Community Pride Reporter, 05/1997

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Gay Rights bill moves to full House and Senate

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) - After winning committee approval, this year's gay rights bills move 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.

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 Windoor 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 bashing 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 wall. 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 be the last time," she 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 Rustein the remaining sister, will be appearing in Portland, with a back up band. The group has a resume that overflows with 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 Stage on June 21.

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

Chris Newcomb has performed with many theater companies including Portland Players, Mad Horse Theater, Oak Street Theater, and Motix 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 a cappella group which will be performing it’s second year at PRIDELIGHTs on Pride-Thursday. Their range of material is from jazz renditions to old gospels, always lively and upbeat, delivered with the precision of staccato surgeons. They are a favorite at the Old Port festival and are extremely gay friendly and on target with gay/bi/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 Deese 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 raucous and sweetly touching instruments at PRIDELIGHT’s live broadcast on Pride Thursday, June 19.

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

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

Be forewarned 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.

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

Northern Lights MCC of Augusta, ME
4:00 pm Saturday, Communion each week
2.5 miles from Cony circle on Rt. 201
FMI: Bill at 207.775-6684 ext #32

Circle of Hope MCC of Portland, ME
4:00 pm Sunday, Commission each week
Immanuel Baptist, 106 High Street
FMI: 207.775-6684 ext #32

Interpreted for the hearing impaired.

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

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

Compared to Portland’s festival which has been increasingly successful, Bangor’s has been decreasing in attendance. Last year’s event was cut short. The festival was reduced to tables at the local bar and dancing endless strains of the 19th century.

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 passing up organizing this year’s Bangor Pride.

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 gay/bi/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 courageous enough to live 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 Campbellasso Island. As much can be learned from her living as from her dying, 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

Lesbian Health Study

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

If you are:

Between the ages of 30 - 50 Pre-menopausal, regular menstrual periods Without serious disease

Able to complete a 30 minute visit (health questionnaire, heel ultrasound — painless, quick, easy)

Interested in participating in valuable research on the lesbian population

Excited about making history with the first medical research on lesbians in Maine

please call 1-800-839-8311

ask for Christine or Barbara to schedule an appointment in Portland or Bangor

Questions? Call Tania Hathaway, Coordinator, Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine (207) 657-5864
Clinton Backs measure outlawing job bias

WASHINGTON (AP) President Clinton said Wednesday that Congress should pass legislation that would outlaw employment discrimination against homosexuals, Clinton held a closed-hall 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 legal redress. In many states law has other rules that extend to homosexuals job protections similar to those offered on the basis of sex, age, race, religion or gender.

Clinton said in a statement.

apparintion 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 Larry Obel, Executive Director of NGLTF. “The Task Force calls upon the President 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 for full funding for AIDS research, prevention, health care and housing initiatives,” she announced. “We also urge the President 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 Larry Obel.

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

Thurman appointed AIDS Czar

Washington, D.C. 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 AIDS Atlanta, a community based organiza­tion providing health and support services to people with HIV/AIDS. In that capacity, she helps develop and implement 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 Larry Obel, Executive Director of NGLTF. “The Task Force calls upon the President 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 for full funding for AIDS research, prevention, health care and housing initiatives,” she announced. “We also urge the President 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 Larry Obel.

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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 transform the lives of women and men who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender movement at the state level while connecting these activities to a national vision for change.

Anti Affirmative Action

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.

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Co-founder who also described him as dysfunctional behavior, because of his perceptions of homosexuality and gay people.

"The Heaven's Gate incident is a reflection of the distrust that followed in cult leaders," Lobel concluded. “To use this incident to perpetuate the wholesale scapegoating of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people is unacceptable and will not be tolerated,” she said.
**GLSTN**

Joni Foster, HIV Education Coordinator for the Maine Department of Education, will speak at the May 12 meeting of the Southern Maine Chapter of the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Teachers’ Network (GLSTN/Southern Maine). Ms Foster will address changing trends and needs among gay/bi youth. The meeting will be held at the Waynflete School Library, 64 Emery St. (entrance in back), Portland ME. The meeting will begin at 6:30, with Foster speaking at 7:15. For further information, call Betsy Smith at (207)773-9547. All educators and community members are welcome at meetings of GLSTN/Southern Maine, an area chapter of the national GLSTN organization. GLSTN brings together gay and straight educators and community members who work to end homophobia in schools and to make schools safe for gay youth and teachers. GLSTN/Southern Maine meets the second Monday of each month in the library at Waynflete School at 6:30 PM.

