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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 1974 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 Saturday, October 11, 1997 at The First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, 425 Congress Street, Portland. Tickets are $20 for limited Preferred Seating and $16.50 for General Admission. Immediately following the show, audience members can join Cris Williamson and Tret Fure in support of Southern Maine Pride. Tickets are available for a VIP Reception at the Holiday Inn By The Bay, 88 Spring Street Portland Reception Tickets: $10 Tickets for both the concert and the VIP Reception are available at Drop Me A Line, 611 Congress Street, Portland and Macbean's Music, 141 A Maine St, Brunswick, or can be charged by calling 207-773-6974.
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 they believe the edge is insurmountable.

Heath M. Sparrow, 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 support Maine Turnpike, 33 percent would vote to repeal it, and 9 percent are undecided.

Lawmakers approved the non-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.

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 blitz to promote his book. Gil Alexander-Moegerle claims he was one of seven people who co-founded Focus on the Family, a $100 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 fueling 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."

Interest in Focus on the Family is estimated at 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 marital difficulties.

Adoption Decision Published

(AP) 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.

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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.
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 decision has allowed same-sex couples to marry. That decision is on 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 did not treat me as a family member,” 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 civil marriage laws provide. He needs and deserves to know that his parents have a legal commitment 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 anyway, 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 “affirms the science that since 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 conservative Family Research Council, said there is evidence that therapy cannot 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 stuff out genuine hope for those struggling with gender identity problems.”

Gay Men Together

Community Building for the Next Century

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

GTM 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 Cobbosseecontee. The Lodge’s four field stone fireplaces offer crackling fires and warmth 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.
AIDS: Death Toll Dropping

The death toll is dropping especially among white gay men but that means the need for outpatient care funding is rising. With the Congress scheduled to debate the nine-month period, the decline in deaths not only continuing to decline but the first six months of 1996, which was the first period since the beginning of the epidemic in which mortality fell. This means a growing number of people living longer with the disease, increasing the need for outpatient care faster than the funding for it has grown.

Several factors may have contributed to the decline in deaths, including increased prevention on the part of gay men in the 1980’s, but the dramatic drops in protease inhibitors are not believed to be fully reflected in these statistics. In the first nine months of 1996, there were 30,700 AIDS deaths, 19% fewer than in the first nine months of 1995 when there were 37,900. The first six months of 1996 had shown a 13% drop in deaths compared to the first six months of 1995. In the nine-month period, the decline in deaths was seen in all sub groups although not shared equally among them.

Deaths among men dropped by 22% while those among women dropped by 7% deaths among whites dropped by 28%, among Hispanics by 16% and among Blacks by 10%; deaths among those infected through gay sex dropped by 26%, among injection drug users by 15%, and among heterosexually-infected people by 4%.

In part, these figures likely reflect the current rates of increases in cases of AIDS in the various populations, with slowing rates of diagnosis among gay men and growing rates of diagnosis among women and minorities. Although those figures are not currently available.

They are also believed to reflect differences in access to health care, including the expensive multi-drug “cocktails” which were making a difference even before their introduction of protease inhibitors.

Therapies Condemned

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) 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 all portrayals of lesbian, gay and bisexual people as mentally ill and in need of treatment due to their sexual orientation.

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 or guardians seeking to erase their own shame or guilt about their child’s sexual orientation.

Allowing conversion treatments to remain a viable option assures that many will endure potentially costly, painful, and traumatic procedures that could increase rather than relieve suffering.” The APA declassified homosexuality as a mental illness in 1973. Recently there has been an increase in publicity around the use of conversion therapies to alter homosexuality.

For example, a June conference held at Georgetown University provided a forum for such ideologies as Dr. Joseph Nicolosi, head of the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality, who believes that homosexuality cannot lead to a happy and productive life. Lobel argued that, without a strong APA statement to counter their basic assumptions, their claims gain undeserved weight. While she commended the APA’s reiteration of its 1973 policy change as well as efforts to ensure a fair and open therapeutic environment, Lobel argued that “anything short of full condemnation of this repugnant practice leaves the door open for reparative therapy’s further escalation.”

