

Community Pride Reporter

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VOL. 4, Number 9

April 1997

Performer's Festival at Oak Street Theatre



The Oak Street Theater - Portland (Maine) will be presenting a Gay and Lesbian Performer's Festival in late April and early May, offering Portland audiences the chance to see three nationally known performance artists present their one person shows about their lives as gay and lesbian Americans. The Festival will directly benefit Southern Maine Pride's office/community center fund.

The Texas Trinity, (April 17, 18, 19 all 8pm) is written and performed by Paul Bonin-Rodriguez who has been touring his trilogy of shows to venues including the Joseph Papp Public Theater, NYC and the O Solo Mio Festival in San Francisco. The trilogy consists of three shows that chronicle the coming of age of a gay man in a small Texas town. Thursday, Talk of the Town, introduces the main character and his discovery of his sexual orientating. Friday, the Bible Belt and Other Accessories, advances the biography through the evolution of a political consciousness. Saturday, L'OVE in the Time of College, speaks to the real substance of romance and being a gay man.

You're Just Like My Father, (April 24, 25, 26 all 8 pm) is written and performed by Peggy Shaw. Peggy is the co-

founder of the acclaimed Split Britches lesbian theatre collective who have toured Europe and North America for the past twenty years. Her one-woman autobiography show uses simple costume pieces that belonged to her father to explore the nature of her masculine side and its relationship to her sexuality.

Skin & Ornaments (May 1, 2, 3 all 8 pm), the third and final week is written and performed by Craig Hickman. The Boston-based Craig Hickman is a hot new African-American poet and performer. His lyrical piece uses short vignettes containing strong imagery to evoke memories of childhood and adolescence. He uses poetry, monologue, African and jazz dance/movement and storytelling to explore gender, sexuality, race, and relationships.

ALL THESE FINE PERFORMANCES WILL they will bring a quality of performers into Maine of a rare richness that both our community and non-gay people can appreciate as well. It is an unfortunate truth that seating at the Oak Street, for all is superb work, is still very limited. For more information on the performances, the artists, or FOR TICKETS call the Oak Street theater at 207-775-5103

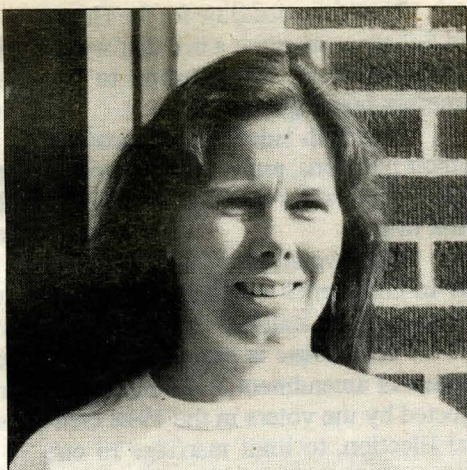
West End or Dead End?

by Michael Rossetti

In politics, the object to exercise power is to keep your supporters around and remove those who might threaten your position. In the chess game of Portland's district 2, Dave Garrity, may just be the person that the status quo fears most.

Karen Garegthy, certainly the better known of the two in the g/l/b/t community and Dave's only real opponent in the race, is not necessarily a household word among non-gay voters. The gay vote in this district, if they go to the polls could determine the race, but if they stay home, the gay vote is largely inconsequential. All leaving the race still speculative as to Karen, the party favorite, or Dave, a not well liked alternative among the usual suspects in the gay/lesbian political community, to be the victor.

Non-district voters also have a stake in the race. On the one hand, Karen Garegthy is a forceful lobbyist in Augusta for gay and lesbian issues. She has held local Portland positions such as a Community Advisor at King Middle School or Board member to West Side Child Care. The question is does that make her a viable alternative to Dave Garrity whose more sub-



Karen Garegthy

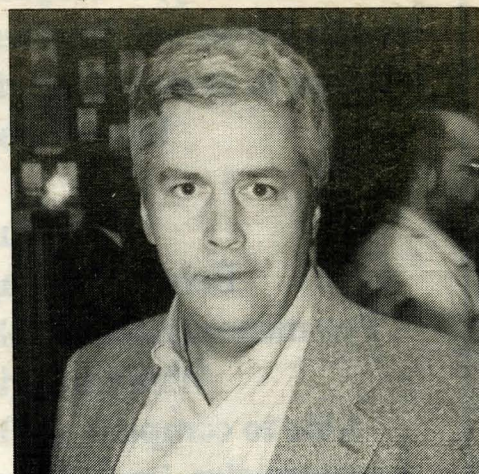
stantial history at City Hall at non-gay specific, city wide issues makes him an experienced and ready Councilor.

Dave's most notable City Hall moment was during his twice appointed Cable Committee position, standing up to Time Warner Cable Systems, thwarting their efforts to rip off local consumers by scrambling already received programming when they upgraded their system to fiber optics. Dave took it all the way to the Attorney General. Add in David's fight against the loss of a Harborview park during the new South Portland

Bridge construction, property revaluation fights, spot re-zoning, the fight against the Maine Med health care megalth and many smaller causes for the people and you begin to see a good candidate.

Although Karen is known for her work on the Bias Crimes Task Force, the Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance and Maine Won't Discriminate, Dave has also stood up for the gay community. Dave's press work on Portland's Equal Protection campaign clearly helped it win. David's testimony against the police department practice of sending letters to owners of cars seen "cruising" near the Western Prom, helped to convince the Public Safety Committee that it was a violation of civil liberties.

The status quo does not seem to like David. David had a clear chance at getting the district's legislative nomination and being one of the first openly gay candidates to the Maine legislature, but a lesbian, new to the district was thrown into the mix. The result was enough votes were taken from Dave during the party caucusing to throw the vote to Michael Saxl, a non-gay, but gay friendly candidate. It was no accident that the



David Garrity

third candidate, who has not been much of a political personage since, ran using a very old political maneuver. It was, in deed, a sad demonstration of how we get our voter choices and just how committed our so called gay and lesbian political leadership is to queer political power.

Perhaps the question is not can Garrity beat Garegthy at the polls, but can those in the gay community who must exercise their democratic prerogatives and who support David expect any sort of a political future themselves?

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Governor King Lets ban become Law without his Signature

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) — Saying his decision was not an easy one, Gov. Angus King will let the gay marriage ban enacted by the Legislature last week become law without his signature rather than force a referendum by vetoing the bill.

King said he has "a deep respect for the institution of marriage and its religious roots," but he does not believe the bill remedies a problem because there's no movement in Maine to make same-sex marriages legal.

The governor also said he does not believe traditional marriage is under assault in Maine.

"I believe that this bill has very

little to do with marriage and nothing to do with love," said King.

Concerned Maine Families, which led the initiative that forced the legislative vote, said the law protects traditional marriage from threats by militant gay activists.

The governor had three options after the bill was enacted by overwhelming margins last week by the House and Senate: sign the bill, veto it, which would force a referendum, or let it become law without his signature.

King said a referendum would trigger a bitter and divisive statewide campaign that would not benefit the public.

The governor also said he expects the law to be successfully challenged in court. He believes it violates both the equal protection and full faith and credit clauses of the Constitution.

"This bill will briefly become law in Maine, but it will not have my name on it," said King.

During last week's debate, several legislators said they opposed the bill on technical and ideological grounds, but would rather have it become law than subject the state to a rancorous campaign. Others cited strong constituent support for the bill as a reason to vote for it.

Lawmakers Ban Marriage

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) — Lawmakers from the state of Maine overwhelmingly approved a measure making the state the 18th to ban gay marriages, avoiding a referendum campaign on the issue in the fall.

The Maine Senate voted 24-10 on Wednesday for the ban, one day after the House voted 106-39.

Because the bill was initiated by a petition drive, a vote by the Legislature to kill it would have automatically triggered a November referendum.

Gov. Angus King has said he would not veto the measure.

"The people of the state of Maine, now represented by their politi-

cal leaders, have wisely moved to protect the institution of marriage from the marauding of opportunistic gay activists," said Carolyn Cosby, whose group, Concerned Maine Families, led the petition drive to put the issue before the Legislature.

While many lawmakers said they voted in favor to avoid a divisive statewide referendum, opponents charged they were giving in to fear.

Democratic Sen. Susan Longley challenged the premise that the state has a compelling interest to promote traditional marriage.

"The definition (of marriage) is changing," said Longley, adding that the

fitness of a person to be a parent "has nothing to do with sexual orientation."

She also said the ban is not needed because a similar federal law is already on the books.

President Clinton in September signed the Defense of Marriage Act, which allows states to declare themselves off limits to same-gender marriages.

Republican Sen. John Benoit said forcing a statewide referendum would have set off a nasty debate among Maine voters.

"I don't want to see people at each other's throats ... hashing this out," Benoit said.

Lesbian Health Study

The Maine Center for Osteoporosis Research and Education and the Greater Portland Bone Densitometry, in conjunction with the Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine, are recruiting lesbians to evaluate the risk of osteoporosis in the lesbian population.

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Test of wills as Same - Sex Deadline Looms

HONOLULU (AP) — Same-sex marriage watchers, mark April 11 on your calendar.

That's the deadline for the House and Senate to approve a bill that would change the state Constitution to ban same-sex marriages.

But both sides remain steadfast in their positions, and it will be a test of wills as both sides wait for the other to blink first.

The two sides meet again Tuesday in conference committee in hopes of breaking the stalemate.

The House is proposing a constitutional amendment, to be ratified or rejected by the voters in the 1998 General Election, to limit marriage to one man and one woman.

The Senate is proposing a constitutional amendment to provide authority to the state to regulate marriage, including reserving the practice for opposite-sex couples.

The Senate measure allows for such a restriction so long as "that reservation would not shall be effective only if laws don't deprive anyone of civil rights on the basis of sex."

A companion House bill creates a "reciprocal beneficiaries" law allowing couples who can't marry to have rights of hospital visitation; joint property ownership; inheritance rights and the right standing ability to sue for wrongful death.

The Senate wants to expand the proposal to include about 200 rights and benefits, including state workers' health and death benefits accruing to a life partner; the ability to file joint tax returns;

workers' compensation benefits and criminal victims' rights; family leave and other rights.

If lawmakers don't compromise by April 11, there won't be enough time to take the necessary votes and other steps before the session ends April 29.

Increasing the pressures for action, interest groups plan a news conference and vigils at the Capitol in the next few days.

Senate negotiators sent a sharply worded six-page letter to their House counterparts, saying they are "frustrated over the absence of real progress" on resolving the same-sex marriage the issue.

Senate Judiciary Chairman Terrance Tom, lead House negotiator, shot back a four-page memorandum accusing the Senate of rhetoric, misrepresentation and innuendo.

"Let's get to the heart of the matter," Tom wrote Thursday. As best as I can understand from your letter, the Senate conferees believe that any constitutional amendment which does not give the Hawaii Supreme Court the power to impose same-sex marriage on Hawaii unreasonably discriminates against a segment of our population."

The House conferees won't support any constitutional amendment which gives any power whatsoever to any court or any administrator to impose same-sex marriage on the people of Hawaii, Tom said.

Senate negotiators say they are willing to consider revised language that makes protects nontraditional families while addressing House concerns.

10 - Year old girl Testifies for same-sex Marriages

by Robert Imrie

WAUSAU, Wis. (AP) Sol Kelley-Jones, a 10-year-old Madison girl, smiled at a panel of state lawmakers Monday and described herself as a "really lucky kid" with lesbian parents who love her.

Her friends often ask who her real mother is, the girl said in testifying against a bill to ban same-sex marriages in Wisconsin.

"I say they are both my real mom," Sol said, her feet dangling from a chair, flanked by the two women in a room crowded with more than 500 people. "I have a great family that is full of love. I don't know why some people are afraid of us."

The Assembly Committee on Children and Families heard several hours of testimony on the emotionally charged issue of same-sex marriages.

None was more impassioned than Sol and her two mothers, who said they had been in a "marriage relationship" for 18 years.

"We are a family in every way," said Sunshine Jones, 45. "What we don't have under the law is equal protection as other families do."

Joann Kelley, 41, putting her arm around Sol's shoulder, explained how not being legally married affects the benefits she gets at her job with a utility company.

Her partner and daughter could "die tomorrow and I could be deprived bereavement leave to attend their funeral," Kelley said, her voice breaking.

"Passing this bill will be a giant step backward. It hurts my family and my child."

Rep. Lorraine Seratti, R-Spread Eagle, wrote the measure banning same-sex marriages following recent court decisions in Hawaii that critics said would pave the way for such marriages in that state.

It is unclear under the current law in Wisconsin whether courts would recognize such unions from other states, Seratti said.

Supporters of the ban argued that children have become unintended victims in gay and lesbian relationships and to give those couples the right to marry would lead to society's decay.

Marriage defined only as a union of one man and one woman is "critical to a healthy, moral society," Seratti told the committee. Seventeen states have passed laws banning same-sex marriages.

"Homosexuals seeking marital rights can obtain them like any other citizen, by marrying a person of the opposite sex," the lawmaker said, provoking laughter from the many gays and lesbians in the crowd.

The battle lines were clearly drawn at the daylong hearing at Northcentral Technical College. About half of 160 people who signed up to testify offered their comments. Committee Chairman Michael Huebsch, R-Onalaska, declined a request for another hearing and scheduled a committee vote for Thursday in Madison.

Many supporters of the ban wore lapel pins issued by Wisconsin Christians United that said "Vote Yes. Marriage God's Way."

Some passed out a tiny booklet titled "The story of Sodom; Doom Town," which tells the story of God's wrath against homosexuals in comic-book style.

"God doesn't make homosexuals. If He did, He wouldn't condemn them," the booklet says.

Opponents of Seratti's bill wore a button that read, "Hate Is Not A Family Value."

Testifying from by telephone from New York City, Anthony Falzarano, executive director Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays, warned the committee that redefining the traditional Judeo-Christian marriage was part of the gay activists' agenda.

If successful on the marriage issue, gays will "demand their rights in many, many avenues," Falzarano said.

He said he led a gay lifestyle for nine years and now counsels others who struggle with the issue.

Bob Knight of the Family Resource Council in Washington, D.C., also testified by phone. He said opposition to gay marriages was a very powerful issue for the pro-family movement.

"One reason we protect marriage so fiercely is children are the first affected when marriage is devalued," he said.

In opposing Seratti's bill, Dan Danson, a rabbi at Mt. Sinai Congregation in Wausau, said Jewish people understand what it is like to face discrimination that treated them as second-class citizens.

Seratti's bill is about civil rights, not marriage, he said.

The pastor of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ in Madison told lawmakers his parishioners spent a little time searching the scriptures for examples of "archaic, cultural laws of ancient times by which we might judge our neighbors as lesser than ourselves."

Seratti's bill was mean-spirited, divisive and insensitive to Christ's call for compassion, the Rev. Charles Wolfe said.

"It is simply a stone, a rock, which the Wisconsin Assembly is being invited to pick up and fling at the gay and lesbian population of Wisconsin. It is nothing more than that," he said.

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More Harassment at Schools

by Sau Chan

BOSTON (AP) Senior year in high school is usually a time for reflection and anticipation.

All Carla Moniz remembers about her senior year is the loathing and hatred of other students — all because she let it slip one day that she was attending an after-school gay and lesbian youth workshop.

"I had rocks thrown at the back of my head. I saw written on my school walls in large red letters 'CARLA'S DEAD!' 'Dyke's Die,' 'Kill All Gays,'" said the 18-year-old, who graduated last year. "No one ever came to my defense or would admit to knowing who was responsible for the violence and harassment."

Moniz's experience was among the 161 reported attacks against gays and lesbians in Massachusetts last year, according to a study released Tuesday by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs. The report said 25 percent of those incidents took place in public schools and colleges.

Massachusetts, since 1993, is one of the few states that prohibits discrimination against students because of sexual orientation. The governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth was set up to oversee the establishment of support groups for students who are isolated and may be at a high risk for suicide.

