Community Pride Reporter, 03/1998b

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Tourist Towns Consider Equal Rights Ordinances

BAR HARBOR, Maine (AP) Two tourist towns have taken cautious first steps that could lead to adoption of local gay rights ordinances following last month's statewide vote that deleted sexual orientation from Maine's human rights code.

Bar Harbor and Camden voted about 3-1 in favor of the gay rights legislation that was narrowly defeated in the Feb. 10 referendum, and some residents suggest that the towns should enact anti-discrimination measures of their own.

Should that happen, the two coastal towns would join Portland and Long Island as the only Maine communities with such ordinances on the books.

Gay rights supporters in Camden and Bar Harbor indicated that their stance was motivated by economic considerations as well as by a desire to outlaw discrimination against homosexuals in such areas as housing, jobs and public accommodations.

Chamber of commerce officials in the two towns expressed fear that some would-be vacationers may boycott all of Maine this summer without realizing that Camden and Bar Harbor lined up solidly in favor of gay rights.

After two of its members raised the issue Tuesday night, the Bar Harbor Town Council voted to ask the town attorney to draft an ordinance that would attract debate at a future meeting.

The night before, Camden real estate broker Susan Dorr asked the Board of Selectmen to adopt a gay rights measure.

"It just makes use of the very clear message that Camden voters have said twice on this matter," said Dorr, who pointed to the town's strong anti-discrimination stance in state-vote votes.

"This is an important area to explore, to say unequivocally that Camden won't discriminate," she said.

While expressing support for gay rights, selectmen instructed the town attorney to review the legal ramifications and advised the town manager to seek information on local anti-discrimination ordinances.

A leader in the gay rights campaign, Karen Geraghty of Maine Won't Discriminate, said she could understand the frustration of townspeople that prompted the local efforts but reiterated that a statewide law was the ideal solution.

"Every citizen in Maine ought to have the same basic rights," Geraghty said. "I don't think that if you grow up in Bangor that you ought to have to move to Portland or Camden or any other place in order to have protection against discrimination."

Horror Writer's Gift Funds Shelter For Abused Mothers And Children

BATH, Maine (AP) Stephen King, whose bestselling novel "Rose Madder" focused on the impact of domestic violence, has donated $50,000 to Family Crisis Services to open a shelter in Bath for abused women and children.

The gift was among the latest examples of low-key philanthropy by King and his wife Tabitha, whose past donations have benefited the University of Maine, the Bangor Public Library and Little League baseball, among others.

Backers had hoped to open the shelter later this spring in a house with a tenant whose rent would help pay the mortgage. Thanks to the Kings' gift, the entire building will be used as a shelter and renovations will be completed earlier than first anticipated.

Lois Reckitt, director of Family Crisis Services, said the check arrived Christmas Eve, at a time when the financial outlook for the planned shelter was uncertain.

"We started dancing around and hugging each other in the office," Reckitt said. "That's how huge a gift it was for us."

The Kings, who live in Bangor, have a policy of not commenting on their charitable efforts.

Call your Town Office: Ask if they are holding meetings concerning Equal Rights Ordinances.
Bowdoin Seeks Answer To Discrimination Concerns

Brunswick, Maine (AP) The president of Bowdoin College said he thinks new programs will dispel concerns about discrimination raised in a national survey of students at four-year private colleges.

President Robert Edwards was dismayed when the survey found that Bowdoin students reported a higher-than-average perception of discrimination against women, minorities, the disabled, and lesbians and gays.

The graduating seniors told Higher Education Research Institute that 54 percent of their classmates were prejudiced against women and 55 percent were biased against Hispanics, blacks and Asians.

Between 54 percent and 69 percent said they observed discrimination against those groups, as well as lesbians and gays.

"I absolutely think those numbers are going to change," Edwards said. "I think the problem is fundamentally right-minded, and we have to be eternally vigilant to be our best selves.

He pointed to a number of programs the college has created that he hopes will change students' perceptions.

For example, there is now more faculty and staff discussion about discrimination, Edwards said. Also, the college created a new sexual harassment policy and gave a professor six months off to study the role of women at the college, he said.

