In Portland for National Coming Out Day, Special guest; "Women In Harmony"

Saturday, October 11, in recognition of "Lesbian & Gay History Month," Above and Beyond is presenting a very special "National Coming Out Day" event.

Singer-songwriters Cris Williamson and Tret Fure with special guests, Women In Harmony Musical and life partners for 15 years, Cris Williamson and Tret Fure will appear at Portland's historic First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church in concert celebrating the release of their new CD, "Between the Covers." World renowned performers, Williamson and Fure have been instrumental in setting the stage for women, and particularly for lesbians, to participate in all areas of the music industry.

Hailed as a "brilliant composer and lyricist," by The Boston Globe, Cris Williamson is one of the premiere singer-songwriters of our time. Her anthemic 1994 collection, The Changer and The Changed remains on of the best-selling independent releases of all time. "Between The Covers" is Williamson's twentieth release.

Musician extraordinaire, Tret Fure, was one of the first women sound engineers in the country. A producer, writer, vocalist and master of countless musical instruments, "Between the Covers" is her sixth release and second full-length collaboration with Williamson.

Joining Cris Williamson and Tret Fure in the intimate setting of Portland's First Parish Church will be "Women In Harmony." This 50 member chorus of women's voices, conducted by Sonja Dahlgren Pryor, began in the summer of 1993. Members of the group are representative of the diversity of the "Southern Maine Community" young and old, lesbian, bisexual, and straight; all ethnic backgrounds and walks of life. Some are professional musicians, others are novices who simply love music and the art of singing.

Cris Williamson and Tret Fure with special guests, Women In Harmony will perform at 8 pm on Satur-
Survey in Maine Would Preserve Gay Rights Law

A majority of Mainers say they would vote to keep the state’s gay rights law on the books, and a little over half will support passage of the forest-cutting “compact” this fall.

Results of the survey released by Strategic Marketing Services of Portland also show strong confidence in the economy, with 69 percent declaring themselves optimistic or very optimistic.

Strategic Marketing surveyed 450 registered Maine voters who are likely to go to the polls in November. They were asked a series of wide-ranging public policy questions in telephone interviews between July 29 and Aug. 4. Fifty-eight percent said they would not vote to repeal Maine’s gay rights law, 33 percent would vote to repeal it, and 9 percent are undecided.

Lawmakers approved the anti-discrimination law earlier this year, but opponents launched a petition drive to put the question before voters. It is still unclear whether the question will appear on this November’s ballot.

A leader of the repeal forces, Michael Heath of the Christian Civic League of Maine, said he was disappointed by the poll figures, but not surprised, and said he does not believe the edge is insurmountable.

Heath, executive director of the conservative group, said he has long believed “that this was going to be an uphill struggle.”

On other issues, 61 percent of those polled by Strategic Marketing said they would vote this fall to widen the Maine Turnpike, 30 percent are opposed and 8 percent are undecided.

The omnibus poll, which has a 4.6 percent margin of error, included some questions to gather information for clients of the polling firm. Strategic Marketing did not release results of questions asked on behalf of the company’s clients, said spokeswoman Victoria Kuhn Walker.

Strategic Marketing is a division of Pan Atlantic Consultants. Victoria Murphy, a principal in Pan Atlantic and former chairwoman of the Maine Democratic Party, was not involved in the survey, said Walker.

“It was a completely nonpartisan survey,” Walker said.

Focus on Families Co-Founder Formally Apologizes

A man who calls himself a co-founder of Focus on the Family publicly apologized to women, ethnic minorities, gays and lesbians, religious groups and the media during a blizzard to promote his book. Gil Alexander-Moegerle claims he was one of seven people who co-founded Focus on the Family, a $10 million-a-year Christian organization that counsels people seeking advice in dealing with family struggles.

In his book, "James Dobson’s War on America," Alexander-Moegerle criticizes the group’s well-known leader and his followers, accusing them of veering from their original mission of helping people raise their children and preserve their marriages. The author believes Focus has become too political and said Dobson has made "a harmful foray into big-time politics."

"I am ashamed of my former colleagues for their attacks on you and for their pattern of slamming the doors of reasonable access in your face," Alexander-Moegerle said in a written statement. "I encourage you to bang those doors down, to investigate and to report the truth about the threat James Dobson and other religious extremists pose to the American tradition of tolerance, inclusivity and the separation of church and state," he added.

Alexander-Moegerle, who lives in Los Angeles, made the comments in a news release prior to his appearance at the Colorado Springs offices of the gay and lesbian activist group Ground Zero.

He said his book is the first insider critique of "the character, style and political agenda of James Dobson, who co-founded Focus on the Family in Arcadia, Calif., in 1977."

Paul Hetrick, a Focus on the Family spokesman, denied Alexander-Moegerle helped found the nonprofit organization, saying the author worked for a Chicago advertising agency and served only as a consultant before becoming an employee in 1980.

Hetrick speculated that Alexander-Moegerle was still angry over a lawsuit he lost in Pomona (Calif.) Superior Court in which he sued Focus on the Family for allegedly firing him inappropriately after seven years. Hetrick said Alexander-Moegerle voluntarily resigned from the organization after divorcing his wife and marrying his secretary.

Hetrick said Alexander-Moegerle accused Dobson of interfering with his personal life after Dobson suggested he and his first wife avoid divorce by getting counseling. "We just disagree on these matters. But that’s not feeling Gil’s fury. What’s fueling his fury is that he failed to achieve what he wanted ... which was to be able to divorce his wife, marry his secretary and continue to be employed at Focus," Hetrick said.

The spokesman also denied any allegations that Focus on the Family is a sexist, racist and homophobic organization or has changed its focus on preserving families since its inception.

"That’s utter nonsense," Hetrick said. "This group has not changed its mission, its purpose or its emphasis since it was founded.”

The estimated 5 million Americans tune in to Dobson’s weekly radio program “Family News in Focus,” which is broadcast by more than 2,500 stations around the world. About 8,000 letters pour into the Colorado Springs Focus on the Family offices daily. Hundreds of employees field 3,400 telephone calls a day. Many people seek advice, comfort and prayer in dealing with family struggles like alcohol abuse, sexual problems and martial difficulties.

Common Circle for Human Rights

The Common Circle for Human Rights, a local group whose purpose, among other things, is to educate individuals on issues of social justice and equal rights wishes to announce the following event to which the public is invited.

From September 5th through September 13th the photo/text exhibit, “LoveMakes A Family” which depicts 20 diverse families comprised of various members who are lesbian or gay will be shown at the Spring Street Gallery in Belfast. On September 5th from 5:00 to 8:00 P.M. will be an opening reception. On the same night from 7:15 to 9:00 P.M. at the Abbott Room of the Belfast Free Library there will be a panel discussion that will encourage audience participation.

The text that accompanies the exhibit allows one to see the many perspectives, challenges, and the commonality we have in striving to live within and as part of family systems. It will also provide validation and support for those people

Adoption Decision Published

(HP) A trial referee’s decision in a lesbian adoption case was published in August in the Connecticut Law Journal, but was actually issued over a year ago.

Superior Court Referee Hadley W. Austin ruled that the state Adoption Review Board could consider a lesbian’s petition to adopt the 5-year-old son of her partner. The ruling overturned a Probate Court decision.

Because of confidentiality requirements, the Adoption Review Board said Tuesday it could not discuss the status of the case, which involves a Ledyard couple referred to in court documents as Anne and Malinda.
Marriage Case Filed in Burlington

(Burlington, Vermont, July 22, 1997) Three same-gender Vermont couples filed suit in Chittenden Superior Court, seeking the right to marry. The couples, Stan Baker and Peter Harrigan, Nina Beck and Stacy Jolles, and Lois Farnham Holly Puterbaugh, sued the State of Vermont as well as Shelburne, South Burlington and Milton, respectively, because the clerks in those Towns refused to issue marriage licenses to the couples. In a joint statement, the couples’ attorneys, Susan Murray and Beth Robinson from the law firm of Langrock, Sperry & Wool in Middlebury, maintain that “the refusal to allow our clients to marry violates both state marriage laws and the state Constitution, which require that all citizens and families have access to the legal protections and obligations of civil marriage.” They add that “marriage is a fundamental, individual personal choice, which should be available to all Vermonters.”

Mary Bonauto, co-counsel in the case form Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, a New England-wide legal organization which advocates for gay and lesbian civil rights, pointed out that “married couples receive over 150 supports and protections under Vermont law which are not available to gay and lesbian couples, no matter how long they have been together, no matter how committed their relationship is, and no matter how much they need those legal protections.”

No state currently recognizes marriages between couples of the same gender, although a recent Hawaii has ordered that state to allow such marriages. That decision is on hold pending an appeal to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Stan Baker and Peter Harrigan have been together as a couple for four years, and live in Shelburne. They explain that they want to marry for the same mix of reasons that other couples choose to marry: they love each other, they want to make a public commitment to one another, and they seek the legal protections and obligations of civil marriage. Harrigan explains, “Marriage is a fundamental right, central to me as a human being. I am deeply devoted to my relationship with Stan, and would like our commitment to be supported by legal rights afforded other committed couples.”

Lois Farnham and her partner, Holly Puterbaugh, have lived together as a couple in Vermont for twenty-five years. Farnham is not entitled to receive Puterbaugh’s social security benefits, nor are they granted the right to make necessary medical decisions or act as each other’s guardian in their old age. Puterbaugh notes that “Lois has done as much as any other spouse to earn my retirement benefits, but she’s not entitled to them under present law.”

