Judiciary Committee Hears Civil Rights Testimony

by Brenda Buchanan

A few hours after the funeral of its most long-standing legislative supporter, the civil rights bill for lesbians and gay men was the subject of a public hearing before the Judiciary Committee May 11. More than a score of lesbians, gay men and friends of the community testified in favor of the bill, which Larry Connolly had championed, session after session.

The hearing was dedicated to Connolly, a veteran Portland representative who, as Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Joseph Brannigan said, "was the prime sponsor of this effort" during the 12 years lesbian and gay activists have been petitioning lawmakers for civil rights.

Connolly, 43, died three days before the hearing, during surgery following a heart attack.

It was evident that his death, and the honorable way he lived his life, were foremost in many minds. The voices of committee members, other legislators, and the lesbians and gay men who knew Connolly often were choked with tears, several using examples of his selfless struggle to guarantee justice for all people as a starting point for their testimony.

"Larry was a giant, a real friend of the downtrodden," Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance president Dave McCormick said in preface to her prepared remarks. "Even something as important as civil rights pales in comparison with the death of Larry Connolly."

But, McCormick said, Connolly would have wanted the hearing to go on as scheduled, because he believed that the campaign for human justice shouldn't pause until all were free.

Proponents' Arguments

The testimony of those favoring the bill was personal and philosophical.

Saying "the biblical arguments, the arguments from nature and character, the moral arguments" voiced by opponents of L.D. 602, the civil rights bill for lesbians and gay men, to the Legislature with a 7-4 "ought not to pass" recommendation. The vote disappointed the bill's backers, who believed at least a simple majority of Judiciary Committee members would recommend passage, if not a substantial majority.

The bill was scheduled to go to the floor in the Senate on the morning of May 27. Passage in the Senate would send the bill to the House that same afternoon; defeat would mean the House would consider it May 28.

Update

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the lack of civil rights protection for lesbians and gay men is a "significant barrier" in the battle against AIDS, because the possibility of discrimination keeps people from seeking information and medical advice.

She said passage of a bill that would add "sexual orientation" to the list of protected categories in the Maine Human Rights Act would be "a majority statement of assurance to an embattled minority." She ended her testimony by asking: "Must others die of ignorance and homophobia?"

Fred Rabidoux, an MLGPA steering committee member from Portland, reminded the committee of the constitutionally-mandated separation of church and state. He noted all of the bill's opponents identified themselves as members of fundamentalist religious groups.

"My commitment to what we're working for has not changed," she said.
In Memoriam


It could have been me, but instead it was you. So we'll keep doing the work you were doing as if we were two.

We're the students of life, singers of songs, Farmers of food and righters of wrongs.

It could have been me, but instead it was you.

And it may be our dear sisters and brothers before we are through.

But if he can die for freedom, freedom, freedom, freedom If he can die for freedom, we can too.*

Champion, hero, friend, ally and comrade. No one embodied the true meaning of those words more than Laurence E. Connolly Jr. Connolly, an eight-term Portland legislator, died May 8 during surgery following a severe heart attack he suffered earlier that week.

With Larry's death, Maine's gay and lesbian community has lost one of our strongest advocates, as have low-income and working people in Maine, women, old people, children, and people with disabilities.

For over a decade, Larry was the driving force behind the introduction of the gay and lesbian civil rights bill in the Maine legislature.

Larry was also a husband, a father, a neighborhood organizer, a Red Sox and Celtics lover, and a compassionate and caring friend.

He lived as he believed — that his life was inextricably linked to all others, that the oppression of one person means the oppression of all people, that discrimination must be eradicated wherever it exists.

We feel honored that he called us his friends. We feel honored that he championed gay and lesbian civil rights. We also know that he felt honored by our friendship and love.

Thank you Laurence E. Connolly Jr. for giving so much of yourself so selflessly and for so long.

Let us all strive to take Larry's place as activists for social justice and human dignity.

In Larry's memory, we urge members of the gay and lesbian community to send donations to Larry Connolly Education Trust Fund for his children, P.O. Box 7060 DTS, Portland, Maine 04112.

*"It Could Have Been Me," words and music by Holly Near.

Letters

Dear Our Paper,

I read Our Paper. An excellent publication, and an important one.

Cornish, Maine

Dear Our Paper,

I like the name Our Paper. I don't know why you want to change it. It's great to feel possessed of something collectively from a first person. Don't change it.

Karen, Karin Franey Knauf/Spitfire

To my family at Entre Nous, This is to express my heartfelt gratitude to you. You share in my disappointments and gladness and now in my new found joy. There are no words to say how much you all mean to me. I am just very grateful to have you as my family at Entre Nous.

Love,

June B.

EFFEC TIVE AT MIDNIGHT ON MAY 1, 1987, THIS BECOMES A FAMILY REST AREA. PICTURES AND LICENSE PLATE NUMBERS OF "OTHER VISITORS" WILL BE TAKEN.

That is the message that is tacked up all over the place at the Route 35 rest area at Sebago Lake (see enclosed, I took it quickly and left). There is nothing on the posters that identifies a particular group or law enforcement official.

I am sending this to the paper because I am concerned that people should be warned about another rash of homophobia and possible physical violence, or even blackmail. I don't know who should know, but I had to tell someone.

Sign me,

Concerned Gay Man

The AIDS Project is participating in the WCWH-TV Garage Sale, June 6, 1987 at the Portland Civic Center. We need your help to make this a successful fundraiser. Below is a list of items needed before June 1. If you can help us out, call TAP or Susan at 775-5431 x295:

- hangers
- paper or plastic bags
- boxes with tops
- used clothing, hair
- household items, e.g. dishes, lamps
- second hand furniture

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PUBLICATION PURPOSE

OUR PAPER is published monthly by the OUR PAPER Collective, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, Maine 04104. The purpose of OUR PAPER is to serve as a voice for lesbians and gay men in Maine. We wish the newspaper to be a source of information, support and affirmation, and a vehicle for celebration, by and for members of the lesbian and gay men's communities. We want the paper to reflect our diversity as well.

EDITORIAL POLICY

We will consider for publication any material that broadens our understanding of our lifestyles and of each other. Views and opinions appearing in the paper are those of the authors only.

We request that all material submitted be signed and include an address and/or telephone number so we can contact the author if editorial revisions need to be considered. We reserve the right to edit unsigned material as necessary. Within the pages of the newspaper, articles can appear anonymously, upon request, and strict confidentiality will be observed. No revisions or rejections of signed material will occur without dialogue with the author.

Even though our editorials are initialed, they represent the opinion of all collective members.

We welcome and encourage all our readers to submit material for publication and to share your comments, criticisms and positive feelings with us. Remember, OUR PAPER is Your Paper!!! Deadline for each issue is the 10th of the month.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are $12 for one year (12 issues), $20 for two years, and $30 for three years. Make checks payable to "OUR PAPER". All submissions and correspondence should be sent to OUR PAPER, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, Maine 04104.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS
Illness as Metaphor/AIDS as Metaphor

by Barbara Leecce

Eleven years ago, when Susan Sontag discovered she had cancer, she did not think to ask why the disease had struck her. With puzzlement she listened to other cancer patients express self-punishing attitudes, attitudes that more openly implied they were responsible for their own illness. Pondering these patients' curious relationship to their disease, Sontag began her essay "Illness as Metaphor," an exploration of how illness is viewed as something other than itself.

Initially, she intended to limit her analysis to cancer but became intrigued by striking parallels between stereotypes surrounding cancer and those surrounding tuberculosis. Both diseases have what Sontag calls "fictions of responsibility" attached to them. Many said the only thing disabled homosexuals care about is sex, a charge that, Sontag said, "is just as suspect as the phrase "innocent victims." Both phrases, but more apparently, "innocent victims," illustrate that the cancer and tuberculosis, AIDS too has fictions of responsibility attached to it. To say that the disease is a "curse" is to necessarily imply that there exist "guilty victims," those who are to blame for the disease.

Sontag's vision of the future of AIDS is admittedly bleak. The disease is so intracable that it is already putting question to the "triunphalist assumption" of science, the belief that all disease is capable of being conquered. She fears AIDS, describing a profound effect on sexual consciousness and practice and fears that it is heralding a new era of sexual repression. She believes that the "medicalization of repression" (the use of medical reasons to justify social repression), will continue despite civil rights efforts and, surprisingly, does not anticipate that education will be particularly effective in limiting the disease.

