Portland is to keep your supporters around and remove those who might Garrity, may just be the person that community and Dave's only real opponent in the race, but if they stay home, the gay vote is largely inconsequential. All substantial history at City Hall at non-gay political leadership is to queer political power.

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 Gareghty 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 substantial history at City Hall at non-gay specific, city wide issues makes him an experienced and ready Counselor.

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 Harborside park during the new South Portland Bridge construction, property revaluation fights, spot re-zoning, the fight against the Maine Med health care megalith 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 founder of the acclaimed Split Britches lesbian theatre collective who have toured Europe and North America for the past twenty years. Her one-woman autobiogrophy 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 queering 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.
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 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.

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 political 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 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 be "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.

If you are:
Between the ages of 30 - 50
Pre-menopausal, regular menstrual periods
Without serious disease
Able to complete a 30 minute visit (health questionnaire, heel ultrasound — painless, quick, easy)
Interested in participating in valuable research on the lesbian population
Excited about making history with the first medical research on lesbians in Maine

please call
1-800-839-8311
ask for Christine or Barbara
to schedule an appointment
in Portland or Bangor

Questions? Call Tania Hathaway, Coordinator, Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine
(207) 657-5864

Test of wills as Same - Sex Deadline Looms

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

That is 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 resolving the same-sex marriage issue.

The Senate measure allows for certain rights and benefits to same-sex couples as both sides wait for the other to blink first.

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 pressure for action, interest groups plan a news conference and vigil 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 issue.

Senate Judiciary Chairman Terrance Tom, head 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 conference wants to 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.
by Robert Emrie
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 a room crowded with more than 500 people. "I have a great family that is full of love. I don't know who my biological father is." 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.

The couple and their daughter would "die tomorrow and I could be deprived bereave- ment leave to attend their funeral," Kelley said, in a breaking voice.

"Passing this bill will be a giant step backward. It hurts my family and my child." Rep. Lorraine Sarreti, 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, Sarreti 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," Sarreti told the committee. Seventeen states have passed laws banning same-sex marriages.

"Homosexuals seeking marital rights can obtain them like any other citi- zens, 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 Tech- nical 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.

The chief supporters of the ban were 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 homo- sexuals in comic-book style.

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

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

Testing by telephone from New York City, Anthony Falzarano, execu- tive director Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays, warned the committee that redefining the tradi- tional 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.

Knights of the Family Resource Council in Washington, D.C., also testified by phone. He said opposition to gay mar- riages 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 Sarreti'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.

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

The pastor of Plymouth Congrega- tional 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."

Sarreti's bill was meant-spirited, di- vine and insensitive to Christ's call for com- passion, 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 popu- lation of Wisconsin. It is nothing more than," he said.

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* Kate Clinton is a dramatist, comedian, and playwright. She has appeared nationally & internationally.

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10-Year old girl Testifies for same-sex Marriages

"I had rocks thrown at me. I was called 'faggot boy.' and was called 'faggot you,'" according to the report.

Her teacher claimed she never saw his head strike his locker, and he fell. A classmate wearing cleats kicked him on the Ocean at Srin Point.

"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 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 possession of all 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 develop- ment.

"I have walked through the halls of my high school laughing, crying, angry and see HARASSMENT, page 4
Bard Banned? Proposed resolution could ban Shakespeare Plays

by Paul Nowell
CHARLOTTE (AP) — "Hamlet" could not be performed with Mecklenburg County funding under a proposed resolution that could be considered Tuesday.

"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." Kay noted that there are "... 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 possibly ... 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 image 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 a 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 organizations, 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 from a group of retired on a case-by-case basis by county commissioners, the resolution said.

"The response to this resolution shows people are talking about important questions," said Kay. "But I'm concerned one of the Bard's sonsnets 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 Mitsulki 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 lighted for Easter for years.

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

Entertainer Sharon Knight sang "Over the Rainbow" from "The Wizard of Oz," meaningful to the many gay participants in the Easter service, Mitsulki 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 Cumin 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 curb discrimination based on sexual orientation.

