Community Pride Reporter, 03/1997

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Artists For AIDS Awareness

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.

AFAA supports 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, youths will have the opportunity to increase their skills for safer-sex decisions, which necessarily include postponement. Second, youth 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 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 are 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.

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See AFAA, page 12
"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 homose

uals, a Portland lawmaker sponsor

ning the legislation said Friday “the time has come” for gay rights in Maine.

“I frankly support the NGLTF bill. It was not necessary but, sadly, that is not the case,” Republican Sen. Joel Abromson said in a prepared statement.

“The bill would amend state law to specify that “sexual orientation” could not be used to justify discrimination in several areas including the

areas of employment, housing, public accommodations and credit.

Currently, state law offers anti-discriminatory protections in retail sales in 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 Gover

or King and I hope that we can marshal enough votes in the House for passage as well.”

Among the co-sponsors of the leg

islation are the chairmen of the Judiciary Committee that will review it, Sen. Su

san Libby, D-Portland, and Rep. Rich-

ard Thompson, D-Naples.

Co-sponsors include five Demo

crats and five Republicans, with four from the Senate and six from the House.

Also pending before the Judiciary Committee is a citizen initiative to ban same-sex marriage in Maine. The pro

posal was sponsored by Concerned Maine Families.

The initiative, which would go be

fore state voters unless enacted by the Legislature, includes language declaring that “persons of the same sex may not contract marriage.” It also would require the state to refuse to recognize such marriages performed in other states.

Both houses of the Legislature ap

proved a gay-rights bill for the first time, in 1993, but it was vetoed by then-Gov. John R. McKernan. King has said he would sign.

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.

Explosion Rocks Bar in Atlanta


ploded in a crowded Atlanta bar injuring several people. A second pipe bomb was found outside the establishment and was later detonated by police.

The attack comes at a time of in

creasing hate crimes and attacks on gay bars.

As the extremist Right steps up its verbal and legislative assault, violence continues.

Clinton, Attorney General Reno and call for

Congressional action.

“We need to send a strong message to the American people: We will not tolerate violence of any kind,” Abromson said.

“We encourage you to speak out against this latest terrorist incident in Atlanta and, if necessary, lend assistance to local enforcement officials to do everything in

their power to solve these bombings,” wrote executive director Kerry Lobel in a letter to the President dated Feb

uary 22. We ask you to speak out loudly against this crime, as you did in double

deadly attacks against this crime, as you did in double

bombings of the women’s health clinic, the bombing of the women’s health clinic, the deadly attacks at the Olympic Games, and the bombing of black and multi-racial churches.

The time has come for people of good will from all across America to speak out against hate in all its forms.”

In another letter to Attorney General Janet Reno, NGLTF’s Lobel asked the Department of Justice to closely monitor the situation and, if necessary, lend assistance to local law enforcement authorities “to en

sure the collection of all needed information to determine whether or not this was a hate crime.”

Georgia civil rights and hate crimes laws do not include sexual orientation. The state also has a same-gender sodomy 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.”

Defendants included in writing you, Mr. President, is to echo concerns we have voiced to you earlier about the rising tetro

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NGLTF urges anyone with infor

mation to call FBI and Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms hotline at 1-888-ATF

BOMB.

This message was issued by the Na

tional Gay and Lesbian Task Force Field Departmen

Political Activism from reporters prohibited

by Hanter T. George

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — A newspa

per may prohibit political activism by its reporters to protect its credibility, the state Supreme Court ruled Thursday, in the case of a journalist who was reas

signed after campaigning for a gay-rights measure.

The court held that a state law pro

ecting employees from discrimination on the basis of their political activities does not apply to newspapers.

And demonstrated integrity and accountability are core objectives of editorial control and thus merit protection under the free press clause,” Justice Richard Sanders wrote.

A judge dismissed the claim on

grounds that the First Amendment al

ows newspapers to control the .content 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.

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ows newspapers to control the .content of their publications. Five members of the high court agreed.

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 “so

The News Tribune’s position was backed by Allied Daily Newspapers, a trade group representing Washington daily newspapers. The group said most papers and The Associated Press follow industry

guidelines that recommend avoiding situations that could cause a conflict of interest, even the appearance of one.

Clinton applauded for statement on

Atlanta bombing:

Bombing underscores the importance of State and Federal hate crimes laws

Washington, DC, February 25, 1997... Shaken by the bombing of a lesbian bar in Atlanta last Friday, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people nationwide were eager for Presidential response. Last night, in a speech before the Democratic Business Council, the President condemned the bombing of the nightclub as wrong. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) wrote the President immediately after the incident voicing its concern over the extreme prevalence of anti-gay hate crimes and requesting the President speak out against this latest terrorist attack in Atlanta.

The following is an excerpt from the President’s speech: “I think we did the right thing to try to combat in a very aggressive way these church burnings. And I might say, the recent bombing of the gay nightclub in Atlanta reminds us that this work is not over. That was wrong, and we have to stand against those things. We have to go forward together. We don’t have anybody to waste.”