Media Bias in Cunanan Case

The headlines titillated us from news stands, 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 “regrettably” there might be more than one 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 run from the law.

So far about the only negative gay stereotype that hasn’t been pegged to Cunanan is that he was a child molester. Clearly, the press still has much to learn about reporting on the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community. But, were reporters wrong to point out the fact that Andrew Cunanan was gay?

If the press had 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 ask why there is 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 connection with 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 the national 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 at least 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, they showed that they either know very little about us or that they’re too willing to give into the sordid, lurid, titillating images that remain prevalent. I wasn’t surprised that the media took this route.

This story had all the elements of a highly-spiced hard-boiled drama thriller. It was guaranteed to capture the interest of most Americans and certainly the media, which would play it for all that it could. Even if the central characters in this drama had been straight the story would still have an element of titillation perhaps 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 broached if we were not talking about so many 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 adjective gay were replaced with 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. Since he was 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.
"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. Garvy, 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, Equality USA, the Bisexual Network of the US (BiNet USA), National Latino's Lesbian & Gay Organization (LLEGO), GenderPAC, The Human Rights Cam-

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 "...of nurturing 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

The vision of her 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. Swemey, president of the AFL-CIO will also be given an Honoring Our Allies award.

Swemey 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 Maunter Project, this year's third honoree, is a service organization for lesbians with cancer. The project, named for Mary Helen Maunter who died of breast cancer in 1995 offers a variety of direct services, support and outreach and education.

The Maunter Project was formed in 1990 in Washington, D.C. "The Maunter Project has helped to save the lives of many women who were diagnosed with cancer," said Professor Janet Reno. "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."

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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: havees 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 absolve 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 some very outback-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 treatments 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 heartbreak and enlightening.

Hopefully, this book will allow others in the gay/bi/lt community see what realistically goes on in the head (and heart) of someone trying to do it just for her/himself.

"Orlando’s Secret" is a worthwhile read.

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 character, Lawrence, revealed he was gay.

The outgoing of Lawrence, best friend of college student Michael Patterson, was based on a similar situation in Johnston’s brother-in-law and its profound affect on her family.

The upcoming four-day sequence, running Aug. 20-23, focuses on Lawrence and his love interest, Ben, who is considering moving to Paris to study piano. At least 20 daily newspapers have told Universal Press that they will use syndicate-supplied reruns from 1995 instead, said Elizabeth Andersen, who edits the strip for Universal Press.

"It is a decision that took a lot of thought on our part," said publisher John Goossen, publisher of The Topeka (Kan.) Capital-Journal, which has a circulation of 62,000 daily and 70,000 on Sunday. "We kind of looked at what we feel the standards of the community are.

"We feel that the comics page is different from what we cover in our news pages, where we cover the newsworthy activities of the gay and lesbian community as news."

Papers in Ohio, Texas and Alabama were among those who won’t run the Lawrence-Ben series, Andersen said. Specific names were not immediately available.

Thirteen newspapers canceled "For Better or For Worse" when Lawrence came out. At least 25 other papers requested reruns.

Lawrence has remained a regular character since then. Ben has also appeared repeatedly, once showing up at a prom with Lawrence.

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 Kathy 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.

"The Great Pumpkin Ball"

Presented by ML/GPA

Remember, when Halloween used to be a ball?

Mark your Calendar for what promises to be a highlight of the 1997 Fall season: ML/GPA’s first annual costume party! Organizers are planning an evening for serious Halloween revelers (you know who you are!) and those who just want to enjoy a memorable night out on the-town while supporting ML/GPA.