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

It was sponsored by Manhattan Democrat Steven Sanders. In the Republican-led Senate, where it has failed for the past five years, Sanders, in a vote, the measure is sponsored by state Sen. Roy Goodman, a Republican from Manhattan. The bill adds sexual orientation to the list of classes protected from discrimination, an equal protection bill. He said that although he had not seen the specific legislation when it was introduced, he approved 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 Assembly clearly recognizes that there is nothing drastic about these non-discrimination bills," said the group's legislative counsel Paula Martin.

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 7 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.
Medical Research on Lesbians in Maine

by Tania Jo Hathaway

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 anywhere, any time, anywhere 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 research subjects (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 baseline information for the future. And that’s it! You're 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 LHF/SM from the early stages of the process which began nearly 18 months ago.

MCORE's original proposal was rejected 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 Je 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 Wesster will address the April meeting of the Southern Maine Chapter of GLSTN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Teachers Network). Wesster, 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 Emory St. (entrance in back), Portland Maine. The meeting will begin at 6:30 PM, with Wesster speaking at 7:15. For further information, call Betsy Smith at (207)775-9547.

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

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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. 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-Plotsfield, 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 have 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.

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: Mountain Valley, Box 36, Ctr Conway, NH 03813; Paul or David at 207-925-1034; email DFISPALP@AOL.COM.

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.

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

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 CAGLR, 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.

Women Helping Women

If interested in any of these opportunities or to find out more on volunteering, please contact Shelle at 431-1600.
Legislative Update: Gay related legislation looms Large

Washington, DC. The year started off with a barrage of gay-related activity at state capitals, with over 100 bills introduced and the action continues. Nearly 150 gay-related and HIV/AIDS-related measures have been introduced since state session 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 activists are doing in many states for gay, lesbian, 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. Three 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 if North Dakota 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, 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 benefits to same-sex partners of faculty and staff. In Illinois, the Senate is ready to act on a bill introduced yesterday by the Chicago City Council to extend employee benefits to the partners of gay and lesbian city employees. The Senate bill would require municipalities that choose to extend gender neutral employee health benefits to the domestic partners of gay and lesbian city employees to provide them to the unmarried partners of heterosexual city 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 Wisconsin, a bill of three recent bombings, including those against a lesbian bar and a women's health clinic, the bill 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/CAUCUS:
In California, a bill banning discrimination against gay students in public schools and colleges was introduced. The bill is aimed generally at students in public schools and colleges. The 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 the NGLTF calls "domestic 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 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 companionate 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 202/332-6484. For additional information on Washington Employment Non-Discrimination ballot initiative, contact Hands Off Washington at 206/353-2222.

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 202/332-6484, extension 3303.
Esduardo Marscal & Dancers

by Angel Castro

Recently, I had the great opportunity 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. He knows 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 perform 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 in 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 that ad came a motley crew of dancers and together they became a team. Rehearsals began in October of 1995 and by February of 1996 the gave their first performance to rave reviews. At rehearsal, his face tired and drawn he counts 123456 and watches his dancer go to move with him. 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 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 paid 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 evening with some 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 lovers will also. Look for future dates and times in future issues of CPR.
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 Diane 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 come out as a lesbian. 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 no 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.


* General Motors Corporation, Chrm. John F. Smith, 3044 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202, Phone 313-556-5000, FAX 313-556-1998. 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.


* Walt Disney Company/ABC, Chrm. Michael Eisner, 500 South Buena Vista Street, Burbank, CA 91521, Phone 818565-1000, FAX 818560-1935. Or, point your browser to: http://www.disney.com/Mail

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 signed 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-appearances by 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 kareoke
Friday April 11, 1997, at Sisters, 4505 Davidshead 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 kareoke 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 Dalgren-Peyser, current director of the Rockport Community Chorus of Rockport, MA. For more information, call 878-5981.

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THE TEXAS TRINITY
written and performed by Paul Bonin-Rodriquez
A trilogy of three shows that chronicle the coming of age of a gay man in a small Texas town. Paul Bonin-Rodriquez has been touring his trilogy of shows to venues including the Joseph Papp Public Theatre in New York and the O Solo Mic 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

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

PERFORMER

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!!!

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!

Community Pride Reporter
HEWINS/Karson/Waggoner/ZEig

OAK STREET THEATRE'S
GAY AND LESBIAN PERFORMER FESTIVAL
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!

