Living in Lesbian & Gay Families

by Mark Koerber

"Love Makes a Family: Living In Lesbian and Gay Families," a national photo exhibit of Lesbian and Gay families, will be touring Maine beginning this summer and will be on display in Portland during Pride Week. The exhibit consists of 20 framed photos along with 40 framed texts that complement the photos. The exhibit is designed in part to celebrate the diversity of families in America and bring more visibility to Gay and Lesbian families. "Love Makes a Family" is brought to Maine by SoMePride and is available through the end of 1997 to community and religious groups, libraries, schools and businesses in Maine for display. A small fee is charged to organizations showing the exhibit.

The Pride Week exhibit will be accompanied by a Family Forum. The forum consists of a panel of families gathered to discuss the meaning of family. The forum will be facilitated, and there will be opportunities for audience participation. Other forums will be held in Maine throughout the year. Sponsors are in the process of organizing a network of families (of ALL kinds) who would be willing to be a part of Family Forums to be held in connection with exhibit sites. Groups or individuals interested in sponsoring the exhibit or participating in a Family Forum may contact Barry Horr, Project Coordinator, by phone at 207-286-3718 or e-mail at mkoerber@biddeford.com for more information.

Gay Rights bill moves to full House and Senate

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) - After winning committee approval, this year’s gay rights bill moves on to the full House and Senate. The 13-member Judiciary Committee split 8-5 on the measure, with one member absent and another undecided. By outlawing discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, credit, employment and public accommodations, the bill would add homosexuals as a class to a Maine law that already bans discrimination based on age, sex, religion and national origin.

Hundreds of people turned out for a lengthy hearing on the bill April 8, but the committee voted Tuesday without discussion. Supporters contend a gay rights ordinance several years ago. Portland and Long Island are the only communities in Maine that have such ordinances now.

Lobbyists on both sides of the issue predicted Tuesday that the Senate will accept the committee’s recommendation and vote for the bill, but said it is more difficult to predict how the measure will fare in the House. Karen Geraghty of the Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance said supporters believe they have the votes to push the bill through the House. "Our sense is that people are ready to enact this," she said. But Carolyn Cosby of Concerned Maine Families, a group opposed to the bill, said there is a "groundswell of opposition out there," and it is premature to predict passage. Gov. Angus King has promised to sign the bill into law if the Legislature enacts it. A previous Legislature passed a gay rights bill several years ago, but then-Gov. John McKean vetoed it, and the Legislature upheld the veto.

Teen named in Civil rights complaint

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) - A Cony High School student accused of harassing another student because he believed he was gay has been named in a civil rights complaint filed by the state Attorney General’s Office. The 16-year-old from Windsor abused a 15-year-old Augustan boy in hallways and classrooms for at least four months, according to the complaint. In filing the lawsuit in Superior Court, Assistant Attorney General Stephen Wessler cited the persistence of the harassment and the violence of the initial attack. "When they are bashing a kid’s head into the ground, the attackers are taking the risk that something catastrophic is going to happen," said Wessler, who heads the state’s civil rights unit.

The lawsuit asks for a permanent injunction that would bar the 16-year-old from having any contact with the victim, and also asks for financial penalties, attorney fees and other relief. On Dec. 16, the 16-year-old and another boy attacked the victim in the school hallway, knocking him to the ground, kicking him, pulling his hair and slamming his head against the ground, according to the complaint. Despite meetings with school officials, and intervention by police, the harassment continued until this week. Cony High School Principal Geraldine Massey said teachers and administrators tried everything to separate the two, meeting continually with the older boy, rearranging schedules, and eventually working with police. "I have seen harassment of students by another but I have never seen anything that has gone on for this long a time.

The involvement of administration, teachers and police did not contain it," she said. Police issued a notice to cease all harassment in April. When a teacher reported another incident this week, Massey advised the teacher to call the Attorney General’s Office. The 16-year-old student was suspended from school for an unrelated matter, Massey said Thursday. "I hope it will send him a very ... clear message that he can’t do this kind of thing, and I hope that he will be able to change his behavior," said Assistant Attorney General Francis Ackerman.
Portland’s Pride: Wow!

This year’s Southern Maine Pride has a great roster of performers on no less than six concert venues. Pride in an effort to draw greater sponsorships and provide an unforgettable day in the Park has signed up some exceptional acts.

Perhaps the best known group is Disappear Fear. Disappear Fear has been a sister act, but one of the sisters has dropped out for now, to care for her newborn baby. Sonja Ruststein the remaining sister, will be appearing in Portland, with a back up band. The group has a resume that overflows all pages and are now on their fifth release, Seed in the Sahara. Disappear Fear’s lyrics present uncompromising critiques reminiscent of the sixties writers such as Phil Ochs and Joni Mitchell. They are out musicians whose extraordinary talents will close out the Festival Stage on Saturday, June 21 in Deering Oaks with a vengeance.

Michelle Malone’s says of her new album, “With this album, I really tried to be direct from my heart to the pen.” All her music shows a real gift for melody and lyrics that strike the mark. This 30 year-old Atlanta native first began singing in church, later she was influenced by blues, jazz and rock. The Indigo girls encouraged her musical aspirations which led her to seven albums, including her snub of the music industry's corporate demeanor with the album For You Not Them. Michelle will appear at the Deering Oaks stage on June 21.

Sara Nadeau, Miss Maine 1996, shall finish out her reign at Southern Maine Pride, the fourth Miss Maine to do so. She will be gracing both the live broadcast over WMPG of the PRIDELIGHTS Concert on Thursday, June 19 and later on the Saturday Festival Stage. Sara has introduced World AIDS Day activities at New England Conservatory of Music, Boston and competed for her title with the platform: “Continuing the Battle, AIDS in the 1990’s”. She is a stunning woman with a magnificent voice, which she will use to treat Pride audiences to something it seldom hears: Bizen.

Chris Neznow has performed with many theater companies including Portland Players, Mad Horse Theater, Oak Street Theater, and Motixe Lab. You might also recognize his face from television or his voice from radio commercials. Chris is a singer, songwriter and storyteller who will perform at the PRIDELIGHTS Concert and tree lighting in Congress Square on June 19. It is his second year of appearing at the Festival Stage on Pride Saturday, June 21.

Free-Fall is a five member a cappella group which will be performing it’s second year at PRIDELIGHTS on Pride-Thursday. Their range of material is from jazz renditions to old gospels, always lively and upbeat, delivered with the precision of staccato surgeons. They are a favorite at the Old Port festival and are extremely gay friendly and on target with g/l/b/t audiences.

Lady Chablis, the vamp of Savannah and soon to be movie queen will be hostess with the mostest for the Pride Fier Dance Friday, June 20 at the Maine State Pier. “Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil” tells the story of Lady Chablis’ life. The book is about to become a movie, directed by Clint Eastwood, in which she will play her fabulous self, shortly after her two Portland appearances. The second appearance is a live show, independent of Pride, at One City Center on Saturday, June 21.

The Maine Gay Men’s Chorus will be appearing by themselves at the new Merrill Auditorium at Portland City Hall on Pride Saturday. The concert, now becoming an annual tradition, will test the skills of its new director and members in one of the grandest venues they’ve attempted. They will also give the opening piece to the Saturday Stage.

Gilbert and Poole, also know as Erica and Kathy, or the Unknowns, are a blues-jazzy duo of local fame. They’ve played around the state, at women’s festivals and were eager to entertain Pride audiences. Having heard their great tunes, Pride felt they had the right pro-sound and music. So, Pride naturally said “Yes”. The University Dancers are a collection of friends and dance associates from the Farmington area who have consented to prepare a piece specifically for Pride 1997. Their performance is classed as modern but draws form both classical, jazz and personal influences.

Lynn Deees is a local Maine artist who holds her own well compared to all Pride’s other performers. Her music is a treat for the soul, vibrant and both jazzy and gentle. Her latest CD speaks to the heart of anyone whose been in love or wants to be. Along with exceptional musical talent, her good looks and audience repore reprove will make her Pride Saturday appearance with full band a major event.

The Casco Bay Tummlers are a klezmer band. Klezmer music is a Jewish traditional music which came about by Jewish musicians playing together out of ear shot by fellow europeans as quickly as they could finish a piece. Resulting in a wildly eclectic musical style. The Tummlers will perform both raucous and sweetly touching instruments at PRIDELIGHT’s live broadcast on Pride Thursday, June 19.

Finally, it’s solstice and Pride and Agape, the Center for Soul and Art, will be presenting a Solstice concert at the University of Southern Maine Campus Center on Pride Saturday, June 21, starting at 8 pm. ASE is the sole performer. ASE is a collection of six women of color, who dress in full traditional garb to drum and sing traditional african and caribbean songs. ASE has performed on both coasts and all in between. Their’s is refreshingly different music that will get you up and dancing to end Pride Day on a fabulously jubilant note.

The final touch is to have all the events hosted by all of Maine’s titled drag performers. Miss Gay Maine, Miss Vacationland, Miss Queer Campus Umaine, Miss Gay USM, and Miss Queen City have all been invited to participate, as well as Ashley Nason as hostess for PRIDELIGHTS.

Be forwarned that this is an expensive Pride celebration, but in anticipation of finally achieving passage of the “Gay Rights Bill” the Southern Maine Pride Committee is working hard to give the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community a brilliant June 1997 memory. The probable rain location will be the Stephen’s Avenue Armory since it’s felt a large space is needed. They are asking for volunteers to help with stages and streets, as well as support a million other jobs. They also plan to pass the hat both at the Parade and at the Festival Stage so that everyone can keep help keep the new Pride Committee’s work strong and moving profitably into a new century.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
Inclusive, non-homophobic, liberation-based
The Gospel of Jesus, The Christ, for all people

Northern Lights MCC of Augusta, ME
4:00 pm Sunday. Communion each week
2.3 miles from Cony circle on Rt. 201
FMI: Bill at 207.453.9780
Circle of Hope MCC of Portland, ME
(MCC of Portland, ME)
4:00 pm Saturday
Rt. 201
Immanuel Baptist, 16 High Street
FMI: 207.775.6604 ext #32
(MCC of Portland, ME)

Interpreted for the hearing impaired.