Though the tendency may seem overwhelming, she warns against viewing AIDS in apocalyptic terms because that will effect a "deadening of the imagination." Rather, she suggests that a healthy approach to AIDS will not only be free of metaphoric thinking but will also challenge our sexual and political hypocrisy of our culture.

Conference-goers Urged to Remember Roots of Movement

by Brenda Buchanan

Saying that "we started out as a lesbian and gay liberation movement and we have to remain a lesbian and gay liberation movement," the keynote speaker at the May 7 National Association of Social Workers conference on professional work with homosexuals and gay men, began her audience to "raise the bottom line" of what is acceptable from a non-gay majority.

Kevin Cathcart, executive director of Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), a Boston-based legal organization serving all of New England, said the videotaped movement of the 1970's - that homosexuals and gay men would be free, equal and able to live openly without fear of discrimination - that the gains that have been made should not null homosexuals and gay men into compliance, he said, because there is much still to be done.

The very fact of the conference - the second in two years to be held in Maine - illustrated Cathcart's point. Held at a South Portland hotel and attended by about 100 mostly-professional people, its workshops were about a wide range of issues of concern to lesbians and gay men. The mainstream feel of the gathering could fool one into thinking it is the politics of "men's work," the political problems that are, that will lead to the liberation of lesbians and gay men. Cathcart wasn't saying there was no place for that within the movement, but lesbians and gay men should not succumb to the illusion that it eliminates the need for more radical action. Participants approached the day with obvious enthusiasm. Many said the only thing wrong with the program was there were too many workshops they wanted to attend and not enough time to do so.

Topics ranged from working with people with AIDS to the needs of lesbian and gay youth to issues of sexuality for disabled persons. The list of workshop facilitators was impressive; some traveled from as far as San Francisco and Minnesota. Among those leading workshops were Connie Punzarino, a well-known lesbian and disabled rights activist, Frellaan Curtis, an authority on alcoholism issues specific to lesbians and gay men who practices in Boston, and Joni Foster, one of the founders of Maine's Committee on Lesbian and Gay Youth.

Some lesbians and gay men attended the conference, but many participants were not gay. Some obviously were there for the first time the need for specialized knowledge in order to work effectively with lesbians and gay men. For them, attending the conference may have been a radical action, and the information available here undoubtedly challenged some assumptions and previously-held beliefs.

Cathcart's speech was not so much directed at those who were being politicized about lesbian gay issues for the first time, but at those who have been part of the movement for years and may have lost perspective on the big picture. He referred to the AIDS crisis, the continued lack of gay-positive curriculum in public schools and anti-gay foster care legislation filed this year in Maine and New Hampshire to illustrate his keynotes call for broader activism.

"We're living in a time that my generation and my community is being decimated," he said, "and we're being far too polite about it." He cited the virtual lack of civil disobedience around AIDS issues as an example. With the exception of a pair of recent demonstrations in New York and the longstanding sit-in by PWAs in San Francisco, he said, activists have not channeled their anger about the government's foot-dragging on AIDS education and research funding into actions that demand response.

Cathcart included himself when he spoke of people "losing a sense of radicalism" in the day-to-day grind of dealing with crisis, AIDS-related and otherwise. He told of a recent day-long protest which he received five paid-off phone calls - three from friends who had been diagnosed as having AIDS and two from an already-diagnosed friend who had to be hospitalized, and one announcing another friend's death. He said that number of calls is "routine," he is the second in Boston, not yet anyway. But the toll of ill people is rising, he said, and soon phones may be ringing frequently with tragic news in Boston and, in Maine, just as they already are in New York and San Francisco.

He said the dimension of the AIDS crisis has been the "peculiar" way in which discriminating in the lesbian and gay community, leading people to accept as "normal" something which is truly horrifying.

"Our bottom line is not high enough," Cathcart said. "We're going along with (the government's lack of response on AIDS) all of us." A case in point are the obituaries of the vast majority of people who have died of AIDS in the past eight years, he said. Most do not list AIDS as the cause of death. "What we see in the newspaper is not comparable to what we're actually doing," he said. "It enables us to think things aren't as bad as they are, when they're really much worse.

Cathcart also spoke about the need for constant vigilance in refusing the lies - both obvious and subtle - the American public is told about lesbians and gay men.

The night before the NASW conference Cathcart was in Amherst, Massachusetts, speaking at a rally called by students who were outraged that Paul Cameron, the discredited psychologist who has made a career on the talk-show/public speaking circuit with his homophobic extremism, was to appear on their campus.

Cathcart said he, too, was angry that a hate-monger had been invited to UMass by a conservative student group for the second time in two years, but he was just as angry that the protests seemed satisfied

holding a rally and wearing pink triangle buttons to sufficiently strong response. The university, which has a student population of 30,000, still does not offer any courses dealing with AIDS issues, Cathcart said, and no progress has been made in stopping the often verbal and sometimes physical harassment of lesbians and gay people.

"I told them, 'I'm much less interested in getting one man to stop telling lies about us than I am to get this university to tell the truth,'" Cathcart said.

He said that institution and all others in society must be pressured until they understand the need to implement whatever changes are needed to make an openly lesbian gay presence possible every day, not just when the right-wingers anger of those who fancy themselves liberal has been aroused by the blatant gay-baiting of an extended campaign.

Cathcart also spoke about the domino effect of anti-gay foster care legislation. He said the next day would be the second anniversary of the first gay foster care debate in Massachusetts. That well-publicized dispute led to legislative action.

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An anti-gay foster care bill was killed in mid-May when the Legislature's Human Resources Committee unanimously refused to support it.

The bill, which was the subject of a May 12 public hearing, was sponsored by which numerous experts, including a representative of the Department of Human Services, testified against it. Developed by the Maine Christian Civic League, it was based on Massachusetts' controversial policy, which virtually prohibits lesbians and gay men from becoming foster parents.

At a May 18 work session, committee members expressed a variety of concerns about the bill. Mainly, they said, they didn't want to do anything to discourage qualified people from becoming foster parents, because there's a shortage of foster homes in Maine. They commented on singling out lesbians and gay men as inappropriate for parenting was questioned, and one committee member strongly urged his colleagues to reject suggestions that lesbians and gay men are dangerous to children.


Rep. Theone Look of Jonesboro, the bill's only remaining active sponsor, made one last pitch for committee support at the work session. She said since the public hearing, she had heard of "disastrous situations" involving foster placements with gays, implying children had been abused.

Committee members told her state law requires anyone who suspects child abuse to report their concern to the DHS, and asked if the cases to which she referred had been so reported. Look didn't answer the question. She said she had only recently heard the allegations.

DHS official Peter Walsh, who was sitting behind Look, said he had no knowledge of any such reports. He said in 1986 there were 65 reports of various types of abuse in foster homes, and none to his knowledge involved lesbian/gay homes.

Committee member Paul Clark said the amendment makes it "innuendo," and moved the bill be withdrawn. The committee offered Look that option, but she refused, leading to speculation that she might allow people being harassed because of their real or perceived race, color, sex, ethnic background, nationality, country of origin, religious belief, age, sexual orientation or disability to obtain a court order to protect them from further abuse.

It also would require the state to document cases of hate violence and harassment, and would provide a special category of crime based on bigotry to allow for stiffer penalties.

Sponsor Paul Gauvreau, a senator from Lewiston told the Judiciary Committee current laws "aren't sufficient to protect people," as court delays often mean harassment continues long after it is reported to authorities.

Assistant Attorney General Jeff Talbot, representing AG James Tierney, recommended no legislation of the bill, and said he would attend the committee's work session to help smooth any technical problems.

"By enacting such legislation, you would be heightening awareness of police and tormentors alike," he said of the garbage-throwing tactics of his harassers.

Foster Care Bill Killed
by Brenda Buchanan

AIDS Funding Looks Good

Two AIDS-related appropriations bills appeared to be faring well in the 113th Legislature, as provisions for client support services and public school educational efforts had been incorporated into Governor John McKernan's Part II budget.

That is a political advantage, signaling bipartisan and executive branch support of a proposal. Included in the client support services bill is $65,000 for "general" community education, the same amount appropriated for that purpose last year. However, an AIDS Advisory Committee recommendation for another combination of funding was rejected by the House Ways and Means Committee.