Today Attorney General Janet Reno also issued a statement condemning the bombing. The Attorney General stated that the FBI and ATF are investigating all possible motives, including the possibility that the crime was motivated by the sexual orientation of the patrons at the club.”

The Task Force applauds the

President and the Attorney General’s statements 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 despicable hate crime reminder that more leadership and action is needed in ensuring the safety and equality of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Americans,” added Lobel.

Friday’s bombing highlights the lack of civil rights laws in Georgia for its gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgen

er citizens. According to NGLTF, Georgia’s civil rights and hate crimes laws do not include sexual orientation. The state also has a same-gender sodomy 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 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 presence 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, "it does motivate people, because from that point of view it could hurt."

Some proponents of the gay rights movement also are using the issue to motivate 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.

Regardless, Abromson, Portland's mayor, and Congress and President Clinton approved a federal Defense of Marriage Act last fall and 17 states have banned gay marriages.

All else being equal, lawmakers may approve a same-sex marriage ban that right away, according to some pro-gay rights partisans, might set up debate on Abromson's anti-discrimination measure in a less emotionally charged atmosphere.

In the end, however, the initiative to ban same-sex marriage was routinely referred to committee. Abromson says he only hopes that the panel will take up the two matters separately.

"Chairman Lawrence Lockman of Concerned Maine Families, the organization that has spearheaded the proposed ban on same-sex marriage, says it'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 often try 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 referendum 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 barring same-sex marriages, including the 17 that have acted in the past year. The Hawaii law has been voided by a court.


Source: The Mississipppi Family Council

Freedom to Marry Roundtable

by Angel Castro

The Freedom to Marry Roundtable is a body of both individuals and organizations such as GLAD, Maine Civil Liberties Union, Maine Legal, Maine Speakout Project and The Matlovich Society. Their goal is to educate and inform people regarding issues concerning same gender marriage.

Their hope is that members of the community be capable of speaking effectively and supportively on the subject of same gender marriage. One of the speakers, Sue Hyde, Field Organizer for the National Gay Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), asked a question that surprisingly enough many people do not have a clear answer to, the question was "What is marriage?" The answer is; Marriage is a basic human right. Marriage is an individual, personal, choice. And so it should be for all Americans.

The efforts of the Roundtable are not intended to force any religion to either recognize or perform same-gender marriage ceremonies but to remind all people that there is and should be separation of Church and State, not just in theory but also in practice. We, as Americans, have basic constitutional rights and as a society we must respect and protect those rights for everyone. This is not an issue of "special rights" but rather one of "basic rights".

Members of the community must band together to insure and defend those precious rights. Speak with your families and friends and more importantly write a letter to your Congressmen and to our Governor Angus King and let him know that "No one can justify Equal Rights on a limited basis."

The Freedom to Marry Roundtable met March 1st at the YWCA and continued on a regular basis. For more information, call Maine Speakout Project (207) 879-0480

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 marriage laws in the nation. 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.

*L.D. 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!

*L.D. 1017 is Unconstitutional:* Here's how you can help:

Contact your legislator and tell her or him to vote NO on LD 1017. If your legislator agrees with you, ask her or him to testify when this bill is heard in a public hearing.

Long-time couples (15+ years) are needed to speak at a public hearing. It's rewarding and you'll get plenty of moral support! If interested, contact MLGPA at 1-800-55-MLGPA or 761-3732.

To more come! MLGPA is tracking this legislative session's important bills that affect our lives: An Act to Prevent Discrimination based on sexual orientation, An Act to Provide Confidentiality of Health Care Information and An Act regarding Collection of Bias Motivation Data Through Uniform Crime Reporting.

Make that call! Leave a message for your...State Senator at: 1-800-423-6900 or 1-207-287-1540

State Representative at: 1-800-423-2900 or 1-207-287-1400

The "Marriage and Family Protection Bill" denies gay and lesbian couples the right to equal benefits through civil marriage. Stop LD 1017! MLGPA, P.O. Box 223 Hallowell, ME 04347 AN ACT TO PREVENT DISCRIMINATION MLGPA Lobby's for 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 already exist 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:

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 where and when we can use your help. MLGPA... 1-800-556-5472 or 761-3732 in Portland

PARKSIDE WOMEN'S COUNSELING
Confidential Affordable Empowering Psychotherapy
Vivian Wadas, L.C.P.C., Lesbian Feminist Practitioner
(207) 774 - 2414
236 Park Avenue, Portland, ME 04102-2926

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

The screening includes a pap, pelvic, and breast exam.

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

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

Asked about the figures during a photo session, Defense Secretary William Cohen said he was not familiar with the details but said it was his understanding that “guttering” occurs 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 dismal failure,” Cohen said of the Pentagon’s approach.

The Service members Legal Defense Network, which provides legal aid to troops accused of homosexuality, published Defense Department figures that show 2,749 members discharged for homosexuality jumped to 850 in 1995 from 722 in 1993. The number was 682 in 1995, Clinton’s first year in office.