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-dye 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 performance was a pleasure, seeing her up close and personal. 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, MacBean's, The Music Gallery, Wild Rufus and Good Vibrations.
The Cult of Ani

By Ainsel 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. She's rate-free stance in the music industry.

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.

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 cut 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.

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 its ironic presentation. Many of the performances were very well done.

Electra portrayed by Jane Nichols, mother of Iphigenia was very convincing as the once sweet and loving mother concerned with the fate of her beloved Iphigeneia. 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 her beloved Iphigenia, turned bitter and cynically cruel after her daughter was killed in sacrifice by the hand of her husband. Clytemnestra portrayed by Irene Torrance was another daughter. In open contempt 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 thought shadowed by the angry dialogue surrounding her in her one refuge. In 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, Electra had determined though herself not able to commit this crime against nature forces her brother to finish their mother off. She exiles 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 Artimes was an absolute standout. 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.

Irene I'll keep my eyes open for you.

Chrysothemis portrayed by Babo Harrison was another daughter. In open contempt 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.

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**An evening with Peter Schickele**

by Rose Marie Drennen

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 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 newly 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 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 got 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...likemaybe I should have worn "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.

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’s not 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 rushed an evening for myself because of expectations. Next time I’ll try to remember this lesson.

And, by the way 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**

Frosh on the heels of the success of their first special even (Suzanne Westenhoefner 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 MLA/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-ML/GPA 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 Scapes" 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 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 Scapes" at Coffee by Design. The show opens on April 1st, 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 to the intent being to create a familiar, sometimes surreal 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 Paroli Gallery in Kennebunkport, and the Artime 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.
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 Sheila Kuehl, one of the Golden Age pioneers of gay and lesbian politics, and Lambda's first keynote address of the tenth annual national conference held at the Holiday Inn on the Bay, November 13, 1997 in San Diego.

Creating Change is the preeminent national gathering for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender political movement. Pre-conference institutes and training 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 have 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 as they 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 website at http://www.nglif.org/cc07. 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.

Political pioneer Sheila Kuehl to kick off tenth annual Creating Change Conference

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

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, 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.

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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.
The End of AID? Not Exactly

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 Committed 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 through NGLTF. The carrier offers discounted fares to those traveling to many gay-sponsored events around the country. America 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.
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 terminology 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 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 refused the 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. The policy is to 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 are not assisting any restrictions whatsoever.

Apart from legal responsibility, the issue of standard business practice must 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 the damage we make on renting our tubs for just one hour. In other words, we forego all profit, but we are compensated by giving the $10.00 for an old gift certificate.

Mistake #4: We never yelled at the Attorney-General's Office, Cascio Bay Weekly, Maine Times, Voice of the People, BBB, Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance, WPXT/Fox 51, WMTW, Forecaster Newspaper, WCHS-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 use Portland Hot Tubs without concern. We have discussed with 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.
Weekly meetings, and media on legislation involve the being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people in northern Maine and New Brunswick. Meetings are 2nd Saturday of every month at 1 pm (M, J, N, B), at the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 311 S. Main St., Caribou. Write NLM, PO Box 990, Caribou, ME 04739-0990. The Phone line is staffed every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7 pm: 207-498-2008 or 1-800-468-2088.

The Maldvich Society
An educational and cultural organization of bisexuals, 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 Portland Fun by the Bay, 84 Spring St., Portland. Free parking and accessible to the mobility-impaired. Call 207-781-4300.

Northern Lambda Nord
an educational, informational, social, and service organization for the gay, bisexual and transgendered people in northern Maine and New Brunswick. Meetings are 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7 pm (K, L, M, T, U, V), at the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 311 S. Main St., Caribou. Write NLM, PO Box 990, Caribou, ME 04739-0990. The Phone line is staffed every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7 pm: 207-498-2008 or 1-800-468-2088.