Every person is welcomed! Please join us!
Bangor Pride Organizes

Some don’t know that there is such an event. Others know, but stay away for fear of being seen. Still others ignore it until the selected day, then strut out proudly.

It’s Bangor Pride and it’s been struggling to survive.

Compared to Portland’s festival which has been increasingly successful, Bangor’s has been decreasing in attendance. Last year’s event was cut short. The festival was reduced to tables at the local bar and dancing endless strains of the Margharena.

Still the spirit seems to be there. The TV camera’s were out, the fundamentalists stationed as usual on Union Street, people from fifty to sixty miles away unfurling banners and flags and vendor’s waiting to inform as much as to sell merchandise. The local media loves the event on what otherwise might be a no new days. The Bangor community blossoms annual for just a few hours.

Shawn Webber, who has also been active with Eastern Maine AIDS Network, has run Bangor’s event for the last several years. Shawn worked well with little support and few organizational amenities, but last year’s Pride was difficult. The annoying bouts of discouragement that go with organizing a very public gay event in Maine have taken their toll on Shawn, who is away unfurling banners and flags and organizers waiting to inform as much as to sell merchandise. The local media loves the event on what otherwise might be a no news day. The Bangor community blossoms annual for just a few hours.

The Bangor City Hall must be contacted and oriented to use the streets. Portland’s Pride has volunteered to help find entertainment as well as to bring the exhibit on gay and lesbian parents called “Love Makes A Family” to Bangor during the event. The Bangor community has all the other parts.

The Bangor date is June 12. A successful planning effort for Bangor is as simple as someone or some group taking over a just one specific piece of the proposed celebration. Bangor’s community is actually quite large, but seldom does it have an opportunity to congregate. This is an opportunity for Bangor’s gay /bian /community to focus and grow or to slide quietly back into the closet and seek out one more year.

A Very Special Friend Dies

On Monday evening, April 14, Roberta (BOBBY) E. Poulin, age 51, died on Verona Island surrounded by family and friends. Bobby has been courageously living life for the past year following her diagnosis of cancer.

Bobby is best known in the gay and lesbian community as former director of DownEast AIDS Network in Ellsworth and as founder of PRIDE Associates, in Bangor, a counseling service which openly addressed the needs of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered individuals. She pioneered services in the state of Maine for women affected by HIV and ran retreats and workshops. She was well known for her educational HIV prevention workshop, “Wet, Wild, and Well.” She labored hard for human rights and was very involved in the Maine Won’t Discriminate campaign.

Bobby is survived by her partner of 17 years, Kathy Stadig; her children - Theresa and Aron Fairbanks; her mother - Ellen Crabtree; her sister - Roseanne Green; her brother - Lanny Poulin; her grandchildren - Justin, Paige and William. She is predeceased by a brother - David Lee. She will also be missed by a very large circle of loving friends.

In addition to being a partner, mother, daughter, sister, grandmother, and friend, Bobby was a builder of community, reaching out with her love, living life and hearts wherever she was. She especially loved flowers, the ocean, camping and far too much work. Friends will long remember times spent on Campabell Island. As much can be learned from her dying as from her living, for they were one and the same - loving, vibrant, reflective, and cherished. The passing of her life truly represents a loss to us all.

A memorial service to celebrate Bobby’s life will be held at a later date and a notice will be posted. Donations may be made in her name to the Bobby Poulin Trust Fund, c/o Roberta Kurlloff, Esq., 20 Oak St. Ellsworth, Me. 04605

Portland Community Plans Awards Dinner

This year greater Portland will honor some of the most obvious but least thanked activists and contributors to the life of the greater Portland lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community with a Recognition Awards Dinner to be held in conjunction with SoMePrIdE 97.

“It’s a long overdue thankyou to people we all know for their good works, but seldom seem to be thanked,” says dinner organizer Michael Rossetti.

The selection of Recognition Awards winners were put together by the Southern Maine Pride Committee which Rossetti Co-chairs.


The dinner will be held at the Italian Heritage Society on Westland Road, Portland from 6:30 pm till its over. It will be buffet style with pre-dinner entertainment and cocktails. Tickets are $25 each with a cash bar and will be available in Mid-May. Guest host will be announced in June.

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
Clinton Backs measure outlawing job bias

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Clinton said Thursday that he has no opposition for passage of legislation that would outlaw employment discrimination against homosexuals, Clinton held a closed half-hour White House meeting Thursday with the bill's sponsors, gay and civil rights advocates. "Individuals should not be denied a job on the basis of something that has no relationship to their ability to perform their work," Clinton said in a statement. "This is wrong.

Conservative groups say they will fight the legislation, arguing that it unfairly forces employers to have inappropriate, on-the-job discussions about sexuality and gives homosexuals an advantage in hiring. The legislation bars employers from using a worker's sexual orientation as a factor in decisions on hiring or firing, promotion or compensation. The Senate rejected the bill in 1992, the House in 1991. This year the House never voted on it, and its sponsors plan to reintroduce it soon. "I support it and I urge all Americans to do so," Clinton said. "It is about our ongoing fight against bigotry and intolerance, in our country and in our hearts."

The bill exempts small businesses, the military, religious organizations and schools or educational institutions run by religious groups. Currently, gay workers in 41 states could be fired or denied jobs or a promotion because of their sexuality, and most cannot seek redress in state or federal courts. Nine states have laws or other rules that extend to homosexuals job protections similar to those offered on the basis of age, race, religion or gender.

Thurman appointed AIDS Czar

Washington, DC The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) commends the President's appointment of a Sandra L. Thurman as the new Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy. Her background demonstrates extensive experience in and knowledge of HIV/AIDS issues. NGLTF urges Thurman, and the President to take decisive action now on a range of critical concerns.

From 1988 to 1993, Thurman served as Executive Director of AIDS Atlanta, a community based organization providing health and support services to people with HIV/AIDS. Thurman's expertise in federal HIV prevention programs. She is currently a member of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS and of the Georgia State AIDS Task Force, the Fulton County HIV Planning Council and the Executive Committee of Cities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief (CAEAR).

We applaud the President's appointment of someone who is clearly experienced and knowledgeable on HIV/AIDS issues to be the new Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy," said Kerry Lobel, Executive Director of NGLTF. "The Task Force calls upon the Thurman and the Administration to work with Congress to lift the ban on the use of federal funds for needle exchange programs, oppose H.R. 1062, the regressive legislation introduced by Rep. Coburn, R-OK, that would, among other things require states to adopt mandatory HIV testing laws - even the National Governors' Association has declared its opposition to this legislation, and work for full funding for AIDS research, prevention, health care and housing initiatives," she announced.

"We also urge Thurman and the President to continue to oppose cuts or other changes to Medicaid---such as imposing a cap on federal payments per beneficiary---which would eliminate access to health care for the poor, including people with HIV and AIDS," added Lobel.

According to Lobel, "this appointment is a step one in the process toward a bold and effective national AIDS strategy. We look forward to working with the new director and the Administration towards that end."

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is the oldest national gay and lesbian group and 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.

Anti Affirmative Action

Thurman appointed AIDS Czar

Washington, D.C. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) with other civil rights advocates throughout the country in expressing its dismay and disappointment with federal appeals court decision upholding the constitutionality of California's Proposition 209. The decision in the anti-affirmative action initiative by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, overturns an injunction issued by a federal district court judge which had banned implementation of the ballot measure since its approval in November 1994.

Proposition 209 eliminates affirmative action practices, such as "preferential treatment," and discrimination in public hiring, contracting and education.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has declared its opposition to the decision and work for full funding for AIDS research, prevention, health care and housing initiatives," she announced. "We also urge Thurman and the President to continue to oppose cuts or other changes to Medicaid---such as imposing a cap on federal payments per beneficiary---which would eliminate access to health care for the poor, including people with HIV and AIDS," added Lobel.

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Anti Affirmative Action

Washington, DC. Will the shock, sorrow and surprise of the recent mass suicide of members of the Heaven's Gate cult now turn on a 50-49 vote in the Senate.

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GLSTN

Joni Foster, HIV Education Coordinator for the Maine Department of Education, will speak at the May 12 meeting of the Southern Maine Chapter of the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Teachers' Network (GLSTN/Southern Maine). Ms Foster will address changing trends and needs among gay/bi youth. The meeting will be held at the Waynflete School Library, 64 Emery St. (entrance in back), Portland ME. The meeting will begin at 6:30, with Foster speaking at 7:15. For further information, call Betsy Smith at (207)773-9547. 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 teachers. GLSTN/Southern Maine meets the second Monday of each month in the library at Waynflete School at 6:30 PM.

Ban on Books Won't Stop Classroom Discussions

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Teachers in suburban Surrey can teach primary grade students about same-sex parents even though the school board has banned three books about gay families.

A teacher doesn't have to wait until a child in a same-sex family raises the issue, but can discuss homosexual parents as part of lessons on various family groupings, Education Ministry official Dianne MacDougall said Friday.

"All teachers can initiate a discussion about same-sex parents even though the materials are banned," she said.

Education Minister Paul Ramsey said he'll investigate whether the board is violating the provincial school curriculum.

"If it is, I intend to take action," he said.

A school board can restrict written materials but the provincial government controls curriculum, which allows discussion of same-sex families.

"To simply say that an image of these two-parent families shouldn't be presented in an elementary school, that this is somehow not part of the life of children in British Columbia, is beyond belief," Ramsey said.

School trustee Ken Hoffman, who voted for the ban at a board meeting last week, said he was surprised when told the ministry still permits teachers to talk about same-sex parents in elementary schools.

"I would seriously hate this being taught," Hoffman said. "Our conclusion should not be overwritten by some government official in Victoria."