That figure represents an 18 percent increase over the previous year and a 42 percent increase from 1994, the year in which the policy was adopted. Armed forces design to help end discrimination against gays in the military, was put into effect. Of that, 29 percent of those discharged for homosexuality 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 numbers reflected the policy adopted in the first Clinton administration. The policy 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 press conference 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 credible evidence.

She said women, lesbians and heterosexuals, are accused of being gay when they reject sexual advances or reports of sexual harassment.

She said that is an advocate for gay rights said it shows commanders are conducting witch hunts and investigating women who spurn men’s sexual advances.

The Pentagon’s approach.

“We just don’t know,” she said.

Appearing at the news conference was Nicole Galvan, who said she was forced out of West Point last year after her commander questioned her about her sexual orientation.

After she refused to answer, she was forced to surrender a personal diary which she had started after her mother died two years earlier. She said her computer e-mail files were also confiscated.


She has asked the Army’s inspector general to investigate her case.

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 lesbian Catholics on March 1 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle reported today.

TheMass 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 Father in promoting this.

“In many places, the attitude among senior commanders to untangle a bigger concern,” she said.

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 make statements that call attention to their orientation.

Commanders are not to ask about sexual orientation or launch investigations without credible evidence.

She said there is a “wink-and-smile attitude” among senior commanders toward witch hunts.

Aid Sought for Gay Holocaust Victims

by Alexander G. Higgins

Geneva (AP) — A homosexual delegation met with Swiss officials Thursday to urge the country to compensate homosexuals who were targeted by the Nazis for concentration camps and extermination.

The delegation also sought compensation for the brunt of the epidemic.

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The move comes even though women make up only 13 percent of active-duty service members.

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The Pentagon’s approach.

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Bishop under fire for offering services

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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 lesbian Catholics on March 1 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, the Rochester Democrat 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 Father in promoting this.

“The second thing is that they are largely gay men, women were largely excluded from the policy by investigating suspicions or rumors of homosexuality without credible evidence.

She said women, lesbians and heterosexuals, are accused of being gay when they reject sexual advances or reports of sexual harassment.

She said that is an advocate for gay rights said it shows commanders are conducting witch hunts and investigating women who spurn men’s sexual advances.

The Pentagon’s approach.

“We just don’t know,” she said.

Appearing at the news conference was Nicole Galvan, who said she was forced out of West Point last year after her commander questioned her about her sexual orientation.

After she refused to answer, she was forced to surrender a personal diary which she had started after her mother died two years earlier. She said her computer e-mail files were also confiscated.


She has asked the Army’s inspector general to investigate her case.
Sexual Harassment can be same sex

by Robin Estrin
BOSTON (AP) _ Lewd gestures, raunchy 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 lumberyard 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 Elisael Roque, subjected them to a constant stream of verbal and physical abuse. They said Raab grabbed their genitals, fondled their buttocks, exposed them 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 $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 Pittsburgh, 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 Bosilovic.

"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 people or the sexual orientation," said Paul Merry, 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 "gluey gooey chase" into proving whether a victim of harassment or a harasser is gay.

Three-Drug combination effective against AIDS

by Paul Recer
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 switch from the study drug to the two-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 own 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.

"We'll continue to monitor carefully these new agents, and others that are currently under clinical investigation," both in the United States and abroad.

Hammer said officials directing the national study moved swiftly after an independent data and safety panel monitoring the trials recommended ending the testing because it was clear patients on the three-drug combination were getting significant benefit.

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 Provencher 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, you're the guys next door... you're not the couple next door," Provencher said.

"Never asked for anything special. I just wanted equal rights. I basically wanted to be a performing artist for them," he said.

Provencher, who grew up going to Catholic school and is a registered Republican, said he had never been an activist for gay rights.

In a telephone interview last week, however, Provencher 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, Provencher 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.

Provencher 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 said the district manager, claiming "intentional infliction of emotional distress." Provencher, 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 excessive 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 Provencher 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 Provencher was managing at the time.

However, Provencher 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.

A request from Dignity New Hampshire

Dear Friend of Dignity

On behalf of the Board of Directors 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 scholarships to those in need from the New England Region who would like to attend the Biannual Dignity/USA Convention, which will take place in Boston during the month of July.

Our goal is to solicit offers from those Hotels, Motels, B & B's, etc., in the Provincetown and Onoguquit areas. This would enable our raffle tickets to be sold to both the gay and straight communities as well as members from outside New England who would like to take advantage of the 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 your own self.

Those of you who would be so kind as to donate a prize to us will receive a Certificate of Donation for your tax records. All donations to Dignity/New England are tax deductible up to the fullest amount allowed by IRS regulations.

For those of you who may not know what Dignity is, let me take a minute to give you a brief description of our mission. Dignity is a national organization of gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual Catholics, as well as their families, friends and loved ones who come together to create community. Our goal is to affirm each other in our faith, as well as to promote the Catholic tradition through liturgy, prayer, retreats, social activities, community building activities and service projects. There are Chapters of Dignity in the following New England areas: Boston, Maine, New Hampshire, Fall River, Hartford, New Haven, Providence and Provincetown.