Identity Support

New Hampshire P-FLAG Meetings:
Concord: Meets 1st Sunday from 3-5 pm at the Concord Friendship Church, 26 North Main Street. Contact: (603) 448-5373.
Manchester: Meets 1st Sunday from 7-9 pm at Bailey Park Community Center, 206 North Main St., Manchester. Contact: (603) 623-6300.
Manchester: Meets 1st Sunday morning from 10-noon at Manchester Community Church, 84 North Main St., Manchester. Contact: (603) 623-3573.
Manchester: Meets 1st Sunday from 7-9 pm at Bayside Community Center, 206 North Main St., Manchester. Contact: (603) 623-6300.
Manchester: Meets 1st Sunday from 7-9 pm at River Bend Community Church, 206 North Main St., Manchester. Contact: (603) 623-6300.
Manchester: Meets 1st Sunday from 7-9 pm at Valley Grove Community Church, 206 North Main St., Manchester. Contact: (603) 623-6300.
Manchester: Meets 1st Sunday from 7-9 pm at Westminster Community Church, 206 North Main St., Manchester. Contact: (603) 623-6300.
Manchester: Meets 1st Sunday from 7-9 pm at West End Community Church, 206 North Main St., Manchester. Contact: (603) 623-6300.
Manchester: Meets 1st Sunday from 7-9 pm at West Side Community Church, 206 North Main St., Manchester. Contact: (603) 623-6300.
Manchester: Meets 1st Sunday from 7-9 pm at Westview Community Church, 206 North Main St., Manchester. Contact: (603) 623-6300.
Manchester: Meets 1st Sunday from 7-9 pm at White Mountain Community Church, 206 North Main St., Manchester. Contact: (603) 623-6300.
Manchester: Meets 1st Sunday from 7-9 pm at Willoughby Community Church, 206 North Main St., Manchester. Contact: (603) 623-6300.
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HIV Support Meetings

**Outgoing**
Bangor: 5:00-7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, Park St., behind City Hall in Bangor. FM call 207-990-3629.

Central Maine: Weekly confidential meetings for gay, lesbian, & questioning youth 22 years of age and under. Contact Jim at 207-757-6677 or 1-800-339-4042 and ask about OUTGOING.

Portland: Meets every 1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesday, 7-9 pm, The People’s Place, 202 Congress St., 2nd floor, Portland. Safe & supportive discussions with and for gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning young people. FM call 774-TALK, or 774-5340.

**Phone Support By Region**

National Center for Lesbian Rights (Chesterfield Project): 1-800-528-NCLR.

Gay & Lesbian Phennline of Maine: Staffed Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7 - 9 pm - Call 207-408-2088 or (Maine) 800-468-2088.

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

Friends for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender youth: Sponsored by the Indiana Youth Project. Staffed & trained, youth counselors. Lines are open Monday through 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 207-408-2088 or (Maine) 800-468-2088.

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

**Social Groups**

**Maine**

Maine Prolinea: A gay and lesbian dating club meeting weekly in Portland at the beginning of Black Cow Walkway (corner Baxter Blvd. & S. Halifax), Sundays, 9 a.m. FM call 207-761-2059 or John 207-488-4980.

On Me DMR: For gay, lesbian, bi’s, and/or trans folk. For friends & family. Call 207-347-0709.

Maine Gay/Lebanese Webconnection: An online merchant-sponsored Internet website offering a safe, secure, & friendly environment.

GayNet Home: The largest gay and lesbian Internet community.

GayNet Mall: An online merchant-sponsored Internet shopping mall.

GayNet Talk: A gay and lesbian Internet chat service.

Gay Net: An online merchant-sponsored Internet service.

**Contact Us**

**Maine Youth Protection Council**

To work to create safer communities and schools for minority youth. If racism or homophobia affect you, help be part of the solution. Call 207-775-4879 for information on the council and sub-committees. There is a place to

**Youth Support**

Community Pride Reporter April 1997 Page 17


Mountain Valley Men (MVM): A group of gay and bisexual men who live in eastern Maine. Eastern NH area who get together for pot luck dinners, hiking, canoeing, kayaking and other activities. FM, write to longestmister@earthlink.net or call 207-920-5016.

Wicked Maine: Gay Men social group meets Monday (except holidays), 7 p.m. Union Unitedarian Universalist Church, 203 Main St., Portland, ME. FM call 207-430-4052, or write P.O. Box 1394, Portland 04102.

Women Meeting: Lesbian social group meeting monthly at the Unionarian Universalist Church on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 2:30-4:00 pm. FM call 207-881-4268, or by e-mail at WMLC@family.net.