Trustee Mary Polak, who also opposed the books, said she believes teachers are only permitted to identify a same-sex family, without presenting anything about the family in a positive light.

"This is a dangerous thing to do," she said. "I hope teachers will respect a parent's right, and I hope they won't cross that boundary."

The three books _ "Asha's Mums," "Belinda's Bouquet," and "One Dad, Two Dads, Brown Dad, Blue Dad" _ were written for kindergarten and first-grade students. They all feature same-sex parents as a backdrop to a children's story.

They are "very, very innocuous teaching material," said Ramsey, a teacher. "To have a school board, of all bodies, looking at ways of restricting what children can see and learn is very distressing."

Premier Glen Clark said the board's action is outrageous.

"Surely we have learned from the past that banning books is no solution, that education is part of the solution," he said.

"I would have hoped that school boards, of all people, would know that education is a key part of dealing with these questions."

Spruce Run

Beginning May 22, 1997 Spruce Run will offer a 10 week DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PERSONAL EDUCATION GROUP in the Bangor area for women who have been affected directly or through family and friends with issues of Domestic Violence and Substance Abuse. The course will include presentations, discussions, and exercises on topics such as myths of battering, victim blaming, survival skills, and empowerment. There is no charge, but enrollment is limited. For more information, please call the Spruce Run Resource Center at 207-945-5102 or 1-800-863-9909 by Tuesday May 30, 1997.

AFAA

Artists for AIDS Awareness (AFAA), an organization of concerned Aroostook County citizens dedicated to HIV/AIDS education and prevention, recently awarded a $500.00 grant to the Ashland Community High School (ACHS) - SAY-IT project. SAY-IT stands for State Alliance for Youth Interactive Theater. This funding will make possible the "SAY-IT" Spring Conference to be held the weekend of May 23, 1997 at the University of Maine at Presque Isle. The coordinator for this project is Alan Morris of ACHS.

Morris states that "This is the first year our conference has had a theme. The theme for this conference is HIV/AIDS. Youth attending from around the state will receive HIV education and will prepare interactive theater presentations to take back to their schools and communities. We are excited to be offering this event in Aroostook County."
Allenstown Cop believes he was fired because he’s gay

ALLENSTOWN, N.H. (AP) - An Allenstown police officer says he was fired because he is homosexual.

“The chief doesn’t like me with regard to my sexual orientation,” Bruce Nadeau, 25, told selectmen and about 30 members of the public at a hearing to consider whether the police department acted appropriately when it fired him on Jan. 15.

But officials said Nadeau was fired for lying about police policy violations, including failure to log a car stopped for speeding, failure to obtain permission to write to the Candia Police Department about the car stop, and dishonesty about his noncompliance with written police policy.

Tony Soltani, the attorney for the Allenstown Police Department, said officials fully investigated the incidents and can document the violations.

But Nadeau said Police Chief James McGonigle disliked him and assigned a biased officer to investigate

the charges of police policy violations.


Nadeau said he protested Green’s assignment to his case because of an informal complaint he had filed against Green for sexual harassment.

Soltani said that Nadeau alleged in the informal complaint that Green had once asked Nadeau if he was wearing lipstick. Nadeau claimed that he had been wearing Chapstick at the time and took offense at the comment.

Nadeau said he would have preferred any other officer to handle the investigation, but that McGonigle had been steadfast in his decision to keep Green on it.

Nadeau also said the fact that he was fired just three days before his probationary period ended underscores his belief that the investigation was unfair.

Under New Hampshire law, a probationary officer may be terminated for any or no reason, but a full-time officer may be fired only for cause.

Nadeau joined the department in 1991 as a part-time officer. In 1995, he graduated from the state police academy, elevated him to full-time status.

But he testified that McGonigle extended his probationary period for six months after he received an overall rating of “acceptable” on a police department evaluation, thereby ending his probation period on Jan. 18.

Nadeau testified that the evaluation’s original overall rating was whited out and replaced with a lesser one.

Last night’s hearing was the culmination of a court battle earlier in the month in which Nadeau won reinstatement to the force as a full-time officer.

His reinstatement meant he was not a probationary employee and was therefore entitled to a hearing on disciplinary actions.

Since the court decision, Nadeau has been on paid administrative leave pending the hearing’s outcome.

Selectmen said a decision from the board would be announced in several weeks.

A vicious hate crime against a female student at Plymouth State has prompted the college to hold a forum on hate crimes.

The woman, who does not wish to be identified, was beaten in the face until she was “black and blue and had lost a tooth,” according to campus police.

The two men also urinated on her and referred to her as a lesbian, using obscenities and saying that “she had no right to be allowed to be walking around the world.” The perpetrators were approximately 18 years of age, but have not yet been identified.

The incident, which occurred at 11:00 pm on March 14th behind a campus building, is being treated as a hate crime by the college, which quickly denounced the attack.

The Plymouth State student government is offering a $500 reward for any information that leads to the arrest of the attackers.

The school’s Task Force on Homophobia quickly held a “Forum on Hate” which was attended by approximately 2,000 students, faculty, staff and alumni. At the Forum, Judy Rich, a Plymouth State College student and member of CAGLR, told the audience about her experience several years ago in which she was punched, kicked and spat upon.

She told them how, when she approached her peers, they would sometimes make her feel “more like an offender than a victim.” Many of the attendees agreed at the forum that milder forms of discrimination occur all the time, but they were shocked that something of this magnitude could happen on their campus. Those that attended the forum led with a newly energized readiness to tackle the problem of homophobia.

According to junior Mike Heber, “We need to look out for each other and not stand idly by while these things happen. We need to take responsibility for the safety of each other.”

This information is provided by NH Citizen’s Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights, PO Box 730, Concord, NH 03302-0730. 603-224-1686. Visit our homepage at http://members@aol.com/caglr/
Help Pass HB 421

If HB 421 is to pass, CED needs to focus its energies on getting the word out and convincing the Senate that they need to pass this bill. Postage, copying, telephones, etc., all cost money. The response to our earlier appeals for money was very positive, but as the campaign drags into May, expenses continue to rise. We need to raise an additional $6,000 in the coming month if we want to get this bill passed. If you have never given money before, or it has been a while, send your contribution to: PO Box 74, Concord, NH 03302-0074. Thank you.

This information is provided by NH Citizen’s Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights, PO Box 730, Concord, NH 03302-0074. Visit our homepage at http://members.aol.com/aglr/

The Gay Info
Line of NH

The Gay Info Line is getting ready to start work on Gay Lifeline 2, our second directory of resources for and by the gay community, and is hoping to find editors and helpers in both VT and ME. We think our coverage of those states as “NH border areas” should be expanded to fully cover all three NNE states. I don’t foresee any problem getting a grant to cover the increased mailing and publishing costs, and all the layout and database-workup from last time could be used again with minor changes. But there is still a lot of work involved in getting all this information verified and ready for publication. Also, since this will be a new publication, we will be considering changes we might make to improve it overall.

If you can help, contact the Gay Info Line at (603) 224-1685

New Hampshire Pride

New Hampshire Pride will host its 10th Annual Pride Celebration on Friday, June 13 at the State Capitol in Concord, NH. Although details are still being worked out, highlights will include a march, speakers, and entertainment. Check out upcoming issues of Breathing Space for more information.

Reasons for Hope

One way to slow the damage, or at least slow the progression of damage, is to identify infections early, when there is the least damage, and to take steps to slow them down. The sooner an infection is identified and treated, the better the outcome. This is because the immune system is so powerful, and the virus is so weak, that it is usually able to control the infection. However, if the infection is not identified and treated early, it may progress to a life-threatening stage.

The key to identifying infections early is to understand the various stages of viral infection. Each stage has its own set of symptoms, and each stage can be identified by specific tests. By understanding these stages, we can identify infections early and start treatment before the virus has a chance to cause serious damage.

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Gay Times Bar Harbor

Imagine a castle by the sea with rainbow banners and balloons everywhere. Imagine rock gardens, wildflowers, a green lawn stretching down to a dock and beach. Imagine a beautiful area under trees to pitch your tent, dorms with fresh flowers, a concert ball with wood everywhere and doors down the side that open for dancing. Surprise! You’re really looking at your friend’s photographs of last summer’s Symposi um XXII at College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor. And, surprise again! Bouyed by last summer’s success, and the strong appreciation of all who attended, the Symposium XXII committee has regrouped and formed Gay Times Bar Harbor. We are dedicated to planning a fabulous yearly event for even more fabulous people. So save August 16-18 and YOU can be part of it too!

This summer’s keynote speakers will be Diane Elze, and Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon. “Elze” was a tireless agitator in Maine for nearly twenty years, from the first “Coming Out Days” at the University of Maine to helping found the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance to being part of the gang that decided we needed an Act Up to make MLGA look as respectable and mainstream as in fact it really is (so most of us did both and then tut-tutted about “those radicals” but how they really did have some good points to make). She also worked tirelessly with Outside, which she helped found. Stories about Elze go on and on, and we would appreciate especially embarrassing ones to use when we introduce her!

Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon were two cofounders, in 1955, of “Daughters of Bilitis”, the first nationwide Lesbian organization. They co-authored Lesbian/Woman (should be underlined) in 1972, and have been a couple for over four decades. They will also be giving a workshop entitled “Four Decades of Lesbian History” on Monday morning. This will be their first trip to Maine.

Entertainment will be constant and varied. Saturday features “Six Basin Street”, a Bangor area women’s Dixieland band, during lunch, and then “Romanovsky & Phillips” in concert at night. Sunday we’ll have “Depo Brazilia”, a Portland-based group that plays Brazilian dance music, bossa and samba, jazz and blues. Sunday evening will feature “sons and lovers”, a New York a capella male quintet, then a DJ’d dance.