Visit AIDS-LINE and talk to a counselor today. Call 1-800-851-AIDS. www.aidsproject.org

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Civil Rights Bill
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Brannigan's sentiment, saying "I hope we live up to the respect that Larry Connolly had for every one of us."

The three remaining sponsors spoke emotionally about being inspired by Connolly to deeper understanding of human rights issues, and explained why they were committed to the bill's purpose.

Sen. Tom Andrews of Portland, anticipating the arguments of the opposition, stressed the bill's purpose.

"This legislation, despite many attempts to color it otherwise, is about fundamental civil rights," he said.

Rep. Christine Ryderell of Brunswick recalled discrimination she faced growing up Jewish in an anti-Semitic society, and said lesbians and gay men face the same discrimination today.

"This is wrong, it is un-American, and it must stop," she said.

Rep. Bill O'Gara of Westbrook spoke to the experience of Wisconsin, the only state where a civil rights bill has been passed. He said during the debate in Wisconsin, arguments similar to those heard in Maine were voiced, and said he felt "none of the dire prophecies of their opponents have come to pass."

He urged colleagues on the Judiciary Committee to "set aside the religious arguments and decide whether discrimination is tolerable."

Words of Opposition

The opposition consisted solely of fundamentalists, most of whom apparently came from the same congregation. Speaker after speaker listed Windham as their hometown, leading one backer of the bill who had been heard to comment on the beliefs to joke late in the hearing: "I'm a member of a fundamentalist church, but I'm not from Windham."

One of the Windham fundamentalists referred to the proposal as a "homo wrongs bill," and said "it doesn't deserve a night's lodging in a municipal dump."

Another opponent, from Unity, said that the disease and gay community are inextricably linked. He pressed the link between AIDS and homosexuality, and said it was driven by an irri­tated Brannigan when he called lesbians and gay men "gigantic biological vacuum cleaners" containing the germs. He later wandered onto the topic of teenage pregnancy, (though he did not attempt to blame the disease for that problem) and was gavelled down a second time when he began to quote questioned statistics about diseases he claimed are carried by lesbians and gay men.

Jasper "Jack" Wyman, a member of the Christian Civic League of Maine, was rather subdued in his comments. After a long introduction stressing the Christian belief in loving the sinner even while hating the sin, he said the League opposes the bill because it would mean acceptance of homosexuality as a lifestyle.

Wyman called it "enormous injustice" - the civil rights fight of lesbians and gay men to that of Blacks.

More Proponents

In contrast to the homogeneity of the opposition, supporters of the bill were gay and straight, religious and not, experienced in giving testimony and first-timers.

Religious backers included Jewish and many Protestant congregations, as well as leaders of the Bangor Theological Seminary.

Members of other minority groups in Maine spoke out in favor. Former Rep. Gerry Talbot of Portland talked about knowing opio­dics as a Black man, and said "if we as a society can't start from the basic premise that we're human beings first... then we're all in trouble."

Sally Sutton, director of the Maine Civil Liberties Union, quoted a just-released study by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force that documents a rise in violence, victimization and defamation against lesbians and gay men.

Three incidents of violence against Maine lesbians and gay men were cited in the study, and Sutton said she felt "ashamed" to read them. She said the percentages of lesbians and gay men surveyed nationally had experienced anti-gay violence and victimization virtually matched those in a Maine study done two years ago by the MLCU and MLGPA. The studies, she said, "demonstrated that discrimination and violence are a fact of life" for lesbians and gay men.

She also noted the national statistics on murder. Eighty homicides involving gay victims were documented in 1986, she said.

The National Gay Task Force study was released on Wednesday, and the gay community is "gigantic biological vacuum cleaners" containing the germs. He later wandered onto the topic of teenage pregnancy, (though he did not attempt to blame the disease for that problem) and was gavelled down a second time when he began to quote questioned statistics about diseases he claimed are carried by lesbians and gay men.

"Angry was not the word to describe my state of mind," she said.

Karen Saum, who formerly taught at the University of Maine's Augusta branch, spoke of discrimination she faced when her lesbianism became known. She lost her job and apartment, but said she was not the only one to suffer.

"I believe my students lost a good teacher," she said.

Franz Vengeance, the mother of a gay man who has since committed suicide, said she's not sure if God did not love gay people, then why did he make so many of them?"

The AIDS Connection

Proponents of the bill ignored the AIDS-phobic arguments of the opponents and testified as to the AIDS connection they see.

Kristin Kreamer, a member of The AIDS Project's Board of Directors, said because AIDS has struck hardest in the gay community, there are some who are afraid to even volunteer at The AIDS Project because they feel being perceived as gay and discriminated against.

A recent Supreme Court ruling appears to give total legal protection to people with AIDS. Because the illness is a handicap, she said, but a legal avenue of discrimination is open in Maine—sexual orientation, if a landlord won't rent or an employer wants to fire a gay person with AIDS.

Graham of the Bureau of Health ad­dressed that same issue when she testified. She said lack of civil rights protection creates such fear of discrimination "people may remain in ignorance" about AIDS and ways to minimize risk.

Joni Foster of the Maine Committee for Lesbian and Gay Youth said an old-fashioned fear of the lack of civil rights for lesbians and gay men is the continued social stigma surrounding homosexuality. She told of a Maine high school library's card catalogue that stated, on the card titled "heterosexual," that interested persons should see the librarian. She also spoke of a suicidal youth confiding his sexual orientation to personnel upon arrival at a psychiatric hospital, but never being asked about it further. She made so many of them?"

"These silences are powerful messages," Foster said. "They tell kids, you don't measure up."

Support also came from unexpected quarters. Richard Barringer, the former head of the State Planning Office and one of the candidates for chancellor of the University of Maine system last year, spoke in favor of the bill. He said simply that his life and those of his four sons has been enriched by the gay people in their lives, and diminished by watching the violence and discrimination their gay friends experience.

Other groups that sent representatives to testify in favor of the bill included the League of Women Voters, the state AIDS Advisory Committee, the Coalition of Child Abuse and Neglect Councils and the Coalition for Maine's Children.

The day after the hearing, Augusta's Kennebec Journal published a person-on-the-street piece which asked whether lesbians and gay men should have the same civil rights protections as other Maine citizens. Every one of the people whose responses were printed answered affirmatively.

The persistence of activists seeking civil rights protection was best explained by Sadhabh Nolan, who closed her testimony by quoting William Lloyd Garrison, who was speaking on the need to end slavery: "On this subject, if I have faith and sight, or speak, or write with moderation... Tell a man whose house is on fire to give a moderate alarm... tell the mother to gradually extirpate her baby from the house in which it has fallen; but urge me not to use moderation in a cause like the present. I am earnest. I will not retreat a single inch. And I will be heard."

AIDS Legislation
continued from page 4

munity education appropriation—to pay for programs specifically targeting par­ents of school-aged children and which would be concurrent with school programs—was not included in McKernan's package.

The Advisory Committee re­commended in March that school programs be accompanied by sessions aimed at parents, believing parents will be more likely to support and reinforce the schools' efforts if they are educated themselves.

The $65,000 for "general" community education to pay for efforts aimed at the masses—public service announce­ments, newspaper advertisements, and the like—was included.

A bill that would require health care providers to obtain a patient's informed consent before testing them for the HIV antibody was headed for a public hear­ing the last week of May. The bill was backed by the AIDS Advisory Commit­tee, although it split over whether such consent should be in writing or not.

Late May hearings also were sched­uled to extend for a year the ban on insurance companies requiring applicants to obtain HIV antibody tests, and another calling for mandatory HIV testing for members of the National Guard.

The latter bill rankled AIDS activists, but it was compromised there was little doubt, but it might have disturbed the bill, he said as the position of the Massachusetts Medical Society, which requires HIV tests of all its members. A bill proposing the establishment of a high-risk insurance pool for those unable to obtain insurance because of their medical status was being redrafted in mid-May. The effort to create a pool grew out of concerns about the insurance problems faced by people with AIDS.

—Brenda Buchanan

Bias-Motivated Crime Bill
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Reza Jalali, representing the Minority Student Association at the University of Southern Maine, and Mary Lou Dyer, an attorney who works with the Maine Civil Liberties Union.

Other groups actively supporting the bill are MLGPA, the Maine Coalition on Undoing Racism, the Central Maine Indian Association, the Maine Association of Handicapped Persons, the Holocaust Human Rights Center of Maine, the Refugee Resettlement Program, the Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition, Maine AIDS Foundation, and Calling Unlimited of Sanford, and the Maine Women's Lobby.