**Children's Home Society**

New England AIDS Network for families, friends & caregivers. Meets every 2nd Tuesday, 7:30 pm at the Arroostook Medical Center, conference room A. Call 207-775-6011.


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Staffed peer youth counselors. Lines are open Sunday through Thursday 7-10 pm, Friday and Saturday 7-9 pm.

**Portland: 3rd Wednesday of every month**

Meetings are for gay/lesbian/questioning individuals at TAP, 206 High St., downtown Portland.

LOM4: 4th Thursday: Great Sex conseils open monthly drop-in for gay, bisexual, & questioning men of all ages. 7-10 pm. P.O. Box 206, ME. 207-877-4877.

New Hampeshire: Women's Support Group (Pris/Tone) meets from 7-8:30 pm at Portland Congregational Church, Main Street, Portland.

ADD: HIV Support Group, 142 High St., Portland. 207-774-4877.


Mesquite: Staffed every Thurs., 6-7 pm.

FAX: 622-2549.

FAX: 823-4170

AIDS: 583-6608 - 272-3056 or l-800-432-7881.

Support group for HIV positive people and those living with AIDS meets alternate Mon. 6:30-8:00 PM.

AIDS Support Services, 8 Lincoln Street, Portland. FAX: 823-4170

AIDS: 583-6608 - 272-3056 or l-800-432-7881.

Support group for HIV positive people and those living with AIDS meets alternate Mon. 6:30-8:00 PM.

AIDS Support Services, 8 Lincoln Street, Portland. FAX: 823-4170

Support group for HIV positive people and those living with AIDS meets alternate Mon. 6:30-8:00 PM.

AIDS Support Services, 8 Lincoln Street, Portland. FAX: 823-4170

Support group for HIV positive people and those living with AIDS meets alternate Mon. 6:30-8:00 PM.

AIDS Support Services, 8 Lincoln Street, Portland. FAX: 823-4170

Support group for HIV positive people and those living with AIDS meets alternate Mon. 6:30-8:00 PM.
April Calendar of Events

March 13 - April 27
Cindy Mackay's "Scattered Scenes" on view at Coffee By Design, 620 Congress St., Portland ME. FMI (207)772-9600

March 15 - April 12 (Saturdays)
1 PM - Seacoast Repertory Theatre presents "A View From the Bridge,"渔617-647-4472

March 20 - April 6
"Pushing Through" at Oak Street Theatre, 72 Oak St., Portland ME. (207)775-5103

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

April 2 - May 7 - 9 PM
Nonfiction Writing Workshop with John Cole. Wednesdays and Sundays at Maine Women 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)772-9600

April 5 - 7:30-9:00 PM
"How to Write Successful Query Letters" with Ken Teetor at Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance, 12 Pleasant St., Brunswick ME. To register (207)729-6333.

April 10 - 7:30-9:00 PM
"Women's General Support Group," facilitated by Louise Buck-Bacon at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portland ME. FMI (207)431-1669

April 5 - 7:30-8:30 PM
YWCA Susan B. Anthony Celebration, Holiday Inn Center of Manchester NH. FMI (603)625-5785

April 6 - 6:30-8:30 PM
"How to Write Successful Query Letters" with Ken Teetor at Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance, 12 Pleasant St., Brunswick ME. To register (207)729-6333.

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, 255 State 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., Portland ME. FMI (603)431-1669

April 9 - 7:30-9:00 PM
Mattovich Society presents Wendy Chapkis (Asst. Prof. of Sociology and Women's Studies at Wellesley College) in 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)771-4380

April 10 - 6:30-8:30 PM
"Women's General Support Group," facilitated by Louise Buck-Bacon at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portland ME. FMI (207)431-1669

April 11 - 8-11 PM
Women in Harmony presents an evening of kareoke at Sisters, 45 Danforth St., Portland ME. $3 cover charge—all proceeds at the door go to Women's Harmonies, FMI (207)778-5981

April 12 - 2:30 PM
Workshop: Partnering the Chakras Through Toning. An Amelia's Event. FMI (207)761-4380

April 14 - 9 AM - noon
Open House—refreshments and information—at the Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portland ME. FMI (207)431-1669

April 14 - 6-6:30 PM
Assistant Attorney General Steve Wasserman 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 - 7 PM
"Women's General Support Group," facilitated by Louise Buck-Bacon at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portland ME. FMI (207)431-1669