We are asking that if you can help us through a donation of a weekend stay or one or two night stay, please advise us at the above address by March 17, 1997. As we stated earlier, whatever you can do to assist us would be greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the Board of Directors for Dignity/New England, we thank you in advance for your generosity in assisting us in our Raffle. If there are any questions or if you would like more specific details, please do not hesitate to call us at the following numbers: Jim Profio-Bond (603-464-6546) or Philippe Lachance (603-647-9712). May the Lord bless you in your business and in your 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

Our featured programs on menopause

Herbal Support for the Menopausal Years

Monday March 3rd 7:00-8:30pm
Rebecca Peter, herbalist at Harbour Women's Health will talk about how to take care of ourselves with herbs from the post-menopausal years through the post-menopausal years.

Women's Writing & Women's Wisdom for Vintage Women (15+)

Wednesday, March 5th 6:30-8:30pm
Women authors have given us much material for dignifying and enjoying our new "maternity" Together with Sally Wool, M.Rd., we will sample their thoughts and share some of our own. Call for reading list.

Nutraceutical Medicine for the Menopausal Years

Tuesday, April 15th, 7:00-8:30pm
Come join local naturopathic doctor, Kitty Fester, from North Coast Family Health and explore such questions as the pros and cons of hormone replacement therapy and honouring life changes.

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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 HB 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 the members of the House Judiciary Committee and 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. Please be polite! In the past this committee and the House itself have supported us—both parties. There are three points that we need to educate people on:

1. Discrimination is ALWAYS wrong.
2. Discrimination based on sexual orientation exists in New Hampshire.
3. This bill protects everyone (straight and gay) from discrimination based on sexual orientation; it is not a "Gay Rights" bill.

We will continue to let you know about the progress of the bill and how you can help make New Hampshire the 10th state to have this protection for its citizens.

Information provided by CAGLR (NH Citizen's Alliance for Gay & Lesbian Rights)

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 it is. If you are in favor of these citizens. Some committee members may not favor the bill—but be polite and brief with them. Don't wrangle, get angry or threaten—just be the fanatics on the other side.

Rep's:
John J. McCarthy, Jr. (Rock. 24) (Chair) 603-416-4198; 116 Main Street Box 111 New London, NH 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 03867-2672
Susan J. Clay (Hills 04) 603-487-2171; 150 Bunker Hill Road P.O. Box 92 New Boston, NH 03070-0092
Daniel Thomas (Rock 12) 603-226-0963; 423 Cross Country Road Pembroke, NH 03275
Carol H. Holder (Hills 14) 603-673-8167; 152 Manor Road P.O. Box 13 Amherst, NH 03031-0013
Alf E. Jacobson (Merc. 02) 603-526-6654; 52 Burch Hill Road P.O. Box 188 New London, NH 03257-0188
Sandra B. Kearns (Straf 16) 603-332-5472; 1 Sweetbriar Lane Rochester, NH 03867-2773
Evelyn S. Letendre (Hills 15) 603-472-3607; 4 West Wind Drive Bedford, NH 03110-5610
Paul M. Minski (Graft. 12) 603-632-2465; 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

Coalition Members
Janet G. Wall (Straf 09) 603-749-3051; 4 Pudding Hill Road Madbury, NH 03820-7001
David C. Allison (Sun. 10) 603-543-5482; 92 E. Boy and Dog Cornish, 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 M. Morano (Coos 02) 603-449-2058; Plain Road RR 3 Box 3460 Berlin, NH 03570-9310
Irene A. Pratt (Ches. 05) 603-239-4597; Linkwood Road Winchester, NH 03470-7201
Barbara Hull Richardson (Ches. 12) 603-239-8346; 101 Morgan Road Richmond, NH 03470-4909

If you are interested, please call Al Forbes at AIDS Response Seacoast, 603-433-5377 or 800-375-1144 (from NH or Maine).

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 so-called "Defense of Marriage Act" 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 believed that differences in the treatment of same-sex couples should be based on real social interests rather than discrimination and that the only justification could he 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 scriptures showed gay and lesbian parents to be just as good at raising children as heterosexuals. During discussions between the hearings, Representative 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 blaming others. The Head of the NH Christian Coalition appeared. The Roman Catholic Diocese 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'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.

Anti-Same Sex Marriage Bill in House Judiciary Committee

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.

Knox Turner, late 1995, Concord Outright serves a variety of purposes, from simply a safe place to go to once a week, to an effmiting peer group network, to a place where the hard issues of dealing with sexual orientation get listened to.

Outright Facilitators being Recruited

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The Ashland Community High School Class of 1976 recently made a $400 donation to the HEALTH 1st "Aroostook Community and Maine at HIV/AIDS Education Project". This donation was made in the memory of their beloved friend and classmate Byron Dale Bouton.