We will also have: Meals with organic vegetables grown in the garden on campus, fresh bread baked daily, lots of times to sign up for sea kayaking, stargazing from the top of Cadillac, a bonfire with marshmallows, many workshops including one the first afternoon for singles, vendors with music and books and other wonderful things (contact us if you want to space to sell things), 12 step meetings, drop-ins for differently gendered folks and for bisexuals, a Monday Great American Song Book (easy and spectacular) and an Acadia National Park naturalist, and time and space for us to decide on the spot what else we all want to do.

We hope you can join us! Until then, see you at Symposium XXIII, Portland Pride, and Northern Maine Pride in Bangor. And watch us helping organize any of those events you may lead to, you, creating something new and wonderful! Judy, Larry, Del, Susan, Phyllis, and Tamar for more info - Gay Times Bar Harbor, P.O. 516, Mt. Desert, ME 04660. 207-244-4062 or info@acadia.net

Southern Maine Pride Update
June 18 to June 22

Wednesday, June 18 6:30 to whenever tickets $25 Greater Portland Community Recognition Dinner, Italian Heritage Center, Westl and Road, Portland Recognition Award Recipients: Larry Bliss, Cathy Kiddman, Brian Kendall Gay Men’s Chorus, MLGA, Bianco Crimes Task Force Drop Me A Line, Holiday Inn by the Bay

Thursday, June 19 PRIDELIGHTS Concert Congress Square, 8 pm to 9:30 pm Broadcast LIVE on WMPG Hosted by Ashley Nasson Maine 1996 Sarah Nadeau sings Bizet Chris Newcomb, the Acapella group Freefall Casco Bay TumMlers (not Tumblers), its a Klezmer Band Tree lighting 9:15 pm

Friday, June 20 Pride Pier Dance (8 pm) Commercial and Frankie Streets Maine State Pier 3 DJ’s and a live performance by Lady Chablis, star of “Mudside in the Garden of Good & Evil”

PRIDE DAY JUNE, June 21 Interfaith Service First Parish U/U Church Local exhibit of “Love Makes A Family” Sponsors brunch with Candice Gingerich Rally City Hall

Plaza 11 pm Keynotes: Candice Gingerich LG/BT Parents of So. Maine Parade starts Noon from Civic Hall

PRIDE DAY THE FESTIVAL 1 to 4 pm Scheduled in Deering Oaks: Gay Men’s Chorus Gilbert and Poole, jazz University Dancers, dance Lynn Deyes, rock/blues Miss Maine 1996 Sarah Nadeau Michelle Malone, punky/ rock/blues ASE, African’s drumming/ song Disappear Fear, rock Over 40 vendors, clowns, food

That night: Solstice Concert with ASE, 6 fabulous women of color who’ll set you dancing with African/Caribbean rhythms drumming and song. 8 students with ID $10 in Advance, $12 at door USM Center Student, 8 pm Sunday, June 22 Sunset Cruise 7 pm - 9 pm Aboard the Island Romance Leaves from Casco Bay Ferry Terminal Performer TBA Cash Bar/ Buffet

Contacts for information Michael 879-7323 Laurie 878-0546

Tickets and Festival Guide will be available just before Memorial Day Weekend around the State, Boston and New Hampshire
Symposium XXIII

"Come-in-Unity"

June 13-15, 1997
Southern Maine Technical College
on the Ocean at Spring Point

Symposium XXIII will open a week of festivities for the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered Community, which will culminate the following weekend with the incredible Southern Maine Pride Community Festival

Many diverse workshops (both to enlighten and enliven), discussion panels, women's health clinic, beach volleyball, kayaking, raffles, and much, much more!

Black Tie Caterers of South Portland will be providing Marvelous Meals!

Don't miss Lisa Viccaro, Maine's hottest DJ! Two nights of dancing!

Space in workshops and seating for the major events is filling quickly.

Register early so you won't be left out! A large turnout is anticipated.

Limited dorm facilities available.

Call 207-785-3664 to register by MasterCard/Visa or send your check to: Symposium XXIII P.O. Box 709 Union, ME 04862

Above and Beyond, an up and coming business based in Portland. Together M.L.G.P.A., Symposium XXIII, and Above and Beyond plan to bring you an unforgettable night with proceeds to benefit the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance. The evening then moves to the dance floor with Southern Maine's HOTTEST DJ—Lisa Viccaro—with dancing until.......

Saturday morning at 9:00 am features our keynote speaker Urvashi Vaid, long-time community activist, author, former Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and current director of the Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in Washington, D.C., who will be sharing her enormous experience and vision with us. Urvashi will be available to sign her book (Virtual Reality: The Mainstreaming of Gay and Lesbian Liberation) afterwards.

Bob Smith is the featured entertainer for Saturday night beginning at 8:30 pm. He has appeared on the Tonight Show and his own HBO special—you won't want to miss this rare New England appearance by this hilarious "Funny Gay Male" and highly respected writer. Once again, after his performance the dance floor rolls out to cap off the evening.

Sunday morning features brunch at 9:00 am with workshops, community meetings, and the closing circle for Symposium XXIII at 12:30 pm. Some of the workshops topics scheduled for the weekend include: gay and lesbian relationships, AIDS issues, lesbian writing and publishing, bisexuality, internet/web pages, Outright/youth issues, kayaking, drumming, estate/legal issues, breath and healing stories, transgendered, starting your own business, gay parenting, and more.

We are also fortunate to have Black Tie Catering of South Portland providing FANTASTIC cuisine for the entire weekend. Another delightful addition is the Hot Restaurant (1979) and Northeastern University School of Law (1983).

Urvashi Vaid is an attorney and community organizer whose involvement in the gay/lesbian movement spans more than 15 years. She is the director of the Policy Institute of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), a community-based think tank which does policy analysis, research, strategic thinking, and coalition building.

Vaid is the author of Virtual Equality: The Mainstreaming of Gay & Lesbian Liberation, a political analysis of the gay and lesbian civil rights movement, which won the American Library Association's Gay & Lesbian Book Award in 1996. She is former executive director and former public information director of the NGLTF, where she worked from 1986-1992. From 1983-1086, Vaid worked at the American Civil Liberties Union's National Prison Project, where she conducted prison conditions litigation and initiated the Project's work on HIV/AIDS in prison.

Cited for many honors, Vaid is recipient of the 1997 Civil Rights Leadership Award given by the Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund; and the 1996 Liberty Award given by Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund. In 1995, A Magazine, a national Asian monthly named her one of the 25 most influential Asian Americans, and in December of 1994, Time Magazine named her one of 50 leaders for the future under forty in the United States, and one of 1009 leaders internationally.

Urvashi Vaid was born in New Delhi, India, and now lives in New York City. She is a graduate of Vassar College (1979) and Northeastern University School of Law (1983).

We are approaching the annual gathering of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community—Symposium XXIII. This year's Symposium is being held June 13, 14, 15th in South Portland at the beautiful oceanfront campus of Southern Maine Technical College—complete with sand beach! We are thrilled to be a part of, and kick off, a wonderful week of events with Southern Maine Pride which will culminate with the fabulous 4-day Southern Maine Pride Community Festival.

Registration starts at noon on Friday, June 13; with dinner served that evening from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. The GAYLA Comedy Evening begins at 8:00 pm with special guest Bob Smith, comedian and author, followed by the incomparable Kate Clinton—Madame President of Comedy! Hold on to your seats! The show is being produced by
Diversity has a Beautiful Sound:
Women in Harmony

by Angel Castro

Formed about four years ago with a handful of women, Women in Harmony, today, numbers forty-five members strong. The group has been conducted by Sonja Dalgren Pryor from the start. Members range in age from twenty-one to about seventy and is inclusive of all women despite individual ideological, generational and orientation differences.

Women in Harmony not only serves as members as a musical outlet, but is also a social group. Members get together for picnics, outings, and potluck dinners. Occasionally after a performance they get out for dinner and dancing.

Among these other activities is fundraising. Everyone works together towards their common goals. Last recently and for the second year in a row, Women in Harmony held a very successful fundraiser at Sisters. "A Night of Karaoke," to the delight of the singing public.

Members meet for rehearsals every Wednesday at the Immanuel Baptist Church in Portland and specific sectional meetings are held at other times usually at one of the members homes.

A spring concert performance of Women in Harmony will be held at Immanuel Baptist Church in Portland on Saturday May 10th. These women stand as a testament to what can be accomplished through respectful acceptance and understanding that we are all on this planet together and only in unity can we make beautiful music.

Portland Symphony Chamber Orchestra. Bach’s Brandenburg Concerti

In 1718, Christian Ludwig, Margrave of Brandenburg, heard Bach play. After the performance, Brandenburg casually mentioned that he might like some Bach concertos if Bach cared to write and send them to the Margrave.

As the concert notes indicate, in the 18th century, composers ate at the servants’ table, and did not enjoy the celebrity now afforded them. In any case, poor Bach, a civil servant who wrote music in his spare time, saw this as something akin to a commission, and sat right down to compose. Two years later, he had amassed six concerto, now called the Brandenburg concerti. Unfortunately, the Margrave probably never heard this collection (it probably never got passed his staff who screened every request first), and Bach never got paid for it. Nonetheless, these six concertos have become representative of the finest in Baroque music.

Bach’s Brandenburg concerti are not usually performed together; first because it makes for a long concert, over two hours. Secondly, all six require great artistry and are very taxing on the players. However, the Portland Symphony Chamber Orchestra was certainly up to the task! All of the soloists were superb. However, there were three particular highlights.

Lawrence Golan, the PSO’s Concert Master, who has recently recorded a CD of music composed by his father’s music teacher, George Pearlman was the violin soloist for both Concerto #4 and #5. Ray Comics played the hopscotch and Susan Thomas, the flute for #5. Hearing these three musicians perform together was like experiencing a piece of heaven. Tears came to my eyes as I was transported to another realm by the strings of the hopscotch intertwined with the echoes of the violin and flute.

