

Community Pride Reporter

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

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December 1997/January 1998



Betsy Smith

Maine Civil Rights Advocate Receives National Award

November 20, 1997 At a glittering reception in New York City last week, the Out magazine Community Service Award was presented by Congressman Barney Frank to Betsy Smith, high school teacher and President of MLGPA.

Its first recipient, Ms. Smith received an original cut crystal bowl created by Waterford Crystal, who established and sponsored the award. Ms. Smith was recognized for her volunteer efforts to fight, through education and political action, discrimination and bias crime against lesbians

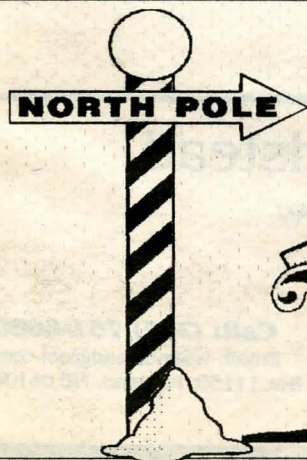
Community service is not the work of one person, Betsy deferred, I share this award with the many other dedicated Maine people who work so hard to improve our lives and our futures. Others receiving awards at the gala event include Ellen DeGeneres, Beatrice Dohrn of Lambda Legal Defense, and Gianni Versace's life work was recognized.

The most notable

achievement of Betsy Smith's term as MLGPA President has been the historic passage of L.D. #1116, An Act to Prevent Discrimination, after a twenty year struggle. And she has been working closely with Maine Won't Discriminate in its efforts to uphold the new law.

Under her leadership, MLGPA has established and secured funding for its new Hate Crimes Prevention Project and is soon to announce a non-profit arm of MLGPA to be dedicated to educational rather than political efforts.

Ms. Smith is also founding member of the Southern Maine chapter of GLSEN, the Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network. And at Waynflete where she teaches, Ms Smith is the faculty adviser for the Gay Straight Alliance, which she founded. It is the first such high school group in the state of Maine. Ms. Smith is a native of Exeter, Maine and a resident of Portland since 1992.



Community Pride Reporter

*Wishes you
a Happy and Safe
Holiday Season*



Signature Challenge Draws Over 400 Volunteers... But Loses in Court

The signature challenge to the Christian Civic League's anti-gay petitions drew hundreds of volunteers from across the state. During the week of October 20, Maine Won't Discriminate, supported by MLGPA, staged a massive signature challenge. Over 400 volunteers worked 24 hours a day checking for invalid signatures.

Justice Cole ruled in favor of the Secretary of State on each question of law under consideration. Attached is a summary of the issues, the number of signatures at stake and the outcome for each.

The ruling by Justice Cole cleared the way for the Governor to proclaim a date for a special election to determine the people's veto. The special election must be held not less than 60 days, nor more than 6 months from the date of the Governor's proclamation.

To get a people's veto on the ballot, organizers must submit petitions to the Secretary of State which contain valid signatures equal in number to 10 percent of the people who voted in the last gubernatorial election. In this case that number is 51,131. What makes this process particularly challenging is that those signatures must be collected within a narrow 90 day time period from the end of the legislative session in which the legislation was approved.

The people's veto, provided for by an amendment to the Maine Constitution, has been used 22 times (not including this effort) since the procedure became available in 1910. It was successful in preventing legislation from taking effect in 10 of those instances, and it failed in the other 12.

The filing of the petition on September 18th suspended the anti-discrimination law, preventing it from taking effect. The new law will continue to be stayed pending the election on the people's veto.

The question to appear on the ballot is as follows:

"Do you want to reject the law passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor that would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation with respect to jobs,

The petitions were an attempt to veto the anti-discrimination bill passed this spring by the legislature and signed by the governor.

Although the Secretary of State declared 58,000 signatures to be valid, Maine Won't Discriminate believed that a number of those signa-

housing, public accommodations and credit?"

At the special election, an affirmative vote would approve the people's veto and the anti-discrimination legislation would not become law. A negative vote would defeat the people's veto and permit the anti-discrimination legislation to become law. If the people's veto is defeated, the new legislation would take effect 30 days after the Governor proclaims the result of the election.

Issues in the People's Veto Lawsuit # of Signatures

Petition invalid because it was approved prior to Legislature's adjournment 58,182 Signatures invalid because collected prior to Legislature's adjournment 1,547

•Relevant dates: Law signed by the Governor 5-16-97 People's Veto Petition Approved 6-03-97 Legislature Adjourns 6-20-97

•There is no constitutional or statutory requirement that would indicate circulating the 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.

•The signing of the enacted law by the Governor was the "trigger" to permit filing of this people's veto application. Prior to this event there was no law to veto.

•The normal practice is to allow a petition to be circulated once the petition form is approved.

•The requirement that a petition be filed by the "90th day after the recess

tures were not valid. On November 18, Maine Won't Discriminate presented their case in superior court, arguing that there were many irregularities in the way in which many of the names were collected. In all, MWD asked the judge to review 15,000 names which were identified

of the Legislature" is only a formula for calculating the deadline for filing the petition.

•The statutory language requiring an application for a people's veto be filed "within 10 days after adjournment" simply establishes a deadline for filing the application. It does not set up an inclusive 10 day period during which the event must occur.

•The Court supported the Secretary of State on both of the above issues.

Signatures invalid because notary did not give expiration date 10,115

•There is no constitutional or statutory requirement that this date appear on the petition.

•The Secretary of State is the official charged with the commissioning of notaries and has the ability to verify each notary's commission expiration date against the official file, which was done in this case.

•The Court supported the Secretary of State on the above issue.

Signatures invalid because registrar certified before circulator took oath 2,794 Signatures invalid because notarized after September 15, 1997 591

•There is no constitutional or statutory requirement that one event occur before the other.

•The registrar's certification and the circulator's verification are separate requirements.

•Because there is no required order of events, the notarization date is irrelevant.

•The Court supported the Secretary of State on both of the above issues.

Signatures invalid because registrar didn't circle # to indicate certifica-

as having been collected illegally.

On November 21, Judge Roland Cole ruled that the Secretary of State's office had validated the majority of names legally, thus setting the stage for a public referendum. Governor King has set the referendum date for February 10, 1998.

tion 542

•There is no constitutional or statutory requirement regarding the form of the certification.

•The instructions request the registrar to circle a number to indicate each signature certified.

•The Secretary of State may rely on other indicators appearing on the petition sufficient to indicate the signatures were certified by the registrar.

•The Court supported the Secretary of State on the above issue.

•Of the 542 signatures above, the parties jointly agreed to invalidate 11.

Signatures invalid because voter's PO box was listed instead of a street address 425

•There is no constitutional or statutory requirement that the street address be listed.

•The petition instructions request a street address to assist the registrar in identifying a voter.

•If the registrar is able to identify a signature as belonging to a registered voter without the use of a street address, that signature should be certified.

•The Court supported the Secretary of State on the above issue.

Duplicate signatures stipulated to by the parties 273

•The parties jointly agreed to invalidate these signatures.

The total number of signatures needed to invalidate the petition is 7,052. The number of signatures invalidated as a result of the lawsuit is only 284. Therefore, the petition is valid.

Note: the arguments listed after each issue are taken from the Memorandum of Law filed with the Court on behalf of the Secretary of State, November 10, 1997.

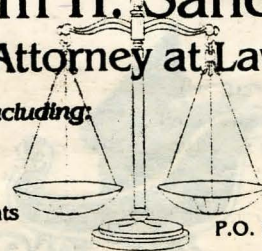
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The People's Veto an Anti-Equal Rights Referendum Vote NO On February 10

The question to appear on the February 10 ballot is as follows:

"Do you want to reject the law passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor that would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation with respect to jobs, housing, public accommodations and credit?"

At the special election, an affirmative vote would approve the people's veto and the anti-discrimination legislation would not become law.

A negative vote would defeat the people's veto and permit the anti-discrimination legislation to become law.

If the people's veto is defeated, the new legislation would take effect 30 days after the Governor proclaims the result of the election.

Defeating this referendum will require the help and support of everyone. The Christian Coalition and the Christian Civic League are deceiving the public with their "YES for Equal Rights" campaign slogan.

To Volunteer for the campaign contact Maine Won't Discriminate at 842-6600 or send Donations to Maine Won't Discriminate; P.O. Box 11061 Portland, ME 04104.

