

Community Pride Reporter

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May 1997

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 Horn, 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 8-3 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 law is needed to protect homosexuals from pervasive discrimination in basic facets of their lives, such as getting a job or an apartment. Opponents say such safeguards are unnecessary and they would violate local control in cities such as Lewiston, where voters overturned 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 McKernan 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 Augusta 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 banging a kid's head into the floor, 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 one 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 new baby. Sonja Rutstein the remaining sister, will be appearing in Portland, with a back up band. The group has a resume that overflows 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 extreme 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, *Beneath the Devil Moon* "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 on 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 women with a magnificent voice, which she will use to treat Pride audiences to something it seldom hears: Bizet.

Chris Newcomb has performed with many theater companies including Portland Players, Mad Horse Theater, Oak Street Theater, and Moxie 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 bringing his gentle and charming guitar and voice solos to Pride.

Free-Fall is a five member accapella 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 staccata 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 Pier 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 Deeves 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 gently. 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 will make her Pride Saturday appearance with full band a major event.

The Casco Bay Tumblers 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 ecstatic musical style. The Tumblers will perform both raucaus and sweetly touching instrumentals at PRIDELIGHT's live broadcast on Pride Thursday, June 19.

Finally, It's solistice and Pride and Agape, the Center for Soul and Art, will be presenting a Solistice 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 garp 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 dancirfg to end Pride Day on a fabulously jubilant note.

ASE will give a cameo appearance at the Festival Stage on Pride Saturday.

The final touch is to have all the events hostessed 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 Nasson 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 help keep the new Pride Committee's work strong and moving profitably into a new century.



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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 has 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 rained on. The Parade was cut short. The festival was reduced to tables at the local bar and dancing endless strains of the Margherita.

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 year's. 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 passing up organizing this year's Bangor celebration.

Jim Martin, Bangor Pride's original organizer, is attempting to organize 1997. Jim has called a meeting

for Bangor Pride on May 7 at the Bar in downtown Bangor. Interested and varying points of view are welcome to help. Jim, however, has his own business since the last two Bangor Prides. The question is similar to Portland's history in that one person seems to be tied to holding the event together.

Jim, however, is not likely to abandon his own business for a Pride celebration, nor willing to take on the task with little help. He rightly feels that unless there is a sufficient response, Bangor Pride will have to go on the shelf for an indeterminate time.

The task of organizing is not mysterious. It consists largely of putting together a program with entertainment and vendors. One of the big problems is encouraging area groups that this is an event to support and attend. 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 g/l/b/t community to focus and grow or to slide quietly back into the closet and peek 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, touching lives and hearts wherever she was. She especially loved flowers, the ocean, camping and far too much work. Friends will long remember times spent on Campabello 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 Kuriloff, 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 thank you 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.

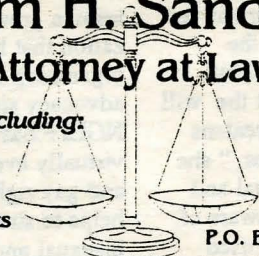
The recipients are: Brian Kendall of the Names Project, Larry Bliss of the Spring for Life Auction, Kathy Kiddman of Outright, The Holiday Inn by the Bay, Drop Me a Line, The Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance and past members, The Maine Gay Men's Chorus, and the Biased Crimes Task Force.

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.

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

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

Clinton Backs measure outlawing job bias

WASHINGTON (AP) President Clinton intends to lobby hard 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 September on a 50-49 vote. 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 relief 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

Cult Leader allegedly Gay

Washington, DC Will the shock, sorrow and surprise of the recent mass suicide of members of the Heaven's Gate cult now turn to rage, resentment and retribution because of Easter weekend press reports that cult leader Marshall Applewhite may have been gay?

That was the question asked by Kerry Lobel, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Executive Director, in response to a news article which appeared in the Saturday March 29, 1997 edition of The Washington Post. The newspaper reported that Applewhite was fired from his teaching job at a Houston university in the late 1960's for having an affair with a male student. The paper also said that Applewhite's dismissal led him to seek psychiatric treatment so that he could be cured of his gay impulses.

Since the news story broke, Applewhite has been called a "homosexual freak" by the son of the cult's

co-founder who also described him as "as gay as they come."

"My fear is that gays will be scapegoated for the atrocities brought about by the cult leader," said Lobel. "Once again, we may be vilified by those who associate everything bad, wrong, strange, or tragic with homosexuality," she added.

Greg Herek, a research psychologist at the University of California at Davis said the fact that Applewhite may have been gay may make it easier for some people to connect him to dysfunctional behavior, because of their perceptions of homosexuality and of gay people.

"The Heaven's Gate incident is a reflection of the trust that followers put in cult leaders," Lobel concluded. "To use this incident to perpetuate the wholesale scapegoating of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people is unacceptable and will not be tolerated," she said.

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 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 AID Atlanta, a community based organization providing health and support services to people with HIV/AIDS, including 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 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 but one step 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.

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Washington, D.C The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) joins 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 has banned implementation of the ballot measure since its approval in November.

Proposition 209 eliminates affirmative action programs, bars "preferential treatment," and discrimination in public hiring, contracting and education.

According to the opinion of one judge speaking about the decision of the federal district judge who issued the injunction, "[A] system which permits one judge to block with the stroke of a pen what 4,736,180 state residents voted to enact as law tests the integrity of our constitutional democracy."

"The decision yesterday by the

federal appeals court is disappointing in many respects, said Kerry Lobel, Executive Director of NGLTF. "First, it allows for the implementation of a measure that is clearly meant to turn back the clock on the civil rights of women and people of color. Second, it ignores the reality that ongoing discrimination continues to pose special problems or obstacles to the hiring, promotion and contracting opportunities of women and people of color. Even a majority of the U.S. Supreme Court has embraced race-conscious remedies in the recent Adarand case."

"Also disturbing," according to Lobel, "is that the decision includes gratuitous language attacking affirmative action programs. At least one of the judges has forgotten that the judiciary exists precisely as a check against the will of the majority, if the majority threatens constitutional rights and privileges," she added. "The gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community is fully aware of these attacks since they were also used against the U.S. Supreme Court when it threw out Colorado's anti-gay ballot

measure," Lobel went on.

Helen Gonzales, NGLTF Public Policy Director noted that "this decision is of importance to the gay community because affirmative action policies affect gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people of color." "Also, so long as there are forces at work in this country trying to dismantle policies geared toward remedying continued discrimination against women and people of color, we cannot expect recognition of the human dignity and civil rights of gays," Gonzales concluded.

