maine Gender Resource and Support Service (MeGReSS) is a volunteer organization providing educational information, counseling and referrals to Maine's transgendered community, and education and consultation to Maine's helping professionals, educators, public servants, businesses and general public.

We understand that Maine's version of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) will be presented to you during this session in an attempt to prevent same-sex marriages. Because every law which is passed creates a number of unintended consequences, many of them undesirable...we feel it is our duty to bring to the attention of Maine's legislators at least one of the unexpected consequences which the passage of DOMA could create, not only for members of the community we represent, but also for other citizens of Maine as well.

There are two legal considerations at work in Maine which commoner combines to create a very special set of circumstances for our transgendered population (for those whose innate nature requires them to undergo a sex change).

The first consideration is the fact that an individual has undergone a sex change surgery he or she may present evidence of the completed sex change to the appropriate government bodies and have the sex designation on his/her vital records changed to reflect the new reality. At that point, the person is considered to be of the new sex and obtains all of the privileges, responsibilities and restrictions of that sex. For example, a "new man" could then legally marry a woman, but not legally marry a man. A "new woman" could legally marry a man, but could not legally marry a man.

The second consideration is the fact that any marriage which meets all of the state-mandated legal requirements at the time of its creation remains a legally valid marriage until the married persons choose to dissolve it. Neither incapacitating accident, nor personal changes, nor financial gain or setback, nor changes in life-style, nor criminal conduct, nor any other life situation allows the state to unilaterally step in and dissolve a legally valid marriage. Only the couple can request and move to do so.

This long-established principle serves the very considerable interests of the state in seeing that the health, welfare, and general care of its children, spouses, and other dependents are maintained by those who have agreed (by marriage) to be responsible for them. For the state to mandate the dissolution of a valid marriage against the will of the parties would bring into play a host of other legal questions and regulations which could not only cost the state large sums of money, but which would also act directly against its interest to encourage citizen responsibility and its need to cultivate respect for the law.

In some cases, one of the partners in a legal, valid marriage may move to undergo a sex change. Usually, this results in one or both parties choosing to dissolve the marriage, and the law currently allows the divorce to proceed. However, occasionally, and the numbers we are talking about are very small, the married partners may decide that dissolving the marriage is neither necessary nor desirable and that they would prefer to retain married even after sex change surgery has been completed.

The question for the state, and for you as one of its legislators, is whether the state's DOMA can be crafted in such a way that the integrity of these few state-recognized marriages can be maintained. If the state will not maintain the integrity of those unions it has previously recognized, if indeed it will mandate their involuntary dissolution, then how will you as a legislator be able to face your constituents and reassure them that the precedent that you have set in place will not be built upon by a future legislature to invalidate our own marriages at the behest of some other special interest group.

MeGReSS believes that the passage of DOMA would not accomplish any constructive purpose and would set a very dangerous precedent that would allow for the future intrusion of the state into all of its citizens married lives. We urge you to move slowly when considering the state DOMA for passage, to properly investigate the potential for unintended results, and to not be swayed too quickly or too completely by ill-conceived public opinion. It is our belief that as a legislator you owe it to your constituents not only to reflect their voices, but also to use your greater social awareness to see that, by their wishes, they do not cause themselves harm.

Respectfully Submitted
Jean Vermette Director, MeGReSS PO Box 1894 Bangor, Maine 04402-1894

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."

Transforum: In The Process of Being

by Daraslyn S. Maxwell

In the process of sorting out all of the issues that become complicated to me, one aspect makes itself felt at every encounter, offering refuge while reminding me of the very tenuous nature of life. Self-confidence takes a holiday at every opportunity. So, what is this amazing event that reduces me to a near puddle? Meeting new people.

I feel like the new girl on the playground every time I go into a new social situation. All of the other girls check me out, trying to figure if I am cool enough to hang with them; whether I dress like them, or whether I can be made to "fit the mold". The thing that makes this so personally overwhelming is that I am now a 44 year old "teenage" girl.

Having been on hormones for well over a year now, things have happened to my body that I was not raised to be prepared for. There are changes in my perceptions, and base emotion that need to be accepted and resolved. Add to that the fact that my entire social structure is being torn down to the basement rebuilt one extended brick at a time. It makes for a very challenging day.

I have the privilege of having made some very good friends over the last year or so; someone willing to nurture and tend my soul so that it will flower in a positive direction, validating my womanhood even before it is completely solidi­fied. They make my recess time on the playground easier to bear; they feed and sustain my need for support. But most of all, when I am wrong they don't take their toys and leave me alone; they sit me down and explain exactly how the game is played.