Most of us, even if we are only a little familiar with the Baroque period, have at least a nodding acquaintance with Bach’s Brandenburg Concerto #1. Xiao-Cao Sha was superb as the virtuosity for this piece. Mark Rohr, the bass trombonist for the PSO wrote: ‘It is almost certain that Christian Ludwigs did not have at his disposal a trumpeter skilled enough to negotiate the celestial part written for the instrument in the second Brandenburg.” However, the Portland Symphony Chamber Orchestra does have such a trumpeter in John Schnell!!

No Angel Knows

by Dixie Townsend.

I saw Slaid Cleaves for the first time summer when he did a free concert at Congress Square in Portland. As I am learning over and over lately, it is best to go into any situation expecting nothing and coming out with something. In this case I came out way ahead.

Cleaves was incredible! I have never been a big country fan, but Cleaves won me over. He has a soft spoken manner and is very appreciative of his fans; something that is always race to see. It at times thought I was listening to Hank Williams (Sr., not Jr.), who obviously has been a big influence to his music.

Cleaves, 32, is a Maine native growing up in South Berwick. After college, Cleaves, guitar in hand, began first working the streets of Portland, and eventually the bars. After years of solo performing Cleaves began the Moxie Men. The Moxie Men were very well received, but after only a few years Cleaves decided to take a new approach in his pursuit of musical success. Cleaves moved to Austin Texas. In Austin Cleaves had to start all over again. In 1992 he released Life’s Other Side. It was songs from that album that helped him win the “New Folk” singer competition at the Kerrville folk festival that same year. Cleaves has recently moved to Maine with what he promised, a recording contract with Rounder Records, and a great new album. I recently picked up.

No Angel Knows in the folk section of a local record store. Cleaves music, however, is a blend of folk, country, and rock-and-roll. No Angel Knows, is the fruition of years of hard work, dedication, and perseverance, of which Mainer’s are masters! Get out and support Slaid while he is in town, who knows when will return next.

City Theater Associates, Inc.

Presents

“Chicago” - The Musical
Book by Fred Ebb & Bob Fosse
Music by John Kander
Lyrics by Fred Ebb

Directed and Choreographed by Janet Ross
Musical Direction by Larry “Flash” Allen

May 2 through May 17, 1997
Friday & Saturday performances at 8:00 p.m.
Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m.
Tickets - Adults $12, Children and Senior Citizens $10
For reservations, group rates, and information call
Mid-Town Music at 282-0254
City Theater - 205 Main Street, Biddeford, 282-0849
“The Sun is out over Planet Indigo”

by Aimsel L. Ponti

Indigo Girls are back with the late April release of their sixth studio album “Shaming of the Sun.” It’s been three years since the release of their last album, “Swamp Ophelia” and although the live album “1,200 Curfews” is nothing less than amazing, fans are collectively quite ready for a new batch of songs from the duo.

I’ve listened to this album enough times to essentially know it by heart and my gut instinct tells me that this offering certainly has earned its spot on the sacred altar of Indigo Girls music. It’s virtually impossible to pit one album against another because each one is so powerful in different ways, and yeah, each one has a few songs on it that don’t reach me as much as others. With that said, I can simply say that with this new album has its share of songs on it that remind me of why I became a fan in the first place. Amy Ray’s songwriting, and singing intensity have maintained constant from day one and the poetic muse in Emily Saliers continues to show itself. Not to mention that Emily whales on a Stratocaster electric guitar like she means it.

“Shaming of the Sun,” works so well the follow up to 1994’s “Ophelia” in the sense that the Girls continue to experiment musically and lyrically. This time around features mandolins, strings and the back up vocals of Native American vocal ensemble Ulali. Not to mention guest musicians Andy Stockansky (Ani DiFranco’s drummer) as well as Jerry Marotta, Sara Lee, Lisa Germano and Steve Earle and others.

One thing that I don’t generally take considerable notice of on album is the order of songs. On “Sun,” I couldn’t help but think that much time was spent considering this. And the payoff is yet another reason why this album is so damn good. The first track is Amy Ray’s “Shame on You” which is already receiving tons of radio airplay all over the place. It’s catchy and has the destined to be famous line, “beautiful ladies walk right by, you know, I never know what to say.” This is followed by Sailors “Get out the Map,” which is cut from the same cloth of “Galileo” and “Least Complicated,” and that’s a good thing.

Track six, “Don’t Give that Girl a Gun” is my personal favorite as I will always be partial to Amy Ray’s raw intensity. But then, the next track, featuring the piano playing of Emily, “Leeds” is also one of the record’s finest with it’s stark, honest lyrics.

The Girls explore new ground without losing their way. “Shaming of the Sun” will be loved by existing fans and as each album does, will attract new ones. I have no doubt.

The Girls were at Colby and UNH in April. As an audience member at the UNH show I must say that it was one of the better shows of theirs I’d seen. And then I managed to actually win tickets on the radio to a show at Mama Kin in Boston on April 17th. Mama Kin is a club that holds about 500 people. I was about three feet from Amy Ray. It was too unbelievable.

Tour Dates: With the full band! Friday, June 6th at Great Woods in Mansfield, MA. (a cool place to see a show in my book).

Thursday, July 22nd also at Great Woods as part of the “Lilith Fair” tour with Sarah McLachlan and Paula Cole (yes, a dream concert...)

Career highlights include five consecutive seasons with the Maine State Music Theater, conducting the Portland Symphony in a concert version of “Evita,” and his numerous collaborations with Marie Pressmand and Big 2 Productions. Mr. Reichert has been performing with the Maine Gay Men’s Chorus in the capacity of guest conductor since 1992 and is very excited and proud to be directing the Pride Concert, scheduled for June 21st at Merrill Auditorium.

Maine Gay Men’s Chorus

The Maine Gay Men’s Chorus (MGMC) is pleased to announce that it has hired Mr. Edward Reichert as its new Artistic Director. Mr. Reichert moved to Maine from New York nine years ago, where he worked as a producer, director, musical director and free-lance accompanist. He has been producing the popular SONGBOOK SERIES at the Portland Museum of Art for three years. He has directed such productions as “Nine, Ruthless”; Phantom: Into the Woods, and “Nunsense” here in Maine.
Seaglass Chorale

The Seaglass Chorale will perform a benefit spring concert Friday May 9th at Saint David's Church, Route 1 South, Kennebunk, and Saturday May 10th at the State Street Church, State Street, Portland. Both performances will feature American representation of religious and secular music including the works of John Rutter, Norman Luboff, Steven Foster, Henryk Gorecki, Arvo Part, George Gershwin and Portland’s own Mark Thomas, as well as a selection of French, Italian and American opera. The concert will represent a range of musical styles from Grand Opera Choruses to Grand Musical Theater to Americana.

Both performances begin at 8:00pm. Tickets are $10 each. For more information or ticket sales, call 985-8747. Tickets will be available at the door. Visit our website at http://www.hiddeford.com/~seaglass

Maine State Ballet - A Midsummer Nights Dream

Portland's offerings of top notch, professional level theater and concerts has now been joined by the Maine State Ballet Company with it's performance of William Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Nights Dream. Held during the weekend of April 12th at Portland City Hall's Merrill Auditorium, the Saturday evening performance was nothing short of elegant!

Lisa Bess, the scenic painter, transformed the stage into a lush forest with backdrops, trees painted on filmy, transparent fabric, and hanging branches and vines. There was a clear, audible response from the audience when the curtains first opened upon this wonderful fairy-land.

A Midsummer Nights Dream is the enchanting story of the interplay between humans and the spirit world, and what can happen when a well-meaning, “junior” fairy bungles his job of bringing two pair of humans together. Adam Miele brought humor and great talent to his role of Puck, that very same bungling fairy. Ron Trell played the King of the Fairies, and in spite of the fact that Trell does not have thirty “elves” played by children who looked between the auditors, their antics brought more “bravos” at the end of the performance than anyone else!

The Maine State Ballet’s performance of A Midsummer Nights Dream took the audience on a wonderful adventure into fantasy; two hours of pure fun. There was only one unfortunate fact, the fact that the auditorium was only one third full. Perhaps residents of the greater Portland area haven’t become sufficiently aware of the opportunity we have to see really great dance in the Maine State Ballet. My hope is that this review, and others, will encourage readers to support the ballet in Maine.

GAYLA Conference

GAYLA - to be held this year from July 19 to July 25 at Ferry Beach Park Association in Saco, Maine. GAYLA is a diverse gathering of up to 150 gay men. Our week together is a time to affirm ourselves, our sexuality, our spirituality, our individuality. It is a time to laugh, cry, hug, kiss, sing, share, experience, grow, remember and reflect. Our conferences offer a variety of workshops, some serious, some fun, some planned, some spur of the moment, covering such topics as arts and crafts, relationships, massage/body work, and new experiences.

There will be lots of time for play and fun, with walks on the beach, porch conversations, storytelling, games, dances and an unforgettable talent show. Music is an integral part of the GAYLA experience and we find many opportunities to sing out - outdoor chapel services, after dinner sing-a-longs, and the talent show.

Many who come to GAYLA are looking to enhance, explore, or express something of a spiritual nature. Each day there is an outdoor chapel service. Also, there are weekly music offerings on such subjects as meditation, healing, grieving, etc.

We invite you to join in the fun and experience the GAYLA community in its 19th year! Registration forms and packets can be obtained directly from: Ferry Beach Park Association! Morris Avenue; Saco, ME 04072(207) 284-8612 Costs: Typically the cost for shared room, all meals, membership and conference fee will amount to $393. (This cost will be lower if you camp in the grove and/or do not take meals.) Also, there is an additional $35 GAYLA activity fee. There are a number of GAYLA veterans besides myself who are members of ME-GAYNET. I am one of five coordinators of this year’s GAYLA conference. If you would like to talk with me directly about GAYLA, call me at (207) 799-7981. Best regards, Bob McCormack
by David Baer

NEW YORK (AP) From the wide smile on her face, it seemed like more than Ellen DeGeneres's sitcom character talking when she said, "It felt so good to come out as a lesbian." 