 Originally from Portage Lake, Byron was salutatorian of the ACHS class of 1976. He went on to study French at Colby College in 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 volunteer 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. We are in an effort to assist these individuals in accessing helpful services, a directory of support people and agencies is being developed. This directory will facilitate the referral process, making it easier for individuals to get the help they so desperately need. The directory will be distributed to all the providers listed within it, as well as people living with HIV/AIDS and their families, friends and care providers. The directory will also be distributed to individuals who test positive through HEALTH 1st HIV Antibody Testing and Counseling Services.

This directory is being developed and distributed in memory of Byron Dale Bouton, recognizing the ACHS Class of 1976 for their donation. For further information about the directory, or HIV education opportunities, contact Debra Madore, 768-3056 or toll-free at 1-800-432-7881.
MLGPA Hosts Evening of Awards and Celebration

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 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 Stockholm, founder of Maine GayNet

Paula Stockholm is solely 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 her closet, Kate began performing as an openly gay comic from the closet, Kate began performing as an spoken, hip, and uproarious breath of fresh air, this versatile comic has taken on her political targets, she delivers!

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, "Kate Clinton is the LGBT woman who's teaching you to take home to meet your parents...She's so far out of the closet, so natural in her sexual identity, that a homophobe would beg her to spend the night. She's candid, and - above all - amusing. Not liking Kate Clinton would be impossible - even by the Joint Chiefs of Staff." In "New York, Out Is In" was such a smash it was held over three times during its run and had the New York Times Reviewer "in tears from laughing so hard."

The year 1995 saw KATE debuting her next one-woman show titled "Impeach Thoughts" in Los Angeles. It was an evening "dedicated to Jocelyn Elders." The Los Angeles Times again gave it rave rating, saying "You would be wise to catch this casualty structured and smartly observed evening of stand-up, full of jokes you know are new because they're too often about life's little problems — happened a few days ago". Back Stage West noted "her amiable presence and energy lightens your heart - when it not making your stomach hurt from laughing."

Still radically chic after all these minutes, KATE has appeared on "Arsenic Hall", "Comedy Central", "Good Morning America", "Nightline", "CNN, C-Span ('I Kill' on C-Span), she deadpan's), "Entertainment Tonight", "TV 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 was as three specials to the lifetime network; appearing on Comedy Central's "Out There II" stand-up special; and participating in a staged reading of Tony Kushner's "Mere Pageant" as Mary Page Marcy in New York. In addition KATE has four comedy albums to her credit.

A self-described Fumurist (that's feminist and humorist) and "gal comedian" 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. You plan a show. And you try to get an early glimpse of some of the important things on her mind, KATE started airing her opinions in church. Reality."

In the year 1995 saw KATE's one-woman show titled "Impure Thoughts" in Los Angeles. It was such a smash it was held over three times during its run and had the New York Times Reviewer "in tears from laughing so hard."

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KATE Clinton: Madame President of comedy!
**Lettice and Lovage**

By Rosemary Denman

Two women... couldn’t be more different... yet they shared a unique friendship. There’s 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.

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. Seemingly, Lettice has been spicing up the historical facts about the house at which she serves as guide. Lotte 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 tourists.

The story involves a visit from a very single guy that Ellen went to college with, TV Guide said. But instead of falling for him, Ellen is attracted to his lesbian friend, who may be played by Lauren Den of “Jurassic Park.” The therapist may be played by Oprah Winfrey.

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 woman, according to the March 1 issue of TV Guide.

The script has yet to be approved by ABC or Walt Disney Television, which produces “Ellen,” the magazine said.

The story involves a visit from a single guy that Ellen went to college and less theater minded. And so the two women meet.

From this bleak beginning of one firing the other dawns a friendship in which Lettice helps Lotte remember her dreams, as well as finding the playful inner child who loves drama, no matter how many times the truth is cut in half. And Lotte helps Lettice too. By being her friend, by entering her world, Lotte helps Lettice rediscover self-worth and joy.

The play’s message: Perhaps there’s a little Lettice in each of us; she just needs a little help “coming out.”

**"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 woman, according to the March 1 issue of TV Guide.

The script has yet to be approved by ABC or Walt Disney Television, which produces “Ellen,” the magazine said.

The story involves a visit from a single guy that Ellen went to college with, TV Guide said. But instead of falling for him, Ellen is attracted to his lesbian friend, who may be played by Lauren Den of “Jurassic Park.” The therapist may be played by Oprah Winfrey.

The magazine said Degenere took personal interest in the story, sitting in with the writers on several occasions to give input.

Walt Disney studio executives, who must approve the script, have asked for revisions but apparently liked the story, according to Disney sources quoted by TV Guide. After Walt Disney Television President Deanne Oks the script, it will be sent to ABC 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 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-untitled 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.

That one of the books being provided to public grade school libraries throughout the city under a $6,150 grant from the Fund for Lesbian & Gay Families is an example of the kind of thing these children would be vulnerable to and needs to be resisted.

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 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 subtlety 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 25, 1997. Playwright-actor Ellen McLaughlin has adapted for the stage three of the classic Greek myths surrounding the Trojan War, centered on 10 years 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 therapist may be played by Oprah Winfrey.