April 15 - 6:30-7:30 PM
Maine Speak Out Project Cumberland County meeting. See newsletter for meeting site or call Janis (Cumberland County Coordinator) at (207)846-2533 or Speak Out Office at 8780-0480 FMI (207)431-1669

April 16 - 9:30 AM - noon
Women's General Support Group, facilitated by Louise Buck-Bacon at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portland ME. FMI (207)431-1669

April 16 - 7 PM
Catholic 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 Charlotte Springar, RN at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portland ME. FMI (207)431-1669

April 18 - 3-6 PM
Open House—refreshments and information—at the Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portland ME. FMI (207)431-1669

April 18 - 7-8 PM
Northern Lambda Nordic Open House and Huld (food & stuff) newsletter and calendar. Community Center. FMI (207)774-5099

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 Vassaru, DJ. Dance is free. Tickets available at door for $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 the "Annual AIDS Prevention Project at the Phoneine (Northern Lambda Nord). Contact Sheila or Dick if you can help for even 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 House Family Group.

April 23 - 9:30 AM - noon
Women's General Support Group, facilitated by Louise Buck-Bacon at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portland ME. FMI (207)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 24 - 1 PM
Cabinet—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 the Northern Lambda Nordic Support Services of Southern Maine and The Family Crisis Shelter. Monument Square, Portland ME. FMI call Anne Marie (207)779-9020

April 26 - 1 PM
Hike Mount Tom, Woodstock VT. An Amelia's Event. Pajakut at 5 PM. FMI (802)967-2992

April 27
Women Meeting Women "Signs of Spring"— a weekend getaway to Ogunquit, facilitated by Louise Buck-Bacon at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portland ME. Pre-registration ($35 at door). Scholarships available. FMI call Christi (207)772-9600.

April 27 - 9:30 AM - noon
"Spring Breakin's—Springtime Snack, soft drink and snacks. FMI call Sheila or Deb (207)882-6148

April 30 - 9:30 AM - noon
"Spring Breakin's—Springtime Snack, soft drink and snacks. FMI call Sheila or Deb (207)882-6148

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

Coming in May and June
April 2 - 4
The AIDS Quilt on display at Thompson Arena. FMI (207)648-2202

May 1
Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services Eighth Annual AIDS Walk. FMI (207)725-7309

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
Women's Retreat, building community, workshops, fun and learning from other gay men in a supportive space in Litchfield. FMI (207)449-0166

May 10
Northern Lambda Nordic 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 and friends. $42 for fee includes all. FMI (207)494-0166
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 at 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 Receptents TBA Thursday, June 19 Opening "Let Makes A Family" Photo exhibit Prideglidest Sondert in Concert in Congress Square 8 pm SCHEDULED: Freefall: Acdellos group Chris Newcomb: folk/guitar2 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 midnight (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 Scheded Keynote: Candice Gingerich 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 Deve ASE: African rhythm/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 at the Names Quilt Vendor tables $3x1=30 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 Rhymes, 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, Phiiie, CA, 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 little opportunity. Volunteer work, that is, not Eben. Eben is at eben20@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 mkeroer@Mail.Beiddeford.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) SoMe Pr1de 207-879-7323 (anytime) or Laurie Fortman, Op, Dir (CoChair) SoMe Pr1de 207-876-0546 (before 830 pm EST)

Travel/Vacation

DOLASIAN PARADISE! 20 mountainous acres, pool, hot tub, hiking/kicking trails, yummy breakfasts, peace and privacy. We’re your perfect vacation choice year round! Week and midweek discounts. HIGHLANDS INN, Box 11809P, Bethlehem, NH 03574, (603) 869-3978. ΔΔ


Happy Anniversary!

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

Calendar extras

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: info: 879-0546 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 on emceeing 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 woman-only event is chem-free, smoke-free, and wheelchair accessible. For more information, call 338-3673.

Community Pride Reporter

Subcription Form

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

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PAMELA KNOWLES LAMRASON
Attorney at Law
Serving the Legal Needs of the Gay and Lesbian Community
6 Oak Ridge Road
Cumberland Center, Maine 04021-9323
Tel (207) 829-3379
Fax (207) 829-4424

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