ABC unveiled tapes of the much-hyped "Ellen" episode on Monday. Staffed with inside jokes and guest stars like K.D. Lang and Melissa Etheridge, the hour-long show aired Wednesday at 9 P.M. EDT.

DeGeneres's character, Ellen Morgan, becomes the first homosexual lead character in a primetime network show. The actress coupled it with a personal "coming out," and was pictured with her girlfriend, actress Anne Heche, at a party with President Clinton this weekend.

The show has been in the works since last September and it seemed like the buildup would never end...something DeGeneres immediately pokes fun at in the episode.

Ellen is shown getting ready for an evening date with a male colleague. Her impatient friends, hoping to give her a good night, tell her "quit jerking us around" and "come out already."

"What is the big deal?" Ellen asks. "I've got an hour."

Ellen reminiscences over dinner with her friend and his colleague, Susan, played by actress Laura Dem. The friend, played by Steven Eckholdt, later makes a pass at Ellen in his hotel room. She rejects him.

She runs into Dem's character, Susan, and retires to Susan's hotel room to talk about the encounter. The two women become fast friends.

Ellen gets so nervous she spills ice on the floor when Susan reveals she's gay. She even misses the joke when Susan says she wins a toaster oven for a successful "recruit" of another lesbian.

After some soul searching about whether she's attracted to men or women...and consultation with a therapist portrayed by Oprah Winfrey...Ellen decides to intercept Susan at the airport.

In a crowded waiting room, Ellen tries to tell Susan of her feelings.

"I did get the joke about the toaster oven," she says.

Susan presses her to say what she means.

"This is so hard," Ellen says, stammering. "I-I-I think I've realized that...I can't even say the word. Why can't I say the word? Why can't I just say it? What is wrong? Why do I have to be so ashamed? Why can't just say the truth and be who I am? I'm 35 years old and I'm so afraid to tell people. Susan..."

The show ends on a lighter note. Etheridge, playing herself, gleefully approves Ellen's "application" forms into gay society.

Call for submissions

Cleis Press is pleased to announce the guest judge for the 1998 edition of "Best Lesbian Erotica". Cleis's annual series, Jennifer Levin will select and introduce "Best Lesbian Erotica 1998." She is the author of four novels: "Water Dance"; "Snow"; "Shimon's Lover" and "The Sea of Light"; and a short story collection "Love and Death and Other Disasters."

"Best Lesbian Erotica" features the year's steamiest, most thought-provoking sexual writing. Each year, guest judges selected from the queer literature world review submitted stories and choose the final collections, which represent a wide style of ranges and voices. Previous guest judges have included Jewelle Gomez and Heather Lewis.

EDITORS SEEK WRITERS

We are: the best annual collection of adult erotica. TYou are: engaging, smart, honest, literary, unusual, sexy, and hot. Passion and emotion a+. Yes to smoky backrooms and film noir; no to flowers and fruit. Should enjoy down-and-dirty sex as well as love, memory, obsession, attraction, longing, lust, hate and transgression. We like it rough, we like it sweet. Work that pushes boundaries of gender, identity, desire, and pleasure also a+. Show us the complexity, diversity and intensity of lesbian sexuality. Entice us, stimulate us, frighten us, surprise us....

Both unpublished and previously published material will be considered (provided it was, or will be published in 1997) including short stories, novel excerpts, performance text, and experimental prose. Our only requirement is that you do not send us something that has appeared, or will appear, in a similar anthology like "HEROTICA" or BEST AMERICAN ERROTICA...Poetry will be considered, but poetry submissions are not encouraged. When you submit, please follow these guidelines:

- All submissions must include a cover page with the following information: Author's Name, Title of Submission(s), Address, Phone/Fax, and E-mail address. Your name should appear only on the cover page; it should not appear anywhere else on the manuscript(s).
- All submissions should be typed and double-spaced; each page of your manuscript(s) should be numbered.

PLEASE SUBMIT TWO (2) COPIES OF EACH SUBMISSION.

- Each author may submit a maximum of three (3) different pieces of work for consideration. Each submission should be a maximum of 5,000 words.
- Electronic submissions will be accepted; preferred format for disk/email is Microsoft Word 5.1 for Mac or ASCII/Text Only Files.
- All submissions must include a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) for response.
- Please send a manuscript-size SASE with proper postage if you would like your submission(s) returned.

The deadline is May 15, 1997. Send all submissions to: Tristan Taormina, Best Lesbian Erotica 98, PO Box 4108 Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. Call 718-486-6966. Fax 718-486-5736. E-mail Tristan8at@ao.com (Manuscripts sent to Cleis Press will not be forwarded or returned).
Rant: "Vegetarians at a Meat-packers Convention"

by David Cook

The time has come to demand an accounting of how the Portland Police Department spends its time and our money. Intense official scrutiny of Portland pornographic establishments has been going on for nearly two years now and, as the City Council and Police Chief Michael Chitwood celebrate their crowning achievement—forced closure of the Fine Arts Cinema—taxpayers should be asking themselves if this is how they want their hard-earned money spent.

The compelling public interest justification for non-renewal of the Fine Arts’ license is basically the discomfort felt by plainclothes police officers stationed inside the theater for the express purpose of spying on the patrons. The sexual activities in the theater are being presented as a "breach of the peace" for prosecutorial purposes.

The idiocy of this is stunning! Staring in plainclothes police inside the Fine Arts is like sending under-cover vegetarians to a meat-packer’s convention. Naturally, you can expect a negative reaction. The question is whether the public has a right to elevate the hypertrophic sensibilities of one group to a higher level than the civil rights of another group—especially when the former has placed itself in deliberate and unnecessary confrontation with the latter.

Were there complaints that Fine Arts patrons were having drunken brawls outside the theater and disturbing the neighborhood? No, there were not. Were people passing by the theater forced to observe depraved acts? No, they were not. Were there complaints of people being dragged in off the street to participate in sex acts against their will? Oh, don’t be na"ive! Were people in the theater filing complaints in droves about being compelled to watch sex acts happening among them while they themselves “just came to watch the movie”? Nope.

In short, Portland City officials and police have conspired to create a breach of the peace where none actually exists, unless you consider consensual acts between adults in a private space to be a crime, in which case none of us is safe, even in our bedrooms. (Less you think this is an overstatement, don’t forget the Georgia case a few years ago where two men were arrested for sodomy in their own house!)

The closing of the Fine Arts Cinema serves no discernible public purpose. It will not stop the sex acts that go on there; they will simply move elsewhere as they have always done. It will not protect the delicate sensibilities of passersby in what city officials like to call the “Arts District;” no one can see inside the theater anyway and no theater closures will not protect the delicate sensibilities of the hypertrophic sensibilities of one group to a higher level than the civil rights of another group—especially when the former has placed itself in deliberate and unnecessary confrontation with the latter.

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"Trans Forum"

Heidi L. Vanderheiden
"By Br"

Martin Swinger
"Sing Out"

The Community Pride Reporter is printed on recycled paper using soy-based inks. This practice reflects our commitment to responsible use of our earth’s resources. Using recycled paper sometimes results in the paper having a toned down or grayish tinge. However, we feel this is a small price to pay as Community Pride Reporter does its part to "Color ME Green."

The Real Role Models Are Standing Up

by Kerry Lobel, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

As much of the nation anticipates surefire political victories andrea and use of our web page and electronic mailing list capabilities, NGLTF is able to support state organizers as they do the important work of bringing justice to our communities.

While the legislative season is not yet over, we look to the hundreds of state activists around the country to be standing in line to participate. In short, Mike, get out of my sex life!
Guest Editorial

As a relative newcomer to Maine, there was much that I did not understand in an article in last month's Community Pride Reporter ("West End or Dead End"). The author of that article alluded to one candidate in Portland's District 2 race as "the party favorite" and to another candidate as "a not well-liked alternative among the usual suspects." I take these references to mean that there is the perception on the part of some in the g/l/b/t community that there is an "in group" who may at times anoint given candidates, thereby denying equal access to outsiders. I also inferred from the article that the author may believe that if any one candidate enters a given race, other gay candidates should refrain from doing so, so as not to split the vote of the g/l/b/t community.

While I do not have first-hand knowledge to what extent, if any, the perceptions of a powerful "in group" are based in fact, I suppose that it is not inconceivable that there might be such a cabal at work right here in southern Maine. My plea is Roddy King's- can't we all just get along? Our community needs to be unified--not necessarily around a single candidate (chosen or not by some set of "usual suspects") but unified in our efforts to continue to bring forward well-qualified candidates as we press for our place at the table of democracy.

There isn't enough energy in our community to fight one another and to fight Carolyn Cosby and her ilk. We shouldn't allow ourselves to get caught up in an angry, hurtful, divisive campaign where we become pitted against one another. If we allow ourselves to expend energy on criticizing candidates for diluting the g/l/b/t vote or on digging up dirt on the candidate(s) we don't support, then we risk being weakened considerably when it comes to fighting those outside forces that would deny us our rightful lives.

A contest such as that in District 2 should be framed positively, with each candidate being recognized for his or her strengths and record. Each of us can be partisan, supporting one or the other of the candidates, but we cannot afford to attack the other candidate or the process by which that candidate decided to run. We have much to celebrate in having two competent, exciting candidates in the District 2 race, either of whom would be an excellent city councilor. We need to support both of them in the press and to refuse to have our g/l/b/t organizations endorse either. We need to speak proudly of both candidates, then campaign hard but fairly and cleanly for the candidate of our choice.

CPR: Mail Bag

I can not vote in Portland's District Two elections on May 6, but if I could I would be voting for David Garrity. I was very happy when David told me almost two years ago that he wanted to run for that City Council seat. I have seen what wonderful work David can do when he is in the Legislature and I would very much like to work closely with me and others on the Anti-(gay) Discrimination bill. I can honestly say that, without David's tireless work, I would not know that we would have seen the g/l/b/t Community Pride Reporter sitting dumb while the g/l/b/t community.