A work session on the bill hadn't been scheduled when Our Paper went to press.

—Brenda Buchanan

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by R.J. Bass

People who have AIDS talk of not just coping with dying, but with living. The author Susan Sonntag echoed this last month when she said, “People will learn to live with it [AIDS], just like people learn to live with... other disasters.” Indeed, as AIDS spreads, it is becoming a fact of life for all of us. In our personal struggles to come to grips with AIDS, we can lose sight of the fact that a person’s life does not begin at the moment of diagnosis, nor does it become a measure of death-watch fueled by grim statistics, social stigmatization, and deteriorating health. There is a great deal more to life and AIDS, as one man, in particular, is able to express in a visible and articulate fashion.

Vincent Boulenger lives in Portland. He has AIDS. He’s 24 years old. Vincent is a Maine native. He came out when he was 14. He was out in his high school, and it wasn’t a problem. “All I had to do was beat someone up once a year.” By his own admission, Vincent was very promiscuous. He had lots of “boyfriends” in New York, Florida, Boston, and Portland. He says, “Indirectly, I probably slept with every gay man in Portland.” Amazingly, the only sexually transmitted disease that Vincent ever had was crabs. Except, of course, for HIV infection.

For awhile, he went to support group meetings for people who have AIDS, for which he is usually paid under the guise of a stipend of $435.00. Bureaucratic snafus applied for social security when he was 18 years before his became infected with the virus about 5 years before his diagnosis. He has AIDS. He’s 24 years old.

Vincent was seeing Dr. Pickus on a monthly basis, but lately his visits have become more to life and AIDS, as one man, has AIDS. He’s 24 years old. Portland.” Amazingly, the only sexually transmitted disease that Vincent ever had was crabs. Except, of course, for HIV infection. "That’s the only thing I do regularly." He doesn’t have much appetite and sometimes he has to borrow him a hard time about some of his purchases. For example, he recently needed to buy a support bar for his bathtub. When the one in the store didn’t fit his tub, the clerk was resistant to ordering the correct equipment. He sometimes asks himself, "Why me? Why am I still alive?" At times, he feels left behind and even guilty, like a concentration camp survivor.

There is a great deal more to life and AIDS, as one man, has AIDS. He’s 24 years old. Portland.” Amazingly, the only sexually transmitted disease that Vincent ever had was crabs. Except, of course, for HIV infection. Vincent has discovered that the welfare system is degrading. Drug store clerks give him a hard time about some of his purchases. For example, he recently needed to buy a support bar for his bathtub. When the one in the store didn’t fit his tub, the clerk was resistant to ordering the correct equipment. He sometimes asks himself, "Why me? Why am I still alive?" At times, he feels left behind and even guilty, like a concentration camp survivor.

Dr. Pickus on a monthly basis, but lately his visits have become more to life and AIDS, as one man, has AIDS. He’s 24 years old. Portland.” Amazingly, the only sexually transmitted disease that Vincent ever had was crabs. Except, of course, for HIV infection. "That’s the only thing I do regularly." He doesn’t have much appetite and sometimes he has to borrow him a hard time about some of his purchases. For example, he recently needed to buy a support bar for his bathtub. When the one in the store didn’t fit his tub, the clerk was resistant to ordering the correct equipment. He sometimes asks himself, "Why me? Why am I still alive?" At times, he feels left behind and even guilty, like a concentration camp survivor.

In addition to financial considerations, Vincent is obviously concerned with his health. It is nearly two years since he received his AIDS diagnosis; he sometimes wonders why he has lived so long when so many others have not survived for this length of time. He sometimes asks himself, "Why me? Why am I still alive?" At times, he feels left behind and even guilty, like a concentration camp survivor.

Even so, the past two years have not been without struggle. He has lymphoma, which causes painful, swollen glands, and lymph nodes, a decreasing tolerance for alcohol consumption. Not long after, in July, 1985, Vincent was hospitalized with Pneumocystis carinii pneumon _ia. He has chest pain, much like a concentration camp survivor. Vincent is an expert on the virus. After the spinal taps, he had a headache for two weeks.

As for his mental health, he says, “I don’t overdo it. On a nice day, I’ll buy a six pack and go to the park and lay in the sun.” He knows that alcohol and tobacco are discouraged, but he feels that these indulgences improve his attitude and give him control over his life. Also, he makes coffee every morning. "That’s the only thing I do regularly." He was advised to get rid of his pet cat due to risk of infection from toxoplasmosis, which is found in cat litter, but Vincent will not do this.

In addition to maintaining control of his health, Vincent has used AIDS as a motivation to make positive changes in his personality. “I’ve become a nicer person, more considerate of others’ feelings. I needed my friends. AIDS made me grow up.” For awhile, he went to support group meetings for people who have AIDS, ARC, or who tested positive for antibodies to the virus, but he got tired of all the passive complaining and “woe is me”
AIDS has, of course, affected Vincent’s sex life. He has steady partners who are aware of his having AIDS. He misses anal receptive sex, which, due to his raw testicles and chronic diarrhea, is painfully impossible. But, he says, if he did have anal sex, he’d be sure condoms were used. Lack of anal intercourse does not mean Vincent doesn’t have sexual relationships, but he has learned that “AIDS is a new type of love, and trust, and responsibility.”

As for his new sexual activities, he remarks, “I got used to making love, not just having sex. It means something. I’m enjoying the person, not using them for sex.”

A discussion of safe sex inevitably leads to a discussion of antibody testing. Vincent doesn’t want to take the test, except in the case of a woman planning pregnancy or “if you’re so worried that you’re making yourself sick.” He does feel that the anonymous testing program affects people because the education is one-to-one.

He says that people don’t even know now about this man to call him to receive confidential advice about the test. Additionally, he feels that people are becoming informed by word-of-mouth, and that TV can play an important role by reaching inaccessible gay and bisexual men and publicizing the AIDS-Line. Unfortunately, he says, “When more well-known people get AIDS, it will increase awareness.”

Vincent confronts his mortality in a matter-of-fact fashion. “Everybody’s gonna die; I just know when!” To this end, he has a living will to insure that heroic measures are not employed to prolong his life.

He has no formal will because “I have no money, but I’ll make a list of friends to give me possessions to.”

Meanwhile, Vincent expresses righteous indignation on a variety of issues. He is angry that when he goes to the doctor’s office. She was very bold and directly asked Dr. Pickus if Vincent had AIDS. He knew that her son did, indeed, have AIDS, she told Vincent’s dad. She didn’t want to tell his father because she feared that Vincent would be disowned. Of course, this didn’t happen, but Vincent’s father, who has known since before Christmas that his son has AIDS, has never spoken about it.

The rest of Vincent’s family heard about his having AIDS through a radio interview conducted a few months ago on MPBN’s “Maine Things Considered.” In fact, Vincent has been quite the celebrity, since he is one of the few people with AIDS in Maine who is willing to appear publicly to discuss his life and illness. He appeared pseudonymously in “Maine Times” and in the Brunswick Times-Record.

Vincent is very active involved with The AIDS Project. It is through TAP that he appears at lectures and presentations. He is on the board of Directors, and is a major fund-raiser. He recently arranged a benefit plant sale at a local greenhouse and the Portland Stage Company’s benefit performance for TAP.

He is very concerned about The AIDS Project’s finances. He urges the state to adequately support TAP, and he encourages private individuals to pressure their legislators, especially for more support services for people who have AIDS and ARC.

AIDS is through TAP that he has learned that “AIDS is a new type of love, and trust, and responsibility.”

He reserves a special note of recognition for his roommate Les, whom he has known for years, and who Vincent describes as “responsible, quiet, organized, and understanding.” When money is tight, Les often advances Vincent the money for rent or bills.

Vincent’s mother found out he had AIDS because he was looking for a radio interview for The AIDS Project. He recently arranged a benefit performance for TAP. He recently arranged a benefit performance for TAP.

He’s very concerned about The AIDS Project’s finances. He urges the state to adequately support TAP, and he encourages private individuals to pressure their legislators, especially for more support services for people who have AIDS and ARC.

Judith Lippa, MSW
Lic. Clinical Social Worker
Counseling
Psychotherapy
Individuals
Couples
Families
Groups
The Center for Health
92 India Street
Portland, Maine 04101
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I was tired of the bars...tired of the "scene" and tired of playing all of the little mindgames to find out whether this guy or that guy was interested in a person like me...or, more importantly, if I was interested in him.