I know that these same women have, on occasion, shaken their heads in amazement at some of the silly things that I do or say. At times they have even taken me to task for them, reminding me that life on the playground can be pretty physical; I need to pay attention more. Form­ately, as time goes on it seems to take fewer reminders; there is more positive reinforcement, and the level of valida­tion (which is so important to anyone who aspires to join a group) goes up as I take my place, slowly, in the company of women.

It is also a struggle at times adapting to a whole new set of rules; finding out where the boundaries are; learning how to find your place, and keep your space. It is hard, sometimes, to see things only through new eyes, and knowing that you have traded one comfortable set of rules for another, alien, set.

Then again, as with anything else in life worth having, the struggle has a purpose. In my case it is like a home-coming; joining the community that I was denied access to for so long through a biological quirk of nature. It looks to be a pretty nice place to be.

Dai Maxwell practices her playground etiquette in Portland, Maine. Comments can be sent to her through CPR, or she can be e-mailed at daijyn@alum.mit.edu.
Homophobia? or just bad business

by David Swander

Being busy professionals, we never found time to use the gift certificate a friend had given us two years ago for the hot tubs. Since there was no expiration date on the certificate, we didn’t force a day to go into our schedules. So, we decided to make some time on Valentine’s Day to go and make reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and drove furiously to the Old Port so we would be there by 6:30 appointment time. Since buying a house in December, this was to be our first dinner out (have to be frugal with a new house, you know) and we were somewhat disappointed that we had to rush through dinner and couldn’t enjoy this treat.

We arrived at The Portland Hot Tubs only to find out from the owner that he would not honor our gift certificate! He said they had just bought the business and never paid attention to an expiration date, it was no good. The rationale he used was that he started a new business and had nothing to do with the previous business. A businessman in the lobby said he thought this was illegal and tried to help us convince the owner to let us use it. Of course, it seemed unusual that the new business would keep the same logo and phone numbers of the previous owners if they had nothing to do with the old business! So, the owner offered us $10.00 for our $25.00 gift certificate, but still claimed no responsibility towards the gift certificate.

After some discussion with the owner about the principle of the matter, his wife started yelling at us and made some comments about us being cheap. “I’m sorry,” I said, “we were given a valid gift certificate and offered to use it by someone who had obviously enjoyed them. Had we been able to use it, we could have told all our friends what a romantic time we had and recommended it to others. Instead, you not only tell me that you must ruin our Valentine’s Day plans and risk bad word of mouth (which would ruin anyone’s advertising), but also you feel the need to yell at us and call us names.” Everyone watching this display was embarrassed for us.

How much easier it would have been to let us use our valid gift certificate that is about to expire, as per our 20 last minutes, upset the guests waiting in the lobby, risk bad publicity and loss of business. So this letter is to let the community know that if they have a gift certificate with no expiration date to The Portland Hot Tubs, tough luck! Your money has just gone down the drain; right alongside our romantic Valentine’s evening for two with some really rich diversity among us, with the intention of inflating the word community with renewed meaning and vitality. CPR pledges to present materials that contribute in positive ways to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Our Editorial Policy

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

Submissions Welcome

Material submitted for publication must include address and/or phone number for verification. All submissions are subject to editing. Please keep letters to the CPR Mailbox to 300 words or less. Slightly longer and composed submissions may be considered for a guest editorial at the Publisher’s discretion. If accepted, the Publisher may agree to withhold the name of an author for appropriate reasons. All submissions should be directed to the publishing editor.

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Back To Basics

By John D’Emilio Director NGLTF Policy Institute

The military ban . . . the freedom to marry . . . the Rainbow curriculum . . . workplace partnership benefits . . . These are the commonalities, as more of us come out earlier and stay out for decades, our vision of equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people expands.

We, as a community, are able to see farther and expect more. The cutting-edge issues for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender folks are the ones that grab our attention and our energy.

In the 1960s, 1970s, and early 1980s, virtually all of the repeals came through a rewriting of a state’s entire penal code. In other words, sodomy law reform was hidden beneath an avalanche of changes in state law and constitution, but only one issue was of public controversy. To my knowledge, only two states repealed the law as a freestanding measure after full legislative debate. As the extremist right got organized in the 1980s, it became harder to repeal these statutes legislatively. Then, in 1986, in the infamous case of Bowers v. Hardwick, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of sodomy statutes. Since then, sodomy laws have fallen not through legislative repeal but because federal judges have challenged them based on the provisions of state constitutions.