Nina Beck and Stacy Jolles are a couple of seven years, parents of a two-year-old child, and residents of South Burlington. Two years ago, when Beck was rushed to the hospital, Jolles experienced firsthand the effects of discriminatory marriage laws. “The doctors didn’t treat me as a family man,” Jolles recalls, “and if I had not had a signed medical power of attorney from Nina, they would not have let me be with Nina or participate in any medical decisions that needed to be made.”

Speaking about their child, Beck declared that “our son will be better off if his parents can marry and enjoy the legal support and protection that the civil marriage laws provide. He needs and deserves to know that his parents have a legal connection to one another, as well as to him.”

Homosexuality is NO Reason for Therapy

Homosexuality is not a mental disorder and doesn’t need treatment, and there’s no good evidence that so-called reparative therapy works any- way, the nation’s biggest group of psychologists says.

The American Psychological Association also urged mental health professionals to “take the lead in removing the stigma of mental illness from homosexuality.” The association’s policy-setting body made the statements in a resolution passed recently. The resolution affirms APA’s position that homosexuality isn’t a mental disorder and doesn’t need treatment, the association said.

The resolution says some believe the controversial practice of reparative or conversion therapy, aimed at changing a person’s homosexuality, is ineffective and harmful, while others say it’s effective and helpful. “Well-designed scientific studies to test either belief have not been done,” the resolution said, “therefore, claims of effectiveness need to be very carefully considered.”

Kim Mills, a representative of the Human Rights Campaign, a lesbian and gay political group, said in a statement that the resolution “reaffirms the fact that there is nothing wrong with homosexuality, there is no reason that gay, lesbian or bisexual people should try to change their orientations.”

Robert H. Knight, director of the National Family Research Council, said there is evidence that therapy can change homosexuality. People “have been successfully treated for decades,” he said in a statement, and “a growing population of ex-gays is becoming more visible in America today.”

Knight said the psychological association “is trying to snuff out genuine hope for those struggling with gender identity problems.”

William H. Sandstead
Attorney at Law

Community Pride Reporter September 1997 Page 3

Gay Men Together

Community Building for the Next Century

October 17, 18, 19 1997
Pilgrim Lodge, Litchfield, Maine

GMT weekend retreat is held twice a year at a wonderful, rustic, turn-of-the-century lodge in central Maine. The weekend provides an open environment where gay men can make new friends, share experiences, develop trust and gain a better understanding of ourselves and others.

Workshops: massage, body piercing, HIV issues, trust-building, community

About the Lodge: Pilgrim Lodge is located on one hundred acres along the shores of Lake Cobossecentee. The Lodge’s four field stone fireplaces offer crackling fires and warm ambiance beneath its birch bark chandeliers. The grounds offer a magnificent lake view. There are 25 boardwalk-connected cabins, all with fireplaces and screened-in porches with rocking chairs. Gay Men Together will be an alcohol and drug free environment.

Registration: pre-registration is necessary. $45 ($25 extra for Thursday arrival) Make checks payable to: Gay Men Together, 7 Cattail Lane, Alfred, Maine 04002. For more info call: (207) 499-0166. Registration fee includes: six meals, snacks, workshops, and all other materials for various activities. Directions will be mailed to you with your confirmation letter.
Therapies Condemned

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGTFL) said today that the American Psychological Association (APA) did not go far enough in its vote on a resolution regarding "reparative" or "conversion therapy," a practice designed to alter the sexual orientation of a non-heterosexual person.

The APA Council of Representatives meeting this week in Chicago, today voted overwhelmingly to pass a "resolution on appropriate therapeutic responses to sexual orientation." The resolution affirmed that homosexuality is not a mental disorder and that the APA opposes therapies to alter homosexuality.

However, it stopped short of calling for an end to conversion treatments. Task Force executive director Kerry Lobel, in a letter to APA, had urged the organization to condemn the practice. "Attempts to change an individual's sexual orientation through conversion therapies are morally and ethically wrong," said Lobel. "Such practices are a therapeutic perpetuation of the homophobia that exists in society today.

Equally repugnant are the coercive tactics employed by some psychologists who attempt to lure clients into treatment in the name of pseudo-science. "The real victims of those misguided therapies are clients attempting to bear the weight of homophobia in society and within their own families," she argued. "As they seek counseling, they should experience self-validation and support for living a healthy and full life regardless of their sexual orientation. While some adults may give their consent to conversion therapy, many are coerced into doing so. The most vulnerable are young people at the mercy of confused drug users, "cocktails" which were making a difference even before their introduction of protease inhibitors.

Media Bias in Cunanan Case

The headlines tilted us from newsstands, while the daily newscasts and sound bites lured us to our televisions every night. Often, based on the headlines or sound bites associated with news reports, one would think that alleged serial killer Andrew Cunanan, committed the murders because he was gay. Gay Serial Killer one headline dubbed him. Several others suggested that the alleged killer was on a "revenge binge" because of a possible HIV-positive status. Then there were the stories that "warned" that AIDS would be rising as a woman to elude capture. Nearly every conceivable gay stereotype came out of the closet and onto the frontpages or television news during media coverage of Cunanan's alleged crimes and the gay world.

An example of the press at its worst? The media went too far in its efforts to determine Cunanan's HIV status. Instead of letting the issue drop with his death, one paper leaked the results of an HIV test done on Cunanan after an autopsy. So now that the "HIV revenge binge" theory has been torpedoed, what will an inquiring press turn to next in their quest to find a motive?

The media missed an opportunity to raise the consciousness of the public around issues concerning the LGBT community to a new level. Violence against members of our community is unfortunately a routine thing. Most of these stories never make the news. Many of them have resulted in death. Currently there are five serial killers of gay men still at-large.

Members of the press could have demonstrated that they had finally learned the lessons that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered persons are just as good or bad, talented or incapable, responsible or irresponsible, beautiful or ugly as anybody else. Instead of focusing on the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community.

But, were reporters wrong to point out the fact that Andrew Cunanan was gay? He was re-de-emphasized the fact that he was apparently supported by wealthy older men? Was it improper for them to seek out representatives of the LGBT community to give the "gay perspective" on the story? Was it in bad taste for the media to offer a "glimpse" into the gay world as a backdrop to news reports?

The answer to all these questions is a qualified "no." The fact that Cunanan was gay and was a well-known "party boy" were factors that were important to the story. The press rightfully acknowledged this. It was appropriate and even fair for the media to come to members of the LGBT community as they researched the story or looked for commentary and reaction.

It was also appropriate for the media to portray it in some kind of context for most of mainstream America to better understand it. The media was doing its job. But many times the media was faulty in doing its job or simply over did it.

For example, the press often pandered to many stereotypes of gaymen in attempts to "analyze" his motives or offer a "peek into" the gay community. Also, the press focused too much on the Cunanan's alleged crimes and the gay world.

The most that the media could have done was to provide us with a "glimpse" into the gay community as a backdrop to the story, so that the media would have looked for a drug connection or a Mafia tie-in. But there would be fewer negative stereotypes associated with the story and the type of speculation and innuendo raised in the reporting would never have been introduced if we were not talking about gay people.

The LGBT community must realize that the media is a business. They have a product to sell and they will sell it by making us all repeat customers. This is best done by keeping people "hooked." At the same time, members of the LGBT community must make sure that when the story relates to us, the media holds itself to the same standards it would if the media was talking about any other. They must be careful not to link things that should not be linked.

Gay people aren't alleged to have committed the murders, Andrew Cunanan was. To be gay is only important in so far as most of the alleged victims were gay. Otherwise, that fact should not have taken on a life of its own.

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MAN'S BEST SOURCE FOR GAY & LESBIAN MAGAZINES
“Charting the Future. Reclaiming the Past.”

October 1st Lesbian & Gay History Month

New York, August 7, 1997 - The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is proud to announce that October is “Lesbian & Gay History Month: A Celebration of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History.” The theme of this fourth annual event is “charting the Future Reclaiming the Past,” which will highlight the often ignored contributions of gay figures and the community in history.

During Lesbian & Gay History Month, the lesbian, gay, bisexual and Transgender community examines its political struggle, cultural achievements and collective creativity. “Lesbian & Gay History Month creates a more honest and complete understanding of history by telling untold stories,” said Joan M. Garry, GLAAD’s Executive Director. “It provides us with the opportunity to reflect on the distance we have traveled as a community and to honor the stewards of that journey.”

GLAAD is pleased to be co-sponsoring Lesbian & Gay History Month with a number of other national organizations, including the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, Dignity USA, the Bisexual Network of the US (BiNet USA), National Latino’s Lesbian & Gay Organization (LLEGO), GenderPAC, The Human Rights Campaign, Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG), LEAGUE for Nonviolent Action across the nation and country.

In addition, GLAAD is proud to welcome American Express Financial Advisors as Lesbian & Gay History Month’s primary corporate sponsor. "Lesbian & Gay History Month is a unique approach to celebrate the many accomplishments of the gay and lesbian community,” said Marie Tobin, American Express Financial Advisors’ Community Relations Program Manager. “American Express Financial Advisors applauds this effort to educate the public and its promotion of an inclusive society.”

In January 1994, a high school teacher in Missouri, appalled by the exclusion of lesbian and gay history from textbooks, set out to make a change. Rodney Wilson organized teachers and community leaders to educate the public about lesbians and gay men past and present. They formed a national grassroots network to create a celebration and education campaign that continues today. The month of October was selected to commemorate the anniversaries of the first two lesbian and gay Marches in Washington in October 1979 and 1987.