Bowdoin also has an ongoing mentoring program that matches minority students with minority alumni. And it has barred fraternities, which attracted more white men than women and minorities.

Betty Trout-Kelly, who works with Edwards' office on minority issues, has spent the last eight years trying to make Bowdoin more hospitable to its Hispanic, black and Asian students.

She said many Bowdoin professors still express shock that some of those students do well in class.

"What they do often is assume they don't know the answers," she said. As a result, she said, the students are invisible in classes and can become alienated from their peers.

Part of Edwards' solution is to attract more black, Asian and Hispanic professors. Bates College in Lewiston has 26 minority professors, nearly twice Bowdoin's number, officials said.

Hate Group Takes Message To The Internet

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) With the teen-agers clustering around the deejay and the chaperones roaming the room, the Universalist Church event had all the elements of the typical high school dance.

But this was different. The dozens of teens who spent Saturday night dancing with their friends found a comfort level they didn't find elsewhere.

The approximately 50 teens are gay, lesbian and bisexual. The dance was the fourth of its kind spon-

sored by Concord Outright, a group that also organizes support meetings for gay teen-agers.

"Out in the world, even if somebody is not discriminating, you're always afraid," said Carey Harris, a senior at John Stark Regional High School. "Here it doesn't matter. No one judges you. This is open, and it's really nice.

"The goal of the dance is "to have a situation where kids feel safe," said Knox Turner, Concord Outright administrator.

At other dances, "they can't bring the person they really want to dance with," Turner said. "These kids are struggling with what they believe is a very hostile environment.

A 17-year-old Gosford student said coming to the dance made him realize he's not alone. "I got to a high school where no one else is out," he said. "Just being with people who know what I went through, those are very important things."
Girls, Women And Boys
Trek To Feminist Summit

By Paisley Dodds
CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) Self-esteem is in. Skinny models are out. And it's high time for a female president.

Meet the young feminists.

"A lot of people don't understand that feminism isn't just about women, it's about equal rights," says Zachary Bowman, an 18-year-old high school student from Portland, Maine. "Not all women are supermodels. Not all men like to play sports. Not all people are treated equally. That's what it's about."

About 700 feminists ranging from 8- to 80-years-old trekked to Massachusetts this weekend for the Young Feminist Summit, sponsored by the National Organization for Women.

Participants broke off into groups to talk about how women are portrayed in the media, how welfare reform will affect the poor, about rape and teen pregnancy.

"We're tired of looking at half-naked women in magazines," said the 13-year-old from Auburn Middle School in Auburn, Maine. "We don't want to read articles about how to get a man or how to be happy or about issues affecting us.

Zachary's group pasted supermodel Naomi Campbell's face onto a Rubenesque body clad in sweatpants. Anna Bullet's group pasted an "X" cut from a mascara ad over a picture of a bare-legged woman.

"We have access to birth control. When I come here and see that these kids are lightyears ahead where we were 30 years ago, it makes me feel great," Ireland said in an interview on Saturday. "Those who see that there is still inequality, those who are not lulled by complacency, seem to link together these days. It's only natural that some of the people are men, and even boys."

About 70 young men showed up for the summit. Bowman, three other young men, and about 20 young women sat cross-legged and spent more than an hour cutting out magazine advertisements they felt "dissed" women.

"Yes, of course we still think that models are beautiful. But what we want to do is teach people that only about 5 percent of the world's population has the genetic makeup of supermodels," said Bowman, who volunteers in an abuse-prevention program targeted at young people.

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"We're tired of looking at half-naked women in magazines," said the 13-year-old from Auburn Middle School in Auburn, Maine. "We don't want to read articles about how to get a man or how to please a man. We want to read articles about how to be happy or about issues affecting us.

"We now have laws that call for equal pay for equal work. We now have laws to protect against harassment. We have access to birth control. When I come here and see that these kids are lightyears ahead where we were 30 years ago, it makes me feel great."

Thorton Students Agree
To Stop Harassment

Saco, Maine (AP) Two Saco teen-agers accused of harassing a fellow Thornton Academy student because they thought he was gay have signed an agreement to stay away from him.

Assistant Attorney General Stephen Wessler said Corey Gaumont, 16, and Ryan Kerry, both 16, signed consent agreements this week.