Yet this same effort to protect young gays and lesbians may be making them more visible targets for verbal abuse, threats and assault, Moniz said. She believes harassment has increased since more students are making their sexual orientation known because they feel they have more protection.

"I think a lot of it is due to visibility. Before 1993, no one in my school ever talked about it much less come out ... I was surprised by the lack of education," she said.

Also reported was the case of a 10-

year-old boy in Sandwich who was taunted and attacked after his fourth-grade classmates found out that his mother had a lesbian lover. He was told "your mommies are faggots so you're a faggot too," and was called "faggot boy," according to the report.

His teacher claimed she never saw the assaults, and the youth was often punished when he defended himself verbally. At one point, the youth was hit from behind so hard that his head struck his locker, and he fell. A classmate wearing cleats kicked him repeatedly, the report said.

Moniz recalls having an ice scraper hurled at her as she walked to her car one snowy day.

"I just got in my car and drove away, and that scared me," said Moniz, who was senior class president at the time. "I was scared not only for my safety, but because I had accepted and tolerated this violent behavior."

As she speaks, an array of photos behind her is a stark reminder of the daily torture: concrete walls with red or black scrawlings that say "Gays suck" and "Fags must die."

Only a handful of faculty members came to her support, she said. Even their voices were silenced in the end when the school superintendent took educational materials about gays and lesbians down from an "awareness wall."

Finally, it took a state complaint against the school to bring about a change, she said. Since then, all middle and high school faculty in that community, which she refused to identify, have received training on homophobia and gay and lesbian development.

"I have walked through the halls of my high school laughing, crying, angry and see HARASSMENT, page 4

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Bard Banned? Proposed resolution could ban Shakespeare Plays

by Paul Nowell

CHARLOTTE (AP) — "Hamlet" could not be performed with Mecklenburg County funding under a resolution that's coming up for a vote before the county's board of commissioners, a Shakespearean scholar says.

"It would be difficult to teach Hamlet ... in relation to American family values when he is considering whether to murder his stepfather," said Dennis Kay, who holds the Shakespeare chair at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte.

The Liverpool native spoke out Thursday in response to county commissioner Hoyle Martin's proposal to cut taxpayer support to art groups that perform works that include "perverted forms of sexuality."

"... any activities by private agencies that promote, advocate, or endorse behaviors, lifestyles and values that seek to undermine and deviate from the value and societal role of the traditional American family — a husband, wife or single parent and possible offspring — are not compatible with our community's moral

beliefs," the proposed resolution said.

An earlier draft of Martin's resolution used harsher language, accusing gays and lesbians of believing "they have a right to recruit children for experimenting sexually."

On Thursday, the new version said: "... a generation of children are growing up in a society in which many adults, some naive and some preoccupied by other things, no longer seek to protect children from premature exposure to sex and pornographic or perverted forms of sexuality ..."

Kay said the exact wording of the resolution was not his biggest concern.

"Whichever form this resolution takes, the image tends to portray one of intolerance," he said.

Kay called the language in the resolution "poisonous."

If approved, he said, it could be interpreted by some as an attempt to censor great works of art that delve into controversial subjects.

For example, he said: "The violence of the (Shakespearean) tragedies and the personal relationships in such plays as 'Twelfth Night' and 'The Merchant of Venice.'"

"How can you define 'family values' over the centuries?" Kay asked.

Martin, a Democrat, did not immediately return a telephone call seeking his comment on the professor's analysis.

The resolution is expected to be on the commissioners' April 1 agenda.

Martin is proposing that no county tax dollars be given to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Arts & Science Council, which gets \$2.5 million of its

\$11 million annual budget from the county.

All county funding of "performing arts, contract agencies, non-profit agencies, and all other outside organizations" should be approved on a case-by-case basis by county commissioners, the resolution said.

Some community leaders have expressed concern that the resolution could hurt Charlotte's progressive image. The proposal has drawn criticism from the gay and lesbian community as well as a group of ministers.

"The response to this (resolution) shows people are talking about important questions," said Kay.

He quoted one of the Bard's sonnets to make his point.

"They that have power to hurt, and will do none ... they rightly do inherit Heaven's graces."

Bard Banned? Proposed resolution could ban Shakespeare Plays

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Several hundred worshippers — gays, straights and Christians — watched in awe as church leaders illuminated the 103-foot Mount Davidson cross in a rainbow of lights.

"It's amazing," said the Rev. Jim Mitulski of the Metropolitan Community Church, who led an Easter eve service at the monument. "You see it and it says more than anything you could come up with in words."

The 53-year-old cross, situated in a public park atop a hill that overlooks San Francisco, had not been lit for Easter for years.

After Baptist, Jewish, Unitarian and Buddhist clergy sued the city, calling the cross a religious display on public land that violated constitutional separation of church and state, city officials vowed in 1990 to cease the popular Christmas and Easter tradition.

Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a ruling calling the landmark a violation of a state ban on government preference on religion. San Francisco officials have begun seeking private ownership for the cross.

On Saturday, the embattled cross was flooded with colorful stage lights, rather than the usual white, as a celebration of diversity.

"All of us felt like it really was our cross, too," Mitulski said. "It represents the spectacle of human diversity mixed with a religious symbol. It's a new kind of spirituality."

Entertainer Sharon McKnight sang "Over the Rainbow" from "The Wizard of Oz," meaningful to the many gay participants in the Easter service, Mitulski said. And dozens received communion at the base of the monument.

"I'm a gay Christian, and I do appreciate the fact that the gay community is moving more toward the religious and spiritual side," 45-year-old Larry Crinnin said before the ceremony. "It's a beautiful place to have a service."

NY Assembly passes Gay Rights bill for the Fifth straight year

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — For the fifth straight year, the Assembly adopted a gay and lesbian civil rights bill to outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The Democrat-led Assembly on Monday approved the measure 89-55.

It was sponsored by Manhattan Democrat an equal protection bill. He said that al- Steven Sanders. In the Republican-led Senate, where it has failed for the past five years though he had not seen the specific legislation he was inclined to sign it.

"The governor's more active role increases our chances for passage, but it is still a controversial topic in our conference," Goodman said.

The bill adds sexual orientation to the list of classes protected from discrimination by the state's civil rights law. It would bar discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodations and education. People alleging violations would be able to seek redress through the courts and state Division of Human Rights.

Gov. George Pataki said Monday he would like to see the state Senate take up the measure.

The Empire State Pride Agenda, a homosexual rights lobbying group, said bringing the measure to a vote in the state Senate was a top priority.

"The Assembly clearly recognizes that there is nothing drastic about these non-discrimination bills," said the group's legislative counsel Paula Ettelbrick.

HARASSMENT, from page 3

frustrated," Moniz said. "But my only regret is that I had to work to ensure my safety and that of my gay and lesbian peers."

Meanwhile, the number of incidents reported in Massachusetts dropped 7 percent from a total of 171 in 1995. Nationwide, there was a 6 percent increase of incidents from 2,395 in 1995 to 2,529 in 1996, the report said.

Officials said the high number of incidents reported at public high schools and colleges could be attributed to youth outreach programs, which were started last year and encourage gay and lesbian students to report harassment and seek help.

"There's definitely more reporting," said Robb Johnson, a victim advocate at the Fenway Community Health Center. "Whether there's more harassment at schools though, we don't know since we haven't kept track of the numbers until recently."

The report also indicated that the seriousness of overall attacks have increased in Massachusetts. In 1995, one person was hospitalized, last year, five people ended up in hospitals, Johnson said.

The attacks will not stop, he said, until the public can "humanize rather than demonize gays and lesbians."

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Medical Research on Lesbians in Maine

by Tania Jo Hathawa

Wow! It's here: an opportunity for lesbians in Maine to participate in the first-ever Maine-based medical research conducted *on us*! As if that were not landmark enough, it's the first-ever research any where, any time, any place to address the risk of osteoporosis among *lesbians*.

Here's how it works: you travel to a site in **Portland or Bangor**. **MCORE** (see below) will gather basic health information from the research subject (that's us). Next, **MCORE** will administer a heel bone density test which is exactly what it sounds like: you have to take your shoe and sock off and a little machine is placed on your heel. It reads your bone density in a flash. You'll get a copy for your records excellent baseline information for the future. And that's it! You are free to go, knowing

you've just made lesbian health history in Maine.

How did this come to pass? The Maine Center for Osteoporosis Research and Education, in conjunction with the Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine, submitted a request for funding to the Lesbian Health Fund (LHF). The LHF, a project of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, exists for one reason: it funds medical research and only medical research on lesbians and only lesbians.

The Lesbian Health Fund (LHF) grants but a few research projects each year: it is especially exciting that they considered this project worthy of their much sought after dollars.

The Maine Center for Osteoporosis Research and Education (**MCORE**), an affiliate of St. Joseph's Hospital in Bangor, has consulted with LHP/SM from the early stages of the process

which began nearly 18 months ago. **MCORE's** original proposal was returned by the LHF with requested technical changes. Once those were made, the LHF granted the full amount of the original proposal.

Then, **MCORE** had to overcome the skepticism of its *Catholic* affiliate organization, whose Internal Review Board had some not-so-small concerns about the *Lesbian Health Fund* as a granting source.

This battle won, **MCORE** is ready to carry out its study titled "Assessment of Risk Factors for Osteoporosis and Bone Density in Premenopausal Lesbian and Heterosexual Women."

MCORE will be comparing two groups of heterosexual women to the lesbian group. One group will be regular run-of-the-mill heterosexual women, recruited through normal research recruiting methods. The other group will

be the (heterosexual) sisters of lesbians in the study. At the time of the appointment, lesbian participants will be asked if they have a sister(s) who might be willing to be in the study. **MCORE** will contact the sister when told to, and request that she set up an appointment. If enough sisters participate, the research results will be even more ground-breaking.

So here it is: our chance to be part of research history in the making; our chance to contribute to the much-needed medical research on lesbians; our chance to make a difference in lesbian health.

Please call 1-800-839-8311 to set up an appointment in either Portland or Bangor. Ask for Christine or Barbara.

Tania Jo Hathaway is the Coordinator of the Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine, PO Box 11048, Portland, ME 04104. tel 657-5864.

GLSTN of Southern Maine

Maine Assistant Attorney General Steve Wessler will address the April meeting of the Southern Maine Chapter of GLSTN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Teachers Network). Wessler, who directs the Civil Rights Unit of the attorney general's office, will discuss the current status of bias crimes in Maine schools, along with new efforts to make schools safer for all children and youth.

All educators and community members are welcome at meetings of GLSTN-Southern Maine, an area chapter of the national GLSTN organization. GLSTN brings together gay and straight educators and community members who work to end homophobia in schools and to make

schools safe for gay youth and gay teachers. GLSTN-Southern Maine meets the second Monday of each month in the library at Waynflete School at 6:30 PM.

The April 14th meeting of GLSTN-Southern Maine will be held at the Waynflete School Library, 64 Emery St. (entrance in back), Portland Maine. The meeting will begin at 6:30 PM, with Wessler speaking at 7:15. For further information, call Betsy Smith at (207)773-9547.

The program for the May 12th meeting will feature Joni Foster, HIV Education Coordinator for the Maine State Department of Education.

Teen AIDS Line

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The Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine presents:

Partners In Health

a conference on lesbian health and sexuality

Saturday, May 17, 1997

8:30 - 5:00

Keynote: Wendy Chapkis

Professor of Women's Studies, USM

speaking on

Lesbian Body Image

Workshops: parenting; safe sex; legal issues;
battering; spirituality; pregnancy.

Cost: \$20 (half price with student ID;
scholarships available)

University of Southern Maine Campus Center
Portland, ME

Registration information: (207) 865 - 9768

Co-sponsored by: USM College of Nursing;
Barbara's Kitchen; Black Tie Catering.

News from the Granite State

House Passes Anti-Discrimination Bill

by Norma Love

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) Backed by new support from the Roman Catholic Church, New Hampshire's House voted today to bar discrimination against homosexuals in housing, jobs and public places like hotels and restaurants.

The House voted 205-125 to send a bill to the Senate. The bill was endorsed by the Catholic Diocese of Manchester; in the past, the church had opposed it.

Today's vote is the third time the House has taken up the issue in three years. It sent a similar bill to the Senate in 1994, but the Senate killed it after former Gov. Steve Merrill said it wasn't needed.

The House voted last year to

study the issue further.

Supporters argued today the protections afford basic human and civil rights to a group that frequently faces discrimination. Appeals would be to the state's Human Rights Commission.

Supporters noted existing exemptions for small family businesses and some rentals would not be affected by the bill.

"There is no legal recourse at present in our state," said Rep. Carol Moore, D-Concord. "This discrimination happens in our state all the time."

Moore argued evidence shows homosexuality is determined by a person's genetic makeup, not by his choice. People fear homosexuality because they fail to realize people they

know and care for are gay, she said.

"They're your colleagues, your friends, your seatmates (in the House), the co-sponsors on your bills," she said.

Moore said the bill would not force businesses to extend health insurance coverage to the partners of gays or change existing laws against same-sex marriage.

"This has nothing to do with insurance," she said. "There's nothing in this bill that sanctions homosexual couples."

Opponents argued the bill sanctioned a sinful lifestyle.

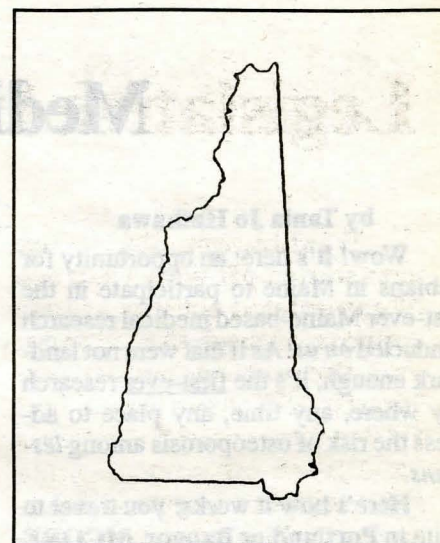
Rep. Stephen Adams, R-Pittsfield, also said voters should decide through a constitutional amendment

if they want to extend the protections to gays.

"It's important we let people of the state have the final word on the laws that govern them," he said.

Rep. Gary Daniels, R-Milford, said the bill asks people to embrace homosexuality as socially acceptable.

"How can we embrace a set of new ideas primarily responsible for the spread of AIDS in this country?" he said.



CAGLR Second Annual Honors Awards Dinner

On May 17, 1997 CAGLR will host our second annual Honors Awards Dinner at the Center of New Hampshire in Manchester. Once again, it is time to recognize individuals and organizations from the gay and non-gay community who have provided a service, volunteered their time or skills, or had a major impact on improving the quality of life for gay and lesbian people in New Hampshire.

Tickets are now on sale for \$25.00 each. Send a check, along with a stamped self-addressed envelope, to CAGLR, P O Box 730, Concord, NH 03302-0731. Help us to celebrate our community and thank those who make us proud of it. Black tie is optional

Same-sex marriage bill defeated

A bill aimed at blocking same-sex marriage by defining it as a heterosexual union for the purpose of rearing children was defeated in the New Hampshire House by a vote of 261 to 85. The bill was supported by the head of the NH Christian Coalition as a supplement to the "Defense of Marriage Act". Opponents (including CALGR, the NH ACLU, Family Planning and Planned Parenthood) argued that some heterosexual marriages do not produce children while many gay and lesbian people do, and the state shouldn't define marriage as a breeding program. It was also noted that NH law already prohibits same-sex marriage and that this was simply another occasion for some gay bashing.

