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Police Seek Clues to Gay Man’s Murder
Officials Appeal to Gay Community for Help

by Elze

As friends and family mourn his death, state and local police officials desperately seek clues to the murder of Biddeford resident Jimmy Monaldo, a gay man whose body was found with multiple gunshot wounds in Windham on Thursday, December 29.

But police officials are expressing frustration that their investigation is impeded by people’s fear of discrimination should employers discover their sexual orientation due to publicity if they come forward with information.

“We need help,” State Police Detective Bill Gomane said. “Our Paper. “We need anybody to come forward who saw James Monaldo after he left The Underground early Tuesday morning, December 29.”

Monaldo was probably last seen by a close friend that morning as they parted ways in the street after leaving The Underground, Portland’s gay and lesbian disco, shortly after closing.

Though arrested in Monaldo’s red 1986 Toyota pickup truck around Grant and Sherman streets in Portland the day after Monaldo’s body was recovered, Craig Pettingill, 22, of Portland, and Nicholas Hassapelis, 29, of Windham, have not been charged with the murder. The two men allegedly robbed the Days Inn of Portland and the Exit 8 Texaco service station within days of Monaldo’s disappearance, and were charged with armed robbery.

Police officials want to speak with anyone who may have seen Monaldo, his truck, Hassapelis, or Pettingill in Deer Island or the parking lot across from The Underground the night of Monaldo’s disappearance.

“Anything,” Gomane emphasized. “Anything that can place Monaldo, Hassapelis, or Pettingill anywhere after the bar closed.”

Friends Say Monaldo Frequent Deer Island

Monaldo frequented Deer Island after the bars closed, said Randy Scott, owner of The Underground. “Like a lot of people, when he left the bars at night, he might be lonely and looking for companionship,” Scott said. “I suspect that whoever killed Jimmy, hooked up with him down at the Oak.”

But Monaldo’s close friend may have been the last to see him alive, expressed surprise and shock after this revelation. Monaldo and he would meet at Portland’s gay and lesbian disco; Rep. Marge Clark; former Department of Human Services official Trish Riley; Portland Pride organizer Michael Rosset-

Portland Hospitals Asking Consent for HIV Testing Upon Admission

Practice said to violate law

by Brent McKinstry and Brenda Buchanan

Portland’s three hospitals have incorporated a clause into their general admission forms covering HIV testing, a practice that violates both the letter and the spirit of an informed consent law passed last year, according to its prime legislative backer.

The general admission forms being used at Maine Medical Center, Mercy Hospital and the Osteopathic Hospital do not include language allowing the hospital to test patients for the HIV antibody in the event a health care worker is accidentally exposed to their blood. The law passed last spring requires pre-test counseling before consent is sought, so patients will understand the purpose of the test and its potential implications.

State Rep. Charlene Rydell, a Brunswick Democrat who chaired the AIDS Advisory Committee at the time the informed consent law was passed, believes the hospitals are violating the law.

“I think it’s very disturbing that hospitals are asking patients to sign that kind of form on admission,” Rydell said. “Those consent forms, in my estimation, do not meet the law, and in fact, work against it. They are asking people to sign away their right to informed consent.”

Mercy Hospital’s public relations director, Leslie Gail, provided Our Paper with a copy of the form being used at Mercy. She said the hospital believes the form is line with the informed consent law.

A form was obtained directly from the admissions office at Maine Medical Center. Its spokesperson, Joseph Shields, did not return repeated phone calls seeking comment. Osteopathic Hospital officials said only administrator John Carroll continued to present forms to a reporter. Carroll also failed to return several phone calls from Our Paper. However, a reporter read the form used at Osteopathic and it did contain an HIV-testing clause.

AIDS activists and the state advisory committee pushed hard for the informed consent law last year. They said the potential implications of an HIV test are so great special procedures needed to be established to protect patients.

Rydell was an active part of that effort. At one point she sat down with lawyers from the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis and helped draft the actual wording of the bill.

“We made a decision at the Legislature last year that a permission slip, a consent form, was not enough,” she said. Rydell said the law requires “a special series of events” to take place to call patients’ attention to the seriousness of having an HIV test. “The cornerstone is counseling,” she said.

The law requires informed consent be given in writing, with informed consent defined as “consent that is based on an actual understanding by the person to whom the result of that test may be disclosed; of the purpose for which the test results may be used; and of all foreseeable risks and benefits resulting from the test; and (b) wholly voluntary and free from express or implied coercion.”

Rydell said lawmakers would have simply said “signed consent” if they did not feel so strongly about the importance of counseling. She said unless clinicians at the hospitals have been trained to do pre-test counseling and are doing it with every incoming patient, the law is being violated, because what is written on the forms (see box) is not adequate to constitute informed consent.

“I’m not a lawyer, but that’s how I understood it when I was involved in the passage of the law,” she said. “I think the hospitals are trying to find a way to get around the law.”

Our Paper was unable to obtain an official answer about what would happen if a person refused to sign the general consent form. The possibility of a hospital refusing to admit such a person was acknowledged by a clerk at Osteopathic Hospital who said a person “would not be transferred to a floor” if they refused to sign the form.

Tension is growing between hospital administrators and those who support an individual’s absolute right to refuse HIV testing under any circumstances. As the number of AIDS cases in Maine has risen, so has panic about health care.

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Barbara Smith Keynoting MLGPA Awards Dinner

by Elze

Distinguished author and activist Barbara Smith, a featured speaker at the recent National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, will keynote the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance’s third annual awards dinner set for February 6 at The Senator Inn in Augusta. Our Paper.

Several Maine citizens will be honored for their contributions to gay and lesbian civil rights and progressive AIDS-related education and policy-making, including: Randy Scott, owner of The Underground; Portland’s gay and lesbian disco; Rep. Marge Clark; former Department of Human Services official Trish Riley; Portland Pride organizer Michael Rosset-

ti; Joni Foster, a founding member of the Committee on Gay and Lesbian Youth; Sharon Raymond of Parents of Friends of Lesbians and Gays; Cameron Duncan, a member of the state advisory committee on AIDS, who has also spoken around the state as a person with AIDS; and Jennifer Wriggins, an attorney who has assisted MLGPA in drafting legislation.

Co-founder of Kitchen Table Women of Color Press, the only publisher for women of color in the United States, Barbara Smith was a founding member of the Black feminist Combahee River Collective in 1974, which organized around a range of issues in Boston for six years. The collective achieved national recognition as one of the few multi-issue, activist, feminist of

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Dear Our Paper,

I don’t get to see Our Paper very often, but Donna Jones gave me a copy of the December issue because of the lesbian but­tering article in it. (The article was good, and I’m glad Our Paper has met the issue head-on, but, jeeze, am I sick of being a “battered lesbian” — particularly the only one around here who seems willing to share her story. We need to talk about things like “bad break-ups,” often a dyke euphemism for relationships that have turned into battering ones. How many times have I heard a dyke’s pain and distress explained away with the phrase, “Oh, she’s just going through a bad break­up,” (and how many times have I just ac­cepted that without question)?

Anyway, here’s the Maine version of GCN in my hands, and goodness me! if I haven’t grown into a quality interview with three of the Janes from the old Jane Collective covers a part of our history that is important to remember. (I loved their telephone recording: “This is Jane from Women’s Liberation!” Who’s bold enough to greet strangers like that nowadays?) Elze’s writing reads smoothly, the questions were the ones that needed asking, and you set a timely context for the whole thing.

Your CD journal moved me to tears. So I don’t get to see our meetings this month. (Maybe next month?)

I very much want to learn more from Our Paper about what is happening in the rest of the country, gay and lesbian issues. Is there a civil rights bill in Congress? There is. Who introduced it? I don’t know. How many co-sponsors? Seven senators! Seventy representatives! Who are they? Kennedy, Waxman, Studds, and Frank — I wish I knew the rest. How are civil rights bills doing in other states? What are the positions of many presidential candidates? Jackson must be with us. Who else? Dukakis. He’ll sign Mass. civil rights law which was passed generously by the Mass. legislature, if it ever comes unglued from where it is stuck. He says he will.

Thank you very much.

Kevin Catcath
Executive Director
Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders

Dear Our Paper,

I am delighted you are back! Great issue, especially Elze’s Jane interview and D.C. piece. Here is a contribution — wish it were more. I already get the paper at work, so don’t send me a sub.

Kevin Catcath
Executive Director
Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders

Dear Our Paper,

I was recently handed a copy of your paper — the second one I have viewed (the last was many months ago). I feel someone should address, yes critically, some points that are said out of concern.

The editorial page — my favorite in any newspaper — was the first matter that caused concern. F.B. referred to all as dykes and fags. Use of those terms I thought were in the past, the times when the only way to feel good about oneself was to use other peoples’ derisive labels mockingly — yet tragically as a way to be kept in one’s place. Among people who have found other identification, rewards and a place in this world, those terms have no place. They only signify to the reader that the paper is small time, not a grown-up’s publication if you will. I’m sure you will feel angry about my remarks, just as I am sure I will never pick up one of your papers in the near future. And that’s okay; we all have our own niches.

F.E.

Dear Our Paper,

Planning an event? Let us know. We will list your meeting, lecture, concert, and any public event free of charge in our calendar. Just send the date, time, contact person, and other pertinent information to us by the second Tuesday of the month prior to the event. Write: Calendar, Our Paper, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, ME 04104.

Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance
Third Annual Meeting & Celebratory Dinner
February 6, 1988
The Senator Inn, Western Avenue, Augusta
noon Annual Meeting
3:00 p.m. Mock Caucus
5:30 p.m. Cocktail Hour
6:30 p.m. Dinner
8 p.m. Keynote Speaker
9:30 p.m. Dance

featuring
Barbara Smith
distinguished writer, publisher, & progressive political activist
Editor of Home Girls. A Black Feminist Anthology
Co-founder of Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press
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I do think it’s important that you exist. There are those young persons who are seeking common ties, for others who feel the same way, and want acknowledgment that it’s okay to be gay. We are, after all, too small an urban population to serve all the women and men out there.

Those of us who have other concerns than our sexuality should have some voice in your pages, if only to likewise ac­knowledge that there is life after the same or tenth lover. There is life after one reaches the pinnacle of a career. There are retired gay men and women. And there are people in every community who are gay and you don’t know it. So, let us know, and here’s to us. And we both endure. Have a happy and suc­cessful 1988.

A concerned gray gay
Picking Up My Pen

by Susan Reed

You cannot imagine what it is like to live in a cooperative home with — among others — one of the steadfast members of the Our Paper collective. Every month, as the deadline draws near, I find myself being given me pensive, inquiring looks, as if to say: Is this The Month? I, of course, pretend not to know.

Years ago, I made the mistake of mentioning that I might like to write a little something for the paper someday. She's been at me ever since, with varying degrees of fervor. She says I can write anything I want, and hints broadly at humor. Entertaining these suggestions of hers entertain me, but there's nothing funny about what brings me finally to the fold.

Right off, let me confess that my friends and I abandoned the Maine delegation early on at the March on Washington — as soon as it became clear Maine would not be marching for hours. Instead, we hooked up with one religious group after another, changing denomination as the spirit moved us and opportunity allowed. As a result of these miraculous and repeated conversions, and a few other fancy maneuvers, I found myself dancing with Augusta DJ David Gramm, turned to me and gave me a spontaneous lesson that there really are no coincidences.

There is a point or two lurking in all of this — I guess one is the affirmation of the lesson that there really are no coincidences. The things that seemed so on the surface, on further consideration, are important pieces of something that is beginning to come together now. They served, first, to grab my attention, and then to establish kinship with my new friend. In doing so, they made me realize that whether he is a remote blood relation or no, and all my gay brothers, including those who are suffering with AIDS, and all my lesbian sisters, are kin. We are my people. I own it.

The courage of my friend, who is using even what he forseeers will be his last months for creative purpose is an inspiration to me. The reality is we are all dying. Our brothers with AIDS are going to die whether we extend ourselves to them or not. We're each going to die, when we have finished — or started — our important work or not. The quality of our living (and dying) is really up to us. I, for one, have decided to pick up my pen and face the new year with resolution.

That was your name, wasn't it? Tonight the sound of Nancy feels unreal. I don't say your name often. I don't know any other Nancys. I hadn't said it often enough before you were gone.

Though your name has a misty veil, your smile is as clear as the fresh snow reflected in the river. That smile, your eyes and hands involved, infected enthusiasm in those around you. There was so much I wanted to learn from you! How did you keep the fires of your spirit burning so joyously? You worked tirelessly yet never seemed frustrated or disgruntled like I feel too often. What's your secret? Do you have your own special Goddess watching over you?

As real as your face appears, I cannot hear your voice. I was just getting to know you before you left. It didn't take too long to become captivated.

I remember you mischievously singing and dancing and joking at Roberta's New Year's party. You knew you were among friends. Then the dinner at MJ's and Sue's. You and Roberta won the "Most Domestic of the Year Award" (a new-to-me tradition).

You stood up at the dinner table and gave us all a demonstration of the fine art of folding fitted sheets. You used your best British accent, of course. You followed this later with a rendition of Jane Wagner's piece (written for Lily Tomlin) on vibrators for the average woman. Who was worse, the man or the woman?