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Afaa, from page 1

was hand-pieced by local artisan 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.

Art 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 appliqueing 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 travelled 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 Hoff, Clifford Boozman, Constance Tucker, Rosiland 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 768-3056 or toll-free at 1-800-432-7881.
Couple denied Marriage license

by Ashley H. Grant

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Harriet Clare and Becky Thacker had matching outfits for their big day. The two women donned black slacks, white blouses and red sweaters, then drove down to the Monroe County Courthouse in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, early Monday morning to apply for a marriage license.

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

"We're still married, as far as I'm concerned," Ms. Clare said after being turned away at the Monroe County clerk's office. "The people were very nice. They seemed genuinely sorry 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 five years ago.

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

Ms. Clare said the couple wants 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, 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.

Marty 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 207.453.9750

Circle of Hope MCC of Portland, ME
4:00 pm Saturday, Immanuel Baptist, 156 High Street
FMI: 207.577-6684 ex #32

Interpreted for the hearing impaired.

Every person is welcomed! Please join us!
The following is an open letter to Maine legislators sent by Jean Vermette, Director of Maine Gender Resource and Support Services (MeGRSS).

Dear Legislator,

The Maine Gender Resource and Support Service (MeGRSS) is a volunteer organization providing education, 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 bring into being, 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 can occasionally combine to create a very special set of circumstances for our transgender population (for those whose innate nature requires them to undergo a sex change).

The first consideration is the fact that the individual has undergone sexual reassignment surgery and potentially 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 could not legally marry a man. A "new woman" could legally marry a man, but could not legally marry a woman.

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 decide to dissolve it. Neither incapacitating accident, nor personal change, 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 intent 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 partners choosing to dissolve the marriage, and the law correctly 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 remain 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 legislator, be able to face your constituents and reassure them that the precedent you have set in place will not be built upon by a future legislature to invalidate their own marriages at the behest of some other special interest group.

McGRSS 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 momentary wishes, 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, McGRSS
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."
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 tub. 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 made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and made reservato
Community Pride Resources

MLGPA

a state-wide, non-partisan organization

form ed to educate the general public, politicians, and

media about the goals to be

involved in the L/G community in Maine’s political

process, promote civil rights, educate, provide services, and

lobby legislators on issues involving sexual mi-

norities in Maine. FMI call NASSW, 207-622-7592.

Hate Crimes & Bias Incidents:

Have you or someone you know been a

victim? Call the Civil Rights Section of the Maine

Department of the Attorney General at 625-8844.

Citizens Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights:

(CAGLR), New Hampshire’s progressive gay

and lesbian civil rights organization, welcomes all

interested in these goals to weekly meet­

ings, programs, socials and various other events.

Newsletter. Call Info-line 603-224-1686 or write to

P.O. Box 750, Concord, NH 03302-7035.

The Rainbow Business & Professional

A state-wide, non-profit organization estab­

lished to create a gay, lesbian, bi and trans­

gendered “chamber of commerce” for Maine.

Meetings for networking or dinner with speaker

events, held in the Greater Portland area, second

Monday of the month. For info call Box 6627, Scarborough,

ME 04070-6627, call 207-773-0015 or e-mail widboys@mainelink.net.

Maine Speaker Project for Equal Rights

Trains and monitors volunteers to speak

with groups in their towns and regions about their lives and the lives of others who extend equal treatment and services.

Call on information on activities in your town: 207-

355-0420 or write MSOP, 123 Congress St., #1.

You do not need to be a speaker to work with us!

Identity Support

New Hampshire P-FLAG Meetings:

Concord: Meets 3rd Sunday from 3:30 p.m at 1st Congregational Church, 63 Main Street. Call 603-327-6712.

Woodwards Congregational Church, 202 Woodfords St. FMI call 207-766-5159 or 207-774-3441.

Plymouth: Meets first Sunday, 7-8 pm, Plymouth Congregational Church. FMI call 603-968-7354 or 603-786-8912.

Manchester P-FLAG Meetings:

Portland: Meets 3rd Monday at 7-9 PM at Immanuel Baptist Church. FMI call 207-970-0691.

Immanuel Baptist Church, 9A Main St., Portland, FMI call 207-783-9789.


All Saints Center, Portland: Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:30-8:30 pm. Call 207-772-5019.

Bergen, NJ: Meets 2nd Tuesday from 7-9 pm at The Union Church, 143 State St., Portland. FMI call 207-773-5760 or 207-546-5702.

Community of Hope

A Christian congregation which claims a special vision and concern for gay and lesbian people and strives to be inclusive of all persons. Worship on Saturdays at 6:00 PM at Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI call 207-773-5760 or 207-546-5702.

Central Maine Gay Men’s Support Group

Meets every Sunday from 6:00 PM at Christ Church, 143 State St., Portland. FMI call 207-774-5025.