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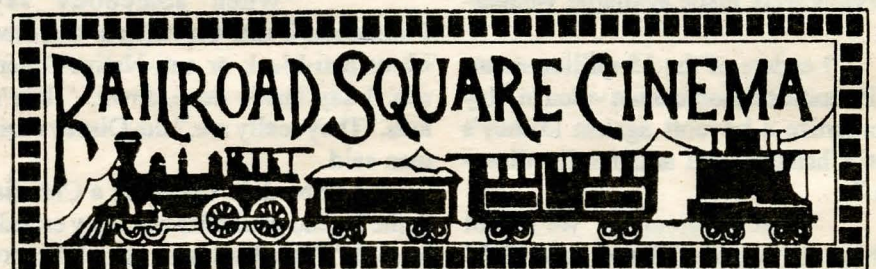
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Leadership of Maine Won't Discriminate Supported by MLGPA

Two years after the successful defeat of Question 1, Maine Won't Discriminate is once again up and running and preparing us for another victory at the polls. MLGPA supports the direction and leadership of Maine Won't Discriminate, while serving as an important coalition member to defend the bill we passed this spring.

The referendum question asks "Do you want to reject the law passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor that would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation with

respect to jobs, housing, public accommodations and credit?"

This process this time will require the help and support of everyone. Our challenge is greater this time, since our opponents (the Christian Civic League and the Christian Coalition of Maine) are well funded and well organized, not to mention politically clever they are calling their campaign "YES for Equal Rights."

To volunteer for the campaign, please contact Maine Won't Discriminate at 842-6600.

MLGPA Matching Donation Nears Deadline

If you have considered becoming a member of the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance, but just haven't gotten around to it, NOW is the time to join. In an attempt to build broad community support for civil rights and social services, an anonymous donor is matching, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, all new memberships until the end of 1997.

Join now (or give a gift membership) and your money is worth twice as much twice as much support for fighting the upcoming referendum twice as much support for

programs that prevent discrimination and hate crimes twice as much support for having a presence in the legislature to defend and advocate for civil rights twice as much support for offering statewide educational resources and opportunities.

Please don't wait call the office today (800-55-MLGPA or 761-3732 in Greater Portland) and request a membership brochure for yourself or someone who you know would be interested. The deadline for matching funds is only a few short weeks away! Don't delay.

Business and Customers Court at Gay and Lesbian Expo

BY DAVE HOWAND ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BOSTON (AP) Some businesses consider them the ideal customer young professionals without the financial responsibilities of raising children and with plenty of disposable cash.

Organizers of the Boston Pride Show, an exposition Saturday and Sunday at the Boston Center for the Arts, worked to unite large and small businesses with that valued customer: the gay and lesbian professional.

Companies like American Express and BankBoston promoted their products alongside coffee shops and craft stores at the expo, which featured live entertainment, silent auctions and book-signings.

Brian Rosenberg, a Boston marketing consultant who organized the event, said he hopes to show businesses that they can profit by catering to gay and lesbian customers.

Rosenberg, who is gay, said the support of businesses is also reassuring to gays who are often looking for friendly places to do business. He said he and other gay customers often look for firms that openly support their gay employees with anti-discrimination policies and benefits for same-sex partners.

"Gays and lesbians should be able to go out anywhere and not have to worry," he said. "If I'm shopping for a mattress, I don't want to be confronted with homophobia." Rosenberg said turnout was lower than hoped for, with about

1,500 people attending Saturday and about as many expected Sunday.

Serge Gojkovich, an advertising manager for Bay Windows, a gay weekly newspaper, said he has seen a steady growth in advertising from mainstream companies.

Gojkovich said he and his boyfriend are typical of the gay professionals businesses are looking to win over. "I can't remember the last time I clipped a coupon," he said. "We don't really expect to have any kids and that's something we don't really have to pay for."

On the other side of the conference center, lawyer Ira Harris Grolman explained why he's looking for gay clients.

Hosting a discussion on estate planning, Grolman said his firm is

uniquely qualified to help gay and lesbian partners win the same legal rights as married couples, using a variety of contracts. His firm's brochure spells out the bottom line: "Gay Life, Gay Lawyers."

Sue Grodberg, an administrative assistant at Harvard University, said she came to the expo with her partner because she was curious about its gay theme. After visiting the Tower Records and Kahlua liquor booths, Grodberg said she was having a little difficulty with the concept.

"What's a gay expo, and is Kahlua a gay drink?" she asked. After a pause she looked around at the balloons and milling crowd. "Whatever, it's kind of fun."

Accusations By Disney Boycotters Are Rediculous

By David Bauder

NEW YORK (AP) — Disney chairman Michael Eisner called charges that his company promotes an anti-Christian agenda "ridiculous" and said a boycott by Southern Baptists hasn't shaken Disney's bottom line.

"It hasn't had a financial effect," Eisner said in an interview to air on "60 Minutes" this Sunday. Portions of the interview were made available Wednesday.

Leaders of the 15 million-member Protestant denomination voted in May to organize a boycott against Disney's "anti-Christian and anti-family direction."

"That's ridiculous. We're not pushing any agenda," Eisner told CBS' Lesley Stahl.

The Baptists were angry about

Disney's policy of giving health benefits to same-sex partners of employees, allowing "Gay Days" at its theme parks and permitting the star of the ABC show "Ellen" to come out as a homosexual. ABC is owned by Disney.

They also objected to Disney's "Pocahontas" because it did not deal with the historical character's conversion to Christianity.

"When somebody says Pocahontas is anti-Christian or anti-Jewish or anti-black or anti-Native American, I say inside deep down, 'They're nuts.' They really are," the Disney chairman said.

"She didn't become a Christian in the legend until after our story ended," he said. "(Pocahontas) is one of the most pro-social movies made in the 75 years of the history of the Disney Company."

As for "Ellen," Eisner said he

thought the show's homosexual story line has been very well done. He said a recent advisory placed at the beginning of an "Ellen" episode where the star, Ellen DeGeneres, kisses another woman was in no way a response to the boycott.

The advisory so angered DeGeneres that she briefly threatened to quit.

Eisner said the advisory was used to forewarn viewers who might be uncomfortable and parents who don't want their children watching something that is against what they believe in.

And the "gay day" at Disney World was arranged by the homosexual community, Eisner said, adding, "I think it would be a tragedy for us to exclude anybody."

It's almost impossible to keep

track of the interest groups angered by the sprawling Disney Co.

A Catholic group is urging a boycott of the ABC show about a conflicted priest, "Nothing Sacred," while the National Federation of the Blind objects to Disney making the live-action movie, "Mr. Magoo," saying the bumbling near-sighted cartoon character is offensive to the blind.

A spokesman for the Southern Baptists said Eisner's comments were no surprise, but that the boycott may particularly be felt during the holiday shopping season.

"If I were Michael Eisner and I were the head of that company, I would say (the boycott) didn't have any effect. That's to be expected," said spokesman Dwayne Hastings.

Clinton Supports Expanding definitions of Hate Crimes

AP. A once-vetoed Arizona law strengthening penalties for hate crimes drew President Clinton's praise as he urged expansion of federal hate-crime laws.

"Anybody who thinks ... that he or she can hide from the kind of poison that we see in various places in our country is living in a dream world," Clinton said Monday in urging that federal laws include more potential victims, stiffer penalties and better reporting. "Whether we like it or not, our futures are bound together, and it is time we acted like it," he told the first White House Conference on Hate Crimes.

Arizona's law was passed this year and signed by then-Gov. Fife Symington, who had vetoed similar legislation in 1996. Arizona's first hate-crimes bill, passed in 1991, allowed gathering statistics, and 49 such crimes were reported that year. The number rose to 248 in 1996.

Though so far unused, the new law provides that targeting victims because of race, color, religion, sexual orientation, gender, national origin or disability can be an aggravating factor warranting harsher sentences in non-death penalty crimes.

Arizona Attorney General Grant Woods was a member of the

panel for which Clinton was chairman. "In the early 1990s, Arizona had a very negative national image on civil rights," Woods said in noting Clinton's current praise. "That was really a misrepresentation of where the people stand."

Clinton said Americans can no longer ignore "what happens when racial or ethnic or religious animosity joins with lawlessness." He announced measures that include 50 extra FBI agents and federal prosecutors assigned to enforcing hate crime laws, a network of federal, state and local officials to share information about enforcing hate crimes, and tougher penalties for housing-related hate crime.

The president also endorsed a plan by Sens. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and Arlen Specter, R-Pa., to expand current hate crime laws to make it illegal to injure someone because he or she is gay, disabled or a member of the opposite sex. "All Americans deserve protection from hate," Clinton said. "We should make our current laws tougher to include all hate crimes that cause physical harm."

Inside the conference, Jews, Latinos, Asians, African-

Americans, disabled people and homosexuals, such as California State Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl, vowed to work together to eliminate hate against people just because they are different. "We're all prepared to be there for each other," Kuehl said to the group of about 350.

