

Community Pride Reporter

*Proudly serving the Lesbian, Gay,
Bisexual, Transgender Community*

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USM's L/A College presents: Love Makes a Family



Jonathan, Robert and Family. Photo by Gigi Kaeser

The University of Southern Maine's Lewiston-Auburn College will be presenting the highly acclaimed photo/text exhibition "Love Makes A Family: Living in Lesbian and Gay Families" in the hall gallery beginning Dec. 5 and continuing through Jan. 2. The college will host a reception Sunday, Dec. 7, from 2-4 p.m.

Since 1995, the exhibit has toured nationally appearing in churches, synagogues, community centers, museums, public and private schools, colleges, and public libraries. Earl H. Jones, Director of the National Education Association, has praised "Love Makes A Family" as "an excellent way to put faces on people we often degrade because they are different. By showing them as people you remove them from the category of 'anonymous abstractions' and cause us to begin dealing with them as the real people they are. As we work to create awareness and understanding of those who are different, we value efforts... to bring harmony to an often discordant reality."

The exhibit consists of portraits of 20 families of diverse racial and economic backgrounds with lesbian or gay members -grandparents, parents, and youth- taken by Amherst, Mass., photographer Gigi Kaeser. The photographs are accompanied by text edited from interviews with family members that were conducted by writers Peggy Gillespie and Pam

Brown. Together, the words and images in "Love Makes A Family" show in a visible and positive way, the existence, love, and power of these families.

At the December 7 reception, representatives of the Lewiston chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), the Androscoggin County branch of Maine Speak Out Project, and OUTRIGHT!/Lewiston-Auburn, will talk about the work they do. The exhibit's presentation is sponsored by USM's Lewiston-Auburn College with volunteers from the AIDS Coalition of Lewiston-Auburn, PFLAG, and Maine Speak Out Project.

"Love Makes a Family" was produced by Family Diversity Projects, Inc., a nonprofit educational organization devoted to educating communities about family diversity, bias, sexism, racism, and homophobia. The exhibition is designed to be used by parents, educators, students, and others interested in bringing issues of family diversity to their communities. Southern Maine Pride is distributing the exhibit in Maine.

The University of Southern Maine's Lewiston-Auburn College is located at 51 Westminster Street in Lewiston. Gallery hours are: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. -8 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Closed holidays, Dec.24 and 27. For more information call Lewiston-Auburn College, 753-6500.



**Community Pride Reporter
Wishes you a Happy and Safe
Thanksgiving**

Gay Rights Supporters call for Referendum Cancellation

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) The Christian Civic League of Maine can join the state in defending an upcoming referendum on gay rights, a judge ruled.

Gay rights supporters filed a lawsuit two weeks ago arguing Secretary of State Dan Gwadosky lacks the authority to call a referendum. The suit asks the court to overturn Gwadosky's approval of the referendum. Gwadosky declared Oct. 20 that enough petition signatures had been gathered to hold the referendum.

The petition drive's sponsors, the Christian Coalition of Maine and the Christian Civic League of Maine, want voters to overturn the state gay rights law approved last spring. Michael F. Phillips Jr., an attorney for the league, said he expected the state to do well in defending Gwadosky's decision to authorize the referendum. But as one of the groups that circulated the petitions, he said the league would better be able to defend them.

In court, gay rights advocates argued the referendum should be cancelled because of 26 different flaws in the petitions filed. Both the petitions'

sponsors and Gwadosky's staff reviewed the petitions for mistakes that would invalidate signatures. Of the 65,256 signatures filed by the Civic League and Christian Coalition, state workers disqualified 7,074, leaving 58,131 valid names. But the gay rights coalition Maine Won't Discriminate says Gwadosky's staff let flawed signatures pass.

The lawsuit seeks to demonstrate that. In a 90-page document filed with the court, referendum opponents describe the error in each of the 15,000-odd signatures that they claim are flawed and therefore invalid. Such errors include signatures without dates, improperly notarized signatures, signatures without the street address of the signer, duplicate signatures and altered signatures.

Gay rights advocates also say Gwadosky improperly approved signatures that were collected before the Legislature adjourned for the season. Advocates say no signatures should have been collected until after the adjournment, but Gwadosky has disagreed.

Gwadosky Confident of Decision on People's Veto

AUGUSTA - An appeal of the Secretary of State's decision on the people's veto petition was filed in Cumberland County Superior Court. At issue is the opponents' claim that their review has unearthed at least 15,000 invalid signatures in addition to the 7,074 identified by the Secretary of State.

"We are not surprised at this appeal," said Secretary Gwadosky. "Given the level of organization on both sides of the issue, we anticipated a challenge regardless of our decision."

"We have cooperated fully with both sides," said Secretary Gwadosky. "We have given them access to the petitions and we have provided them with information on our process."

The only specific claim outlined in the appeal is that signatures collected prior to the adjournment date of the Legislature should be considered invalid. However, the Secretary of State determined upon the advice of the Attorney General's Office that:

•The signing of the enacted law by the Governor is the "trigger" to permit filing of a people's veto application. The statutory requirement that the application be filed within 10 working days, simply creates a deadline by when this action must occur.

•The requirement that the petition be filed 90 days after the recess of the Legislature is only a formula for calcu-

lating the deadline for filing the petition. A petition must be circulated and filed with the Secretary of State by the 90th day.

•There is nothing in the statute or the Constitution that would indicate circulating a petition prior to the adjournment of the Legislature is inappropriate. The 90 day formula sets up a final date for filing the petitions, not an inclusive time period for circulating them.

•When determining the validity of signatures, the long-standing practice of the Secretary of State is to err in favor of the petitioner. This practice is based on what appears to be the trend in Court decisions involving petitions.

"We feel confident that the decision to count these signatures was the appropriate decision," said Secretary Gwadosky.

Applicable law: The Maine Constitution requires that a people's veto petition must be filed "by the hour of 5:00 p.m., on or before the 90th day after the recess of the Legislature." Maine statute further requires that, "An application for a people's veto referendum petition must be filed within 10 working days after adjournment of the legislative session..."

Relevant dates: Law signed by the Governor 5-16-97 People's Veto Petition Approved for Circulation 6-03-97 Legislature Adjournment Date 6-20-97

Clinton Nominates Gay Businessman As Ambassador

WASHINGTON (AP) James Hormel, a wealthy Democratic donor from San Francisco, would become the first openly gay U.S. ambassador if the Senate confirms him as envoy to Luxembourg.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee, chaired by conservative Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., previously recommended confirmation of Hormel as an alternate delegate to the United Nations. Asked

about Hormel's chances of confirmation for the European ambassadorial job, a committee spokesman said Wednesday Helms doesn't generally comment on nominees before they get a hearing.

Hormel is an heir to the Hormel Meat Co. fortune. The company is based in Austin, Minn. The Clinton administration has made an effort to recruit homosexuals, including by employing a White House liaison to the community.

The White House announced President Clinton's nomination of Hormel in a press release Monday.

Hormel sits on the board of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the educational arm of the nation's leading gay-rights group. "We don't see this as an effort to bring gays into high levels of the administration, but as an effort by the president to bring highly talented individuals into the administration," said

David Smith, a spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign.

"The fact that Mr. Hormel is gay is not relevant to whether he can perform the duties of ambassador or not." Hormel, 64, has donated at least \$120,000 to party candidates and causes since 1995. He sits on the boards of the San Francisco Symphony and the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce

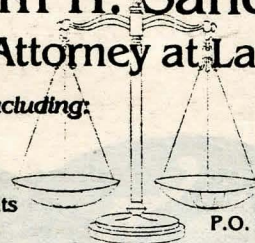
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Victory! Nashua, NH Board of Education race

By Brian Rater

Timothy Nickerson has become the first openly gay/lesbian elected official in New Hampshire. Last night, he came in second in a race of 5 candidates for 4 seats on the Nashua Board of Education. The seats are for 4 year terms.

Nickerson, who will be celebrating his 22nd birthday in a week, is a recent graduate of Nashua High School, is working on a Bachelor's in Education at Rivier College and is on the Board of Directors

of Nashua Outright, a glbt youth organization.

Unfortunately, Taylor Cole, the head of the Greater Nashua chapter of the Christian Coalition was also elected onto the board. When the filing period had ended, there were only 4 candidates for 4 seats. When it was discovered that Cole was the head of the local Christian Coalition, a major write-in campaign by Scott Cote to prevent Cole from getting onto the Board.

Despite valiant efforts, he was not able to gather enough signatures. No one has yet to win a city-wide write-in campaign.

The final votes are:

Capasso 7811- Nickerson 7717

Andrick 7439 - Cole 6053

Write-in 4063 (presumably all for Cote)

Nashua is the second largest city in New Hampshire and has a population of 80,000.

The AIDS Project Hires A New Executive Director

George Friou will start in November

by Mike Martin

On August 20th the Board of Directors of The AIDS Project voted to hire George Friou as its new Executive Director. The Board acted on the unanimous recommendation of the Search Committee, George Friou (pronounced "free-u") comes to TAP from an Executive Director position at North of Market Senior Services in San Francisco, which he has held for two years.

George is devoted to a career in health and social service delivery, especially, he said, "to people who must call upon the wider community to act with compassion." He also goes on to say that,

"providing services to people with AIDS has been a major component of my work here in San Francisco." George has a Bachelor's degree in Humanities from Sonoma State University in California and an MPH in Health Services from Boston University.

He has held some pretty interesting jobs, from his time in the Peace Corps in Africa to working at Upham's Corner Health Center in Dorchester, MA at a time when they were starting one of the nation's first needle exchange programs. He is a past president of the board of directors at the San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium.

George is married with two children and has family in Maine. His family has owned land and a camp in Aroostook county since the late 1800s and on Cranberry Island off Friendship in Knox county. George expressed his desire to continue working in the non-profit arena and in relocating to Maine during his interview with the Search Committee.

He will begin his duties at The AIDS Project on or near November 1st. Marjorie Love will continue as TAP's Interim Director until George comes on board.

GLSEN of Southern Maine

Mary Bonauto, an attorney with Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) will address the November meeting of the Southern Maine chapter of GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network). Bonauto's topic will be "Legal Rights of Public School Students and Teachers."

All persons interested in youth and education are welcome at meetings

of GLSEN-Southern Maine, a local chapter of the national GLSEN organization. GLSEN brings together gay and straight educators and community members who are interested in ending homophobia in schools and making schools safe for gay youth and gay teachers. GLSEN-Southern Maine meets the fourth Monday of the month (with periodic adjustments for holidays, vacations, etc.) in the

Portland at the Waynflete School Library, 34 Emery St. Meetings begin at 6:30, with the presentation starting at 7:15. For further information, call Betsy Smith at 207-773-9547.

All persons interested in the schools and youth of Maine are encouraged to attend GLSEN-Southern Maine meetings. You do not have to be a member to attend.

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Knowing Victims Were Lesbians Made Killing them Easier

By Jeff Barnard AP Writer

MEDFORD, Ore. (AP) — Hours after his arrest for killing two Medford women, Robert Acremant told police that he didn't choose his victims because they were lesbians, but knowing they were homosexuals made it easier to rob and kill them. The prosecution played a videotape in Jackson County Circuit Court on Wednesday that showed Medford police detectives interviewing Acremant in the Stockton, Calif., police station following his arrest Dec. 13, 1995.

Detectives asked him if his decision to target Roxanne Ellis and Michelle Abdill had anything to do with their being homosexual. "I don't think so. Not consciously. I checked for the best opportunity," Acremant said on the tape. "Did that change anything once you found that out...?" asked Lt. Tim George. "Made it easier," Acremant said. "Easier to..." George said. "Deal with," Acremant said. "I figured it would be a puzzling discovery once somebody found her."

Following the couple's disappearance, there was fear within the gay community that the women had been killed

because of their efforts to defeat a statewide initiative to limit the rights of homosexuals. Acremant, 29, has pleaded guilty to two counts of aggravated murder, kidnapping and robbery in the Dec. 5, 1995 slayings of Ellis, 53, and Abdill, 42, at a rental duplex in Medford. He shot them as they lay bound in the back of a pickup truck in the duplex's garage after he failed to get them to write checks off their property management business.