The date is Friday, October 31. The Ballroom By The Bay, Holiday Inn, Portland. A night of “something for everyone” music including disco, oldies, country and some crowd pleasing surprises. (You know there should be a few surprises, too. It’s being presented in association with the people who brought Bob Smith, Kate Clinton and Susanne Westenhoefer to Maine!) Ticket will be $10 in advance and $15 at the door. Watch next month’s Community Pride Reporter for details on The Great Costume Contest (and great prizes) or call 207-773-6974. So, don’t miss out on what promises to be a night you won’t soon forget!
Portland Ballet Company: Celebrates Schubert

Dancers Chris Alloways-Ramsey and Jonathan Shockley present Saturday, October 4 at 7:30 p.m. Portland Ballet Company, presents "A Schubert Sampler." The evening of dance will feature four world premieres by choreographers Andrei Bounay, Andrew DiGiammatista, 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 Association is sponsoring a poetry workshop with award-winning poet William Carpenter on Saturday, September 13 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 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.

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 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
'Camp' Camp: A Resounding Success

by Steve Fleming

Kezar Falls, ME It was a week-long celebration of diversity, individually, and community by over 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 campers who were joining the 'Camp' Camp, and the site was cleaned 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 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, "Keith Haring," 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 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 varied and rigorous, including mountain biking and windsurfing, 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 Sisties") and an elephant puppet named Ellie, kept campers amused with ever changing developments. A "treasure hunt" which took place during a full 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 throughout the week.

Other camp highlights included a "Talent/No Talent Show," an outdoor Tea Dance, evening campfires and off-site hikes, bike trips and canoe trips. The interaction between the predominately straight-identified Maine Teen Camp campers 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 Perrotti, '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 activists 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.com or contact Bill Cole toll free at 1-888-924-8330, via fax at 1-603-683-1795; or via e-mail at billcole@worldnet.att.net.

Photo: Sam Page

Jeff, Ben and Steve enjoy a sunny day on the Waterfront.

Two Jessicas are proud of their work in 'Camp' Camp's open-air pottery studio overlooking the lake.

Photo: Sam Page

Julie belts a bend while he navigates "The Web" on 'Camp' Camp's challenging ropes course.
Keystone Theatre Café
504 Congress St, Portland 871-5500

The "Dark Side" of "OZ"

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' s 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
day 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 our 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. 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 years, and I’ve worked in anti-racist politics.

But for most 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 letting go of that 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 then; an occasional lust 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 Bob: 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 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.

Two 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. 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....

Trans Forum: As I Was Speaking...-

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 so very true. I am annoyed by the shape of my 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 transitioned yet, 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. Well 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 schmooze with on Friday after work and you can BOTH bitch about stuff.

3. - Tell the cosmetic ladies the truth! “Well of course that concealer is too light for you...” Why all 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 transitioned yet, plan on being trailer trash and buying your next formal dress at Walmart.

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! Okay...you’re ready to go out. Where to go?? I’ve got it... Shop & Save (skip Shaw’s—they’re jerks and homophobes). Well sure 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 my 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 rebuke 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 got go...I’m outa radishes or something.

Dal Maxwell applies makeup and massacres vegetables in Portland Maine. She can be reached thru CPR or 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 which "community you're committed to." I'm still hopeful that the matter can be resolved more formally and without formal litigation," he said.

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 Therese Counseling Services and Gender Outreach Institute) with offices in Augusta, Maine, and Brookline, Massachusetts.

This alert is of particular concern to transgenders, transgendersexuals, &/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 home calls.

Bobb 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 introduced himself as a mental health professional, 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/ or the confidentiality of workshop attendees.

Mr. Kane is not violating Maine state laws which govern professional services unless he accepts money from a person to whom he has misrepresented himself &/or the person believe s/he 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.

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 "faggot," "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 a day 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.
Identification Support

New Hampshire P-FLAG Meetings
Concord: Meets 3rd Sunday from 3-5 pm at 1st Congregational Church, Washington & North Main Streets. (Use Washington entrance.) FMI call 603-447-9444.

Manchester: Meets 1st Tuesday from 7-9 pm at St. Joan of Arc Parish, 501 Chestnut St., Bldg. 1. FMI call 603-722-8700.

Plymouth: Meets 1st Saturday 7-9 pm, Plymouth Congregational Church, Main St. FMI call 603-968-7294 or 603-786-9812.