I would love to see you in the next life. I have continued to be deeply touched by those moments of deep connection with my new friend. His address was on the poetry he gave me, so I sent him a card expressing my appreciation of all he had shared with us. We have continued sporadically to keep in touch.

Color organizations in the country because of the wide circulation of The Comanche River Collective Statement written in 1974.

Also a board member of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, Smith has appeared in two documentary films, one of them "Pink Triangles." She has been a member of numerous organizations focused on sterilization abuse, reproductive rights, gay and lesbian rights, and violence against women, including the murders of 12 Black women within a four month period in Boston in 1979.


MLGPA's annual meeting will be held from 12 noon-4 p.m. and include the election of officers and steering committee members. A cocktail hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner, the keynote address, the awards presentation, and dancing with Augusta DJ David Neal. Reservations for dinner are required. Call Barbara Wood, 871-1555, or Diane Elze, 799-6905, or send $20 today to MLGPA, P.O. Box 108, Yarmouth Maine 04096.

BRUCE W. KENNEY, D.O.
Board Certified General Practice Preventive Medicine Obstetrician

"The Center for Health, 97 India Street, Portland, Maine 04101 207-774-4500"

Serious self-indulgence. Here you were in all your zaniness, surrounded by your wild friends.

A couple of weeks later we got together for dinner and exchanged nice and nephew stories and pictures. I wanted to blur out all my questions right then and there, but decided I'd best get to know you better first. A week later you were dead. Now, a year after, I feel a void.

I didn't know you well enough to see your pain-in-the-neck side. I never knew your hurts and darkness. Instead I knew you in your more fully realized state. You were a legend to me as a Spruce Run worker, and forever you will remain legendary. I don't have to know your difficulties. I can remember your playful spirit, your deep commitment to social justice and your effervescent love for your lover and friends. You will remain an inspiration for me in my work. With those you touched, a part of your spirit lives on.

I miss you.

Lynsey

Nancy Gentile was a Lesbian activist. She helped write the Maine domestic violence law and worked diligently for its passage. She was a founder of Spruce Run, active in the domestic violence coalition and director of Parents Anonymous. Nancy was also active in the Bucksport area Peace Action Committee and visited Nicaragua with Witness for Peace.

MLGPA Dinner

continued from page 1

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OUR PAPER  page 3
Violence Between Lesbians: A Different Analysis

by Sadhbh Nelligan

This is written in reply to "Lesbian Battering: Silence is Violence," (01/12/87). I am grateful to the authors, Martha Piscuskas and Merrill Cousin, for finally addressing this troubling subject. The issue of violence in our lives and/or in our communities needs to be acknowledged. Piscuskas and Cousin may make many valuable points I strongly disagree with their analysis, both in how they define the issue; suggesting that violence is a problem within the lesbian community; perpetuating myths about domestic violence etc., and in how they qualify the problem; suggesting that violence is not a problem within the lesbian community. The following thoughts are offered in the spirit of continuing dialogue.

One of the major social contributions of the feminist movement in the last fifteen years was establishing that violence occurs so frequently between men and women living together as to virtually constitute an institutionalized aspect of male-female relationships. It was estimated that two or four million women are beaten by their husbands or boyfriends each year. (1) According to the FBI, if a woman is beaten to death by a man she knows well, (2) It was a lesbian, Del Martin, who in her pioneering study Fostered Wives first placed the problem in a societrical context. She showed that the abuse of women was only facilitated by society's respect for men's time honored right to control and discipline their families. Only the most egregious ex­tremes of violence, domestic assault or social disapproval, otherwise the problem was ignored, or, more correctly, the victimization was attributed to the victim. This is often seen as a problem, Society, by its lack of legal and social sanctions, effectively encourages men to abuse their wives.

The feminist movement focused public attention on this abuse, calling the systematic terrorization of women within the home "violence" and facilitated women's right to control and discipline their families.

How does violence amongst lesbians compare to heterosexual domestic violence? First, lesbian violence has no support in or outside the lesbian community. Second, though violence or death of a woman is beaten to death by a man she knows well. And of course a lesbian's place in society rarely depends on the status of her relationship (more often, the reverse is true), as frequently is the case in heterosexual relationships. Third, in the broader context of feminist analysis, they have been systematically excluded from any meaningful discussion on the issue of violence. Though a woman beaten to death by a man is caused by the same motive as a woman is beaten by her husband, i.e., a kind of abuse "battered woman."

If the victim is not a woman, the abuse may be called "battered men." One of the key issues of lesbian violence is that it is not perceived as a problem. Lesbian violence may be perceived as a problem within the lesbian community, is simply not the case. And that violence does not exist between lesbians? No, no, no! Nor am I saying that incidents of extreme abuse have never occurred, but rather that such incidents do not occur with any frequency. However there is another issue that comes into play here, an old, a problem around which battered women's organizations form, the "greater good" we maintained a low profile. The extent of our contribution is not widely known to people outside the movement, but rather to those who are interested in the women's rights battle, encounters discrimination and a lack of support for our issues within the movement. Lesbian violence is and how our experience of violence must be questioned. This attitude is profound enough that we must insist that our local domestic violence services to lesbians. We must begin to talk about violence amongst lesbians. We do need statistics to understand the nature and dimensions of lesbian violence. But please, let us get our terms right and speak of our problem in the language that is appropriate and not the language of individuals in the domestic movement. They are considered as virtually the sole source of authority in terms of behavioral pathology that just does not fit in major ways.

As a further argument for this approach it is worth noting that the statistics on domestic violence indicate that about five percent of victims are men. Great societal skepticism for the "male victims" of a man beaten by a woman, we can assume that it is an accurate or low figure. That the victims of violence are men in no way lessens the injury. However, we do not speak of "husband battering" because it is not a widespread practice and has no societal support. For the same reason, though children are occasionally guilty of violence, they are not the "battering children."

What should the role of the lesbian community be in relation to violence? First we must insist that our local domestic violence organizations extend their complete range of services to lesbians. We must begin to speak about our experiences of violence in order to ascertain how prevalent the problem is and how our experience of violence relates to existing models of intra-family violence. We must aid our abused sisters. If they fear for their own safety or for the safety of their children, we can encourage them to get police protection to supplement whatever security we can give them ourselves. In the same spirit we must not ignore the initiatives of battered women, not least until we have heard their story or they have proved their recalcitrance. As to any further initiatives currently being undertaken by organizations or the like (of concerned third parties) — we do not need to repeat that we, the battered, are the ones who are best placed to handle the problem. We must bring some moral and intellectual rigor to bear on this problem. One piece of the puzzle in particular needs to be clarified and that is the question of what constitutes significant (i.e., pathological) abuse. Battered women are either in some continuum from passive aggressive to sexual violence.

Further a more grievous consequence is the reification of survivors in the role of "survivors." They are, considered as a low level of violence in relation to the role of sex. "Battering" is unique on the term "domestic violence model where the initiator of violence is usually the powerful person. Second, we agreed that a single incident of violence is not necessarily indicative of an abuse relationship, not unless it is part of an ongoing campaign of intimidation. In this analysis, battered women are the single greatest resource of battered women in getting their movement off the ground, bar none. But please, let us get our terms right and speak of our problem in the language that is appropriate and not the language of individuals in the domestic movement. They are considered as virtually the sole source of authority in terms of behavioral pathology that just does not fit in major ways. The automatic respect and authority that survival confer on them within the movement, who have not triumphed over these experiences, to see their own less trials in the same light. A notable example of this is the recent backlash against the broadening of the concept of sexual abuse to include the withholding of sex. (Piscuskas and Cousin). The withholding of sex is an issue of control and manipulation or simple disinterest, not sexual abuse.

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Party Caucuses in Late February

by Fred Berger

Maine's gay men and lesbians will have a chance to influence their party's choice for president at party caucuses held throughout the state on the last weekend in February. At these meetings, participants will register their Presidential candidate preferences as they begin the process of electing delegates to the national convention next summer.

Although Maine has not received much national attention, the Democratic caucuses on Sunday, February 28, will be only the third test of candidates' strength, coming after the Iowa and New Hampshire votes but before the March 8 "Super Tuesday" contests. The Maine Republican party caucuses, held at various times during the weekend of February 26-28, will have less national significance because (as of mid-January) party leaders have chosen not to tally Presidential preferences until several weeks after their caucuses.

The main purpose of the February caucuses, held in every Maine town, is to elect delegates to the state party conventions in the spring. In Presidential election years these delegates are chosen on the basis of their preference of Presidential candidates. The somewhat complicated but understandable process begins with the respective state parties determining, on the basis of the number of voters in each party, how many delegates each town — or each precinct within larger cities — will be allocated. From there the process varies for the Democratic and Republican parties.

First the Democrats. Each town, or each precinct within a city, meets separately on caucus day. The meeting's chair announces how many delegates the group is entitled to and then asks those present to indicate their choice of Presidential candidate, usually by physically moving to different sections of the room. Caucus members will choose among the seven declared candidates or they can choose to remain uncommitted. The next step is to determine how many of the allotted delegates will go to each candidate.

Now the Republicans: Say there are 100 people present in a meeting and the group has been allocated 10 delegates. In this case it will be necessary for a candidate to receive ten votes before he would be entitled to a delegate. When the vote is taken, twenty people select Dukakis, 20 Hart, 10 Jackson, 10 Simon, and 40 are uncommitted. So Dukakis and Hart will get two delegates each, Simon and Jackson will get one each, and four delegates will be uncommitted.

Of course, this example is too simple. What if the vote were 23 for Dukakis, 16 for Hart, 11 for Jackson, 11 for Simon, 9 for Babbit, 7 for Gephardt, 3 for Gore, and 20 uncommitted? In this case none of the candidates with less than ten votes is entitled to a delegate. A second vote must be taken. The voters in the groups of less than ten must realign themselves. At this point some arm twisting and vocal politicking may take place as the smaller groups seek to get enough support to qualify for one delegate position and the larger groups seek to add to their total. Several votes may be necessary before the process is complete.

Once the number of delegates for each candidate is determined, the preference groups elect that number of delegates and alternates to the state convention. By Democratic state party rules, there must be an equal number of men and women delegates and alternates elected. These people will meet at the state convention in Portland May 12-13 to participate in the selection of delegates to the national convention.

The delegate selection process for the state Republican party convention is somewhat simpler. Again, each town will have been allocated a predetermined number of delegates to be elected, based Republican convention in Bangor April 15-16 where they will elect delegates to the national convention.

To participate in a caucus one must be a registered voter of the respective party. It is possible to register on caucus day. The location of each town's caucus will be published in local newspapers in mid-February or one can call Democratic Party state headquarters at 622-6223 or Republican headquarters at 622-6247 to get that information. The Portland Democratic caucuses will be February 28 probably at Deering High School at 1:00 p.m. The Portland Republican party caucus will be held Friday, February 26 at 7:00 p.m. at Longfellow Elementary School on Stevens Avenue.

Maine Democrats Seek to Involve Gays, Other Minorities

by Fred Berger

The Maine Democratic Party, in an effort to include minorities in the party's delegate selection process, has developed an affirmative action plan to do outreach to lesbians and gay men, elderly people, youth, racial minorities, and other groups. The ultimate purpose of the affirmative action program is to have the Maine delegation to the national convention as reflective as possible of each group's proportion in Maine's population.

An affirmative action committee chaired by Jean Chalmers of Rockland is made up of Barbara Wood, lesbian; Priscilla Atlan, Native American; Dan Hickey, elderly; Brenda Humphrey, black; Alice Kehoe, low income; and Robert Philbrooke, handicapped. In the committee's only meeting (as of mid-January), they discussed ways to reach minority communities with information on how to participate in the delegate selection process. They devised a list of organizations and media which could reach the various minority communities.

The committee designated Our Paper and the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance as resources to reach the gay and lesbian community. MLGPA plans to use mailings, leafletting, and caucus-training parties to teach people about the caucus process. They have organized a series of parties during February where representatives will explain how a caucus works and guests will role-play the process. Barb Wood hopes that these events will make the actual caucuses "less intimidating" particularly to first-time participants. Anyone interested in hosting or attending a caucus party can call Barb at 871-1555 (Portland). MLGPA will also run a caucus training session at its annual meeting in Augusta on February 6.

MLGPA President Dale McCormick says that she "strongly urges" gay and lesbian people to run as delegates to both the state and national conventions. McCormick, who was an openly lesbian delegate from Maine to the 1984 Democratic National Convention, will again be seeking a delegate slot and hopes that Maine will have two or three openly gay or lesbian delegates as part of its 27-member delegation. In fact, the Democratic Party affirmative action plan, using the Kinsey estimate that ten percent of the population is homosexual, sets three gay or lesbian delegates as its goal. McCormick intends to run as an uncommitted delegate to the state convention and urges other gay men and lesbians to consider doing the same thing. She believes an uncommitted delegate on the state or national level will have additional leverage to influence the candidate selection process.
Legislative Preview

MLGPA Fights for Equal Benefits

by Robert Mersky

The Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA) has helped to draw up and will lobby for a bill which would grant equal benefits to all beneficiaries of state employees during this winter's Legislative session. Presently, only partners, legally married spouses, or children of state employees are eligible for full survivor benefits, whereas brothers, sisters, friends, and same-sex partners are denied the same benefits. This latter group receives only half of what the former group receives if named as beneficiaries.