Outside the George Washington University auditorium where most of the conference took place, a group of about 10 protesters sang hymns and carried signs saying "God hates fags," and "God's hate is no crime."

Clinton also announced that the National Crime Victimization Survey used by the Justice Department will now include questions about hate crimes. "If a crime is unreported, that gives

people an excuse to ignore it," he said. The expanded survey will give a better measure of the number of hate crimes and insight into how they occur.

According to Justice Department statistics, 8,759 hate crimes were reported in 1996, compared with 7,947 reported in the previous year. White House officials said they are not sure whether the increase indicates that hate crimes are up or reporting has improved.

Race was a factor in 63 percent of all reported hate crimes, followed by religion, 13.9 percent; sexual orientation, 12 percent; and ethnic origin, 11 percent. The White House did not provide a breakdown by race.

New Hampshires Own Awarded

Brendan Denehy of Keene New Hampshire has been chosen by Out Magazine as one of their 'Out 100 for 1997'.

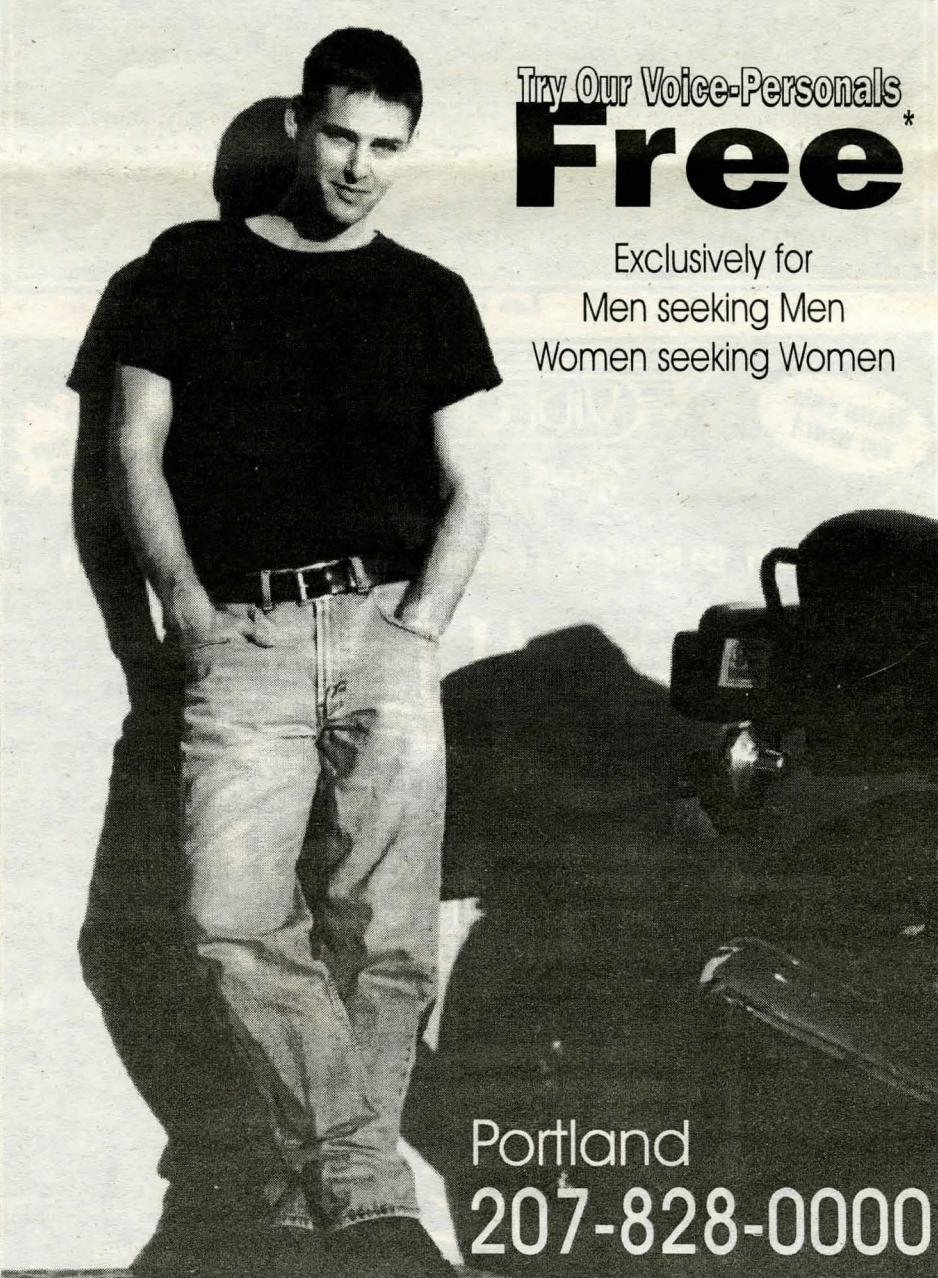
Brendan was chosen for this honor because of his work on the NH Nondiscrimination Bill (HB421).

"I am really pleased and excited to be receiving this honor," said Denehy. "Brian and I will be travelling to New York City on November 20

for a celebration sponsored by Out Magazine.

As much as I am personally pleased with this award, I also see it as acknowledgement for the success of the NH Coalition to End Discrimination and all its members. I hope that all of you who were a part of that effort will share in this award."

Brendan still seems to be in a bit of a shock.



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Pub. 748

Arts and Entertainment



Lea DeLaria

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

Comic /singer/ actress Lea Delaria arrives in Portland (Maine) on December 7 to headline a special holiday show, The Mischief 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.

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 (The Holiday Inn, 88 Spring Street, Portland, Maine) by several special guests including 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. Show-time for The Mischief of Christmas starring Lea Delaria is 7 pm. 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.

Lea DeLaria: Not "The Girl Next Door"

Lea DeLaria is not "the girl next door." In fact, she's not even allowed in the neighborhood. An award-winning performer, Lea is a writer, singer, stand-up comic and actress whose brash style landed her in the world spotlight as the first openly gay comic on The Arsenio Hall Show.

Lea began her comedy career in April 1982 in San Francisco. She became an immediate hit with the gay and lesbian community. She soon released her first CD "Bull Dyke in a China Shop." By 1990, the alternative press began noticing this award-winning cult favorite. The visibility of lesbians led to a segment on ABC's 20/20 which included a portion

of Lea's stand-up act.


After the groundbreaking Arsenio Hall appearance, Lea won a regional Emmy Award for "The World According to Us," and hosted Comedy Central's first all gay special "Out There." Recently, Lea was featured in The First Wives' Club, starring Bette Midler, Goldie Hawn and Diane Keaton (Remember the woman in the gay bar who tries to pick-up Goldie Hawn?).

She had recurring roles on The John Laroquette Show and Matlock, has had special guest roles on Friends, and Saved By The Bell. Lea's film career includes featured roles in the independent films, Rescuing Desire, Plump Fiction, and Homo Heights, in which she co-stars with Quentin Crisp. Lea Delaria is a hit throughout the world, performing at Carnegie Hall where she starred as Martina Navratilova in the debut of the opera based on her life Song of Martina. Next Step: Broadway

In the spring of 1998, Lea DeLaria will play the role of "Hildy" the cab driver in On The Town, a new Broadway production presented by the legendary Joseph Papp's Public Theater. Directed by George Wolfe (Bring In Da Noise, Bring In Da Funk,) Lea played the role this past summer as a part of the "Shakespeare in the Park" program in New York City's Central Park.

On The Town has book and lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, music by Leonard Bernstein and is based on a concept by Jerome Robbins. According to George C. Wolfe, "I wanted youthful energy, when Adolph Green, Betty Comden and Leonard Bernstein worked on this show they were all in their mid-20's. I wanted a bursting-with-energy, bursting-with-possibility dynamic."

According to The New York Times, "Lea Delaria makes it clear that big, loud and pushy can be the elements of full-strength show-biz magnetism... When she opens her mouth to sing, the notes come stomping out like a cocky, all-brass band -bringing to mind an Ethel Merman with attitude."