Mountain Valley Men

A group of gay men of all ages in northeastern New Hampshire and southwestern Maine who get together for potluck supper meetings at 6:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month at the Center of Hope in Redstone (NH); outdoor activities and meetings are listed in the monthly newsletter; FMI: MVM, Box 36, Ctr Conway, NH 03813; Paul or David at 207-925-1034; email DFISPALP@AOL.COM.

volunteer opportunities for the women's health consortium

- * computer wizard - this job consists of making the computers in our office configure and compatible with each other.
- * outreach worker - this job consists of helping to promote our screening clinics and workshops that take place at our women's wellness center through poster campaigns, workshops and other outreach strategies.
- * Project volunteer - we always have projects in the works such as helping to upkeep our resource library, graphic design and any new project development.
- * Office Support - this job consists of answering phones with information of our programs, assisting in upkeeping our database and doing mailings etc.
- * Women's Wellness Center volunteer - We offer an array of programs, workshops etc. at our center and need people to monitor the office during workshops and/or to facilitate workshops. If you have an expertise you want to share with the community this is a great opportunity to begin and/or expand your work.

IF interested in any of these opportunities or to find out more on volunteering, please contact Shiela at 431-1669.

The AIDS Quilt

The AIDS Quilt is coming to Hanover, NH from May 2nd to the 4th. If you can help with this huge project, please call ACORN at 603-448-2220, or Peter at 603-523-7098.

Panelmaking workshops will be held at the Lutheran Church, 5 Summer Street, Hanover at 6:30 on April 4 and April 18.

For more information, call Thom at 603-632-4145.



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Midcoast Maine Gay Men's Help Line

— COLLECT CALLS ACCEPTED —

Legislative Update; Gay related legislation looms Large

Washington, DC. The year started off with a barrage of gay-related activity at state capitals around the country, and the action continues. Nearly 150 gay-related and HIV/AIDS-related measures have been introduced since state sessions began in January according to the latest survey by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). For the second year in a row, marriage measures dominate in number, though activists are taking the offensive in many states with anti-discrimination measures. History may also be made in 1997 where for the first time a statewide pro-gay civil rights initiative may be on the ballot.

"The numbers once again illustrate the most important work occurring in the struggle for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender equality is being done by activists at the state and local level," stated NGLTF executive director Kerry Lobel.

MARRIAGE:

Approximately 46 bills banning same gender marriage have been introduced in 28 states. This includes two bills pre-filed in Kentucky where there is no 1997 legislative session. In two states, Alabama and New Mexico, any person performing a same-gender marriage ceremony would be fined. As same gender marriage is not legal anywhere in the country, all ceremonies performed are private, not civil, ceremonies. Montana's bill has passed the House and soon will be up for a vote in the full Senate.

Four marriage bills passed the full legislature. Those in Mississippi and Arkansas were signed into law, while those in Virginia and North Dakota are awaiting action by the Governor. Virginia's Governor Allen is expected to sign the bill. It is unclear what action Governor Schafer of North Dakota will take, though he has stated he believes the legislation is not currently necessary. Four states - Maryland, New Hampshire, Washington, and Wyoming - defeated their anti-gay marriage measures. In Washington, the bill made it to the Governor's desk where it was vetoed. The bill has since been amended to provide for a ballot measure on the issue and if passed, could be on the ballot as early as June of this year.

Hawaii and New Mexico

both have bills calling for state constitutional amendments. In Maine, an anti-gay group has gathered enough signatures to put the measure on the November ballot. The measure will only reach the ballot if it is not passed in the state legislature.

Five states introduced pro-same gender marriage bills - Maryland, Nebraska, Rhode Island, Washington, and Wisconsin. Three remain alive, after Maryland's measure died and Nebraska's was indefinitely postponed.

CIVIL RIGHTS:

Approximately 17 bills favoring basic civil rights for lesbians and gay men have been introduced in at least 14 states. These measures remain alive in 10 states - Arizona, California, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, and Washington - and are dead in four states - Arkansas, Colorado, Montana, and Virginia. These measures include adding "sexual orientation" to existing and comprehensive civil rights laws to specifically addressing employment discrimination.

New York's measure, introduced for the 27th year, passed the assembly with a record 90 yes votes. In New Hampshire, the Catholic diocese of Manchester spoke out in support of the bill.

In Washington, activists have begun a new chapter in the quest for equality. Last week the group Hands Off Washington kicked off a campaign to put an anti-discrimination measure on the ballot. The measure is similar to the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act. Activists are hoping to gather upwards of 200,000 signatures by July 3 to put the measure on the November ballot.

DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP:

At least five measures have been introduced in four states. They remain alive in Hawaii and California, while Colorado and Virginia's bills were defeated. In Colorado, activists are battling a bill that would prohibit University of Colorado regents from extending domestic partnership benefits to the same-sex partners of faculty and staff.

In Illinois, the Senate is reacting to an ordinance passed yesterday by the Chicago City Council to extend employee benefits to the part-

ners of gay and lesbian city employees. The Senate bill would require municipalities that try to extend government employee health benefits to the domestic partners of gay and lesbian city employees to provide them to the unmarried partners of heterosexual employees as well. The motivation of the bill's sponsor is not to support the provision of domestic partner benefits, but to undermine such benefits to gay and lesbian employees.

HATE CRIMES:

Hate crime bills that include crimes based on sexual orientation were introduced in at least nine states - Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Montana, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Virginia. The Virginia and Montana bills are dead. Ironically, in Georgia, the scene of three recent bombings, including those against a lesbian bar and a women's health clinic, the bill is being tied up in committee because it is considered "too controversial." Georgia currently has no hate crimes law.

Legislators in Arkansas and South Carolina, neither of which have a hate crimes law, are considering bills that exclude crimes based on sexual orientation. The Virginia legislature passed a resolution calling for a committee to study hate crimes in the state. Sexual orientation is not listed among the bias crimes to be studied. A number of gay men have been killed in Virginia by a serial killer and last June two lesbians were killed while hiking on the Appalachian trail. The murder has not been solved, and many people fear it may have been a hate crime.

FAMILIES:

In California, a bill is pending to prohibit discrimination on the basis of marital status in state adoptions. In Georgia, a bill strengthening the role of durable power of attorney was introduced. In the absence of marriage rights, the durable power of attorney is an important legal provision for gay and lesbian families.

In Tennessee, activists are fighting a bill that would ban gay and lesbian people from becoming foster parents.

SCHOOLS/CAMPUS:

In California, a bill banning discrimination against gay students in public schools and colleges was introduced. The Dignity for All Students bill would prohibit bias based on sexual orientation in school

employment, curriculum and the treatment of students on campus.

Meanwhile, at least three bills adversely affecting gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth were introduced. Two of these measures are what is known as "parental rights" bills. Such legislation is aimed generally at making it harder for schools to teach children about diversity, including about gays. In Washington state, the bill would explicitly ban the teaching of homosexuality as "positive, normal behavior."

Also in California, a bill that would prohibit the removal or phase out of armed forces training units or recruiters from public university campuses is pending. A few of California's public post secondary campuses have removed armed forces training units because those programs engage in discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

SODOMY:

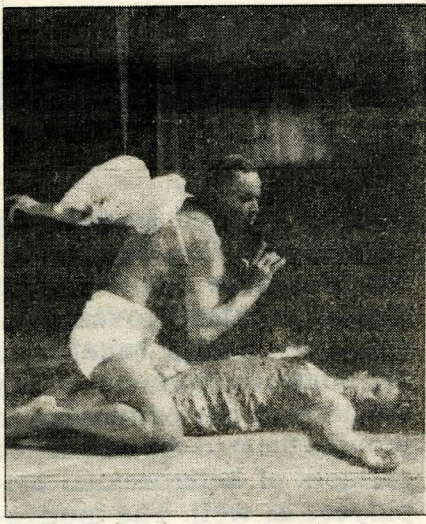
Measures to repeal sodomy laws were introduced in Arizona and Virginia. Arizona's bill is still alive, while Virginia's died in committee.

HIV/AIDS:

Numerous bills addressing HIV/AIDS issues have been introduced in at least eight states. The measures range from repealing the compassionate use of medical marijuana to establishing needle exchange programs.

Contact information for state activists and organizations working on legislative issues is available from NGLTF at 202/332-6483. For additional information on the Washington Employment Non-Discrimination ballot initiative, contact Hands Off Washington at 206/323-3560.

This information was gathered by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force from a variety of sources, including news reports, state activists and organizations, state legislative libraries and other organizations, including the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. Due to the large number of bills introduced, it is virtually impossible for this data to be completely accurate and comprehensive. Individuals with information on legislative activity not in this report should contact the NGLTF Field Department at 202/332-6483, extension 3303.



Esduardo Marscal & Dancers

by Angel Castro.

Recently I had the pleasure to meet a young man originally from Mexico.

A soft spoken and very gifted choreographer, dancer and teacher who has taken people who had no prior dance training and blended them with others who had prior dance training and helped turn their passion for dance and their willingness to learn dance into a forceful, graceful and beautifully timed dance troop.

Esduardo came to the United States along with eleven other dancers and choreographers after having received a grant from the Mexican government in recognition of their special gifts in the art of dance, to his knowledge he is the only one of the original twelve left in the U.S. and what began as a one month stay in New York evolved into a life in Maine.

While in New York he was able to preform his own works and was almost immediately noticed. In N.Y.C. he met and joined with another choreographer named Sham Mosher and came to Maine's own Bates College where he was invited to teach modern dance for one semester. Presently Esduardo is the Guest Artist at the University of Maine. Shortly after arriving in Maine Esduardo wanted to put together his own dance company but he found many professional dancers were already busy with other projects so he decided to place an advertisement with a local paper asking for people with athletic, martial arts training, acting training or just any one with the desire to learn dance and from this ad came a motley crew of dancers and together they became a team. Rehearsals began in October of 1995 and by February of 1996 they gave their first performance to rave reviews.

At rehearsal, his face tired and drawn he counts 123456 and watches his dancers move out of time. Patiently he goes to move with them like a parent teaching his children to walk. He pairs off his dancers and has them work their

routines. Every step meticulously covered, so addictive is his style of dance one can't help but want to join in. As I watch him I can see his mind at work as he creates his dance routine, one move flowing into the other as if he had played every step out in his mind months before only to find he was creating as he went along. All present watching him carefully as he made his next move, following his steps they move as well, slowly at first then the music begins and in the space of two hours what started as a mass of bodies moving out of step became timing, flow, beautiful to behold. When asked how they felt about working with Esduardo all present had only the highest praise. Everyone agreed that he is a very important part of their development as dancers and one of the dancers who had been trained from childhood in classical ballet said "I really like the freedom Esduardos' dance style gives me as opposed to the ballet which as a dancer I found much more restrictive." Many people come and go in and out of Esduardos dance troop and he admitted though he misses his dancers when they leave he likes seeing and working with new people stating "It keeps things fresh" and he likes the variety of people as well as the variety in styles each one brings to the troop.

As he hears the wonderful words of admiration coming from his dancers he breaks in joking "I payed them fifty dollars to say that." Though after seeing them working together I could not help but feel there was a real love between them all. Esduardo is also offering a series of Dance classes located at Casco Bay Movers on Thursday evenings more information can be obtained by calling Casco Bay Movers. I hope to see Esduardo Marscal & Dancers company and I hope all of you dance art lovers will also. Look for future dates and times in future issues of CPR

Arts & Entertainment

Caffeine Dreams

By Aimsel L. Ponti

Hi. I hope you are all quite well. I myself was headed home from a brief visit to Portland when I got an attack and needed to stop here in Saco and write this article. The truth is, Nell (my new '86 gold Corolla) and I have managed to sneak up here quite a lot and I finally decided I wanted to write again. So here I am and here are my caffeine induced thoughts and observations for what they're worth.

First of all, Kate Schrock just released a new album called "Shunyata." It's amazing and available at local record stores all over Portland. Although now a resident of Chicago, Kate visits often and in fact put on a great performance not long ago at Raoul's. She is now joined by her brother Nate Schrock who plays bass and guitar as well as local drummer goddess, Ginger Cote. They sound incredible. So check out Shunyata, call your favorite radio stations and request to hear it and look for Kate to be playing in the area probably later this Spring.

And then there's U2. I think I like them again. The new single "Discotheque" from the just released "Pop" album doesn't do it for me but another track that does, "Staring at the Sun" for me captures the essence of the U2 that I used to love. Killer song...

I shouldn't have to remind you of this, but in case you don't have it embedded in your brain, the Ellen Morgan character will finally be admitting her lesbian status to us viewers on an episode that will be aired on April 30th. And actress Laura Dern will be playing her love interest. Thank god Degeneres and

company were able to calm the execs at ABC. What should be no big deal has become a media circus, but at least it's gonna happen.

On Friday, May 23, the acoustic duo, Not Nuns will be playing at Sisters on Danforth St.. Besides being good friends of mine, they are wonderful musicians and songwriters. And then on the following night, May 24th they are letting me into the DJ booth to play some Aimsel music. Come down and say hello.

Paula Cole... I heard she played at Raoul's. How cool. I saw her the following week at The Paradise in Boston. She's is just unbelievable. "This Fire" is an album that you just have to hear to believe. Or perhaps believe to hear.

Hey I heard the Indigo Girls are going to be at UNH and then Colby. The new album is called "the Shaming of the Son" and I suspect it will be released soon.

As for myself. Well it's really hard to say. I know I'm going to be back here because there's an emptiness in my soul that is only filled when I am in Maine. God, that was kind of a depressing thing to say. My apologies.

Today, at around noon I got myself a Hazelnut coffee at Green Mountain, put on the 10,000 Maniacs album "In My Tribe" and just drove around, delaying my departure as long as I could. Portland is a sanctuary and a home, a fact that was only confirmed when I found myself in Massachusetts sulking on the subway in Boston. Well, dinner with my grandmother awaits down the highway so I'll talk to you later.

Gulf of Maine Bookstore

Gulf of Maine Bookstore, and Sexual Assault Services of Midcoast Maine present Frances Driscoll reading from her new book, "The Rape Poems", on Saturday April 19 at 3:30 pm at the Gulf Of Maine Bookstore, 134 Maine Street, Brunswick.

Frances Driscoll's "The Rape Poems" is a deeply disturbing, compelling and somehow beautifully rendered sequence of poems, in which a terrible wounding has been transformed by long medication, careful attention to detail, and superb artistry.

Tracing the circuitous and distorted paths of memory, Frances Driscoll fearlessly looks back on, and into, rape. What she ultimately reveals are the beauty and the terror of what she hesitantly calls "real life". These are poems of great courage.

For more information, call 729-5083.

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Ellen Needs Our Help

The American Family Association would like us all to write three advertisers and let them know just how we feel about "Ellen" coming out and broadcasting her sexual orientation all across America with Dianne Sawyer.

LEADING 'ELLEN' ADVERTISERS It is no secret that ABC/Disney continues to push homosexuality full-throttle. American Family Association has already announced its objection to ABC/Disney television's decision to finally make Ellen DeGeneres' character on her popular prime-time sitcom announce her lesbianism.

ELLEN will become the first in network history to have a homosexual lead character. AFA vice president Tim Wildmon said, "After hyping the media since last September, Disney and ABC have finally decided to scorn the moral sensibilities of millions of Americans. We will be publicizing the advertisers who are willing to push the homosexual agenda."

The April 30 episode will show the main character, Ellen Morgan, coming to grips with her sexual orientation, according to USA TODAY. She discovers that she is attracted to a woman, played by Laura Dern (Jurassic Park), and goes to see a therapist, played by Oprah Winfrey. It was announced today that Diane Sawyer will interview Ellen DeGeneres on ABC/Disney New's Prime Time Live April 23, a week before the actress's sitcom character on ELLEN comes out of the closet. "There are not restrictions on the subject matter," a Disney/ABC News spokesperson said, indicating that the actress will freely discuss her sexuality.

American Family Association has compiled a list of the three leading ELLEN advertisers from January 1 through March 22, 1997. We urge you to contact these advertisers and politely ask them not to promote homosexuality by advertising on ELLEN. We also encourage you to contact Disney/ABC and ask them to stop pushing the homosexual

agenda. Please ask your friends and family members to pray about this serious issue. Share this AFA ACTION ALERT with at least ten people TODAY and urge them to take action.