The bill, LD #1947, is being introduced to the Maine Legislature for the first time. It will first find its way to a hearing of the Committee on Aging and Retirement, followed by that Committee's recommendation of "ought to pass" or "ought not to pass." The bill would then move to the Senate, the House, and, if approved, would become law.

Prime sponsor of the bill is Nancy Clark, a senator from Freeport. Clark and Representative Dan Hickey of Augusta, a co-sponsor, are both members of the Committee on Aging and Retirement. House Minority Leader John Diamond and Speaker of the House John Martin are the other sponsors.

Dale McCormick, President of the Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA) believes that this bill represents a broadening of issues for lesbian and gay politics. She said this bill is important because it will contribute to an understanding and protection of all relationships.

McCormick also proudly points out that for the first time ever, the Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition (WLAC) has unanimously endorsed a pro-gay initiative. In the past, WLAC, a consortium of 23 progressive organizations such as MLGPA, the National Organization for Women, the Maine State Employee's Association, and the Maine Women's Lobby, has been plagued by one lone holdout — the Maine Business and Professional Women.

Opposition to the bill could come from those who believe it will cost the state money. But McCormick, who expects the money issue to become the bill's major objection, believes the objection can be overcome because the state now assumes that a parent, spouse or child will be named as beneficiary. In other words, state matching funds would not be increased, but merely shifted to a beneficiary of the state employee's choice.

Jasper Wyman's Maine Christian Civic League was named by McCormick and Sadhbh Neilan, a member of MLGPA's Legislative Committee, as the group most likely to mount any organized opposition to LD #1947. However, when asked if she thinks the bill will become law, Neilan said, "We're not expecting much trouble on this one..."

WLAC Initiates Family Legislation

by Robert Mersky

Saying less than 6 percent of Maine families are now of the traditional nuclear variety, Joanne D'Arcangelo, lobbyist for the Maine Women's Lobby, feels Maine's public policies are now out of step with real demands and realities of today's types of families.

The Maine Women's Lobby, together with the Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition (WLAC) has proposed a host of bills which would drastically change the nature of how Maine views its families.

The cornerstone of WLAC's agenda for the Legislature is LD#1984, the Family Medical Leave Act. Under this bill, male and female employees of Maine companies employing 10 or more workers would be entitled to 18 weeks of unpaid leave over a period of 2 years upon the birth or adoption of a child. The leave would also be available to any serious illness of a child, parent, spouse or other dependent adult. Approximately 80 percent of Maine businesses would be affected by this change.

They Call It Legitimate Concern

I work for/intrastate survivors. In four short years the organization I serve has provided a variety of non-traditional programs for thousands of in-train survivors and service providers in 44 states and four other countries. We've earned excellent credibility and acceptance from liberal and conservative sectors alike. We keep growing, changing, working hard to be the best we possibly can.

Of course, our greatest challenge is money. It's hard to come by. Especially around the in-train issue. Nevertheless, we're getting better at the money game, too. Fundraisers and donation solicitation and grants and more grants. I write grants in my sleep. I play the foundation game fairly well. I pride myself in writing good proposals. I'm excellent at anticipating all those common, legitimate concerns raised by foundation trustees. I try to understand their side of things as well as my own.

So, when I received a letter from one of the foundations that granted as a small award, and the letter said their board had some concerns the director wanted to discuss with me, I didn't think twice about picking up the phone and asking the director what she wanted to discuss. The concern turned out to be that one of the board members had heard that our workshops were led by "militant, men-hating lesbians," and we might negatively influence participants.

I was livid. It wasn't the first time the issue had been raised with us in connection with funding. I felt as though I handled it well. I was sophisticated and fursious. I pointed out the homophobic aspect of the concern. I re-clarified our philosophy of supporting each individual's life choices, etc. I told her that of course there were lesbians in our organization; that wasn't the point.

The director was quick to say that she didn't have a problem with the issue, but it had been raised by someone who is "pretty high up in state government." And, especially if we were working with adolescents, she felt it was a "legitimate concern."

My diplomatic cool was slipping rapidly. I told her it wasn't a legitimate concern when we remember that the vast majority of all sex offenders are heterosexual men.

That's the kind of influence we should be worried about.

Even though I felt good about not shrinking the issue, I hung up the phone with a bitter taste in my mouth. It was a taste I had abhorred before. So what if I had managed to hang onto a couple thousand dollars? What if I did so and still verbally defended my personal sense of morality and the integrity of the organization I had been firmly and powerfully reminded that at any moment in the future I was getting better at the money game (raising funding) can be based on violent, dangerous, bigotry.

Gayle M. Woodsum
1st. Vernon, Maine
December 14, 1987

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The AIDS Project offers trained counselors to answer your questions and address your concerns about possible infection with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). To schedule a counseling session call: 774-8877 daily between 9-2, 1-3; Monday & Wednesday evenings before 5 p.m. Saturday from 10-1. Note: Counseling & testing is by appointment only.

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Why Can't Sharon Kowalski Come Home?

by Kathy Holzer

Karen Thompson, a professor at St. Cloud State University and political ac­

tivist, recently spoke to several Maine au­

Sharon Kowalski. Sharon is now living in

Minnesota Civil liberties Union (MCLU),

ing politicized . It was the first step in an

intense questioning which has changed her,

·married as

This fight now takes the shape of a long

home, fighting for their right to continue.

years , had bought a house together and ex­

changed rings, had taken out $50,000 life

driver , and she sustained severe head in­

themselves partners for life. On Novem­

ber 13, 1983, Sharon was involved in an

physical and occupational therapy ,

coach at St. Cloud State University since

necessity of maintaining flexibility which

only is she qualified in all of these ways

nurture the principles of physical fitness, particularly the

to work with Sharon , but she is Sharon ' s

1974 and is more than familiar with prin­

out of the coma despite predictions to the

Karen was afraid she would lose her job

Karen believes this was partially

round-trip drive an average of five

hours with her

learned to wash her face ,

to a maintenance-only nursing

to a seventy degree angle to

her

and explain­

bodied , Christian , male system , this

stand this rich, white, heterosexual , able­

full power over Sharon. Within 24 hours he
determined for this reason to settle out of court .

The settlement , in April of 1984, appointed

but stipulated that Karen was to have equal

access to visitation and medical affairs, and

Sharon's rights were protected.

From the day of the settlement on, Karen and her lawyers were in and out of court ever since. One of the issues which she de­
cided for this reason to settle out of court.

The settlement, in April of 1984, appointed

Don and Della Kowalski as her guardians.

Karen's legal expenses to

Karen's father has been living in

Since July of 1985 Sharon ' s father has

the pain. ”

This is one of the most dangerous

proceedings being set by the Thompson v. Kowalski case. Not only has Sharon not been tested, not only has she been institu­
tionalized anyway, but her rights as a pa­
tient have not been protected and have been stripped away. The court ruled that the patient bill of rights could impose duties on institutions but not on guardians. Virtually every per­
son in an institution has a guardian, and if this precedent is not removed, each of those could refer to the Thompson v. Kowalski precedents to justify assuming complete power over their ward. Could this possibly be the intent of the Minnesota patient bill of rights?

Sharon has been and is being denied her basic human right to recovery. She was making good progress toward regaining capability and the court allowed her to be moved to a nursing home where her pro­
gress has not only halted, but reversed. Is Sharon's guardian truly acting in her best interest as specified by law? And if not, why has he not been removed from that position? Karen Thompson has taken her case through Minnesota State District Court, Minnesota State Appellate Court, and the United States Supreme Court. It was her effort to protect Sharon's right to recovery, her right to highest quality of life, her right to control decisions involving her own future if she is capable of such input. The MCLU has taken the case all the way to the United States Supreme Court which refused to hear the case in March of 1986. Something is wrong with a system that allows one individual to remove the rights of another. Karen Thompson is challeng­
ing this system.

In the meanwhile she urges people, par­
cifically lesbians and gay people, to pro­
tect themselves. She urged audiences to come out over Christmas dinner, to come out to groups of people so that there could be no distortion. She said she finally real­
ized, as a result of this case, that as long as she was invisible, she was vulnerable. She also explained that in most states there exists some form of legal document which effectively names the person one would wish to act as a guardian in one's stead. She explained that this became necessary; such documents are called Durable Power of Attorney, or Liv­
ing Wills. She urges gay couples to pro­
tect themselves from the sort of tragedy she is living, to come out and to fulfill durable power of attorney so that they can never be separated as she and Sharon have been separated.

Postscript: Karen's legal expenses to date have been over $100,000, much of which has been paid by contributions to the Karen Thompson Legal Fund, c/o Julie Andrzejewski, 32495 County Rd. 1, St. Cloud MN 56301. All donations are gratefully accepted and are in­
terested in donating time and energy in­
stead, or anyone wanting more informa­
tion, contact the Karen Thompson v. Sharon Kowalski Committee which is in formation now. The contact for that group is Kim Surkan, M 555, Bowdoin College, Win­
medford ME 04011, phone 729-1288.

This, however, is only the most blatant and

malevolent inaction in the case. Not only has Sharon

suffered from most. The most blatant and

in which her rights have been violated is the

fact that Sharon has never been tested for

competency. She was declared in­
competent while in a coma, and despite the

fact that Donald Kowalski is required by both Minnesota law and conditions of

his Guardianship to have her tested on at least an annual basis, she has not been tested since that time. Karen has filed yet again for a competency hearing, which has just been postponed until February 5, wasting much more precious time. The grounds for this postponement is the contention by

attorney Jack Fena that a competency hear­

ring would damage Sharon's case in an

ongoing personal injury suit brought by the drunk driver who caused Sharon's accident and the bar which served her to the point of in­

itiation.

Karen's legal expenses to date have been over $100,000, much of which has been paid by contributions to the Karen Thompson Legal Fund, c/o Julie Andrzejewski, 32495 County Rd. 1, St. Cloud MN 56301. All donations are gratefully accepted and are interested in donating time and energy instead, or anyone wanting more information, contact the Karen Thompson v. Sharon Kowalski Committee which is in formation now. The contact for that group is Kim Surkan, M 555, Bowdoin College, Brunswick ME 04011, phone 729-1288.
The New Protection From Harassment Law

by Star

As of September 29, 1987 there is a new law on the Maine books, which will govern complaints of harassment for those of us who feel we are being unjustly harassed on a repeated basis.

According to page one of the statute: "Harassment means any repeated act of intimidation, harassment, physical force or threat of physical force whether or not performed under color of law, directed against any person, family or their property or advocate with the intention of causing fear or intimidation or to deter free exercise or enjoyment of any rights or privileges secured by the Constitution of Maine and the United States Constitution." It is important to note that this is not a gay civil rights-related law, since gay persons are not yet protected under the Maine civil rights legislation.

Obtaining an order for protection from harassment is similar to obtaining a protection from abuse order (which is generally used when relatives, especially spouses, of the plaintiff act or threaten to act with intention to harm). There are different legal remedies for obtaining relief from harassment, and a distinction needs to be made between the filing of criminal charges, as in cases of assault and battery, for example, and the civil process now available under the protection from harassment law.

If one is a victim of repeated harassment, as defined by the law, (and whether it is against your sexual orientation or not), one can request protection by filing cease harassment papers at the local district court (or sometimes in Superior Court). Processing is fairly simple and this matter can usually be taken care of without the need for legal representation. There is, however, a book available on how to get a protection from abuse order without a lawyer, which can be referred to since the process described is similar to the protection from harassment process. The book is available at most libraries, police departments, and Bookland bookstores.

In most cases when you have been harassed, you will go to court to obtain a temporary or emergency order for protection from harassment. Within twenty-one days of the date you obtain your temporary order, a hearing will be held for the purpose of granting you a final order for protection. The harasser has a right to attend the final hearing. In fact, the harasser can request a modification or dissolution of the temporary order issued before the final hearing date, by simply asking the court for an immediate hearing date and giving you two days notice.

The section called Relief states that "The court, after a hearing and upon finding that the defendant has committed the harassment alleged, may grant any protection order or approve any consent agreement to bring about a cessation of harassment..." (which) shall be for a fixed period not to exceed one year. "Violation of the order by the defendant constitutes a Class D crime, or misdemeanor; repeated violation of the order can result in immediate arrest with criminal penalties. The court can also order the defendant to stay away from your property, pay you for any monetary losses suffered as a direct result of the harassment, and any other orders necessary to protect you.