Then a friend of mine told me about Buddies. He said the counselors there understood what he was looking for in a companion.

So I called them. Buddies introduced me to several exciting guys in Massachusetts and New Hampshire within a few weeks after I joined. Now I’m telling all of my friends. Calling Buddies was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made.

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Our Paper • Page 7
Portland will celebrate its first gay and lesbian pride weekend June 4-6. Portland Pride '87 will feature guest speakers, a march through downtown Portland, and social events.

Festivities will begin on Friday, June 4, at 7:30 p.m. at First Parish Church where Ann Maguire will speak. Maguire, long active in Boston's gay and lesbian community, is currently the official liaison between Mayor Flynn's office and the gay and lesbian community. Maguire was a founding member of the Boston Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance, has hosted a gay radio show, and is director of the new Lesbian and Gay Community Center. She has also been the manager of Somewhere, a women's bar in Boston; and founded Legacy, a gay and lesbian social group. She is also on the board of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Maguire will speak about the current state of the gay and lesbian community.

Also speaking: Friday night will be Sharon Raymond of Friends and Parents of Lesbians and Gays. There will also be an open mike for others to speak, sing, play music or read poetry.

On Saturday, June 6, celebrants will meet in Deering Oaks Park (near the Park Avenue end of the footbridge) to begin a 2:00 p.m. march to Monument Square. Marchers are urged to bring balloons and banners. The march will proceed on the sidewalk up High Street to Congress Square and then down Congress to Monument Square, where marchers will release their balloons.

On Sunday, June 7, the celebration continues with an 11 a.m. potluck and barbecue at Two Lights State Park in Cape Elizabeth. Portland Pride Day was organized by the Pride Committee chaired by Michael Rossetti. During the past year the committee has sponsored social events and held raffles to raise money. The committee has tried to create exciting social events as a way for gay and lesbian community to meet outside of the bars. Rossetti hopes that the Pride Weekend will help to unify the area's gay community. He feels that many gay men and lesbians do not identify with the more political activities in the community and he has tried to "bring people together in other ways than through the bars or politics." Rossetti believes that the march, which he hopes will attract straight people as well, will make a strong public statement. "It will say that we're here to stay, we're growing as a community, and we have friends," he says. "It will be a real positive message to everybody."
by JoAnne Dauphinee

The XIV Annual Maine Lesbian & Gay Symposium, in conjunction with Charlie Howard Memorial Day, will be held in the Bangor-Orono community on July 3, 4, & 5. BAGLSC (Bangor Area Gay Lesbian Straight Coalition) is proud to coordinate this year’s effort, and grateful for a lot of help from our friends in Wilde-Steen, Northern Lambda Nord, Bangor Interweave, and others.

Symposium XIV will offer recreation, inspiration, fashionshops, workshops, films, fun and flanflasting! We are “Coming Out For Freedom” and we invite you to join us. “Coming Out For Freedom,” is the theme of 1987 Symposium. Not everyone cannot “come out,” but we can all come out for freedom! We salute all those, past and present, who have come out for freedom and we include our two featured speakers among those who have inspired and pioneered our liberation movement.

Keynoting Symposium will be Lois Galgay Reckitt. Reckitt, a founding member of MAINE NOW (National Organization for Women), was a pioneer in Maine’s own lesbian and gay rights movement. She was a key player in introducing and coalition building around, Maine’s first lesbian and gay rights legislation. In 1986, she was appointed National Co-Chair for the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the nation’s largest gay and lesbian political organization. Reckitt has recently accepted the newly created position of Deputy Director of the HRCF.

Reckitt was elected Vice President Executive of national NOW in 1983. She serves as NOW’s Affirmative Action Officer, oversees planning of the annual NOW National Conference, and acts as NOW spokeswoman to the international press. A NOW activist since 1971, she was Maine’s first State Coordinator, President of Southern Maine NOW, and NOW National Board Member. Before going to Washington, D.C., she was director of the Family Crisis Shelter in Portland, Maine. She holds a B.A. from Brandeis University and an M.A. from Boston University. She is a warm, witty, informative speaker who has inspired many to come out for freedom.

On Sunday, July 5, the Charlie Howard Memorial Day Service will be held in Bangor at 10:30 a.m., followed by a noon-time march through Bangor and a gathering for human rights with special guest speaker. Darrell Yates Rist of New York. Darrell Yates Rist is a contributing writer at New York Native and Christopher Street. His work also frequently appears in The Advocate, The Village Voice, and Harper’s Paris Match.

His corriccant narrative essay, “A Visit with Nancy Reagan” (1984) for Encyclopedia Britannica, was made famous. Mr. Rist has made numerous, powerful speakers, a wide variety of activities and workshops will be offered for your pleasure. Pre-registration is welcome, but not necessary. On Friday, July 3, registration will begin at noon. The fee is $15, which includes Saturday night dinner. Dorm overnights are an additional $7 per night double or $14 single. Friday afternoon and evening will offer space to socialize, games, fun, talent and two very special workshops: Lesbian Sex, and Gaymen’s Sex.

We also need and want YOUR TALENT! Do you sing? Play an instrument? Tell jokes? Do improvisation? Is there someone you know who should be trying to come to share their talent? Please don’t be shy! This is all just for fun and entertainment. Call or write to BAGLSC with your ideas. BAGLSC, c/o 87 Sunset Strip, Brewer 04412. Or, call Jo’s phone machine, 989-3306.

Saturday, July 4th, the real fireworks take place. A day full of wonderful workshops, activities and fun. We begin at 9:30 a.m. with “Gayrobics,” followed by the Keynote address at 10 a.m. In the evening, look forward to a community dinner, and dancing from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. On Sunday, Charlie Howard Memorial Day, Bangor will be treated to our march for human rights, and the inspiring words of Darrell Yates Rist.

Plan now to spend Independence Week-end in Bangor and Orono! One by one, and side by side we are all “Coming Out For Freedom.” Don’t miss it!
Madrid Lesbians Protest Arrests

The arrest of two women for kissing in public in Madrid's central Puerto del Sol led to a demonstration of hundreds of lesbians.

The demonstration was about the arrests specifically and the poor treatment of lesbians and gay men generally in Spain.

The arrest occurred after a police officer observed two women in their early 20's kissing. He stopped them and asked for identification, and they argued that they had committed no offense. He then arrested them for contempt, resisting arrest and public outrage. They were not released from jail for two days.

Outrage is a good description of the reaction of other lesbians who organized the demonstration after hearing of the arrest. At the protest, they peacefully chanted slogans and invited women passerby to kiss them.

"It is a perfectly normal thing to do," one woman said.

Fashion Police with no Imagination

A high school student in Memphis, Tennessee was suspended from school for going to a basketball game dressed in a man's school uniform. Described as wearing "a very tasty dress, a pair of cute heels, tasteful earrings, stylish wig and discrete makeup," student Ronald Cox, 17, was escorted from the gym by Booker T. Washington High shortly after his arrival.

Principal Dorsey Patterson was indignant because Cox's outfit, he believed, had caused such a stir that the home team lost its ability to put points on the board. Cox's father and the student himself would have no repercussions, but he was angry.

The apparent tactic of the "Brotherhood" is to copy the replies of men who respond to the personals and send them on along with a letter saying the man "may be a carrier of AIDS" and warning the addressee to "avoid this homosexual at all costs."

The group announced in a letter to the Chicago Tribune that it "would not stop until we have achieved the complete annihilation of homosexuality."

There also has been a high level of harassment of student activists at the University of Chicago this year, and a lot of anti-gay messages displayed in the neighborhood around the school. University officials said they were investigating and that a meeting with the U.S. Attorney's office had been set up in order to determine if civil rights violations had occurred. The incidents of harassment consisted of hate mail and posters advertising a "child molesters club," and they followed the publication in the student newspaper of a petition signed by 150 people decrying anti-gay violence.

Activists were upset, however, that the university was treating the issue as one of free speech.

"Gays are the only minority left where this kind of harassment falls under free speech," said Irwin Keller of the Gay and Lesbian Law Students Association.

European AIDS Prevention

America's hang-ups about clear, frank, to-the-point explanations of transmission of diseases through sex is undermined when European safe sex advertising campaigns are compared to ours.