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**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.

“Attachers 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.

“This is one way to 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 Mum,” “Belinda’s Bouquet,” and “One Dad, Two Dads, Brown Dad, Blue Dad” — were written for kindergarten and first-grade students. They all feature same-sex parents as a backdrop to a children’s story.

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

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.”

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**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.

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**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.”
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. 603-224-1868. 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 police, 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.

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. 603-224-1868. 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, form 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 603-224-1868. We need to know how many people will be attending, so that we can get a big enough room to meet in.

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Help Pass HB 421

If HB 421 is to pass, CED needs to focus its energies on the coming month and is hopeful that an additional $6,000 in the coming month is possible, if we want to get this bill passed. Money was very positive, but as the campaign drags into May, expenses if we want to get this bill passed. Thank you.

This information is provided by NH Citizen's Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights, PO Box 730, Concord, NH 03302-0730. Thank you.

The Gay Info Line of NH

The Gay Info Line is ready to start work on Gay Lifeline 2, our second directory of resources for and by the gay community and is hoping to find editors and helpers in both VT and ME. We think our coverage of those states as “NH border areas” should be expanded to fully cover all three NNE states. I don’t foresee any problem getting a grant to cover the increased mailing and publishing costs, and all the layout and database-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. Although details are still being worked out, details will include a march, speakers, and entertainment. Check out upcoming issues of Breathing Space for more information.

Reasons for Hope

One way to slow the damage, or at least reduce its impact, is to take more healthy steps. While it is much, is to stay healthy. By staying healthy one can prevent infections from taking hold, and wait longer from getting a foothold. Adding more infections may lead to further taxing an already damaged immune system. In addition, when the immune system fights infections, it also increases the amount of virus the body can carry. This can involve any number of things from working what you eat, exercising, and reducing the amount of stress you put on your body by getting enough rest.

The AIDS Writers Group

There is much confusion about what happens inside the bodies of people with HIV. One of the first things to happen in early 1980’s when AIDS was first encountered, was seen as a collection of elements in the immune system whose whole immune system was seriously damaged. It was several years before it was discovered that one such element was what now known as HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), caused this damage. Had researchers discovered this element in time, it might have been possible to recognize specific invaders (called “memory cells”), and that are ready to recognize new illness at the beginning stage before it is possible to recognize new illness 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 infections. Interestingly, in the naive cells that fight things like the common cold, since each cold virus is different.

Fortunately, it seems that all the particular CD4 cells that recognize a specific invader have been killed, taking antiviral drugs may not be able to bring back those particular cells. Reducing viral load usually increases the number of CD4 cells, but in some cases HIV may entirely wipe out cells that have already been depleted. And if the naive cells are lost, then the body is no longer able to cope with new infections it never saw before, or relearn to fight illnesses it “forgot”.

Meanwhile, the CD4 cells that like soldiers do much of the killing of infected cells, do not work as well with HIV. It even affects 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 immune 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 shown to improve with antiviral therapy. And there are people who are very well the immune system works.

Pro’s and Cons

After all, this would be logical to ask why people don’t just take an antiviral combination right away, as soon as they know they are infected with HIV. This is not a bad question to ask. People who start antiviral therapy early can recapture the small amounts of immune function they may have lost. But people whose immune 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 shown to improve with antiviral therapy.

One of the reasons to wait is the side effects of the drugs, some of which can be severe. There are those who are in early stages of the disease and want to wait for better drugs. One of the reasons to wait is that the drugs are more effective in treating bathing in the sun and other natural sources of vitamin D.

Eventually the virus begins to become more difficult to fight. The immune system becomes more damaged and cannot fight infections as well. In addition, when the immune system fights infections, it also increases the amount of virus the body can carry. This can involve any number of things from working what you eat, exercising, and reducing the amount of stress you put on your body by getting enough rest.