* Chrysler Corporation, Chrm. Robert J. Eaton, 1000 Chrysler Dr., Auburn Hills, MI 48326, Phone 810-576-5741, Toll Free 1-800-992-1997. PRODUCTS: Chrysler, Dodge, Eagle, Jeep, and Plymouth automobiles and Dodge trucks, Dollar Rent-A-Car, General Rent-A-Car, Thrifty-Rent-A-Car.

* General Motors Corporation, Chrm. John F. Smith, 3044 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202, Phone 313-556-5000, FAX 313-556-1988. PRODUCTS: AC-Delco auto parts, Buick automobiles, Cadillac automobiles, Chevrolet automobiles, DirecTV direct satellite broadcasting, General Motors parts, Geo automobiles, Mr. Goodwrench service, Oldsmobile automobiles, Pontiac automobiles, Saturn automobiles.

* Johnson & Johnson, Chrm. Ralph S. Larsen, One Johnson & Johnson Plaza, New Brunswick, NJ 09833, Phone 908-524-0400, FAX 908-214-0332, Toll Free 1-800-635-6789. PRODUCTS: Carefree panty shields, Imodium AD, Johnson's baby products, Monistat 7 feminine products, Mylanta II, Neutrogena skin and hair care products, Pepcid acid controller, Reach toothbrush, Shower to Shower body powder, Stayfree pads, Tylenol pain medicine. Or, point your browser to: <http://www.jnj.com/feedback.htm>

* Walt Disney Company/ABC, Chrm. Michael Eisner, 500 South Buena Vista Street, Burbank, CA 91521, Phone 818/560-1000, FAX 818/560-1930. Or, point your browser to: <http://www.disney.com/Mail>

This letter sent to us compliments of the International Lesbian and Gay Association of Pride Co-ordinators their NEW INTERNET ADDRESSES WWW: <http://www.interpride.org> E-mail: info@interpride.org Read on:



Ferron

Dixie J. Townsend

In the last few months, Raoul's has become my second home, and biggest source of live music. The new owners are to be applauded for their selection of entertainers as well as the hospitality towards their patrons.

This night was a little different for me. I have to say right up front that I was not as familiar with Ferron's music as I should be, and what is about to follow is more of an observation that a review.

I was recruited this night to hawk Ferron's CD to the masses. In return, I was granted entry to the show, and a promise of nothing more. What I received, however, far exceeded anything I could ever have imagined.

First of all, I was in a room with a myriad of at least 150 women. Even at this point, how could I have asked for more? The sizes, shapes, clothes and hairstyles differed, but the goal this evening was the same; to listen to the folk music of the singer-songwriter Ferron.

Ferron entered Raoul's unnoticed and espied her admirers from the back of the room. From the moment she stepped onto the stage, she held a captive audience. What surprised me, and most of the people I spoke with, was her incredible sense of humor. She talked about her grooming to become a secretary, and her 3 year old daughter, to the delight of the audience. If music is ever out of the picture, stand-up comedy is definitely an option.

Ferron serenaded her fans for nearly an hour and-a-half, ending with two standing ovations. She then retreated to the back of the building to thank her audience as they left. She took as long as each person wanted, to chat, sign autographs, and shake hands. It was then that I realized how much she is truly loved and admired.

Ferron's newest CD, "Still Riot", which is her first on a major record label, and includes guest vocalist Emily Saliers of the Indigo Girls, is sure to please her fans. Ferron has written some of the most honest, revealing lyrics I have ever heard. She must be seen live to be truly appreciated.

Women in Harmony: an evening of karaoke

Friday April 11, 1997, at Sisters, 45 Danforth Street, from 8 pm to 11 pm.

There is a three dollar cover charge. All proceeds from the door charge are being donated to Women in Harmony courtesy of Sisters. Come join the fun!! This is the second annual karaoke night for the group, and hopefully it will be a success.

Women in Harmony is a Portland-based women's chorus in its fourth year, conducted by Sonja Dahlgren Pryor, current director of the Rockport Community Chorus of Rockport, MA. For more information, call 878-5981.

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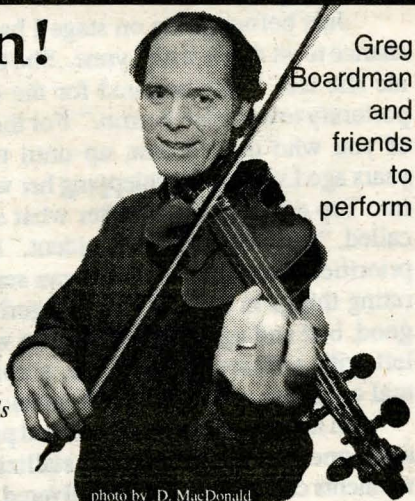
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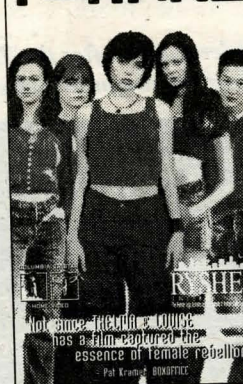
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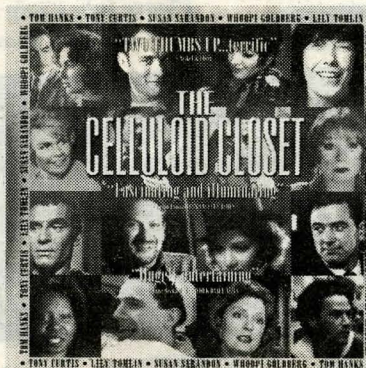
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Three nationally recognized talents come to Portland with their critically acclaimed shows in an event that will help kick off this year's Pride celebration!



THE TEXAS TRINITY

written and performed by Paul Bonin-Rodriguez

A trilogy of three shows that chronicle the coming of age of a gay man in a small Texas town. Paul Bonin-Rodriguez has been touring his trilogy of shows to venues including the Joseph Papp Public Theatre in New York and the O Solo Mio festival in San Francisco since they were created in the early 1990s.

April 17 - *Talk of the Town*

April 18 - *The Bible Belt and Other Accessories*

April 19 - *Love in the Time of College*

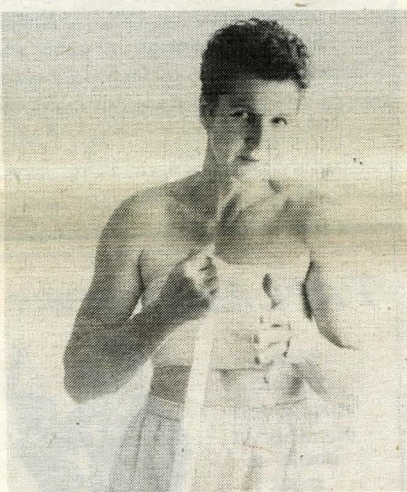
BLACKSTONES

YOU'RE JUST LIKE MY FATHER

written and performed by Peggy Shaw

Performer Peggy Shaw is the co-founder of the acclaimed Split Britches lesbian theatre collective who have toured Europe and North America for the past twenty years. Her one-woman autobiographical show uses simple costume pieces that belonged to her father to explore the nature of her masculine side and its relationship to her sexuality.

April 24, 25 and 26



skin & ornaments

written and performed by Craig Hickman

Boston-based Craig Hickman is a hot new African-American poet and performer. His lyrical piece uses poetry, monologue, African and jazz dance/movement, and storytelling to explore gender, sexuality, race and relationships.

May 1, 2, and 3

Please join Craig at the Underground after the Thursday, May 1st show for a meet the performer party!!!



UNDERGROUND

All performances at 8 p.m. at the Oak Street Theatre
92 Oak Street in downtown Portland
Tickets \$15 - call 775-5103

\$1 of every ticket sold will be donated to the Pride Committee to help kick off this year's celebration!

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Weekly

Community Pride Reporter
Proudly serving the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender
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HEWINS/CarlsonWagonlit



Local Singer/Songwriter Lynne Deeves Has Only One Way to Go: UP

Picture it -No, not Sicily. Yet another bitterly cold 'spring' night in Maine. Ya, you say, tell us something we don't already know. The place - Raoul's Roadside Attraction, Portland, March 17. The house was slammed with people. At 8:00 p.m., local singer/songwriter Lynne Deeves took the stage. Looking relaxed in tie-die purple overalls, she was at ease with the crowd, and they with her. From the back of the smoky room, muted white spotlights cast a soft glow on her and bassist, Victor Leclair. With a quick smile and a few teasing words, Lynne kicked off the evening as the opening act for Canadian born Folk Singer, Ferron.

For the uninitiated, Lynne's musical style could best be described as a quasi-acoustical combination of Melissa Etheridge meets Bonnie Raitt and they have lunch with the Indigo Girls. But once out of the gate, Lynne's comparison to others soon faded as she performed her own music from her new CD *Connecting the Dots*.

Just before going on stage I had a chance to sit down with Lynne. She told me she felt, "very honored for the opportunity to open for Ferron." For those of you who don't know, up until two years ago Lynne was schlepping her way into Top 40's oblivion. After what she called, "a life altering car accident," her priorities changed and she began separating things in her life into categories: good, bad and ugly. In the end she was left with a clearer perspective, a spiritual openness to life, and...her music.

In keeping with her new found passion, one of the evenings crystallizing moments came when Lynne delivered an especially strong rendition of *Fear is Their God*, which spoke to the anti-discrimination campaign run by Maine *Won't Discriminate*. Here Lynne proved that, unlike most, she could travel that

political line without falling prey to preachy-ness or sentimentality.

Midway through her performance Lynne told the audience a 'fabulous prize' would be given to the first person to answer a Ferron-trivia question at the end of her set. She lived up to her word, and the lucky winner walked away with a chi-chi poo-poo travel kit which included everything but a suave valet tucked neatly inside.

During the approximately 45-five minute set, the strength of Lynne's voice, her enthusiasm and her original upbeat lyrics shone through. Her songs were personal, and by the look of the audience, transcended gender. And the connective themes woven throughout her performance: prioritizing one's life, the insanity of discrimination, and finding real love were universals shared by the entire audience.

One of the most intimate moments came at the end of the evening when Lynne shared a song she'd written as a gift for her partner of ten years.

Lynne Deeves has a voice we all wish we'd been blessed with and the lyric writing talent to back it up. Listening to her CD is a pleasure, seeing her live is something that should not be missed.

The night's performance was a milestone and gave Lynne a chance to showcase her quite obvious talent, adding another giant step to a very successful, personal and artistic journey.

Lynne's next performance will be May 24, at Raoul's Roadside Attraction, where she will open for *Disappear Fear*. On June 21, she will be performing at the Gay Pride celebration in Deering Oaks (time has yet to be determined). Her new CD, *Connecting the Dots* is available at Bull Moose, MacBeans's, The Music Gallery, Wild Rufus and Good Vibrations.

The Cult of Ani

By Aimsel L. Ponti

Ani DiFranco continues to burst at the seams with her folk-punk-rock music and her feet remain firmly planted in the soil of independent music. She's been on the cover of Ms. Magazine and I've seen clips on her all over the place. Some loyal fans are getting upset at the coverage she has been receiving, claiming it is tainting the purity of her corporate-free stance in the music industry.

Lets face it, if you sell as many albums as she has and sell out every one of your concerts, people are going to notice. It's unavoidable, but doesn't have to be a bad thing. Judge her by her music, the rest will take care of itself.

With that said, I can now deliver the news that Ani will be releasing a double live album called "Living in Clip" on April 22nd. Although fans have been trading her live tapes with a Grateful Dead fervor for some time now, this album is highly anticipated as it is her live show that captures her true essence. I myself only truly understood the cult of Ani after seeing her perform live. At her recent performance at Bates College in Lewiston, I'm sure she made believers out of a new slew of people.

An Ani show is in many ways a musical rite of passage. Her performance is a mixture of raw passion, biting humor and guitar insanity. With a voice that could raise the dead or calm a madman and lyrics that are like angst-filled diary entries, you leave feeling redeemed, validated and enlightened. And if you're not careful you just might learn a thing or two about yourself.

When a raging siren like Ani plays for you her songs of love, protest, self-discovery and despair is bound to seep into your soul, like it or not.

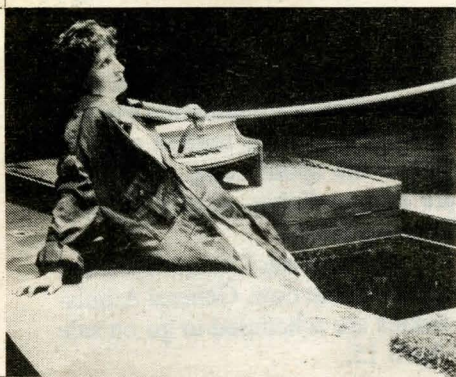
Okay, so I saw the woman live on March 16th in Lewiston Bates College and I still love her, however, joyful girl I was not in the Bates College Gym.

Maybe I'm just plain getting old, but I hate standing during a show. Such was the case at this particular show. Besides having to stand in a cavernous space, the sound system left much to be desired. There is no blame to place anywhere, so I won't. And I certainly don't hold it against Ani or her band, but let's face it, gyms are for basketball and stuff like that. I like a good theater say for example... The State Theater... Oh, is that still a touchy subject? But keep in mind I'm not a local girl anymore.

Anyway the sound system stank, but it was evident that the mostly twenty and under crowd didn't mind the acoustics and a good time was had by all. Ani served up a fine mix of songs including "Shameless", "Shy", "Cradle and All" and others, she also performed some new ones.

Although I can't recall it's title, one of her new songs was particularly well penned and seemed to be a peace offering as well as a rebuttal to those fans who have questioned her actions of late. The woman just wants to do her thing, make music. I say, "Let her! Wacky hair and all."

One last note; My vote for the two best songs (By Anyone) from 1996 are "Dialate" and "Untouchable Face".



Iphigenia

by Angel Castro

A contemporary version of an old Greek story as seen through the eyes of the women involved.

The dialogue was well written, strong and at times disturbing in it's ironic presentation. Many of the performances were very well done.

Clytemnestra portrayed by Jane Nichols, mother of Iphigenia was very convincing as the once sweet and loving mother concerned with the fate of her beloved Iphigenia, turned bitter and cynically cruel after her daughter was killed in sacrifice by the hand of her husband.

Electra portrayed by Irene McDonnell was superb as the second daughter. The butt of her mothers cruel bitter words and misappropriated wrath, she gave as good as she got from her mother. A tortured and dark soul she waits for her long lost brother to return from the war to kill their mother. Bravo

Irene I'll keep my eyes open for you.

Chrysothemis portrayed by Babo Harrison was another daughter. In sharp contrast to her sister Electra she seemed outwardly oblivious and in her garden attempted to disassociate herself from the bitter verbal battles between her mother and sister.

Her light "Oh well" attitude was though shadowed by the angry dialogue surrounding her in her one refuge... the garden, Babo's character came to life in a way I had not expected.

Enter the brother; Orestes portrayed by Hamish Linklater was another very good performer. Returning from the war though unwilling to fulfill his destiny of patricide, but Electra was determined though herself not able to commit this crime against nature forces her brother to finish their mother off. He exits the stage with his mother then shortly returns bloodied and dazed, it is done the mother is dead.

The only performance which was a disappointment was that of Iphigenia portrayed by Alicia Goranson. She seemed stiff and unemotional for the most part and when a scene called for deep emotion she seemed to go over the top.

To end I have to say one small actor with one small part caught my attention. Sarah "Squid" Lord who played the statue of Artemis was an absolute stand out. She was not only visually expressive but verbally just as expressive, she showed a great deal of articulation and talent. Watch out for this little "Squid", she has a special spark! Best of luck to all. I'll be watching.



Mad Horse Theatre Company Opens

Lloyd's Prayer

by Kevin Kling

March 26, 1997 (PORTLAND, ME) Mad Horse Theatre continues its enormously successful 1996-97 season with an outrageous comedy about a con man, an angel and a boy raised by raccoons! Be Amazed!