In Denmark, newspapers have run full-page ads showing Copenhagen's red light district and the caption "You can get more than a quick fuck here."

A television news anchor in Switzerland recently demonstrated how to put on a condom, using one of his fingers, rather than his penis, in the demonstration.

And in Norway, newspaper ads show an erect penis and a torso with arms raised as if ready to dive into a pool with the caption: "Think before you dive into phobia."

Personal Advertisers Harassed

A hate group calling itself the "Great White Brotherhood of the Iron Fist" has claimed credit for placing fake personal ads in the Windy City Times, Chicago's lesbian/gay newspaper, and the Chicago Reader, a free newspaper, in order to expose gay individuals to their landlords, employers and neighbors.

One gay man, who is a teacher and is closeted at work, said he responded to an ad ostensibly placed by a grad student interested in meeting other gay men. He never received a response, but letters about him citing his sexual orientation were sent to his neighbors, landlord, school principal, assistant principal and all the teachers at his school.

Fortunately, the man said, he suffered no repercussions, but he was angry.

The apparent tactic of the "Brotherhood" is to copy the replies of men who respond to the personals and send them on along with a letter saying the man "may be a carrier of AIDS" and warning the addressee to "avoid this homosexual at all costs."

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Notes on National Health Conference

by Karen Kalustian, M.D.

The National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation held its annual conference and Fifth National AIDS Forum in Los Angeles March 25-29. Over 1,000 lesbians and gay men attended, including over 100 persons with AIDS and persons with AIDS-Related Complex (ARC).

Much of the conference was devoted to AIDS-related issues, but a number of workshops addressed more general topics such as violence against lesbians and gay men, aging, sexuality, substance abuse, parenting, and disability. One of the great strengths of the conference was the number of workshops specifically addressing AIDS as it relates to people of color and women. Those two groups often are overlooked by AIDS political and service organizations, and it is particularly easy for us in Maine to forget their significance.

Each day included large group panels and plenary sessions and three or four small group workshop sessions. There were more than 225 workshops and it was always difficult to choose among them. While it would be impossible to describe them in any detail, a few topics deserve mention.

A very powerful part of the conference was the presence and participation of persons with AIDS (PWAs) and persons with AIDS-Related Complex (PWARC). Workshops focused on living positively with AIDS, alternative health care approaches and current treatment and research. Of particular interest is the growing strength of national and state PWA coalitions. More and more resources are being developed and an extensive underground is forming to support PWAs and other experimental drugs.

While there is no definitive evidence, many panelists commenting on the possibility that they may help prevent those with ARC or who are seropositive from developing AIDS. While this development is exciting, it also raises a number of serious issues about the value of HIV screening and the potential long-term effects of experimental drugs on large numbers of people — mostly gay men.

Another important area addressed in large and small groups was feminists and lesbians working in the AIDS movement. Many people shared the strength and excitement of coalition-building along with the frustrations of dealing with sexism. One of the best panel discussions of the conference was "Lessons From the Past: What Gay Men Can Learn from the Women's Health Movement."

A dynamic group of women discussed how key issues in the AIDS health crisis parallel those raised in the feminist health movement for years. These included the concept of self-help and taking control of our bodies, how to deliver services and be a political movement, how to deal with government funding without compromising goals. This exciting and informative session was unfortunately noticeably under-attended by gay men.

There was some good networking among those of us working in rural areas. This included information sharing about strategies, materials, and experiences, and discussions about creating our own models for services and education.

The conference provided up-to-date information, opportunities to share frustrations and get re-energized, and a chance to explore lesbian and gay health issues with a large and varied group of people. Most of us came away with a feeling of connectedness and a renewed sense of motivation. Throughout the conference I often wished more of us working on AIDS-related issues in Maine could have been there.

Next year's conference will be held in Boston in June, so reduced cost and distance should allow more of us to participate.

I look forward to sharing materials and experiences from this year's conference with all who are interested.
Lesbian Minister to Lose Ordination

by Fred Berger

"I am a lesbian—four rather simple words, yet strung together in this way, they become a confession, an admission—no, an AFFIRMATION."

With these words to the Executive Session of the New Hampshire Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Rose Mary Denman's ministry with the church will likely come to an involuntary end. In a meeting in late May, Denman is expected to be denied a continuation of her leave of absence from active ministry, a move which will effectively end her ordination. The meeting with the Executive Session will culminate Denman's unsuccessful attempts to remain both a Methodist minister and an open lesbian.

Rose Mary Denman was ordained in 1981 in Farmington, Maine, and served in Maine until 1984 when she was appointed pastor of the Conway, New Hampshire church. During that year she "discovered she was a lesbian." In the same year the United Methodist General Conference, the national decision-making body, voted that "all homosexuality may be ordained in the Methodist Church. (Since that time the church has shown some tolerance of lesbian ministers who are not too open.)"

In June of 1985 Denman took a leave of absence to, in her words, "have time to sort out my personal theology and to live with my lover without fear of having the church take action against me." In the spring of 1987 Denman applied for an extension of her ministerial leave in order to maintain her status while she completed a transfer to the Unitarian Universalist Association. In response to her request Denman was told by Bishop George Bashore that she was a lesbian. "In the same year the church will likely come to an involuntary move which will effectively end her ordination."

Denman concludes her statement: "I have shared my soul with you today. I have refused to play the political verbal gymnastics of demanding that you prove that I am not only a self-awoken, but also a practicing homosexual . . . I have been honest with you and vulnerable to you. I have searched for truth in my life, in my relationships with others, in my relationship with the Church, and in my relationship with God. I have shared that truth with you this evening; now you must search for your own truth."

Denman has reached the final stage—a recommendation by a review committee of the United Methodist Church, or with the greater law of God. She describes her status while she completed a transfer to the United Universalist Association as "a lesbian—four rather simple words, yet strung together in this way, they become a confession, an admission—no, an AFFIRMATION."

Confession continued from page 3

Foster Care Bill

continued from page 4

have no rational relationship to the well-being of the children."

Denman, executive director of the Maine Chapter, National Association of Social Workers, said the bill didn’t grow out of a study of the foster care system, and “isn’t based on a thorough understanding of the real problems” with foster care in Maine.

The bill would create a bureaucratic nightmare of expensive, unwieldy, and redundant decision-making in an already overburdened and underserved system, she said.

She also predicted practical problems with the bill, which set as the ideal families with two parents—sole male and sole female—with experience raising children, and puts single people lowest on the list.

If "non-traditional families" are used or regulated more, many potential foster parents will become discouraged before they begin, Cinnamon said. "A widow who has raised one family already takes in a foster child out of the goodness and caring in her. It is not an easy job. She will probably have to use some of her own money to supplement the small stipend she will be given. She may find herself taking to a hard-to-place child. How will she feel when she is told that she is not considered as good a choice now as she would have been before her husband died?"

A representative of the Maine Commission for Women offered statistics about Maine’s families. There are 285,488 households, Mary Catchart said, and 21 percent are comprised of single people. Thirty-five percent are married with no children or parenting experience, and 25 percent are married with both parents working. Only 13 percent are married with one parent working, she said.

She urged the committee to defeat the bill, saying "when the problem with foster children is that there aren’t enough families to take them in, putting artificial barriers up for people who are able and want to love these children is bad public policy."

Lucie Bauer of the National Organization for Women called the bill "just plain wrong," and it was said to be CLOSE by "that the Christian Civic League of Maine is attempting to put their own view of traditional family values ahead of the interests of Maine’s children."

She spoke of her own experiences as a lesbian who is co-parenting a child, and said "a custody battle resulted in a Knox County District Court judge finding that "not only are my partner and I fit parents, but her son is flourishing in our care."

Peter Walsh, the DHS official in charge of foster care placements, also testified against the bill. He said the goal of foster care workers is to match "the needs of the child with the most appropriate available resources," and said sometimes that meant placement with a single person.

"Single persons may have a great deal of potential to be high-quality foster parents," Walsh said. He urged the committee to reject the bill, saying it could harm children.

The parade of professional people was effective, but it was a child who testified most eloquently. Fourteen-year-old Shawn told the committee of being abused "sexually, physically, emotionally, mentally and psychologically," in her father's "traditional home," after her parents were divorced four years ago. Custody was given to him rather than her mother; she said, because her mother is a lesbian.