Coretta Scott King Receives Award

Mautner Project also to be Honored

Human Rights activist Coretta Scott King was honored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) for her efforts on behalf of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgendered persons in the struggle for civil and human rights.

Mrs. King will receive the “Honoring Our Allies” award from NGLTF at an awards ceremony to be held on September 15, 1997 in Washington, D.C. Mrs. King, founder of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta, has been a strong advocate for peace and justice through nonviolent action across the nation and throughout the world.

She has been outspoken on lesbian and gay issues for years and has appeared at press conferences and pride rallies throughout the country. She has often spoken of the lesbians and gay men who were involved in the civil rights movement all throughout its history, notably Bayard Rustin, the organizer of the famous 1963 March On Washington, at which Dr. King gave his infamous I Have A Dream speech.

Most recently, Mrs. King has spoken in support of legislation in Congress that would make it illegal to fire someone on the basis of sexual orientation. The bill, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) was recently introduced in the U.S. Senate. "Mrs. King has been a tremendous ally in the effort to achieve fairness for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people,” said Kerry Lobel, NGLTF executive director. "She truly embodies what this award is about and we’re very honored that she will be here with us as we celebrate her thirty-plus year commitment to the principles of equality for all people.

The vision of she and Dr. King in the civil rights movement has set the standard for fighting back with dignity. They demanded that this nation examine its core principles and their struggle has created the handbook for human rights movements that followed.” John J. Sweney, president of the AFL-CIO will also be given an Honoring Our Allies award.

Sweney will be honored for his efforts to further include lesbians and gays in the labor movement. He has been involved in the labor movement for over thirty-five years and is the former president of the Service Employees International Union.

The Mautner Project, this year’s third honoree, is a service organization for lesbians with cancer. The project, named for Mary Helen Mautner who died of breast cancer in 1989 offers a variety of direct services, support and outreach and education.

The Mautner Project was formed in 1990 in Washington, D.C. "The Mautner Project has helped to save the lives of many women who were diagnosed with cancer,” Lobel stated. "It is a very valuable life support operation and resource in our community and I am very proud that we can honor them for their great work.”

Past winners of the Honoring Our Allies award include Attorney General Janet Reno, Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala and Surgeon General Dr. Jocelyn Elders in 1994, the Congressional Black Caucus in 1995 and South African President Nelson Mandela and other South African’s who helped to craft the new government’s Equality Clause last year.

The all-inclusive clause bans discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in South Africa.
Review: Of Orlando's Sleep

by Daralyn S Maxwell

Everytime I pick up an autobiography of a transgendered author, I am reminded of one of the great dividing lines in life: haves and have-nots. As such, in looking at the first pages of "Orlando's Secret: An Autobiography of Gender" by Jennifer Spry, I was perfectly prepared to hate this woman and her life. Silly me!

Still, one of the first things that struck me about "Secret" was the fact that it doesn't present anything close to a perfect picture of transgendered life. Rather, it allows the reader to absorb some of the trials of self-correction instead of beating him or her over the head with it.

"Orlando's Secret" follows the gender awakening of Jennifer (nee John) Spry, who, at a very early age realized that there was something very wrong with her personal identity, but no one concurred or allowed for that. It travels the road of self-doubt, renewed determination, more doubt and finally (hurray for her!) recognition of the self and the beginning of the journey to personal fulfillment and completion.

This includes, by the way, the sexual identity reckoning that Ms. Spry is not only a transgendered woman, but a lesbian as well. One of the aspects of "Secret" that most attracted me was that Ms Spry deals quite frankly with the nagging doubt that accompanies such a personal journey, and doesn't minimize the hazards of succumbing to denial.

The heartbreak of separation from family and the rejection by alleged friends is all too often glossed over by the transgendered author in favor of that oh-so-seldom rosy conclusion.

While she obviously enjoyed "some" of the aspects of the privileged class, such as intercontinental traveling, Spry went to such exotic places as Thetford, Vermont (near and dear to my home in Vermont) and soporific outbacky-type places in Australia.

For anyone who would like to read an articulate and well-presented story about coming out as a transgendered lesbian, I would strongly recommend this book. It glosses over little and emphasizes that in perseverance there is hope. Having been exposed to some pretty unrealistic treaties of transition and transsexuality, it is refreshing to read about the warts of this issue, especially since I can personally identify with almost ALL of Ms Spry's experiences, both heartbreaking and enlightening.

Hopefully, this book will allow others in the g/b/l/bt community see what realistically goes on in the head and heart of someone trying to make a name for themselves in an industry that is extremely harsh and unforgiving.

"Orlando's Secret" was published by Fox Chapel, Pennsylvania.

Comic Strip's Creator Understands Fuss Over Gay Character

"For Better or For Worse" creator Lynn Johnston understands the problem some editors will face when she shifts the comic strip's focus to the love life of a gay character for a few days. That doesn't mean she'll be happy if they don't run it.

"It's not frustrating for me but for the people who are harassed because they have to put up with this every minute of their lives," Johnston said Wednesday from her home in Canada.

Kansas City-based Universal Press Syndicate said Wednesday it wrote to 1,700 newspapers informing them of the upcoming sequence. The comic strip, which deals with the Patterson family and their relatives and friends, angered some editors and readers in 1993 when a 17-year-old girl who presented as a boy was introduced. A few newspapers canceled "For Better or For Worse" when the character was presented.

Johnston, who lives near North Bay, Ontario, said she was disappointed by the latest flap but said the decision to run the strip is "certainly up to the editors."

"I remember when we went through this before," she said. "In these small communities, everybody knows the editors and the editor can't go have coffee and a doughnut without someone saying, 'Why are you running that junk in the paper?'"

"I got wonderful calls from editors who said they couldn't run it even if they wanted to. I respect that, I understand that."

Library Book Taken Hostage

A library patron has refused to return a book on gay sex which she says "doesn't meet the standards set forth by society." Linda McGeogh, who requested "The New Joy of Gay Sex" be banned from the Belmont Library, had a friend check out the book and put it in a storage locker after waiting for the library to act.

"We're not going to bring it back," said McGeogh, 38, who contends the book's gay content has nothing to do with her request. "It's something that should be kept in a bedside table, not in a public library."

But librarians and book lovers say a ban violates the First Amendment by limiting the public's access.

"We believe very firmly that everybody should have access to what the library has and nobody should have to ask for it," said San Mateo County librarian Nancy Lewis. "For us, it's a First Amendment issue."

McGeogh asked the library to dump their only copy of the book after she came across it on a June visit with her 8-year-old daughter, 7-year-old son and a friend. "I went through it and was absolutely shocked," McGeogh said.

Lewis said she will appoint a panel to make a recommendation. But she has final say in the matter. The book has been overdue since June 11. McGeogh will be billed for a $6 overdue fine and the cost for a replacement copy if she doesn't return the original, library officials said.
Portland Ballet Company: Celebrates Schubert

Guests to Inaufide Boston Bad Dancers Chris Alloways-Ramsey and Jonathan Shockley On Friday, October 3 and Saturday, October 4 at 7:30 p.m. Portland Ballet Company, presents "A Schubert Sampler." The evening of dance marks the 200th birthday of composer, Franz Schubert.

According to Eugenia L. O'Brien Artistic Director) PBC will be joined by some very special guests: Boston Ballet dancers, Chris Alloways-Ramsey and Jonathan Shockley; Violinist, Lawrence Golan; and pianist, Judith Hunt Quimby.

The evening of dance will feature four world premieres by choreographers Andrei Bouncy, Andrew DiGiambattista, Roxanne Rigoloso and Daielma Santos. In addition, by popular demand, PBC will present an encore performance of Ravel's Bolero.

Performances take place on Friday, October 3 and Saturday, October 4 at 7:30 p.m. At The Auditorium at Portland High School All seats $12. Call Portland Ballet Box Office at 207-772-9671.

M.W.& P.A., Sponsoring Poetry workshop

Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance is sponsoring a poetry workshop with award-winning poet William Carpenter on Saturday, September 13 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the MWPA office, 12 Pleasant St., Brunswick.

"This is one of our most popular poetry workshops," said Jill Shultz, program director of MWPA. "We try to offer it at least four times a year to meet the demand."

The workshop is designed as a creative seminar where participants may respond freely to each other's work. Participants should bring 11 copies of two short poems to class. The cost is $45 for MWPA members, $65 for others. Call 729-6333 to register; enrollment is limited to 10.

M. W. & P. A., sponsoring poetry workshop

Miriam Carpenter of "Stockton Springs" is the author of several collections of poetry including: The Hours of the Morning, winner of the Associated Writing Program Award; Rain; and Speaking. Fire at Stones, written with Robert Shesherly. His novel, A Keeper of Sheep, received national acclaim.

The sponsor, Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance (MWPA), is a nonprofit literary organization that promotes the value of literature and the art of writing by building a community of writers, readers, and publishers within Maine. For more information call 729-6333 or write to MWPA, 12 Pleasant Street, Brunswick, ME 04011.

For more information, Contact: Jill Shultz, MWPA, 729-6333

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CHARGE IT 207.773.6974
by Steve Fleming

Kezar Falls, ME - It was a week-long celebration of diversity, individually, and community by a variety of 100 campers and staff at the first annual 'Camp' Camp, a summer camp for lesbians and gay men, held August 24-30 in Kezar Falls, ME. Participants came from as far away as Reno, NV, San Antonio, TX and Minneapolis, MN, to join in the creation of the nation's first adult gay/lesbian camp.