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

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 g/l/b/t 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 play with," 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 Dads" — 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 burning 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

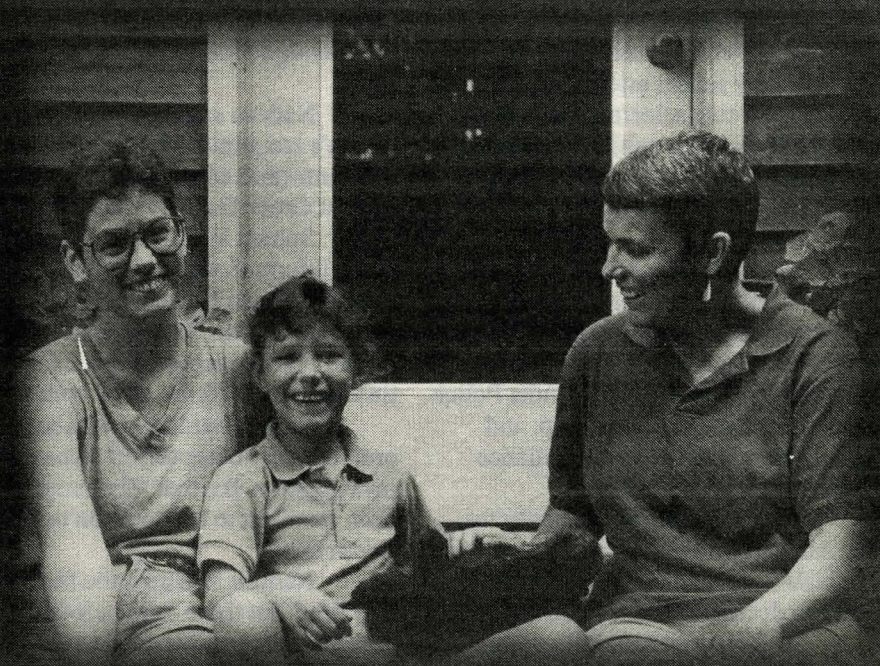
Beginning May 22, 1997 Spruce Run will offer a 10 week DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PERSONAL EDUCATION GROUP in the Bangor area for women who have been affected directly or through family and friends with issues of Domestic Violence and Substance Abuse. The course will include presentations, discussions, and exercises 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."

LOVE MAKES A FAMILY: Living in Lesbian and Gay Families

A Photo-Text Exhibit



"A family is a bunch of people,
or not so many, who love each other."
Liza, age 7

If you would like to display this exhibit in your community, please contact:

Peggy Gillespie
Family Diversity Projects, Inc.
P.O. Box 1209 • Amherst, Massachusetts 01004-1209
Telephone: 413-256-0502 • Fax: 413-253-3977 • E-Mail: famphoto@aol.com
Visit our website at <http://www.javanet.com/~famphoto>

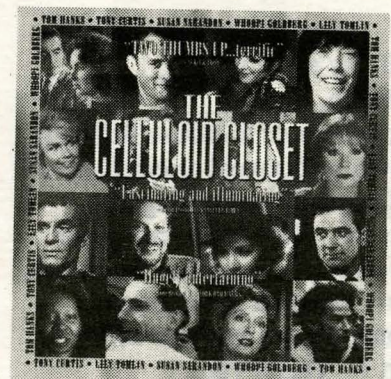
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News From The Granite State

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.

Det. Bob Green shared McGonigle's dislike of him "because of his outside social activities," Nadeau said.

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 police officer may be terminated for any or no reason, while 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, elevating 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.

House Bill 421

House Bill 421, like the law it amends, is about nothing more than three particular kinds of discrimination (jobs, housing, and public accommodations) in the government and commercial sectors. HB 421 will change only a few words in existing New Hampshire law. Right now, NH laws do not protect citizens from discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation. HB 421 just adds prohibition of discrimination based on sexual orientation to the state's existing laws against discrimination.

This bill adds only three things:

1 - It adds the term sexual orientation to the existing list of prohibited grounds for discrimination against state employees and in employment, housing, and public accommodation. This would include it with sex, race, creed, color,

marital status, familial status, physical or mental handicap, or national origin.

2 - It defines "sexual orientation" in a way that applies equally to heterosexual, homosexual and bisexual orientations and excludes and inclinations to unlawful activity.

3 - It keeps, and relies on, the existing procedures and exemptions so that rights of private association, property, and religious conscience will remain protected by the historic exemptions already built into existing New Hampshire law.

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/>

Female Student victim of vicious hate crime

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 beating. 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 Pich, 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 left 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/>

What Should I say when I contact my Senator?

Hi, my name is _____, and I live in _____. I am calling in regards to House Bill 421, which will add sexual orientation to New Hampshire's Civil Rights Legislation. This bill is important to me since it will end discrimination and provide equal protection to everyone. I hope that you will support it. Thank you.

SOME THINGS TO REMEMBER

- * Always be polite.
- * Thank the Senator for their time, even if they disagree.
- * Never get angry or threatening in your call or letter.

* If they have questions or concerns, answer to the best of your ability (but you don't have to know all the answers).

* Discrimination is always wrong.

* Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation exists in New Hampshire.

* HB 421 will provide equal protection for everyone.

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/>

Coalition to End Discrimination

The Coalition to End Discrimination is organizing A Lobby Day on Tuesday May 6 (time and date to be determined). Sue Hyde, from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, will work with us to explain the most effective way to talk to our Senators, and explain why we feel HB 421 is so important. In the afternoon, we will meet with our Senators, then come back to meet as a group and talk about how our meetings went. This is a very effective method of getting lawmakers

to hear us. We need to have constituents from as many districts as possible. If you want to be part of Lobby Day, please contact Mo at 603-224-1686. We need to know how many people will be attending, so that we can get a big enough room to meet in.

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 03302-0730. 603-224-1686. Visit our homepage at <http://members@aol.com/caglr/>

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 glbt 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-setup work from last time could be used again with only minor changes. But there still is 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 from 6-9 pm. Although details are still being worked out, events will include a march, speakers, and entertainment. Check out upcoming issues of Breathing Space for more information.

Reasons for Hope

by The AIDS Writers Group
Damage Control

There is much confusion about what happens inside the bodies of people with HIV before they develop AIDS. In the early 1980's when AIDS was first encountered, it was seen as a collection of diseases that were occurring in people whose immune system was seriously damaged. It was several years before it was discovered that a virus, now known as HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), caused this damage. Had researchers understood in the beginning what they know now, there would be no 'syndrome' known as AIDS; instead it would be referred to as the late stages of HIV disease. As tests showed that people with HIV appeared healthy for years before the diseases now known as 'opportunistic infections' began, it was believed that HIV stayed in the body for years doing little, in what was called the latent stage. There seemed to be no reason to treat a virus that clinicians believed was dormant.

In recent years researchers have discovered that there is no latent stage, and that the virus begins damaging the immune system earlier than was first thought. When HIV first enters the body it reproduces at an astounding rate. The immune system recognizes the threat, and fights back. That first fight sometimes causes flu-like symptoms, and the immune system's response is amazingly successful at reducing the amount of virus in the body. Actually, this immune system response against the virus is more powerful than any of the strong antiviral combinations now available, but for reasons not completely understood, the immune system doesn't finish the job by eliminating all of the virus. What follows is nothing like the image of HIV quietly lying dormant, to emerge years later as AIDS. Instead what goes on inside the body is like a war of major proportions. The immune system itself becomes the main battlefield in this fight for survival. On the one side of this war, HIV hijacks T-cells and turns them into virus producing factories which produce billions of new viruses every day. On the other side the immune system eliminates huge numbers of viruses, killing its own infected cells in the process.