Last summer, after her mother found out about the abuse, she fought for and won custody of Shawn and her two younger sisters.

"Now my sisters and I live in a non-traditional family where we are loved, cared for, and safe," she said. "I beg you—do not pass the foster parent bill. These are children, not games to see who is better. Children need love. It should not matter where that love is coming from."

Several people were in tears at the end of Shawn’s testimony, and Senate committee chair Paul Gauvreau commended her for her courage in speaking out. Elze, testifying for MLGPA, handed a prepared statement to the committee but spoke extemporaneously in response to Look’s last-minute amendment.

She called the bill "particularly heinous" because it "victimizes and exploits an already victimized and exploited" population—children in need of foster care. She said if sexual orientation were to be made the only factor in placing foster children, "the only rational decision" the state could make would be to prohibit placements in homes with heterosexual men, because every study ever done indicates children are most at risk from heterosexual men. The statistics, Elze said, illustrate the wrongheadedness of defining who is and is not qualified to be a foster parent on the basis of sexual orientation.

Elze also spoke in defense of the lesbian and gay parents and foster parents in Maine, and assured the committee there are many of the former and some of the latter. In her years working in social welfare, she said, she never had a case of abuse involving a child in a gay home.

"The Department of Human Services would truly be blessed if more lesbian and gay people came forward to be foster parents," she said.

The bill’s original sponsor was Rep. Joan Delbert of Gardiner and Rep. Jo Anne LaPointe of Auburn, withdrew their names before the hearing. They reportedly told colleagues they didn’t understand the bill’s purpose when they signed on. Both are members of the Human Resources Committee.

The other original sponsor was Sen. Edwin Randall of East Machias. He did not attend the hearing, so his commitment to the bill was questionable, opponents said.
Entre Nous 1987 Softball Schedule

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>May 19</td>
<td>vs. Brodericks Sandwich Shop (Field #1)</td>
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<td>May 20</td>
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<td>May 27</td>
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<td>May 29</td>
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<td>June 5</td>
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<td>July 15</td>
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All games start at 6:15 p.m. and are at South Portland High School. Field #1 is next to the church and Field #2 is next to the tennis courts.

photos: Brenda Buchanan

3 Spring Street
Portland, Maine 04112
(207) 773-3315

NEW SUMMER HOURS:
2 P.M. — 1 A.M. 7 DAYS

NEW GAMES & OLD FRIENDS:
MON—SAT: 25¢ Beer & Well Drinks (possible with a pick-a-price, 2 P.M.—8 P.M.
MON NITE: Dance ’til 1 A.M.
TUES NITE: Bottle Beer ½ price
Well Drinks $1.50
WEDS NITE: Pull Tabs

Open 365 Days a Year
3:00 pm - 1:00 am
A High Energy Evening of Feminist Music and Humor

by Liz Brauer

Deidre McCalla, an Olivia recording artist, and Kate Clinton, feminist humorist, provided an evening of musical and comedy entertainment at the Unitarian Church on Saturday, May 16. More than 550 people attended the benefit for the Women's Community Project and Maine NOW PAC. This was the last of three concerts produced by Pine Cone Productions to benefit the WCP.

Deidre McCalla led off the bill with her solo act. She is touring nationally to promote her first album on Olivia Records, "Don't Doubt It." She was warmly received by the audience. McCalla performed many of her own compositions, occasionally playing songs written by friends. She plays many kinds of songs. Starting off the show with "Wake Me Up Gently" involved the audience right away with her music.

Deidre shared many anecdotes with the audience. One was about her support group called AVF: Adult Victims of Fe­menine. She was talking about the panic in her Maine premiere. Deidre has developed a folk style, although she's used to "de-dyke" the apartment when relatives come for a two-week vacation and she "dykes up." Her goal is to get rid of them in less than two days. Her strategy is to put a magazine rack of On Our Backs in the bathroom and a 10-speed variable vibrator in the bedroom. Her current targets included the fundamentalists preaching on the sidewalk before the show. With their quarter-inch stubble, they were admonishing the audience about short hair. She admitted that she is a Contra-gate addict; she can't stop watching the hearings, just like the mother couldn't stop watching Watergate. Kate claims there is a medical explanation for the whole Iran-Contra scandal: the Washington bureaucrats are suffering from CRI, Cranial-Rectal Inversion.

Kate introduced Mona, a 40,000 year old bull dyke gaye. Mona "channels" through Kate and appears when Kate goes into a trance. The audience could ask questions of Mona but was a little lost for a topic. This is a new part of Kate's routine and she needs to prepare the audience.

Kate recently appeared on "Comedy Tonight," a nationally-syndicated TV show, the first open lesbian to do so. The audience liked her until they heard what she was talking about. Her calendar has also included "Gay Awareness Week," events at various universities, where the crowds haven't been the most sympathetic. She said it was good to be back among her own kind. Kate, it was good to have you back.

How has the move affected her? Kate used to "de-dyke" the apartment when relatives came for an afternoon visit. Now they come for a two-week vacation and she "dykes up." Her goal is to get rid of them in less than two days. Her strategy is to put a magazine rack of On Our Backs in the bathroom and a 10-speed variable vibrator in the bedroom. Her current targets included the fundamentalists preaching on the sidewalk before the show. With their quarter-inch stubble, they were admonishing the audience about short hair. She admitted that she is a Contra-gate addict; she can't stop watching the hearings, just like the mother couldn't stop watching Watergate. Kate claims there is a medical explanation for the whole Iran-Contra scandal: the Washington bureaucrats are suffering from CRI, Cranial-Rectal Inversion.

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union
on an evening in June
you touched me
gently softly
with
hands clasped tightly
as bodies entwine
in a mesh
of
love holding on
to feelings which
pour from
out
hearts never speaking
a silence as intimacy
brushes upon
our
lips and tongues
meet
in the night’s
whispering
nakedness...

After a fashion
In retrospect
it seems to have happened
in a small and secret place.
A drawer, perhaps.
we the socks
mis-matched
twisting with a static sort of passion.
Even as the drawer was closed
the ritual of fabric and air lingers
with the fizz and crack of light.
Much later
I met you in a place
with music bursting and falling
like gasoline from its corners.
you were dressed in black
your loud laughter about to ignite the
entire room.

Brian Crabtree

Safe Love
Met a new man last night
Recited my safe sex catechism as my
tongue explored his body
You lean back almost seeming invitation
your arms thrust back, strong.
Fists clenched.

Your neck bared except for a few strands
of hair.
Bare — soft always tanned skin —
naked — defenseless before me.
You trust me that much
to lay your vulnerability inches from me
not that I’d ever hurt you
you know that.

You are wearing
that sweater again
brilliant red — with 3 aquamarine
stripes across chest — around arms;
almost glowing with your light.

Brian Crabtree

Sleep -2
I turned as you slept
to admire your body,
pressed against the sheets.
Your long, slender legs,
your thin waist,
your soft supple breast,
the firmness of the sinews
of your upper arm,
all played seductively
upon my latent emotions.
I watched your chest move
with each carefree breath.
I saw you move.
Twitch.
Grunt.
Rest.
For, what seemed like hours,
I watched you
as you traveled
through your dreams.
I moved closer to you;
felt your warmth,
the softness of your skin.
I drifted to sleep
lulled by your beauty.
I felt at peace,
lying next to you.

Prem Arun

Stretch
You lean back almost seeming invitation
your arms thrust back, strong.
Fists clenched.

Your neck bared except for a few strands
of hair.
Bare — soft always tanned skin —
naked — defenseless before me.
You trust me that much
to lay your vulnerability inches from me
not that I’d ever hurt you
you know that.

You are wearing that sweater again
brilliant red with 3 aquamarine stripes
across chest — around arms;
almost glowing with your light.

Prem Arun

Soap Opera
They are a bag of clothes,
your thoughts.
Pixillating into suits of motion,
sparring for dominance
at the edges of your skull.
Erotic, mixed up,
their flies hanging open,
their lapels smeared with sweat.
You need the detergent of sleep
to solve your laundry problems.