Due largely to the dedicated work of gay and lesbian activists, we now have a legal means of securing protection from harassment and threats on any grounds. Not only do we as citizens deserve such protection, but as gay persons we desperately need protection from violence due to homophobic ignorance as well. According to the statute, "Each law enforcement agency shall report all incidences of harassment as required by the State Bureau of Identification..." Honest utilization of the cease harassment law and a willingness to be frank about any such discrimination will grant evidence of our need to be protected under the Maine civil rights legislation. We can now utilize the protection offered us under basic human rights legislation such as the cease harassment law in the hopeful acquisition of gay rights. We deserve to be protected from abuse, especially harassment due to homophobia, and we have a possible means to get it. It's up to us to utilize it.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be two programs on Civil Rights and AIDS during February at the University of Maine School of Law in Portland.

On Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m., there will be a panel discussion entitled "Civil Liberties and AIDS" sponsored by the Maine Civil Liberties Union, the Maine Human Rights Commission, the AIDS Project, the Maine Health Foundation, the Maine Lesbian Gay Political Alliance, and the National Lawyers Guild. Panelists will be William Rubenstein of the American Civil Liberties Union's Gay Rights Project, Dr. Lani Graham, a public health physician who heads the Maine Bureau of Health, Cameron Duncan, a person with AIDS, and Patricia Ryan, director of the Maine Human Rights Commission. The panel will be in the moot court room at the law school, 246 Deering Avenue. It is free and the public is encouraged to attend.

On February 24 at 2 p.m., a staff attorney with the Lambda Legal Defense Fund will discuss civil rights issues and AIDS, also in the moot court room at the law school.

David Barr, who works on AIDS-related issues at Lambda, will be speaking as part of the University convocation program: "The Constitution: Roots, Rights and Responsibilities."

The talk is open to all interested persons.
Notes From Spinsterville
by Betsy, Washington County

December '87

My morning chores are to check the snow away from the door, emptying the pee-pot, bringing in wood, feeding the hens. It's 6:30 a.m., and the sky and landscape are still bluish-dark. A wind, and some drifting snow during the night, enough to coat the ground and color the evergreens. I'm amazed by the moon this morning, full, glowing, and big, and silver, and just beginning to set behind the trees. The early morning: the few hours before I get caught up in the busy-ness of jobs, errands, projects, and other people, is my favorite time of day.

Spinsterville is my name for my home of four years, and more recently home to another lesbian feminist spinster, Mary Lois, and various animals: Herriot the dog, Izzie the cat, and nine hens. It is an open hollow spot, with a little house and a tiny garden, circled by beaver ponds, fields, woods, and a salt water cove. The name is a reflection of the shelter and deep ease that I feel here and my delight and affinity for such a splendid word! When I say I am a spinster, I mean objectively, I think that some very pleasant changes have been made at Papa and T's. Those have been made at all parents', and to T. and V., L., C., P., W., and A. for their support.

I was treated to a wonderful surprise yesterday, when I was called by phone and told that my name had been chosen for the January issue of 'Spinsterhaven'. The joy of winter's beauty and the return of winter to my garden, the moreudging light and the moreishing light of the "holidays" shed, there has been a surge of activity in this area. Two Solstice celebrations were held on the Island, and Maine and North of Canada. The other predominantly gay activities I could think of in this area are an AA group in Augusta, occasional contra dances, and the M.L.G.P.A. meetings which occur here from time to time, like the annual dinner coming up on February 6.

The bar is an important place for meeting other gay people. Every time I have been to the bar, I have run into someone I knew from work. Until I met them at the bar, I either hadn't realized that they were gay too or hadn't had any way to connect with them. This time was no different for me. I had a chance to meet and speak with a woman I'd seen at work nearly every day for the past few years, but had never realized was a lesbian and never said more than hello. It felt real good to make that connection.

The bar is a place where, I know, sometimes I forget. It shouldn't have been any surprise to find that just the people I talked to there had come from either Richmond, Winslow and the Camden, Belfast areas, as well as areas in and around central Maine. Gay life in central Maine can involve a lot of driving to stay in touch with friends and others in the gay community, as does living in this state anyway.

At the bar, I also talked with S. and D. about what, if anything, might be unique about the gay community in central Maine. We concluded that given the nature of employment opportunities in this area, the gay community here may have a higher proportion of government workers and people working in the field of medicine than in other parts of the State. Otherwise, we noted that we come up with the same small gay community and the same usual about the gay community in the central part of the State.

The phrase "gay community in central Maine" feels wonderful, but does make me think about what is the gay community I live in? Take Georgia, a Geriatric/Prairie Home Companion. C.'s friend has recently moved away and he misses him a lot. I had just remarked that I missed hearing P.H.C. when C. replied, "Yes, well, what really is a hairy companion?" Enough said. See you next time!

Life in Central Maine
by Lynnsey

Writing for publication is not that easy. In order to get my thoughts written down, a lot of people can be quite paralyzing for me. The first time I did this column I dealt with that feeling of denial. I remember going to a gymnastics class and finding that I had climbed to the top of the state house dome, thereby obtaining a perspective on gay life in central Maine not available to me when I was still an out-of-body approach seemed to help.

This time, however, I am staying put, but still escaping reality by conscious use of denial. In what seems to me to be a delightfully practical use of the years of therapy it took to discover how good I was at denial, I will now proceed to ignore the reality of what I am engaged in here and how hard it is. Instead, I will pretend I am easily writing a friend what I would say if I weren't so blocked.

I went dancing at the bar in Augusta last Saturday. First time I'd been there in a couple of years. It was great fun and I was impressed with how nice it looked and felt. To be there. Of course, it makes me wish I lived a little closer as Papa Joe's over the past few years.

While I was at the bar, I was thinking about the importance of the bar for the gay community. It is traditionally such a place that is totally available for gay people for miles, especially to the East Coast, Maine, and North of Canada. The only other predominantly gay activities I could think of in this area are an AA group in Augusta, occasional contra dances, and the M.L.G.P.A. meetings which occur here from time to time, like the annual dinner coming up on February 6.

Queer News From the Peninsula
by Lynne

W. Sedgwick, Me. — Finally, Xmas is over and we survived. Hopefully, after this last Xmas of T., H., K., and M. we will never have a heartfeart holiday with my family of origin. The expectation only leads to disappointment. I know there are many others out there who can relate. I wish you the best in making a new definition of family, and creating your own home.

Unfortunately, it's not as easy as it sounds for some, but possible. Definitely possible. For me, one aspect of home is the feeling I get once again returning to the full moon gatherings in Dexter. Here there is a feeling of respect for each woman who shares it. There may be no homosexual relationships. It is a beautiful celebration of the naming of her home. The WOMALAND Trust meeting, which began from this gathering, was the beginning of a new home. The Trust works to gain access to land for women, who have been traditionally excluded from the role of care for a piece of this nourishing land. It is wonderful to watch the care of these women in their process for obtaining their green light to Chris for her land. I am grateful to T., V., L., C., P., W., and A. for their continued work on the Trust.

The Women's Press helped the media to cover for a piece of this nourishing land. The ownership and management of the bar, T. and I visited with H. in New Haven, CT. She is moving through her new job. I hope her new job works out well.

The Orland-Bucksport gang is well known for their festive gatherings. A Xmas breakfast at R.'s was delicious and fun. Love those blintzes. A post-New Year's Feast at the Crystal Palace was a great opportunity for celebration. R.'s story of the naming of her home was a highlight and a lot of fun. This was the last of our Junes who attended the AIDS day, especially M. who has two lesbian daughters. Welcome to the family! K.S. came back to the area to perform in Blue Hill with B.M. The performance of dance & poetry, was very powerful. It was also at this point in the season that we had the ALS ride.

Life is good living with Sand J. This is working out well for her. They all went cross country skiing at Sugarloaf and T. and I visited with H. in New Haven, Ct. She is moving through some rough waters but seems to be making progress. I hope her new job works out well.

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Healthy Curiosity

by R.I. Bass

Q: I haven’t had a physical exam in years and I wonder if I should just have a routine check-up. If I do, is there any reason why I need to tell the doctor that I’m gay?

A: The need for a routine medical exam depends on several factors, especially your general health; your past history of disease, surgery, or injury; your family’s history of certain diseases and medical conditions; and your age. In the absence of an actual health problem, a medical check-up is considered a preventive health practice. If you have a history of any chronic disease, or if you are concerned about a current problem, or if you are at higher risk for health problems due to your family’s medical history or your age, it is a very good idea to have check-ups at regular intervals. The need for a medical exam and the frequency of these exams will depend on your risk factors. This decision should be made by you and your health care provider.

When you have a medical check-up, certain procedures are routinely performed. These include an examination of your eyes (with an ophthalmoscope), ears (with an otoscope), and mouth and throat checks for the symptoms of glaucoma, diabetes, excess spinal fluid, ear infections, hearing impairment, gum and tooth disease, oral cancers, and throat infections. Palpating (feeling or patting) the neck will help detect an enlarged thyroid gland or nodes in your armpits are felt to make sure they aren’t swollen or tender. For women and girls, a pap smear is performed. A check-up will also include a breast exam. The clinician will examine your abdomen by pressing it. Tenderness, pain, or enlargement of the liver or spleen might mean hepatitis, mononucleosis, appendicitis, or other illnesses. Problems with narrowing arteries can be detected by listening to your abdomen with the stethoscope. Arm and leg veins may be checked for refluxes. Poor reflexes can indicate neurological problems. Your feet can be checked for reflex, sensation, and numbness. Swelling around the ankles would indicate possible varicose veins, heart disease, kidney problems, or protein loss. Examination of the feet may detect ingrown toenails or fungal infections, such as athlete’s foot. Redness of the palms or fingers may mean liver damage, arthritis, neurological problems, even alcoholism. Your groin will be felt for swollen lymph nodes.

Depending on your individual health status (gender, age, personal and family history, other risk factors) other procedures may be performed. A check-up for men will include an examination of the penis, checking it for lesions, feeling it for tenderness, and nicking it for discharge. Men should have an exam of the testicles, a cough test for a hernia of the testicles, and a rectal exam to check for prostate gland disorders and various rectal problems (bleeding, warts, and other growths). Women may receive a pelvic exam which includes a visual exam of the vagina and cervix (using a speculum), and palpation of the vaginal muscles and the uterus, ovaries, and Fallopian tubes. Women may also have a rectal exam for bleeding, warts, growths, and rectocecles (a type of rectal hernia). The pelvic exam also includes a pap smear to detect cancer of the cervix, and many health care providers perform tests for gonorrhea and chlamydia because women can harbor these infections without symptoms. Older people may have other procedures performed routinely. Checking the carotid arteries in the neck will help detect narrowing of the arteries. Stool smears check for cancer of the colon. Older women are advised to have mammograms to catch breast cancer early. Breast cancer is among the highest risk for breast cancer between the ages of 40 and 50. If you have a family history of breast disease, your exam should include a test for your blood’s cholesterol levels. If you have symptoms of diabetes, your urine should be tested for sugar, protein, and other substances. Finally, it is a good idea for you to discuss your sexuality with your health care provider. In order to treat you as a whole person and not just a collection of body parts, test results, and symptoms, your health care provider should have some knowledge of your day to day life. Some sexual activities place people at higher or lower risk for certain problems, especially sexually transmitted viruses.

For lesbians, certain problems that relate to contraception, pregnancy, or infertility are sometimes needlessly performed because the health care provider didn’t realize that the woman was not having sex with a man. While lesbians are at statistically lower risk for STDs, some lesbians do have herpes, chlamydia, or cervical cancer, or other STDs, particularly if they ever slept with men, so STD screening can be useful.

Statistically, gay men are at higher risk for hepatitis B, syphilis, and cancer, and HIV infection (which includes AIDS). In the absence of certain symptoms or risk factors, the physical exam for a gay man should include liver function tests and blood tests to screen for syphilis and hepatitis B. HIV counseling and testing (and possibly the HIV antibody test) may be indicated for asymptomatic and risk factors which place him at higher risk for HIV infection. In any case, a T-cell ratio test may be necessary to check the status of the immune system. Both gay men and lesbians are at increased risk for alcoholism, drug abuse, and psycho-social stress. These health problems can show up as physical symptoms which may or may not be detected during a check-up. If you are experiencing stress, depression, or dependence on alcohol or drugs, talk to your health care provider about it.

If you are reluctant to discuss your sexual history, or if you are going to consult your clinician, you are not alone. Often, professionals are ill-prepared to deal with sexual information or are unaware of how to talk to their clients and patients about intimate issues. It’s important to find a health care provider you feel good about. Don’t hesitate to “fire” a clinician if s/he is homophobic, insensitive to your needs, or unresponsive to your questions.

A good basic health manual that includes information on physical exams and self-care is The Well Body Book, by Hal Bodmer. Our Sannah, by the Boston Women’s Health Book Collective. If you have a question about gay or lesbian health, write to "Health Curiosity" c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, Maine 04104. We don’t publish names or locations.

Thanks to Karen Kalustian, M.D. of Augusta for her help with this column.

PWA Coalition Forming

I am appealing to every PWA, persons with ARC and HIV positive, to please step forward and assist in forming a PWA coalition in Maine.