Mad Horse Theatre Company proudly presents for the perusal of our esteemed patrons *Lloyd's Prayer* in a limited engagement featuring Bobaloo the Beast Boy of Borneo! See the Half Human, Half Raccoon child rescued from the Wilds of the East by the Rev. Lloyd P. Jones. Bobaloo has hair covering 95% of his body, that's 95% of his body. In addition to our main attraction See four of the seven plagues of Ancient Egypt! the Wall of Fire, the Wall of Locusts, the Wall of Blood and the Wall of Pestilence! Live On stage experience THE WRATH OF JEHOVAH! All of which you can witness in the perfect safety and comfort of our main theatre. And there's more, much more. Meet Porpy the Human Carp with scales over 95% (that's 95%) of his body. Caught off the Shores of Tasmania by the Rev. Lloyd P. Jones, Porpy is Half Man, Half Fish and ALL LIVE! And after the show make sure you stop by *Lloyd's Holy World* for Great Savings on all your religious needs. Run! Don't Walk to see *Lloyd's Prayer*, a Comedy at Mad Horse Theatre Company. Saving YOU since 1986.

"*Lloyd's Prayer* is one of the funniest, life affirming plays that I've ever read. Kevin Kling is a marvelously inventive and theatrical playwright who creates a world that is part sideshow, part revival meeting and part farce." says director Andrew Sokoloff. "It's a world where miracles happen as a matter of course, where the divine is an active part of life. But what is truly miraculous in the play is the redemptive power of love and the journey we take to become human."

The cast of *Lloyd's Prayer* includes Mad Horse Company members Michael Howard and J.D. Merritt and Guest Artists Susan Dumais and Rufus Tureen. Production designers include Mad Horse Company members Tom Faux (sound), Joan Sand (lights) and Susan Picinich (costumes). Mad Horse Associate Director Andrew Sokoloff directs the production. Guest designers include lighting designer Joseph Futral who designed *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* last fall for Mad Horse. Frequent Guest Artist Christopher Price, who has appeared in *Kingfish*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *King Lear* at Mad Horse is designing his first set at Mad Horse. Costume designer Patrick Dullea, who's work is regularly seen at the Oak Street Theatre, makes his Mad Horse debut.

Lloyd's Prayer

April 10-May 4, 1997

16 Performances Only!

Thurs. 7:30 Fri., Sat 8:00 Sunday 5:00

Tickets \$18 (\$16 Students and Seniors)

Saturday Night Tickets \$20 (\$18 for students and seniors)

Gala Opening Night 4/11 \$25

Pay What You Can Night Sunday 4/13

Buy 1, Get 1 FREE! Thurs. 4/17

Benefit Performances

Thurs. 4/10 Children's Museum of Maine call 828-1234

Thurs. 4/24 Scarborough Public Library call 885-4723

Mad Horse Theatre is a small intimate 120 seat located at 955 Forest Ave. in Portland ME. The physical nature of the building guarantees "not a bad seat in the house". Mad Horse is Maine's only resident ensemble theatre and is celebrating its Tenth Anniversary Season. Mad Horse Theatre Company is a register Non-Profit 501 (c) 3 organization.

For further information and reservations please call
797-3338.



An evening with Peter Schickele

by Rose Marie Denmen

Do you have to be a member of the "Over Forty" crowd to know who Peter Schickele is? Since attending the event entitled "AN EVENING WITH PETER SCHICKELE" on Friday, March 7th, I've asked several of my class students, and it seemed that if there was no gray in their hair, they had no idea if Peter Schickele was animal, vegetable or mineral! Oh well, I think I'm getting used to dating myself.

Anyway it was Friday. I had seen the ad for this event for a couple of weeks but I wasn't sure I would have either the time or the energy to go so I waited until the last minute before calling the CPR office.

"Hello, Angel ... can you work a miracle for me?" fifteen minutes later, Angel called me back to say she had wrangled two complimentary tickets for me to attend the event at the new and improved "Merrill Auditorium" also

known as the City Hall Auditorium.

I'd been a fan of Peter Schickele for about fifteen years, listening to his "Schickele Mix" on public radio, and loving to play his PDQ BACH on and off ever since acquiring it. I especially like the way he introduces classical music on his show ... lots of background on the composer, and some fun information about the music itself, so by the time you actually listen to the musical piece, it feels really familiar and homey.

So, here's the ad in the Casco Bay Weekly: ... "Portland Concert Association presents the internationally renowned composer, musician, author and satirist. The concert will focus on Schubert ... "Hey, I have several CD's of Schubert ... I REALLY like Peter Schickele ... so I'm going to love this ... right?"

My friend Susan says ... "hey, yeah, I'd love to go. Thanks for inviting me." "As I write this, I'm not sure if Susan knew who Peter Schickele was or not ... she has a bit of grey ... so maybe she did ... Anyway, I get as dolled up as I can get and picked Susan up at her house. This was going to be a really fun, relaxing evening of classical music hosted and introduced by ... OK ... you know ... I've written his name at least ten times already.

So we get there and the new and improved auditorium is really VERY nice, like maybe I should have worn make-up or something. There's only a piano on the stage and a podium a bit off to the side and I'm sitting there feeling really posh in our second row center first balcony seats, while at the same time hoping the heat will make it up our way. There's a thirty something year old couple sitting next to me ... the straight type ... Hubby volunteers that he and his wife gave each other the tickets for the show back in September for their wedding anniversary gift to one another. "Wow", I thought, "now there are dedicated fans!"

So ... Peter Schickele comes out alone, sits at the piano and proceeds to tell funny stories, sings little "ditties" he had written over the years, and tell us about twenty-five years worth of escapades he has experienced as he has traveled and entertained audiences. His viola jokes were particularly funny, but you sort of had to be there.

I'm sitting there feeling like I'm taking part in a new revised version of THE EMPERORS NEW CLOTHES. ... Am I the only one who isn't getting it? Am I the only one who's wondering what is going on? Everybody else seems to be having a great time; they're clapping wildly ... Maybe I really don't

get Schubert! Or is this an inside joke? During intermission I ask the anniversary couple how they were enjoying the evening. They like Schickele, but they are disappointed he would not be doing PDQ BACH. ... I'm still thinking ... "PDQ BACH? Where's Schubert?" Even Susan seems to be enjoying herself. We finally got to the end of the evening, great, I can take Susan home and then drive to my own house to get into my own little bed, which is, what I've been thinking of for over an hour now! "So, Susan, did you enjoy the evening?" Here was the real lesson of the evening for me "Yes, I really did. I had no idea what he was going to do, so I had no expectations. He was funny, and I saw a very gentle and full hearted man share stories about his daughter going off to camp, walking his son to school, and singing an anniversary song to his wife." Now there's the rub ... NO EXPECTATIONS! This was not the first time I had ruined an evening for myself because of expectations. Next time I'll try to remember this lesson. And, by the way, the CBW goofed, Peter Schickele was doing a whole day-long workshop on Schubert the next day. A friend of mine said it was really wonderful.

Above and Beyond

Fresh on the heels of the success of their first special even (Suzanne Westenhoefer at the State Street Church), Richard Lawler of Above and Beyond says that they are finalizing details for "A Gala Night of Comedy" starring Kate Clinton.

The Friday June 13 event will take place at the Southern Maine Technical College in South Portland. Presented in conjunction with Symposium XXIII, proceeds will benefit the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance. Plans call for the gymnasium floor to be converted into a giant cabaret with additional bleacher seating to accommodate "everyone and

anyone who wants to be part of a giant, laugh-filled celebration".

"Funny Gay Male" Bob Smith is also scheduled to be on the evening's lineup.

For information on Super Supporter Cabaret Tables (in support of ML/GPA) and/or General Admission seating, call 207-773-6974. A limited number of high profile sponsorship opportunities are also available. Call 1-800-55-MLGPA for details.

Super Supporter Cabaret Tables of 4 can be reserved now. General Admission tickets are scheduled to go on sale after April 15,

"Scattered Sapes" at Coffee by Design

Portland artist Cindy Mackay made Maine her home when she moved in 1980 to pursue a BFA in painting from Maine College of Art. Since graduation, she has taught art part-time at both pre-school and high school levels, and continues to paint. Her subject matter consists primarily of Maine landscapes, as well as those of other regions of the country that she sees travelling across the United States. Mackay shares her perceptions of the world in her current show "Scattered Sapes" at Coffee by Design. The show opened on March 13, and will run through April 27.

Mackay's pieces begin with sketches or photos done on the spot and brought back to the studio where they are re-formed and re-invented, sometimes taking on a more surreal quality. The paintings usually focus on distinctive qualities of light and color, the intent being to create a familiar, sometimes spiritual sensation for the viewer. Her work has been shown throughout Maine at Hobe Sound Gallery, Dead Space Gallery and West Side Cafe in Portland, Fox Island Gallery in Northhaven, Viale Parioli Gallery in Kennebunkport, and the Artimis Gallery in Belfast. She was selected to create a billboard for the Maine Arts Festival in 1996.

Coffee by Design, a specialty coffeehouse, features the work of Maine artists. The coffeehouse is located at 620 Congress Street, near the Portland Museum of Art. Hours are Mon - Fri 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. and Sunday 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. For more information, please call 772-5533.

babe*

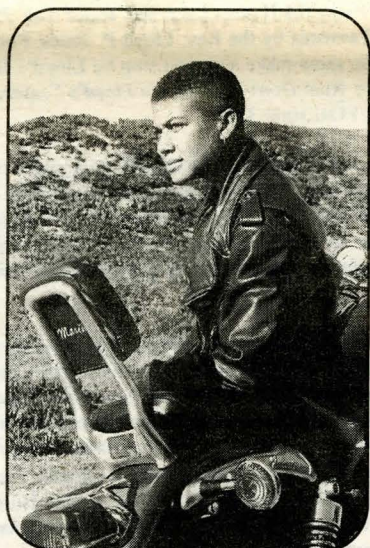


Photo by Phyllis Christopher



* babe-finder

For a free catalog of lesbian & gay travel guides, call 1-800-462-6654 Damron. The First Name and the Last Word in Gay Travel.

Alice Austen-Gertrude Tate

Photography contest

Lambda Associates of Staten Island, Inc. is pleased to announce the first annual Alice Austen-Gertrude Tate Photography Contest and Juried Exhibition offering a first prize of \$1,000. All photographers are encouraged to enter. The theme of this year's photography contest is gay relationships - friends, families, lovers. The deadline for entries is April 30, 1997. The exhibition will open in June in observance of Gay Pride Month on Staten Island, NY.

Alice Austen (1866-1952) was one of this country's first women photographers to record the people, places and events of her time as they really were. She took pictures with a passion, creating one of the finest photographic records of turn-of-the-century American life. She is represented in the collections of The Library of Congress, the New York City Public Library, the Staten Island Historical Society and the Alice Austen

House Museum.

Openly gay city council member Tom Duane commented, "I applaud the highly positive and creative manner in which Lambda has chosen to celebrate the loving 55-year relationship of Alice Austen and Gertrude Tate on the centennial of their first meeting. (The contest)....is a tribute not only to these two incredible women, but also to the borough of Staten Island."

The contest and exhibition are intended to encourage creativity, and the art and communicative power of photography. In addition, the contest and exhibition seek to promote understanding and interaction between the gay and straight community by breaking down stereotypes and providing positive role models, especially for young people, both gay and straight.

To enter, photographers must submit at least three photographs, but

no more than six; photographs must be no smaller than 8" x 10" and no larger than 16" x 20". All photographs must be submitted together in a single package, mounted but not framed. The back of each mounting should indicate the photographer's name, address, telephone number, the title or subject of the photograph, and an optional sentence about the subject or the photographic process. Submissions must include a non-refundable entry fee of \$5.00 per-person made out to Lambda Associates of Staten Island, postmarked by April 30, and mailed to Photo Contest, Lambda Associates of Staten Island, PO Box 140665, Staten Island, NY 10314-0010. For more information, call the Lambda Line at 718-876-8786.

Entries will be judged by a panel of three professional photographers and/or celebrity judges. From among all the entries photographs will be

selected by the panel of judges for public viewing at an exhibition to be held in June on Staten Island. (Those photographs selected by the judges must then be suitably framed by the photographer subject to approval by the contest committee and returned to Lambda Associates of Staten Island by May 28.) The prize winners will be selected by the judges from those photographers whose works are selected for the exhibition. The winners will be announced at the exhibition opening in early June.

Lambda Associates was formed in 1982 to serve the social, cultural and educational needs of Staten Island's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community. Lambda provides a safe, comfortable environment for gay men and lesbians to meet, share common interests and work for the betterment of the community.

Political pioneer Shiela Kuel to kick off tenth annual Creating Change Conference

Washington, D.C. — Sheila Kuehl, speaker pro-tem of the California State Assembly, will deliver the first keynote address of the Tenth Annual Creating Change Conference on Thursday evening, November 13, 1997 in San Diego.

Creating Change is the pre-eminent national gathering for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender political movement. Pre-conference institutes and trainings will be held November 12 and 13, with the core conference opening on the evening of November 13 and running through mid-day Sunday, November 16. All events during this tenth annual national conference are sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and will be held at the Holiday Inn on the Bay in downtown San Diego.

Kuehl, one of the Golden State's foremost political pioneers, became the first woman and first lesbian to hold the office of speaker pro tem, after only two years in the Assembly. Kuehl's long career in public life spans her years as Zelda Gilroy on the "Dobie Gillis Show" and her work as an attorney and law professor in Southern California. Now, as a nationally watched pacesetter in California, Kuehl urges others to run for office, saying, "in a representative government, we need to have representative people."

Attendees at the Tenth Annual Creating Change Conference choose from over 80 workshops and small group sessions designed to enhance the confidence and

skills of activists and organizers who work at the local and state levels. Topics will include: freedom to marry, media activism, sex and gender identity, youth organizing, anti-violence, workplace organizing, public speaking, organizational development, campus organizing, leadership skills, legislative lobbying, and current hot topics and trends in the movement.

Discounted registration rates are in effect until April 15, 1997. For more information or to receive a Creating Change 1997 brochure, call 202/332-6483, ext. 3329, or visit the NGLTF web site at <http://www.nglftf.org/cc97>. To reserve a room at the Holiday Inn on the Bay, call 1-800-877-8920. Mention the NGLTF Creating Change Conference for the conference rate of \$99.95 single/double; or \$109.95 triple or quad.

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

Make a Showing — Make a Difference!
Attend the Public Hearing on the EQUAL RIGHTS BILL

Tuesday, April 8th 1:30

Augusta Civic Center

This could be our year!

Keep Your Friends Alive

Join the Maine AIDS Walk



Sunday May 4, 1997

Starting at the ACLA office, 4 Lafayette Street; Lewiston
Where Campus Avenue and Sabattus Street Meet

Registration and Kick Off Celebration 1:00

Walk 2:00

Rain or Shine

5-mile and 2-mile walks to benefit AIDS care and education in our community

**For Pledge Sheets, to Volunteer, or for More Information, Contact
The AIDS Coalition of Lewiston-Auburn
786-4679**



The Maine AIDS Walk takes place in ten locations around the state.
Contact your local AIDS service organization for other locations.

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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."

The End of AID? Not Exactly

By Dr. John D'Emilio, Director
NGLTF Policy Institute

From the beginning, the AIDS epidemic has been short on good tidings. For most of the last sixteen years, we have had to content ourselves with developments that held "promise." For instance, identifying the HIV virus back in 1983 was a first small step toward effective therapies or a cure. Developing a test that detected antibodies, streamlining the protocols for drug testing and approval, winning passage of the Ryan White Care Act: each one of these achievements was important and worthwhile as a step toward the big goal, the end of AIDS which, unfortunately, remained as elusive as ever.