I know both candidates as the dedicated and good people that they most definitely are. Karen is without question a good lobbyist way up there in Augusta with enough local special interest clout to win. David, in my honest judgement, is a diligent worker for the people of the West End from way back and more in tune with pre-council and City issues and that's the bottom line for me.

The whole issue of two candidates from the g/l/b/t community, not only giving an ultra-conservative a possible chance at a Council seat by splitting the liberal vote, is one really of leadership. We will have to wonder after the Portland vote why we didn't get two queer councilors, one by precinct, one at large, instead of possibly none.

Leadership hangs together as one person should benefit all of us. We are just now seeing the ill affects of sitting dum while MWD claimed that gay rights was a matter of local control and not human dignity. We've seen that those who worked to oppose discrimination rush to tell gays and lesbian that our personal partnerships are not valid human contracts. Leadership would speak up loudly for us against a bill of this, but it's not effectively there. For me, the West End election, since David declared his intentions long in advance, in addition to being the one who decides what my taxes will be, is about the out of hand dismissal of a good gay candidate by those who call themselves our leadership for the sake of their own political future. Given that view, yes, it's true, I've felt obliged for justice's sake to support David.

Dear Folks,

Over the last several years of working with Karen Gareghty through the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance, I have been repeatedly impressed by her thorough work, sense of humor, and calm presence in even highly stressful situations. She is hardworking, articulate, respectful, and has a razor sharp mind. She listens well, and works toward alliance between many seemingly disparate groups.

I do not know David Garrity. I am sure Michael Rossetti has reasons for his high opinion of him. However, I would appreciate Community Pride Reporter publishing personal opinions in Letters to the Editor, such as this one, rather than on Page One masquerading as objective news.

Lin Gould

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Dear CPR: Thanks for printing my "article" on the West End race. I can tell you that CPR gets read widely and that I have a complete reaction to my piece, and education.

My original intent was to provide those in the g/l/b/t community a set of facts to work from in objectively selecting between to two gay community candidates. Unfortunately, only David Garrity did the councilor like thing and answered my 12 easy questions. Karen did not. This made the "article" an editorial for lack of some fact.

I know both candidates as the dedicated and good people that they most definitely are. Karen is without question a good lobbyist way up there in Augusta with enough local special interest clout to win. David, in my honest judgement, is a diligent worker for the people of the West End from way back and more in tune with pre-council and City issues and that's the bottom line for me.

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Given that view, yes, it's true, I've felt obliged for justice's sake to support David.

Thank you,
Michael Rossetti

The Community Pride Reporter is published during the first two business days of the month. All submissions must be in by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue.
November Lambda Need
an educational, informational, social and service organization serving lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people in northern Maine.

Identity Support

New Hampshire FPLAG Meetings
Samuel A. Thayer, 1st Congregational Church, Westminster, NH 301 Main St. 603-722-4167.

Succazinc Meets 1st Monday from 7-9 pm at Success Community Center, 25 Market St., Portland. (207) 774-6281.

Plymouth Meets 4th Sunday from 11-12 at 35 Market St., Portland. (207) 774-6281.

Bisexual Discussion Group
Meet every 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 pm at Joomla, 114 State St., Portland. (207) 774-6281.

Northerm Lambda Need
an educational, informational, social and service organization serving lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people in northern Maine.

National Association of Social Workers, ME
Chapter, Sexual Minority Issues
Committee welcomes new social work members. Our purpose is to educate, provide resources, and lobby legislators on issues involving sexual minority in Maine. FMI call
207-623-7592.

Hale Crime & Bias Incidents: Have you or someone you know been a victim? Call the Civil Rights Section of the Maine Department of the Attorney General at 620-8844.

Citizens Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights (CAGLR)
New Hampshire's multi-disciplinary, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, progressive gay and lesbian civil rights organization, welcomes all those interested in those goals to weekly meetings, programs, socials and various other events. Newsletter. Call Info Line-605-224-
1668 or write to PO Box 730, Concord, NH 03303-0700.

The Rainbow Business & Professional Association
A state wide, non-profit organization established to create a gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered "chamber of commerce" for Maine. Meetings are held every 2nd or 4th Monday or other dates with speaker events, held in the Greater Portland area. Joining fee is $25. FMI write PO Box 6627, Scarborough, ME 04070-6627, call 207-775-0151 or email wildboys@mainelink.net.

Maine Speakeasy Project for Equal Rights Trains and deploys volunteers statewide to speak with citizen groups in their towns and regions about their lives and the lives of others who chose a life of distinction in Maine. For information on activities in your county: 207-798-6480 or write: MSOP, 123 Congress St., #1-E, Portland, ME 04102. Your need not be a speak to speak with Speakeasy!

Community Pride Resources

ナルLGA Project for Equal Rights Trains and deploys volunteers statewide to speak with citizen groups in their towns and regions about their lives and the lives of others who chose a life of distinction in Maine. For information on activities in your county: 207-798-6480 or write: MSOP, 123 Congress St., #1-E, Portland, ME 04102. Your need not be a speak to speak with Speakeasy!

Maine AIDS Alliance

AIDS Coalition of Lewiston/ Auburn: P.O. Box 7977, Lewiston, ME 04241. Call 207-786-6097.

AIDS Lodging House: 142 High Street, Lewiston, ME 04240. Call 207-773-7165.

Cam Chapman: PO Box 990, Belfast, Maine 04915. Call 207-338-5089.

Community AIDS Awareness Program: PO Box 457, Raymond, ME 04071. Call 207-364-8033.

Community AIDS/Information: PO Box 143, Westport, ME 04112.

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


Community Pride Support

Northern Lambda Need
an educational, informational, social and service organization serving lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people in northern Maine. Meetings are 2nd Sunday of every month at 1 pm (ME), 2 pm (NJ), and third Saturday of each month at Community Services Center, 398 S. Main St., Caribou, FMI write NLN, PO Box 900, Caribou, ME 04739-0990.

The FMC is marked every 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month, Wednesday, and Friday from 7-9 pm. Call 207-498-2088 or 1-800-468-2088.

The Multivac Society
an educational, informational, social and service organization serving lesbian, bisexual, gay men, and friends committed to sharing our history as well as providing support, education and review legislation, endorse candidates, and adhere to our Hymn of Integrity and Free Speech.

The Newsletter is sent to anyone interested in those goals to weekly meetings, programs, socials and various other events. Newsletter. Call Info Line-605-224-1668 or write to PO Box 730, Concord, NH 03303-0700.

Easter Congress Church
United Church of Christ in Maine, is adopting an Open and Affirming Statement and welcomes all God's children to worship, 10 Sundays, 10 pm First Street, Augusta. Call 207-288-4160. Contact Andrew Horn, 207-670-0027.

LGBTQ! Catholics

The organization Diginate Makes our offer purposeful to educate and support those who wish to understand and support LGBTQ people. Meets every 60th day at St. Luke's Catholic church in Ellsworth, FMI call 207-667-8077.

The Appeloo
an outreach, networking and social organization for New England's gay and lesbian abusers, free thinkers, ethical humanists and Hindus. Free speech right debate group offering forum for democratic support to religious- deprogramming and FMI call 207-773-5782 or PO Box 261, Portland, ME 04103.

Community of Hope

A Catholic congregation which claims a ministry with gay and lesbian people and strives to be inclusive of all persons. Worship on Saturdays at 6:00 PM at Immaculate Heart of Mary, 26 High St, Portland. FMI write Community of Hope, PO Box 6870, Portland, ME 04104.

Central Maine Gay Men's Support Group
We provide a safe and private place to discuss issues we face in our lives and just to be with people in a safe no-alcohol setting. FMI call 207-621-1889 or 207-621-4254.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Discussion Group
Meet 1st and 3rd Fridays each month, 207-774-4394. At University Church, 340 Bridgeport, Rockland, ME.

Support Group--Residences & Surviving Community
For men who have sex with men. Monthly meetings to talk about issues and concerns. Call 207-800-2055 for more info & meeting times.

Q-Squared
Support group for lesbian, gay, bi's & transgendered. Serving Franklin County, based at UMaine.

Furnigham, FMI call 207-778-7800.

Support group for cowsurners, transvestite, their families. FMI in secret locations to provide FMI. Contact Hew Sodl, 207-774-6604. FMI contact 182 Pinewood Rd., PO Box 1722, Portland, ME 04102 or phone 207-645-3042.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Support Group

Social and SUPPORT GROUPS.

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Outright
Banger: Fridays 5:00-7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, Park St., behind City Hall in Bangor. FMI call 207-905-3626.
Outright Too: Supportive, informative and social meeting for gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning youth age 22 and under. Safe place for questions, growth, and fun. Held twice monthly. FMI call 207-905-3626, Shawn O'Connell.
Central Maine: Weekly confidential meetings for gay, lesbian & questioning youth 22 years and under. Call at 795-6677 or 1-800-339-4042 and ask about OUTRIGHT.

Portland: Meets every Fri, 7:30-9:30 pm, The People's Building, 155 Brattle St., 2nd floor. Safe & supportive discussions with and for gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning youth. FMI call 774-TALK, or 774-HHELP or write to P.O. Box 5077, Portland, ME 04101.

Dorothy-Kane: Meets the third Friday of every other Sunday in Camden for gay or questioning youth 22 & under. Confidential, supportive, safe space for teens & young adults. FMI Lisa at Waldo County AIDS Coalition 338-1427 or write to P.O. Box 956, Belfast, ME 04915. Collect calls okay.

Concord: Meets every Thurs., 7-9 pm at UU Church, 274 Pleasant St., next to concord Hospital & Orthopedics Clinic. 603- 546-3140.

Families and Friends Accepting Change (FFAC), support group sponsored by Northern Maine AIDS Network for friends, family & caregivers. Meets every 2nd Thursday, 2-4 pm, at the Aroostook Medical Center, conference room A. Register via phone by calling 207-768-3506 or 1-402-483-7211. FMI Lisa at Waldo County AIDS Coalition 338-1427 or write to P.O. Box 956, Belfast, ME 04915.