It was a dreary, rainy Thursday afternoon, when the first 'Camp' Camp planning committee members began arriving at the Maine Teen camp in Kezar Falls, which was just wrapping up its eight-week summer session as a sports and arts camp for teens. At that particular moment it was hard to imagine that within a couple of days, the Maine Teen Camp would be transformed into the nation's first adult gay/lesbian summer camp. Yet, that is exactly what occurred. Over the next several days, key staff people arrived, planning and team building sessions took place, a sensitivity training was provided for the Maine Teen Camp staff, and the site was cleared and "gayed up" in anticipation of the arrival of the first campers on Sunday afternoon.

The first day of camp dawned sunny and warm, and the sense of joyful anticipation was contagious. Members of the Welcome Committee greeted each camper as he/she arrived by car or bus ('Camp' Camp provided van transportation from NYC and Boston), and the camper was given a tour of the facility, and encouraged to choose a place to live. Options included large and small cabins, ranging from single occupancy to the largest, "Kez's Room," at 15 men. Campers engaged in a variety of activities to get to know each other and the staff, and were officially welcomed at the opening campfire by Bill Cole, founder and director of "Camp" Camp. "Those of you who have had the courage to participate in this experience are pioneers," said Cole, inviting campers and staff alike to "stretch" themselves during the week by "taking risks," either on the ropes course or on the stage, or by chatting with someone new at lunch.

In the week that followed, the activities were various and rigorous, including mountain biking and wind surfing, tennis lessons, pottery, stained glass, and jewelry making, team sports, performing arts, and daily jaunts into the sublime and ridiculous. Camper groups, identified by rainbow colors, provided mealtime entertainment with humorous songs and chants. Two mock kidnappings, of a Cabin mascot ("ST. Tara of the Sistas"); and an elephant puppet named Ellie, kept campers amused with ever changing developments. A "treasure hunt" which took place during a full day downpour on Wednesday evening may have provided the most complete opportunity for getting in touch with one's inner child. Fortunately the hot tub was available to reduce the chill on rainy nights, or to soothe aching muscles. Also, "Camp" Camp staff included three massage therapists who provided massages to campers and staff over the week.

Other camp highlights included a "Talent Show," in which the outdoor Tea Dance, evening campfires and off-site hikes, bike trips and canoe trips. The interaction between the predominantly straight-identified Maine Teen Camp staffers, and the 'Camp' Camp campers and staff could not have been more respectful, comfortable and balanced. Several Maine Teen Camp staffers indicated that they would gladly swap the teen clientele for an adult gay/lesbian clientele. In addition, the food provided by former New Hampshire native Sandra McDonald (now living in Santa Fe, NM) was healthy, plentiful, and delicious.

"We could not be more pleased," said Jeff Perrott, 'Camp' Camp staffing coordinator and program director, "People had a great time. We proved it could be done, that there is a market for this, a camp for men and women. ('Camp' Camp was over one-third female). We had campers who had just come out of the closet, and campers who have been out active for years, together in a supportive setting. We had campers ranging in age form 19 to 64. We were over ten percent people of color. We had Manhattanites and native Kezar Fallsians. My favorite was the person who wrote on his/her evaluation, "I have never been happier being gay!!" To me, that's what 'Camp' Camp is all about."

For further information, visit the 'Camp' Camp web site at www.campcamp.org or contact Bill Cole toll free at 1-888-924-8380, via fax at 609-683-1795; or via e-mail at billcole@worldnet.att.net.
Great Classics such as “Citizen Kane”
Revival Favs such as “Grease”
Cult Classics like “Blade Runner”
“Clockwork Orange”
& “The Exorsist”

Coming this Fall
International Film Fest Favorites
such as
“Sunday” & “Ice Storm”
As well as Hot New Hits
“My Best Friends Wedding”

Look for More of Keystone Theatre’s
up and coming events in the October
issue of Community Pride Reporter

For Movie Listing & Times 871-5500

An unusual marriage of music and film left people
standing in line beginning at the doors of Keystone
and ending well past L.L. Bean’s!
A smashing and unexpected success that left the
Theatre out of food and opened for three showings
So make sure you get there early if you want good seats

Good Food, Good Flicks, Good Times ... Only
at Keystone Theatre and Cafe

Keystone Theatre & Cafe has
been bringing the Greater Portland area
public a wide and varied assortment of
films and has shown a great deal of
imagination with it’s latest “The Dark
Side of OZ”.
Never in the the history of Key­
stone Theatre has there been such an
incredible turn-out. The music of
Pink Floyds’ “Dark Side of The
Moon and The first hour or so of
Americas’ great classic film “The
Wizard of OZ”.

The Crowd Cheared the conclu­
sion of the marriage, which can only
be called “A Horse of a Different
Color”. They heard the lonely sound of
a heart beat, as they watched Dorthy
press her ear to Tm Mam’
chest.

Never before have so many
Portlanders been so incredibly
mesmorised. The owner of the Theatre
was pleasantly amazed at the crowd
that never seemed to end. And at the
end of the evening which was supposed
to end at 9 pm ( But did not, so that all
who came to enjoy this special) the
owners and their staff were at last
able to click their collective heels and
remind themselves “ There is No place
like Home!”
Welcome to Bi Space, a new monthly column about bi people, bi culture, and bi issues. This column is intended for all bi and bi-supportive readers. Naturally, it is bi-authored.

This way we can share the work and bring out different perspectives of gender, age, location, and experience. If you have ideas, questions, or issues you would like us to address here, please let us know.

We have a list of topics we think will be of interest, but we’d rather know what you want. You may also contact us if you would like to be a guest columnist. About Pete! a thirty-four year old white man, born in Boston, raised in New England. My orientation has been bi for a long time:

I remember same-sex attractions back to about age twelve, opposite-sex slightly farther. However I’ve only been out, to myself or anyone else, for a year and a half. Before that, things were complicated. I’ve been a feminist most of my life, although in my youth that was more a matter of sympathies than action. I’ve been politically active, including queer-supportive, for six or seven years, and I’ve worked in anti-racist politics.

But for much of that time I enjoyed being one of those “straight white men” that women, queers, and people of color seemed okay with, who was cool. Coming out meant getting on that of privilege and getting down to something more real, more personal, and sometimes scarier... though far more rewarding than the closet case I was could have guessed.

I’m also a major science fiction geek. It would be fair to say that much of my identity comes from watching Star Trek since age six. Certainly the commitment to diversity began there; occasionally I write for Uhura, Spock, and Kirk, maybe my sexuality did too.

So much for the myth of queer recruitment... it was mainstream TV’s fault, and I’m thrilled to be happy about that at last. I’m finishing a doctorate in American Literature; I’m an office boy in a major AIDS-research nonprofit; I have two cats; I enjoy walking through Boston hand-in-hand with wonderful people of various genders and sexualities; I’m trying to eat better; I will get through Claudia Christian’s absence from the final season of Babylon 5; and I’m looking forward to giving something back to queer communities and our allies.

About BobBl; I might be a quiet, semi-retired social worker, happily making quilts and strolling on the local beaches, if the oppression of queers and bisexuals in particular hadn’t pushed me right past the waiting rocking chair and into the struggle for our rights. When I came out, twenty-two years ago, I was a happily married, incipient social worker with two children, 10 & 13. Five years later, I was a widowed clinical social worker, part way through a ten-year relationship with another woman, and mother to two teenagers, one of them also bi.

For several years after that, I had left Nebraska and was on my way to Maine. My bi activism flowered when I found the ME Bi People’s Network (MBPN), BBWN, and BBMN (Boston’s Bi Women’s and Men’s networks.) Such rich resources and great people! At the 1989 Harvard bi conference, an unexpected invitation to write a chapter for Bi Any Other Name put my name in print.

Then, an ally and I co-founded the Unitarian Universalist Bisexual Network (UUBN). We even made a banner and led a bi contingent at the ‘93 March on Washington. Finally free from the closet of an agency job and with no children to support, I became a sexual orientation educator, working to make the world safe for bisexuals, especially in the health and mental health arenas.

That has been my major work ever since. I’m a passionate folk music fan and enjoy playing, singing, and listening to traditional music. I have a passion for fiber arts: quilting and other fabric play. I love to walk those Maine beaches. And I just fell in love with a little kayak I met a couple of weeks ago. Stay tuned....

Bi Space

Trans Forum: As I Was Saying.....

by Daralyn S Maxwell

It becomes obvious to one, after a while, that you can only sustain so many mind-boggling self-discoveries before you conclude that most of life runs on little lesser-impact self-realizations and evidences of truth. And so it is with me, in my evolution toward womanhood.

There are, as well, a few inescapable facts, such as the experiences that a mother and daughter “might” have shared in the youth of the child. These were not available to me, obviously, and so I have had to draw my own conclusions. I share some of them with you here, partially so that anyone following in my footsteps might save a few moments of anxiety over one detail or another; and for the rest of my readers this merely serves as a lesson on consumerism and other fascinating details of daily life.

1. Cheap panties suck. Absolutely my way is annoying, losing the shape of your underwear after about 30 minutes of a 10 hour day. I mean, JEEZ, if you can’t spring for the good stuff and you haven’t even transitional gear, then plan on being trailer trash and buying your next formal dress at Walmart.