With so few encouraging signs for so long on the AIDS front, the headlines of the last year have naturally been welcome. First, there was the news pouring out of the international AIDS conference in Vancouver last summer about the astounding improvements in health that new combination drug therapies were provoking in many people with AIDS. The scientific reports were so powerful in part because they complemented what many of us were either experiencing directly, or by observation: many people with AIDS were enjoying remarkable improvements in health. In some cases, it seemed as if the dead were returning to life.

Then, just last month, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that, for the first time since the epidemic began, the number of deaths from AIDS declined during the first half of 1996, by 12% from the first six months of 1995. Meanwhile, New York City, one of the epicenters of the epidemic, has collected statistics for all of 1996, and reports a significantly more dramatic decline in the number of deaths.

There's no denying that these

developments represent very hopeful news. But they disturb as much as they encourage me because of the way they have been presented in the press, and because of the inferences that many might read into them. From many places, it seems, these glimmers of hope are eliciting the view that the end of AIDS is in sight.

While nothing would make me happier, such a conclusion is as dangerous as it is wrongheaded and unwarranted. Think about it:

While the press makes much ado about the first yearly decline in the number of deaths from AIDS, the figure for 1996 is likely to be as high as the total caseload was in 1986! Try to remember how crazy we all were ten years ago: crazed with rage and grief and frustration; crazed enough to launch a militant direct action campaign via ACT UP; crazed enough to plan a nationwide march on Washington that drew three-quarters of a million people. A "decline" in deaths to 40,000 per year is an improvement; it does not spell the end to AIDS.

While new drug therapies are having extraordinary life-enhancing effects on some people with AIDS, there are many others for whom the new drug therapies don't work. We also don't yet know how long their effectiveness will last; whether the virus will develop resistance to the drugs; or whether other strains of the virus will continue to spread despite these medical advances. These therapies are developing, moreover, in a political context in which government is relentlessly slashing taxes and expenditures, and a social context in which large numbers of Americans lack health insurance. Who will pay for these therapies? What will happen to PWAs who lack the resources to obtain expensive treatments? Drug therapies that work for some is a good thing, but it, too, does not spell the end to AIDS.

What do articles and headlines speculating about the fanciful end of AIDS accomplish other than to whittle away at the edges of the AIDS movement? Such claims make it more difficult to raise money, to recruit volunteers, to persuade legislators to up their commitment, and to spread convincingly a prevention message. In other words, even the hypothesis that the epidemic is ending can serve to make the end more distant.

I don't want to sound like an old curmudgeon. I don't want to pour water on the hopefulness that some good news engenders. But we need to be very clear about what the end of AIDS would really look like: no more deaths from AIDS, and a prevention effort that leads to an absence of new infections. We are not there yet, and we will only get there through the implementation of policies that require political courage: needle exchange; prevention campaigns that speak frankly about sexual behavior; a level of funding that will accelerate medical breakthroughs; and a national commitment to health care access for everyone.

The pious intoning of phrases like "the end of AIDS" won't get us there. Political mobilization and moral courage will.

Dr. John D'Emilio is a noted historian and author. His works include *Making Trouble: Essays on Gay History, Politics and the University* (Routledge, 1992), *Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities: The Making of a Homosexual Minority in the United States, 1940-1970* (University of Chicago Press, 1983), and he is the co-author of *Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America* (Harper and Row, 1988). He is currently working on a biography of the late Bayard Rustin.

Airline Commended for commitment to the American way

Washington, DC The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) commends American Airlines for its commitment to quality service for all customers, including gays and lesbians, and urges activists around the country to stand up for the American way.

The airline company has come under attack by Radical Right groups like the Family Research Council and Concerned Women for America because of its sponsorship of gay pride events as well as its support of several gay organizations. The conservative groups label the airline company's friendliness as an open endorsement of homosexuality. For the past several days, the airline's switchboards

have been deluged with callers demanding that American put an end to its gay-friendly policies. Radical Right leaders have also blasted the carrier for going beyond "mere tolerance" for gays and lesbians, in a letter to airline executives.

"Our community has got to show our allies that we stand behind them when they're on the battlefield," said Kerry Lobel, Task Force Executive Director. American Airlines is a major sponsor of many national gay organizations including NGLTF. The company offers discounted fares to those traveling to many gay-sponsored events around the country. American is also the first airline to adopt a written non-discrimination in

employment policy that covers sexual orientation.

"We need more major companies and industry leaders to come out for fair and equitable treatment of all," Lobel stated. "If we don't show support for the companies that do get it, our demands that others put themselves on the line become weakened," she added. The Task Force urges activists and supporters of what is fair and equitable, to call, write or email American Airlines to commend them and write to their local newspapers and national magazines and let them know that the airline company has done the right thing. Tell them that you believe in the American way.

CPR MAIL BAG: Portland Hot Tubs

Our names are Dominic and Pimpa Ellison, the most recent owners of Portland Hot Tubs. This letter is in response to Paul Jacobs and David Swanders complaints about our establishment. Unfortunately, they made a few mistakes in relating the event that took place that day, as well as an error in interpretation as to the reason that it occurred.

Mistake #1: They were not refused a hot tub, nor will they ever be. They were simply refused the full value of their certificate (\$25.00) in exchange for the hour that they had reserved using Paul's credit card. They chose not to take the tub, for which we required another \$20.00.

Mistake #2: When they reserved, they made no mention of a gift certificate or they would have been informed of our policy (at that time) concerning all gift certificates over one year old that do not bear the "expires one year from this date" mark on them. Our policy was: we will give \$10.00 towards the purchase of a new tub, or a new gift certificate. This policy was posted on the wall of the waiting room.

Mistake #3: This policy is not illegal since Portland Hot Tubs is a DBA for a new company that purchased the complete assets of the old business. In this case, our lawyer informs us, we do not inherit the debts of the old Portland Hot Tubs, not those of the business before that, The Tub Shop—therefore, we are not legally responsible for any of the old gift certificates still out there.

On top of that, we are not even legally responsible for any debts before September 1996; however, since that time, we have accepted several hundred gift certificates for which we were never compensated and without imposing any restrictions whatsoever.

Apart from legal responsibility, the issue of standard business practice should also be considered. We asked several business owners in the area what would have been the acceptable thing to do concerning all of these old gift certificates for which we had received no compensation—and their response was that we should impose a limit of

some sorts. We did so—we thought it was a fair one, since \$10.00 is about the extent of before-tax profit we make on renting our tubs for just one hour. In other words, we forego all profit, but our expenses are paid for by giving the \$10.00 for an old gift certificate.

Mistake #4: We never yelled at them. We did get angry with them, and it was obvious in our voices. But the reason we were angry was this: they stood in our waiting room for at least 25 minutes arguing this issue and talking loudly and aggressively enough so that other customers could hear. During this time, they hindered us in the performance of our responsibilities towards other customers. More than several couples were late in entering their tubs because of this.

In order to better understand how that could occur it is necessary to know that we were booked solid for the days before that and the days after. My wife and I are the only two people working there and we had to answer phones (150 calls per day), clean the tubs and rooms between customers, act as receptionists, etc. That weekend, we were open from 10 am until 4 am for 5 days—we averaged about 40 tubs per day. And our schedule must run like clockwork or everyone else following has to wait while we clean. If one couple is late, then each and every couple after that is late. You can see that a 25 minute argument with Paul and David might be very frustrating for us.

Mistake #5: My wife never called them cheap. Perhaps they misunderstood her; my wife is from Thailand and has not been here very long. Perhaps they had a problem with her accent?

Mistake #6: Paul stated at that time that he had lost the gift certificate but had just found it again. However, in his letter he states that they tried to use it last year for a reservation on Valentine's Day but were told that it was all booked up. Perhaps he lost it twice?

Mistake #7: Threatening us loudly in the waiting room! Paul loudly said something like "You know, I don't want to threaten you or anything but I know a lot of people that I can contact in the me-

dia about this". This sounded a lot like a threat to me, and when we proved recalcitrant, he obviously made good on it. Following is a list of all of the organizations or offices that received copies of the letter; at least as far as we know:

The Cape Courier, Maine Community Foundation, WGME-TV, the Attorney-General's Office, Casco Bay Weekly, Maine Times, Voice of the People, BBB, Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance, WPXT/Fox 51, WMTW, Forecaster Newspaper, WCSH-TV, Suburban News, American Journal, City Manager's Office of the City of Portland, our landlord, and last but not least, the Internet.

We are not unsympathetic to people with financial problems who wish to use our tubs. There are many people who have received free tubs or discounts because they asked nicely. However, Paul and David tried to force us to give them a free tub by declaring that they would slander and libel us if we didn't. What would you have done?

I apologize for this being such a long letter about a matter that you probably consider unimportant. Yet there is one thing left that we consider to be the offensive in their letter: They interpret our refusal of their gift certificate to be possibly homophobic. To put it simply: there are members in both my wife's and my immediate families who are not only members of the Gay Community, but are politically active. One example is my sister Genevieve, who was the parade marshal for the 15th annual North Hampton Gay/Lesbian Pride March in Massachusetts just last year. As well, my family has many friends in the Community and welcomes the Community to the use of Portland Hot Tubs without compunction! We have already had many members of the Community in to use our tubs and we are sure that they will act as good references if you need them.

Thank you for your patience Dominic and Pimpa Ellison
ps Our new policy concerning old gift certificates is to receive them at full value, but only Monday thru Wednesday.

Dear CPR:

The Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine would like to thank the following businesses for their generous support of the recent Suzanne Westenhoefer fundraising event: **Above and Beyond** for organizing the post-show party; **Katahdin Restaurant** for hosting the reception; and **Della's Catessen, Hand-made Desserts, Coffee by Design, Horton's Smoked Seafoods, Nappi Distributors, Tributes, and Harmon's & Barton's** for their contributions to the scrumptious & beautiful buffet.

Monies raised at this event will be used to develop a lending library of books about lesbians and cancer. (We are currently putting together a list; please call the project at 657-5864 with suggestions for books.) In addition, LHP/SM will use proceeds from the event to seek 501(c)(3) status and to continue offering free cancer screening clinics.

Many thanks to Richard Lawlor, Gretchen Bates and many others who worked behind the scenes to make this event such a success. And thanks to the 75+ reception attendees—your support is very much appreciated!

Sincerely,

Tania Jo Hathaway, Coordinator LHP/SM

Community Pride Reporter

P.O. Box 178
Saco, Maine
04072
E-mail: cprpride@ime.net
Phone: 207/282-4311
Fax: 207/282-4551

Our Mission

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

Our Editorial Policy

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

Submissions Welcome

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

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All submissions must be in by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue.

Community Pride Resources

ML/GPA

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

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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

Northern Lambda Nord

an educational, informational, social, and service organization serving lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people in northern Maine and New Brunswick. Meetings are 2nd Sunday of every month at 1 pm (ME), 2 pm (NB), at the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 S. Main St., Caribou, ME 04736-0990. The Phoneline is staffed every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7-9 pm. Call 207-498-2088 or 1-800-468-2088

The Matlovich Society

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

National Association of Social Workers, ME.

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

Hate Crimes & Bias Incidents:

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

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

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

The Rainbow Business & Professional Association

A state-wide, non-profit organization established to create a gay, lesbian, bi and transgendered "chamber of commerce" for Maine. Meetings for networking or dinner with speaker events, held in the Greater Portland area, second Monday of the month. FMI write P.O. Box 6627, Scarborough, ME 04070-6627, call 207-775-0015 or e-mail wildboys@mainelink.net.

Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights

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

Identity Support

New Hampshire P-FLAG Meetings:

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

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

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

Maine P-FLAG Meetings

Portland: Meets 2nd Tuesday 7-9 PM at Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodfords St. FMI call 207-766-5158 or 207-774-3441.

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

Lewiston/Auburn: Meets last Sunday of the month from 6:30-8:30 pm. FMI call 207-783-9789.

Women's Center

Belfast - Weekly meetings, 9A Main St., 2nd floor (above Jaret & Cohn). Group meeting every Wednesday, 6:15 pm. Women's Spirituality Gatherings, Mondays 7-9 pm. FMI call 207-338-5702

NA: Just for Today

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

Out and About

a lesbian support and educational group, meets on 1st & 3rd Wednesday monthly, 7:00 pm., United Methodist Church, 129 Miller Ave, Portsmouth, NH. FMI: POB 5691, Portsmouth, NH 03902, or call 603-430-5418.

Out Among Friends

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

Am Chofshi

A Maine Lesbian/Gay Jewish support group, meets monthly. FMI call 207-883-6004.

Exeter Congregational Church

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

Lesbian/Gay Catholics

The organization Dignity/Maine offers supportive Masses for l/g/b/t Catholics & their friends/families. Meets every Sunday at 6:00 pm in St. Luke's Cathedral, side chapel, 143 State St., Portland. Coffee & dessert after the liturgy. FMI call Rosemary or Janet: 207-646-2820 or Laurie: 207-878-0546 or write: Dignity/Maine, POB 8113, Portland 04104. All replies kept confidential.

The Appollo Society

an out-reach, networking and social organization for New England's gay and lesbian atheists, free-thinkers, ethical humanists and Hellenes. Free speech/civil rights advocacy group offering freedom-from-religion support, religious de-programming and fun! FMI call 207-773-5726 or P.O. Box 5301, Portland, ME 04101.

Community of Hope

A Christian congregation which claims a primary ministry with gay and lesbian people and strives to be inclusive of all persons. Worship on Saturdays at 4:00 PM at Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI write Community of Hope. POB 1671, Portland, ME 04104.

Central Maine Gay Men's Support Group

Tuesdays from 7-8:30 pm. FMI call 207-622-1888 or 207-622-4254.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Discussion Group

1st and 3rd Fridays each month, 7-9 pm. First Universalist Church, 345 Broadway, Rockland, ME. FMI call Larry Godfrey at 207-594-2957.

Support Group—Penobscot & Surrounding Counties

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

Q-Squad

Support group for lesbian, gays, bi's & transgendered. Serving Franklin County, based at UM

Farmington. FMI call and leave message at 207-778-7380.

TransSupport

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

Gender Talk North

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

Trans Counseling

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

Maine Bisexual People's Network

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

Polyamorous Life Support (PALS)

Do you love more than one person? You may be polyamorous. Polyamorous Life Support (PALS) is a discussion/support group for people interested in creating/nourishing committed, loving, multi-partner relationships. Whether curious or already multiply intimate, call 207-773-6132 FMI.

Prisoners of Gender

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

Lesbian/Bisexual Support Group

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

Dover, NH

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered support Group meets Sundays 7-8pm, Quaker Mtg. House, Central Ave. Social times too. FMI call 603-743-GAY2 eves.

Lewiston/Auburn

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

Bangor Lesbian Support Group

This Lesbian Support Group welcomes any woman who self-identifies as a lesbian. They seek to create woman-only, lesbian-positive space to explore issues and affirm themselves and each other as lesbians. Confidentiality, open-mindedness and respect are required. Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 pm.

Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center

334 Harlow St., Bangor. FMI: call 207-947-5337.

S.N.A.P.

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

DEGLO (Down East Gay & Lesbian Org.)

Meets 2nd Saturday of the month, 5:30 pm at the UU Church, Park Street, Bangor.

Maine Gender Resource & Support Service

Information, referrals and education for the transgender community, helping professionals and the general public. Write McGRess, PO Box 1894, Bangor, ME 04402-1894 or call 207-945-3092.

All Maine Transgender

Group Support for all Crossdressers, Transvestites, Transgenders, Transsexuals. All inclusive group, gay, lesbian, bi, straight. Confidential and discreet, Bangor meeting place. Meets the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Call 207-947-1686 for time and place; or FMI write AMT P.O. Box 145 Brewer, ME 04412.

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Parents Group

For dates, places and times write GLB Parents Group, P.O. Box 10818, Portland, ME 04104.

Mothers and Kids Group

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

Maine AIDs Alliance

Maine AIDS Alliance: 39 Green Street, Augusta, ME 04330. Call 207-621-2924. Fax: 207-622-2662.