Wessler said the consent agreement is not an admission of guilt, but would protect the victim from future harassment by the boys.

The boys were charged with the civil rights complaint if the findings are of guilt, but would protect the victim has conducted a criminal agreement is not an admission The Saco Police Department in February for allegedly harass- the York County district attorney's office for review.

Injunction under the Maine Civil Rights Act to prevent the boys from threatening or assaulting any person because of their perceived sexual orientation.

The state had alleged that Kerry and Gaumont were involved in separate incidents of name calling and harassment, including one in which Kerry allegedly threatened the boy with a knife during a foreign language class.

The Saco Police Department has conducted a criminal investigation of the allegations, a police spokesman said.

Criminal charges could be filed if the findings are forwarded to the York County district attorney's office for review.

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Sexual Harassment Covers Same-Sex Mistreatment

By Richard Carelli
WASHINGTON (AP) On-the-job torment can be illegal sexual harassment even when the offender and victim are of the same sex, the Supreme Court ruled Wednesday in a decision that could touch virtually every American workplace.

The court said same-sex harassment can violate federal anti-discrimination law as it voted unanimously to revive a Louisiana lawsuit closely watched by the nation's employers and gay rights groups.

Under a 1977 sexual harassment lawsuit, a man alleged he was sexually harassed by three other men while working on a Gulf of Mexico oil rig.

Wednesday's decision provided important new guidelines for resolving sex harassment claims, but plenty of questions remain about the legality of certain conduct in specific employment settings.

"Common sense and an appropriate social context will enable courts and juries to distinguish" between what is legal and illegal, Justice Antonin Scalia wrote in the court's opinion, and I haven't discriminated against anybody, McBride said. It is clear Mayor Mark McBride won't discriminate.

State Organization Calls For Boycott Of Myrtle Beach

Myrtle Beach, S.C. (AP) - Until the mayor changes his tune, union families should vacation elsewhere as a show of support, officials of the AFL-CIO unions said Tuesday.

The AFL-CIO unions are concerned that the labor group, with 5,000 members statewide and 13,000 nationally, would encourage a boycott.

City council members are concerned that the labor group, with 5,000 members statewide and 13,000 nationally, would encourage a boycott.

Myrtle Beach officials announced plans for a gay rights march and closed the beach to a group of nightclub owners who wanted to hold an outdoor Village People concert.

Myrtle Beach, S.C. (AP) - The five Divas of Disco will perform May 2 at Doug Shaw Memorial Stadium, Grand Strand nightclub owners said Tuesday.

Performers will include Alicia Bridges ("I Love The Nightlife"); Thelma Houston ("Don't Leave Me This Way"); Vicki Sue Robinson ("Turn The Beat Around"); Sister Sledge ("We Are Family"); and Gloria Gaynor ("I Will Survive").

Dene Terrio, who hosted "Dance Fever," will be the emcee.

The Village People originally were to perform at Broadway at the Beach. But Burroughs & Chapin Co. Inc., one of the area's largest landowners, said the festival goes against "family values" and refused to allow the outdoor concert at its entertainment complex.

The five-hour concert starts at 4 p.m.
Maine AIDS Alliance

AIDS Coalition of Lewiston/Auburn: P.O. Box 7997, Lewiston, ME 04243. Call 207-568-4697.


Camp Chrysalis: P.O. Box 990, Belfast, Maine. Call 207-333-2061.

Community AIDS Awareness Program: P.O. Box 457, Rumford, ME 04076. Call 207-364-8803.

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


Lebanon-Gay Catholics
The organization DignityMaine offers supportive Masseys for LGBTQI Catholics & their friends/families. Meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 6:30 PM in the basement of St. John's Catholic side chapel, 134 State St., Portland. Coffee &沙漠 offer the meeting. Call 207-667-2609 or岚/Maine: 207-773-0546; wwww.dignitymaine.org, Portland 04101. All replies kept confidential.

DignityMaine Call: 207-773-3880.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered "chamber of commerce" for Maine. Meetings for networking or dinner with speaker events held in the Greater Portland area, second Monday of the month. FMI call PO Box 730, Concord, NH 03302-0730.