A Jackson County Circuit Court jury is hearing testimony before deciding whether to sentence Acremant to death by lethal injection, life in prison without parole, or life in prison with a 30-year minimum. He already is serving 22 1/2 years for kidnapping and robbery. Wearing a leather jacket, white T-shirt, jeans and a week-old beard, Acremant said on the videotape he almost decided to leave without killing the two women after he locked himself out of the duplex while moving cars. "I was totally out of control at this point. So I had two people tied up inside and I can't get in," he said with a laugh. "I was going to shoot the f—— garage door.

Just as I was about to tear, I remembered I had a crowbar and I pried open and popped the door." Also on the tape, Acremant told police he could commit the robberies all over again. "I'd do it today," he said. "I thought about it as I was going to sleep last night. How I was going to get money to get the hell out of here." Acremant told police he was despondent after being dumped by his girlfriend, a Las Vegas stripper, and losing his job with a Los Angeles trucking company.

He had been drinking heavily and vodka made him angry. "I lost my job, all my money, my girl," Acremant said. "I have not been f—— thinking straight for so long, I can't stand it. I don't know what I'm doing. I don't even feel like doing anything. I just do it." Though Acremant initially told police he hoped to be sentenced to death, he since has decided to cooperate with his defense team, which has asked the jury to sentence him to life in prison without parole.

Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty. Acremant told police he was

amazed nobody realized he was up to foul play inside the duplex after he locked himself out, because he opened and shut the garage door eight or 10 times, jumped over a fence to get into the back yard, and peered in windows. "It blew me away," Acremant said. Acremant said he sold his car for \$5,000 and spent all but \$100 of it drinking and paying to watch his ex-girlfriend striptease in Las Vegas before returning to Stockton and allowing himself to be caught.

When he told her he was a wanted man, she "fell to pieces." "The reason I'm here today is I broke my girl's heart," Acremant told police on the tape. "I would never have come back." Judge Ross Davis denied a motion for a mistrial made by defense lawyer Ralph Monson because prosecutor John Bondurant made references to "the appellate record." If Acremant is sentenced to death, his case will automatically be appealed to the Oregon Supreme Court. Monson argued that mentioning an appeal would make jurors feel they don't have ultimate control over Acremant's life.

Bill offering Domestic partner Benefits wins Favor

WASHINGTON DC At a Capitol Hill press conference, Representative Barney Frank (D-MA), together with 14 other lead cosponsors, introduced legislation to make domestic partnership benefits available to federal employees.

Under Representative Frank's proposal, the domestic partner of a federal employee would be eligible for benefits in the same manner and to the same extent as the spouse of a federal employee. The term "domestic partner" is defined to mean "an adult person living with, but not married to, another adult person in a committed, intimate relationship."

This eligibility would extend to retirement benefits, health insurance, life insurance and compensation for work injuries. To be eligible, same or opposite sex couples would file an affidavit certifying, among other facts, that they are living together in a committed, intimate relationship, that they are responsible for each other's welfare and financial obligations and that they are not related in a way that would prohibit legal marriage in the state in which they reside.

The proposed bill sets forth the process of eligibility for domestic partnership benefits and for the cutoff of such benefits if a partnership is dissolved.

The following is a statement given by Helen Gonzales, Public Policy Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, at today's press conference: "NGLTF applauds Representative Barney Frank and the other 14 lead cosponsor of this legislation which could just as easily be entitled 'The Workplace Equality Act.'"

"The proposal introduced today gives recognition to the diversity of families in our country. According to a 1991 U.S. Cen-

sus Bureau report, fewer than 30% of American families fit the traditional definition of family that is, two heterosexual parents living with children under 18. Yet, it is this definition of family which is the key factor in determining the type and amount of benefits a federal worker and his or her family receives.

"A married heterosexual federal employee with a spouse and child can be eligible for a host of benefits, including health insurance, life insurance, and participation in a federal employees' retirement program. Yet, another federal worker with a partner and a child who does exactly the same job would not qualify for the same benefits. That's the same as advertising a job in a newspaper saying 'salespeople wanted: salary for married heterosexuals, \$12 an hour, salary for unmarried heterosexuals and gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgendered persons, \$7.20 per hour.'

We would all recognize that as unfair, illegal and discriminatory. "The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has estimated that up to 40% of a worker's remuneration comes in the form of "fringe" benefits. Clearly, some federal employees are getting paid more than others when fringe benefit payments are included.

It is time to stop this discrimination in how we treat similarly situated federal employees. The proposal by Representative Frank would, for the first time, provide equity in pay, including benefits received, for all eligible federal employees. NGLTF lauds Representative Frank's introduction of this legislation, which represents another step forward in the fight for equality for all.

Senate Hearings on ENDA

WASHINGTON, DC The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) applauds the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, Chairman Jim Jeffords (R-VT), and ranking Democratic member Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA) for holding today's hearing on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).

The proposed legislation (S. 869) tells employers that their hiring, promotions and other employment practices must be based solely on an employee's work performance and not on their sexual orientation. The bill exempts small businesses and religious institutions from coverage, similar to exemptions granted under previous civil rights legislation.

Witnesses at the Thursday morning hearing included two individuals who had lost their jobs because of their sexual orientation. They testified that discrimination is not only wrong but it is also painful and it poses a great hardship - emotionally and economically - for them and others in their situation. The business community was also represented at the hearing by Raymond Smith, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Bell Atlantic Corporation of Virginia, and Thomas Grote, Chief Operating Officer of Donatos Pizza in Blacklick, Ohio.

They both stated that adopting and implementing strong antidiscrimination policies for all of their employees is not only morally right but also makes economic sense from a business point of view. They also both noted that 320 of the top 500 businesses in this country have adopted antidiscrimination policies which include sexual orientation.

"The message of ENDA is clear and straightforward," said NGLTF executive director, Kerry Lobel. "Discrimination is wrong." As Lobel pointed out, "state and local legislators, as well as the business community, are forging a trail on bills banning employment and broader discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. To date, eleven states (CA, CT, HI, ME, MA, MN, NH, NJ, RI, VT and WI) and the District of Columbia have adopted such laws."

ENDA is an important step in the struggle for equal treatment for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people. It is similar to legislation previously adopted by Congress to address other forms of discrimination. Polling demonstrates that the American public believes in fair treatment for all Americans. In fact, most Americans believe such laws already exist.

"We look forward to the day when gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people no longer have to fear the loss of their jobs on the basis of their sexual orientation," stated Lobel. "When that day comes, our society will have taken another step forward in assuring justice and equality for all of its citizens."

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has worked to eliminate prejudice, violence and injustice against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people at the local, state and national level since its inception in 1973. As part of a broader social justice movement for freedom, justice and equality, NGLTF is creating a world that respects and celebrates the diversity of human expression and identity where all people may fully participate in society.

Love Makes a family for Lisa and Alison

My name is Lisa O'Leary. I am originally from Belfast, Maine and lived in the Portland area for six years.

In September, I appeared on a discussion panel in my hometown with seven people: six of us were lesbian or gay two had children and one was a straight daughter raised by lesbian parents. This discussion took place in conjunction with the showing of the Love Makes a Family photo exhibit in Belfast, Maine.

Mitzi Lichtman of the Common Circle for Human Rights produced the event; Martha Piscukas, was the panel moderator; Sam Mitchell's Spring Gallery housed the photo exhibit; WERU radio audio taped the event and aired it, and the videographers taped the event in hopes to put together an educational videotape for distribution.

In addition to participating in the discussion, I put together a panel of photos and text including comments from my sister on what it was like to have me, a lesbian, in the family.

Family Stats

I am the oldest of four girls. I am 35 years old and my partner's name is Alison, she is 29 years old.

Lynne is 32 years old. She has been married to Matt for a year and has a new baby boy named Zachery. He is her first child, our parent's first grandchild and the first nephew in our family.

Debbie is 31 years old and is in a long-term relationship with Blake, her boyfriend. She owns a local business called Bell The Cat, it's a very successful coffee and sandwich shop.

Jenny is 20 years old and has a boyfriend. She works full-time at Bell The Cat.

Our parents are Donna and Darrell O'Leary, both natives of Belfast.

Although the three oldest children were born in Augusta, we consider ourselves really natives of Belfast too, after we moved her in 1968. Jenny was born here and most of our relatives are here too. They have a black lab named Abby.

Our Dad is a well-respected business man who has been with Shop 'n Save for over 25 years. He is active in St. Francis of Assisi Church, the Rotary Club, the Belfast Bay Festival and the ME Lung Association Bike Trek Across Maine.

Our Mom is an RN who currently works at the office of Drs. Loxtercamp and Hughes. She is also very involved in St. Francis of Assisi Church.

My family and Alison's family coincidentally have a lot in common. Alison is the youngest of three girls and grew up in Maine as well. Her oldest sister is married with three children (one named Zachary!) and the middle sister is also a lesbian, who is out to the family. Their mother is also a nurse and their father works for Hood Dairy, sometimes delivering to the store my Dad works in. They also have a black lab named Pepper.

Love Makes a Family for Lisa and Alison

ALISON: Lisa and I have been in a relationship for six 6 1/2 years now. We are committed to one another and share the happenings in each other's lives; good and bad. We cook and eat dinner together every night after coming home from work and we plan our vacations together.

We are accepted as a couple by Lisa's family. I go to their family reunions on the 4th of July and really enjoy laughing and talking with her aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents. I helped out with her sister Lynne's wedding and was asked to be in one of the photos.

I used to go to Lisa's parents' house with Lisa when we were just friends and I am treated differently now in only one way: I am seen as Lisa's spouse and not just one of Lisa's friends. I am a permanent part of the family.

LISA: Alison and I have been a family of two for 6 1/2 years. Our anniversary is March 11 and we celebrate by going out to dinner. We are as normal and mainstream as anyone you'd ever meet. We both work, have a committed relationship, a joint checking account, an apartment, and a garden. We met in 1987 while attending college at the University of Maine and have been together ever since, as either best friends or partners. Alison has a degree in Physical Education and I have a degree in Human Development.

I am out to my immediate family and some of my extended family. I am out to classmates, friends and co-workers, I don't try to hide my lesbianism from anyone. Alison is out only to her gay older sister, her employer, and our newer friends.

This year at the Southern Maine Pride activities, we danced together for the first time at the Pier Dance. It was a great milestone for us. We love each other very much. We want to have a simple commitment ceremony someday and we talk about adopting a child from the Foster Care Program.

We have our own bedroom when we stay at my parent's and sometimes Abby, my parent's lovable dog sleeps in bed with us! Alison helped decorate for my Gram's 80th birthday party and last year at my sister Lynne's wedding, she became indispensable as she took care of last minutes details. Lynne even called Alison into one of the family shots taken at her wedding. That meant a lot to me.

I also go to Alison's parents to visit and attend birthday parties and BBQ's. We all have fun playing touch football or basketball and playing board games. It is more difficult for me because the nature of our relationship has not been revealed to all of her family, only to her lesbian sister. After we have been living together for this long buying furniture like a king sized bed, taking trips together and never mentioning boyfriends at all I think they are in

denial if they don't think there is something more to our relationship than just being friends.

We even have a family portrait of ourselves taken at Olan Mills in 1993 that hangs in our living room. We don't "de-gay" the apartment before they visit anymore and Alison is ready to tell them as soon as circumstances permit.

At Christmas time, Alison and I send out cards and sign both our names, even to relatives we haven't come out too. It's kind of our subtle way of letting them know and slowly letting our relationship into their consciousness as we prepare to tell them about our relationship. Alison and I decorate a tree and choose a day for exchanging Christmas gifts with each other.

Then we each go to the traditional holiday activities our families have each celebrations through the years. If we had children, we'd have to either switch off years like Alison's older sister does with her family, or split the day up to visit with both sides like my sister Lynne will starting doing.

My sister Lynne just had a baby in June, Zachery is her first child and the first grandchild. I am a proud first-time "Aunt Lisa" and Alison will be called "Aunt Alison" as well.

My Sister's Writings

LYNNE: My sister is a lesbian. I believe she was born a lesbian. And I was born a heterosexual. I've pretty much always sensed that Lisa was different from me. When I was growing up, I never really had the words to describe the differences that I sensed. I now know the words.

Sometimes I am uncomfortable with Lisa's sexuality. I don't know why, but I just am. But I understand her feelings. And mostly from our shared experiences in our family we are not so unlike. . . .