It is a war that the immune system cannot win on its own. So far there is only one known way for a person with HIV to keep this infection manageable - through help from powerful antiviral therapies. There is, however, debate over when is the best time to start that antiviral treatment. The reason many researchers now believe it is best to start early is their understanding of the hidden damage being done before the immune system is so weak it can't stop opportunistic infections.

The Damage Done

Some of the damage has consequences that are now understood, and some, consequences no one has been able to clearly define. Probably the best known damage caused by HIV is reflected in the slow but consistent reduction in the number of a kind of white blood cell called the T-helper cells (CD4 cells) that for many years was the best way to know one's status. Everyone knew that when CD4 cells fell below 200, people began getting opportunistic infections, but until recently it was not clear what was going on before that time.

HIV reduces the number of CD4 cells, the officers of the immune system's disease fighting army. When they have determined that a germ has

infected a cell, CD4 cells get other cells to fight the germs with antibodies, and another kind of cell called a CD8 cell to kill the infected cells. Therefore, losing CD4 cells impairs the body's ability to fight illnesses. One reason HIV may be so difficult to fight is that it infects these CD4 cells, and the immune system then needs to wipe out many of its own officers.

There are two basic kinds of CD4 cells - those that are programmed to recognize specific invaders (called 'memory cells'), and those that are ready to fight a new illness a person hasn't seen before (called 'naive cells'). Losing too many memory cells leaves the body defenseless to common diseases it has recognized and fought before. Losing too many naive cells leaves the system without a way to fight new diseases. Interestingly, it is the naive cells that fight things like the common cold, since each cold virus is different.

Unfortunately, it seems that if all the particular CD4 cells that recognize a specific invader have been killed, taking antivirals may not bring back those particular cells. Reducing viral load usually increases the number of CD4 cells, but it does not bring back specific memory cells that have already been depleted. And if the naive cells are lost, then the body may never be able to cope with an infection it never saw before, or relearn to fight illnesses it "forgot".

Meanwhile, the CD8 cells that like soldiers do much of the killing of enemy infected cells, do not work as well as HIV infection progresses. It may be the lack of the CD4 cells, the officers to give them the orders to kill. In addition there is evidence that HIV directly infects and kills CD8 cells. Another possibility is that the CD8 cells are reproducing so often that they prematurely age and begin to resemble the cells of an elderly person. Whatever the cause of the problem, it is clear that without effective CD8 cells, or effective antivirals to keep the virus at bay, continued deterioration of the immune system is assured.

The great battles between these immune cells and the virus take place in the lymph system where most T-cells are housed. As HIV gains the upper hand, the architecture of the system is slowly destroyed. We know that cancer patients who receive radiation therapy have similar damage, and it makes them more likely to get other infections. Other casualties to the virus are the spleen, which in part helps filter out infections, and the thymus.

Finally, with so much going on, many researchers feel that HIV begins to disrupt the communication between the immune cells. The immune system communicates through chemical messengers, which can be disrupted by HIV. The result is that cells respond ineffectively.

At the same time that the immune system weakens, the virus itself multiplies faster and infects new types of cells. Eventually the virus is able to enter cells with ease, by using entrances (receptors) not available to it earlier. In addition, because the virus is not always exact when it makes copies of itself, there are a lot of different variations that continue to develop. The cells which are set to look for and kill HIV, may not recognize all of these variations as the virus it is supposed to hunt down. Therefore the immune system is open to attack even as more of the 'naive' cells are needed to learn to recognize the new variations. These newly trained cells won't be looking for the original variations, making the immune system's response very inefficient.

Stopping the Damage

One way to slow the damage, or at least prevent it from speeding up too much, is to stay healthy. By staying healthy one can prevent infections from invading the body, or at least stop them from gaining a foothold. Adding more infections may lead to further taxing an already overworked immune system. In addition, when the immune system fights infections, it also increases the amount of virus being produced. Staying healthy involves any number of things from watching what you eat, exercising, and getting plenty of rest to making sure that contact is limited with friends who have colds or other infections. It also includes practicing safe-sex, since many infections other than HIV, from Herpes to KS (Kaposi's Sarcoma), are sexually transmitted, and tax the immune system.

If, however, you want to stop the damage, and not just slow it down, you will need to use antiviral medications. Antivirals may stop the continuing damage if they are used together in combinations that reduce the amount of virus in a person to very low levels using the most sensitive viral load tests (meaning they measure as low as 400 or 500 copies). It is hoped, that once drugs get the amount of virus to undetectable levels, it is unlikely to go back up. However, this means taking medicine all the time, on time, and in the right amounts.

Already there is some evidence from people who started antivirals very early in the illness, when they had an immune system fairly intact, that the body can repair the damage caused by HIV. There are a series of tests that determine how well the immune system works. Early results from these tests show that people who start antiviral therapy early can recover the small amounts of immune function they may have lost. But people whose system is more badly damaged before they begin therapy usually do not recover all the way. This does not mean that people with very low levels of CD4 cells should give up, because the majority of people with counts of under 50 have been dramatically helped with powerful antiviral combinations. But if people start very early when little damage is done, it may be possible to avoid the damage altogether. There is even a chance that if used early enough, the virus may be cleared by the body, though tests to determine this will not be completed for a few more years.

Pros and Cons

After this, it would be logical to ask why people don't just take an antiviral combination right away, as soon as they know that they are infected with HIV. One of the reasons to wait is the side effects of the drugs, some of which can be severe. There are those who are early in the disease and want to wait for better drugs, afraid that using the ones we have now might preclude them from using better ones later. And there are people who are simply not ready to take medicines every day on time for the rest of their life. The best argument for waiting is that it is not yet known if taking these powerful drugs for long periods will have serious implications. But even taking this into account, many researchers now believe that the earlier one starts, the better for the health of the body in the long run. The message is simple: There is no latent stage. From the beginning HIV is running rampant and, if it remains untreated, will cause damage which can't be felt or seen. There are now ways to control that damage.

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STAYING ALIVE SEMI ~ FORMAL ~~ AIDS BALL

**When: Friday, May 30, 1997
8:00pm to 12:00pm (Doors open at
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**Where: Maplewood Dance Center
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**Purpose: Raise money for AIDS
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**Tickets are limited, so act quickly.
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Bonny Eagle T Cell Team 700 Saco Road Standish, Maine 04084
The Bonny Eagle T Cell Team is sponsoring an AIDS BALL on May
30, 1997 at The Maplewood Dance Center on Warren Avenue in
Portland. Doors open at 7:30pm and the dance will be held from
8:00pm to 12:00pm. This will be a semi-formal dance, and tickets are
\$8 each. Ages 14 - 19 (or high school students) are allowed. The
theme of the dance is "Staying Alive".