I have been a board member of the Maine Health Foundation, worked on joint ventures with the AIDS Project and listened to a great deal of dialogue on what is best and can be done for PWAs, persons with ARC and HIV positive. I have been to Washington and other political activities and also listened. Although these people are a well-intentioned and concerned, with a lot of love and compassion, who knows better of the needs of this population than the "silent population" itself? I feel we can better voice our needs, concerns, and offer a support system that is unsurpassed by any other present group. I feel we are a group who needs to empower ourselves in various aspects.

I am not asking anyone to break their anonymity, become politically active, or join any present program. I am asking for people to get together to dialogue needs, concerns, and how they can be met. Needs may vary and be as simple as to get together with other people with a common disease who understand and talk in an informal setting. I have seen this work well in other communities. We have brothers and sisters in this situation who desperately need for various reasons. Let’s give them or us that safe place to come together. A place that is not connected to any program but is an entity unto itself, helping individuals they understand due to being part of that population. A place to have a united and consistent voice.

A new year is approaching. Let’s get together, discuss our needs and concerns in the "silent population" itself to know one another. Society-at-large wishes to keep us silent and in our closets. Let’s feed into this and do ourselves.

On a personal note, I wish to meet others in my situation and think there are others out there who feel the same.

We need a united and consistent voice.
Argentinian government officials have promised to repeal the 1946 law which denied the right to vote to homosexuals. Sparked by the Comunidad Homosexual Argentina (CHA) and the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA), the Casa Rosada (Argentina's White House) was inundated with letters of protest from gays all over the world. Argentinians are still struggling. The CHA is now three years old and growing. It publishes Vamos A Andar which is the main vehicle for its work. They request that you send any money that you have to them and all of the money will go to organizations born directly out of the March and to grassroots projects. 25 percent of the funds should go to projects for children and youth, and 50 percent of the funds should be earmarked for showing of support. Any gay and lesbian organisation is eligible for support. There is no need to request permission to form a committee of support and there is no need to form a committee of support to request funds beyond the year 1988. The next step involves soliciting approval from steering committee members, a body of over 60 members representing different geographic regions, interest groups and national organizations.

Coors Boycott:

On Again, Off Again

Three months after the AFL-CIO called an end to the Coors beer boycott, Boston City Councilor David Scandas announced his satisfaction with the brewery's attempts to reform. He cited a new corporate anti-discrimination policy as a factor in his decision along with Coors' promises to change other unjust practices. Other anti-Coors activists expressed skepticism about Scandas' announcement. As Gerry Scoppetello, a major organizer of the Coors boycott in Boston and gay activist, stated, "If there's a true way to monitor Coors, I'd support an end to the boycott. But until it's clear how the commitments are being honored." Coors has promised to allow elections in the brewery at least 30 percent of the workers indicate interest in union representation. It also has adopted a written statement claiming to prohibit discrimination for all employees, to promote qualified applicants without regard to sexual orientation among other things. Coors promised around the world.

Among other things. Coors promised to end financial support for organisations promoting discrimination and no longer will require lie detector tests for employment.

Teenagers Focus of Study

The House Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families released results of a six month study on AIDS in schools. The study predicts a rise in AIDS cases among children through infected mothers and among teenagers through sexual experimentation. Teenagers currently have the highest rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea.

The CDC reports that there are 195 teenagers among the 47,297 reported AIDS cases and 691 cases among children under the age of 13.

Foster Care Woes

Two gay men were denied licensing as foster parents for the state of New Hampshire. Ken Devold and Michael Gigante submitted applications after a foster care bill was passed earlier that prohibits lesbians and gays from becoming foster parents. Devold, who could not attend the March on Washington due to an injury, decided to go ahead by creating his own form of civil disobedience. He distributed foster care applications to the gay and lesbian community in hopes that officials would see the future and end the law, especially since New Hampshire is currently in a crisis for beds. Said Devold, "We must stop waiting for our rights to happen... We need to be heard outside of mainstream politics or nothing is going to happen."

The world's first condom shop opened its doors for business in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. It offers a wide range of condoms in all colors, textures and tastes. Ad- vice on using the condoms is freely given. The shop is open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., seven days a week. The shop has special nights for gays and lesbians with a condom theme and erotic art.

Police in Lima, Peru, kept 70 women trapped inside a bar on June 6, 1987 for over an hour until a T.V. crew arrived to film the event. Vehement homophobia rages in Peru and most of the women were terrified of being recognized by friends, families and employers. As the women were shoved out of the bar, one by one, the crowd that gathered mocked and jeered them, adding leering whistles and comments at any woman wearing a skirt. The T.V. clip was aired three times. The women were always kept in the same area. Also, as they were led to the police bus, they were shoved, hit and some were thrown to the ground. At the police station they were sexually harassed and detained until 1 a.m. At that time they were given the choice of either leaving or being transferred to the custody of the police division against terrorism. Freedom was a dangerous choice since Lima was then under a curfew enforced from 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. People on the streets during those hours could be shot on sight. Many of the women risked the curfew by choosing freedom and then hiding or sitting near the police station until the curfew broke. No legal action was taken against any of the women. The raid would have caused legal and social reprimals from a government infamous for its human rights violations.

Agents of the local health service in Tijuana, Mexico, have tried to blackmail the owners and customers of gay bars. The agents were checking that the bars had their health cards when they decided to request money from gay bars to "avoid trouble." Two active gay groups in the area, Grupo Y Que and Grupo POLEN, have denounced the action to local authorities.

A collective of lesbian feminists in Chile calling themselves "Ayykeles" is interested in publicizing lesbian feminist issues in the women's movement and among Chilean women at large. The group seeks dialogue and questions a limited vision of feminism which would exclude their analysis. The group states that its members face social repression and suspicion from feminists. The Ayykeles collective wants to establish bonds with other lesbian sisters, exchange experiences, projects, ideas and printed materials. "Ayykeles" means joy in the language of the Mapuche Indians. To contact them write Colectivo Ayykeles, Bellavista 0547, Providencia, Santiago de Chile, Chile.

Erica "Monte" Punchon, a lesbian, has been chosen as a roving ambassador for World Expo 1988 to be held in Brisbane, Australia. Monte, who is 105 years old, was described as clear-thinking and likeable by the interviewers including the Deputy Premier of Queensland, Brisbane's Deputy Premier of Queensland, Brisbane's Lord Mayor and the Federal Minister for Tourism.

The Queensland Premier's office questioned her selection when someone told them about her lesbianism. Monte replied, "If they want me up there, well and good. But I won't want to look like a male life they can go to pot. I'm not ashamed to say I love my friend." Monte has kept the job on the condition that the government of her book which recalls historic events and which has the authority to make those decisions. The executive committee has drafted a proposal which would establish guidelines and include input from the steering committee.

The proposal suggests splitting the money between national and state organizations and projects with a $5,000 ceiling on all grants. Preference would be given to organizations born directly out of the March and to grassroots projects. 25 percent of the funds should go to projects by and for people of color and 50 percent should be earmarked for lesbian projects. Any money will go to campaign donations and the proposal did not recommend paying off the local march organizations' debts.

The next step involves soliciting approval from steering committee members, a body of over 60 members representing different geographic regions, interest groups and national organizations.

David Scendas, Boston City Councilor, stated that "The Social Impact of the AIDS Epidemic on the Gay and Lesbian Community" at a joint social and business meeting of the National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals (NOGLSTP). The meeting will be 6-9 p.m., Saturday, February 14 in Room 109 of the Hynes Convention Center in Boston, and is part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's annual convention. For more information contact David Wypij, NOGLSTP Coordinator, Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA 02115, (617) 732-1056.

Portland State College, 25A Forest Ave., presents Tina Howe's Painting Churches, previewing February 24 and 25, opening February 26, and running through March 13. Performances will be held Tuesday through Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 5 and 9 p.m.; and Sunday, 2 p.m. (and 7:30 p.m. on the Sunday). The play is interpreted in American Sign Language. Ticket prices range from $7.00 to $19.00. Box office: (207) 774-0465.

The Cumberland County Extension Office will sponsor a workshop called "Self-Esteem Day for Women" on Saturday, February 6, in Portland. Lectures, discussions, and individual activities are designed as an opportunity for renewal, sharing, and learning for women of all ages. There is no charge but pre-registration is required. Contact Theresa Ferrari at 780-4205.
by Elze

This is the second and final part of an interview with three former members of the Jane collective, a Chicago women’s collective that performed illegal abortions from the late 1960s through mid-1973. They called themselves “the service.” Their membership averaged 20-25. Mostly white, they were very young to very old, they were homemakers, students, mothers, hippies, and animal rights activists. Everyone went by the name of Jane.

In the spirit of Jane, all three women chose to use the name “Jane” for this interview conducted in July.

Jane 1, 34, a former family planning counselor and now a health educator specializing in gay and lesbian health and reproductive and sexual health, lives in coastal Maine. She started with Jane in 1971, joined the collective until it folded in 1973.

Jane 2, 38, a nurse for the last 10 years, lives in mid-coast Maine but grew up and lived most of her adult life in Chicago. With Jane the longest of the three women, Jane 2 joined the collective before the members performed their actual abortions, though they controlled all other aspects of the process. Jane 2 was one of seven women in the group in Chicago in 1973.

Jane 3, 40, now living in Albany, New York, has been a community organizer for, she says, “more years than I care to remember,” dating back to her activist days in Chicago in 1971, the year she joined Jane.

By the time Jane folded, the collective was receiving 300 calls and performing 60-80 abortions weekly, working three days a week, she says. “They’d perform as many as 100 abortions.”

In Part I, which appeared in the December issue of Ms., Our Women’s Voice, the three Janes discussed how and why they became involved in the collective, how the collective was structured and the work organized, the evolution of the group over time, and how their participation changed their conceptions of themselves as women, their politics, and their lives.

DE: Do you think the times might ever call something like that again? What relevance does that have for women in 1987?

Jane 1: I don’t think the service ever should have stopped doing abortions.

Jane 3: You said that at the time.

Jane 1: That’s right. We only stopped because now, all of a sudden, there’s this clinic and that doctor, and everybody got into the abortion business, but nobody did it as good as we did it. We didn’t have the vacuum aspirator equipment. We did it essentially by hand with a dilator and a curette and forceps. And we still were charging less money than any of the legal clinics. We were hearing terrible stories about some of the doctors. We still were in operation for four months after joined Jane.

Jane 2: I think at any moment you could practically put a group together again. If you could find the personnel, I think people would go and use the service, especially because it would offer something unique, even in the field of abortion.

Jane 1: From time to time, there have been imminent legal threats to a whole area of abortion, and I’m sure that if abortion becomes as inaccessible as it was before 1973, people will do illegal abortions. I don’t think it will all be in the hands of feminists anymore, but...

Jane 2: No, it wouldn’t be the way it was.

Jane 1: No, I don’t think so. I disagree. A couple things are different now. Now there’s a whole generation of women who have grown up from childhood with the attitude that abortion is legal and they have a right to it. If you take that away, it’s different than what used to be.

Jane 1: I don’t think it’s going to be the same as it was before, even if it’s illegal. I just don’t.

Jane 3: In the late 1960s, before abortion was even legal in New York, the issue of reproductive rights was tied into the concept of awakening feminism, the underground role that the right to it again whether you’re pregnant or not is indivisible from the right to self-determination and you’re going to do for a living, that the right to be a human being in the world is dependent on that right to be able to control your reproduction. What I see now in the reproductive rights movement is that people have really sold out those values. I’ve seen other groups of feminists say, “We’re not going to come out pro-abortion because we’re going to alienate a lot of people.”

Jane 1: We can make abortion illegal and that automatically turns that situation around. When they make abortion illegal, you don’t get to nexus and legally you’re making people rising to that challenge. There’s no question for us to think that there aren’t people now who could do and would do what we did. I would do it again.

Jane 3: I have to do it again. I’m in a different situation now. I don’t want to go to jail now. I’d train people. I’d feel like my obligation would be to train other women to do it, but I don’t think I’d want to do it for a living time.

DE: What is the relevance of this for AIDS organizations? What can AIDS organizations learn from your experience in Jane?

Jane 3: Certainly there are things that AIDS organizations and other organizations that deal with reproductive issues and sexual rights and other human rights issues should be thinking about. Certainly the concept of awakening feminism, the concept of self-determination, the right to self-determination of pregnancy. What is a “termination of pregnancy”? It could be anything.

Jane 1: It could be a birth control technique.

Jane 2: Or shooting the woman.

Jane 1: We too easily give up and become part of the system. The values of the overall system are not remarkably different than they were 15 years ago.

Jane 2: You can’t look to the government or to the medical profession to answer a lot of questions or provide solutions. You have to take things into your own hands at times until they catch up with you.

Jane 3: It’s a great gift to be able to do something illegal because then you can find the only way you can really find out what matters, what your values really are. You don’t have to listen to some self-appointed source. You don’t have to worry about credibility. All you have to do is be able to look at yourself in the mirror in the morning. Bob Dylan says to live outside the law you must be honest, and it’s really true.

It’s hard with AIDS stuff because all the damn money is government money. Already so much control is given up because the government has stepped in right away.

If you look at the history of the women’s movement and the period of co- opted, it’s really been since the early days, it took a long time for stuff to get co-opted — the abortion movement, women’s health movement. It’s a long time for stuff to seem to get shorter. They learn better how to co-opt you real fast.