Central Maine Lesbian/Bisexual Support Group

Meets every Sunday from 6:00 PM at Christ Church, 143 State St., Portland. FMI call 207-774-5025.

Central Maine Lesbian/Bisexual Support Group meets 2nd Sunday of each month, 7:30 PM at Female Resource Center 101 Fernald Hall at UCC, FMI call 207-581-1425.

Center for Domestic Violence Prevention

Do you or someone you know have

Domestic Violence

or other STD

problems? Call 207-947-1686 for

visit. Call 207-774-5025.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic

Portland STD Clinic provides full range of services from screening & treatment, education & counseling and 107 antibody tests. Consultation and treatment occurs in Room 303 of City Hall. Anonymous HIV testing by appointment on weekdays from 8 am to 5 pm. Call 207-874-5474.

Coping with Caregiving

Provides support for those caring for a family or chronically ill friend, relative or client. Available by appointment at 207-874-5474.

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A state-wide, non-profit organization estab­

lished to create a gay, lesbian, bi and trans­

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355-0420 or write MSOP, 123 Congress St., #1.

You do not need to be a speaker to work with us!
HIV Related Support Meetings

Portland:
- Mondays: People living with HIV disease and all friends, families, partners & caregivers. 6:30-8:00 PM.
- Tuesdays: People living with HIV disease and all friends, families, lovers and caregivers. 10:30-noon. TAP, 14 High Street Suite 632, Portland, ME 04101.

2nd & 4th Tuesdays: Living Well focusing on quality of life and empowerment.

Wednesdays: Drop-in discussion for市场化y counseling, peer youth counselors. Lines are open Sunday-Monday-Wednesday-Friday from 7-9 pm. Call GMHC at 207-774-9771.

Fridays: 1-3 pm at the Portland High Street Community Health Center, 778-3453.

HIV/AIDS Prevention Project: Staffed with peer counseling support services.

Melbourne: Meets Every Thurs., 7-9 pm at UUC, 274 Pleasant St., next to concoct Hospital & Orthopedic Clinic. 603-664-9169.

Mondays: Meets Every Thurs., 7-9 pm at "The Place To Go", 46 Concord St. (Rt. 202), Peterborough, 603-547-2455.

Nashua: Meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday at UU Church center of Cantal & Lowell Bls. (near Dunkin Donuts). Call Steve or Gerry at 603-672-0792. Email: OutRighTNH@AOL.com

Seacoast: Meets every Sun. 5-7 pm (movie night), Tues. 6-8 pm (drop in), & Fridays from 7 to 9 pm (group support) at the UU Church Annex (next to fire station), 200 Court St., Portsmouth, NH 03801.

New Hampshire:
- Deray area: Support group open to anyone interested in HIV/AIDS. Hosted by the Bereaissance AIDS Task Force. 2it. Thomas Amosin. Phone or reservations, call Jean Dwyer at 603-432-7530.
- Kent: Support group for families, friends, partners of persons living with AIDS or who have died of AIDS. Confidential and anonymous. Meets every other Wed., at Planned Parenthood, 778-3453.
- Danev: For the friends and family of those living with AIDS meets alternate Mon. and Wed. evenings until 7:30 pm. For info details call Schultz, 603-387-5270.
- Lebanon-Hanover: AC-RN offers support groups, case management, community referrals and information. Meet every 2nd Monday at the United ValLEY. Call John or Mark at 800-616-2220.

Mondroack Region: For info, referrals, testing, building, speakers & volunteer opportunities call AIDS Services for the Mondroack Region at 603-337-0853 or 603-659-7810 at 1-800-364-4397.

Nashua: Two weekly self-help groups for those interested in or affected by HIV/AIDS.

For times, dates and locations, call 603-595-8465.

N.H. Seacoast "Connections" support group for caregivers of patients and families in the NH, all those whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS. "Connections" meets every month on second Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 pm at the New Hampshire AIDS Council, 143 High St., Portsmouth. NH. Call 603-772-3893.

Peterborough: Support group for family, part­ ters and friends whose lives have been affected by HIV/AIDS meets Tues. at noon. Call Maria Konola 902-924-7161, ext. 1126 for details.

Wellsprings Region: HIV/AIDS support group meets Wednesday from 7-7:30 pm at Lakes Region General Hospital. FMI call at 603-524-3211 ext 3900.

COLAGE
A national support group run by and for the children of gay, lesbian or bisexual parents. FMI call COLAGE, 2300 Market St., 8155, Dept. P. San Francisco, CA 94114.