AIDS Coalition of Lewiston/Auburn: P.O. Box 7977, Lewiston, ME 04243. Call 207-786-4697.

AIDS Lodging House: 142 High Street Suite 609, Portland, ME 04101. Call 207-773-7165.

Camp Chrysalis: PO Box 990, Belfast, Maine 04915. Call 207-3338-5089.

Community AIDS Awareness Program: PO Box 457, Rumford, ME 04276 Call 207-364-8603.

Community Task Force on AIDS Education: PO Box 941, Naples, ME 04055.

Dayspring AIDS Support Services: 32 Winthrop St., Augusta, ME 04330. Call 207-626-3432.

Down East AIDS Network: 114 State St., Ellsworth, ME 04605. Call 207-667-3506.

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

Merrymeeting AIDS Support Service: PO

Box 57, Brunswick, ME 04011. Call 207-725-4955.

Names Project/Maine: P.O. Box 10248, Portland, ME 04104. Call 207-774-2198.

Oxford Hills Community AIDS Network: PO Box 113, Paris, ME 04271. Call 207-743-7451.

Peabody House: 14 Orchard St., Portland, ME 04102. Call 207-774-6281.

People With AIDS Coalition of ME.: 696 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101. Call 773-8500.

PAWS/Pets Are Wonderful Support: 142 High St., Room 330, Portland, ME 04101. Call 775-PAWS. E-mail paws@ime.net. Home page: http://www.ime.net/PAWS/

The AIDS Project (TAP): PO Box 5305, Portland, ME 04101. Web page - www.neis.net/aidsproject. E-mail - aidsproj@neis.net Call 207-774-6877.

Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: P.O. Box 956, Belfast, ME 04915. Call 207-338-1427.

Medical Support

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England

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

FREE FAMILY THERAPY

available for individuals & families (of any type) who are affected by HIV disease. FMI, contact Chris Behan, MSW at Center for Training and Special Programs. 207-773-6658.

Teen Life Center

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

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic

Portland STD Clinic provides full range of services from screening & treatment, education & counseling and HIV antibody testing and counseling. Located in Room 303 of City Hall. Anonymous HIV testing by appointment on weekdays from 8 am to 5 pm. Call 207-874-8784. For other STD services: 207-874-8446.

Coping with Caregiving

Provides support for those caring for a disabled or chronically/terminally ill person. Group meets on 2nd and 4th Friday of the month at noon at Mercy Hospital Board Room, sixth floor. FMI call 207-879-3477.

Breast self-exam classes

The Breast Health Resource Center at Mercy Hospital is offering free self-exam classes to teach women how to perform breast self-exams, what to look for, what a lump might feel like, and what to do if you find something that doesn't seem right. Classes are on the 3rd Thursday of the month on the 5th floor. FMI, or to register, call 207-879-3791

Youth Support

OUTRIGHT

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

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

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

HELP or write to P.O. Box 5077, Portland, ME. 04101.

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

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

Monadnock: Meets every Thurs., 7-9 pm

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

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

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

COLAGE

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

THE MAINE YOUTH PROTECTION COUNCIL

Works to create safer communities and schools for minority youth. If racism or homophobia affect you, help be part of the solution. Call 207-775-4944 for information on the council and sub-committees. There is a place

HIV Related Support Meetings

Portland:

Mondays: People Living with HIV disease and all friends, families, partners & caregivers, 6:30-8:00 PM.

Tuesdays: People living with HIV disease and all friends, families, lovers and caregivers, 10:30 am-Noon. TAP, 142 High Street Suite 632, Portland, ME 04101.

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

Wednesdays: Drop-in discussion group for married/gay/bisexual/questioning men. FMI call Gerry at 207-774-6877.

1st Wednesday: PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support), 5:30 pm. Call 775-PAWS. Charles Wynott, Program Coordinator.

Thursdays: People living with HIV meets from 5:30-7 pm. TAP, 142 High Street Suite 632, Portland, ME 04101.

2nd Thursday: Client Advisory Board, open to all clients of The AIDS Project, 1:30 pm.

The above Portland support groups meet at The AIDS Project, 142 High St., 6th floor. Except the Tuesday group, Living Well. FMI on that call Sandy Titus at Stratogen Health Care. Call Jane O'Rourke at 207-774-6877 or 1-800-851-2437 for more information.

Family and Friends Accepting Change Together (FFACT), a support group sponsored by North-

ern Maine AIDS Network for friends, families & careproviders. Meets every 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 pm, at the Aroostook Medical Center, conference room A. Presque Isle. FMI, Deb Madore of Health 1st, 207-768-3056 or 1-800-432-7881.

Auburn: People living with HIV disease, Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00 pm at Auburn Family Planning. Call Diana Carrigan, Androscoggin and Oxford Case Manager and Support Services Coordinator for TAP at the Auburn office, 207-783-7301.

Augusta: Every 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 6:00-7:15 pm, Dayspring AIDS Support Services offers support for people with HIV & those who care about them. FMI, call 207-626-3435.

Bangor: Man 2 Man HIV prevention program for men who have sex with men. M2M offers education, HIV testing, support groups, HIV/AIDS Hotline and workshops. To volunteer or FMI on the program call 207-990-2095 or write: Man 2 Man, POB 2038, Bangor, ME 04402.

Biddeford: People affected or infected by HIV, Mondays, 5:30-7:00 pm. So. ME. Medical Center classroom opposite cafeteria on 2nd floor. Call John Bean, York County Case Manager, 207-774-6877.

Brunswick: Meetings for family and friends who have loved ones with HIV/AIDS at Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services, 8 Lincoln Street. FMI on meeting days and times call 725-4955.

Farmington: Thursdays: 6:30-8:30 pm. HIV+ support group. Call Christie Foster at Tri-County

Health Services, 778-4553, for location.

Gardiner: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays: People Living with HIV meets from 1:30-3 pm at the Physicians Building behind KVRHA Annex. Call MASS at 725-4955.

Kennebunk: Drop-in discussion group every Tuesday for married/gay/bisexual/questioning men at TAP Office, Lafayette Center, downtown Kennebunk. FMI call Gerry at 207-774-6877.

Lewiston: 4th Thursday: Great Sex Expectations monthly drop-ins for gay, bi & questioning men of all ages. 7:00-10:00 PM, ACLA office (4 Lafayette St.) FMI, Sean-207/786-4697.

Rumford/Mexico Area: Mondays: AIDS Support Group/Phoneline meets from 7-8:30 pm at Mexico Congregational Church, Main Street, Mexico. Call 364-8603.

New Hampshire:

Derry area: Support group open to anyone infected with AIDS/HIV. Hosted by the Ecumenical AIDS Task Force, at St. Thomas Aquinas. FMI or reservations, call Jane Dwyer at 603-432-7530.

Keene: Support group for families, friends, partners of persons living with AIDS or who have died of AIDS. Confidential & anonymous. Meets every other Wed., at Planned Parenthood, 7-8:30 pm. Call Dorothy Anderson at 603-756-4735.

Keene: Support group for HIV positive people and those living with AIDS meets alternate Mon. 6:30

pm. For details call Schultz, 603-357-5270.

Lebanon/Hanover: ACoRN offers support groups, case management, community referrals and HIV prevention programs for people in the Upper Valley. FMI call John or Mark at 800-816-2220.

Monadnock Region: For info., referrals, testing, buddies, speakers & volunteer opportunities call AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region at 603-357-6855 or 1-800-639-7903 or call United Way Help-Line, 1-800-368-4357.

Nashua area: Two weekly self-help groups for those infected with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS. For times, dates and locations, call 603-595-8464.

N.H. Seacoast "Connections" support group for care givers, parents, families and friends, all those whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS. "Connections" meets every month on second Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the Exeter Congregational Church 21 Front St. Exeter, NH. Discussions, information sharing and support are offered in a friendly and private atmosphere. FMI 603-772-6221, or 603-436-8963.

Peterborough: Support group for family, partners and friends whose lives have been affected by HIV/AIDS meets Tues. at noon. Call Maria Rosario-603-924-7191, ext. 1126 for details.

Winnepesaukee Region: HIV/AIDS support group meets Wednesdays from 7-9 pm at Lakes Region General Hospital. FMI call Wayne at 603-524-3211 ext 3900.

Phone Support By Region

National Center for Lesbian Rights Youth Project: 1-800-528-NCLR.

Gay & Lesbian Phoneline of Maine: Staffed Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7 pm - 9 pm. Call 207-498-2088 or (Maine) 800-468-2088.

Boston Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Youth (BAGLY): 1-800-347-TEEN.

National Hotline for gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender youth. Sponsored by the Indianapolis Youth Group. Staffed & trained, peer youth counselors. Lines are open Sunday thru Thursday 7-10 pm, Friday and Saturday 7 pm to midnight. Confidential and anonymous. Call 1-800-347-TEEN

HIV-AIDS Prevention Project: Staffed Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7 - 9 pm. Call 207-498-2088 or (Maine) 800-468-2088

The AIDS Line: 1-800-851-AIDS or 775-1267. HIV/AIDS related questions, call Mon.-Sat. 9 am-5 pm, Mon. & Wed. evenings until 7:30

pm. Anonymous.

DIAL KIDS: For lesbian, gay, bi & questioning youth under 19 yrs. 774-TALK.

Ingraham Volunteers: Call 774-HELP (774-4357).

The AIDS Project 774-6877. Located at 142 High St., 6th floor, Portland 04101. Call for information and support group meetings in Portland, Lewiston, Brunswick.

Bangor: Eastern Maine AIDS Network: 990-3626

Penobscot County: HIV/AIDS Hotline-1-800-429-1481

Belfast: Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: 338-1427

Brunswick: Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services: 725-4995

Bridgton: Community Task Force on AIDS: 583-6608

Rumford: Community AIDS Awareness Program: 823-4170

Lewiston: AIDS Coalition of Lewiston/Auburn: 786-4697

Waterville: Dayspring: 626-3432

Ellsworth: Down East AIDS Network: 667-3506

Oxford Hills: Oxford Hills Community AIDS Network: 743-7451.

Mid coast: Gay men's HELPLINE, 6:00-9:00 pm (only) M-F 207-863-2728. FAX 207-863-2794. Also, gay youth info.

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG) Contacts in Maine (* indicates monthly meetings)

Augusta/Hallowell: 623-2349 - F.E.

*Dover-Foxcroft: 564-7986 - Sharon

*Brunswick/Bath: 729-0519 - Sally & Gene

*Lewiston/Auburn: 783-6964 - Estelle

*Portland: Rita, 766-5158 or Sue, 774-3441

Waldoboro: Sue - 832-5859

CONTACTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE
P-FLAG NH 24 hour Helpline: 603-623-6023

New Hampshire: Teen Crisis Line - 1-800-639-6095.

Concord: Judy, 603/485-3943

Webster: Betsy, 603/746-3818

Nashua: Nancy, 603/880-8709

Kensington: Nora/John, 603/772-3893

Stratham: Betty, 603/772-5196

Francetown: Cy/Gordon, 603/547-2545

Holderness: Olivia, 603/968-7254

Rumney: Ann, 603/786-9812

Center Sandwich: Tish, 603/284-6434

DOVER, NH: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Helpline for information, referral or need to talk. M-F 6-10 pm, Sat.-Sun. 9am-2pm. 603/743-GAY2.

MUSIC & ART

Women In Harmony

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

Maine Gay Men's Chorus

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

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

Online/Internet

The Maine GayNet Mail List

Share your ideas and opinions with other list members. To subscribe to this list, send e-mail to majordomo@abacus.oxxy.edu. In the message part, write "subscribe me-gaynet"

The Maine GayNet Home Page

An ever-changing display of events and information. Meetings, contact people, resources, & referrals. Point your WEB Browser to: <http://www.qrd.org/www/usa/maine>. FMI e-mail Paula Stockholm: paula@maine.com.

San Francisco Gay/Lesbian Tourism Guide

An online merchant-sponsored Internet website geared to gay and lesbian travellers to the San Francisco area. It is compatible with most mainstream web browsers. Address: www.gaysf.com

Social Groups

MAINE

Maine Frontrunners: a gay and lesbian running club sponsoring weekly run in Portland. We meet at the beginning of Back Cove Walkway (corner Baxter Blvd. & Preble St. Ext.), Saturdays, 9 am. FMI call Jim 761-2059 or John 828-4896.

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

SOLO: Monthly Gatherings for Older, Single Lesbians: for fun & friendship. FMI call Kathy 207-688-4737 or 207-725-0179.

W.O.W. (Wild Outdoor Women): Recreational group meets monthly for outdoor activities followed by pot luck socials. Activities: biking, hiking, camping, canoeing, kayaking. FMI: Jen @ 207-787-2379 or 207-773-5083.

Wilde-Stein Club: Meets every Thursday at 6:30 pm at Memorial Union, Sutton Lounge, UM at Orono.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

ALMA: Active Lesbians of the Monadnock

Area (formerly the Monadnock Area Women) meet on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. FMI call 603-363-4961.

Dartmouth Women's Meeting: Meets every Monday at 9 pm at the Women's Resource Center, Dartmouth College. FMI call 603-646-3636.

LINC: Lesbians Inviting New Connections. A network serving women in New England. FMI call Pauli at 603-668-9245.

Mountain Valley Men (MVM): A group of gay men of all ages in the western Maine, Eastern NH area who get together for pot luck dinners, hiking, canoeing, skiing and other activities. FMI, write to Box 36, Center Conway, NH 03813-0036 or call Paul at 207-925-1034.

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

Women Meeting Women: Lesbian social/support group meeting monthly at the Unitarian-Universalist Church on the 2nd Saturday of the every month from 2:30 - 6 pm. FMI call Dianne at 603-881-4268, or by e-mail DBalbat@aol.com.

April Calendar of Events

March 13 - April 27
Cindy Mackay's "Scattered Sapes" on view at Coffee By Design, 620 Congress St., Portland ME. FMI (207)772-5533

March 15 - April 12 (Saturdays)
1 PM - Seacoast Repertory Theatre presents "Pocahontas." FMI (603)433-4472

March 20 - April 6
"Pushing Through" at Oak Street Theater, 92 Oak St., Portland ME. (207)775-5103
Tickets \$12

April 2-8
"La Ceremonie" at The Movies, 10 Exchange St., Portland ME. FMI (207)772-9600

April 2 - May 7 - 7-9 PM
Nonfiction Writing Workshop with John Cole. Wednesdays at Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance, 12 Pleasant St., Brunswick ME. To register (207)729-6333

April 3-20
"The Glass Menagerie" at Portland Stage Company, 25A Forest Ave., Portland ME. FMI (207)774-0465

April 3-20
Threshold Theatre presents "Circles," explores the nature of mother-daughter relationships, the challenges of living in our society as an interracial lesbian couple, and the endless struggle for love and comfort among generations. Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St. Tickets \$13, \$11 for students/seniors. FMI (617)426-0320

April 4-6 and 11-13
Seaglass Performing Arts presents "The Sound of Music" at State Street Church, 159 State St., Portland ME. Tickets available at the door and at Starbird Music 525 Forest Ave., Portland ME. FMI (207)985-8747

April 4-6
Clay Hill Weekend Getaway to Ogunquit. FMI call Leanne (207)646-6661

April 5-6 - 10 AM - 3 PM
"The Art of Interviewing," workshop with Carol Brightman at the Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance, 12 Pleasant St., Brunswick ME. To register (207)729-6333

April 9-15
"Ridicule" and "Suburbia" at The Movies, 10 Exchange St., Portland ME. FMI (207)772-9600

April 16-22
"Citizen Ruth" at The Movies, 10 Exchange St., Portland ME. FMI (207)772-9600

April 19-22
"I, The Worst of All" at The Movies, 10 Exchange St., Portland ME. FMI (207)772-9600

April 23-29
"Paradise Lost" at The Movies, 10 Exchange St., Portland ME. FMI (207)772-9600

April 26-29
"Swingers" at The Movies, 10 Exchange St., Portland ME. FMI (207)772-9600

April 30 - May 6
"Kolya" at The Movies, 10 Exchange St., Portland ME. FMI (207)772-9600

April 2 - 9:30 AM-noon
Women's General Support Group, facilitated by Louise Buck-Bacon at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portsmouth NH. FMI (603)431-1669

April 4 - 9:30-11:30 AM
Women's Basic Self Defense Seminar, facilitated by Lou Bacon at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portsmouth NH. FMI (603)431-1669

April 4
Women Meeting Women April Fools Get Together. Bring a snack, soft drink and favorite April Fools story. FMI call Pauli (603)668-9245

April 4-7 PM
National Marionette Theatre presents "Peter Pan" at Lewiston Middle School Auditorium. Tickets \$6. FMI (800)639-2919 or (207)782-7228

April 5 - 8 AM - 4 PM
GLSTN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Teachers Network) Seventh Annual Northeast Regional Conference. Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, Cambridge MA. FMI 207-773-9547.