2. Get a life. You have absolutely GOT to go out and make friends. Of course it’s hard! What good things in life are all that easy? Besides... friends dampen the drudgery of your having to do things that everyone else does, like work, pay bills and fret over relationships. And it gives you someone to go out and schmooz with on Friday after work and you can BOTH bitch about stuff.

3. Tell the cosmetic ladies the truth. “Well of course that concealer and blush are for me! Ya think my mother sends me out for HER cosmetics?” Besides, if you ever want to find out what really works, unless you just won the Megabucks, good cosmetics aren’t cheap, and experimenting with every shade that Clinique ever issued gets damn expensive. Besides, Crusty the Clown (ala Simpsons) doesn’t need an understudy.

4. Tell your lingerie salesperson the truth! Well JEEZ LOUISE! You think the cosmetics stuff is tough, try stuffing yourself into a way-too-small brassiere. OK...Mom didn’t take you out for your first bra when you were 13. Hey...your name was Fred, not Emily. A good fit will save hours of not only misery, but wear marks on your body. Besides, it’s nice to have something to wear that doesn’t require the 5th Fleet to remove.

5. Get over it!! OK...you’re ready to go out. Where to go?? I’ve got it... Shop & Save (skip Shaws-they’re jerks and homophobes). Well the cashier is going to look at you funny. If it’s the same one I get all the time, she’s probably wondering how you got your hair that amazing color. That’s your hair, isn’t it? Ooops. Being an emotional shut-in gets really boring, even if you are the most brilliant conversationalist on the planet.

Eventually, you will re-educate yourself for having a conversation already dealt with and accuse yourself of being mundane and repetitious. So...go somewhere, have fun and ignore the morons. You will get better at it, and they will still be morons.

Say...this sounds suspiciously like rules for getting along with people no matter what your deal is. If I didn’t know better, I’d suspect that my life as a transgendered woman follows the basic rules of decency. To have a friend, you gotta be one; and telling the truth doesn’t have as many repercussions. Cool! Ok...I gotta go.... I’m outta radishes or something.

Dal Maxwell applies makeup and massacres vegetables in Portland Maine. She can be reached thru CPR or at her e-mail address: dalmax@ime.net.
CPR Mailbag: Community Pride Reporter

Now let me get this straight: In the July/August edition of CPR, David Cook "Waxes nostalgic and laments over the long-lost "good old day's" of the Fine Arts Cinema-a place (like most public sex environments) where the male visitors predominantly do not self-identify as gay, bi or any sense of the word queer. A place where many of the men who engage in unsafe sex with other men return home to their wives or girlfriends. So the 'good old days' equals anonymous, unsafe sex with closeted, repressed men? Hmm... a fascinating new spin on the meaning of gay pride. Of The broad rainbow of possibilities" in defining pride, I must admit this one slipped my mind. Thank you, David, for confirming my suspicions as to why which "community" you are committed to be?

Rick MacPherson, Portland

Rant: A response

by David Cook

As I see it, the primary issue is the right of people to the pursuit of happiness and, by extension, their rights to freedom of speech and assembly and safety from unreasonable searches and seizures. If we accept your assumptions about the composition of the Fine Arts' audience and its activities and their consequences, then what you should be demanding is more STD prevention and sexual awareness education, especially "on the streets." The idea is to accommodate the real lives and real behavior of real people, not to repress those people in the hope that what they do that you don't like will somehow go away. It doesn't matter whether they "self-identify" as gay, bi, queer, closeted, or repressed they are entitled to the same consideration as "out-and-proud" card carrying queers. They certainly do not deserve the tone of contempt in your letter nor the police harassment that has been going on at the Fine Arts for two years.

As to the cute double entendre in your last sentence, I really don't think that invidious comparisons of our respective sex lives has much to do with anything.

Letter to the Editor

Dear CPR,

We want to alert community members to potential risks in seeking counseling services from Mr. Ari Kane (also using the names Theus Counseling Services and Gender Outreach Institute) with offices in Augusta, Maine, and Brookline, Massachusetts.

This alert is of particular concern to transgenders, transsexuals, and/or transvestites. Be advised that the Complaints and Investigations Division, Office of Licensing & Registration of the Maine Department of Professional and Financial Regulation informs us that Mr. Ari Kane is not licensed in Maine.

This means Maine does not recognize him as a mental health professional in any capacity, and he has not completed the testing, education, and other parts of the professional credentialing process necessary for licensing or registration. He is not a PhD, MD, licensed psychologist, social worker, or counselor.

In June, we attended a workshop on transgender issues presented by Mr. Kane at Symposium XXIII.

At the beginning of this workshop, Mr. Kane asked each attendee to introduce him/herself by name and home town which everyone did. Later in the workshop, Mr. Kane gave some details about a client's request for services in dealing with a family member's specific trans issue. Mr. Kane identified the client by gender, profession, family constellation, and Maine hometown in a way which would have allowed any workshop attendee to locate this person with one or two phone calls.

Bobbi interrupted Mr. Kane to point out that he was violating the client's confidentiality and the code of ethics of a mental health professional (She assumed he was one since that was how he had introduced himself) and that their information he had revealed made it possible for each of us to locate that client.

Mr. Kane brushed off her interruption saying "Well, I was just trying to give an example." She responded to the effect that professional ethics do not allow use of that kind of example. He didn't respond to her comments, changed the subject, and went on with the workshop. We are concerned that Mr. Kane while representing himself as a mental health professional, he doesn't appear to be bound by a professional code of ethics, and that he may breach the confidentiality of other clients who use his services and/or the confidentiality of workshop attendees.

Mr. Kane is not violating Maine laws which govern professional services unless he accepts money from a person to whom he has misrepresented himself and/or the person believes he/she has been harmed while in paid "treatment" by him. Current or past violations in Maine or other states may be reported to David Spencer, Maine's Assistant Attorney General who can work with clients and Attorneys General in other states. Information may be given anonymously. Sources of information will not be revealed without the donor's consent. These concerns about Mr. Kane's practice are also being pursued in MA.

CPR Mailbag: Community Pride Reporter

Boy Sues over Anti-gay Slurs

Saying school officials did little to stop boys from taunting him with anti-gay slurs, a 12-year-old Pacifica boy has sued the Laguna Salada Union School District and school administrators.

The suit, filed in San Mateo County Superior Court, identifies the boy only as "Student Doe" and targets administrators and unnamed students at Ortega and Vallemar middle schools in Pacifica.

The student, who has switched to an alternative school, has said he endured taunts of "faggit," "girl" and "gay-gay" for years by boys who thought he was gay. He said the name-calling worsened in 1995 and 1996, when he began losing weight, developing migraines and asthma, and became depressed.

Teachers and administrators knew the student was being harassed, assaulted and battered and discriminated against," but did little to stop the abuse, even after he sought help, the suit says.

"The school district had enforced policies and procedures to prevent sexual harassment, discrimination and violence to girls, yet refused to enforce the policies with respect to Student Doe simply because (he) was perceived as gay and because they were afraid of controversy," the suit alleges.

The school offered an in-class training session on sexual harassment, but the boy said his classmates thought it was a joke. The students were given to read a booklet that contained one passing reference to boys who harass other boys. Mark Davis, an attorney for the school district, had not yet seen the lawsuit.

"I'm still hopeful that the matter can be resolved informally and without formal litigation," he said.
Identity Support

TransSupport
Support group for transsexuals, transgenders, their families, friends. Meets in secure location to provide support, education, social activities. Write TransSupport, P.O. Box 1762, Portland, ME 04112 or phone 207-945-3392.

Gender Talk, North
Gender support. Write for newsletter, P.O. Box 421, Peterborough, ME 03458. 603-930-8828. E-mail: gtmor@top.monicnet.net Web page (under construction) http://top.monicnet.net/~gtmor/index.html

Chester Counseling
Chester Counseling Assoc., P.O. Box 1124, Kennebunk, ME 04043. 207-357-5544.

Maine Bisexual People's Network
Meets as a part of Bisexual Discussion & Support Group (see listing below). For counseling & other support info, write: P.O. Box 10818, Portland, ME 04104-0818.

Bisexual Discussion & Support Group
Discussions and support group for women and men. Meets 1st & 3rd Wednesdays monthly, 7:30pm in room 1, Payson Smith Hall, Fairfield at University of Maine, ME. For info, call 207-775-5726.

Polyamorous Life Support (PALS)
Do you love more than one person? You may be polyamorous. Polyamorous Life Support (PALS) is a discussion/support group for people interested in creating/ nourishing committed, loving, multi-partner relationships. Whether current or already multiply intimate, call 207-773-6332.

A Maine Transgender Association
Group plays for all Crossdressers, Transvestites, Transgenders, Transmen. All inclusive group. gay, lesbian, bis, straight. Confidential and discreet. Meet last Sunday of the month, 5:30 pm at the UU Church, Park Street, Bangor, ME.

Maine Gay & Lesbian Community Services
Meet 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, 6:30-8:30 pm at the University of Maine, ME. For info, call 207-773-3045.

All Maine Transgender
Group plays for all Crossdressers, Transvestites, Transgenders, Transmen. All inclusive group. gay, lesbian, bis, straight. Confidential and discreet. Meet 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at 7 pm at 114 Water Street, #102, Portland, ME 04101.
HIV Related Support Meetings

Portland:
- Mondays: People living with HIV disease and all friends, families, partners & caregivers, 6:30-8:00 PM.
- Tuesdays: People living with HIV disease and all friends, families, lovers and caregivers, 10:30 am-Noon. TAP, 142 High Street Suite 632, Portland, ME 04101.
- 2nd & 4th Tuesdays: Living Well focusing on quality of life and empowerment.