Taking antiviral drugs may not be able to bring back those particular cells. Reducing viral load usually increases the number of CD4 cells, but in some cases HIV may entirely wipe out cells that have already been depleted. And if the naive cells are lost, then the body is no longer able to cope with new infections it never saw before, or relearn to fight illnesses it “forgot”.
STAYING ALIVE
SEMI ~ FORMAL ~ AIDS BALL
When: Friday, May 30, 1997
8:00pm to 12:00pm (Doors open at 7:30pm)
Where: Maplewood Dance Center
Warren Avenue, Portland
Purpose: Raise money for AIDS research & promote awareness among students.
Dancing ~ Food ~ Drinks ~
ALL ALCOHOL—CIGARETTES—DRUGS PROHIBITED 14 - 19 YEAR OLDS ONLY
Tickets are available for $8 through Natural Helper groups or contact Angie Higley at 727-4750.
Tickets are limited, so act quickly.
~ organized by the Bonny Eagle T Cell Team ~
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 12:00am. There 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 Angie Higley at 727-4750.

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Gay Times Bar Harbor
Imagine a castle by the sea with rainbow banners and balloons everywhere. Imagine rock gardens, wildflowers, a green lawn stretching down to a dock and beach. Imagine a beautiful area under trees to pitch your tent, dorms with fresh flowers, a concert ball with wood everywhere and doors down the side that open for dancing. Surprise! You're really looking at your friend's photographs of last summer's Symposi- 

UXXII 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 commit- 

tee 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 MGLA look as respectable and mainstream as in fact it really is (so most of us did both and then tut-tutted about "those radicals" but how they really did have some good points to make). She also worked tirelessly with Outside, which she helped found. Stories about Elze go on and on, and we would appreciate especially embarrassing ones to use when we introduce her! Del and Phyllis Lyon were two cofounders, in 1955, of "Daughters of Bilitis", the first nationwide Lesbian organization. They co-authored L e s b i an-W om an (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 we 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 night "Gin and Good Cheer" (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 to Bangor. And watch for helping organize any of those events may lead to you, creating something new and wonderful! Judy, Larry, Del and Rosemary Tan. For more info - Gay Times Bar Harbor, P.O. Box 516, Mt. Desert, ME 04660. 207-244-4062 or info@acadia.net

Southern Maine Pride Update
June 18 to June 22

Wednesday, June 18 6:30 to 10 pm - Gay Pride Day Festival. Portland 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 Deoves, rock/blues Miss Maine 1996 Sarah Nadeau sings Bizet Chris Newcomb, the Acapella group Freefall Casco Bay Tumblers (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 UU Church Local exhibit of "Love Makes A Family" Sponsors brunch with Candice Gingrinch Rally City Hall Plaza 11 pm Keynotes: Candice Gingrinch LGBBT Parents of So. Maine Parade starts Noon from City Hall

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Page 8 Community Pride Reporter May 1997
Symposium XXIII

"Come-in-Unity"

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

Sympo­si­um XXIIl.
Portland at the beautiful oceanfront
We are thrilled to be a part of, and kick
being held June 13, 14, 15th in South
College-complete with sand beach!

Friday, June 13; with dinner served that
Southern Maine Pride Community
culminate with the fabulous 4-day
Festival.

8:00 pm with special guest Bob Smith,
President of Comedy! Hold on to your
seats! The show is being produced by
incomparable Kate Clinton—Madame

Above and Beyond, an up and coming
business based in Portland. Together
MLGPA, 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) after-
wards.

Bob Smith is the featured enter-
tainer 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
typical 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/
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
toward the weekend.

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

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 1996 Civil
Rights Leadership Award given by
the Asian American Legal
Defense & Education Fund; and
the 1996 Liberty Award given by
Lambda Legal Defense & Educa-

tion Fund. In 1995, A Magazine,a
national Asian monthly named
her one of the 25 most influential
Asian Americans, and in Decem-
ber 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 Univer-
sity School of Law (1983).

We are approaching the annual
gathering of the lesbian, gay, bisexual
and transgendered community—Sympo-
sium 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; and dinner served that
evening from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. The
GAYLA Comedy Evening begins at
8:00 pm with special guest Bob Smith,
comedian and author, followed by the
incomparable Kate Clinton—Madame
President of Comedy! Hold on to your
seats! The show is being produced by
Diversity has a Beautiful Sound: Women In Harmony

by Angel Castro

Formed about four years ago with a handful of women, Women in Harmony, today, numbers forty-five members strong. The group was 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 Karaoke," to the delight of the singing public.