I think the Janes are a gift with birth homes, the battered women’s movement, the rape crisis movement. Now we have birthing rooms in hospitals, but, in fact, the dimensions of power, the structure of power and control, the individuals giving up their control to an authority, are still in place. That’s what the AIDS movement is coming to.

With AIDS, we are in advanced stages of co- opted, and almost as soon as people are learning about AIDS, the co- opted began.

Jane 1: Look at what has happened in this state with AIDS service organizations. They are totally owned, I think, by their funding sources, whether their funding sources are foundations, the state, or some rich people. There’s very little sense of ownership that’s internal in these organizations and very little political analysis of what’s going to happen. It’s mostly gay-oriented groups make all the same mistakes and not seem to have learned a damn thing from the women’s health movement which should be their prototype.

It feels sad to me and it makes me angry that they are so blind at the government, but it doesn’t make them do something differently.

DE: And it doesn’t make them listen to women.

Jane 1: In fact, you should listen to a tape of a panel discussion from the National Gay and Lesbian Health Conference in Los Angeles. The workshop was on what gay service organizations can learn from the feminist health movement. Very few men went, and the ones who did were very embarrassed because they tried to get their male friends and colleagues to go and they wouldn’t.

What’s going to happen when some heterosexual AIDS group comes up? I’ll tell you. There’s very little sense of ownership of that’s internal in these organizations and very little political analysis of what’s going to happen. It’s mostly gay-oriented groups make all the same mistakes and not seem to have learned a damn thing from the women’s health movement which should be their prototype.

Jane 3: You have a government run by men to perpetuate the white male power structure in this country, and to assure that any change of any kind of this government is foolhardy at best.

Jane 1: Who is doing most of the AIDS work? White, middle-class men. They can’t disconnect from a structure they’re
really a part of and have always been able
to feel some advantages off. And they
don't get it when they're fucked over.
They don't get it!

Jane 3: We were in a cushy position in
that we provided a service we could charge
for, so it gave us money to run the opera-
tion and keep us, barely, at subsistence
level.

Jane 2: I don't think it was cushy. We
just had no choice. You need drugs. You
need to know where they are. You charge people. Now
when people are providing services, they're so attuned to giving stuff away.

Jane 1: I would not for a minute ex­
pect any person financially who needs some­
thing. But the AIDS groups, the battered
women's groups, the battered women's
groups that all of us work with, they keep saying we could charge clients. Not everybody
has no money. That's a mistake we're
making.

There's a fine line between being altruistic and not taking good care
of yourselves. People think it's the state's
obligation. I'm sorry. I don't think it's the
state's obligation to take care of me, or to
take care of oppressed men, or to take care
of oppressed women. Where do they think
that oppression comes from?

Jane 3: Once you get the money, even
if you say, "Well, if they start fucking with
us we'll just say we don't want it," you
get locked into it. You hire staff with that
money who then have to pay their rent.

But one thing that would be very
threatening, but not illegal, would be for
some organization to say real directly to
the state — I know in Maine it would be
devastating to the Department of Human
Services if the AIDS organizations in this
state said: "Up yours. We don't want your
money because we don't want your pro­
gram review committees. We don't want
your solutions. We don't want your
forms. We don't want to report statistics
to you. We are just going to take care of
ourselves."

That would be very threatening. I think
they'd be relieved on one level. But it
would be very embarrassing for them on
another level because there are so many
well-meaning people in social services now
who want to help these "unfortunate vic­
tims," which is what you hear all the time.

One of the things we are is victims of
somebody else's values and somebody
else's agenda.

DE: The debate needs to be pushed to
the left. The debates have been pushed
to the right. They need to go in the other
way.

Jane 3: Often you have to compromise.
But you have to know what you're com­
promising. If you know what you're sell­
ing out, you can pretty much predict what
problems you're going to get into. It
doesn't mean you avoid those problems.
It just means you see them coming and
you're a little prepared to deal with them.

If you start with a clear political analysis
which, I think, is always the key — and
understand the structure of power and your
role within the power structure, the ways
in which you belong to the power struc­
ture and the ways in which you don't, and
then have an analysis of power in the world
and how it works, then you start working
from there. There aren't going to be that
many opportunities to be totally under­
ground and you're going to have to walk
a thin line. But at least you start from
what's the best you want to do, not what's
the best you can do in this situation.

DE: We have to stop now. Anything
else?

Jane 1: What we did was an important
part of the history of the women's move­
ment in this country, and I don't want it
to go unrecognized anymore. It was real
sad to me that it had faded to the point
where, nationally, the person most well­
known for speaking about Jane is not a
member of Jane. And, secondly, that we
had been reduced to three paragraphs in
a wonderful book, Our Bodies Ourselves.
Jane 3: And we weren't in Our Bodies
Ourselves until fairly recently.

Jane 1: In the work I do now, people
often ask me, "What's your background?"
"What's your credentials?" "Where did
you go to college?" Well, I got my train­ing
somewhere else. I have a degree in il­
legal abortion. That's the fact.

ATTENTION FORMER MEMBERS
OF JANE. Former members of Jane are
looking for other former members of
Jane, friends of Jane, people whose
apartments Jane used, and, of course,
you woman who had an abortion with
Jane in Chicago, if you'd be willing to
talk confidentially. Former members of
Jane are trying to collect the documenta-
tion and have it be a part of herstory.
Send responses to Jane c/o Our Paper.
Our Paper will forward all responses to
the former members of Jane.

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Adult Children of Alcoholics

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Murder continued from page 1

The Underground a couple times a week for a couple of beers and conversation. Sometimes they would go out afterwards for a bite to eat. They didn’t that night. “He told me he felt like going home,” Monaldo’s friend told Our Paper. “He wasn’t the type to pick up strangers. He just wouldn’t go with any Tom, Dick, or Harry. I doubt very much he’d park and wait for strangers like that at night.”

He described Monaldo as very private, a man who didn’t mix his gay life with his work. “He didn’t want anyone at work to know that he was gay,” Monaldo’s friend said. “His family didn’t even know. They may have suspected. He was very private that way.”

“We need someone in the gay community to step out and tell us what they may have seen or heard if they were down in the Oaks that night.”

— Portland Police Detective Daniel Young

Based on information supplied by others, however, Portland Police Detective Daniel Young says investigators speculate “the whole incident may have started at the Oaks.” But he added, “We have no proof yet. Right now we can’t establish where anything occurred. We need someone in the gay community to step out and tell us what they may have seen or heard if they were down in the Oaks that night.”

Case Not Tight Enough

According to a Portland Press Herald article (11/6/88), Pettingill confessed to both robberies when informed that the truck’s owner was murdered. Further, Pettingill said he committed the gas station robbery with a .357-caliber Magnum revolver.

“We have circumstantial evidence linking a subject in the truck, but we need a tighter case,” Gomane explained. “But I’m not saying that we don’t have enough evidence,” he added.

As to Hassapelis’ possession of Monaldo’s truck, he told police a friend loaned him the vehicle, Detective Young said.

Gomane expressed frustration that members of the gay community may not come forward fearing public disclosure of their sexuality, should they have information relevant to the case. A number of people have been hesitant to speak with him.

Gomane was shocked to learn from the Our Paper reporter that gay and lesbian people can legally be fired from their jobs, evicted from their rented homes, and denied access to public accommodations because of their sexual orientation.

A subsequent call made by Gomane to the attorney general’s office in the presence of Our Paper confirmed the lack of civil rights protections for gay men and lesbians.

“We need help.”

— State Police Detective Bill Gomane

Scott is offering $500 to anyone with information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) who murdered Monaldo. He hopes the sum will be matched by the other bars.

If you were in Deering Oaks Park, or the parking lot near The Underground, the evening of Monday, December 28, or early Tuesday morning, December 29, and saw or heard anything that could be related to the murder of James Monaldo, call State Police Detective Bill Gomane at 883-3473, or Portland Police Detective Daniel Young at 775-6361. Monaldo’s 1986 red Toyota pickup truck (license number 92819P) had a gold stripe in the snow around his house whenever he leaves or comes home. “It’s been hard,” he says. “I’m also outraged. Anything I can do to illustrate the problem and warn other gay men, I want to do.”

Most Bashings Unreported

According to Portland Police Detective Daniel Young, many assaults on gay men in the park go unreported.

“We’re hearing from the perpetrators, when we arrest them for another assault or for robbery, that they did others, but we can’t find a report. The perpetrators will give us a detailed description of what happened — what they got, what they used, whether a fist, a knife, or a gun, but we can never find a report. People aren’t reporting it.”

Randy Scott, the owner of The Underground, believes the bars should post warnings that the Oaks are treacherous, and that gay men should stay away. “We’ve been hearing about more victimization lately than we’ve heard about in a long time,” he said. And he urges gay men and lesbians to report every crime against them. “We must,” he added. “We have to do the same thing we did with Charlie Howard, and that was to not stand aside.”

Fagbashing: One Man’s Nightmare

by Elze

He went to the Oaks with three friends to check out the scene, after the four of them celebrated one of their birthdays with dinner and champagne. A Portland businesswoman, 36, self-employed, he and his friends struck up a conversation with two men in a van, one of them a frequent visitor to the park and known to a friend of the businessman.

He ended up agreeing to a sexual encounter with one of the men. They would drive to the businessman’s home. The other man in the van was to be an observer, part of the sexual contract. The men in the van didn’t keep their end of the bargain. The businessman was brutally beaten after the three of them arrived at his home.

“Here I was thinking I had all my bases covered,” the businessman told Our Paper when interviewed about the sexual assault. “He and his friends were in a truck with a logo emblazoned on the side, one of my friends knew one of them, several people saw me go off with them, and I thought my roommate was home.”

“Are we going to do this now?” Van A asked his friend, Van B. The businessman thought they were referring to the sexual encounter. “I was laying there, unprepared, for what was about to happen.” What began was a vicious beating about the head accompanied by verbal threats of murder. “I immediately became aware of great quantities of blood,” the businessman remembered. He yelled to his roommate who was in another part of the house. After a few more blows, the two assailants split.

The businessman didn’t go to the hospital that night. “I kept saying and over again, ‘I am so ashamed,’” because I had put myself in that position. It’s absurd that I should feel that way when it’s me who’s been victimized.”

The next day, he did report the incident to the police. “They were immediately nice, he said. “There wasn’t any sense of condensation. I felt they were genuinely concerned and they made me feel like they cared.”

David Rowe, an employee of Portland Piano and Organ, a man with other assault charges pending, including an assault on his wife, is one of the alleged assailants. The police arrested him four days after the assault. He was out on bail within hours, the businessman said.

“Then the real pain started, the mental stuff,” he continued. “It went on for weeks. I’m still not totally over it.”

In the aftermath, he’d find himself crying uncontrollably, on the verge of tears all the time, and experiencing constant anxiety. “I kept reliving that moment.”

When he returned from visiting family over Christmas, alone in the house, he moved furniture in front of the doors. “I’d lie there at night and practice dialing 911 in the dark.” He still looks for footprints in the snow around his house whenever he leaves or comes home.

“It’s been hard,” he says. “I’m also outraged. Anything I can do to illustrate the problem and warn other gay men, I want to do.”

AIDS-Line 775-1267

“If you are not personally free to be yourself in that most important of all human activities—the expression of love—then life itself loses its meaning.”

Harvey Milk

page 14 OUR PAPER
Granite Press: Essential Words for Difficult Times

by Lynnette

Granite Press, owned and operated in Penobscot, Maine, by poet Bea Gates, released its third major book since entering the publishing industry in 1975.

IOXOX

Amiga* Go: Central American Women’s Poetry For Peace/Poesia De Mulheres Centroamericanas For Peace is an ambitious anthology over fifty Central American poets. The press is dedicated to widening the exposure of essential writing by women and minorities. Previously the press operated as a letter-press printshop, publishing poetry chapbooks. Last June, I spoke with Bea on the eve of the release of IOXOX in October about the press and the new anthology. This book was reviewed in the last Our Paper.

LC: Bea, how did you get interested in writing and producing books?

BG: From the age of thirteen, I would comb bookstores to look at and read all the poetry books. I was always writing poetry. It was a way for me to express myself without anyone interfering. I was groomed for poetry because I had to condemn and defend myself to the essence of a truth — everyone in my family was either screaming and yelling or not talking at all. Poetry was a means for survival. So by age 15 I knew who was family was either screaming and yelling or not talking at all.

LC: Is there a seven day kiss. I followed the tradition of poets like Virginia Woolf and Walt Whitman and taught myself printing and design. The result was a handbound book, some on handmade cloth paper in five colors. I had only enough print for two poems at a time and had to rewrite one poem for lack of space. It took me 2½ years to make. When I went around to bookstores I was told there wasn’t enough room on the shelf for a chapbook. But I was hooked on letterpress. After college, I was working at Alice’s Restaurant in the Berkshires designing an anthology with my lover. A friend told me about a Mrs. Colby who was selling a press. She was a printer and her husband was a typesetter. She never learned how to do his job because she didn’t want to get stuck with all the work. When he died she decided to sell the press. I took a loan out against a life insurance policy and bought it. From there I moved it to Hancock, next to the post office, and then to Penobscot. I could tell some stories about 5 women moving a ton and a half to get poetry published in this country.