Brian Crabtree

CALENDAR OF THE PORTLAND LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE EVENTS

FRIDAY, JUNE 5:
"THE SOUND OF OUR OWN VOICES"
7:30 P.M., First Parish
425 Congress Street, Portland
Music by local performers,
poetry, open podium, FREE
Speakers:
Parents and Friends of Gays;
Ann Maguire, Liaison to the
Lesbian and Gay Community
For the Mayor’s Office, Boston

SATURDAY, JUNE 6:
THE LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE MARCH
"A Family of Friends"
Balloon Release
Receptions follow

SUNDAY, JUNE 7:
Pride's ocean-side BBQ at
Two Lights State Park, off
Rt. 77, Cape Elizabeth

INFORMATION ON PRIDE EVENTS,
PORTLAND AREA ACCOMMODATIONS
OR TRAVEL: (207) 883-6934

Prem Arun

Prem Arun

Portland Pride

Maine
go out. I received a lot of sympathy gifts — cards, letters, visits, and good times. Ron, P.O. Box 1169, Sanford, ME 04073.

Can you qualify? 53-year-old GWM, 6' 4", 235 lbs. interests include health, travel, arts, music, movies, and a long-term, one-to-one relationship. If interested, please call Our Paper, P.O. Box 33, Stonington, ME 04681. We fill up fast!

Blueberry Cove Workshops 1987. Women’s Building School, 7/24-26; Dreamwork, Healing and Creativity - Ramsey Raymond, 7/31-8/2; Women’s Beginners Sailing School, 8/26-31 and 8/23-28; Women in Recovery (she is the mother of a three-year-old) in- cluded questionnaires and personal discussions with gay and lesbian parents and their children from all over the country. Although there were many things different from what people in the book shared, Schulenburg deals with our isolation.

Our childless friends (gay or straight) don’t really understand our choice, but we don’t fit into the “HET” parent society either.

Other topics include: to hide, or not to hide; coming out; the complexities of being gay or lesbian, adoption, artificial insemination (and the concerns of AIDS transmitted in this manner), books and poetry, and being gay or lesbian parent. We recommend this book to every gay or lesbian parent.

GAY MATE WANTED: I have a two- bedroom apartment in the Deering section of Portland. I am 25, student with a potluck at 6 p.m. and followed by energy healing and

PROJECTOR (Womrn Land) Trust is a circle of women who have come together with the purpose of acquiring land to protect and replenish it and to provide women with the opportunity to do together what most of us cannot do alone — to have access to land for living, learning, and re-creating. The next trust meeting will be held in central Maine on June 13. For more information call New Hope for Women, 948-6900.

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Lesbigay Network

AIDS Action of Central Maine
P.O. Box 3113
Lewiston, Me. 04240
AIDS Hotline 724-6113
AIDS Line 775-1267 and 1-800-851-AIDS
Mon. & Wed. 6:30 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

The AIDS Project
48 Deering St.
Portland, Me. 04101
Bates Gay/Lesbian/ Straight Alliance
Box 569
Bates College
Bates College Lewiston, ME 04240
Banger Area Gay/Lesbian/ Straight Alliance (BAGLSC)
c/o Sunset Strip
Brewer, Me. 04412
Bowdoin Gay/Lesbian/ Straight Alliance
Bowdoin College
Brunswick, Me. 04011
Chiltern Mountain Club
P.O. Box 407
Burlington, VT. 05402

ADHD/LESA
9 Deering St.
P.O. Box 3771
Portland, Me. 04101
Feminist Spiritual Community
9 Deering St.
P.O. Box 3771
Portland, Me. 04104
Frederickton Lesbians and Gay Box 1556, Station A
Frederickton, New Brunswick, Canada
Free To Be 11 King St.
Augusta, Me. 04330
Friends and Parents of Gay
725-7478 (Brunswick)
GLIM (Girls and Lesbians of Montreal)
C.P. 7102
Riveris, N.B., Canada
Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous
c/o First Parish Universalist Church
425 Congress St.
Portland 04101
Gay/Lesbian Parents Support Group
Tuesdays or Thursdays - 7:30-9:30
Portland
Gay/Lesbian Alliance
92 Bedford St.
Portland 04102
Gay and Lesbian Community League
P.O. Box 104
Banger, Me. 04611
Gay Men Social Association
P.O. Box 294
Conway, N.H. 03818
Tel: 603-376-3044

Seacoast Gay Men — every Monday, 7-9 p.m. (except first Monday and holidays). Unitarian-Universal Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH (side door near basement). Call Daryl (603) 335-4294.

Greater Bangor NOW, fourth Monday of every month, 7-9 p.m. Call 999-8306 for info.

Adult Children of Alcoholic (ACOA)
— open discussion with focus on gay/lesbian issues, 7-9:30 p.m. YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland.

Greater Portland N.O.W.
Box 4012
Portland 04101
Harbor Masters Inc.
P.O. Box 4044
Portland, Me. 04101
Lesbian/Gay Committee
Mr. Chapter National Assoc. of Social Workers
P.O. Box 5112, Station A
Portland, Me. 04101
Lovers Only Friendship Club
Statewide Connections
P.O. Box 1044
Banger, Me. 04611
Maine Bisexual People’s Network
P.O. Box 1792
Portland, Me. 04104
780-4085 (messages)
Maine Connection
P.O. Box 5245
Station A
Portland, Me. 04102
Maine Health Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 7229 DTS
Portland 04112
Maine Feminists
P.O. Box 125
BelFAST 04915
Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance
P.O. Box 108
Yarmouth, ME. 04096
New Hampshire Citizens Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights
P.O. Box 756
UNIversity of Maine
3-5 p.m.

Our Paper
725-4769 (Brunswick)

GREAT TIMES!
Times Roman, that is. It’s just one of the many type styles available at The Type Room. Complete typesetting and preprinting service. Women-owned and operated.

Northern Lambda Nord
P.O. Box 990
Carlton, Me. 04438
NLN gay Phoneline, 498-2088
Our Paper
P.O. Box 1074
Portland, Me. 04104
Portland Area Men’s Group (POM)
c/o P.O. Box 681
Scarborough, Me. 04074
Portland Pride Committee
P.O. Box 5112, Sts. A
Portland, Me. 04112
883-9543
Seacoast Gay Men
P.O. Box 1394
Portsmouth, NH 03071
USM Women’s Forum
University of Southern Maine
92 Bedford St.
Portland 04103
Vermonters for Lesbian and Gay Rights (VLGR)
Box 281
Hinesburg, VT 05461
Wilde-Stein Club
Memorial Union
University of Maine - Orono
Orono 04469
Women’s Community Project
P.O. Box 2733
Portland, Me. 04104

SUNDAYS
Bates Gay/Lesbian/ Straight Alliance — for discussion, support and planning — every Sunday, 8:30 p.m. in Hirawasa Lounge, Chase Hall, Bates College, Lewiston.

Northern Lambda Nord — last Sunday of the month — business meeting, 1 p.m. followed by potluck.

Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA) — every third Sunday of the month. Meetings rotated throughout state. See Calendar listing for location and time.

Dignity/Maine, every Sunday, 5:30-7 p.m., First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland (rear entrance).

Banger Area Gay/Lesbian/ Straight Coalition (BAGLSC) meets the first Sundays and third Thursdays of every month at $7 Sunset Strip in Brewer at 7:00 p.m.

MONDAYS
Feminist Spiritual Community — every Monday at 7 p.m., Friends Meeting House, Forest Ave., Portland, 773-2294 (come early).

AIDS Action of Central Maine — first Monday of every month at Sportman’s, 2 Bates St., Lewiston, 8 p.m. Call Phil Ellis, 784-5047 or 782-6113.

TUESDAYS
Greater Portland N.O.W. — fourth Tuesday of the month, YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland.

Alcoholics Anonymous — Gays in Sobriety — every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., First Parish Universalist-Unitarian Church, 425 Congress St., Portland.

Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon — every Tuesday, 7:30-8:30 p.m., First Parish Universalist-Unitarian Church, 425 Congress St., Portland.

Fridays
Free To Be Group of AA — meets Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Jewett Hall, UMA, room 114.

Gay/Lesbian Alliance — every other Friday at 7 p.m., 92 Bedford St., Portland, 780-4085.

Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Friday — 8-9:30 p.m. — Gays Together in Sobriety (open discussion), Christ Episcopal Church, 80 Lafayette Rd., Portland, NH.

SATURDAYS
Free To Be Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous — every Saturday, 8 p.m., The Room, 60 Oak St. (corner Blake), Lewiston.

Bangor Area Gay/Lesbian/ Straight Coalition (BAGLSC) dances meet the first and third Saturdays of each month from 8:00 to 1:00 at the old Bangor Community College Student Union.