THE MAINE YOUTH PROTECTION COUNCIL
Works to create safer communities and schools for minority youth. If racism or homophobia is an issue, call 207-775-4944 for information on the council and sub-committees. There is a place
**March Calendar of Events**

**February 27 - March 16**

- Village Repertory Company presents "I Love Alice" at Oak Street Theater, 92 Oak St., Portland, ME. FMI (207)774-1376

**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)774-5103

**March 2 - March 23**

- "Iphigenia and Other Daughters" at Portland Stage Company 252 Forest Ave., Portland, ME. FMI (207)774-0465

**March 7 - March 16**

- "Truth Be Known" presented by Mad Horse Children's Theater. Tickets $6.00. FMI or reservations (207)977-3338

**March 20 - April 6**

- "Pushing Through" at Oak Street Theater, 92 Oak St., Portland, ME. FMI 207)774-5103

**March 20 - March 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 207)277-0254.

**March 20 - 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 31 - 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 STD, at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portsmouth 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., Portsmouth NH. FMI (603)431-1669

**Tuesday March 4**

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

**Wednesday March 5**

- 6:30 - 8:30PM - "Women's Writing and Women's Wisdom for Vintage Women (55+)" at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portsmouth, NH. FMI (603)431-1669

**March Calendar of Events**

- **Thursday March 6**
  - 6:30 - 8:30 PM - "At a Midwife's Journey: 2 Decades of Birth Stories at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portsmouth NH. FMI (603)431-1669

- **Friday March 7**
  - 5:30 - 8:00 PM - Celebration and Good-Bye Party for Ruth Rosenhek, Director of Women's Health Consortium. The Women's City Club, 375 Middle St., Portland, ME. FMI (207)772-6222.

- **Saturday March 8**
  - 9 AM - Noon - Free women's health exams at Women's Health Consortium, Portsmouth NH. For appointment (603)431-1669

- **Saturday March 8**
  - 6PM - Potluck dinner, followed by videos, including "Cannibal Women in the Avocado Jungle" by Norwalk VT. An Amelia's Event. FMI Beth (802)649-2927.

- **Sunday March 9**
  - 2PM - Third Annual Snowshoe Games and Free women's health exams at Body Awareness for Women at Fitzgerald Lodge, River Road, South Portland ME. By appointment only. Fee is $2.00. FMI (207)780-8624.

- **Friday March 14**
  - 8 PM - Maine Gay Men's Chorus Spring Concert at Portland High School. Tickets from chorus members or at Drop Me a Line, Amadeus Music or Bookland-Mill Creek. FMI (207)772-8640.

- **Saturday March 15**
  - 7PM - Women's Coffeehouse featuring "Diva Brazilia," a women's ensemble performing world music at Belfast Free Library, High Street, Belfast ME. Benefiting the Women's Center in Belfast.

- **Saturday March 15**
  - 7:15PM - Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice, along with American Cancer Society - Guidance in Grieving at Methodist Church, Elm St., South Portland, ME. FMI (207)780-8624.

- **Sunday March 16**
  - 6:30 - 9 PM - "Connections," a support group for caregivers, patients, friends and family - all those whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS - holds its monthly meeting at the Exeter Congregational Church, 21 Pease St., Exeter NH. Confidentiality is assured. FMI (603)772-6221 or (603)436-8963.

- **Wednesday March 12**
  - 1:30 PM - Augusta Civic Center - public Hearing on Carolyn Crosby's bill LD 1017 - "An Act to Protect Traditional Marriage and Prohibit Same Sex Marriages." FMI (800)555MLGPA

- **Thursday March 13**
  - 7:30 - 9 PM - Mattie Vonich 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 training program begins runs for 6 weeks on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Sponsered by Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine. FMI (800)333-9990

- **Wednesday March 26**
  - 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)789-3790

- **Thursday March 27**
  - 7:30 - 9PM - Mattie Vonich Society presents "Bes Gaters," author of "The Wld Good," a collection of photographs and writings about lesbian love. Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland ME.

- **Saturday March 29**
  - 7:30 - 8 PM - Dance Extravaganza at Gorham High School Auditorium, 14 Merrill Ave, Gorham ME. $5 with $5 donation for the Aids Benefit to Celebrate Life- supportive space. At Pilgrim Lodge in Sandy, ME. Cost is $25 or $45/2. FMI (207)639-7650 or (800)433-4472.

- **Tuesday April 8**

**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 asap.

Meetings of Maine Speakout Project County chapters: All Welcome!

**AROOSTOOK: TUESDAY, 3/25, 7 pm Northern Lambda 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**

**MACONBEC: SUNDAY, 3/16, 3-5 pm, UC Church, Rockland FMI: Call Lucie Bauer @ 226-4734**

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

**YORK: THURSDAY, 3/27, 5-30 PM, UC Church, Kennebunk FMI: Call Sue Gessing @ 967-3420 or Bob Wuettner @ 985-6846**

**NEXT SPEAKOUT TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEER SPEAKERS:** Saturday, April 12th, 9-5, Grace Lutheran Church, Auburn. To register, send $10 to MSOP, 123 Congress Street #1, Portland 04101. FMI: 879-0940.

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Classified Ads

Travel/Vacation

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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, eroticism, 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, fun. Must be out. Write: Community Pride Reporter PSN 104; P.O. Box 178; Saco, ME 04072.

With Respect, a crone High Priestess of the Goddess within eclectic traditions of Wicce, Hinduism, Huna, metaphysics, Human Beings, bards and more, seeks a trainer/Priestess/Maiden/assistant/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)

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