Manchester P-FLAG Meetings
Perth: Meets 2nd Wednesday from 7-9 pm at Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodfords St. FMI call 207-766-5159 or 207-774-3441.

Brunswick/Freeport/Bath P-FLAG Chapter of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) meets on the last Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm in the lounge area from the library, Mid-Coast Hospital, Brunswick. Please use the back door from the parking lot. FMI call 207-792-0759.

Lesbian/Ambiguous Mothers meet on 2nd Monday of every month from 7-9 pm at 603-830 phone. FMI call 207-783-9789.

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

N.A. Just for Today meetings every Wednesday, 8:15 pm at St. Luke’s Cathedral, State St., Portland. Use Park St. entrance near mol. Also Friday meeting, 8:00 pm, Immanuel Baptist Church, corner Deering & High St. Use entrance off Deering St.

CARE and About a lesbian support and educational group, meets on 1st & 3rd Wednesday monthly, 7:00 pm, United Methodist Church, 129 Miller Ave, Portsmouth, NH. FMI call 603-496-2002, Portsmouth, NH 03072, or call 603-430-5418.

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

Easter Congregational Church
United Church of Christ in Exeter, NH has adopted an Open and Affirming statement & welcomes all God’s children to worship, Sundays, 10 a.m. First St. (near Court St.) Co-pastors the Rev. Michael L. Henderson and Jeannef יוכל Henderson. FMI call Ingled 603-772-6221.

Lesbians/Gay Catholics
The organization, Diocese of Maine offers supportive Masses for Lesbian/Catholics & their families. The group meets every Sunday at 6:00 pm in St. Luke’s Cathedral, 165 State St., Portland. For information call 207-766-5159.

The Appollo Society
Open to all, networking and socializing for New England’s gay and lesbian artists, free-thinkers, ethical humanists and heiresses. Free speech, civil rights advocacy group offering freedom from religion support, religious re-programming and fun. FMI call 207-773-5726 or on PO Box 3501, Portland, ME 04101.

Community of Hope
A Christian congregation which claims a primary ministry with gay and lesbian people and strives to be inclusive of all persons. Weekly on Saturday at 4:00 pm at Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI write Community of Hope, POB 1671, Portland, ME 04104.

Central Maine Gay Men’s Support Group
We provide a safe place to discuss issues going on in our lives or just to be with people in a safe non-alcoholic environment. FMI call 207-622-1887 or 207-621-4254.

Gay/Lesbian Bisexual Support Group
1st and 3rd Fridays each month, 7-9 pm. First Universalist Church, 345 Broadway Road, ME. FMI call Larry Goodyear at 207-544-3977.

Support Group - Penobscot & Surrounding Counties
For men who have sex with men. Monthly meetings to talk about issues and concerns. Call 207-990-2055 for more info & meeting times.

Support Group for lesbian, gay, bi’s & transgendered. Serving Franklin County based out of UMF. FMI call and leave message at 207-778-7350.

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

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

Citizens Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights: (CAGLR), New Hampshire’s oldest progressive gay/lesbian civil rights organization, welcomes all those interested in these goals to weekly meetings, programs, socials and various other events. Newsletter. Monday at 6:30-24-1686 or write to PO Box 730, Concord, NH 03302-0730.

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

Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights
Trains and deploys volunteers state-wide to speak with citizens in groups in their towns and regions about their lives and the lives of others who experience discrimination in Maine. For information on activities in your county: 207-879-0480 or write: MSOP, 123 Congress St., #11, Portland 04101. You need not be a speaker to work with Speakout!
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, loved ones & caregivers, 10:30 am-Noon. TAR, 142 High Street Suite 632, Portland, ME 04101.

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

Wednesday: 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.

Thursday: People living with HIV meet from 5:30-7 pm. TAR. 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, 207-764-3056 or 1-800-432-7881.

Auburn: People living with HIV disease, Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00 pm at Auburn Family Planning. Call Diana Brandt, Auburn Family Planning, 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 meet the last Wednesday of each month 10:45am - 12:00pm. Call 207-990-3626.