Just like what I want for all of my sisters, I want Lisa to be happy and healthy and am glad she met Alison to share her life experiences. I know how important it was for me to meet my husband. I wish there wasn't as much social stigma about homosexuality so Lisa and Alison could dance in a club if they felt like it things heterosexual couples seem to take for granted.

Actually, I guess Lisa CAN do all these things, but I just worry for her because I know there's a good chance she may be discriminated against if she lets the public-at-large see her love. And through all of this, I mostly just love my sister and accept our differences. I would be lying if I said I was completely comfortable with all aspects of homosexuality, but it really isn't relevant what I think about it anyway. It is her life and I just want her to be happy and safe and not lonely.

DEBBIE: Having a birth date of July 10, 1965, what I knew to be true was men go with women and vice versa.

Never did it really become a question or even an idea, until my older sister Lisa told us she was gay in 1992. I don't remember her calling herself a lesbian, I just remember she had a friend-a best friend-he was gay and so was she.

We grew up Catholic and we grew up sheltered from this kind of life-style so I was more worried about how the rest of my family would take this revelation. I, however, never was bothered by Lisa's sexuality. Lisa had been in a serious relationship with a man and never seemed very happy. It was almost a relief to see that she could be happy with someone, regardless of their sex.

JENNY: I was quite young when my sister told me she was a lesbian. We have thirteen years between us, I must have been about fifteen years old. She had been with her girlfriend for a year or so by then and, probably due to my youth and naivete I hadn't noticed that they were more than friends. When she pulled me aside to tell me, I was surprised that she had gone to all the trouble. I think my generation has grown up more accepting with homosexuality and more comfortable. I was happy that she was telling me she had found someone she loved.

Lisa has always been my big sister. She has always been there for me, always had a hug for me, always wants to talk. This didn't change the minute she told me she was a lesbian, nor has it changed in the years following. I think its great to see her and Alison together at our family reunions, happy and in love.

The Aftermath

The panel discussion with six other participants went extremely well, better than I ever imagined. Alison was right there in the third row. The audience was very supportive and complimentary to me, people introduced themselves to me during breaks and when it over. The event was video and audio taped in order to use as an educational video.

I let one of the local newspapers in Belfast do an in depth interview for their follow-up article to the Love Makes a Family exhibit and panel discussion. Then I made a mad dash to telephone and relatives who would see the newspaper and who acted like they knew, but whom I hadn't actually told yet. I got nothing but good responses even telephone calls and e-mails from relatives after they read the article which appeared on the front page!

Two weeks after I appeared on the Love Makes a family panel, Alison came out to her parents. It went well and they accepted it. It has made our relationship better, since a lot of the tension around that issue is now gone.

The Love Makes a Family Exhibit continues to circulate around Maine. The writings and the panel of photographs we put together for the Belfast exhibit are traveling with the original photos.

Mad Horse Theatre Company

Proudly Presents Hamlet Prince of Denmark by William Shakespeare

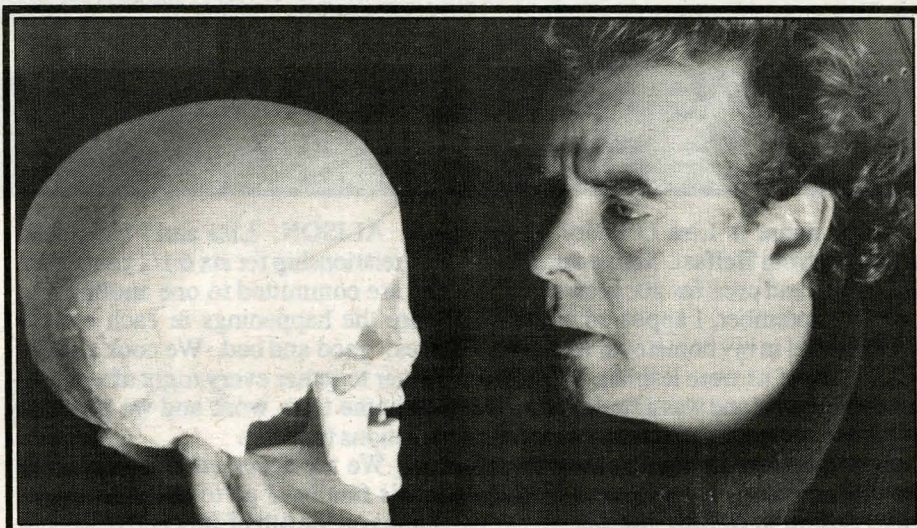
PORTLAND, ME Mad Horse Theatre is proud to open our 12th season, and our residency at the Oak Street Theatre, with *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare.

From the appearance of the theatre's most famous ghost in Act I to the tragic conclusion of the theatre's most famous duel in Act V, *Hamlet* has captivated audiences for almost four hundred years. More has been written about *Hamlet* than any other person, living or dead, real or imaginary with the exception of Jesus Christ. For Mad Horse, who has set this production deep in the middle ages, Shakespeare's masterpiece is more than the story of *Hamlet's* quest to avenge his father's murder it is our quest to heal our shattered souls.

"No less a figure than Joseph Campbell claimed that Percival and the quest for the Holy Grail was the core myth of Western Civilization. It has been thrilling and astonishing for Mad Horse to use this myth as the framework for exploring the depths of *Hamlet*," said Artistic Director Michael Rafkin. "The performance space at Oak Street is much better suited to our production than our old home at 955 Forest Ave. *Hamlet* will run from October 22 through November 23, 1997 at the Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak Street, Portland, ME.

Performances times are: Wed. and Thurs. at 7:30 PM Fri. and Saturday at 8:00 PM Sundays at 5:00 PM.

Tickets are \$18.00 (\$16.00 Students and



Seniors). Tickets for Saturday night performances are \$20.00 (\$18.00 Students and Seniors).

Mad Horse Theatre Company produces its season at the Oak Street Theatre, a small intimate 105 seat space located at 92 Oak St., Portland ME. The physical nature of the building

guarantees "not a bad seat in the house." Mad Horse is Maine's longest running resident ensemble theatre and is celebrating its Twelfth Season. Mad Horse Theatre Company is a registered NonProfit 501(c)3 organization.

For further information and reservations please call 775-5103

Bono Says Life's Easier Since Being Outed

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) Chastity Bono says her life has been a breeze since she came out as a lesbian in 1995. "What's hard is living your life a lie and continuing in fear that somebody's going to find out this thing you're ashamed of," she said. "That's all that being 'out' means it's just not lying. It's talking freely, acting freely, like heterosexual people do."

Bono, daughter of Rep. Sonny Bono, R-Calif., and singer and actress Cher, is the entertainment media director for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. She was in Columbus on Thursday to celebrate Lesbian and Gay History Month and National Coming Out Day, which is Saturday. She said this year has been historic in combating media stereotypes and raising awareness for gay rights.

The television show "Ellen" and other media addressing homosexuality has made her job easier, she said. "I have both gay and straight people all the time thanking me for the work I have done," Bono said. "I think that definitely the work that I'm doing is reaching out past the community and affecting heterosexual people as well."

celebrate Lesbian and Gay History Month and National Coming Out Day, which is Saturday. She said this year has been historic in combating media stereotypes and raising awareness for gay rights.

Homo for the Holidays: Lea Delaria To Star In Mischievous Holiday Show

Comic /singer/ actress Lea Delaria arrives in Portland on December 7 to headline a special lesbian/gay holiday show, The Mischievous of Christmas: Homo for the Holidays.

An Above & Beyond holiday treat, Lea Delaria will be appearing with her trio, performing the music and comedy that has made her outrageous cabaret act one of the most popular attractions on the national gay and lesbian performance circuit.

(Note: This will be Lea's last New England appearance before starring on Broadway this spring in a revival of the musical classic, On The Town.)

Lea will be joined at the Ballroom by The Bay (at The Holiday

Inn) by several specials including by members of The Maine Gay Men's Chorus who will be presenting a sneak preview of "Christmas Can Be A Drag!", their 1997 holiday offering (December 12, 13, 14 at Williston West Church, Portland). Popular singer/humorist Martin

Swinger plays host for the evening's festivities. Showtime is 7 P.M.. Seating will be cabaret style with reserved seats available for \$24 and General Admission at \$20. Tickets are available at: Drop Me A Line, 611 Congress Street, Portland and Macbeans Music, 141A Maine Street, Brunswick or can be charged by calling, 207-773-6974

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Owen Gleiberman, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

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Will Ellen Walk

By David Bauder

NEW YORK (AP) Ellen DeGeneres reported for work Thursday on the set of her ABC comedy despite a public threat to quit over battles with the network over scripts and an "adult content" warning label being placed on her show. "She's not happy," said her spokeswoman, Pat Kingsley. "I think it's an exaggeration to say she's leaving the show or threatening to leave the show. I think she would like to continue to keep doing the show."

In an interview published in Thursday's New York Times, DeGeneres said she and her executive producer, Tim Doyle, "are ready to walk off the show" because of fights with the network. ABC advised parental discretion "due to adult content" prior to Wednesday's "Ellen" episode, in which the star engaged in a joking but lengthy kiss with actress Joely Fisher, who plays Ellen Morgan's heterosexual best friend.

DeGeneres called it "blatant discrimination"

because she and her character are gay, and said no other ABC show would carry such a warning for a similar scene. The disgruntled actress also said that ABC Entertainment President Jamie Tarses had nixed a scene in a future episode in which Morgan and a woman walk toward a bedroom, presumably to have sex. Tarses and other ABC executives weren't talking Thursday.

Spokesman Kevin Brockman said DeGeneres hadn't made any threats to quit to them. DeGeneres hasn't been happy with ABC for a while, reportedly because she didn't want to continue her sitcom this year but the network wouldn't release her from her contract. She complained last month when top executives didn't call to congratulate her about winning an Emmy Award.

Losing "Ellen," for all its headaches lately, would be a blow to ABC. Ranked 30th in the Nielsen Media Research ratings so far this season, it's one of the struggling network's few successes.

What? And Give Up Show Business?

The Cris Williamsan, Tret Fure with Women In Harmony concert was a wonderful event... As one of the producers, I am proud to have witnessed the outpouring of love that filled the Church during "Song of The Soul" and "Brand New Lullaby." It made a very exhausting day, very rewarding. To give you a glimpse behind the scenes: Cris and Tret called from Philadelphia at 10 am to say their plane had been canceled and would not be arriving until after 5 pm.

Our sound system (and Merrill Auditorium's) was picking up a country music station.. And at 10.15 am I received one of the most disturbing phone calls of my life. A man who had seen the write-up in Portland Press Herald about the concert starting quizzing me about Above and Beyond.. Why we would be involved with something such as "National Coming Out Day" or anything related to gays and lesbians.

He then launched into a hateful diatribe about homosexuals being the murderers of that poor boy in Massachusetts, etc., etc etc. His tone was so abusive) and there was nothing I could say to stop his venom. I finally had to hang up the phone.. As upsetting as it was, I am glad I took the call and not someone else in the office. We have an 18 year old young man from Out-right who works for us and he's already had enough hate in his short life. My business partner, David, is straight - and has no patience for bigotry of any kind. Things would have gotten pretty loud.

So now, not only did we have to get the show on, we would have stay on-guard the rest of the day. Now, in the quiet of the morning after, in a strange way, it reminds me of the story about the old man who worked all his life for the circus. His only job was to follow the parade and pick up the elephant droppings. One day someone said, "Old man... don't you find this degrading. Picking up after elephants... Why don't you retire?" His response was short and to the point, "What? And give up show business?"

I share this today as an example of, as Cris Williamson spoke so eloquently last night, how much work we have to do... and how we can't let our guard down... Ever...

And as my thanks for everyone who attended last night's event: if all the hateful people (who are lurking in the wings) could have experienced what 500 plus experienced at The First Parish Church, maybe they would take their abhorrent parade somewhere else..

Thanks again and be careful out there.

Richard (Feeling very old today... but not giving up "show business") Lawlor

P.S. Many thanks to the Southern Maine Pride committee for their involvement in this event', and as always to Community Pride Reporter for their continuing support of Above & Beyond's efforts to bring quality events to the region.