The AIDS BALL promotes AIDS awareness among students and all
the profits of the dance will go towards AIDS research.
Refreshments will be provided. You may not bring your own food or
drinks. Chaperones WILL be present. There will be NO alcohol,
drugs or cigarettes permitted. If anyone is caught smoking or
drinking, they will be asked to leave the dance. There is a limited
amount of tickets available.

For more information about the dance or how to purchase tickets, call
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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 hall 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 Symposium XXII at College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor. And, surprise again! Buoyed by last summer's success, and the warm 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 MLGPA 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 Outright, 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 "Diva 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 have space to sell things), 12 step meetings, drop-ins for differently gendered folks and for bisexuals, a Monday hike up Gorham (easy and spectacular) with 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 out - Helping organize any of those events may lead to you, too, creating something new and wonderful! Judy, Larry, Lin, Rosemarie and Trevor For more info - Gay Times Bar Harbor, P.O. 516, Mt. Desert, ME 04660. 207-244-4062 or lnt@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, Westland Road, Portland Recognition Awards Recipients: Larry Bliss, Cathy Kiddman, Brian Kendall Gay Men's Chorus, MLGPA, Biased Crimes Task Force Drop Me A Line, Holiday Inn by the Bay

Thursday, June 19
PRIDE LiGHTS Concert Congress Square, 8 pm to 9:30 pm Broadcast LIVE on WMPG Hosted by Ashley Nasson Miss 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's Pier Dance (8 pm) Commercial and Franklin Streets Maine State Pier 3 DJ's and a live performance by Lady Chablis, star of "Midnite 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 Gingrinch Rally City Hall

Plaza 11 pm Keynoters: Candice Gingrinch L/G/B/T Parents of So. Maine Parade starts Noon from City 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 Deeves, 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 Student Center, 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

SYMPOSIUM XXIII

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"Come-in-Unity"



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COMEDIENNE EXTRAORDINAIRE

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on the Ocean at Spring Point

Symposium XXIII
will open
a week of festivities
for the
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weekend with the incredible
Southern Maine Pride
Community Festival



URVASHI VAID
ACTIVIST, AUTHOR,
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



BOB SMITH
"FUNNY GAY MALE"

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Limited dorm facilities available.

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

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<input type="checkbox"/>	3: THREE-DAY PACKAGE: EVENTS, NO MEALS OR HOUSING	\$125

Call 207-785-3664 to register by MasterCard/VISA or send your check to:

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*Kate Clinton is
being sponsored by
MLGPA/Above &
Beyond/Symposium
XXIII

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

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 Vaccaro—with dancing until.....

Saturday morning at 9:00 am features our key note 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 workshop 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/

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 1983-1986, 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).

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 to Symposium this year will be the availability of on-site massage throughout the weekend.

Don't be left out—come and join us for this exciting weekend of laughter, playing and learning. This year's registration can be handled, for your convenience, by credit card. There are a limited number of scholarships available for those with limited income situations. We want everyone to be a part of Symposium XXIII. This weekend is, after all, for YOU! For more information, to register, and/or volunteer call 207-785-3664.

Arts & Entertainment

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 its 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 go out for dinner and

dancing.

Among these other activities is fundraising. Everyone works together towards their common goals. Just recently and for the second year in a row, Women in Harmony held a very successful fundraiser at Sisters, "A Night of Kareoke," 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 concerti, 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 Corniles played the hapsichord 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 hapsichord intertwined by 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 violinist for this piece. Mark Rohr, the bass trombonist for the PSO wrote: "It is almost certain that Christian Ludwig 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!

It feels strange to mention the few names above and leave out other soloists in this wonderful treat of an afternoon spent with Bach. Listening to each of the concerti's I felt I had been given a great gift.

All too often, we of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community write and talk as if the only entertainment worth writing and talking about is that which speaks of or to our experience as gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people directly. Give yourself a treat, try some classical music, ballet or theater not speaking directly to your experience as a G/L/B/T person, and see if it somehow doesn't somehow broaden your perspective! One final note Lawrence Golan's CD "Indian Summer", can be purchased at Amadeus Music.

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 nice to see. I 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 returned 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 Mainers are masters! Get out and support Slaid while he is in town, who knows when will return next.



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"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 "1200 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 way, 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 remained 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 as 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 Stochansky (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 an 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 Saliers "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 its 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...)

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.

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 Do Productions.

Mr. Reichert has been performing with the Maine Gay Men's Chorus in the capacity of guest accompanist since 1992 and is very excited and proud to be directing the Pride Concert, scheduled for June 21st at Merrill Auditorium.

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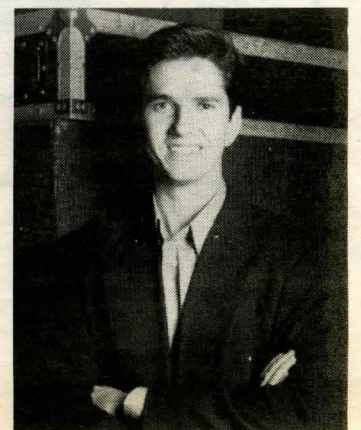
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Seaglass Chorale

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.biddeford.com/~seaglass>

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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 its 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 a formal "dance" role in this ballet, his stage presents was quite dramatic and forceful, bringing an appropriate air of command to the character. Mary Stride gave a lovely performance as Titania, Queen of the Fairies, yet something in her was held back, as if she was not yet able to tap into the core of her emotions to bring them to force in her dance. There was some thirty "elves" played by children who looked between the ages of five to eight. Each time they appeared, one could hear the proud expletives from parents and grandparents.

This performance had its share of local celebrities, Joe Cupo, Portland's channel 6 Meteorologist, played Snug, and Chuck Romanoff of Schooner Fair portrayed Starveling, both members of a traveling players group which brought great fun and slap-stick to the effort. In fact, 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, 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 conferees 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-alongs, 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, typically there are workshop offerings on such subjects as mediation, 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 5 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

*babe**

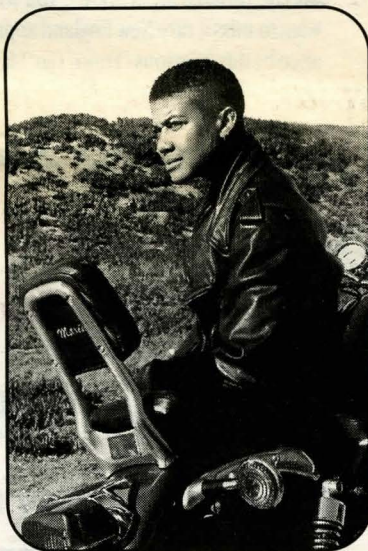


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'Ellen's' Awakening comes with first Heartbreak

by David Bauser

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

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

DeGeneres' 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 college buddy. Her impatient friends, hoping to get her out of the bathroom, tell her to "quit jerking us around" and "come out already."