April 5
YWCA Susan B. Anthony Celebration. Holiday Inn/Center of NH. Manchester NH. FMI (603)625-5785

April 7 - 6:30-8:30 PM
"How to Write Successful Query Letters" with Ken Textor at Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance, 12 Pleasant St., Brunswick ME. \$45/\$65 FMI (207)729-6333 (Class also meets on April 14.)

April 8 - 7-8:30 PM
"Connections," a support group for caregivers, parents, families and friends—all those whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS, holds its monthly meeting at the Exeter Congregational Church, 21 Front St., Portsmouth NH. FMI (603)772-6221 or (603)436-8963

April 9 - 9:30 AM - noon
Women's General Support Group, facilitated by Louise Buck-Bacon at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portsmouth NH. FMI (603)431-1669

April 10 - 7:30-9:00 PM
Matlovich Society presents Wendy Chapkis (Asst. Prof. of Sociology and Women's Studies at USM) reads from her books "Live Sex Acts: Women Performing Erotic Labor" and "Beauty Secrets: Women and the Politics of Appearance." Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland ME. Book signing to follow at Drop Me A Line, 611 Congress St. FMI (207)761-4380

April 10 - 7-9 PM
Creativity and the Writing Process with Kelley Conway at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portsmouth NH. FMI (603)431-1669. Bring notebook and pen.

April 11 - 8-11 PM
Women in Harmony presents an evening of karaoke at Sisters, 45 Danforth St., Portland ME. \$3 cover charge—all proceeds at the door go to Women in Harmony. FMI (207)878-5981

April 12 - 2:30 PM
Workshop: Balancing the Chakras Through Toning. An Amelia's Event. Potluck at 5:30. FMI call Peggy (802)728-4848

April 12 - 9 AM - noon
Women Centered Spirituality, with Penelope Morrow, witch and feminist theologian, at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portsmouth NH. FMI (603)431-1669. Bring a pillow.

April 12
An evening of lesbian theatre—Boston MA. Attend with Women Meeting Women. FMI (603)882-6148

April 12 - 7:30 PM
Spring Fling Women's Dance at the Horsepond Fish and Game Club. Nashua NH. FMI (603)647-0610

April 12 - 8 PM
Indigo Girls at Whittemore Center, UNH, Durham. Tickets through Ticketmaster (617)931-2000

April 12 - 7 PM
Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance celebrates National Poetry Month with two nationally known poets in an evening of poetry and jazz at Jewett Hall, UM Augusta. FMI (207)729-6333

April 12 - 5 PM(M), 6PM(N)
Spring Barbeque in New Sweden with Northern Lambda Nord. Bring something to throw on the grill, your beverage, and a dish to share. FMI (207)498-2088 or (800)468-2088

April 13 - 9 AM - 1 PM
Personal Safety Workshop with Lauretta Gregoire, sponsored by Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine. YMCA, 87 Spring St., Portland ME. Pre-registration \$25 (\$35 at door). Scholarships available. FMI call Anne Marie (207)799-9020

April 14 -6:30 PM
Assistant Attorney General Steve Wessler speaks on "Safer Maine Schools: Monitoring Bias Crimes" at GLSTN-Southern Maine meeting at Waynflete School Library, 34 Emery St., Portland ME. FMI (207)773-9547

April 14 - 6 PM
RBPA (Rainbow Business and Professional Association) dinner meeting with guest speaker Portland Deputy Police Chief Mark Dion. Embassy Suites Hotel, Westbrook St., Portland ME. FMI call Paul Bernard (207)885-5060. Reservation deadline is April 5.

April 15 - 7:00-8:30 PM
Naturopathic Medicine for the Menopausal Years with Kristy Fassler (North Coast Family Health) Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portsmouth NH. FMI (603)431-1669

April 16 - 5:30-7:30 PM
Maine Speak Out Project Cumberland County meeting. See newsletter for meeting site or call Janis (Cumberland County Volunteer Coordinator) at (207)846-5233 or Speak Out office (207)879-0480 FMI.

April 16 - 9:30 AM - noon
Women's General Support Group, facilitated by Louise Buck-Bacon at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portsmouth NH. FMI (603)431-1669

April 16 - 7 PM
Christian Pride Night at the Franciscan Center (a ministry of the Companion of St. Francis, a gay-friendly Catholic group), 141 Canal St., Nashua NH. FMI (603)598-8740

April 17 - 6:30-8:30 PM
How to Navigate Managed Care with Charlene Sprague, RN at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portsmouth NH. (603)431-1669

April 18 - 3-6 PM
Open House—refreshments and information—at the Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portsmouth NH. FMI (603)431-1669

April 18 - 7-8PM
Northern Lambda Nord Open House and Help (fold & stuff) newsletter and calendar. Community Center.

April 19 - 8 PM - midnight
Women's Benefit Dance for GLSTN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Teachers Network) at Williston West Church, 32 Thomas St., Portland ME. Lisa Vacarro, DJ. Dance is chem free. Tickets available at door-\$5.00. FMI call Deb (207)774-5099

April 19 - 3:30 PM
Gulf of Maine Books and Sexual Assault Support Services Midcoast Maine present Frances Driscoll reading from her new book "The Rape Poems" at Gulf of Maine Books, 134 Maine St., Brunswick ME. FMI (207)729-5083

April 19
Community Day at Aroostook Centre the mall in Presque Isle—volunteers needed to staff table, etc.—to benefit the HIV-AIDS Prevention Project at the Phoneline (Northern Lambda Nord). Contact Sheila or Dick if you can help even for a short time.

April 19 (It's Earth Day 1997!) 10 AM - 5 PM

Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine holds the HOPE (Help Organize Peace Earthwide) Festival at the Brewer Auditorium, Brewer ME. Free activities for the entire family, including performance by the Hoose Family. FMI (207)942-9343

April 23 - 9:30 AM - noon
Women's General Support Group, facilitated by Louise Buck-Bacon at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portsmouth NH. FMI (603)431-1669

April 24 - 7-9 PM
Matlovich Society Annual Meeting and viewing of video "Last Call at Maude's." Note that start time is half-hour earlier than usual. Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland ME. FMI (207)761-4380

April 25 - 7:30 PM
Cabaret—an evening of poetry, storytelling, song and laughter—to benefit the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. 400 Commercial St., Conference Center. FMI call Tracey at (603)224-8893

April 26 - 7 PM
Take Back the Night Rally and March. Sponsored by Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine and The Family Crisis Shelter. Monument Square, Portland ME. FMI call Anne Marie (207)799-9020

April 26 - 1 PM
Hike Mount Tom, Woodstock VT. An Amelia's Event. Potluck at 5 PM. FMI call Lynn (802)672-5280

April 27
Women Meeting Women "Signs of Spring Walk" in Nashua. Bring a snack, soft drink and sneakers. FMI call Sheila or Deb (603)882-6148

April 30 - 9:30 AM - noon
Women's General Support Group, facilitated by Louise Buck-Bacon at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portsmouth NH. FMI (603)431-1669

April 30 - 6:30-8:30 PM
Buddhism and Meditation for Women with Vidyavati (Aryaloka Retreat Center) at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portsmouth NH. FMI (603)431-1669

Coming in May and June May 2 - 4
The AIDS Quilt on display at Thompson Arena. FMI (603)448-2220

May 4
Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services Eighth Annual AIDS Walk. FMI (207)725-4955

May 9 - 8:30 AM - 4 PM
"Saving Lives—Saving Futures," Youth Suicide Prevention Conference. Memorial Union Building, UNH Durham NH. FMI (603)650-1780. Registration \$35

May 9 - 11
Weekend Retreat, building community, workshops, fun and laughter, learning from other gay men in a supportive space in Litchfield. FMI (207)449-0166

May 10
Northern Lambda Nord Spring Bash at Presque Isle Snowmobile Club, near Aroostook State Park. FMI (207)498-2088 or (800)468-2088

June 4-8
Positively Social, weekend retreat for HIV+ people in New England. \$45 retreat fee includes all. FMI (207)499-0166

LD1116 Anti-discrimination Bill Hearing

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

Lobbying Day

Tuesday April 8. MLGPA is sponsoring a lobbying day FMI call Rich Couch at 207-622-1929 or MLGPA at 800-556-5472

The Southern Maine Pride Update

Just the facts so far (some changes should be expected between now and then) **DEADLINE** on ALL Pride scheduling is APRIL 10.

PREPRIDE

April 2 Movie Night

April 20: Portland Uniform Night w/ the Hat Sister at Participating Portland Bars (TBA)

June 7: Southern Maine Pride in Boston We will be marching with Banner (maybe float) later we have a table and stuff.

PRIDE IN PORTLAND STARTS JUNE 18

Wednesday, June 18 Community Recognition Dinner
Receptients TBA

Thursday, June 19 Opening "Love Makes A Family" Photo exhibit Pridelights Concert in Congress Square 8 pm

SCHEDULED: Freefall: Acapella group Chris Newcomb: folk/guitar 2 more performers TBA

Friday, June 20, Pier Dance, Maine State Pier, 8 pm to 1 a.m. all ages, Adv \$7, Door \$10, cash bar, 3 DJ's light performance finale at midnite (wild!!!)

Saturday, June 21 Interfaith Service 9:30-10:30, 1st Parish, 425 Congress Rally City Hall Plaza: Hopefully, Celebrating our first year with Civil Rights Scheduled Key-note: Candice Gingrich AND the Lesbian/Gay/Bi/Trans Parents of Maine

PARADE: Starts at noon Registration groups: \$30 (mandatory) Floats \$40 without sound, \$25 with approved sound.

Festival Deering Oaks Park 1 pm to 4 pm Scheduled Performers:

Disappear Fear (the duo)
Erica Gilbert and Kathy Poole

Lynn Deeves
ASE: African rythm/song: women's drumming group
2 more performers TBA

We will have a children's play area (with jumping gym)

Expected to have some 40 vendors/food/the Names Quilt

Vendor tables 3x3=\$10, 6X3=\$20 after May 1 add \$5 each

Gay Men's Chorus Concert at the New Merrill Auditorium City Hall 8 pm, check out their site on the Web, Fabulous

ASE: drumming & Song, African/Carib Rythms, 8pm (benefit for the Center) at Agape, 645 Congress (Hot group, lots of color too) Admission (probably) \$10

Sunday, June 22: Volunteers Brunch and BBQ (public invited) Pride's Own Cruise aboard the Casablanca, Casco Bay 6 p.m. Entertainment TBA, Cash Bar, (Benefit for the Center)

PRIDE'S SUMMER

RETREAT

Pride Committee's from Boston, NYC, Philie, NJ, Cape Cod and many more, will be "vacationing" from Pride right here.

Friday August 1: Portland reception for Northeast Pride Committees

Saturday August 2: Retreat parties in Ogunquit

Sunday August 3: Retreat Cruise and Lobster Bake on Casco Bay

Free to Pride Day '97 volunteers

PRIDE PASS

Pride will be offering a pass to make the combination of events affordable. The full pass will be approximately \$35 for dinner/dance/cruise. A 1/2 pass will include both Dance and Cruise for \$20.

OUR NEW VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR IS EBEN CHADWICK

To find out how to take part in Pride volunteer fun and connect to back breaking frustration and intense misery E-mail Eben, and find yourself a nice little opportunity. Volunteer work, that is, not Eben. Eben is at eben2@juno.com

LOVE MAKES A FAMILY PHOTO EXHIBIT

The photo exhibit on Lesbian and Gay Parents and Kids is available for a very SMALL fee through SoMePride

We are scheduling all over Maine. So far we have several Portland venues, Farmington, Augusta, and Belfast. To investigate just how easy it is to get this otherwise more costly show E-mail Pride's LMAF Coordinator Barry Horne at mkoerber@Mail.Biddeford.com

Also, if you'd like to participate as a PARENT in a discussion presentation coincident with the exhibit, ask him about details.

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY

(October)

A fabulous party, inside (TBA, see Outright)

A fabulous event outside, Congress Square with music, comedy and **CELEBRATION!**

PRIDE DATES EVERYWHERE

There is an international Schedule available at:

<http://www.interpride.org>

For the nearby's

Bangor: July 19 (needs to be confirmed)

Boston June 7

Vermont, Conn., RI June 21

NYC June 29

Cape Cod (Hyannis) July 19

Michael Rossetti, Ex. Dir. (CoChair) SoMePride 207-879-7323 (anytime)

or

Laurie Fortman, Op. Dir (CoChair) SoMePride 207-878-0546 (before 8:30 pm EST)

Classified Ads

Shared Living

Room-Mate Needed! Lesbian and her five-year old daughter seek woman to share spacious house in Portland. Private room with bathroom and seperate entrance. Nice yard and deck. Non0smoker, drug-free. Vegetarian preferred. \$300 plus 1/2 heat. Starting date negotiable. Must liked children and dogs. Pets/children a possibility7. Call 774-5549.

Travel/Vacation

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

ΔΔ YELLOW BIRCH FARM: Weekly rental in romantic summer cottage, or nightly B&B in spacious studio. Organic farm abutting wildlife refuge. Remote, unspoiled coastal Maine, near Canadian border. Birding, whalewatching, hiking, biking canoeing, kayaking. Pristine, peaceful, quiet. Brochure, reservations: 207-726-5807. ΔΔ

Happy Anniversary!

To Sherry , my life partner (Though who'd have thought *that* nineteen years ago?)
We've grown up together, now lets grow old together. Happy 20th anniversary - March 1977 - March 1997 . Love Eleanor .

Calendar extra's

April 19,

Gay/Bi Men's Roundtable, Augusta. Postponed from April 5. A free forum on issues specifically of interest to Maine men, followed by buffet/social hour. For more information call 207-879-7323.

April 21

Pride '97 volunteers and dance meeting. Open to all, learn about the great stuff planned for June 18-22 in Portland. 6-8pm Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring Street: infor 878-0546 or 879-7323

May 3, 1997

WOMLAND'S 8TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S COFFEEHOUSE featuring KAY GARDNER and "WOMEN WITH WINGS" with songs to celebrate Beltane; BARBARIA and her new poems to "THE DIVINE MOTHER"; DARTHE JENNINGS with original, funny, feminist music; Deborah Keene-Jones and a yoga-dance performance; and LARRAINE BROWN with her humorous insights as emcee for the evening!

7PM at the ABBOTT ROOM of the Belfast Free Library, 46 High St. Refreshments will be available. The \$6 more-or-less donation benefits WOMLAND, a feminist spiritual organization dedicated to re-creating balance on Earth. This women-only event is chem-free, smoke-free, and wheelchair accessible. For more information, call 338-3673.

Community Pride Reporter

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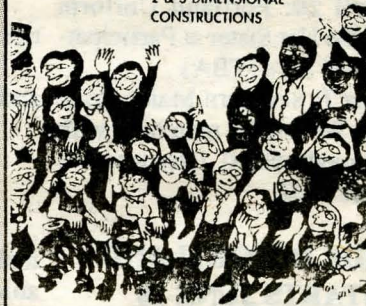
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