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

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

Portland Symphony Chamber Orchestra: Bach's Brandenburg Concerti

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

As the concert notes indicate, in the 18th century, composers ate at the servants' table, and did not enjoy the celebrity now afforded them. In any case, poor Bach, a civil servant who wrote music in his spare time, saw this as something akin to a commission, and sat right down to compose. Two years later, he had amassed six concerti, now called the Brandenburg concerti. Unfortunately, the Margrave probably never heard this collection (it probably never got past 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 Golani, the PSO's Concert Master, who has recently recorded a CD of music composed by his father's music teacher, George Pearman was the violin soloist for both Concerti #4 and 5. Ray Comics played the hopscotch and Susan Thomas, the flute for #5. Hearing these three musicians perform together was like experiencing a piece of heaven. Tears came to my eyes as I was transported to another realm by the strings of the hopscotch intertwined 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 violinst 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 piece 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 soloist 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 Gay, Lesbian, or Bisexual person, and see if it somehow doesn't somehow broaden your perspective! One final note: Lawrence Golani'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 race 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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Lyrics by Fred Ebb

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City Theater - 205 Main Street, Biddeford, 282-0849
"The Sun is out over Planet Indigo"

by Aimsel L. Ponti

Indigo Girls are back with the late April release of their sixth studio album, "Shaming of the Sun," which has 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 pin one album against another because each one is so powerful in different ways, and yeah, each one has a few songs on it that don't reach me as much as others. With that said, I can simply say that with this new album has its share of songs on it that remind me of why I became a fan in the first place. Amy Ray's songwriting, and singing intensity have remained constant from day one and the years since the release of their last album, "Shaming of the Sun," has been quite ready for a new batch of songs from the duo.

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 "Sailers" "Get out the Map," which is cut from the same cloth of "Galileo" and "Least Complicated," and that's a good thing.

Track six, "Don't Give That Girl a Gun" is my personal favorite as I will always be partial to Amy Ray's raw intensity. But then, the next track, featuring the piano playing of Emily, "Leeds" is also one of the record's finest with it's stark, honest lyrics. The Girls explore new ground without losing their way. "Shaming of the Sun" will be loved by existing fans and as each album does, will attract new ones. I have no doubt.

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

Tour Dates: With the full band!
Friday, June 6th at Great Woods in Mansfield, MA. (a cool place to see a show in my book).
Thursday, July 22nd also at Great Woods as part of the "Lilith Fair" tour with Sarah McLachlan and Paula Cole (yes, a dream concert...)

"Shaming of the Sun," works so well the follow up to 1994's "Ophelia" in the sense that the Girls continue to experiment musically and lyrically. This time around features mandolins, strings and the back up vocals of Native American vocal ensemble Ulali. Not to mention guest musicians Andy 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 consider one album to be 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.

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 pianist, 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 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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Reserved VIP Tables of 4 are Available for a Contribution of $250
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, 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 Americanica.

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

Maine State Ballet - A Midsummer Nights Dream

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

Lisa Bass, 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, “juvenile” fairy bungles his job of bringing two pairs of human together. Adam Miele brought humor and great talent to his role of Puck, that very same bumbling 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 “elves” played by children who looked between the two, some planned, some spur of the moment, covering such topics as arts and crafts, relationships, massage/body work, and new experiences. There will be lots of time for play and fun, with walks on the beach, porch conversations, storytelling, games, dances and an unforgettable talent show. Music is an integral part of the GAYLA experience and we find many opportunities to sing out - outdoor chapel services, after dinner sing-a-longs, and the talent show.

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

We invite you to join in the fun and experience the GAYLA community in its 19th year! Registration forms and packets can be obtained directly from: Ferry Beach Park Association Morris Avenue; Saco, ME 04072(207) 284-8612.

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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 many opportunities for outdoor activities. There are opportunities for outdoor activities.

Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Maine (GAYLA) is a diverse gathering of up to 130 gay men. Our week together is a time to affirm ourselves, our sexuality, our spirituality, our individuality. It is a time to laugh, cry, hug, kiss, sing, share, experience, grow, remember and reflect. Our conferences offer a variety of workshops, some serious, some fun, some planned, some spur of the moment, covering such topics as arts and crafts, relationships, massage/body work, and new experiences.