VIDEOPORT

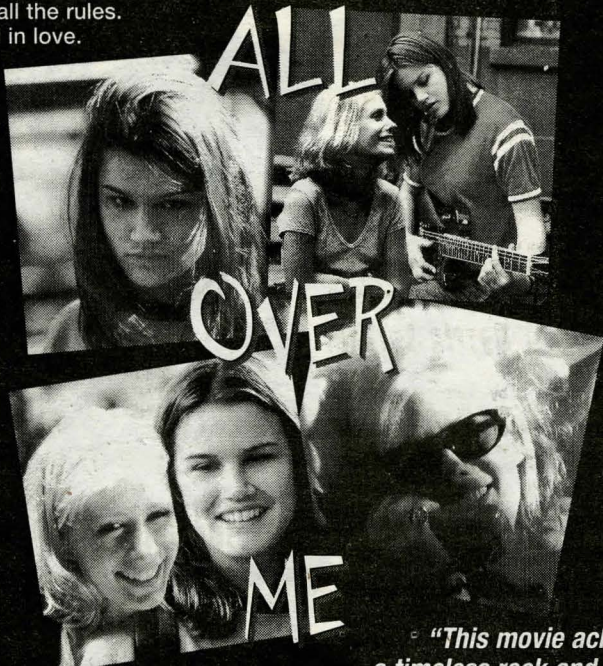
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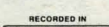

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Odetta: It's A Mighty World In The Spirit of the Season

From Alabama to Zimbabwe, the Newport Folk Festival to Carnegie Hall, for more than four decades Odetta has captivated audiences in many lands and from all facets of the music world.

A luminary from its early days, Miss Odetta has shared the stage and/or collaborated with a Who's Who of the American Folk Music movement: Bob Dylan, Pete Seeger, Joan Baez, Buffy St. Marie, Nina Simone, and the late Elizabeth Cotton, to name a few. She was introduced to television audiences by her friend and colleague, Harry Belafonte.

A woman of wide ranging political and musical interests, Odetta participated in the Civil Rights March in Selma, Alabama and in the 1963 and 1983 Marches on Washington. She sings frequently with such blues bands as the New Black Eagle Jazz Band in Boston and Jacob's Pillow, with symphony orchestras across the country, the Boston Pops, and the Boys Choir of Harlem.

Miss Odetta has recreated Bessie Smith on stages around the country, including Chattanooga, Tennessee, Miss Smith's home town. Long time fan Sarah Caldwell cast her as the Muse of Liberty in John La Montaine's "Be Glad Then America," an opera commissioned for the U.S. Bicentennial. Garrison Keiller, featured her on the public radio hit show "Prairie Home Companion."

In May of 1989, Miss Odetta made her debut as commencement speaker at the Portland School of the Arts in Maine. She is included in Brian Lanker's "I Dream a World: Portraits of Black Women Who Changed America," both the book and the exhibit, which opened at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in February, 1989 and toured well into

1990.

Born in Birmingham, Alabama and raised in Los Angeles, Miss Odetta began serious voice studies at 13. As a teenager she appeared at the Turnabout Theater in Hollywood and with a road company of "Finian's Rainbow" in 1949 in San Francisco. It was there she heard lots of folk music, learned to accompany herself on a guitar a friend gave her, and began her folk music odyssey.

She debuted at the Hungry i and went on to the Tin Angel, eliciting a rave review in the San Francisco Chronicle, was invited to New York's Blue Angel. She was soon appearing in clubs, major concert halls, colleges and festivals the world over: Europe, Japan, the Soviet Union, Africa, and Israel. In May of 1989, Miss Odetta returned to Australia and debuted in New Zealand.

She returned to Japan in October, 1991 and tours Italy annually, most recently in a triple bill with Nina Simone and Miriam Makeba. In 1987, The National Music Council presented her with its American Eagle Award for her distinguished contribution to American music, and for, in the words of Morton Gould, "reminding musicians that we have consciences."

She has appeared regularly at the Kennedy Center, Wolf Trap, and the Smithsonian, lobbied under the auspices of the American Arts Alliance and was co-chair of the fifteenth anniversary of the National Association of Working Women.

Miss Odetta appeared in 1988 in celebration of the centennial of the A.M.E. Zion Cathedral, the congregation that founded the NAACP. Odetta makes her home in New York City, and collects natural fabrics, folk crafts and art. One of the few traces of her life's work is in her living room: her portrait painted by Charles White and presented to her by Harry Belafonte



Odetta

Odetta with very special guests "The Green Memorial Mass Choir" Conducted by Reverend Margaret Lawson, will be appearing Saturday, December 13 at 8 PM First Parish Church 425 Congress Street Portland

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BALLROOM BY THE BAY · HOLIDAY INN
88 SPRING STREET, PORTLAND**

Join out-rageous Lea Delaria as she leads her trio of Merry Musicians into an unforgettable night of music and comedy! Yule be laughing into the New Year! (Last chance to catch Lea before she hits Broadway!)

Guest Host: Martin Swinger

A special appearance by members of:
THE MAINE GAY MEN'S CHORUS in sneak preview of "CHRISTMAS CAN BE A DRAG!" (Their '97 holiday offering - December 12, 13, 14 at Williston West Church, Portland.)

DO YOUR SHOPPING EARLY!
Reserved Cabaret Table Seating \$24.00
General Admission Cabaret Seating \$20.00
YES! Group rates are available! Ask about reserving a table of 10!

Tickets available at
DROP ME A LINE • 611 CONGRESS ST., PORTLAND
MACBEANS MUSIC • 141A MAINE STREET, BRUNSWICK or...

CHARGE IT: 207-773-6974

BRING ALONG A TEDDY BEAR TO BE SHARED WITH SOME VERY DESERVING BOYS AND GIRLS!

A VERY
WACKY
EVENT FROM
ABOVE &
BEYOND...

SURPRISE
GUESTS!
DOOR
PRIZES!

MAKE THE SEASON GAYER THAN EVER!

January Events at L/A Arts

Lou Del Bianco- Pop-rock Singer/Songwriter/Storyteller (Family Show)

L/A Arts will present pop-rock singer/songwriter/ storyteller Lou Del Bianco, Friday, January 9 at 7 pm at the Lewiston Middle School Auditorium (75 Central Avenue, Lewiston). Lou excels at conveying universal truths from his own childhood experiences- a really fun way for the whole family to start off the New Year. Reserved seating - tickets \$6 per seat. Phone L/A Arts at 1-800-639-2919 (locally 782-7228).

Anne Frank Remembered (Film)

This multi-award winning film, Anne Frank Remembered, combines personal testimony, never-before-seen photos, previously undiscovered family letters, rare archive footage and evocative contemporary film to document the history of the Frank family. This is the first of 4 films being shown this Spring through a partnership between L/A Arts and the Bates College Student Film Board. All films will be shown at the Bates College Olin Arts Center (room 105), Lewiston. Anne Frank Remembered will show on Saturday, Jan. 10 at 7pm, and Sunday Jan. 11 at 2 pm. Tickets are \$5 each. Phone L/A Arts at 1-800-639-2919 (locally 782-7228).

She's Not ABC-TV's Resident Lesbian

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actress Lisa Darr wants to make it perfectly clear: She's not ABC-TV's resident lesbian.

It's understandable that the first question of interviewers is, "Are you gay?"

After all, Darr portrayed the lover of Officer Abby Sullivan on the network's "NYPD Blue" and she's currently playing with significant other of Ellen Morgan on ABC's "Ellen."

Darr says she's a single heterosexual with a boyfriend and that her casting on the two series is "a complete co-

incidence." She is savoring the attention, however, after a decade of steady but obscure work in such failed series as "Crime & Punishment" and "The Office."

"Playing characters like this is a non-issue for me, and I really don't think about it at all," she told the Los Angeles Times in Wednesday's editions. "These are two women that just happen to be gay. Their sexuality is not the focus of who they are. I'm really proud to be able to bring this to the forefront."

"It's a part of life and should be accepted as such."

Halloween Ball A Smashing Success

The first annual MLGPA Halloween Ball, held at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, was a fabulous evening of fun and frolic. Over 500 people came out to play dressed in everything from nothing to the Christian Civic League's petitions all competing in the costume contest. Prizes were awarded for the Funniest, the Tackiest, the Sexiest, the Scariest, the Most Politically Correct, the Most Politically Incorrect, the Most Original, and Best of the Ball.

We enjoyed a performance by Two Left Feet, a competitive two-stepping dance troupe, and a marvelous parade of all contest participants led by the Shoestring Theatre. The evening was filled with music and dancing and laughter.

Many thanks to ALL who attended and made this event such a great success. And start planning for next year.... it's going to be even better than this year!!

*babe**

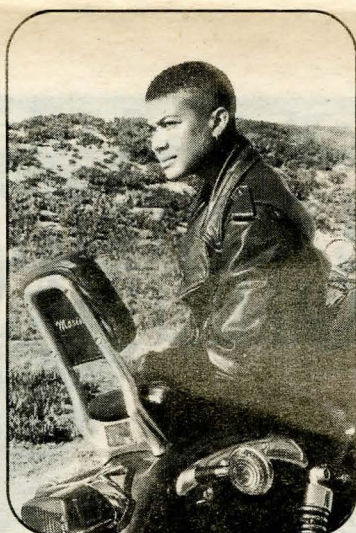


Photo by Phyllis Christy



** babe-finder*

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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-

em 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 wildboys@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 l/g/b/t Catholics & their friends/families. Meets every Sunday at 6:00 pm in St. Lukes 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.