Wednesdays: Drop-in discussion group for married/gay/bisexual/questioning men. FMI call Gerry at 207-774-6877.
- 1st Wednesday: PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support), 5:30 pm. Call 775-PAWS. Charles Wynott, Program Coordinator.

Thursdays: People living with HIV meet from 5:30-7 pm. TAP, 142 High Street Suite 632, Portland, ME 04101.
- 2nd Thursday: Client Advisory Board, open to all clients of The AIDS Project, 1:30 pm.

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

Family and Friends Accepting Change Together (FFACT), a support group sponsored by Northern Maine AIDS Network for friends, families & caregivers. Meets every 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 pm, at the Aroostook Medical Center, conference room A. Presque Isle. FMI, Deb Madore of Health 1st, 207-768-3056 or 1-800-432-7881.

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

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

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

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

New Hampshire:
- Derry area: Support group open to anyone infected with AIDS/HIV. Hosted by the Ecumenical AIDS Task Force, at St. Thomas Aquinas. FMI or reservations, call Jane Dwyer at 603-452-7530.
- Keene: Support group for families, friends, partners of persons living with AIDS or who have died of AIDS. Confidential & anonymous. Meets every other Wed., at Planned Parenthood, 7-8:30 pm. Call Dorothy Anderson at 603-756-4735.

Phone Support By Region

National Center for Lesbian Rights Youth Project: 1-800-528-NCLR.
- Man 2 Man hotline - Providing HIV/AIDS information, and referrals for identity and emotional support services. Staffed Mon- Fri. 8:30 - 4:30. Call 207-990-2095 or in Maine 1-800-429-1481.
- Gay & Lesbian Phoneline of Maine: Staffed Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7 - 9 pm. Call 207-498-2088 or (Maine) 800-468-2088.
- Boston Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Youth (BALGY): 1-800-347-TEEN.

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

HIV/AIDS Prevention Project:
- Staffed Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7 - 9 pm. Call 207-498-2088 or (Maine) 800-468-2088.
- The AIDS Line: 1-800-851-AIDS or 775-1267. HIV/AIDS related questions, call Mon.-Sat. 9 am-5 pm, Mon. & Wed. evenings until 7:30 pm. Anonymous.
- DIAL KIDS: For lesbian, gay, bi & questioning youth under 19 yrs. 774-TALK.
- Inghram Volunteers: Call 774-HHELP (774-4357).
- The AIDS Project 774-6877.

LOCATIONS:
- Portland: 142 High St., 6th floor, Portland 04101. Call for information and support group meetings in Portland, Lewiston, Brunswick.
- Penobscot County: HIV/AIDS Hotline-1-800-429-1481.
- Bridgton: Community Task Force on AIDS: 583-6608.
- Rumford: Community AIDS Awareness Program: 823-4170.
- Lewiston: AIDS Coalition of Lewiston/Auburn: 786-4967.
- Waterville: Dayspring: 626-3435.
- Mid coast: Gay men’s HELP LINE, 6:00-9:00 pm (only) M-F:207-863-2728. FAX 207-863-2714.
- NH Seacoast “Connections” support group for care givers, parents, and friends of those who are infected by HIV/AIDS. “Connections” meets every month on second Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 pm, at the Exeter Congregational Church 21 Front St. Exeter, NH.
- 854-8464.

Transgender Helpline for information, referral or need to talk. M-F 6-10 pm, Sat.-Sun. 9am-2pm. 603/743-GAY2.
Youth Support

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

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

Central Maine: Weekly confidential meetings for gay, lesbian, & questioning youth 22 years and under. Call First Call at 795-6677 or 1-800-339-3042 and ask about OUTRIGHT.

Portland: Meets every Fri., 7:30-9:30 pm, The People’s Building, 155 Brackett St., 2nd floor, Portland. Safe & supportive discussions with and for gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning young people. FMI call 207-990-3626, Shaun or Shanneta.

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

Medical Support

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England

Serving men and women, offering annual exams, pregnancy testing, birth control info. & supplies (free condoms), testing and treatment for infections & STDS, menopause support and more. Evening hours, affordable services, and confidential, non-judgmental, Medicaid welcome. 907 Forest Ave., Portland. FMI call 207-874-1055.

FREE FAMILY THERAPY
Available for individuals & families of any type affected by HIV disease. FMI, contact Chris Bevan, MSW at Center for Training and Special Programs. 207-773-6459.

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

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic
Portland STD Clinic provides full range of services from screening & treatment, education & counseling and HIV antibody testing and counseling. Located in Room 303 of City Hall. Anonymous HIV testing by appointment on weekdays from 8 am to 5 pm. Call 207-874-8746. For other STD services: 207-874-8446.

Coping with Caregiving
Provides support for those caring for a disabled or chronically terminally ill person. Group runs for 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at noon at Mercy Hospital, second floor. FMI call 207-879-3477.

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

Social Groups

New England. FMI call Paul at 603-668-9245.

Mountain Valley Men (MVM): A group of gay men of all ages in northeastern New Hampshire and southwestern Maine who get together for potluck supper meetings at 6:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month at the Center of Hope in Redstone(NH); outdoor activities and meetings are listed in the monthly newsletter; FMI: MVM, Box 36, Concord, NH 03301; Paul or Dave at 603-925-1094, e-mail DFSPLP@AOL.COM.

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

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

Chilton Mountain Club: Gay and Lesbian mountain organization with about 1,200 members throughout New England. Activities include hiking, back packing, biking, canoeing, skiing etc. Monthly meeting and trips each month. Call either Tracy Green at 207-828-2535 or Mike Boisvert at 603-669-1936.

Music & Art

Music in Harmony
An eclectical chorus ensemble open to all women regardless of age, race, religion, or sexual orientation. If you are interested in becoming a member or volunteering organizational skills, send SASE (including your phone number) to P.O. Box 9136 Sta. A, Portland, ME 04101, or call 207-774-9420.

Dartmouth Women’s Meeting: Meets every Monday at 9 am at the Women’s Resource Center, Dartmouth College. FMI call 603-666-3636.

LINC: Lesbians Inviting New Connections. A network serving women in

Online/Internet

The Maine GayNet Mail List
Share your ideas and opinions with other list members. To subscribe to this list, send e-mail to majordomo@abacaus.oxyn. In the message part, write "subscribe mgaynet."

The Maine GayNet Home Page
An ever-changing display of events and information. Meetings, contact people, resources, & referrals. Point your WEB Browser to: http://www.grd.org/www/usaismaine. FMI e-mail Paula Stockham: paula@maine.com.

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

Women in Harmony
An eclectical chorus ensemble open to all women regardless of age, race, religion, or sexual orientation. If you are interested in becoming a member or volunteering organizational skills, send SASE (including your phone number) to P.O. Box 9136 Sta. A, Portland, ME 04101, or call 207-774-9420.

Dartmouth Women’s Meeting: Meets every Monday at 9 am at the Women’s Resource Center, Dartmouth College. FMI call 603-666-3636.

LINC: Lesbians Inviting New Connections. A network serving women in and diversity in the Greater Portland area, as well as affirming the gay/lesbian experience with creative and lively musical entertainment. FMI call 774-2704 or write M.G.M.C., P.O. Box 10391, Portland, ME 04104.

The Maine Gay Visual Artist’s League meets on the third Wednesday of each month. The League is a non-profit, creative support network for Maine gay & lesbian visual arts community. FMI call 775-3420.
**Dignity Maine/New Hampshire**

The Mission of Dignity/New Hampshire is to create a community among the Catholic GLBT people of New Hampshire and their friends. Our goal is to affirm each other in our faith, as well as to promote the Catholic tradition through liturgy, prayer, retreats, social activities, community building activities and service projects. Our Liturgies are open to all peoples, regardless of beliefs. We meet the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month in Manchester. Please call 603-647-0206 for times and directions.

**SINGLE MEN CONVERGE!**

Single Men's Weekend in Provincetown celebrates its fifth year November 6 - 9, 1997. The weekend is an unique opportunity for single gay men to interact and participate in a variety of activities including wonderful workshops, provocative discussion groups, and our annual dance contest! The weekend is open to gay men and is appropriate for gay men 18 years old and over.

**MEDITATION & MYSTICISM**

Sundays 7-8:15 PM each week - an introduction to Sant Mat. The format: readings (including poetry) from the writings of various Mystics and Saints on the spiritual journey, followed by a 30-minute silent meditation.

**ADVOCATE FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT**

BIDDEFORD, MAINE: Sexual Assault Response Services is expanding its York County services. In addition to a new office in Sanford, we will sponsor a sexual assault advocacy training program beginning on Monday, September 15, 1997. It will run from 6:00-9:00 p.m. for six weeks on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

This 40 hour training program will cover issues of sexual assault and child sexual abuse; medical, police, and legal protocols; and crisis intervention. Upon completion of the training, participants will be prepared to work on our 24 hour hotline. Continuing Education Units are available. Interested applicants should contact Mary Axelsen at 1-800-313-2823.
Writer shares Marketing Tips

Portland Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance is sponsoring a one-day workshop, “Marketing the Personal Essay,” led by Deborah Dalfonso. The class will be held on Saturday, September 13 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf, Mackworth Island, Portland. The cost is $45 for MWPA members, $65 for others. Call 729-6333 to register; enrollment limited to 15.