LC: When did you publish your first book?

BG: I was 22 and in Antioch College in the Bay area. I had gone to a small press book fair in San Francisco and began to notice the press books because there is no individual metal pieces of type set by hand. The pages are printed by inking the type and then printing it on a flat plate — no photography. There should be only a slight kiss of impression on the page — lightly, not a seven day kiss. I followed the tradition of poets like Virginia Woolf and Walt Whitman and taught myself printing and design. The result was a handbound book, some on handmade cloth paper in five colors. I had only enough print for two poems at a time and had to rewrite one poem for lack of space. It took me 2½ years to make. When I went around to bookstores I was told there wasn’t enough room on the shelf for a chapbook. But I was hooked on letterpress. After college, I was working at Alice’s Restaurant in the Berkshires designing an anthology with my lover. A friend told me about a Mrs. Colby who was selling a press. She was a printer and her husband was a typesetter. She never learned how to do his job because she didn’t want to get stuck with all the work. When he died she decided to sell the press. I took a loan out against a life insurance policy and bought it. From there I moved it to Hancock, next to the post office, and then to Penobscot. I could tell some stories about 5 women moving a ton and a half to get poetry published in this country.

LC: What was it like working with a strong personality like Grace?

BG: Grace is wonderful — a good friend and supporter. When we started the book process, we initially thought about a chapbook. I worked very patiently. I knew she had the book. Over time, she would “find” her poems. Grace is shy about her poetry. The book happened because of the relationship we were able to build. It was a terrific way to start trade publication. The book is about women and change, about alcoholism and recovery. It is important. They’re looser than her stories, like a layer, a snippet of the density of her stories.

LC: After Grace Paley’s book, Learning Forward came out you began the process again with Joan Larkey.

BG: Joan’s book is very rare, a raw book. It’s also about women and change, about alcoholism and recovery and hope. The process was similar. I had the book inside her and I worked very patiently and closely with her. A Long Sound hasn’t been reviewed much in the straight press directly. It was a big undertaking for a small press. I am impressed. I am a typesetter and buying the poetry and with the quality of the whole production.

LC: What do you do about finding the material?

BG: I knew the writing was there, but I couldn’t understand why it was being ignored. Why wasn’t writing by Central American women being translated? I went to the Latin American book fair and began investigating to find out who the writers are, what was going on. I met Zoe Angell who had been traveling extensively in Central America and collecting and translating poems. She is a political and literary activist, as well as a poet and a translator. Together we began to gather material and translators. The writing is very exciting. It tells the reality of these women in extremely moving terms. The writers are witnessing the essential struggles of their people for food, freedom, equality, shelter. The war has been going on for centuries, but people just want to go about their daily lives. The poets are about their lives.

LC: Why do you feel it is so important to publish this book, especially a book of poetry?

BG: We live in a very dangerous time. We are dangerously myopic, we don’t see outside ourselves. We are blind and have a distorted picture of other parts of the world. We have no idea of how cut off and isolated we are of our effect on the rest of the world. They way we wage war is based on a pervasive assumption of superiority, an attitude of exploitation and greed. This war is not an intellectual debate. Poetry is the most powerful form of expression. It speaks from the heart. This book is a passionate, powerful book, an organizing tool. It is a feminist book. Anyone who thinks of a narrow definition of feminism should read this book and think about it. We are being watched very carefully by people in Central America, the way an abuser is watched very carefully. That’s why the quality of this book, especially the translations, is so important. There is no point in putting out a bilingual book if it is not accurately translated. How insulting.

LC: What were the some of the highlights of producing this book?

BG: Meeting the writers and hearing their work was very exciting. Last fall I was at a reading at which they weren’t going to do a series of readings around the East Coast. The readings were very well received. In our conversations I learned that most of the women are afraid of generalized war in Central America. They want to maintain a neutral status toward the U.S., but they find they are either economically dependent on the U.S. or at war or both. The war is eating away at the gains made in Nicaragua and at the excitement of the revolution. No one’s giving up, though. They have no intentions of giving up.

LC: Then that’s what this book is about, the determination of the people to live in freedom —

BG: That, and hope. Poetry is the
Winter is definite­
owning a house could become a never­
If
down I have to mount the ladder and put
the
away at the ice on the deck so

country .. .

to settle in to that interminably
temperature registers "very cold. " The

more fuel than the old one did . Is there _
faggots , most of whom lived within a ·
Penobscot . There

there. Now is there any way we could

do what has to be done. Despite this
County . As is all too often the case, there
is too much work and not enough time to

Members are actively promoting this ser­
tion and speakers for educators and

students alike. A third group is working

toward establishing a support system for

PW As and their significant others. At this

liked the December issue of

I want to end by saying how much I

It was quality reading all the way through. 

risk and wish testing and other informa­

PW As and their significant others. At this

I'm happy to know that you guys are out

Waldo County Area

News

January 10, 1988 — Winter is definite­

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with a foot of snow blanketing the town

fires

snow arrived; all of us are rurally

Great idea, simple and -

-from page 9

Brunswick Area

News

Sharing the Load

by Vivian Wadas

The word co-op in short form stems from
the word cooperate which in turn stems from
Latin co-;operari, to work. Based on the co­
principle a group of

I've never been a

held me very much. While I have your
attention, I'd also like to say thank you to all

The Brunswick volunteers also will be

now working for change.

Brunswick lesbian, signing off and

heading for bed.

P.S. For more information on the

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383-5016.
Lawyers—funny bunch. You turn to us for two reasons: either you’re in trouble and you want to get out, or you’re not yet in trouble but you fear you might be. Either way, going to a lawyer is very akin to going to a dentist—you rightly suspect it’s going to hurt. So, when you’re through, you’re never quite sure it was worth the pain (or the bill). As my mother used to say, to be blind is to be blind, but not quite—and not at all, if you happen to be gay. Irony is, we the outcasts probably have more reason than most to fear it. (And we can— with care, great care; the law is not blind.) If you happen to be gay. Irony is, we the outcasts probably have more reason than most to fear it. (And we can— with care, great care; the law is not blind.)

If you’re unable to afford an attorney, there are a variety of options. If it’s a criminal case, you can ask the court to appoint a lawyer, and you can even specify whom (assumedly, a public defender). Or, if you want representation, you can ask the court to appoint a lawyer (again, be advised: court appointed attorneys share the same problems as the public defenders). The only solution is to have a great number of lawyers (as the greater society, and prejudice can affect the quality of representation—remember, the law is not blind). In civil (non-criminal) matters, there are three possibilities: (1) if you’re over 60, there’s Legal Services for the Elderly (all over the state; call information for the nearest office); (2) Pine Tree Legal Assistance (since legal services has been gutted by the Reagan administratio, this program handles a limited number of cases, but they’re worth a call; offices all over the state); (2) Volunteer Lawyers Project (1-800-442-4293 [almost impossible to get through—be patient—call early in the morning]. Sponsored in part by the Maine Bar Association, they are in a position to tell you about any lawyer in the state who has agreed to handle cases on a no charge basis, but of course, your choices are drastically limited. If the lawyer you’re talking to is a conscientious lawyer, they may in fact ask you what kind of fee you can afford. Not with a straight face, but in the hopes of getting you to ask how much it’s going to cost. Indeed, if you feel uncomfortable coming out, you must make abolutions to handle your case. If your lawyer is handling is not the same as that of the lawyer you’ve picked, you should take a look at it carefully. If you’re not sure how much the initial consultation is going to cost, the lawyer can and will give you an estimate. However, you finally get to a lawyer, the first encounter is extremely important. Nine out of ten times, you’ll stick with the person you’re talking to, so it’s of the utmost importance that the first contact is friendly, competent, and willing to listen to your story. But don’t stop with a generalized “she was pretty good”—PROBE—find out the details. What did the lawyer do? Was she the kind of person you would expect to work with? What was she like? In the beginning, you should try to remember that you are— or should be —interviewing the lawyer for the job interview. But don’t forget your own feelings. Lawyers are supposed to be providing a service, not a pleasure. When you hire a lawyer, you are supposed to be doing the hiring. If you feel that the lawyer is not listening to you, you should either talk to someone else. It is really that simple.

The second reason of whether you should come to see your lawyer is complicated and personal, and mostly depends on the type of issue and your approach to life. Obviously, if you’re asking the lawyer to draft a partnership agreement for you and your lover, she’ll have to know your situation. Someone who works in life there’s just no beating around the bush; it’s not that you have to watch our for. After all, you don’t need a lawyer, walk out and try someone else. It really is that simple.

This brings us to the question of whether you should come to see your lawyer is complicated and personal, and mostly depends on the type of issue and your approach to life. Obviously, if you’re asking the lawyer to draft a partnership agreement for you and your lover, she’ll have to know your situation. Someone who works in life there’s just no beating around the bush; it’s not that you have to watch our for. After all, you don’t need a lawyer, walk out and try someone else. It really is that simple.

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workers contracting AIDS through accidental exposure to patients' blood or bodily fluids. The Maine Hospital Association last fall proposed changing the informed consent law to allow hospitals to test the blood of patients involved in accidental exposures without obtaining the patients' consent. Their argument was that health care workers should not have to suffer the anxiety of not knowing whether the patient had been exposed to HIV.

Opponents say hospital workers' biggest need is for education about how the virus is transmitted, and about proper methods to protect themselves. Testing patients' blood against their will violates their rights, opponents of the hospital association's plan say, and cannot solve the anxiety problem anyway, due to the limitations of the test itself. The potential exists for erroneous test results and there is lag time between exposure and antibody formation. In other words, patients who have been exposed may test negative for six months or more, even though they are truly positive and capable of transmission. A hospital worker relying on the negative test result thus would be given a false sense of security. Because of the test's limitations, opponents of the hospital association say, allowing hospitals to test without consent deprives patients of rights without truly providing benefits to health care workers.

There are competing bills in the Legislature this winter about the informed consent issue. The most stringent would require a court hearing to determine whose rights should prevail in an accidental exposure case—the patient's or the health care worker's.

Rydell said the Portland hospitals' admission forms with the HIV testing clause clearly violate the spirit of the informed consent law because they are given to people when they are in a vulnerable position, and thus unlikely to protest. "Whenever you go into the hospital, it's a traumatic time, even if it's for elective surgery," she said. "There's a tendency to be nervous, and perhaps disoriented. I would question how many people read those forms carefully."

Printed below are the HIV-testing clauses contained on the general admission forms at two of Portland's three hospitals. Our Paper was unable to obtain a copy of the form used at Osteopathic Hospital, but a reporter read the form and found it contained essentially the same language as those used at Maine Medical Center and Mercy Hospital.

**MERCY HOSPITAL**

"In the unlikely event of accidental exposure to my body fluids or blood products by personnel involved in my care, I hereby consent to a blood sample being drawn to be tested for the presence of: (1) Hepatitis B; (2) HIV antibodies or HIV antigen (which may indicate the presence of the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, commonly known as AIDS) . . . I understand that the test result will become a part of my medical record and will be disclosed only to authorized individuals having access to such records, members of the health care team involved in my care and the Department of Human Services when required by law. I give my consent freely and voluntarily for this testing and for the disclosure of test results specified above."

**MAINE MEDICAL CENTER**

"In the event of accidental exposure of personnel involved in my care to my body fluids or blood products, I further consent to sampling and testing of my blood for the presence of Hepatitis B, HIV (which may indicate the presence of the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, commonly known as AIDS), or other potentially infectious agents."

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**Civil Liberties and AIDS: A Public Forum**

7:30 pm Thursday, February 18, 1988
Moot Court Room, University of Maine Law School

Sponsored by:
Maine Civil Liberties Union
Maine Human Rights Commission
The AIDS Project
Maine Health Foundation
Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance
National Lawyers Guild

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BALCONY BAR
AND DANCE FLOOR
Heather Bishop: Maine Premiere

by Liz Brauer

Heather Bishop, Canadian singer-guitarist, made her Maine premiere on Friday, December 11 at the First Parish Unitarian Church in Portland. She was accompanied by electric guitarist Sherry Shute. An audience of about 200 participated in a very fine concert. Pine Cone Productions, an all-women’s production company, was the producer.

After seeing Heather Bishop perform at the Michigan Women’s Music Festival, I was quite excited that she would be appearing in Maine. She performed twice at Michigan: on the Night Stage for the adults and on the Day Stage for the kids. I don’t know what Heather’s definition of “child” is. Based on appreciation of her children’s music, it’s pretty loose.

Heather spends 2 months per year doing children’s concerts and 2 of her albums are children’s music. She clearly enjoys working with kids. I remember a song at Michigan about the animals having a party in the horse’s stall. She got a bunch of little girls on the stage and gave each a role in the chorus. One was a cow, two were hens, etc. Each girl had to do the appropriate actions: walk like a cow, lay eggs or whatever. Of course, Heather was appropriate actions (for a person) for her assistant. At the end of her concert, she brought her assistant on stage to give her a little hug and moved into some children’s songs. I think Heather Bishop is a terrifically talented musician. She has a strong, powerful voice which she uses to its fullest extent. I like the way she takes risks with her voice; pushing her limits. She is a great writer who does new and original work.