S.N.A.P.

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, Transsexuals. 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.

GLAD 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/l/b or questioning youth 22 & under. Confidential, supportive, safe space for growth, discussion & fun. FMI Lisa at Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition 338-1427 or write 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.

Chiltern 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.

December 1997/January 1998

Calendar of Events

Through January 30, 1998

SIRI BECKMAN EXHIBITS WOOD ENGRAVINGS AND WOOD CUTS. at the Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance (MWPA) office, 12 Pleasant Street, Brunswick. FMI: 729-6333.

December 6, 1997

MWPA HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE features 1997's largest gathering of Maine authors. Book sale and author signings. Saturday, December 6, 1997 from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at the MWPA office, 12 Pleasant Street, Brunswick. FMI: Call Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance, 729-6333.

BOSTON SHOPPING TRIP with Custom Coach & Limousine. FMI: 797-9100.

December 4 - 7, 1997

USM STUDENTS one-act plays directed by William Steele and Thomas Power. "Brady" by Sam Carner; and "Family Values" by Carolyn Padula; at the Oak Street Theater. FMI: 775-5103.

December 5 - 11, 1997

THE HOUSE OF YES with Parker Posey, Tori Spelling and Genevieve Bojold; directed by Mark Waters; at the Railroad Square Cinema, Waterville. FMI: 873-6526.

FIRE with Shabana Azmi; directed by Deepa Mehta; at the Railroad Square Cinema, Waterville. FMI: 873-6526.

FAIRY TALE - A TRUE STORY starring Peter O'Toole and Harvey Keitel; directed by Charles Sturridge; at the Railroad Square Cinema, Waterville. FMI: 873-6526.

DIFFERENT FOR GIRLS starring Rupert Graves, Steven Mackintosh, and Miriam Margolyes; directed by Richard Spence; at the Railroad Square Cinema, Waterville. FMI: 873-6526.

December 10, 1997

BOSTON SHOPPING TRIP with Custom Coach & Limousine. FMI: 797-9100.

December 12 - 18, 1997

CARLA'S SONG with Robert Carlyle and Scott Glenn, directed by Ken Loach; at the Railroad Square Cinema, Waterville. FMI: 873-6526.

NENETTE ET BONI directed by Claire Denis, Music by Tindersticks; at the Railroad Square Cinema, Waterville. FMI: 873-6526.

BLISS with Craig Sheffer, Sheryl Lee, Terence Stamp, Spalding Gray; directed by Lance Young; at the Railroad Square Cinema, Waterville. FMI: 873-6526.

December 11 -14, 1997

ESDUARO MARISCAL Dance Theater presenting "The Secret Waltz of Flies" and other recent compositions; at the Oak Street Theater. FMI: 775-5103.

December 18 - 24, 1997

"A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES" By Dylan Thomas and directed by Glenn Anderson. A wonderful tale of childhood in a Welsh seaport; at the Oak Street Theater. FMI: 775-5103.

December 26 - 28, 1997

AVNER THE ECCENTRIC in "Exceptions to Gravity" at the Oak Street Theater. FMI: 775-5103.

January 8 - February 8, 1998

CRIMINAL HEARTS by Jane Martin. A Mad Horse production directed by Andy Sokoloff; at the Oak Street Theater. FMI: 775-5103.

January 14, 1998

FOXWOOD'S with Custom Coach & limousine. FMI: 797-9100.

January 21, 1998

Miss Saigon at the WANG with Custom Coach & Limousine. FMI: 797-9100.

January 23 - 25, 1998

NEW YORK CITY with Custom Coach & Limousine. FMI: 797-9100.

February 3, 1998

FOXWOOD'S with Custom Coach & Limousine. FMI: 797-9100.

Common Circle and other Upcoming events.

The following two events are sponsored by the Common Circle for Human Rights and meant to get people in the midcoast area (Bucksport to Rockland) geared up, informed and organized for the upcoming special election as well as providing an opportunity to socialize. Entertainment and refreshments will be provided.

Tuesday Dec. 9th, 7:00 P.M. at the Belfast Dance Studio, 109 High Street, in lovely downtown Belfast. Music, politics, conversation and refreshments. If you can't make it but want to volunteer to help with the brief but intense campaign ahead please contact me at 338-5889.

Saturday January 17th 7:30 to 11 P.M. - also at the Belfast Dance Studio a Reggae Beach party! Music, blankets

to converse on (sorry no sand), dress accordingly and of course refreshments to fit the theme!! Minimal charge to cover costs and donations for MWD!

A Non-Common Circle event: Sunday Dec. 7th at 11:00A.M. is a pot-luck brunch gathering for "unpartnered" or single women of whatever sexual orientation. This will take place in Liberty at the home of Marcy Dishler. You can e-mail her for directions if interested at change@midcoast.com or by phone at 589-4177 Some folks who attended the first and only gathering of this group wanted it to be a discussion group while others want social connection as well. Come and add your interests to this new and growing group.

MLGPA 13th Annual Awards Banquet Saturday, February 7, 1998

The 13th Annual Awards Banquet will be held at the Augusta Civic Center on Saturday, February 7, 1998. Please mark your calendars now.

Each year MLGPA honors certain individuals and/or groups for their effort in the struggle for equality. We need and value your input as to who should be honored this year. Please take a moment to think about the individuals who are making a difference. We ask that you nominate the individual(s) who you feel deserve to be recognized.

Nominating is done via a nomination form. Please contact MLGPA to request a nomination form. If you get an answering machine, please leave your name, address, and phone number, and state that you are requesting an award nomination form.

Calling all Working Assets

Customers!

Working Assets is a long distance and local phone service that works to bring funding to 40 specific nonprofits every year by donating 1% of its earnings. This year, NGLTF is one of those organizations.

In order for NGLTF to receive funding, we must have your vote! Working Assets customers will be receiving "Donation 97" ballots. Please vote for NGLTF and return your ballots promptly to Working Assets by 12/31/97.

Community Of Hope MCC

COHMCC will be Christmas caroling Sat. December 13th at 6:00 PM. We will be going to several downtown locations (someone else is in charge of coordinating that - as soon as I know I'll let you know). We will meet at a central location and go from there.

Dress warm and join us! Everyone is welcome. You don't have to be a great singer. God said make a "joyful noise" not a beautiful one! Actually a joyful noise is beautiful, I think! We will have song booklets for everyone, so you don't even have to know the words! Peace, Rev. Cindy PS. We will also have the updated info on our web page. <http://members.aol.com/Mccclergy/index.html>

Downeast chapter of GLSEN.

We meet monthly, usually on the first Sunday afternoon from 2 until 4, at the Downeast AIDS Network, 114 State Street, Ellsworth. FMI call 359 2347 or 667 2358, or write to PO Box 373, Ellsworth ME 04605.

The Committee on Peace & Justice of the Maine Psychological Association lobbies the legislature, provides education and training, and in general supports equal rights for sexual minorities. FMI call 667 2358.

GLSEN Calander

Dec. 15-Southern Maine chapter of GLSEN meets for a Holiday Get-together and Yankee Swap. For location and time, please call Besty at 207-773-9547.

Jan. 26-Southern Maine chapter of GLSEN meets 6:30 - 8:30 at the Waynflete School Library, 64 Emery St., Portland (entrance in back). All those interested in youth and education are encouraged to attend. You need not be a member to attend. FMI call Betsy at 207-773-9547.

Common Circle for Human Rights

The Common Circle for Human Rights, a local group whose purpose, among other things, is to educate individuals on issues of social justice invites people to come to a spirit lifting evening of music, light refreshments and a political update on the upcoming special election scheduled for February 10th. The special election will be exclusively on the issue of whether to extend equal protection under the Maine Human Rights Act on the basis of sexual orientation.

If people vote no on February 10th they will be voting to allow the law passed this recent spring in our legislature to take effect. Please come in order to find out how you can help the campaign effort. We will be meeting on Tuesday December 9th from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. at the Belfast Dance Studio, 109 High Street in the small dance studio.

If you can not make this important organizational meeting/party and would like to volunteer in some way to assist in the upcoming special election as a town coordinator, get out the vote person, driver to the polls, host for a tea, fund-raiser extraordinaire, letter writer, endorsement seeker, etc. please call 338-5889 or write to us at P.O. Box 793, Belfast,

Maine 04915. Bring friends as all are welcome!!

Common Circle for Human Rights

If you would like to make an immediate contribution to help in this campaign please send money to Maine Won't Discriminate, P.O. Box 11061, Portland, Maine 04104

FOR FUTURE RELEASE or CALENDAR OF EVENTS January 17, 1998, 7:30 to 11:00 P.M. at the Belfast Dance Studio, 109 High Street. Reggae Beach Party sponsored by the Common Circle for Human Rights. Music, refreshments, beach blankets, sauna, games and friends!!