Here are some recent examples: "Judges in custody cases, as with Sharon Bottoms in Virginia, use the criminality of homosexual behavior as the basis for declaring a mother or father unfit. " at George Mason University last fall, a crucible of debate on gay rights. Here is the Second Circuit’s opinion: The court held that the state sodomy statute was constitutional as a threat to public order. The court also ruled that the state’s interest in regulating sexual conduct was not outweighed by the state’s interest in protecting individuals from sexual abuse. The court further ruled that the state’s interest in preventing sexual assault was not outweighed by the state’s interest in protecting individuals from sexual abuse.

In 1961, eight years before the Stonewall Rebellion, Illinois became the first state to repeal. A couple of other states did so in the 1960s; the repeal movement accelerated in the 1970s; and it then slowed considerably thereafter. Today, twenty-nine states and the District of Columbia are "free" states without sodomy laws; the remaining twenty-one states still criminalize all homosexual sex.

The pattern of repeal is interesting. In the 1960s, 1970s, and early 1980s, virtually all of the repeals came through a rewriting of a state’s entire penal code. In other words, sodomy law reform was hidden beneath an avalanche of changes in state law and constitution, but only one issue was of public controversy. To my knowledge, only two states repealed the law as a freestanding measure after full legislative debate. As the extremist right got organized in the 1980s, it became harder to repeal these statutes legislatively. Then, in 1986, in the infamous case of Bowers v. Hardwick, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of sodomy statutes. Since then, sodomy laws have fallen not through legislative repeal but because federal judges have challenged them based on the provisions of state constitutions. Even when the remaining laws are enforced, however, function as an excuse for other oppression and discrimination. Here are some recent examples: "Judges in custody cases, as with Sharon Bottoms in Virginia, use the criminality of homosexual behavior as the basis for declaring a mother or father unfit. " at George Mason University last fall, a crucible of debate on gay rights. Here is the Second Circuit’s opinion: The court held that the state sodomy statute was constitutional as a threat to public order. The court also ruled that the state’s interest in regulating sexual conduct was not outweighed by the state’s interest in protecting individuals from sexual abuse. The court further ruled that the state’s interest in preventing sexual assault was not outweighed by the state’s interest in protecting individuals from sexual abuse.

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Community Pride Resources

National Association of Social Workers, ME
Chapter, Sexual Minority Issues Committee welcomes new social work members to meet, educate, provide resources, and lobby legislators on issues involving sexual minorities in Maine. FMI call 1-800-622-4254.

Hate Crimes & Bias Incidents: Have you or someone you know been a victim? Call the Civil Rights Section of the Department of the Attorney General at 626-8844.

Citizen Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights: (CAGLR), New Hampshire's largest and progressive gay, lesbian, and bisexual organization, welcomes all those interested in these goals to weekly meetings, programs, socials and various other events.

Michigan State Society: an educational and cultural organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people in northern Michigan. Newschapers, meetings, educational and cultural programs and celebrates our community's and just the way they are (See: listings for Maine & New Hampshire under GAY SUPPORT and SUPPORT GROUPS.)

Identity Support

New Hampshire P-FIAG Meetings: Concord: Meets 3rd Sunday from 3-5 p.m at the 1st Congregational Church, 23 Main Street, Newington, NH. Phone: 603-472-4944.

Manchester: Meets 1st Tuesday from 7-9 p.m at St. Paul's Community Church, 85 Main Street, Manchester, NH (1 block from Walmart). Call 603-772-5156.

Plymouth: Meets first Sunday, 7-9 p.m, Plymouth Congregational Church, 245 Main St. FMI call 603-968-7354 or 603-786-8912.

Maine P-FIAG Meetings: Portland: Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday 7-9 p.m at Woodfords Congregational Church, 20 Woodfords St. FMI call 207-766-5156 or 207-774-3411.

Brunswick/Bath: Meets 1st, 2nd & 3rd Wed, 6 p.m. FMI call 207-729-0519.

Leawood/Auburn: Meets last Monday of the month from 6:30-8:30 p.m at Jaret Geffen Center. Meets on the 2nd and last Monday of each month. Call 207-763-8798.

Women's Center:

Belfast - Meets 1st Tuesday, 5 p.m. 1st Floor (above Jewel). Free group meeting every Wednesday, 6:15 p.m. Women's Spirituality Gatherings. Mondays 7-9 p.m. FMI call 207-338-5702.

NA: Just for Today meetings every Wednesday, 8:15 p.m. at St. Luke's Cathedral, State St., Portland. Call 207-783-8789.

Out and About...A lesbian and gay social action group, meets on 1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month, 7:00 p.m. United Methodist Church, 129 Miller Ave, Portland, NH. FMI call 603-400-5480.