For a free catalog of Lesbian & Gay Travel guides, call 1-800-462-6654.

Damaris, The First Name and The Last Word in Gay Travel.
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", "Shimmon's Lover" and "The Sea of Light"; and a short story collection "Love and Death and Other Disasters."

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

EDITORS SEEK WRITERS

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

Both unpublished and previously published material will be considered (provided it was, or will be published in 1997) including short stories, novel excerpts, performance text, and experimental prose. Our concern 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 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, Portland, ME 04104. (Fax: 718-486-5736. E-mail: Tristan@harp.org) Manuscripts sent to Cleis Press will not be forwarded or returned.
Rant: "Vegetarians at a Meat-packer's 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! Starring plainclothes police inside the Fine Arts is like sending undercover vegetarians to a meat-packer's convention. Naturally, the reading public will see this as a negative reaction. The question is whether the public has the 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? Don't be ridiculous! 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. (Lost 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 "Art's 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 outside 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 so, they are, as one had, turned 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 the 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 there. 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 effort 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 state-wide groups marks a new level of organizing and activism in the struggle for gay and lesbian equality. I am proud to say that NGLTF is playing such a central role in this historic unification of our movement.

The federation is that state and local leaders, and our groups have been working to organize the community action on various bills, 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 day and night for all of the Ellen Morgans of the world can live in a free and affirming society. These individuals have organized and pioneered in national 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 Roddy King's—"can't we all just get along?" Our community needs to be united—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 I worked very closely with him 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 topics that impact District Two.

I think that David will be an exciting City Councillor. He has an unusually specific and substantive list of goals for his first term, including bringing curb-side 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 candidates of Kate Neal or Karen Gareghian 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 Gareghian 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 positive 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 it has a considerable reaction to my piece, and education.

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

I know both candidates as the dedicated and good people that they most definitely are. Karen is without question a good lobbyist way up there in Augusta with enough local special interest clout to win. David, in my honest judgement, is a diligent worker for the people of the West End from way back and more in tune with pre- cinct 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 puzzle 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 a year to decide 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
P.O. Box 178, Saco, Maine 04072
Phone: 207/282-4531
Fax: 207/282-4531
cprpride@ime.net

Our Mission

Community Pride Reporter serves as a source of local, state, national, and international news, information, ideas and opinions for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people of Maine and New Hampshire. CPR strives to publish accurate and acceptence of the rich diversity among us, with the intention of infusing the world 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, 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's interests competently.

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 of 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 telephone 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 complex 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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The Community Pride Reporter is published during the first two business days of the month.

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

New Hampshire PFLAG Meetings:
- 1st Tuesday, 7:00 PM at Woodstock Congregational Church, Woodstock, NH 03262.
- 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM at 36 Newbury St., Boston, MA 02116.
- 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 PM at St. John's United Methodist Church, 356 High St., Portland, ME 04101.
- 4th Thursday, 7:00 PM at First Parish, Falmouth Church, Falmouth, ME 04105.

PFLAG National Meeting:
- 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM at PFLAG National, 1200 16th St., NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20006.

AIDS Coalition of Lebanon/Auburn:
- PO Box 7977, Lewiston, ME 04243.
- 207-794-6816.

AIDS Housing:
- 142 High Street, Suite 100, Portland, ME 04101.
- 207-773-7165.

AIDS Support Group:
- PO Box 990, Belfast, Maine 04915.
- 207-338-5899.

Community AIDS Awareness Program:
- PO Box 457, Richmond, ME 04357.
- 207-642-6803.

Community AIDS Project:
- PO Box 941, Naples, ME 04055.
- 207-642-6803.

Diapering AIDS Support Services:
- 242 Main St., Auburn, ME 04210.
- 207-773-6433.

Down East AIDS Network:
- 114 State St., Ellsworth, ME 04605.
- 207-667-3500.

Eastern Maine AIDS Network:
- PO Box 2018, Bangor, ME 04402.
- 207-990-2626.