Dalfonso will share her step-by-step method for finding the right publication and developing an idea into a marketable essay. She believes that her approach will work for anyone whose writing is of publishable quality. This method has been remarkably successful for her; she freelanced for six years before she received her first rejection letter—a record that astonishes most writers.

Deborah Dalfonso of South Portland has published over 50 essays in such publications as Lear’s, Reader’s Digest, Yankee Magazine’s Travel Guide to New England, Cosmopolitan, American Health, and Parenting, and is a frequent contributor to Down East. One of her essays will be included in a textbook, Models for Writers: Short Essays, forthcoming from SL Martin’s Press in January 1998. She is currently co-authoring a biography of Christina Olson, forthcoming from Down East Books in July 1998, and has another book under contract.

The sponsor, Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance (MWPA), is a nonprofit literary organization that promotes the value of literature and the art of writing by building a community of writers, readers, and publishers within Maine. Those interested in more information are urged to call 729-6333 or write to Jill Shultz at 12 Pleasant Street, Brunswick, ME 04011. For further information, CONTACT: Jill Shultz, MWPA, 729-6333.

Poems Wanted

A $1,000.00 grand prize is being offered in a free poetry contest sponsored by Celestial Arts, open to everyone. A whopping $25,000 in prizes will be awarded during the coming year!

Even if you have never entered a competition before,” says Poetry Editor Tina Thom as, this is an opportunity to win big. Even if you have written only one poem it deserves to be read and appreciated. Beginners are welcome!” To enter send one original poem on any subject, using any style, to: Free Poetry Contest, 1257 Siskiyou Blvd., Suite 4, Ashland, OR 97520. Or enter online at www.famouspoets.com.

Be sure your poem is 21 lines or less and your name and address appear on the page with the copy of your poem. The deadline for entering 15 September 22. A new competition starts October 1. All entrants will be professionally affirmed.

A Fight for Custody

Elise Green says she initially raised the child of her former lesbian partner. Now, in a case that might set an Arizona precedent, she wants to be named her mother, with custody and visitation rights.

“We’re seeking to have her established as a parent of a minor child, with rights to shared custody and guarantees of visitation,” says Nancy McDade, attorney for Green, said Wednesday.

Green and Shari Wilson, 32-year-old lesbians, began living together in August 1990. “Ms. Green and her lawyer have told me I would need to expect the definition of ‘family,’” Wilson, the biological mother of Hayley, now 2, conceived through artificial insemination, said in a statement recently.

“I do not question that there are situations in which one partner in a same-sex relationship should be allowed to have visitation with the partner’s child. But that would not require any new law or any new definition of ‘family.”

Wilson declined to be interviewed but said in her statement that Green had deserted her for another woman with three children. Green said she stayed home from her job for the first 15 months of Hayley’s life and was her primary caregiver. Wilson said Green stayed home because she “could not find a job that suited her.”

Green filed a suit two months ago seeking an order under a statute that requires mandatory DNA testing; if she were to pass the test, she would be listed on the child’s birth certificate as its mother. There’s no provision anywhere in that law for a woman who did not give birth to sue to be declared a parent,” said James Stroud, Wilson’s attorney, who argued in a Pima County Superior Court hearing for the suit’s dismissal.

In a letter in the court file that Wilson wrote Green in May, several months after the couple broke up, says when she decided to have Hayley she felt she and Green would stay together. “I thought of you as her mother and as her primary parent. But I stopped seeing you that way when you abrupted our family,” it said.

In an interview with The Arizona Daily Star, Green said Wilson had to call her on Mother’s Day “I want you out of our lives.” She said Wilson told her to stop visiting the child. Green’s maternity suit is not an attempt to replace Wilson’s role as a parent, McDade said. “We’re fully recognizing her role as a parent as well.”

Green, an inspector with the U.S. Customs Service, said the relationship ended shortly after she returned to work.

McDade likened the case to that of a traditional family breakup in which a child’s relationship with one parent is severed. Both lawyers said the case is without precedent in Arizona. “It is unusual, but I expect it will become more important as society changes,” McDade said.

“If custody rights are denied, Green will seek visitation under a recently adopted state law that can grant such rights to someone who has been treated as a parent by the child and who has formed a meaningful relationship.” That’s where the case belongs, Stroud said, but he acknowledged that the case is one of non-parental visitation rights. And he said Wilson will oppose such rights if the case reaches that point.

Nationwide Photo/Text Exhibit

Coming to Belfast

“A family is a bunch of people, or not so many, who love each other,” explains seven-year old Liza. Liza’s family is one among twenty families represented in the photograph-text exhibit, "LOVE MAKES A FAMILY," which will be on display in Belfast during early September.

In this traveling exhibit, Amherst photographer Gigi Kaeser depicts a variety of families with gay or lesbian family members moms, dads, grandparents, and/or young adults. An accompanying text for each photo includes edited remarks from interviews with family members, conducted by writers Peggy Gillespie and Pam Brown. Six copies of the exhibit are currently touring the United States, including the display which will be shown in Belfast.

The exhibit, "LOVE MAKES A FAMILY" photo exhibit will be displayed at the Spring Street Gallery from September 5-13. An opening reception will be held on Friday, September 5 between 5-7pm. Immediately following the opening, a panel discussion will be presented at the Abbott Room in the Belfast Free Library. The discussion, entitled "Living In Gay and Lesbian Families in Mid-Coast Maine," will feature the panelists who will describe their family life experiences. Panelists will include gay/lesbians who are parenting children, parents with gay/lesbian children, other family members and a person whose family definition extends beyond the nuclear family. Mary will be local people.

According to Sandra Gill, Executive Director of PFLAG, "This exhibit reminds us all that the fundamentals of love and support are to be found in all types of families, including gay and lesbian families. At PFLAG, we find that ignorance about gay and lesbian people is the greatest single barrier to strong and healthy families and communities. "LOVE MAKES A FAMILY can be an important tool for overcoming ignorance and homophobia in that it presents truthful images of gay and lesbian people in the context of family."

The exhibit is the second community-wide event offered by the Common Circle for Human Rights. To allow for further discussion on family issues, the next Common Circle meeting on Tuesday September 23rd, will allow for more working to occur between gay and lesbian and other non-traditional families. Support for the event is provided by Southern Maine Pride, the Maine Community Foundation and the Maine Equity Fund. For more information about the exhibit or the panel discussion, contact Mitzi Lichtman at 338-5889.
Well Child Health Clinic

Visiting nurse association & hospice well child health clinic for children two months to 10 years. SouthPortland Church of the Nazarene 525 Highland ave., South Portland, first Friday of every month next clinic:Friday, September 5, 1997 8:30am to noon by appointment only $2.00 immunization fee for any South Portland resident for uninsured families.

Families whose insurance does not cover routine office visits medical aid services include physical exams, immunization and lead tests. For further information and to make an appointment, please call the VNA & Hospice at 780-8624. Adult immunization clinic health screening clinic for adults minimum age: 18

Offering Blood Pressure checks; Blood Sugar checks; Cholesterol Screening; TB Skin tests; Hepatitis B vaccine; Measles, Mumps, and Rubella vaccine; Tetanus/Diphtheria vaccine; Flu vaccine (seasonal); and Pneumonia vaccine to adults age 18 and older. To be held the 3rd Tuesday of every month 1-4PM. Appointment Required Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice 50 Foden Road, SouthPortland Tuesday, September 16, 1997

FMI Call the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice (780-8624) to make an appointment or for cost information. Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice and American cancer society guidance in gynecology: Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice and American cancer society guidance in gynecology at Methodist Church, Elm St, South Portland second Monday of every month. Next meeting: Monday, September 8, 1997 7:15pm.

FMI, please contact: Kathleen Keane Reed, RN(207) 780-8624 or Grace Moulton, RN(207)799-3179 Rev. Tom White(207) 799-0407

“ADVOCATE FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT”

BIDDEFORD, MAINE. Sexual Assault Response Services is expanding its York County services. In addition to a new office in Sanford, we will sponsor a sexual assault advocacy training program beginning on Monday, September 15, 1997. It will run from 6:00-9:00 p.m. for six weeks on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

This 40 hour training program will cover issues of sexual assault and child sexual abuse; medical, police, and legal protocols; and crisis intervention. Upon completion of the training, people will be prepared to work on our 24 hour hotline. Continuing Education Units are available. No previous experience necessary. Interested applicants should contact Mary Axelsen at 1-800-313-9900.

FBI Agency Request assistance from Community

Aug. 11, 1997 I have come to believe that often times there is opportunity in many of the crises in our lives. Crises can motivate us to change the way we view our world, or even more, to change the world. Recently the gay and lesbian community experienced a crisis, as Andrew Cunanan became one of the most wanted people in America.

I think we handled this situation fairly well, but many, including the FBI, have stated that the FBI could have done more during its investigation to reach out to our community. Such a public admission by the FBI is unusual, and perhaps indicative of the changes in the FBI and in their relationship with us.

As a gay man and career FBI agent, I can attest to recent changes in the FBI regarding the gays and lesbians. The FBI now has a number of openly gay and lesbian agents and support personnel (some are in supervisory positions), and the Bureau hires openly gay and lesbian applicants for these positions. Frank Buttino was born in Canastota, N.Y., and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Colgate University. After two years as a high school teacher, he received an appointment in 1969 as a Special Agent of the FBI from Director J. Edgar Hoover. Buttino received assignments to Tampa, Fla., and San Diego, CA, where he took part in investigations of the radical left and the Ku Klux Klan.