City Theater Associates, Inc. Presents "Carnival" - The Musical

Music & Lyrics by Bob Merrill
Book by Michael Stewart Based on Material by Helen Deutsch Directed by David Goulet Choreographed by Cheryl Greeley Musical Direction by

Beth Barefoot ones Through - November 15 For reservations, group rates and information call Mid-Town Music at 282-0254 City Theater, 205 Main Street, Biddeford, 282-0849



Lambda Photo Contest

The photograph *Mark and Simeon at Bruce's Going Away Party* is part of a series entitled *Out of Black and White: Images of The Maine Gay Men's Chorus*. A small number of images from this series were displayed in a group show at Davidson and Daughters Gallery in Portland this past May.

I have been photographing the chorus for five years and have only begun to think about exhibiting the work with, of course, the cooperation of my fellow chorus members. While it is exciting to have the work

shown out of state, particularly in NY, it is my objective to show the photographs in our own state where they have the most meaning.

I hope you may be able to run a byline in the CPR, not so much to toot my own horn but rather to let people in the community now that the Lambda Associates of Staten Island were thrilled to have an artist from Maine enter the contest, let alone win and show up at the opening.

Yours

Robert Diamante, June 14, 97

Railroad Square Cinema

November 7 - November 13
SEVEN YEARS IN TIBET—nightly at 4:30 (Evening prices apply), 7:00, 9:30 plus matinees Sat./Sun. at 2:00

THE END OF VIOLENCE—nightly at 7:10 plus matinees Sat./Sun. at 2:45

COP LAND—nightly at 5:05, 9:30 plus matinees Sat./Sun. at 12:40

Many people, including most of the RRSQ staff, feel that Wim Wenders, director of *THE END OF VIOLENCE* which starts Friday, is one of the great filmmakers of the late 20th century. With, hopefully, many years of work ahead of him, he has already compiled a very impressive filmography: *KINGS OF THE ROAD*; *PARIS, TEXAS*; *WINGS OF DESIRE*; *UNTIL THE END OF THE WORLD*; *FAREWAY, SO CLOSE* and the film that is the subject of this week's trivia contest (see below). Light a candle to the gods of celluloid, there's a new Wim Wenders film in town!

If you plan to attend a film on either Wednesday or Thursday (11/12 and 11/13) of next week, please be aware that the city of Waterville will be closing off a section of Main Street on those days to replacing the railroad crossing near here. You should still be able to take a left if coming from the direction of the interstate onto Chaplin Street and get into our parking lot from there.

Anyway, try to give yourself an extra minute or two in case the traffic in this area is snarled. The winner of last week's trivia contest was Sharon Reishus. She and 12 others correctly identified *BANANAS* as the Woody Allen film in which Sylvester Stallone had a bit part. Here's this week's contest:

One of my all-time-favorite films was made by Wim Wenders. It starred Dennis Hopper and Bruno Ganz and was based on the novel "Ripley's Game" by Patricia Highsmith. Can you name it? All correct answers received by 9:30 on Friday morning will be entered into a drawing for two tickets to *THE END OF VIOLENCE*.

As always, you can get descriptions, dates and times of all the films we're showing, on our web site located at <http://www.mint.net/movies>.

Boston PRIDE Show 97

WHAT:

Boston Pride Show '97 is an all new weekend-long, gay and lesbian business and social event showcasing products and services from more than fifty local and national business. The 21 + show features a full schedule of entertainment, special events, and great food in a festive and friendly environment.

Events include special musical guests, live and silent auctions, product demonstrations, book signings, Disco entertainment, seminars on various topics of interest to gays and lesbians, fabulous door prizes, a funky fashion show, poignant art exhibits, and lots of networking opportunities.

WHO:

Participants in the show are gay-owned or gay friendly businesses and New England-area non-profits. Exhibitors include American Airlines, American Express Financial Advisors, BankBoston Ira Motor Group, Poland Spring, Tower Records, Copley Place, Wainwright Bank, and Waterstone's Booksellers, among others. Participating charitable organizations are AIDS Action Committee, Community Servings, Fenway Community Health Center, and The Shared Heart.

WHERE:

The Cyclorama, at the Boston Center for the Arts: 539 Tremont Street, Boston: MA The Cyclorama is handicapped accessible.

WHEN: Saturday, November 22, 11 am - 10pm
Sunday, November 23, 11 am - 6pm

COST:

Advance purchased tickets: \$8.50/day or \$15/ weekend
Tickets purchased at the door: \$9.75/day or \$17/weekend For information on advance or group discount tickets contact Brian Rosenberg at 617-450-9470.

WEB:

Boston Pride Show '97's website contains detailed information on sponsors and events and is updated regularly.

The fun and interactive site is located at www.bostonprideshow.com.

Boston Pride Show '97 is produced by Brian Rosenberg of B&F Productions. They can be reached at 617-450-9470.

Boston PRIDE Show 97

(BOSTON MA)—More than fifty national and local businesses are taking advantage of an opportunity to access New England's lucrative and visible gay and lesbian market at an upcoming business and entertainment expo. **Boston Pride Show '97** is an all-new weekend-long showcase for businesses friendly to the gay community held in a festive and entertaining environment. The show is scheduled for November 22 and 23, 1997 at the Boston Center for the Arts Cyclorama.

National and regional sponsors of the event include American Airlines, American Express Financial Advisors, BankBoston, Ira Motor Group, Poland Spring, Tower Records Copley Place, Wainwright Bank, and Waterstone's Booksellers among others. A limited number of additional exhibitor spaces are still available.

"Participating in **Boston Pride Show '97** allows us to demonstrate our company's commitment to the gay and lesbian community" says Travis Goodyear of American Airlines the first Fortune 100 company to establish a gay and lesbian national marketing and sales team. "We want this community to know we understand and are sensitive to its needs."

Increasingly, corporate marketing staffs are targeting the gay and lesbian community because of its strong consumer demographics. The marketing trend recognizes a powerful buying block of typically well educated, affluent professionals who tend to be brand loyal to companies that support and market to them. A June 1997 *Advocate Magazine* poll asking readers whether a company's stance on gay issues affected their consumer habits turned in a resounding 96 percent affirmative response.

Recognizing that brand loyalty, a number of businesses have created thoughtful, long-term marketing strategies around it. Last year Ira Motor Group, one of the largest car dealer groups in the Northeast, began an advertising campaign in Boston-area gay newspapers. "Our gay and lesbian customers tell us they appreciate our ads" says David Hult director of sales for the Ira Motor Group "Our dedication to this community is real and it is really paying off in cars sold and serviced."

Event organizer Brian Rosenberg is expecting as many as 10,000 attendees to the show, which is being held the weekend before Thanksgiving—in time to kick off the holiday season. Boston gay and lesbian events generally attract among the largest numbers of supporters in the nation representing one of the strongest, most visible gay and lesbian communities in the country.

The *New York Times* recently reported that over the past year, advertising spending in publications aimed at gay and lesbian consumers rose by nearly forty percent. These figures represent a growing national trend that acknowledges this powerful buying block of typically well-educated, affluent, and brand loyal professionals.

In fact, some nationally recognized companies including Atlantic Records and American Airlines have developed entire marketing departments geared specifically toward the gay and lesbian consumer. After success with print media, many companies are looking for new marketing opportunities beyond the traditional ad buy in gay magazines. American Airlines, for example, is the official airline of the Gay Games as well as a sponsor of a new, innovative weekend-long gay business and entertainment expo in Boston, **Boston Pride Show '97**

Boston Pride Show '97's unique approach may help to explain why it has attracted the sponsorship of such high-powered companies as American Express Financial Advisors, BankBoston Poland Spring, Tower Records, Copley Place and Wainwright Bank. **Boston Pride Show '97** will give businesses unparalleled access to New England's gay and lesbian consumers, providing the upbeat, positive backdrop large corporate sponsors want for their products and services while attracting as many as 10,000 attendees with a range of entertainment. Over the course of a weekend, the show will feature live

and silent auctions, book signings, musical entertainment, networking opportunities with gay-owned and gay friendly businesses, and product demonstrations. The event will also offer community service organizations the opportunity to host independent fund-raisers during the show.

Among the local businesses participating in **Boston Pride Show '97** is Ira Motor Group one of the largest car dealer groups in the Northeast. The auto dealer eagerly added the high-visibility **Boston Pride Show '97** to its overall marketing strategy, having begun a successful ad campaign last year in Boston-area gay newspapers. David Hult, director of sales for Ira Motor Group, says its decision to market to the gay and lesbian communities was smart and has been well-received. "We look for opportunities like Boston Pride Show to show this community that we welcome their business and that our staff is educated and aware of their concerns," says Hult.

Non-profits participating in the show do so free of charge. One hundred percent of any funds raised by the charitable organizations during **Boston Pride Show '97** go to those organizations and their services.

The Shared Heart, published by William Morrow & Co. and distributed nationwide, is a stirring book created by photographer Adam Mastoon combining photographs and narratives. Each photo is a striking portrait of a lesbian, gay male, or bisexual young person and is accompanied by the subject's first-person account of coming out to friends and family. The Shared Heart strives to prevent homophobia, to educate students, teachers and parents, and to encourage tolerance, acceptance and understanding.

During **Boston Pride Show '97**, the Shared Heart project will exhibit a number of the book's photographs and hand-written narratives. Pride Show attendees who donate \$50 or more to The Shared Heart can have a copy of the book sent in their name to their high school or college library. Photographer Adam Mastoon will be available to sign copies of the book.

Community Servings, Boston's free hot home-delivered meals program for people living with AIDS, will be hosting a cafe' throughout the week-end long event. Attendees will be able to enjoy a wide range of tasty food with all of the revenue generated at the cafe' benefiting the meals program. Community servings has been serving the homebound AIDS community for seven years, daily serving as many as 400 people living with AIDS and their dependents.

Boston's AIDS Action Committee will be conducting their fifteenth annual Holiday Auction during **Boston Pride Show '97**. The organization's longest-running yearly event, the auction features free food and both live and silent auctions. The incredible array of items to be auctioned include antiques, cruises, hotel and restaurant certificates, health and beauty services, and much more. Between \$40,000 - \$80,000 worth of merchandise will be auctioned. The Holiday Auction has tremendous personal meaning to AIDS Action Committee as it was the organization's first fund raising event which financed many of its earliest services to people living with AIDS.

AIDS Action Committee's re-sale shop, Boomerangs, will host a booth filled with shop merchandise generously donated by some of Boston's finest retailers. Among the many items for sale will be exquisite hand-made papers, gift and glass wares, and clothing from Boston boutiques and department stores. Boomerangs will also produce a fashion show featuring a sampling of the numerous styles and finery to be found in their Boston store.

Fenway Community Health Center, serving a large portion of Boston's gay and lesbian community, will host a booth promoting its multitude of services which, along with traditional medical health care.

Community Pride Resources

ML/GPA

a state-wide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the general public, politicians, and media on L/G issues. Primary goals are to involve the L/G community in Maine's political process, promote civil rights, develop and review legislation, endorse candidates, build a coalition, and oppose anti-gay legislation and referenda. Meetings are the third Thursday of the month at the Maine Education Association building in Augusta. Questions, please call (207) 761-3732 or (800) 55-MLGPA.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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

Northern Lambda Nord

an educational, informational, social, and service organization serving lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people in north-

ern Maine and New Brunswick. Meetings are 2nd Sunday of every month at 1 pm (ME), 2 pm (N-B), at the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 S. Main St., Caribou. FMI write NLN, PO Box 990, Caribou, ME 04736-0990. The Phoneline is staffed every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7-9 pm. Call 207-498-2088 or 1-800-468-2088

The Matlovich Society

An educational and cultural organization of lesbians, bisexuals, gay men, and friends committed to sharing our history as well as providing person-affirming presentations and discussions in a supportive environment. Meetings on the second and fourth Thursday every month at 7:30 pm at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St. Portland. Free parking and accessible to the mobility-impaired. Call 207-773-8308

National Association of Social Workers, ME.

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

Hate Crimes & Bias Incidents:

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

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

New Hampshire's oldest progressive gay/lesbian civil rights organization, welcomes all those interested in these goals to weekly meetings, programs, socials and various other events. Newsletter. Call Info-line 603-224-1686 or write to PO Box 730, Concord, NH 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 the month. FMI write P.O. Box 6627, Scarborough, ME 04070-6627, call 207-775-0015 or e-mail wilddboys@mainelink.net.

Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights

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

Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network

GLSEN is a national organization working to end homophobia in schools. GLSEN members are committed to the belief that all students have the right to learn in schools which are free from discrimination, harassment and threats. All people who share this philosophy, regardless of sexual orientation or occupation, are welcome as members. The Southern Maine chapter of GLSEN meets 6:30 - 8:30 on the fourth Monday of the month (with some exceptions for holidays and vacations) at Waynflete School Library, 64 Emery St., Portland. Non-members welcome. FMI 207-773-9547 or write POB 10334, Portland ME 04104.

Support Groups

New Hampshire P-FLAG Meetings

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

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

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

Maine P-FLAG Meetings

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

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

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

Women's Center

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

NA: Just for Today

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

Out and About

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

Am Chofshi

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

Exeter Congregational Church

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

Lesbian/Gay Catholics

The organization Dignity/Maine offers supportive Masses for 1/g/b/t Catholics & their friends/families. Meets every Sunday at 6:00 pm in St. Luke's Cathedral, side chapel, 143 State St., Portland. Coffee & dessert after the liturgy. FMI call Rosemary or Janet: 207-646-2820 or Laurie: 207-878-0546 or write: Dignity/Maine, POB 8113, Portland 04104. All replies kept confidential.

The Appollo Society

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

Community of Hope

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

Central Maine Gay Men's Support Group

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

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

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Discussion Group

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

Support Group—Penobscot & Surrounding Counties

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

Q-Squad

Support group for lesbian, gays, bi's & transgendered. Serving Franklin County, based at UM Farmington. FMI call and leave message at 207-778-7380.

TransSupport

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

Gender Talk North

Gender support. Write for newsletter, P.O. Box 421, Peterborough, NH 03458. 603-924-8828. E-mail gtnorth@top.monad.net Web page (under construction) <http://top.monad.net/~gtnorth/index.htm>

Trans Counseling

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

Maine Bisexual People's Network

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

Bisexual Discussion & Support Group

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

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

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

Prisoners of Gender

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

Lesbian/Bisexual Support Group

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

Dover, NH

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

Lewiston/Auburn

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

Bangor Lesbian Support Group

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

Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center

334 Harlow St., Bangor. FMI: call 207-947-5337.

SNAP.

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

DEGLO (Down East Gay & Lesbian Org.)

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

Maine Gender Resource & Support Service

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

All Maine Transgender

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

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Parents Group

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

Mothers and Kids Group

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

Gladd to be Sober

Meets Wednesdays at 7:30 pm at the North Church - at the corner of north Main and Washington Streets - in Concord NH. Use the Washington street entrance.

Tiffany Club of New England (TCNE)

TCNE is a weekly support group for all transgender-identified individuals: cross-dressers, transsexuals, and others along with their spouses and significant others. Meetings are Tuesdays from 7-10pm. FMI: TCNE, PO Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888-0483.

HIV Related Support Meetings

Portland:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Family and Friends Accepting Change Together (FFACT), a support group sponsored by Northern Maine AIDS Network for friends, families & careproviders. Meets every 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 pm, at the Aroostook Medical Center,

conference room A. Presque Isle. FMI, Deb Madore of Health 1st, 207-768-3056 or 1-800-432-7881.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Hampshire:

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

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

Keene: Support group for HIV positive people and those living with AIDS meets alternate Mon. 6:30 pm. For details call Schultz, 603-357-5270.

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

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

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

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

Peterborough: Support group for family, partners and friends whose lives have been affected by HIV/AIDS meets Tues. at noon. Call Maria Rosario-603-924-7191, ext. 1126 for details.

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

Phone Support By Region

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

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

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

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

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

HIV-AIDS Prevention Project: Staffed Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7 - 9 pm. Call 207-498-2088 or (Maine) 800-468-2088

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

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

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

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

Bangor: Eastern Maine AIDS Network: 990-3626

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

Belfast: Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: 338-1427

Brunswick: Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services: 725-4995

Bridgton: Community Task Force on AIDS: 583-6608 -

Rumford: Community AIDS Awareness Program: 823-4170

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

Waterville: Dayspring: 626-3435

Ellsworth: Down East AIDS Network: 667-3506

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

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

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

*Dover-Foxcroft: 564-7986 - Sharon

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

*Lewiston/Auburn: 783-6964 - Estelle

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

CONTACTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

New Hampshire: Teen Crisis Line - 1-800-639-6095/1-800-750-2524.

Concord: Judy, 603/485-3943

Webster: Betsy, 603/746-3818

Nashua: Nancy, 603/880-8709

Kensington: Nora/John, 603/772-3893

Stratham: Betty, 603/772-5196

Francestown: Cy/Gordon, 603/547-2545

Rumney: Ann, 603/786-9812

Upper Valley: Fel, 603-785-4810.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eastern Maine AIDS Network: PO

Box 2038, Bangor, ME 04401. Call 207-990-3626.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Medical Support

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England

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

FREE FAMILY THERAPY

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

Teen Life Center

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

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic

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

Coping with Caregiving

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

Breast self-exam classes

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

Youth Support

OUTRIGHT

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

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

Central Maine: Weekly confidential meetings for gay, lesbian and questioning youth 22 years and under. First Call at 207-795-6677 OR 1-800-339-4042 and ask about Outright.

Lewiston/Auburn: Meets first and third Fridays. Confidential meetings for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, & questioning youth 22 years and under. Call 786-2717 for more information.

Portland: Meets every Fri., 7:30-9:30 pm, The People's Building, 155 Brackett St., 2nd floor, Portland. Safe & supportive discussions with and for gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning young people. FMI call 774-TALK, or 774-HELP or write to P.O. Box 5077, Portland, ME. 04101.

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

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

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

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

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

COLAGE

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

Social Groups

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chilren Mountain Club: Gay and Lesbian outdoor organization with about 1,200 members throughout New England. Activities include hiking, back packing, biking, canoeing, skiing etc; Monthly newsletter listing trips each month. Call either Tracy Green at 207-828-2535 or Mike Boisvert 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@abacus.oxy.edu. In the message part, write "subscribe me-gaynet"

The Maine GayNet Home Page

An ever-changing display of events and information. Meetings, contact people, resources, & referrals. Point your WEB

Browser to: <http://www.qrd.org/www/usa/maine>. FMI e-mail Paula Stockholm: paula@maine.com.

San Francisco Gay/Lesbian Tourism Guide

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

Music & Art

Women In Harmony

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

Maine Gay Men's Chorus

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

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

October Calendar of Events

OCTOBER 22 thru NOVEMBER 23
Hamlet presented at the Oak Street Theater, 92 Oak Street, Portland, Me. FMI: 207-775-5103.

OCTOBER 30 thru NOVEMBER 30
Man of LaMancha presented at the Seacoast Repertory Theater, 125 Bow Street, Portsmouth, NH. FMI: 603-433-4472 or 800-639-7650.

NOVEMBER 2 thru 23
Rameau's Nephew presented by Portland Stage Company, 25A Forest Avenue, Portland, Me. FMI: 207-774-0465.

NOVEMBER 6 thru 23
Glengarry Glen Ross presented by the Penobscot Theater Company, 183 Main Street, Bangor, Me. FMI: 207-942-3333.

NOVEMBER 8th
OUR FAMILY REUNION: EMBRACING ALL SHADES OF LAVENDER, 5th Annual Statewide Conference and Our Town Meeting; 8:30am to 4:30pm at the Rutland High School, Rutland, Vt. FMI: 802-623-6131.

An Evening with the Royal Court of New York presented by the AIDS Community Resource Center (ACORN); a drag show by some of the finest cross-dressed professionals from New York stage and theater; to be held at the American Legion Post 22, South Main Street, White River Junction, Vt. \$10/advance; \$15 /door.

Thanksgiving dinner with the Lakes and Mountain Women; 6pm in Rumney, NH. FMI: 603-726-3667.

NOVEMBER 12th
Dinner with Oscar & Zeke followed by movie night with the Women of the Woods; 5pm in Montpelier, Vt. FMI: 802-229-0109.

NOVEMBER 13th
About the Rainbow Heart and Courage: a program by Cliff Anchor, who was Leonard Matlovich's and has been a gay activist since 1958. He was a Bush appointee to the Selective Service, a NATO delegate, Broadcaster, Jour-

nalist, past Commander for the American Legion Alexander Hamilton Post (a post that welcomes gay men and lesbians), San Francisco War Memorial Commissioner, and an honorary Deputy Sheriff of Sonoma County. Cliff will tell us about the work done by many activists over the years since the 1950's; about the pre-Stonewall days when crooked politicians took payoffs from gay bars; about the Castro in the 1960's and 1970's and about the changes that AIDS made in the 1980's. Cliff bubbles with enthusiasm, excited to be building the family of gay men and lesbians. This is a rare chance to meet a fascinating man.

NOVEMBER 15th
Book swap & potluck; 6pm at Renee's in NH. FMI: 603-542-1972

NOVEMBER 16th
Butterfly Kiss; 6:45pm at the Hopkins Center, Dartmouth College. FMI: 603-646-2576.

November 22
Portland Brass Quintet sponsored by L/A Arts at the Lewiston Middle School Auditorium, 75 Central Avenue, Lewiston, Me. FMI: 207-782-7228.

NOVEMBER 29th
November Dance at Northern Lambda North (NLN); 8pm (Maine)/9pm (NB). FMI: 207-498-2088.

DECEMBER 6th
Lakes & Mountains 12th Annual Christmas Party and Yankee Swap; 6pm. FMI: 603-726-3667.

DECEMBER 6 & 7
A Child's Christmas in Wales presented by the Vintage Repertory Company AT THE Biddeford City Theater, Main Street, Biddeford, Me. FMI: 207-282-0254.

DECEMBER 7th
Women of the Woods Annual Tacky Christmas Party and Yankee Swap; in Williamstown, Vt. FMI: 802-433-5990.

Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance

ILLUSTRATING AND WRITING PICTURE BOOKS. Saturday, November 15 at the Page Gallery and Studio in Waterville. Call Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance to register, 729-7333.

THE ART OF INTERVIEWING WORKSHOP WITH CAROL BRIGHTMAN. Saturday & Sunday; November 15 and 16 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Round Top Center for the Arts in Damariscotta. Call Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance

to register, 729-6333.

GRAMMAR WORKSHOP WITH AMY MACDONALD. Saturday, November 8. from 1-4 p.m. at the MWPA office in Brunswick. Call Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance to register, 729-6333.

SCREENWRITING WORKSHOP. Saturday, November 8 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Portland Public Library. Call Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance to register 729-6333.

Circle of Hope Metropolitan Community Church

Rev. Cindy J. Solomon Pastor

Greetings in the Name of our Savior! There are some exciting changes going on at Metropolitan Community Church! We are pleased to inform you that our worship service is moving to Sundays! We have been meeting at 4:00 PM on

Saturdays. As of Sunday, November 30, 1997, we will begin meeting at 2:00 PM each Sunday! Join us for the first Sunday in Advent as we celebrate the changes God is arranging.

We will continue to meet at the same location (Immanuel Baptist Church - corner of Deering and High Streets in Portland). Shortly, we will be adding a general church email address. As soon as the general email address is signed on, it will be announced.

We already have a confidential email address for the Pastor. Send email to: MCCclergy@aol.com.

Our phone number is changing! To better serve you, we are changing our phone answering service. We will announce that new number as soon as possible! In the mean time, please contact us by mail or email better yet, join us for worship!

MCC is an exciting place to worship, fellowship and create community. Join us as we continue to grow! Peace and Justice,

Rev. Cindy J. Solomon Pastor, COHMMC

P.O. Box 1671 Portland, ME 04104
Phone 207-775-6684

New Social Group : Maine Fruits and Fibers

This group is open to all GLBT people who knit, quilt, crochet, spin, do needlepoint, or any other fiber craft. The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month from 6:30 to 9:30 P.M.. for an informal social and crafts session. Please contact David Steven Rappoport for more information and meeting locations at (207) 773-1209 or by e-mail at 102343.724@compuserve.com. Bring your latest project and come join us!

Intenational Library of Famous Poets

Poems Sought

Write a poem and win the \$1,000 grand prize! The International Library of Famous Poets is sponsoring a free poetry contest, boasting 28 prizes and is open to everyone. There is no entry fee, and nothing to buy.

To enter, send a poem on any subject and any style, 21 lines or less, to: Free Poetry contest, 421 N. Rodeo Dr., Suite 15-544, Beverly Hills, CA 90210. Or enter on-line at www.famouspoets.com.

"This is our big contest of the year," says Poetry Director Dr. Richard Huntington. "We trust our prizes will encourage new poets to share their talent. We delight in discovering new poets!"