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

Gardiner: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays: People Living with HIV meet from 1:30-3 pm at the KVRAH Annex. Call MASS at 725-4955.

Kennebunk: Drop-in discussion group every Tuesday for married/gay/bisexual/questioning men at TAP Office, 2nd Thursday: Client Advisory 5:00pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, Mexico. Call 207-774-6877.

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

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

New Hampshire:
- Derry area: Support group open to anyone infected with AIDS/HIV. Hosted by the Ecumenical AIDS Task Force, at St. Thomas Aquinas. FMI or reservations, or call Jane Dywer 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.
- Keene: Support group for HIV positive people and those living with AIDS meets alternate Mon. 6:30 pm. For details call Schultz, 603-357-5270.

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

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

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

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

Peterborough: Support group for family, partners and friends whose lives have been affected by HIV/AIDS meets Tues., at noon. Call Maria Rosano-603-924-7911, ext. 1126 for details.

Winnipesaukee Region: HIV/AIDS support group meets Wednesdays from 7-9 pm at Lakes Region General Hospital. FMI call Wayne at 603-524-3211 ext 3900.

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Phone Support By Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional Contact</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Center for Lesbian Rights Youth Project</strong></td>
<td>1-800-528-NCLR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Man 2 Man hotline</strong> Providing HIV/AIDS information and referrals for identity and emotional support services.</td>
<td>Staffed Mon.-Fri. 8:30-4:30. Call 207-990-2095 or in Maine 1-800-429-1481.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gay &amp; Lesbian Phoneline of Maine</strong> Staffed Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7-9 pm. Call 207-498-2088 or (Maine) 800-468-2088.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Boston Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Youth (BAGLY)</strong> 1-800-347-TEEN.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>National Hotline for gay, lesbian, bisexual &amp; transgender youth.</strong> Sponsored by the Indianapolis Youth Group.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staffed &amp; trained, peer youth counselors. Lines are open Sunday thru Thursday 7-11 pm, Friday and Saturday 7 pm to midnight. Confidental and anonymous. Call 1-800-347-TEEN.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HIV/AIDS Prevention Project:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Staffed Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7-9 pm. Call 207-498-2088 or (Maine) 800-468-2088.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The AIDS Line: 1-800-851-AIDS or 775-1267. HIV/AIDS related questions, call Mon.-Sat. 9 am-5 pm, Mon. &amp; Wed. evenings until 7:30 pm. Anonymous.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DIAL KIDS:</strong> For lesbian, gay, bi &amp; questioning youth under 19 yrs. 774-TALK.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ingraham Volunteers: Call 774-HELP (774-4357).</td>
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<tr>
<td>The AIDS Project 774-6877. Located at 142 High St., 6th floor, Portland 04101. Call for information and support group meetings in Portland, Lewiston, Brunswick.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Penobscot County: HIV/AIDS Hotline-1-800-429-1481.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belfast: Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition 338-1427.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brunswick: Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services: 725-4995.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridgton: Community Task Force on AIDS: 583-6608.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Rumford:</strong> Community AIDS Awareness Program: 823-4170.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lewiston:</strong> AIDS Coalition of Lewiston/Auburn: 786-4697.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waterville: Dayspring: 626-3435.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mid coast:</strong> Gay men’s HELP LINE, 6:00-9:00 pm (only) M-F 207-863-2728. FAX 207-863-2794. Also, gay youth info.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Parents and Friends of Lesbians &amp; Gays (P-FLAG) Contacts in Maine (indicates monthly meetings)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brunswick/Bath: 729-0519 - Sally &amp; Gene</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lewiston/Auburn: 783-6964 - Estelle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portland: Ria, 766-5158 or Sue, 774-3441.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dover, NH:</strong> Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual &amp; Transgender Helpline for information, referral or need to talk. M-F 6-10 pm, Sat.-Sun. 9am-2pm. 603/743-GAY2.</td>
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**CONTACTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE**

- P-FLAG NH 24 hour Helpline: 603-623-6023
- New Hampshire: Teen Crisis Line 1-800-639-6095.