Get updated on the campaign to include protection from discrimination based on sexual orientation in the Maine Human Rights Act. For more information or to help. Call 338-5889 All Great Minds Think Alike! What are you thinking about?

COMMON CIRCLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS c/o Mitzi Lichtman, P.O. Box 793 Belfast, Maine 04915] Tel. 338-5889 Common Circle for Human Rights Meeting. (Maine STILL Wont Discriminate)



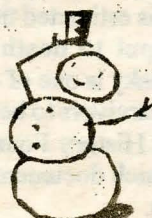
The AIDS Coalition of
Lewiston-Auburn
and
Pine Tree Performing Arts, Inc.
are proud to present the

Maine Gay Men's Chorus directed by Edward Reichert in Christmas Can Be A DRAG!

Friday, December 5, 1997
Bates College Chapel
Lewiston, Maine

\$10 in advance
\$12 at the door

For Tickets call
786-4697



Community Pride Reporter

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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."

Cranky Observations December 1997

by C.M. Brennan

A buddy of mine put it succinctly the other day when he said "If they can start Christmas shopping before Veteran's Day, then, by God I can start bitching about it then, too." I couldn't agree more. I was in full Bah Humbug swing by the time I noticed Shop n Save had replaced their Halloween decorations with Christmas Crap. Nothing like contemplating eight weeks of non-stop consumer-baiting to ruin my day.

It seems like Thanksgiving has become little more than an opportunity to carbo load before hitting the mall running. It's bad enough that all the popular magazines rerun the same tired stores year after year: "Lose 20 Pounds On Our All-You-Can-Eat Holiday Diet"; "Turkey - The Secret Somnolent"; "Hundreds Of Crafty Gift Ideas - Recycle Those Old Socks"; "Twelve Steps To Recovering From Your Visit Home"; "Martha's Perfect Christmas Tips For All You Pathetic Commoners".

Worse still that prime time television (no intellectual forum to begin with) is saturated with still more commercials for Barbie and Ken and board games you have never heard of and never would, were it not for The Season. Really, is Homicide usually interrupted to espouse the virtues of MondoBlaster RobotMorphs? Is there any other time of year when Chia Pets and Salad Shooters dance across the TV screen?

I suppose I should be grate-

ful that this is not a year-round assault. Yet. Given the increasing frequency of "Christmas in July" sales at various jewelers, car dealers, and megamarts, it's only a matter of time before the tinsel onslaught begins with the start of each new fiscal year.

After all, that is how the meaning of this Season of Giving is measured: by the amount of money plunked down on trinkets and doodads, wrapped in miles of garish paper and presented to too many people we don't really like anyway. I wonder how many holiday house fires are caused because the residents erected their Christmas tree two weeks before Thanksgiving. Damned things are only evergreen while they're still alive: one week in a tree stand turns your merry decoration into a primed incendiary device, one bedecked with hot blinking lights connected to your main power supply.

In today's litigious society, it's something of a miracle that the state hasn't been sued for negligence by some Flatlander. Already, People For The Ethical Treatment of Trees ("Cut Fir Is Murder") have leveled charges of wanton slaughter at every tree farmer between here and Caribou. Look for them on your next Working Assets phone bill. The Santa Claus hype pauses only long enough to give a patronizing nod to those who celebrate "other" holidays: Chanukah, Kwaanza, Winter Solstice, Beethoven's Birthday.

One could simply attribute this attitude to Christian Myopia (which, as we know, can be quite narrow on

any day of the week), if only there was any discernible element of Christianity present in the Holiday Hoo-hah. Jesus is suspiciously absent from the festivities, like the old uncle invited to the party, only to be left alone talking to himself in the corner. Can't have the party without Uncle Hiram, but nobody includes the poor guy.

A less cynical person might say "Oh, but at Christmastime, so many people give food to the shelters, money to the Salvation Army. People do nice things for each other." I want to know why that it is only now, in the waning months of the year, that the plight of the homeless and downtrodden become daily fodder on the 6:00 news. So we can chip in a few bucks and alleviate some of the guilt attendant upon such conspicuous consumption?

It would be a helluva lot easier on the bell-ringers if they could solicit donations in May or June, instead of freezing their patooties off now. If I had any wish for this or any other holiday season, it would be that the generic lip service given to Good Will and Peace On Earth while we load up our arms and empty our wallets, would become a battle cry for change in our community.

If as many people who throw themselves fervently into holiday celebrations contributed even half of that energy, time and money to the issues that affect us all, every day, think of the gains to be made. Then we'd really have something to celebrate.

Survivor of Holocaust tells his story at Harvard

CAMBRIDGE (AP) — Stefan Kossinsky is warmed by the memory of an old love, and chilled by a haunting uncertainty. What happened to Kossinsky's lover a German soldier all those years ago? Kossinsky was a teenager when he fell in love with a Nazi soldier in 1941, after Germans seized his Polish town of Torun. Kossinsky told a group of Harvard students.

The 72-year-old Kossinsky, on campus to attend the sold-out play, "Angels in America," which was dedicated to him, said the young men met in an abandoned shed for nearly six months. But then the soldier was sent to the Russian front. Kossinsky was caught trying to send a letter, was tortured by the Gestapo and sent to a prison camp for five years. "It was my greatest love, my first one," The Boston Globe quoted Kossinsky as saying.

Fearing that he had sealed his lover's fate with his hastily-launched letter, Kossinsky began a frantic search for the soldier. He examined archives in Germany, Poland, and Austria, but found no trace of the man. One of the most difficult things for Kossinsky, aside from having to live without his lover, has been having to live with the gnawing uncertainty of what happened to him and the torturous guilt of possibly having contributed to his demise.

The Holocaust devoured millions for their ethnicity, politics, and religion. But it is estimated that as many as 15,000 were put to death for homosexuality. Kossinsky is one of only seven gay Holocaust survivors to be located by the Shoah Visual History Foundation in Los Angeles, which documents Holocaust survivor stories.

Kossinsky went back to Poland after the war, worked as an economist and

lived a secret life as a gay man. Kossinsky wrote an award-winning book about his affair with the soldier in 1991. A group in Vermont that teaches high school students about the Holocaust is making a movie based on the book, which is titled "Damned Strong Love."

"It's an extremely compelling love story that happens to be about gay men," filmmaker William Stetson, president of the Vermont Film Commission, told the Globe. In Nazi Germany, homosexuality was punishable by up to 10 years in prison, and love letters could be considered evidence. Homosexuality among German police officers was punishable by death.

Kossinsky read the letter to the Harvard students, part of which read: "I pray every day that you will come back safe. I'm just true to you and will remain so for my whole life."

Bi Space

By Bobbi Keppel and Pete Chvany

"What You See: Is It What You Get?"

Bi invisibility takes subtle forms. A boyfriend once invited one of our gay friends, G, to a party attended mostly by folks from the Boston bi community. G later reported that he enjoyed the afternoon but was not used to being in company so heavily heterosexual.

My boyfriend asked G what he meant. G for-instanced a young male/female couple he'd seen cuddling on a balcony: a pretty, petite blonde and a gorgeous red-haired guy in a t-shirt. The thought of this couple as sweet young heterosexuals cracked my boyfriend up. G had left the party halfway through. Had he stayed, he would have seen each member of this nice straight couple cuddling with many other men and women. Sure, they were involved with each other, but they're neither monogamous nor straight.

They're also prone to cuddling people in general, romantic involvement or no. Many other "couples" G saw had simply been friends catching up. What he missed was the cross-currents of love, sex, and friendship that link many communities, bi or otherwise.

Yet G's impression of a straight soiree is significant. Bisexuality can disappear as easily as that. People often see what

they expect. Many bisexuals are monogamous, so their sexuality is unreadable from the identity of their current partner. And as G learned, even the polyamorous bi's don't *always* travel in packs, limbs linked to display their attachments. Imagine trying to walk down the street while playing Twister!

So bisexuals look "straight" sometimes. Or gay, or lesbian. And this can be a problem, depending on the context. Bi's in same-sex pairs face the same risk of bashing as other queers. Bi's in other-sex pairs can seem like straight tourists in gay and lesbian space, with all the negative baggage of privilege and exploitation tourism implies. Of course, one might mistake a gay man and a lesbian for a straight couple, too. But a bi man and woman might be a couple, just not straight.