The deadline for entering is November 25, 1997. A winner's list will be sent to all entrants on or before January 31, 1998.

Don't miss the Gay Men's Chorus

December 5th Bates College, Lewiston
December 12th and 13th Williston-West Church, Portland
The theme is "Christmas can be a DRAG!"

Bi Space: Bi 101, Part 2

by Bobbi Keppel and Pete Chvany

Midway through "Victor/Victoria," Toddy encounters an abusive bi male ex-lover whom he wittily identifies as "the world-famous trapeze artist." It's a clever line since bisexuals, like trapezes, seem to "swing both ways." But the image of the bisexual who callously mistreats a same-gender lover, whether physically or emotionally, is the only image many people have of ALL bi's. I include myself, circa 1995.

Knowing the stereotype but not the reality helped keep me in the closet. Why come out to queer communities only to be a pariah? Stereotypes about bisexuality range from the laughable to the painful to the dangerous. Last month we talked about what bisexuality is; this time while Bobbi's away I'll discuss what it's not.

Bisexuality is different from closeting. Some bi's are in the closet, others are visibly out. The married man who conceals a "double life" and the Lesbian Until Graduation do exist, but they don't tell the whole story. Many bi's declare

their multiple attractions and desires openly.

Despite those multiple desires, bisexuality is not the same thing as nonmonogamy (a.k.a. "polyamory"). And vice versa. All bisexuals do not require simultaneous relationships with each gender for fulfillment. For monogamous bisexuals, bisexuality can mean a history of involvement with both genders, or the potential for future involvement with a person of another gender.

Monogamous bisexuals can be as satisfied, happy, and committed as other monogamous people. Polyamorous bisexuals may be openly involved with multiple partners of the *same* gender. And there are nonmonogamous straight people, nonmonogamous gay men, and nonmonogamous lesbians as well.

Bi men do not spread HIV to straight women. Bi women do not spread HIV to lesbians. Unsafe sex between bisexuals and other people "can"

spread HIV, but so can "any" unsafe sex. The idea of risk "groups" is a dangerous fantasy which should be replaced by a focus on risky behaviors. There is no evidence that bisexuals behave more or less unsafely than other groups.

There is likewise no evidence that bisexuals leave their lovers more often than other people, or that they regularly dump one gender for another. Being dumped is painful, whatever the orientation of the people involved. A bisexual might leave a woman for another woman, or a man for another man. But a bisexual often stays.

Bisexuality is not necessarily a "phase" on the way to homosexuality. Some DO identify as bisexual when first opening up to their exclusively same-gender desires. Others identify as bisexual for life. And some identify as bisexual while transitioning from a gay or lesbian identity to a straight one.

Bisexuals do not necessarily have equal feelings for both genders. Some bisexuals have stronger attractions for

men, some for women. Some consider gender irrelevant, or find it relevant without having a strong preference. None of this is "indecision" or "sitting on the fence."

Bisexuals do not necessarily hide behind "heterosexual privilege." Two bi women together are just as likely to encounter hate speech or violence as two lesbians. Some bisexuals involved with an opposite-gender partner choose not to marry to express their solidarity with other queer folk.

Many married bisexuals are at the forefront of the struggle for same-gender marriage. And like other nonmonogamous folk of every orientation, polyamorous bisexuals are allowed only ONE sanctioned, opposite-gender partnership.

Finally, bisexuals will not desert queer struggles en masse "when the going gets tough." Some may hide, but others have been with us since before Stonewall. We're here, we're queer. You know the rest!

Cranky Observations

By: C.M. Brennan

I don't know about you, but, personally, I am getting right tired of this non-stop assault on cigarette smokers. Just a few days ago, the state levied yet another hefty tax on tobacco products, with the stated hope of reducing teen smoking. Sure, no kid should be lighting up, but I for one am far more worried about kids who drink than kids who smoke. Considering that too many adults cannot handle their alcohol and thus behave like complete idiots, I fairly quake with fear at the notion of those tossed by the maelstrom of adolescent angst swilling any amount of Mr. Barleycorn's Bathtub Special. Yet, the Chemical Police are too busy burning their spotlights in to the eyes of Maine's tobacco users. Smokers are special among the pariahs in modern American culture.

I still don't understand what the big deal is. Yeah, yeah, second-hand smoke, blah, blah, blah; it smells bad, it tastes worse; it promotes cancer, heart disease

and other nasty ailments. The big bugaboo is that folks are tired of paying for smokers' medical care. I wonder when the same folks might get tired of paying for drinkers' medical care; the salaries of the emergency workers who scrape drunks off the road; or accepting other hidden costs of excessive alcohol consumption: increased insurance rates, child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, divorce, STDs, stupid commercials during football games. Oh, the horror!

Frequently, I hear people say that they find smoking objectionable because it affects people around the smoker. Been in a bar recently? Whether you like it or not, if you're in the vicinity of a lit cigarette, you will encounter smoke and all that it entails. If you're in the vicinity of a lit person, however, you can't just snuff him/her out and be done with it. If given the option of walking through a smoky

room or being barfed on by a drunk, I'll take the walk any day. If one smokes to excess, one can still pile in the car and drive home. If one drinks to excess, generally one piles the car into something else. I have yet to hear of anyone having the bank foreclose on their mortgage, embezzle from their employer, or be arrested for behavior stemming from smoking too many cigarettes: "Whoohoo! I just smoked a pack of Salems!! Feelin' goooooood! Hey, let's go taunt the horsey police in the Old Port!" Yeah. Right. Sure.

If citizens are oh-so-concerned about the rising costs of other people's health care draining their wallets, how long will it be before they muster up a corps of Cholesterol Police? Half of Congress would be put on house arrest and subjected to 24-hour a day reprogramming with Rikki Lake and Richard Simmons fitness tapes. Maine already has a Snack Tax. With statistics report-

ing that America's kids are terribly out of shape, legislation will be enacted raising the age of Doritos consumption to 18. Fettucine Alfredo will be outlawed as a public menace, ice cream regulated as a controlled substance. Before long, you'll need medical clearance to order out for pizza.

At what price freedom? Seems to me all this hue and cry over tobacco is little more than a smoke screen for graver ills plaguing the nation in the last gasp of the twentieth century. Far more needs to be done in terms of simple human rights before engaging in secondary discussions of a right to smoke, or drink, or eat nachos, or drive Mazdas. Raise taxes and increase the cost of cigarettes? Fine, I'll buy 'em anyway, but I still believe that it is easier to scapegoat a social behavior than it is to take a long, hard look at social ills and work to correct them. No ifs, ands, or butts about it.

Special Announcement!!!!

Community Pride Reporter does not Publish a separate January issue of the paper. Please have all submissions for December and January in the office by November 25.

You may submit by Fax 207-282-4551, Mail to either P.O. Box 178 Saco, ME 04072 or 175 Lancaster St. Suite 214B; Portland, ME 04072 or E-mail to cprpride@ime.net.

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The Community Pride Reporter is printed on recycled paper using soy-based inks. This practice reflects our commitment to responsible use of our earth's resources.

Using recycled paper sometimes results in the paper having a toned down or grayish tinge. However, we feel this is a small price to pay as Community Pride Reporter does it's part to "color ME Green."

Rant: "A Moral Issue"

by David Cook

The people organizing a state-wide referendum to nullify the legislature's recently-passed gay civil rights law have promised to keep the debate civil. They have also promised to make morality the central issue in their campaign. How you can do both at the same time is beyond me.

A debate that asserts the fundamental immorality of my basic nature is intrinsically uncivil. If the referendum were about black rights, rather than gay rights, the idiocy of the whole thing would be obvious. But, because of the clever perpetuation of two fallacies, this issue has been kept in the public arena as a legitimate argument.

The first fallacy is that sexual

orientation is a choice. I've been aware of my sexual orientation since I was ten years old and countless revelations from gay men and lesbians lead to the inevitable conclusion that sexual orientation is fixed at an early age. The only "choice" is whether to follow your true nature or to spend a life in the misery of repression. That's about as much of a "choice" as deciding whether to breathe or to die of asphyxiation!

The second fallacy is that banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is to award "special rights" to members of sexual minorities. This argument could just as well be used to defend hanging blacks from trees or putting Jews in ovens, since to refrain from doing so

would be to grant them "special rights."

The legitimization of these two fallacies is central to the case against gay civil rights and the people bringing this latest anti-civil-rights referendum have had plenty of practice in hammering these lies into the public consciousness. Having learned a lesson from our national politicians, they know that if you keep saying the same thing over and over again — no matter how absurd it is — people will start to believe you.

It therefore behooves all of us to keep drawing attention to the central fallacies upon which their campaign is based and, in so doing, to resist the legitimization of bigotry that is their true objective.

CPR Mailbag

Dear Editor,

Just a few years ago a certain "Special Interest" Group summoned Maine Citizens to the Polls in order to decide an issue of biased based Discrimination in our State. The Voters responded, cast their Ballots, and said "No. Maine won't discriminate!"

Our Legislature heard our Citizens Loud and Clear. The Lawmakers of our State began to work, in earnest, to pass a Law reflective of our Maine Citizens wishes. Our Lawmakers passed a Law which accurately echoed these wishes and, our Governor, signed this bill into Law.

Now this "Special Interest" Group seeks to reverse the power of the Maine People, because they don't like the way we voted. This group will now waste the tax dollars of our State,

again, to decide a matter which has already been decided, Constitutionally, by our Citizens.

They have forced us to spend, in every Town of the State of Maine, Thousands of dollars each to hold this "Seperate" election. Why?

Wasn't the Vote of Maine Citizens good enough for them? Wasn't the reflective work of our Elected Lawmakers good enough for them? Wasn't the actions of our Elected Governor good enough for them?

The Citizens of Maine have already decided this matter. The Lawmakers of Maine have already decided this matter. The Governor of Maine has already decided this matter. Companies, Corporations, Colleges, and others have already decided this matter and have placed this anti discrimination practice into effect.

Mainers through out history have always fought against discrimination. Three years ago our State, historically, voted the conscience of our People, again, by defeating discrimination. So why are we, again, going to the Polls?

The Maine Citizens will go to the Polls, again, and affirm their previous votes again, and set the law into motion again, and finally end this matter again. But, will we, once again, be called to the Polls in another two years? Will the "Special Interest" Group, once again, try to Veto our decision? How many times will Maine Citizens have to repeat themselves? When will this "Special Interest" Group listen to the Maine Citizens and let it all end? At what cost, will they let it all end? When, will they let it all end?

Lori (Brunswick, ME)

Dear CPR Reporter

Even with the passages of added protection four Gays and Lesbians - I DO NOT FEEL Free. This lack of feeling is true for two reasons one personal and the other because I have had a deeper experience with the Legal system, which will ostensibly ENFORCE these New Gained Righted

I am a Financially deprived Female Gay. This used to be called a monetary poor lesbian. I and a few thousand like me in Maine are discriminated against upon two fronts.

First, the Religious Middle classes, decided I was and Still to this day, claim I am UNFIT to help the homeless. So the Shelter I founded Closed for lack of funds. The transitional 24 hours each day shelter Housed Gays and Lesbians who were homeless.

Only being poor, the extended communities economic terror, failed. I placed my own limited income toward keeping a Hotline operating. Only Its not ENOUGH any the Public Does Not donate ENOUGH to cover 1/7 of this Nonprofit founded by a Lesbian, with meager operating costs.

The Statewide/National Hotline in-

forms the public how to stand up for themselves and avoid displacement. As long as the Hotline operates I am Free to be a human-Being of self-determination, free to choose my own work, to listen to my own calling.

By placing my limited funds to fighting homelessness, not only do I give up any chance of having a personal life with a relationship, or a vacation, the gay community says's NEITHER MYSELF as a celebrate Lesbian, nor my work IS GAY ENOUGH for their financial support. A law giving Gay people the right to choose their occupation means to work at Burger Kings or some other Existing Jobs to the Gay Community.

Trying to assert my rights as a poor person, I became a scholar of the law. Only to find while I better understood the law, Maine judges ruled they DISLIKED the Maine Civil Rights Acts So Twisted and IGNORED ANY CASE BROUGHT UNDER SUCH.