Concord: Judy, 603/485-3943

Webster: Betty, 603/476-3818

Nashua: Nancy, 603/880-8709

Kensington: Nora/John, 603/772-3893

Stratham: Betty, 603/772-5196

Francistown: Cy/Gordon, 603/547-2545

Holderness: Olivia, 603/968-7254

Runney: Ann, 603/786-9812

Center Sandwich: Tish, 603/284-6434

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


Camp Chrysalis: P.O. Box 990, Belfast, ME 04915. Call 207-3338-5089.

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

Community Task Force on AIDS Education: P.O. Box 941, Naples, ME 04555.


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

Merrymeeting AIDS Support Service: P.O. Box 57, Brunswick, ME 04011. Call 207-772-9455.

Names Project/Maine: P.O. Box 10248, Portland, ME 04104. Call 207-774-2218.


The AIDS Project (TAP): P.O. Box 5305, Portland, ME 04101. Web page: www.nea.net/aidproject. E-mail: info@nea.net. Call 207-774-5877.

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

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England

Serving men and women, offering annual exams, pregnancy testing, birth control info. & supplies (free condoms), testing and treatment for infections and STD's, menopause support and more. Evening hours, affordable services, and confidential funding. Medicaid welcome. 907 Forest Ave., Portland. FMI call 207-874-1095.

FREE FAMILY THERAPY

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

Teen Life Center

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

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 people of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and questioning youth age 22 and under. Safe place for questions, growth, and fun. Held twice monthly. FMI call 207-990-3626. Shawn or Shannette.

Central Maine: Weekly confidential meetings for gay, lesbian, & questioning youth 22 years and under. Call First Call at 795-6677-3000-339-4042 and ask about OUTRIGHT.

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

Waldo-Knox: Meets every other Sunday in Camden for g/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.

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

Out on ME: For gays, lesbians, h/s and our friends. Very active social/support group. Meets every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Newcomers always welcome. FMI, write OUT ON MIO, PO Box 367, Southwest Harbor, ME 04670 or call 207-288-2902 and leave a message.

SECOAST: Every Sunday 5-7 pm (movie night), Tues. 6-8 pm (drop in), & Friday from 7 to 9 pm (support group) at the UU Church Annex (next to first station), (207) 772-9617. NH FMI call 603/431-1013. PO Box 842, Portsmouth, NH 03801.

COLAGE

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

THE MAINE YOUTH PROTECTION COUNCIL

Works to creat safer communities for youth & schools for minority youth. If racism or homophobia affect you, help be part of the solution. Call 207-775-9494 for information on the council & sub-committees. There is a place for people of all ages and backgrounds.

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 56, Conway, NH 03813; Paul or Dave at 207-295-1044, e-mail DFFSPLAP@AOL.COM.

Seacoast Gay Mens Social Meetings Mondays (except holidays), 7 pm at Unitarian Universalist Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH. FMI call (603) 480-4052, or write PO Box 1394, Portsmouth 03802-1394.

Women Meeting Women: Lesbian social/support group meeting monthly at the Universalist Church on the 2nd Saturday of every month from 2:00 to 6:00 pm. FMI call Diane at 603-881-4268, or by e-mail DBbaster@aol.com.

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

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@abcru.org. In the message part, write "subscribe mgayne".

The Maine GayNet Home Page

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

San Francisco Gay/Lesbian Tourism Guide

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

Music & Art

Women In Harmony

an eclectic choral ensemble open to all women regardless of age, race, religion, or sexual orientation. If you are interested in becoming a member or volunteering organizational skills, send SASF (including your phone number) to P.O. Box 5136 Sta. A, Portland, ME 04101, or call 207-774-9490.

Maine Gay Men's Chorus

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

The Maine Gay Visual Artist's League

meets on the third Wednesday of each month. The League is a non-profit, creative support network for Maine's gay & lesbian visual artists 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, playful parties, ancient and modern tours, delectable dinners and jubilant dance parties.