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Ham run: Thursdays: People living with HIV meet from 1:30-3:30 pm at Family Planning. Call Diana Carrigan, Advocacy & Outreach for gay, lesbian, and questioning people. FMI call to UU Church, 274 Pleasant St., next to concord Hospital & Orthopedics Clinic. 603- 546-3140.

AIDS Network/Outright: People living with HIV, Tuesdays, 7-9 pm at the Aroostook Medical Center, conference room A. Register via phone by calling 207-768-3506 or 1-402-483-7211. FMI Lisa at Waldo County AIDS Coalition 338-1427 or write to P.O. Box 956, Belfast, ME 04915. Collect calls okay.

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HIV Support Related Meetings

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May Calendar of Events

Biversity Calendar

Biversity Boston is the mixed gender bisexual network of Greater Boston.

May 1997: 3 (Saturday) 1:30pm — Games Party Come and share fun and games at Jay and Heath’s. Bring a game, a friend, something to munch on, or all three. Call (617)782-4235 or email jh@aq.org for directions.

April 30 (Saturday) 7pm — Bi Space A friendly space to meet other bisexuals and talk about bisexual issues. Our topic for the first hour will be “Do you believe in love at first sight?” A $2 donation is requested to help pay for rental of the space.

Biversity Resource Center Board Meeting The BRC board meets monthly to work on educational programs, the bi office, the web site, the 1998 international conference, fund raising and lots of other issues. All members of the bisexual community are welcome to attend.

15 (Thursday) 7-9pm — Biversity Planning Meeting This incredible calendar of events is made possible by people like you. Help plan events for the June/July holiday. Meet at the BRC office, 29 Stanhope St in Boston.

Bi-Sexuality Awareness month April 30 - May 14, 1997

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, April 30 CEL-EBRATION KICK-OFF Yip, Fm Gay: Ellen DeGeneres Coming Out Party Host: Women’s Commission & OMSA Location: D’s Room 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Viewing of Ellen DeGeneres Show on the Big Screen in OMSA 9:00 PM - 10:00 PM Free! Thursday, May 1 Gender Bender Dance Featured Performance by Mizzey and Her Girls Adjacent to the BRC Board Meeting at the Midtown Hotel: Alliance and OMSA 5PM to 7PM Free! Friday, May 2 Alliance Meeting Open House 5PM to 7PM Free! Saturday, May 3 Gender Bender Dance Featured Performance by Mizzey and Her Girls Adjacent to the BRC Board Meeting at the Midtown Hotel: Alliance and OMSA 9PM - 11PM Free! Sunday, May 4 Family Day Outing — Lunch At The Beach Sponsored by The Gay & Lesbian Transgendered/Awareness month April 30 - May 14, 1997

Beautiful...The HOTTEST Lesbian love scene ever recorded on celluloid! "The City Paper Philadelphia MUB II, 7:00 PM $1.00 Admissions.

Thursday, May 8 Speaker: Robert Borden, Columnist, and Author "Straight Parents, Gay Children: Keeping Families Together" Host: Bill Kiddier Fund Commission and the OMSA, Room 338-339 7:30 PM FREE Wednesday, May 14 Film: "BOYFRIENDS: A Quirk Big" Host: The Northeast Lambda Alliance MUB II, 7:30 PM $1.00 ADMISSION For more information please contact Ed Thomas, Assistant Director of Multicultural Student Affairs, UNH Box 12175 GSS, Durham, NH 03824-6059 or 25-year-old community. Bring your

May 1 - 4 "ANERC" at Portland Stage Company, 25A Forest Ave., Portland ME. Tickets $8-11.95 (207)774-1045

May 4 - 7 PM: Spring Ball/Karaka Dance with Northern Lambda Nord at the Palace in Somerville, MA. $75 @$75 ($5 available for students). (207)785-5781

May 10 - 3 PM - Maine Women and Publisher Alliance sponsors poetry workshop with Peter Hunt at Bates in Middle School, 51 Somers St., Lewiston ME. Cost is $45/65. Enrollment limited to 15. To register or for more info call (207)729-3333

May 11 - 6 PM - Maine Women and Publisher Alliance sponsors' book review workshop by Lisa Bergholz at 55 Lafayette SL, Portland ME. Tickets $10/$20 in advance or at the door. To register or for more info call (207)729-3333.

May 17 - 10 AM - Maine Women and Publisher Alliance sponsors’ book reading by valley author Ten Gurnett at the Lewiston Public Library, Waterloow St., Augusta ME. Tickets $10/$20 in advance or at the door. To register or for more info call (207)729-3333.


May 26 - 7 PM - Maine Women and Publisher Alliance sponsors' "Making Books Beyond Happy," a workshop led by Valley author Ten Gurnett at Portland Stage Company, 25A Forest Ave., Portland ME. Cost is $45/55. Enrollment limited to 15. To register or for more info call (207)729-3333.

May 27 - 7:30 PM - Maine Women and Publisher Alliance sponsors' book reading by valley author Ten Gurnett at the Lewiston Public Library, Waterloow St., Augusta ME. Tickets $10/$20 in advance or at the door. To register or for more info call (207)729-3333.

May 28 - 10 AM - Maine Women and Publisher Alliance sponsors’ book workshop by Lisa Bergholz at 55 Lafayette SL, Portland ME. Tickets $10/$20 in advance or at the door. To register or for more info call (207)729-3333.

May 29 - 7 PM - Maine Women and Publisher Alliance sponsors' book reading by valley author Ten Gurnett at the Lewiston Public Library, Waterloow St., Augusta ME. Tickets $10/$20 in advance or at the door. To register or for more info call (207)729-3333.

May 30 - 7 PM - Maine Women and Publisher Alliance sponsors' book workshop by Lisa Bergholz at 55 Lafayette SL, Portland ME. Tickets $10/$20 in advance or at the door. To register or for more info call (207)729-3333.

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June 3 - 3rd Annual general membership meeting with Northern Lambda Nord, followed by a potluck and then a 5th rock concert at the "Bamboozled". Community Center.
Boston Pride May 30 to June 6, 1997

Friday, May 30 Rainbow Flag

Raising Boston politics and over 1,000 people congregate on City Hall Plaza to witness the raising of the United States’ flag, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts’ flag, and the Rainbow flag. The flag raising is the opening activity for Pride week. The Rainbow flag is proudly unfurled and displayed on the plaza throughout the week’s events. City Hall lies in the heart of the financial district and is located next to Faneuil Hall, one of the major tourist draws in Boston. The commitment by the city and the mayor is a true testament to one of the city’s most vibrant communities.

Sunday, June 1 AIDS Walk

The AIDS Walk: “From All Walks of Life” falls into the week of events surrounding Pride and is a function of the AIDS Action Committee. The walk is one of the largest fund-raising events to benefit AIDS Research in America.

Tuesday, June 3 Pride Lights

Imagine your neighborhood swathed in pink lights! Pride Lights is a nonprofit lighting of the 40-foot pine tree at the Hatch Shell. A party ship will be directly on the harbor. Over 700 people mingle, laugh and dance — cruising the harbor and enjoying the moment… remembering the past and looking to the future.

Tuesday, June 3 Celebration at the Hatch Shell

The Hatch Shell is located on the Esplanade: a state park on the Charles River. A balmy evening, starry sky, Boston skyline, and sailboats on the water set the stage for a spectacular event!

Friday, June 6 Harbor Cruise

Accented by a starlit night, a party ship sails on the midnight blue Boston harbor. Over 700 people mingle, laugh and dance — cruising the harbor and enjoying the moment… remembering the past and looking to the future. With lots of food and entertainment on both the top and lower decks, this 3-hour boat tour preludes Pride Day.

Saturday, June 7 Pride March and Festival

Celebrating its 27th year, the Pride March is expected to attract 200,000 people who cheer on over 250 corporate groups, nonprofit and political organizations, dance clubs, youth groups, religious affiliations, senior citizens and families as they wind through Boston’s downtown area and end on the historic Boston Common.

The entourage of people gather on the open field for a sunny afternoon of music, speeches, and comedy, featuring national and New England entertainers and guest speakers. Peruse vendor tables and nonprofit organization — enjoy good food, good fun and fabulous frivolity! With over 200,000 people congregating on the mainstay of Boston Pride, the Pride March and Festival is the one time a year when most of the community is together.

Youth Dance

This year Boston Pride will be hosting its first Youth Event to be held on Pride Day. A 18+ dance will be held for our Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered youth. One of Boston’s best DJ’s will spin in the Villa Victoria at 85 West Newton Street so 700 to 1,000 youth can dance off the excitement of the day’s March and Festival.

Women’s Night

Everyone is invited to join in the Pride celebration with approximately 2,000 women. Dig out your best suit and tie or polish off your combat boots, because this is Boston’s first Drag KING Ball!

Revolution: till the dawn’s early light Pride’s official all-night dance extravaganza. Boston’s first all-night party is certain to be a success as 3,000 guests dance the night away to one of the nation’s best DJs. With invited celebrity guests, this night will be full of surprises until dawn. Revolution is presented by Big Productions and Pride Committee, Inc.

For More Information: Call the Pride Message Line: 617-739-4567
E-mail address: BoxPride@aol.com

Mail Address: The Pride Committee Inc. 398 Columbus Avenue, Suite 221 Boston, MA 02116

For information and referral about what’s happening in the midcoast area for gay and bisexual men.

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Horseshoes in the Park

Horseshoes in the Park, is a new women’s club, that started in April. No experience is necessary.

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

This club is about having fun and socializing with other women. We meet on Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm at Deering Oaks Park in Portland. Enter Deering Oaks from the Deering Ave. side and the horseshoe pits will be directly on the left after the baseball diamond, in front of the Volleyball court.

Bring your horseshoes if you have them, all horseshoes welcome. Whether regulation or not.

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