The Maine Civil Rights Act was suppose to Allow action for violation of human rights against anyone whether governmental actor or a private citizen. It was Suppose to EXTEND protection against abuse against private citizens in Maine non existed on the law books before 1989

Judges made the law disappear by refusing to enforce It. Only When Action was brought against private persons the courts ruled the Act was designed to protect against the government. When brought against the government the court ruled it was intended against non-governmental parties. In effect the state judicial system nullified a law it did not agree with. Maine and the American Civil Liberties Union Claim they are too short staffed to take on the case.

Only Gays standing together will prevent judges from refusing to implement our Civil Rights. Will we have the means the back bone to defend ourselves? If not enforced this gay rights does not make us free.

Anyone who is interested in Enforcing laws on Maine books give me a call at 1800-438-3890 if you cannot afford the phone call and sprint has not disconnected us again. or 453-2986, collect if you cannot afford it.

If you want to contribute to standing up against oppression; contact Freedom Fighters Hospitality House Inc. P.O. Box 62 Hinckley ME 04944.

Jan (Hinckley, ME)

Civil Rights Movement

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force: Opinion Editorial

WASHINGTON, DC Mediocracy is a monthly column that analyzes and discusses the reporting of gay-related news stories in the national media. The column is written by Mark F. Johnson, Media Director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Civil Rights and Wrongs

I was a young kid during the late 1960's and early 1970's when the greatest social change that this country has known in the 20th century, the civil rights movement, was underway. Black Americans (as we wanted to be called then) were quietly and steadily demanding equal rights and equal access to all that the proverbial American Dream promised.

Perhaps all those civil rights marchers didn't realize it then, but through those peaceful protests and dogged demands for social change, Blacks were writing the handbook for the human rights movement.

Now, thirty years and many scuff marks later, the tried and true handbook is still being used. Today, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people are proudly and determinedly asking for justice, equal treatment and equal opportunity. When telling the story of homophobia and discrimination, members of the community often compare the GLBT struggle for human rights to that of the (on-going) African-American quest.

Gay people still hope to follow in the footsteps of African-Americans who have begun the uphill climb to the mountain top that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke of in his "I Have A Dream" speech. But there are many Black people who have paved the way who don't particularly want gays and lesbians to walk in their tracks, even though there were gay and lesbian pavers.

Alveda King, niece of Dr. King is one of these people. According to her, gays and lesbians as a group have never suffered the kinds of indignities that Black people have and therefore any demands they make on American society only demean the struggle that her uncle and countless others died for in order to achieve basic equality for Black people. Skin color is an immutable characteristic, she argues.

However, to her and many others in the religious right movement, homosexuality is not. Gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders can change their sexual orientation, they imply and thus, are unworthy of pro-

tection. She and others who spew this rhetoric have angered many gays and lesbians who feel that because of their sexuality, they know the sting of discrimination as much as anyone else. And many gays and lesbians have angered those who see the civil rights struggle as unique to Black people and who resent GLBT people comparing themselves to Rosa Parks.

As an African-American gay man, I often find there is no welcoming place for me in either camp. Yet, I see myself as sort of a mediator or diplomat although my services often are not desired anywhere. To Blacks I am often seen as "Gay," and therefore not a part of the family. "It's Not Natural," say the Winans sisters. To many in the predominate Gay community, I am often just another Black man, and they have difficulty identifying with me.

Despite this persona nongrata status, I understand how both sides feel. What Black people have gone through (and too often continue to go through) in this country is like a migraine. You have to have experienced it for yourself to know how it feels.

To put it simply, white gay people do not know what it is like to be Black! Making that claim, no matter how well-intentioned, is generally not the way to begin a dialogue with African-Americans on the sting of discrimination. Let's face it, being white in America brings with it certain privileges, access and opportunities. People of color know this, just like women know that there are certain opportunities that derive to those born male. For whites to gloss over this reality or to dismiss it only creates anger and resentment on the part of people of color.

But African-Americans do not hold the franchise on discrimination either. Other people in our society, of different races, classes and ethnicities, know what discrimination feels like. Who should better understand this than those who have been targets of long-standing, severe discrimination like African-Americans?

This is why I was so surprised that Black Entertainment Television (BET) had considered keeping National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum Executive Director Keith Boykin out of the studio on the night that they interviewed the Winans sisters about the controversy surrounding their song. According to Boykin, he was the first confirmed

guest for the BET news program, even before Angie and Debbie Winans. But, he says, when the Winans learned that he would be on the show, they threatened not to appear and he was then dis-invited.

After Boykin protested the BET decision, the cable network finally allowed him to come on the program. And thus, the show entitled, "Homosexuality and Morality" actually had a gay person on the panel. It was unfathomable that BET or any studio would pull the plug on someone from the GLBT community to satisfy the homophobic requests of performers that hardly anyone had ever heard of before the controversy. For a minute there, BET had dismissed any notion of a balanced discussion. That's a scary thought for a media outlet that reaches millions of viewers.

Although the African-American community has led the way for civil and human rights struggles in this country, there is clearly still a tenuous relationship with GLBT brothers and sisters who were an integral part of those struggles. Bayard Rustin, a Black gay man, organized the 1963 March on Washington. He was out 34 years ago.

The fact that other people can know the sting of discrimination does not diminish my experience as a Black man. If anything, it vindicates that aspect of me. If a white gay man has faced some hatred shouldn't the experience open his heart and ears to similar messages? He still won't know what its like to be Black, or a woman. But he'll be a white guy who knows what its like to be disempowered. Instead of trying to out-victim each other, we should spend the time actually listening to each other's stories.

I regard the civil rights struggle as a road map for people who want to get to a better place. Thirty years ago, Black people were at the starting point of the journey. We are still traveling toward the destination of full equality and equal opportunity.

Right now, members of the GLBT community also are continuing a voyage begun in 1969. The route has not changed and its still a bumpy road ahead full of many detours. But much of the way has already been paved and smoothed out for future travelers. And there's plenty of room on the road.

Community Pride Reporter

Our Mission

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

Our Editorial Policy

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

Submissions Welcome

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

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All electronic transmissions are due by the 25th of each month. All other submissions are due by the 20th of each month.

View From the Chair - Maine State Democratic Party

I want to devote this week's column to reproducing an exchange of letters between myself and Michael Heath, the leader of the campaign to overturn this year's important civil rights bill, "An Act To Prevent Discrimination". The two letters are reproduced here in full; they are self-explanatory.

"THE CHRISTIAN CIVIC LEAGUE OF MAINE Bringing a Biblical Perspective to the Dialogue Over public Policy "October 8, 1997 "Mr Christopher Hall, chair Maine Democratic Party Augusta, ME

Dear Mr Hall:

"In a recent "Message from the Chair" you addressed the issue of gay rights. I want to offer a brief response to this press release in which you describe us as "well-organized hate-mongers" who want to "impose our warped views on any segment of the community we choose to target." You also call us homophobic, prejudiced, misguided and powerful.

"While your adjectives and characterizations are certainly colorful, they are not accurate. They do serve to popularize a stereotype, however, of groups and individuals who feel differently than you and your party feel about providing special anti-discrimination protections to people based on their sexual practices.

"I am at a loss to understand your attack on us as "homophobic." I have used religious imagery and language to express my observations about public policy decisions that involve human sexuality. I am not, however, aware of being afraid of people who are open about their sexual practices. I also strive not to practice prejudice.

"With respect to your description of us as powerful I must offer the following observation. I have no interest in political power or human power. I do have an interest in acting on my convictions. Convictions that are consistent with the Bible's description of right and wrong. Convictions that are not inconsistent with the democratic procedures of this country.

"Mr. Hall, we have not done anything that deserves such a vicious response. We have merely exercised our right to disagree with your view of the relationship between law and human sexuality. You have every right to say what you have said and believe what you believe. Your efforts, and the efforts of your party, to act on your convictions are praiseworthy.

"We will continue to present our view of this whole matter just as we have for the past couple of decades and the voters will make a decision at the polls in a few months. While we may disagree with their decision,

we will respect it nonetheless.

"We are thankful for the many positive contributions that the Democratic Party has made to the common good in Maine. Prayerfully, we will discover many opportunities to collaborate on good works in coming months and years.

"Thank you for your consideration.

"Sincerely,

"Michael Heath Executive Director.

"MAINE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

"Mr Michael Heath Executive Director The Christian Civic League of Maine P.O. Box 5459 Augusta, ME

"Dear Mr Heath,

"Thank you for your courteous letter of October 8th, which I received yesterday, and which deserves an equally clear and thoughtful response.

"The language of the Act your group seeks to recall, L.D. 1116 (Public Laws of Maine, 1997, chapter 205, An Act to Prevent Discrimination), is as clear as language can be. It adds the words "sexual orientation" to the list of characteristics of persons that may not be used as grounds to discriminate against them in employment, housing, access to public accommodations, or extension of credit. That list of characteristics therefore now includes: "... race, color, sex, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry or national origin..."

"This statute cannot be read by any court or lawyer, or indeed any person reading the plain text of the law, as conferring a special status on any person. I, for one, have a race, a color, a sex, a sexual orientation, a religion, an ancestry, a (foreign) national origin, and my wife often questions my physical and mental ability. I imagine you are in a similar position. Neither of us wishes to be discriminated against for, for example, being white, male, or Christian; but we do not claim "special rights" in asserting our immunity from discrimination on such grounds. Sadly, you have already made your case using the language of "special rights", the same phrase used two years ago in the previous campaign against local rights ordinances. In your letter, you use the phrase "providing special anti-discrimination protections to people based on their sexual preferences."

"By attempting to define the rights of gay people as "special", unlike the rights of all other people, you convey the clear message that

they are not automatically entitled to the same equal protection of the law as all other Americans. To claim that persons should not be protected from discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, while not - I infer from the silence - opposing protection on other grounds, sends a very clear message that you believe it is indeed legitimate and right to discriminate precisely on the grounds of sexual orientation.

"I take you at your word in saying that you strive not to practice prejudice. Moreover I am certain that you do not personally believe the old lie that a homosexual orientation is somehow willfully chosen, as though around a tenth of people in every society known in history had conspired to choose a pattern of behavior. I therefore find a strange moral blindness in your taking a position that defines one group in society - and a group that does indeed suffer from prejudice and worse - as not being entitled to equal treatment.

Whatever one's views on homosexuality, it is clear to persons without a moral or ideological position on the issue, such as the staff of the Attorney General's office, that acts of discrimination do indeed frequently take place in Maine against gay and lesbian Mainers. These include not only the forms of civil discrimination outlawed under the new Act, but also acts ranging from petty insults and humiliations (which can only be effectively outlawed by good manners and public disgust) to attacks of despicable physical violence which are of course already fully prosecuted by the law. I hope you will agree that there are wrongs committed daily in Maine solely because of the fact (or the appearance) of the victims being gay or lesbian.

"As long as acts of discrimination take place, political leaders have a duty to legislate and to speak out against it. But may I add a note as a Christian, rather than as a politically active person? I also believe, as an Episcopalian and as an active supporter of the Maine Council of Churches, that religious and other moral leaders, Christian and non-Christian, have a duty similar to that of politicians, to help right a clear and present wrong.

Those Maine denominations, churches, clergy and laity supporting the Religious Coalition Against Discrimination follow the Christian doctrine of loving one's neighbor as oneself, and they recognize that the answer to the question "who is my neighbor?" must include those whom society scorns and reviles. It therefore troubles me personally, rather than politically, that your organiza-

tion defends discrimination as a "Christian" position.

"Like your own ancestors, I am an immigrant to Maine from England, who came here not in search of wealth - this is the wrong place for that! - but in search of a just, tolerant, democratic society of equal opportunity for all. I find it sad that Maine, along with some of the less tolerant and more divided states in the American deep south and west, contains people who still find it within themselves to hate people who are different from them.

While my native England, like every other developed democracy, leaves behind discrimination against gay people as a shameful Victorian aberration, in Maine a sizable minority of people are still tolerating and indeed promoting hatred against gays. I use the word "hatred" with care, having already heard words like "abomination", "vice", and "deviant" used on talk radio and in letters to newspapers in this campaign.

"I hope and pray that the Christian Civic League will attempt to conduct this campaign in the civil tone reflected in your letter. I recognize that you cannot control the language of your supporters any more than can the Democratic Party. But I urge you to consider the demons that you are playing with. Lending a respectable and moderate tone to a position that endorses discrimination may be good politics. Lending the name Christian, and the appearance of religious sanction, to a campaign that embraces hatred would be evil.