Out and About...Lesbian social discussion group. Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday 7-9:30 p.m. in the downstairs club room of the Portland YWCA, 17 Spring St. Support: FMI call 207-879-1017.

Am Chicks:
A Maine AIDS support group, meets monthly. FMI call 207-600-6004.

Maine AIDS Alliance:


AIDS Coalition of Lewiston/Auburn: PO Box 7977, Lewiston, ME 04243. Call 207-786-6697.


Camping Clueless: PO Box 990, Bethel, Maine 04915. A place for gay and Lesbian friends or those interested to stay. Call 207-276-4014.

Community AIDS Awareness Program: PO Box 457, Concord, NH 03301. Call 603-446-8003.

Community Task Force on AIDS Education: PO Box 941, Nashua, NH 03060.


Eastern Maine AIDS Network: PO Box 2038, Bangor, ME 04401. Call 207-990-3626.

Medical Support

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic
Portland STD Clinic provides full range of services from screening & treatment, education & counseling and 24/7 appointments for patients 18 years of age and older. STD clinic located in Room 303 of City Hall. Anonymous HIV testing by appointment on weekdays from 8am to 8pm.

Coping with Caregiving

Provides support for those caring for a disabled or chronically ill relative or friend. Programs are offered on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month at noon at Mercy Hospital, Ellsworth, ME, call 207-978-2400 for information.

Teen Life Center

National Association of Social Workers, ME Chapter, Sexual Minority Issues Committee welcomes new social work members to meet, educate, provide resources, and lobby legislators on issues involving sexual minorities in Maine. FMI call 1-800-622-4254.

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Provides support for those caring for a disabled or chronically ill relative or friend. Programs are offered on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month at noon at Mercy Hospital, Ellsworth, ME, call 207-978-2400 for information.

Teen Life Center

Youth clinic sponsored by City of Portland Public Health. Monday through Friday (10:00-11:30) and one evening a week. The home base for the health team's youth clinic is a place where you can receive free health care in a friendly environment. Located at Christ Church Cathedral. Call 207-773-6568 for Afternoon or evening service, call 207-739-2114 for day time service.
OUTRIGHT
Bangor: Fridays, 5:30-7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, Park St., behind City Hall in Bangor. FMI call 207-990-3626.

Central Maine: Weekly confidential meetings Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:00-7:30 pm. Call first at 207-569-2652 or write at 646-7867.

Portland: Fridays, 6:00-7:00 pm. FMI call 207-774-4575.

Waldo-Knox: Meets every other Sunday in Camden for q&a or group discussion. 22 & under. Call first at 603-799-4170 or write P.O. Box 365, Southwest Harbor, ME.

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For information and support group meetings in Portland. FAX 207-377-2087.

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March Calendar of Events

March 2 - March 23

Iphigenia and Other Daughters at Portland Stage Company, 25A Fore St., Portland ME. FMI (207)774-0465.

Thursday March 6

6:30 - 8:30 PM - A Midwife's Journey: 2 Decades of Birth Stories at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portland NH. FMI (603)431-1669

March 27 - March 29

3:00 - 5:00 PM - Maine Women's History Project women"s history project for women who have recently completed breast cancer treatment begins at Mercy Hospital's Breast Health Resource Center. Bring a bag lunch; beverages available. To register or for more information call (207)739-3790.

Thursday March 7

7:30 - 9:30 PM - Malovitch Society presents "It's Elementary," a feature-length documentary which challenges the censorship of the topic of homosexuality in school curricula. Cost is $25 or $45 for members. FMI (207)729-6333

Monday March 24

6:00 - 9:00 PM - Sexual assault awareness training program begins runs for 6 weeks on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Sponsored by Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine. FMI (800)333-9900

Wednesday March 26

noon to 2 PM - Transition Support Group (for women who have recently completed breast cancer treatment) begins at Mercy Hospital's Breast Health Resource Center. Bring a bag lunch; beverages available. To register or for more information call (207)739-3790.

March 7 - 9 - 2 PM

"Sharing As Sisters," this Light Tales at Oak Street Theater, 92 Oak St., Portland ME. FMI (207)775-5103.

March 1 - 2, 8, 9 - 2 PM

Storyteller David Neufeld presents "Fire Light Tales" at Oak Street Theater, 92 Oak St., Portland ME. FMI (207)775-5103.

March 20 - April 6

"Pushing Through" at Oak Street Theater, 92 Oak St., Portland ME. FMI (207)775-5103.