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

Ellen reminisces over dinner with her friend and his colleague,

Susan, played by actress Laura Dern. The friend, played by Steven Eckholdt, later makes a pass at Ellen in his hotel room. She rejects him.

She runs into Dern's character, Susan, and retreats 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 ... 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 I just say the truth and be who I am? I'm 35 years old and I'm so afraid to tell people. Susan ..."

She leans forward and inadvertently switches on a public address microphone at the airport ticket counter. "I'm gay," Ellen says over the loudspeaker.

As the studio audience cheers, Susan hugs Ellen. "How did that feel?" Susan asks.

"That felt great," Ellen says. "That felt so great."

Ellen's conflicted feelings, expressed to Winfrey's character, seem poignant when DeGeneres' own personal odyssey is recalled. When Ellen talks about her reluctance to give up a "normal" life with a house surrounded by a picket fence, Winfrey gently reminds her that she can have those things with a woman, too.

Many of the guest stars appear in a supermarket dream sequence in which Ellen imagines that everyone who sees her knows she's gay — lang winks from behind a checkout line advertising "10 lesbians or less."

Later, Ellen is crushed when Susan rejects her by saying she's involved in an eight-year relationship. Her friends take her to a lesbian coffee-house — lang is singing — to cheer her up.

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

Support Oprah Winfrey

Folks, a simple e-mail of SUPPORT is all that is needed; or if you prefer, a FAX or letter. C'mon, let's all put together a quick paragraph or two and tell Oprah thanks!

SPECIAL GLAAD Alert UPDATE: Oprah Needs Emergency Support GLAAD has learned that Oprah Winfrey still needs your support! Over the past week, she has received an overwhelming amount of mail criticizing her for appearing on the history making coming out Ellen episode. Please let Oprah know how much you appreciate her history of strong support for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. Contact: Oprah Winfrey, Harpo Studios, 110 N. Carpenter Road, Chicago, Illinois 60607-2146, fax: 312.633.1976 e-mail: harpo@interaccess.comd

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", "Shimoni'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.

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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 request is that you do not send us something that has

appeared, or will appear, in a similar anthology like "HEROTICA" or BEST AMERICAN EROTICA". 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/e-mail 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 Taormino, Best Lesbian Erotica 98, PO Box 4108 Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. Call 718-486-6966. Fax 718-486-5736. E-mail: TristanOut@aol.com (Manuscripts sent to Cleis Press will not be forwarded or returned).

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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 porno 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! Stationing plainclothes police inside the Fine Arts is like sending under-cover vegetarians to a meat-packers 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? Uh, don't think so. Were people in the theater filing complaints in droves about being compelled to watch sex acts happening around 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. (Lest 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 sexual acts go on outside in front of the theater. Nor will closure protect legions

of the innocent from being fondled against their will inside the theater; entry to the theater is a voluntary act, requiring purchase of a rather expensive ticket and observance of an etiquette which, among other things, dictates that tight-assed prudes be left alone. It is very rare that a non-receptive person is approached for sex and, if they are, a simple shake of the head, turning away, or walking to another spot is all it takes to "just say no."

The logic used to justify closure of the Fine Arts could easily be extended to establishments like Mark's ShowPlace. I'm sure you could find some folks to send there "under-cover" who would find the goings-on offensive. After all, they might think, what kind of perverts want to eat and drink while women walk around and expose their breasts?! And, with the attendant severe prohibitions against sexual acts at Mark's, observers might actually think Mark's was some sort of bizarre torture chamber where people are repeatedly exposed to sexually arousing subject matter, but not permitted to react.

My own method for dealing with negative feelings about places like Mark's is simple: I just don't go there — an approach I highly recommend to Mike Chitwood and his officers with respect to all venues where people are doing their own thing and not compelling anyone else to participate. In short, Mike, get out of my sex life!

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 the television episode when everyone's favorite lesbian character, Ellen Morgan opens her closet door on April 30. I continue to think about the bravery of hundreds of gay men and lesbians in dozens of states who have stood firm and proud for a long time. They have been "stars" of their state and local movement for equal rights.

These activists have continued their hard work to resist an onslaught of anti-gay bills introduced in state legislatures around the country. With attacks ranging from bans on sodomy to bans on same-gender marriage, the Right has once again forced us to put much of our energy into defensive actions.

However, there is a ray of light out of the darkness. At the same time that some state activists have been resisting a record number of anti-gay bills, many have seen a record number of bills introduced that would benefit the gay, lesbian, bisexual and

transgendered communities.

While much of the legislation this year is a repeat of previous years, new to the effort to both fight hostile measures and win measures securing basic civil rights for gays is a newly formed network of Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered (LGBT) statewide political groups.

The Federation of statewide groups was formed in November, 1996 at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Creating Change Conference in a move to bolster efforts by individual state groups and simultaneously create a more unified national strategy for securing the rights of LGBT people. The Federation is being spearheaded with the assistance of NGLTF.

The Federation of LGBT statewide groups marks a new level of organizing and activism in the struggle for LGBT equality. I am proud that NGLTF is playing such a central role in this historic unification of our movement. Through conference calls by region and topic, the distribution of talking points on a variety of subjects, 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 our real role models. These individuals work every day for a time when all of the Ellen Morgans of the world can live in a free and affirming society.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force 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.

Capital Gains is a new monthly column that will discuss or give commentary on national and state-level political events or provide a behind-the-scenes look at social movements and trends. The column is written

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 non-insiders. I also inferred from the article that the author may believe that if one gay 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 Rodney 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 had seen what wonderful work David can do when I was in the Legislature and he worked very closely with me and others on the Anti-(gay) Discrimination bill. I can honestly say that, without David's tireless work, I don't know that we would have seen the bill pass both houses of the legislature that year. As I have watched him campaign for this City Council seat, I have become even more impressed with his ability to articulate complex issues, his creative problem solving and the depth of his knowledge about all kinds of subjects, especially issues that impact District Two.

I think that David will be an exciting City Councilor. He has an unusually specific and substantive list of goals for his first term, including

bringing curbside recycling and a municipal version of the State's circuit breaker for property tax relief to Portland. His outstanding efforts in the recent fight to have Mercy Hospital included in the Maine Medical/Blue Cross merger and to keep those institutions operating as non-profits were credited by many as being an important part of that successful campaign.

I do not agree at all with Michael Rossetti's opinion in the last CPR that the candidacies of Kate Neal or Karen Garehty are part of some larger plot against David Garrity. As often happens in primaries, a municipal election can produce candidates who present their mutual friends with emotionally hard choices. As a community, however, we could be also grateful that there is more than one candidate who is gay or lesbian to choose from and view it as a sign of growing political activism in our community. Susan Farnsworth

Dear Folks,

Over the last several years of working with Karen Garehty 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 had considerable reaction to my piece, and education.

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

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 precinct and City issues and that's the bottom line for me.

The whole issue of two candidates from the gay 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 piece that should benefit all of us. We are just now seeing the ill affects of sitting dumb 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 all 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 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.