It would be lovely to claim that this invisibility was never a lia-bi-lity, but t'ain't so. Bisexuals do sometimes escape the pressure of confronting daily homophobia. Yet any bisexual who enters a relationship with a same-gender partner, and loads of us do, still has to decide when it's safe to kiss, or hold hands, or leave half-composed gushy email on the screen at the office. Mindscan a Him-and-Her out on the town, and you may discover they're recalling how much they

enjoyed being Him and Him, or Her and Her, last summer in Ogunquit, or yesterday in Jamaica Plain. They may also be wishing it was that way everywhere, same as other queers do.

You may also, sometimes, hear bi's describe feeling uncomfortable in gay and lesbian space. In my own experience, gay men and lesbians have been supportive of bisexuality. This year at Pride, the Boston bi contingent got several cheers from the crowd. But it isn't always so. What may be changing is both the number of bisexuals becoming visible, and the number of gay men and lesbians willing and able to see. G's experience shows there's a long way to go.

Other queer communities are fighting against invisibility too. Still, bisexuals often face this particular problem of Situational Vanishing. It's not easy to solve while we live in a culture where some sexualities are okay, others not, and the freedom to define one's one path is so limited. I'll come clean: I've overlooked bi folk as straights, gay men, or lesbians myself. The blinders our culture puts on us can be internalized like any other form of oppression. So we often get what we think we see. It's far less than we've all earned.

Pete

Assistance needed: Bisexual's Mental Health Treatment experiences

My name is Emily Page. I am a bisexual woman doing this survey as part of the requirements for a doctorate in clinical psychology at Antioch New England Graduate School. Your help filling out the survey and/or telling others about it would really be appreciated.

The survey is for anyone who thought of themselves as bisexual (regardless of what they call themselves to others or what they do or don't do) or was thinking they might be bisexual when they were in mental health treatment. They need not have talked about this issue while they were in treatment.

This is the first time bisexual women and men have been asked the

details about this subject and the results can help clinicians improve their services to bisexual clients. The survey is located at a : www.seventalent.com/bitherapy

It can be done in 2 separate sessions of 15 to 30 min. each if need be. The site has the same security protection that commercial sites do, so no one (including me) will be able to trace your computer data and your answers will only be available to me in anonymous form.

I am also looking for people in leadership positions in groups involved with bisexuality or with the use of mental health services (ex: a peer support group

of people with depression) for help with posting this announcement in their group's newsletter and/or distributing paper copies of the survey to members who are not e-mail and internet connected.

Please contact me if you can help with this and/or pass the word to leaders that you know. For a paper or e-mail version of the survey, please contact me.

Thank you, Emily Page
bitherapy@aaaa.net 781-393-9579 315 Broadway, Ste 115 Arlington, MA, 02174

www.seventalent.com/bitherapy

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 Publisher's discretion. If requested, the Publisher may agree to withhold the name of an author for appropriate reasons. Questions regarding submissions should be directed to the publishing editor.

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Some Churches Bar Straight Marriages To Protest Gay Wedding Ban

By Vicki Brown AP
Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) Suzanne Prince married Hunter Allen at a friend's home. That wasn't the plan, but the couple had no choice because their church Edgell United Methodist doesn't allow marriage ceremonies.

The Edgell congregation decided that until the United Methodist Church allows gay marriages, no marriage ceremonies of any kind will be performed in their chapel.

"If the United Methodist Church wasn't going to allow gay people to get married in the church, I agree that straight people shouldn't either," said Prince, who's been married nine months.

The Rev. Jan Nunley, rector at St. Peter's and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Providence, R.I., will preside over church weddings for straight couples. But she won't sign marriage licenses for them.

"I was in considerable anguish over the fact that I can create a legal relationship for mixed-gender couples, but couldn't do that for same-gender couples who've lived together for 25 years," she said.

She complies with her bishop's wishes by conducting

gay weddings off church property.

The National Council of Churches has no information on how many individual churches perform gay marriage ceremonies, or refuse to allow traditional marriages to protest bans on gay marriages.

Southern Baptist Convention spokesman Herb Hollinger said he knows of no Southern Baptist churches that recognize gay unions or have refused to allow traditional weddings. Theology is left to local churches, but convention principals prohibit promoting or affirming homosexuality, he said.

The United Church of Christ allows individual churches to set their doctrines, so gay marriages can be performed. But any church that opposes such unions may bar them, said Hans Holznagel, a public relations officer for the church.

The Roman Catholic Church does not allow priests to perform gay marriages, while the Episcopal Church general convention hasn't clearly spoken on the issue, so the policy varies from diocese to diocese.

The Rev. Robert Warren Cromey of Trinity Episcopal Church in San Francisco performs gay weddings, though his

bishop opposes them. "I don't obey a bad law," he said. "Allowing an immoral law to dictate the conscious of the clergy is going right along with the rest of society in discriminating against gay people."

The United Methodist Church bars its ministers from performing gay weddings, and they can face discipline if they do not comply.

Edgell's policy was drafted when a pastor in Atlanta was disciplined for blessing a homosexual couple's wedding, said Kathryn Mitchem, who chaired Edgell's Administrative Council that adopted the policy. "We didn't feel we were taking something away, more that we were making a public witness to the denomination," she said.

Deen Thompson, a gay congregant at Edgell, said it makes gay members feel supported by fellow parishioners. "It's a feeling that the church is making a statement about a wrong within the church," he said.

Before 1996, some Methodist ministers conducted weddings for gay members. But the 1996 church general conference adopted a prohibition against ministers conducting same-sex unions in Methodist churches.

"By every standard we

know, marriage is a union of male and female, made valid in the sight of God by blessing in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit," said the Rev. Riley Case, pastor of St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Kokomo, Ind.

Case is a member of the United Methodist Church Good News, a group that supports traditional scriptural views. "If your primary loyalty is to the gay and lesbian agenda and not to the scripture or the care of persons who want marriage ... I would question if they should call themselves Christians," he said.

The Rev. Jeanne Knepper of Portland, Ore., a spokesperson for Affirmation, a United Methodist ministry of outreach to homosexuals, disagrees with the church's policy on gay marriages. But she does not believe individual churches should bar all marriages as a protest.

"My sense would be not to take from those who can, but to give to those who can't," she said. Prince said she believes a change in United Methodist Church policy will come only if straight people demand it. "I think it's time for us as straight people to put our money where our mouth is," she said. "That sacrifice is how we're going to change the world."

Second Grade "Wedding" Ceremony draws protests from Parents

by Todd Spangler

DOVER, Del. (AP) — A mock marriage ceremony that paired second-grade pupils of the same sex has drawn protests from some parents, including one family who now plans to home-school their son.

Many others supported the teacher who developed the "wedding of friends," and a school curriculum panel recommended 9-2 Monday that the district not change the class at Star Hill Elementary outside Dover.

Teacher Ede Outten told the panel that the ceremony a few weeks ago was a creative way to get pupils to promise to care for

each other as friends. The lesson went along with readings from "Carry, Go, Bring and Come" — a story about a West Indian wedding.

She likened it to the television show "Barney," where children sing "I love you, you love me."

"Even Barney's intentions would be suspect in Dover, Del.," said Mrs. Outten.

A local educators' group submitted 350 signatures in support of the teacher. But some of the 150 people at the public meeting voiced doubts about the ceremony.

Tiffany Kelty said it con-

doned homosexuality and that she now planned to teach her son Steven at home. She said the committee was filled with teachers and administrators and had made up its mind before the public testimony.

"I think it was one-sided," she said.

Another resident, Richard Hamme, worried the ceremony might send mixed messages to children. "They might look back on it and it could cause some confusion later," he said.

Larry Snead said he told his son Xavier that he could stay out of the ceremony if it made him feel uncomfortable to ex-

change vows, even of friendship, with another boy.

Sandy Ward said she watched with no problems as her daughter exchanged those same vows with another girl in the class. The 7- and 8-year-old children promised to share with each other and to play nice, Ms. Ward said.

"This ceremony was about friendship and friendship only," she said.

Mrs. Outten said she would probably use the ceremony again, although the district superintendent has the final say.

State Seeks To Dismiss Gay Marriage Law Suite

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) The attorney general's office asked a Superior Court judge to dismiss a lawsuit seeking to legalize gay and lesbian marriages.

Restricting marriage to unions between a man and a woman, contained in a variety of Vermont laws, is not unconstitutional because it furthers legitimate state interests, the attorney general's office said on Monday.

"Every time these statutes employ gender-based words they demonstrate the legislative intent to treat marriage as a state into which only opposite-sex couples are eligible to enter," the state said. "Neither the text of the Vermont Constitution, nor Vermont history support finding a fundamental right (to same-sex marriage) in this case."

Monday was the deadline for the state to respond to a lawsuit filed this summer by a gay couple and two lesbian couples. They demanded the right to marry, arguing their constitutional rights were vio-

lated when their town clerks refused to issue them marriage licenses, citing a 1975 opinion by the attorney general.