To lighten things up, Heather encouraged the audience to give someone a little hug and moved into some children’s music. “If You Love a Hippopotamus,” and “Bellybutton” got the audience singing and laughing. Heather (and the interpreter) even granted me and my friend’s demand (ing) request for “Oh No Bo,” a song about her Black Labradore. Bo cuts the “world’s worst whiffers” and rolls in dead things for perfume.

‘Please Me’ ended the first set. Heather wrote this torch tune after an interviewer (at sexual harassment) and ‘Fever’ (“You Don’t Own Me” just like the song) and Joan Armatrading’s “Taking My Baby Uptown.” Other numbers in the set were two new songs Heather wrote last summer while home on the prairies in Manitoba. The encore was a Dory Previn tune, “Did Jesus Have a Baby Sister?” a consistent favorite with Canadian audiences, and “Your Dignity.”

I think Heather Bishop is a terrifically talented musician. She has a strong, powerful voice which she uses to its fullest extent. I like the way she takes risks with her voice; pushing her limits. She is a great writer who does new and original work. Even her remarks are original. She seems to get past the completely new reality. I like the energy in Heather’s songs. She is not afraid to name the harmful things in this world but also celebrates the good things. “Freedom” talks about the deaths of a Black boy in South Africa, a Canadian MicMac, and El Salvadoran Woman. Even in the same song, Heather celebrates freedom. She vows to fight for everyone’s freedom, something she will never take for granted. Having her sing “Freedom,” you make the same vow; it’s that powerful.

Sherry Shute is also a very talented musician. She’s a great guitarist and sang back-up on a few songs. Heather played with a full band at Michigan and on her albums. It’s an indication of Heather and Sherry’s skills that they didn’t sound hollow with only an acoustic and electric guitar.
Front and Center: Two Women Put Their Story on the Line
by Lynsey

Words and motions mirrored each other, one woman moving for the other who stood in her shadow, one woman sprawling on the floor to express abuse and pain, all things that make the body stiffen, become hard and inflexible. "This is about carry that boot, the kick, the bruise. It is not to carry the reach, the grope, the weapon, the shame along with me."

That Barbara Maria could stand alone on stage and tell us of her life and struggle for recovery spoke clearly of her courage and self respect.

"This is exactly what I thought I would never say — that I have a right to inhabit this physical home. To throw you out and make room for myself. Room. Where a person moves as if she is free.

As Barbara speaks to her body, Karin's movements tell us what Barbara's mother has to translate them. "She had the reach, the grope, the weapon, the shame along with me."

"I want to be here. This is my body. I expect room to move."

The second half of the evening allowed us to view each performer in a solo piece. Barbara Maria, in Excuse Me, addressed the audience personally, asking our permission to tell us her story. She had the drive of a driver who had to break through her self-consciousness to do what she knows is necessary to her survival — find validation from her listeners for her life. Barbara frequently asked the audience "Excuse me but if you'd rather I didn't go on."

The point when other movement happened while balanced felt like a major breakthrough, the freedom of fresh air drawn deeply. Spitfire’s increased physical strength was evident, as well as her maturity as a performer. I would have liked more variety of movements, which would come as this piece develops. The music matched the dance well and was a welcome addition to the program. This was a powerful statement of recovery, a good choice to follow Excuse Me. Here we saw that hope is possible.

a series of movements done primarily on the floor to the music of Kouyate Sory Kandia of the Mandinke people of Africa. Karin demonstrated the precariousness of sustaining her center of balance as she proceeds in her recovery process. The times of personal blush did incredible strength. Often it appeared that all she could do was to hold on tightly to maintain this delicate sense of self. The times when other movement happened while balanced felt like a major breakthrough, the freedom of fresh air drawn deeply. Spitfire’s increased physical strength was evident, as well as her maturity as a performer. I would have liked more variety of movements, which will come as this piece develops. The music matched the dance well and was a welcome addition to the program. This was a powerful statement of recovery, a good choice to follow Excuse Me. Here we saw that hope is possible.

The final collaboration, Song of Creation, again left me out. I couldn’t hear most of the words, a major complaint from the audience, and remember little of the movements. The performers seemed tired after their solos, ready to finish. This piece needs more development to be the strong finale that is needed for this powerful movement.

Maria and Spitfire are excellent counterparts and their collaboration is a dynamic resource for all who struggle with recovery. It is unfortunate that the audience was small, mostly women from Barbara and Karin’s immediate community. The timing and lack of advertising that included some mention of the content of their performance contributed to the low attendance. But these women are courageous survivors. I am positive that audience growth will mirror the development of this performance.
Awake my love
Thou is thy only love
Why dost thy sleep so long
Awake for morning love
As you float upon illies
And mountain streams.
As you wake
To find me kissing your limbs
As your hand holds my head
As I give you sweet delight,
My love in pleasant form
All beauty with brains to match
As we have grown in our love together
Upon our waking dreams,
What do we have together
But love and trust for each other
Upon the morning star.

P. H. Groves

FAIRY
A fairy sat on my knee
Smiling merrily
In his sluttish way
Wearing gold rings
And necklaces
Disguised in his golden cage,
Laughing he fell on my thigh
And thus said
I knowest you not
O master of the fairies,
As his hands played
On my body
I think he is diseased of mind
Therefore in pity
Our bodies do make one
As we turn our wills to please and joy
This sweet water baby, my fairy
P. H. Groves

Puzzle Answers

Artwork Exhibited
Beginning Sunday, February 7th and continuing through March 6th, Entre Nous will be exhibiting PIECE BY PIECE. Recent art works by local artist Vivian Wadas. Using a variety of mixed media including oil on paper, pen and ink, colored pencil, pastels and block printing, these pieces represent the transformation of personal experiences into emotional, political and visual statements. An opening reception with the artist will be held from 3:00-6:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 7th at Entre Nous, 117 Spring Street, Portland, Maine.

February 5-14
Three Marias, adult feminist puppet performance by Shoestring Theater Workshop. 155 Brackett Street, third floor; $3.00 donation. February 5, 6, 12, 13 at 8:00. February 7, 14 at 3:00. For more information, call 773-3222 or 774-1502.

Saturday, February 6
MLGPA Annual Meeting. Senator Inn, Western Avenue, Augusta. Business meeting—12:00; caucus training—3:00. For more information, call 871-1555.

Self-Esteem Day for women, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Portland. Call 780-4205.

MLGPA annual meeting and dinner, Univ. of Maine, Augusta.

Friday, February 12
Women's Contra Dance, 8:30 p.m., South Parish Congregational Church, State St., Augusta. Music by the North Star Sisters. Beginners welcome—all dances taught. Donation $4.

Friday, Feb. 12-13, Sunday, Feb. 14
Convocation of Unitarian Universalists for Lesbian and Gay Concerns, First Parish Church, Portland.

Sunday, February 14
Valentine's Day and Mardi Gras Masquerade Party, Sportman's, 2 Bates St., Lewiston. Cash prizes. Judging at 10:30 p.m.

Female roommate wanted to share house in Waterboro. $250/month, utilities included. Call 247-4411 or 985-2479.

For Rent. One and two bedroom apartments. All utilities included. $350 per month plus $350 security deposit required. Call 924-3603, leave message if necessary.

Male couple new to Maine this past summer wishes to meet other gay guys in the Dexter area or anywhere else up here for sincere friendships. Feeling isolated. Not into bars. Write advertiser #41, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 1074, Portland, ME 04104.

Roommate wanted: GWM, 32, seeks responsible male roommate to share lovey istown apartment, no drugs, no parties. $250/month includes all utilities, must come see and talk. 775-7742 evenings.

GWF, 5'7", 130 lbs., intelligent, cute, stable, financially secure and on the masculine side; desires to meet intelligent, attractive feminine woman, with same qualities, between 25 and 40, to share my heart and my love. Write advertiser #42, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, ME 04104.

Male, 23-35, share large Spring and Brackett St. apt. Newly renovated, partially furnished. $350/month includes heat, basic utilities, off-street parking, w/w carpeting, own bedroom. Non-smoker preferred. Neat, clean, responsible, considerate, reasonably priced. Phone Gill, 775-3083, evenings and weekends.

Visiting the Boston/Cambridge Area? Marigold's B&B for women welcomes you with lovely smoke-free rooms, fresh fruit, flowers, warm hospitality. "Close to everything." 617-244-8617.

Seeking HAIRY MENS! National adlist for bears and smooth or hairy trapppers. If you love fur, this is the list! Information? Send #2.00 to: MAN-FAIR, 59 West 10th St., NYC 10011.

The rate for classifieds is $4 for 30 words, 10¢ for each additional word. For personals add $2 for batinglist. All ads must be prepaid. Mail ads to Our Paper, P.O. Box 1074, Portland, ME 04104. We ask that you not use sexually explicit language in your personals. Responses to personals will not be opened by Our Paper and will be forwarded to you twice monthly.
LESBIGAY NETWORK

MEETINGS

SUNDAYS

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

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

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

Bangor Area Gay/Lesbian/Straight Coalition (BAGLSC) meets the first Sunday and third Thursdays of every month at 87 Sunset Strip in Brewer at 7:00 p.m.

Dignity/Maine — every Sunday, doors open at 5:30 p.m., mass at 6 p.m., First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland (please see rear entrance).

MONDAYS

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

Greater Bangor NOW, fourth Monday of every month, 7-9 p.m. Call 589-3306 for info.

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays — last Tuesday of the month, 7:30, First Parish Church Pilgrim House, 9 Cleaveland St., Brunswick. Call 725-4769 for information.

Our Paper staff meeting — every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. 9 Deering St., Portland. New members are welcome.

Greater Portland N.O.W. — fourth Tuesday of the month, 7:30, First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, 425 Congress St., Portland.

Fridays

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

SATURDAYS

Wilde-Stelm Club — Thursday evening 6-9 p.m., Sutton Lounge, Memorial Union, UMO.

Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous — every Thursday, step meeting, 7:30 p.m., First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, 425 Congress St., Portland.
by Peter L. Chandler

On the year's eve I had a chance to talk with Holly Near. It was exciting to talk with a performer of that caliber. We talked of many different things. One thing we spoke of was the upcoming presidential campaign. She is giving support to Jesse Jackson by means of performing in benefits. She told me she was dismayed by the strong grassroots vote which still seems to be out of his reach. She believes the very people who should be supporting him through various moral ties are not doing so. Her final word on the subject was we are morally bound to make informed decisions about the individuals we place in authority.

When I asked her what it is most about her and her music she wants to be most remembered by, she said: "I really should come up with a uniform answer for that. I haven't yet. Probably I would like to have people understand that I care very much about my music and my audience. It matters to me that the y know this." My strongest impression of Holly was of the comfortable way she moved in crowds and spoke with people and still had plenty of room to move freely. She's very easy-going and fun to talk to. I was to meet her twenty minutes before her final performance, and I waited with anxiety for what seemed like hours. Then, moving freely through the crowds of people lined up to see her, she came walking up with this smile and said, "see I didn't forget you, I was out walking around the city and it's very nice." I stupidly said thank you. Thing is I've only been living here just over a year.

Her performances were excellent in my opinion. In the first show she did several old songs along with some new. An a cappella version of "Child of Wonder" drew standing applause. In the hall and Holly had been made for each other—her voice carried beautifully. In both performances she spoke of the March on Washington in the fall. She spoke of how moved she was by the giant quilt made for the victims of AIDS. Holly then did something tricky, she said, "there is this group of people that get very nervous when they think I might be a lesbian, and then there's the other group which gets very nervous when they think I'm not!" Well, all I can say is during my talk with Holly I got not one clue as to the answer to that nagging question so I ask it now . . . are you?

In her second show she did an excellent rendition of Chris Williamson's "Waterfall," from the Changer and the Changed album. She left us "Singing for our Lives," and slowly walked off stage. I was backstage when she came up with this idea and ran out of the room asking her manager if there was room for her to lead the audience out to the street and to the fireworks singing the song. Space and organization would not allow her to do this.

It was very challenging for me to take the opportunity put before me and I'm very glad of the outcome of my time with Holly. I hope you people out there will take opportunities presented to you. It is helpful to have the support of individuals like Holly and we need to let them know we care.

A New Year's Eve Visit with Holly Near

Holly Near was in very talented company on stage New Year's. John Bocchino, a musician from California accompanied Holly on piano. When we spoke to John backstage he told us, "I met Holly at the San Francisco airport three years ago and shortly after that I went to work with her." I was equipped with recent copies of Our Paper and gave him some. "This is big, it's good to have a paper like this," he said. "It will be good reading on the plane tonight." During the shows he had several solos. In the first show he was marvelous and the second was even better. Together they put on a show for which I would have gladly paid more, so for the money it was priceless.

—Peter L. Chandler

Holly Near on stage at Portland City Hall on Dec. 31, when she headlined the annual New Year's/Portland celebration.