Thank you,
Michael Rossetti

Community Pride Reporter

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Our Mission

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

Our Editorial Policy

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

Submissions Welcome

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

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

Community Pride Resources

03302-0730.

ML/GPA

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

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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

Northern Lambda Nord

an educational, informational, social, and service organization serving lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people in northern Maine and New Brunswick. Meetings are 2nd Sunday of every month at 1 pm (ME), 2 pm (NB), at the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 S. Main St., Caribou. FMI write NLN, PO Box 990, Caribou, ME 04736-0990. The Phoneline is staffed every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7-9 pm. Call 207-498-2088 or 1-800-468-2088

The Matlovich Society

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

National Association of Social Workers, ME.

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

Hate Crimes & Bias Incidents:

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

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

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

The Rainbow Business & Professional Association

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

Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights

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

Identity Support

New Hampshire P-FLAG Meetings:

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

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

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

Maine P-FLAG Meetings

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

Brunswick/Bath: Brunswick-Bath Chapter of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) meets on the last Thursday of each month at 7pm in the room across from the library, Mid-Coast Hospital, Brunswick. Please use the back door from the back parking lot. FMI call 207-729-0519.

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

Women's Center

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

NA: Just for Today

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

Out and About

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

Out Among Friends

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

Am Chofshi

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

Exeter Congregational Church

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

Lesbian/Gay Catholics

The organization Dignity/Maine offers supportive Masses for lgbt Catholics & their friends/families. Meets every Sunday at 6:00 pm in St. Lukes Cathedral, side chapel, 143 State St., Portland. Coffee & dessert after the liturgy. FMI call Rosemary or Janet: 207-646-2820 or Laurie: 207-878-0546 or write: Dignity/Maine, POB 8113, Portland 04104. All replies kept confidential.

The Appollo Society

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

Community of Hope

A Christian congregation which claims a primary ministry with gay and lesbian people and strives to be inclusive of all persons. Worship on Saturdays at 4:00 PM at Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI write Community of Hope. POB 1671, Portland, ME 041014.

Central Maine Gay Men's Support Group

We provide a safe place to discuss issues going on in our lives or just to be with people in a safe non-alcoholic environment.

FMI call 207-621-1888 or 207-621-4254.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Discussion Group

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

Support Group—Penobscot & Surrounding Counties

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

Q-Squad

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

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

TransSupport

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

Gender Talk North

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

Trans Counseling

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

Maine Bisexual People's Network

Meets as a part of Bisexual Discussion & Support Group (see listing below). For counseling &/or other bi support, write: PO Box 10818, Portland, ME, 04104-6818

Bisexual Discussion & Support Group

Discussion and support group for women and men. Meets 1st & 3rd Wednesdays monthly, 7:30-9pm in room 1,

Payson Smith Hall, Falmouth st., University of So. ME, Portland. Open to non-students and students of all ages.

FMI Fax: SHOLMES@maine.maine.edu. or Call 780-3757(private voice mail)

Polyamorous Life Support (PALS)

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

Prisoners of Gender

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

Lesbian/Bisexual Support Group

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

Dover, NH

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

eves.

Lewiston/Auburn

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

Bangor Lesbian Support Group

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

Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center

334 Harlow St., Bangor. FMI: call 207-947-5337. S.N.A.P.

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

DEGLO (Down East Gay & Lesbian Org.)

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

Maine Gender Resource & Support Service

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

All Maine Transgender

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

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Parents Group

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

Mothers and Kids Group

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

Maine AIDs Alliance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Merrymeeting AIDS Support Service: PO Box 57, Brunswick, ME 04011. Call 207-725-4955.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Medical Support

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England

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

FREE FAMILY THERAPY

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

Teen Life Center

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

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic

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

Coping with Caregiving

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

Breast self-exam classes

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

Youth Support

OUTRIGHT

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

Outright Too: Supportive, informative and social meetings for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and questioning youth age 22 and under. Safe place for questions, growth, and fun. Held twice monthly. FMI call 207-990-3626, Shawn or 5 Shannetta

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

Portland: Meets every Fri., 7:30-9:30 pm, The People's Building, 155 Brackett St.,

2nd floor, Portland. Safe & supportive discussions with and for gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning young people. FMI call 774-TALK, or 774-HELP or write to P.O. Box 5077, Portland, ME. 04101.

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

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

Monadnock: Meets every Thurs., 7-9 pm at "The Place To Go", 46 Concord St. (Rt. 202 N), Peterborough, 603/547-2545.

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

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

COLAGE

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

THE MAINE YOUTH PROTECTION COUNCIL

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

HIV Related Support Meetings

Portland:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Family and Friends Accepting Change Together (FFACT), a support group sponsored by Northern Maine AIDS Network for friends, families &

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

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

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

Children's Support Group: Fun activities and outings for children who are affected by HIV/AIDS. Meetings are held twice monthly on Mondays 3:30pm-5:00pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, Park St., behind City Hall in Bangor. FMI call 207-990-3626.

Women's Support Group: Women living with HIV, meets the last Wednesday of each month 10:45am-12:00pm. Call 207-990-3626.

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

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

Farmington: Thursdays: 6:30-8:30 pm. HIV+ support group. Call Christie Foster at Tri-County Health Services, 778-4553, for location.

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

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

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

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

New Hampshire:

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

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

Keene: Support group for HIV positive people

and those living with AIDS meets alternate Mon. 6:30 pm. For details call Schultz, 603-357-5270.

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

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

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

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

Peterborough: Support group for family, partners and friends whose lives have been affected by HIV/AIDS meets Tues. at noon. Call Maria Rosario-603-924-7191, ext. 1126 for details. **Winnepesaukee Region:** HIV/AIDS support group meets Wednesdays from 7-9 pm at Lakes Region General Hospital. FMI call Wayne at 603-524-3211 ext 3900.

Phone Support By Region

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

Man 2 Man hotline: Providing HIV/AIDS information, and referrals for identity and emotional support services. Staffed Mon-Fri. 8:30-4:30. Call 207-990-2095 or in Maine 1-800-429-1481.