In its filing Monday, Attorney General William Sorrell's staff said nothing had changed that would construe Vermont's laws to permit marriages between two men or two women.

If such a change were to be made, Sorrell's office said, it would have to come from the Legislature, not the courts. "The social policy debate of whether to allow same-sex couples to marry should be addressed to the state's most democratic institution: the Legislature," the state said.

"That body is uniquely suited to assess the appropriateness of social change through legislative hearings and debate," it continued. "It has the capacity to examine the hundreds of laws relating to marriage, marital status, child custody and family issues and determine which would be affected by an expansion of the definition of marriage."

Teachers Federation Funding Court Challenge

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) The British Columbia Teachers Federation is donating \$40,000 toward a court challenge of the Surrey school board's ban of three books dealing with homosexuality.

At its representative assembly Friday, about 160 federation members agreed to donate the money to court costs estimated at about \$90,000.

The challenge was sparked by the Surrey school board's decision last spring to ban the three books, written for kindergarten and first-grade students, because each features same-sex parents.

The books are "Asha's Mums," "Belinda's Bouquet," and "One Dad, Two Dads, Brown Dad, Blue Dads." A Surrey kindergarten teacher, a Surrey mother and others took up the cause to fight the ban on the grounds that it violates the Charter rights of gays and lesbians.

Teachers federation president Kit Krieger says the contribution is meant to support the court challenge and "combat homophobia and sexism in the schools. "The thrust of the case to protect the members of the Surrey teachers association and

students against sexism and prejudice is a sound one," he said.

The federation support is a huge gain for the petitioners, said lawyer Joe Arvay. "It's an important development because it demonstrates this case is not only of importance to the gay and lesbian community, but ... to everyone who cares not only about the quality of education but the equality of education," he said.

The Surrey school board is disappointed, but not disheartened by the federation decision, said chairman Robert Pickering. "It's unfortunate that they would donate to such a political cause," he said. "But I still feel the board was jurisdictionally correct and that the decisions the board made about this whole issue were correct and not discriminatory."

Several trustees, including Pickering, have said they don't want the books or anything else in schools that portrays "the lifestyle" of gays and lesbians as normal, because that may violate the beliefs of some parents.

A pre-hearing on the case is scheduled for Dec. 3, and Arvay predicted it will go before the B.C. Supreme Court early next year.

Judge Grants Visitation Rights to Former Partner

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) A woman who raised 3-year-old twins with her lesbian partner can visit the children while awaiting a custody and visitation trial, a judge ruled.

Essex County Superior Court Judge Philip Cummis' decision to give visitation rights to the woman, identified only by the initials V.C., could be precedent-setting for gay and lesbian couples in New Jersey who cannot marry and are not protected by domestic partnership agreements.

"No New Jersey judge has

issued an opinion on a visitation or custody issue brought by lesbian or gay co-parents," said David Rocah, a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey.

V.C. and her partner, identified only as M.B., lived together in Maplewood, bought a house together and committed to each other in a religious ceremony after M.B. had twins in 1995. They raised the children together until the couple broke up in 1996.

"It's unfair to the kids to cut off visitation if I find she's a

working part of the family," Cummis said Monday.

He allowed V.C. to visit the children, who also were not identified, every other Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., until a custody trial in March.

"This is right," V.C. said after the ruling. "We are a family, we have been a family every day since they were born ... I'm just as much a mother to them. I'm a mother to them with all of my heart."

Mark Biel, the lawyer representing the biological mother,

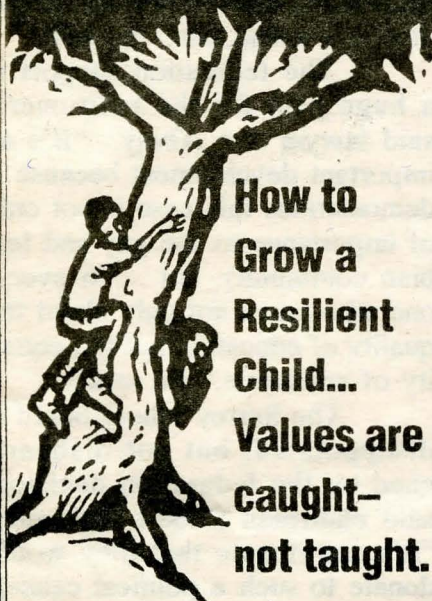
said V.C. should have no parental rights.

"We are dealing with a third party," Biel said, "not a biological or adoptive person."

Gay rights activists and the ACLU say the case is an example of problems faced by gays and lesbians who can't marry in New Jersey.

"You're talking about no legal status with these women," said Gina Reiss, president of the New Jersey Lesbian & Gay Coalition. "Under the law they're strangers to each other."

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Big Sounds From All Over

Celebrate the Holidays Latino Style with Music, Dance and More

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On Saturday, December 13 at the State Street Church, Big Sounds From All Over presents Feliz Navidad de Puerto Rico. This afternoon/evening festival features Los Pleneros Del Coco, New England's premiere plena ensemble, with an array of special guest performers including:

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the bomba, the lyricism of the jibaro tradition of Puerto Rico's cowboys and the drive of the contemporary electrified plena. Each of these styles will be demonstrated by master performers who are legendary among Puerto Ricans in the Northeast.

Miguel Almestica is a master of traditional Puerto Rican bomba y plena and director of Los Pleneros del Coco. A native of Puerto Rico, Almestica learned plena traditions from his uncles and others who performed in the barrios of Santurce, an area known for its music. When Almestica moved to the United States, he brought with him the musical traditions of his homeland.

The musicians of Los Pleneros play congas, guiro, accordion and the pandereta, a type of drum, which, according to Almestica, is the instrument that defines plena music. This year, Almestica organized a program titled, "The Power of Our

Musical Heritage," including many of the major figures in Latin American music in the Northeast. These performers will appear as guest artists at Feliz Navidad de Puerto Rico.

A \$15 ticket gets you a full afternoon and evening of entertainment:

4:00 p.m. Latin Dance Styles Workshop

6:00 p.m. Community Potluck Supper. Bring a dish to share.

7:30 p.m. Concert Tracing Puerto Rican Musical Heritage

9:00 p.m. Latin Dance Party!

Tickets are available by calling Portland Performing Arts at 207-761-1545 or at Amadeus Music on Fore Street in Portland's Old Port.

This event is made possible through the support of the New England Foundation for the Arts, Shop n' Save, Maine Times and WMPG

Free Holiday Dinner for Gay/Bi Men in Sanford, Maine

The AIDs Project Portland presents a free Community dinner for the Holidays on Saturday, December 20 at the Unitarian-Universalist Church in downtown Sanford, between 4 and 8 pm. All men who have sex with men, especially those who live in York County, Maine, are invited.

The Church is at the intersection of Rtes 109 and 202 in

downtown Sanford, about 8-10 miles west off of exit 2 of the interstate. the Wells/Sanford Exit. This is the final York County quarterly dinner of this type for the year.

"The purpose of the dinner is to provide a safe, comfortable and affirming place for all men who have sex with men, regardless of how we might define ourselves," states Gerry Scoppettuolo, organizer of the event. "We extend a

special invitation to men who are questioning in their sexuality, who may be just coming out. There is a special need for this kind of community event since there are no year-around gay organizations in York county and no places for men to meet" A large turnout is expected. FMI or RSVP call Gerry Scoppettuolo at (207)774-6877

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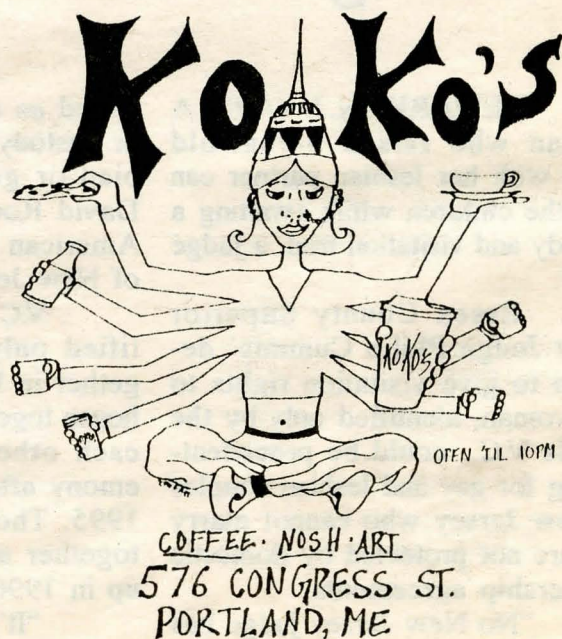
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