March 20 - 22

Daffodil Days, sponsored by the American Cancer Society. To volunteer or to order flowers, call (800)464-3102.

March 21 - 23

GLSTN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Teachers Network) National Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. FMI (212)727-0254.

March 21 - 23

Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance "New Poets" workshop at MWPA office, 12 Pleasant St., Brunswick ME. Cost is $95 or $75 for members. FMI (207)729-6333

March 21 - April 14

6:30 - 8:30 PM - "Sharing As Sisters," this psycho-educational group on HIV and AIDS will explore sexual health and needs as we live in the age of HIV and AIDS at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portland NH. FMI (603)431-1669.

Monday March 3

7:00 - 8:30 PM - "Herbal Support for the Menopausal Years" at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portland NH. FMI (603)431-1669.

Tuesday March 4

6:30 - 8:30 PM - Tax Information Night at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portland NH. FMI (603)431-1669

Wednesday March 5


Meetings of Maine Speakout Project County chapters: All Welcome!

AROOSTOOK: TUESDAY, 3/25, 7 pm Northern Lambdord Nord, Caribou FMI: Call Deb Madore @ 768-3056

HANCOCK: THURSDAY, 3/13, 7-9 pm, Unitarian Church, Ellsworth FMI: Call Dotty Kay Stillman @ 244-9053

PENOBSCOT: TUESDAY, 3/17, 6-8 pm, UU Church, Rockland FMI: Call Lucie Bauer @ 236-7473.

PENOBSCOT: WEDNESDAY, 3/12, 6-7:30 pm, St. Michael's Center, Bangor FMI: Call Janet May @ 862-5907

SAND COUNTY: THURSDAY, 3/27, 5-7 pm, UU Church, Kendunick FMI: Call Sue Geisinger @ 967-3420 or Bob Wuettner @ 985-6846.

Horseshoes in the Park

Horseshoes in the Park, a new women's club, is starting in April. No experience is necessary.

If you've ever wanted to play or learn to play horseshoes or play and have found it difficult to find other women who play, join us.

This club is about having fun and socializing with other women. Our first meeting will be held on Wednesday April 2nd from 6:30-8pm at Deering Oaks Park in Portland.

Enter Deering Oaks from the Deering Ave. side and the horseshoe pits will be directly on the left after the baseball diamond, in front of the volleyball court.

Registering your horseshoes if you have them, all horseshoes welcome whether regulation or not. If you don't have any horseshoes, don't worry some will be provided for you. FMI call (207)774-2403 and leave a message, someone will return your call soon.

Welcome

@ 967.3420
Personals

Searching for real friend: TSF- 32, long red hair, thin, with brown eyes that sparkle and I’m a pretty smart writer and filmmaker, iso F, 29-50 with Individuality, Goals and Desires who is not afraid to Dream. Write: Community Pride Reporter PSN 101; P.O. Box 178; Saco, ME 04072.

22 YO male: 5’7”, slender, brown/brown, out college student, likes dancing poetry, travel, and outdoors ISO male 20-27 who is out, cultured, into kissing, erotocism, and not into bar scenes. Write: Community Pride Reporter PSN 103; P.O. Box 178; Saco, ME 04072.

Female 24, red hair, blue eyes, out college student likes nature, reading, animals, movies, writing ISO female 24-35 who is independent, intelligent, and fun. Must be out. Write: Community Pride Reporter PSN 104; P.O. Box 178; Saco, ME 04072.

With Respekt, a crone High Priestess of the Goddess within eclectic traditions of Wicca, Hinduism, Huna, metaphysics, Human Beings, bards and more, seeks a trainer/Prtestess/Maiden/apprentice... whatever you wish to call yourself. Interested? Please call Alaina: 207/490-0589.

Support

USM students G.L.B.T.Q. who wish to connect with others can contact Laurie @ 874-3232 or Julie @ 874-3301 or Paul @ 874-3255 for support, help or friendships.

Teen AIDS Line

775-1267
1-800-851-AIDS (2437)

TEENS EDUCATING TEENS ABOUT HIV AND AIDS

WEDNESDAYS
6:00PM - 9:00PM

FARNSWORTH & ASSOCIATES
Attorneys at Law

Legal services statewide including: Domestic Relations, Civil Rights, Contracts, Employment, Wills, Probate, Bankruptcy, Real Estate, and Personal Injury.

Susan Farnsworth, Esq.
Offices In Hallowell and Portland.
Call 1-800-8066-LAW.

Pets Are Wonderful Support

PAWS is planning to hold the Gay Pride Cruise. Tickets will be available soon.

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:

Phone:

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