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

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

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

HIV-AIDS Prevention Project: Staffed Monday,

Wednesday, and Friday from 7-9 pm. Call 207-498-2088 or (Maine) 800-468-2088

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

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

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

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

Bangor: Eastern Maine AIDS Network: 990-3626

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

Belfast: Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: 338-1427
Brunswick: Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services: 725-4995

Bridgton: Community Task Force on AIDS: 583-6608
Rumford: Community AIDS Awareness Program: 823-4170

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

Waterville: Dayspring: 626-3435

Elsworth: Down East AIDS Network: 667-3506

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

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

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

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

*Dover-Foxcroft: 564-7986 - Sharon

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

*Lewiston/Auburn: 783-6964 - Estelle

*Portland: Rita, 766-5158 or Sue, 774-3441
Waldoboro: Sue - 832-5859

CONTACTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

P-FLAG NH 24 hour Helpline: 603-623-6023

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

Concord: Judy, 603/485-3943

Webster: Betsy, 603/746-3818

Nashua: Nancy, 603/880-8709

Kensington: Nora/John, 603/772-3893

Stratham: Betty, 603/772-5196

Francetown: Cy/Gordon, 603/547-2545

Holderness: Olivia, 603/968-7254

Rumney: Ann, 603/786-9812

Center Sandwich: Tish, 603/284-6434

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

MUSIC & ART

Women In Harmony

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

Maine Gay Men's Chorus

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

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

Online/Internet

The Maine GayNet Mail List

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

The Maine GayNet Home Page

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

San Francisco Gay/Lesbian Tourism Guide

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

Social Groups

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

May Calendar of Events

May 1 - 4

"ANERCA" at Portland Stage Company, 25A Forest Ave., Portland ME. Tickets \$9-\$18. FMI: (207)774-1043

through May 24

Seacoast Repertory Theatre presents "The Sound of Music" Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at 8 PM and Sundays at 3 PM, as well as three Saturday 4 PM matinees. Tickets \$15-\$19. 125 Bow St., Portsmouth NH. FMI (603)433-4472 or (800)639-7650

through May 24

Seacoast Repertory Youth Theatre presents "The Prince and the Pauper," Saturdays and Sundays at 1 PM. Tickets \$5. For tickets or more information, call (603)433-4472 or (800)639-7650.

through June 8

Artist Richard Garrigus' Intervals on view at Coffee By Design, 620 Congress St., Portland ME. FMI (207)772-5533.

May 8 - 25

8 PM Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and 5 PM Sundays. "Cross Dressing in the Depression" at Oak Street Theatre. Tickets \$12/\$10 (students and seniors); \$6 on Thursday nights. FMI (207)775-5103

May 14 - June

18 6:30 - 8:30 PM (Wednesdays) - Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance sponsors six-week fiction writing workshop with Dianne Benedict at MWP office, 12 Pleasant St., Brunswick ME. Cost is \$90/\$120. Enrollment is limited to 15. To register or FMI call (207)729-6333.

May 30 - June 1

Gay Men's Retreat (open to all gay and bisexual men age 18 years and older) at Rockcraft Lodge in East Sebago. Space is limited to 30. Cost is \$30 for entire weekend. Register by May 16: GMR, PO Box 7977, Lewiston ME 04243-7977. FMI: Sean Douglas (207)786-4697

May 1 6

8 PM - Artist's reception (open to the public) for opening of Richard Garrigus' Intervals at Coffee By Design, 620 Congress St., Portland ME. FMI (207)772-5533.

May 1

Noon - "Are You Man Enough To Stop?" - a community rally for domestic violence prevention. Monument Square, Congress St., Portland ME. [Rain location: First Parish Church, 425 Congress St.]. FMI (207)874-8784

May 2

4 PM - City of Portland hosts a grande parade down Congress Street as part of a regional celebration of the arts and to kick-off of the City Hall Merrill Auditorium. FMI (207)874-8683

May 3

4 PM - Metropolitan Community Church of Portland celebrates worship with Shelia Rawls, MCC District Coordinator. Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland ME. FMI (207)775-6684 ext. 32.

May 3

10 AM - 4 PM - Show and sale of fine crafts and artwork at Trinity Episcopal Church, Forest Ave. & Coyle St., Portland ME. \$2 donation at the door will benefit Maine Therapeutic Riding, a nonprofit organization providing horseback riding to specially challenged individuals as therapy and recreation. FMI call (207) 941-8689.

May 4

2 - 4 PM - Downeast Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teachers' Network meeting at the Downeast AIDS Network, 114 State St., Ellsworth ME. New members welcome. FMI (207)667-2358.

6 PM - Candlelight March and Memorial for the Names Project. Monument Square to St. Luke's Cathedral, Portland ME. Bring your own candle. FMI (207)774-2198

1 PM - AIDS Walk—five-mile or two-mile routes, starting at the office of the AIDS Coalition of Lewiston-Auburn, 4 Lafayette St., Lewiston. FMI (207)786-4697

May 7

7 PM - Mercy Hospital's Living Lecture Series presents "Oh, My Aching Head!" by Dr. Lauren Johnson. Ramada Inn, 1230 Congress St., Portland ME. FMI (207)879-3486.

May 8

7:30 - 9 PM - Matlovich Society presents "Women First," a local community coalition of health, women's and senior services agencies dedicated to increasing awareness of breast and cervical health by early detection screenings. Presentation by Nina Mollicone, Lesbian Peer Educator. Find out how women over 50 with limited incomes can qualify for free screenings. Program coordinator Martha Clancy will also be on hand to answer questions. Holiday Inn y the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland ME. FMI (207)773-8308.

6:30 PM - Monthly meeting of Northern Lambda Nord at Community Center

May 10

8 PM - 1 AM - Spring Bash/Karaoke Dance with Northern Lambda Nord at the Presque Isle Snowmobile Club. BYOB. \$5/\$7 (Help decorate 11 AM - 1 PM)

8 PM - Women in Harmony's spring concert "Madrigals, Musings, Messages," at Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland ME. Tickets (available at Amadeus Music, Drop Me a Line, Macbeans Music) are \$10/\$8 for seniors and students. FMI (207)878-5981

10 AM - 3 PM - Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance sponsors poetry workshop with Peter Harris at Brewer Middle School, 5 Somerset St., Brewer ME. Cost is \$45/\$65. Enrollment limited to 12. To register or FMI call (207)729-6333

10 AM - noon - Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance holds used book sale: all books \$1 or less. 12 Pleasant St., Brunswick ME. FMI (207)729-6333

12 - 4 PM - Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance sponsors short story writing workshop with Monica Wood at Portland Public Library, room 419. Cost is \$35/\$55. Enrollment is limited to 15. To register or FMI call (207)729-6333

May 11

4 PM - Metropolitan Community Church of Portland joins with MCC/Augusta-Northern Lights for worship. 2.3 miles from Cony circle on Rt. 201, Augusta ME. FMI (207)453-9750

May 12

6:30 PM - GLSTN/Southern Maine presents Joni Foster, HIV Education Coordinator, Maine Department of Education—"Serving Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Youth: Challenges for the Future" at Waynflete School Library, 64 Emery St., Portland ME. Educators and community members are welcome to attend GLSTN/Southern Maine meetings. FMI call Betsy at (207)773-9547

May 13

Chris Williamson and Tret Fure in concert at Left Bank Cafe, Blue Hill ME. FMI (207)374-2201

May 14

Chris Williamson and Tret Fure in concert at Jonathan's, Ogunquit ME. FMI (207)646-4777

May 15

5:30 - 7:30 PM - The Breast Health Resource Center at Mercy Hospital offers free breast self-exam classes. Mercy Hospital, 144 State St. (5th floor), Portland ME. FMI (207)879-3486.

May 16

7 PM - Help fold and stuff newsletter and calendar plus Open House with Northern Lambda Nord. Community Center.

May 17

10 AM - 3 PM - Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance sponsors "Making Books Happen," a workshop led by Susan Ransom at Portland Public Library, Congress St. Cost is \$45/\$65. FMI (207)729-6333 or to register. Enrollment limited to 15.