"Though I do not expect either of us will convert the other, I am grateful for the chance to exchange views civilly, and I look forward to a chance to talk as we bump into each other around Augusta in the future. I also thank you for your observation that the Christian Civic League will respect the decision of the voters this time. Many Democrats are concerned that your campaign shows that the decision not to discriminate against gay and lesbian Mainers, taken by Maine voters in 1995, has not been respected.

"Thank you for your consideration.

"Yours sincerely,

"Christopher Hall Chair Maine Democratic State Committee.

For all your days prepare, And meet them ever alike: When you are the anvil, bear; When you are the hammer, strikeEdwin Markham

View From the Chair is reprinted from the Maine State Democratic web page.

A New Church, A New Pastor, A New Way to Live

by Rev. Cindy Solomon

Greetings from Circle of Hope Metropolitan Community Church and Rev. Cindy Solomon, the new Pastor! The Community Pride Reporter has graciously given us this space to let you know what is going on in Portland's newest affirming Church!

Metropolitan Community Church is a member of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC). UFMCC is the world's largest and oldest organization meeting the spiritual needs of Gays and Lesbians. With over 42,000 members in 300 congregations in 15 countries we are not just the church on the corner! With requests from 34 more countries to establish an MCC presence, we are not done yet, either!

Here in Portland, COHMCC officially became an MCC and established MCC leadership and bylaws this past month. This is truly a new church! It is also an exciting place to be! MCC offers affirming, positive spirituality in the Christian tradition. We know that God

created each person to be uniquely themselves.

One of the things that makes some of us unique is our sexual orientation. MCC is a place for ALL people: Gay, straight, bisexual, transgendered, all ages, races, abilities, classes. Everyone is welcome to worship here! This is a great place to build healthy, strong relationships, friendships and community.

As a Pastor and a Christian (and yes, a lesbian!) One of my greatest joys is getting to share the Good News that God's love truly is for all people. Too often in the churches in which many of us grew up, the message was one of condemnation and hate. That is not who I believe God is and it is not what I believe Jesus' message is. I believe God is the ultimate in cool! People who think being a Christian is boring and somber haven't met the Jesus of the Bible! Jesus knew how to have fun.

Jesus knew how to make friends and build relationships. He knew how to laugh and cry and blow off steam.

Most importantly, he knew how to love. That's what he did best. God's love isn't reserved for just "some" people. God doesn't care if you live in the "right" neighborhood", drive the "right" car, know the "right" people, go to the "right" church and always look "right" to everyone else. God doesn't care about any of that. God just loves you. Right where you are, just as you are, right now.

The church is not an instrument to keep people away from God - it is supposed to bring people to God and God's love. The church doesn't always do it right because people are people and we blow it all the time. The good news is that God doesn't! God does it right all the time.

Maybe a church has failed you in the past. Maybe a Pastor or priest has let you down or condemned you. Maybe those who called themselves "Christian" were not the loving people they were supposed to be. Maybe people failed you. But God didn't and God won't! God is waiting for you to risk one more time. Take a risk that maybe God does love

you. If you aren't sure now, then haven't got anything to lose!

Metropolitan Community Church is here to help you find the God who loves you just as you are; the God who gave the very best to prove it to you. We hope you'll take the risk and join us for worship and celebration! As of Sunday, November 30th our worship moves to Sundays at 2:00 PM. We will be meeting at 4:00 PM Saturdays until then. Until we move into our own building, you can find us each week at 156 High Street (Corner of Deering and High - the

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Better yet, join us for worship this week! Until then, may peace and justice bless your lives!

A Dyke and her Dog

by D. H. Keubler

"A dyke and her dog", my friend Bernice once humorously remarked as I pulled up to meet her - my dog, Juts, sitting stately beside me in the passenger seat. "Oh my God", I thought, "Can it be true? Do I fit that all so common mold?" I put the thought deeply out of my mind; after all, there are dykes with cats, and with birds, and many other living creatures. As is there's straight people with the very same. Well, Juts died 2 years ago, having left Maine (against her will, I'm certain) with my ex-partner. I missed her a lot, and I could no longer listen to Ferron singing "Harmless Love" without hearing Juts' unfailing insistence on joining her with a howl that would have knocked Ferron off of any stage. Yes, a dog doing a dyke tune.

There was a lot of freedom without a dog (and a partner). No more poop scooping the yard, needing to find care when visiting doggie unfriendly places, rushing home to greet and feed, no more vet bills. NO MORE COMMITMENT. My deepest fear, that I was a person unable to commit, was confirmed and my free feet were celebrated.

My free feet, ahhh, somehow they kept wandering into the doggie shelters. I was "just looking". On one such occasion, I dragged my friend Bobby Poulin in for a quick "look". It was the eve before Thanksgiving, 1995, and we were in Bangor putting the finishing touches on our counseling office. A dog got adopted that day - by Bobby. She was an ancient girl, left behind that morning; she was named "Lady Di". Driving home, wondering if Lady Di would even survive the journey, I can still hear Bobby's remark, "It wouldn't kill you to have something to come home to"!!!! I, of course, offered my litany of why the commitment was simply too big. That Thanksgiving stands out brightly - a great feast of food at Bobby and Kathy's, their 3 dogs, and a visiting mouse to the oven window as we were enjoying our dessert. All the right ingredients for a holiday, and the last Thanksgiving that I would share, with my friend Bobby before her death in April of this past year.

There was a tremendous amount of sadness and anticipatory grief when Bobby was diagnosed with terminal cancer. I knew I would be losing my best friend. A friend that accepted me, and loved me, for the impossible, uncommittable person that I was. She would often drag me into situ-

ations with my free feet kicking, oft times having more faith in me than I had in myself. It was extremely difficult leaving Bobby to go home on those nights of her illness. As I so often did, I turned to the night sky for comfort and perspective. I imagined each person whom I have loved and lost to be there shining through the darkness. On one of those beautiful nights, I declared, "If I EVER get a dog, I shall name her Star".

Shortly after, my free feet found themselves back at the animal shelter. There she was, OLD, and wagging her whole behind. I left, as usual, but couldn't get this one out of my mind. The next day, Bobby said, "DIANE, WILL YOU GO GET THAT DOG"!!!! She had a way with commands, Bobby did, so I thought, "Oh, what the hell, she's old, so it will be a short term commitment". It was on that day that STAR came home. The Star that after a good bath and examination brightened up to be about 2 years old. But, what a wonderful dog. I'm sorry for those that lost her. She brought me a tremendous amount of comfort. It was nice to be in her company, especially on the night my best friend Bobby died. Bobby really liked my Star.

"A dyke and her dog", yes, I recalled that phrase recently, as I lay down beside my fighting Star after she was hit by a train. "Severe head trauma, probably won't make it, most likely brain damage if she does, may not ever regain her sight, likely loss of memory". I looked at Star and decided to bring her home, she could fight, or she could die, but whatever it was, she wouldn't be alone. My black ball of fur called for me in her distress; I thought she would fight. Fight she did, to the amazement, and exhaustion, of us all. Two weeks later, she is beginning to regain sight, recalls everything in her environment, and gives kisses as wet as ever. She is beginning to shine again.

Yes, I am a dyke with a dog. Her name is Star. She sleeps in my bed and eats off my plates. She calls forth the best in me. She showed me what I am really good at: COMMITMENT. Thank you, Star. Thank you, Bobby. Thank you, beautiful night sky...

*babe**

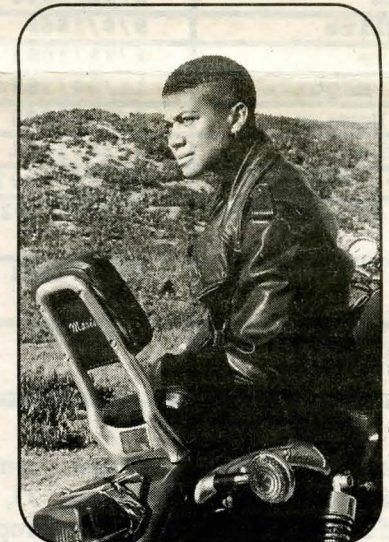


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The Shipwrecks of Casco Bay

by The Number Guy

Call me strange. I think the numerology of disaster is fascinating. Thus, when the Portland Press Herald ran an article titled "The Shipwrecks of Casco Bay," I ran for my calculator.

For those of you who are not geographically inclined, Casco Bay is located

in the southern part of the State. Portland and its surrounding coastal areas are on Casco Bay. Portland was a major port until the end of World War II and has had its fair share of shipwrecks. The article listed 11 wrecks and the

available details for each.

To analyze these disasters numerologically, we'll need to look at the names of the ships and the dates of the wrecks. Use the standard modern English numerological system for reducing names (see the table below). Add the

number value of each letter to get a total for the name. For our purposes here, we're interested in reducing all compound numbers to a single digit except for the following: 11, 22, 33, 44, 13, 16, and 19.

Modern English Numerology Conversion Table								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	

Using this system, the name THOMAS, for example, reduces to 5 (2+8+6+4+1+1=2+3=5). The name DAVID, reduces to 22/4 (4+1+4+9+4=22/4).

To reduce dates, do this: add the number of the unreduced month, the number of the unreduced day, and the number of the year reduced once. For instance, August 12, 1900 would reduce

to 8 + 12 + 19 = 39 = 3. November 11, 1811 would reduce to 11 + 11 + 11 = 33/6. Using this date reduction system ensures we don't miss hidden master and malefic numbers - an important element

when analyzing disasters).

The names of the ships, the dates of the wrecks, and the salient details are as follows:

NAME OF SHIP	DATE OF WRECK	BRIEF SUMMARY	PEOPLE ON BOARD	NO. OF DEATHS
Charles	7/12/1807	Struck rock in dense fog	23 Passengers plus crew	17
Bohemian	2/22/1864	Struck rock in slight haze	218 passengers plus crew	42
Helen Elize	9/8/1869	Ran ashore in strong gale	Crew of 12	11
Australia	1/28/1885	Struck rock ledges in snowstorm	Unknown	1
Anne C. Maguire	12/24/1886	Struck rocks at coast	Crew of 15	None
Nellie Bowers	2/25/1888	Ran ashore	Crew of 8	4
Ada Barker	1/11/1891	Struck rocks in gale and fog	Unknown	None
Susan P. Thurlow	12/14/1897	Struck rocks in a gale	Crew of 7	6
Edward J. Lawrence	12/27/1925	Somehow caught fire after being idle in port for two years	None	None
Don	6/29/1941	Excursion boat disappears in fog, only 14 bodies recovered	34 passengers plus crew	All
Oakley L. Alexander	3/3/1947	Bow of vessel breaks in storm; crew rescued Crew of 32	None	

And here's the numerology. Based on my previous experience with the numerology of disasters, I would expect to find a high frequency of the number 8, malefic numbers (13, 16 and 19) and

commonly used master numbers (11, 22, 33, and 44) associated with these catastrophes. Why these particular numbers? Eight is associated with Saturn, the

planet of limitation. The malefic numbers are, for whatever reasons, often inherently disastrous.

The master numbers - which often

reflect unusual life potential and occasionally significant spiritual attainment - contain the potential for dramatic ups and downs.

NAME OF SHIP	REDUCES TO	DATE OF WRECK	REDUCES TO	TOTAL SHIP & DATE
Charles	3	7/12/1807	8	11/2
Bohemian	4	2/22/1864	7	11/2
Helen Elize	7	9/8/1869	5	3
Australia	3	1/28/1885	6	9
Anne C. Maguire	3	12/24/1886	5	8
Nellie Bowers	4 (13)	2/25/1888	7	11/2 (or 20)
Ada Barker	7	1/11/1891	4	11/2
Susan P. Thurlow	9	12/14/1897	6	5
Edward J. Lawrence	11/2	12/27/1925	11/2	22/4
Don	6	6/29/1941	5	11/2
Oakley L. Alexander	3	3/3/1947	9	3

As you will note, the numbers I predicted occur in about 64% of the disas-

ters (7 out of 11). I believe that if we looked further - acquire additional numerological information relating to the

names of the ships' owners, captains, passengers, exact locations of the

wrecks, dates the ships were built, etc. - the predicted numbers would occur even more frequently.

Happy numbers!

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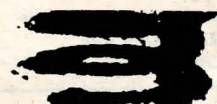
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