The festivities begin Thursday evening with a Pizza Party ($10). Back by popular demand, Friday’s day long seminar Finding Mr. Right, led by Dr. Larry Harmon, is an interactive and playful workshop on meeting the right man, dating him, and developing a successful relationship ($25 includes lunch). On Saturday and Sunday participants select from over 60 different workshops, events and parties scheduled ($50 ($60 after Oct. 31st)). The weekend’s grand finale Sunday evening is a delightful dinner dance. To receive a brochure (available September 2) or register, call (888) 888-TOWN, email ptown@capecod.net or write Single Men’s Weekend, P.O. Box 1982, Provincetown, MA 02657.

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. Free, new people always welcome.

Location: Silo Seven, 7 Bomarc Road, BANGOR. The facilitator: James Bean—writes for Maine Well-Being Press, produces a syndicated radio program on spirituality called Spiritual Awakening, and facilitates classes in Maine on meditation and Shabda Yoga. FMI call 207-368-5866.

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.

GLADD AA

group meets each Monday 7:30 - 9:00 pm at the First Congregational Church, 177 North Main Street, Concord, NH. Use Washington Street Entrance.
**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 $250.00 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 send enter one original poem on any subject, using any style, to: Free Poetry Contest, 1257 Siakuyo 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.

**Recipients Question Status of Benefits**

Those eligible for reciprocal benefits through the state are questioning whether they would have to pay the money back if the benefits policy changes.

The Legislature passed the reciprocal benefits concept this year. It allows two adults that cannot legally marry to share health benefits. The relationships eligible would include a parent and a child; an aunt or uncle and niece or nephew; and gay couples.

But the attorney general’s office is looking into the legality of offering such benefits. Attorney General Margery Bronster has said essentially that most Hawaii companies are not required to provide medical coverage under the law.

One man who gets coverage from his partner’s state health plan is concerned that he may have to pay the state back for the premiums it has already paid. Daniel Thomas Peralta also said instead of that, the state could simply demand that he pay 100 percent of the premiums. Peralta now pays 40 percent.

Other are holding off on signing up for the policy until the state or courts reach a decision. "This whole issue has hitted the gay community against the straight community," said Susan Reardon, who has decided to wait before applying for medical benefits.

Businesses are arguing that they may have to cut back on benefits for families to give medical coverage to reciprocal beneficiaries, she said.

Deputy Attorney General Cynthia Quin said the office has not determined whether state workers would be forced to repay the money.

**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 its 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,” said 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 written the letter in need to explain 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 here.

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.

"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," Stroud said. That’s where the case belongs, Stroud said. It means that the case is out of a non-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.

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**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 Kassar depicts a variety of families, gay or lesbian family members moms, dads, grandparents, and/or young adults. An accompanying text for each photo includes edited and uncensored words 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.”

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, South Portland Tuesday, September 16, 1997

FMI Call the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice at 780-8524 to make an appointment or for information. Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice and American cancer society guideline in grieveing: Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice and American cancer society guideline in grieving 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 Moultton, 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.

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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 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.

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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 *vius perform conservation and outdoor recreation related service, one team which performs educational service 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 or fl- of community service AmeriCorps members help meet the nations critical needs in the areas of public safety, education, human health, 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” then 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 electoral 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 [D for Manhattan Borough President; Primary: 9 Sept. 1997
Susan Leal for San Francisco City Treasurer; Election: 4 Nov. 1997
Jay Fisette [D for Arlington (VA) County Board; General: 4 Nov. 1997
Phil Reed [D for N.Y. City Council; Primary: 9 Sept. 1997
Margaretta Lopez [D 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
Annie 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 [DFL] for Minneapolis Library Board; Primary: 9 Sept. 1997
Debra Silber [DJ for Brooklyn (NY) Civil Court; Primary: 9 Sept. 1997

“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 Weinsberger to the Los Angeles Charter Commission.

City of Portland Jobs

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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. We are Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

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We acknowledge the varying degrees to which members of our community are out, and we respect their choices, if printing a return address is ever a problem, please let us know.

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