10 AM - 3 PM - Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance sponsors children's book workshop led by Lisa Jahn-Clough. 12 Pleasant St., Brunswick ME. Cost is \$45/\$65. Enrollment limited to 15. To register or FMI call (207)729-6333

May 21

6 - 8 PM - Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance sponsors presentation about suspense thrillers with best-selling author Tess Gerritsen at the Lithgow Public Library, Winthrop St., Augusta ME. Tickets \$10/\$20- available in advance or at the door. FMI (207)729-6333.

May 22

7:30 - 9 PM - Matlovich Society presents "Let's Get Beyond 'Hello, my name is...'" This program will give us a chance to get to meet some new people, get reacquainted with old friends, and begin to strengthen our ties as a community. Bring your friends and be sure to wear comfortable clothes—we're gonna move around a lot and sit on the floor. Be prepared to have a good time. Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland ME. FMI (207)773-8308.

Beginning of 10-week domestic violence personal education group in the Bangor area, offered by Spruce Run. Enrollment is limited. FMI (207)945-5102 or (800)863-9909

May 23

SAY IT (State Alliance for Youth Interactive Theater) Spring Conference sponsored by Artists for AIDS Awareness at University of Maine-Presque Isle. FMI (207)768-3056

May 31

5 PM - Annual general membership meeting with Northern Lambda Nord, followed by potluck and then a 50s sock hop. BYOB and food to share.

Coming in June

June 3 Second New England Transgender Health Conference at Hynes Conference Center, Boston MA. FMI: (616)227-6216

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 Heidi's. Bring a game, a friend, something to munch on, or all three. Call (617)782-4235 or email js@aq.org for directions.

4 (Sunday) 7-9pm — Bi Space A friendly discussion 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. BiSpace is at the Bisexual Resource Center at 29 Stanhope St. in Boston.

6 (Tuesday) 7-9pm — International Conference Planning This will be the 5th International Conference on Bisexuality and the first to be held in Boston. Come and contribute whatever time you can to making this the best conference yet. The meeting will be held at the Bisexual Resource Center at 29 Stanhope St. in Boston.

7 (Wednesday) 7-9pm — Coming Out as Bisexual (see April 2nd)

9 (Friday) 7:30pm — Bi Coffee-house Meet at The Casual Cup, at 1362 Beacon Street, in Coolidge Corner, Brookline. A \$5 cover includes \$1.50 toward the first beverage. Nearest T stop is Coolidge Corner, on the C branch of the Green Line.

14 (Wednesday) 7-9pm — Bi-

sexual 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 calendar. Meet at the BRC office, 29 Stanhope St. in Boston.

17 (Saturday) 11am — Saturday Bi Brunch Saturday Brunch will return to a favorite bi brunch location, Johnny D's on Holland St. in Davis Square in Somerville. The Davis stop on the Red Line is just across the street.

20 (Tuesday) 7-9pm — Coming Out as Bisexual (see April 2nd)

25 (Sunday) 1:30 — Sunday Bi Brunch Ethiopian food will be shared at Addis Red Sea, 544 Tremont Street in Boston's South End. Near the Boston Center for the Arts. Nearest T stop is Back Bay on the Orange Line.

27 (Tuesday) 7-8:30pm — Biversity Calendar Mailing If plenty of people help, the mailing only takes an hour, leaving extra time for chocolate delights at Cafe Moka. The mailing will be at the BRC office at 29 Stanhope St. in Boston.

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/ Transgender/Awareness month April 30 - May 14, 1997

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, April 30 CEL-EBRATION KICK-OFF Yep, I'm Gay: Ellen Degeneres Coming Out Party! Host: Women's Commission & OMSA Lumpy's and Games Room 7:00 PM - 9:00 P.M. - FREE Viewing of Ellen Degeneres Show on the Big Screen in MUB II. 9:00 P.M. - 10 P.M. - FREE

Saturday, May 3 Gender Bender Dance Featured Performance by Mizery and Her Girls Live Safe Sex Demonstration at Midnight Host: Alliance and OMSA MUB, Strafford Room 9:00 P.M. - 1:00 PM Free

Monday, May 5 Alliance Meeting Open House MUB, 338 6:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

Wednesday, May 7 Film: Watermelon Woman Host: REEL-OUT Film Series Breathless &

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

Thursday, May 8 Speaker: Robert Bernstein Activist, Columnist, and Author "Straight Parents, Gay Children: Keeping Families Together" Host: Bill Kidder Fund Committee and the Alliance MUB, Room 338-339 7:30 P.M. - Free

Wednesday, May 14 Film: "BOYFRIENDS" A Queer 'Big Chill' of the Nineties Hosted by: Alliance MUB II, 7:30 P.M. \$1.00 ADMISSION

For more information please call Ed Thomas, Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, UNH, Box# 12175 GSS, Durham, NH 03824, (603) 862-2050 or e-mail: eit@christa.unh.edu

Boston Pride May 30 to June 8, 1997

Friday, May 30 Rainbow Flag Raising Boston politicians 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 organization dedicated to building bridges and alliances between the gay and straight communities. The yearly lighting of the 40-foot pine tree at the Boston Center for the Arts in the South End raises money to meet these efforts. This event was first introduced in 1995 and is a truly inspirational occasion — one which "illuminates" and makes our community visible to the city of Boston and surrounding areas. Approximately 1,150 people attended this event last year and attendance is expected to swell to 1,750 this year.

Thursday, June 5 Celebration at the Hatchshell Picture this — 8,000 men and women celebrating at a riverside park: lounging, frolicking, picnicking, and dancing to an evening of entertainment, music, and film. The Hatchshell is located on the Esplanade: a state park on the Charles River. A balmy evening, starry sky, Boston skyline, and sailboats on the basin 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 of 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 culminating 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: BosPride@aol.com

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

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ANONYMOUS HIV TESTING AT THE AIDS PROJECT

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by appointment

775-1267 or 1800-851-2437

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MON.-FRI. 6-9 P.M.

1 (207) 863-2728

Midcoast Maine Gay Men's Help Line

— COLLECT CALLS ACCEPTED. —

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. If you don't have any horseshoes, don't worry some will be provided for you. FMI call (207)774-2403 and leave a message, someone will return your call asap.

Community Pride Reporter

Subscription Form

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

Name: _____

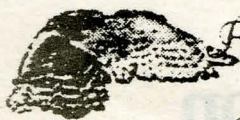
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Phone: _____

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

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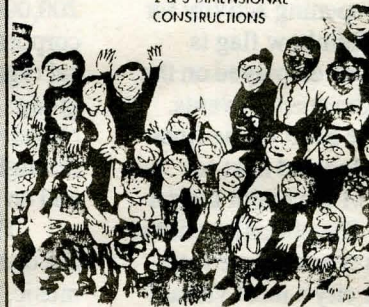
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