GLMA:
- A state-wide network of 15 LGBTQ organizations formed to educate the general public, politicians, and media on LGBTQ issues. Primary goals are to involve the LGBTQ community in Maine's political process, promote civil rights, develop, and develop candidate endorses. For more information, call (207) 598-3711.
- 1500 Government St., Ste 106, Augusta, ME 06033.

Identity Support

AIDS Caregivers Conference:
- 3rd Thursday, 7:00 PM at Inn at the Pinery, 163 High St., Portland, ME 04101.
- 207-773-7165.

AIDS Support Group:
- 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM at First Parish, Falmouth Church, Falmouth, ME 04105.
- 207-642-6803.

AIDS Support Group:
- 1st Thursday, 7:00 PM at St. John's United Methodist Church, 356 High St., Portland, ME 04101.
- 207-773-7165.

AIDS Support Group:
- 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM at Woodstock Congregational Church, Woodstock, NH 03262.
- 773-7165.

AIDS Support Group:
- 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 PM at 36 Newbury St., Boston, MA 02116.
- 338-5899.

AIDS Support Group:
- 4th Thursday, 7:00 PM at First Parish, Falmouth Church, Falmouth, ME 04105.
- 802-549-4375.

AIDS Support Group:
- 2nd Monday, 7:00 PM at 485 Newbury St., Boston, MA 02115.
- 338-5899.

AIDS Support Group:
- 3rd Monday, 7:00 PM at 142 High Street, Suite 100, Portland, ME 04101.
- 773-7165.

AIDS Support Group:
- 4th Monday, 7:00 PM at PFLAG National, 1200 16th St., NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20006.
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### May Calendar of Events

**May 1 - 4**

"ANERICA" at Portland Stage Company. 25A Forest Ave., Portland. FMI: (207)774-1810. (May 1-4) 10:30 PM

**May 4**

- 4 PM - Maine Residency Program of Portland Community of Portland concludes women's worship with Sheila Rankin, MCC Director, and Barbara Ouchterlony, Minister. Portland ME. FMI: (207)774-6848 ext. 52.
- 10 AM - Show and Tell: Open for free and in groups of theboroSt Episcopal Church, Portland Ave. FMI: (207)273-5573 ext. 79.
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Boston Pride May 30 to June 8, 1997

Friday, May 30 Rainbow Flag
Raising Boston politics and over 1,000 people congregate on City Hall Plaza to witness the raising of the United States' flag, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' flag, and the Rainbow flag. The flag raising is the opening activity for Pride week. The Rainbow Flag is proudly unfurled and displayed on the plaza throughout the week's events. City Hall lies in the heart of the financial district and is located next to Faneuil Hall, one of the major tourist draws in Boston. The commitment by the city and the mayor is a true testament to one of the city's most vibrant communities.

Sunday, June 1 AIDS Walk
The AIDS Walk: "From All Walks of Life" falls into the week of events surrounding Pride and is a function of the AIDS Action Committee. The walk is one of the largest fund-raising events to benefit AIDS Research in America. The commitment by the city and the mayor is a true testament to one of the city's most vibrant communities.

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 community-visible to the city of Boston. Birding, whalewatching, hiking, canoeing, kayaking. Pristine, peaceful, quiet. Brochure, reservations: (207) 726-5807

Boston Pride May 30 to June 8, 1997

Friday, May 30 Rainbow Flag
Raising Boston politics and over 1,000 people congregate on City Hall Plaza to witness the raising of the United States' flag, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' flag, and the Rainbow flag. The flag raising is the opening activity for Pride week. The Rainbow Flag is proudly unfurled and displayed on the plaza throughout the week's events. City Hall lies in the heart of the financial district and is located next to Faneuil Hall, one of the major tourist draws in Boston. The commitment by the city and the mayor is a true testament to one of the city's most vibrant communities.

Sunday, June 1 AIDS Walk
The AIDS Walk: "From All Walks of Life" falls into the week of events surrounding Pride and is a function of the AIDS Action Committee. The walk is one of the largest fund-raising events to benefit AIDS Research in America. The commitment by the city and the mayor is a true testament to one of the city's most vibrant communities.

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 community-visible to the city of Boston. Birding, whalewatching, hiking, canoeing, kayaking. Pristine, peaceful, quiet. Brochure, reservations: (207) 726-5807

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