Buttino was one of a handful of FBI agents assigned undercover work in the mid-1970's and his subsequent organized crime investigations led to the conviction of several major organized crime figures. He was one of the first FBI Agents selected for special training in the Drug Enforcement Administration, and his successful investigation of a corrupt FBI Agent made national headlines.

In 1989, Buttino, assigned to foreign counter intelligence and terrorism investigations, led the FBI's investigation of the Sharon Rogers van bombing in San Diego one of the most extensive and important in the FBI's history. Despite Buttino's distinguished record, his valued recognition by every FBI director, and job performance ratings of "superior" and "outstanding," the FBI fired him after learning he was gay.

June 1990, Buttino filed a lawsuit, charging the FBI with discriminating against him based on sexual orientation. In December 1993, as Buttino's federal class-action lawsuit began, Attorney General Janet Reno, on the FBI's behalf, issued a statement regarding the 96,000 employees of the Department of Justice, which includes the FBI. The statement read, "We regard the FBI as an agency within the Department of Justice from discriminating against any employee or applicant based on sexual orientation."

In March 1994, the FBI adopted specific employment guidelines, agreeing not to discriminate against employees or applicants on the grounds of sexual orientation or favorite conduct among consenting adults in private.

The FBI now has a number of openly gay and lesbian agents and support personnel (some are in supervisory positions), and the Bureau hires openly gay and lesbian applicants for these positions. Frank Buttino has been featured on 60 Minutes", and has appeared on numerous TV shows, including, Larry King Live and The Oprah Winfrey Show. He has written, A Special Agent: Gay and Inside the FBI, which was published by William Morrow. The book chronicles Buttino's life, his twenty-year FBI career, and his landmark civil rights case.

Now, a retired FBI Agent, Buttino lectures on college campuses and speaks to corporations, clubs, and organizations. Since coming out in 1990, Frank has devoted much of his personal time to volunteer organizations such as Mama's Kitchen, the Citizens of the World, and the Society of Law Officers, and P-FLAG.

He serves on the Board of Directors at the San Diego Lesbian and Gay Men's Community Center, Frank and his partner of four years, Phillip, reside in San Diego.

Community Pride Reporter September 1997 Page 17

YCANE Needs You

York County AIDS Network (YCANE) needs talented and energetic volunteers to serve on the Coordinating Committee, subcommittees, write grants, provide HIV antibody test counseling, and assist with fundraising. York County AIDS Network is a group of eleven providers of health and social services who have been meeting since 1995. The mission of YCANE is to promote and maximize resources for those affected and infected with HIV in York County.

While YCANE has been tremendously successful in fundraising through grant writing to date, the organization needs to expand in order to continue doing the work that needs to be close in York County. We also are in critical need of people from York County with HIV infection to serve on committees.

York County is an area of high need due to the rural nature of the county; the relative lack of services; and the number of cases of HIV infection and AIDS. For example, York County has the second highest number of cumulative AIDS cases in the state and, in 1996, the second highest number of people testing HIV positive in the state. As of December, 1996, Maine had reported 766 AIDS cases, for a case rate of 63.8/100,000 population. Only three counties in Maine reported case rates substantially higher than that statewide average. They were: Cumberland County (at 109.26/100,000 pop.); York County (at 81/100,000 pop.); and Androscoggin County (at 66/100,000 pop.).

In 1989, 96 positive HIV tests were reported by health care providers in York County. Last year, the number of positive HIV tests at three county test sites only increased to 9; and Penobscot County had 8. All other counties reported less HIV positive tests.

FMI Call the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice (780-8624 or Grace Moulton, RN (207)799-3179)

In 1996, 89 positive HIV tests were reported by health care providers in Maine. Cumberland County had the highest number of positive HIV tests at 34; Androscoggin County (at 66/100,000 pop.).

Please join YCANE in its important work.

Call the office for a volunteer application (303-9256). Plan to attend a network meeting next Saturday, Sept. 6 from 2-4 p.m. at The AIDS Projects' Kennebunk office, 208 Lafayette Center, 2nd floor. Donations are always welcome: YCANE, PO Box 680, York, ME 03909.

York County has been well served for case management services by the AIDS Project, Portland. Some HIV prevention outreach education occurs for YCANE members. Prior to the AIDS Project, AIDS Response of the Seacoast, and Portland Public Health Division. However, availability of medical care, lack of knowledge of 9 existing services, and lack of accessible anonymous HIV antibody testing have been cited by YCANE members as priority needs. The Coordinating Committee was successful in securing funds from a New Hampshire foundation last year to open four rotating anonymous test sites (in Kittery, Sanford, Kezar Falls and Wells).

Several unforeseen drawbacks prevented the test sites from opening as scheduled last year ranging from lack of a project coordinator to carry out the necessary work to lack of approval by the state of Maine to function as an anonymous test site; to counselors to staff the test sites. With the hiring of a part-time project coordinator between May and August, approval by the state was received. YCANE is still in need of 8-10 HIV antibody test counselors, though, before the test sites can open.

If you have a few hours a month, energy, and commitment to HIV issues, please join YCANE in its important work. Call the office for a volunteer application (303-9256). Plan to attend a network meeting next Saturday, Sept. 6 from 2-4 p.m. at The AIDS Projects' Kennebunk office, 208 Lafayette Center, 2nd floor. Donations are always welcome: YCANE, PO Box 680, York, ME 03909.
Education and Service Opportunities In Maine

Service opportunities (32) are available today through The Maine Conservation Corps and The AmeriCorps® College Conservation Corps of Maine. The AmeriCorps® College Conservation Corps of Maine is comprised of four teams: one team performs conservation and outdoor recreation-related service, one team performs environmental education for one year, and another which coordinates volunteers statewide. In exchange for their service, AmeriCorps Members receive a living allowance of $7,945, an educational award of $4,725, health insurance, and, if eligible, a semester at either Unity College or The University of Maine at Presque Isle.

Become an AmeriCorps Member today!! AmeriCorps what's that? Well AmeriCorps is the national service program that provides thousands of Americans of all ages and backgrounds with education awards in exchange for a year of full-time community service. AmeriCorps members help meet the nation's critical needs in the areas of public safety, education, human needs, and the environment. Through more than 400 programs, AmeriCorps involves 25,000 people in results-driven community service. One of those programs is The Maine Conservation Corps and The AmeriCorps® College Conservation Corps of Maine.

This program has enjoyed such great success over the years that we are now looking for new AmeriCorps Members!! Positions include College Corps Members, environmental educators, and volunteer coordinators. If you are an outdoor enthusiast, and want to get involved and "GET THINGS DONE FOR MAINE" the Maine Conservation Corps and the AmeriCorps College Conservation Corps is the place for you. College graduates and non-college graduates are welcome to apply today. For more information or an application call or write: Michael Harrison 124 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0124 phone (207)287-4931 or e-mail us at corps.conservation@state.me.us

Victory Fund Endorses 14 Candidates

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund today recommended 14 more highly qualified openly gay and lesbian candidates to its national donor network, giving them access to financial and technical support they need to run winning campaigns. All 14 candidates underwent rigorous screening to determine their political viability and suitability for the offices they seek. The current Victory Fund recommended candidates and their races are:

- Tammy Baldwin [DJ for U.S. Congress [WI-2]; Primary: 10 Sept. 1998
- Deborah Glick [DJ for Manhattan Borough President; Primary: 9 Sept. 1997
- Susan Leal for San Francisco City Treasurer; Election: 4 Nov. 1997
- Jay Fisette [DJ for Arlington (VA) County Board; General: 4 Nov. 1997
- Phil Reed [DJ for N.Y. City Council; Primary: 9 Sept. 1997
- Margarita Lopez [DJ for N.Y. City Council; Primary: 9 Sept. 1997
- Malcolm Gideon for Atlanta City Council; General: 4 Nov. 1997
- Cathy Woolard for Atlanta City Council; General: 4 Nov. 1997
- Annise Parker for Houston City Council; General: 4 Nov. 1997
- Jim McGill for Wilkinsburg Borough Council; Primary: 9 Sept. 1997
- Dennis Van Avery [DFL] for Minneapolis School Board; Primary: 9 Sept. 1997
- Wally Swan [DFL] for Minneapolis Board of Estimate; Primary: 9 Sept. 1997
- rod Krueger [DFLJ for Minneapolis Library Board; Primary: 9 Sept. 1997
- Debra Silver [DJ for Brooklyn (NY) Civil Court; Primary: 9 Sept. 1997

"The Victory Fund's goal is to elect outstanding gay and lesbian citizens to every level of public office in every state in this nation," says Victory Fund Executive Director Brian Bond. "This slate of exceptional candidates is a clear indication of the progress we're making toward that goal.

The only national organization whose sole mission is to increase the number of qualified, openly gay and lesbian public officials, the Victory Fund has already racked up two early wins this year by helping to elect Richard Gordon to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and Bill Weinberger to the Los Angeles Charter Commission.

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- Desired Experience and Training: ISMA Fire Alarm Certification - Level II, Journeyman's Electrical license preferred; ability to climb poles. $420.40/wk. Apply at the Human Resources Office, Room 133, City Hall, 389 Congress St. Application deadline: 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 19, 1997. The City of Portland is strongly committed to diversity in its work force. Women and Minorities are encouraged to apply.

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Community Pride Reporter
Proudly serving the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community

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