Maine Statewide, non-profit organization established to create a gay, lesbian, bi and transgendered "chamber of commerce" for Maine. Meetings for networking or dinner with speaker events held in the Greater Portland area, second Monday of the month. FMI call PO Box 730, Concord, NH 03302-0730.

Maine AIDS Network

Maine LGBT Pride Center
Maine LGBT Pride Center: 207-773-3880.

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

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


Maine Speakerout for Equal Rights
Trains and deploys volunteers statewide to speak with citizens in their towns and regions about their lives and the lives of others who experience discrimination. For information on activities in your county: 207-879-0480 or write: MSOP, 123 Congress St., #1 Portland, Maine 04101. You need not be a speaker to work with these trains.

Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network
GLSEN is a national organization working to end homophobia in schools. GLSEN members are working to ensure that all students have the right to learn in schools which are free from discrimination, harassment and threats. Although, regardless of sexual orientation or occupation, are welcome as members. The Southern Maine chapter of GLSEN meets 6:30 - 8:30 on the 3rd Monday of the month (with some exceptions for holidays and vacations) at Waynflete School Library, 64 Emery St., Portland, ME.

Non-members welcome. FMI 207-773-9547 or write PO Box 10384, Portland ME 04110.

Maine LGBT Pride Center
Maine LGBT Pride Center: 207-568-4697. Fax: 207-568-4828. E-mail: info@maineaidsnetwork.org. Web page: www.maineaidsnetwork.org. Phone: 207-773-2020. E-mail: info@maineaidsnetwork.org. Fax: 207-773-2021.

Support Groups

Maine Gay Catholics
The organization DignityMaine offers supportive Masses for LGBTQC Catholic & their friends/families. Meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 6:30 PM in the basement of St. John's Catholic side chapel, 134 State St., Portland. Coffee &沙漠 offer the meeting. Call 207-667-2609 or岚/Maine: 207-773-0546; wwww.dignitymaine.org, Portland 04101. All replies kept confidential.

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Portland:
Mondays: People Living with HIV disease and all friends, families, partners & caregivers. FMI call Gerry at 207-774-6877.

1st Wednesday: PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support), 3:30 pm. Call 775-997S. Charles Winston, Program Coordinator.

Thursdays: People living with HIV from 5:30-7:00 pm. TAP, 142 High Street Suite 632, Portland, ME 04101.

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

The AIDS Project hosts meetings at the AIDS Project, 142 High St., 6th floor, except the Tuesday group, Living Well. FMI on that call Sandy Tins at Sentinel Health Care. Call Jane Brooke at 207-774-8877 or 1-800-851-2471 for more information.

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

Auburn: People living with HIV disease, Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00 pm at Auburn Family Planning. Call Diana Carrigan, Androscoggin and Oxford Case Manager and Support Services Coordinator for TAP at the Auburn Family Planning, 207-774-6877.

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

Children's Support Group: Fun activities and outings for children who are affected by HIV/AIDS. Meetings are held twice monthly on Mondays at 5:30-7:00 pm at the Innovative Health Care Building on Water Street, behind City Hall in Bangor. FMI call 207-990-3626.

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

Forster: People affected or infected by HIV, Mondays, 5:30-7:00 pm on Me. Mic. AIDS Center classroom opposite cafeteria on 2nd floor. Call John Beausoleil at 846-347-002. FMI call Jane @ 207-774-6877.

Farmingdale: Thursdays: 6:30-8:00 pm.

HIV support group. Call Christie Foster at Trinity County Health Services, 778-4553, for location.

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

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

 Lewiston: 4th Thursday: Great Expectations monthly drop-ins for gay, bi & questioning men of all ages. Call 207-774-6877 or write to Lewiston AIDS Project.

Rumford/Merced Area: AIDS Support Group/Phone line meets from 7-9 pm at Groton Congregational Church, Main Street, Mexico. Call 364-8303.

New Hampshire:
Derry area: Support group open to anyone infected with AIDS/HIV Hosted by the Ecumenical AIDS Task Force, St. Thomas Aquinas. FMI or reservations, call Jane Dewey at 603-432-7536.

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

Indianapolis Youth Group. Staffed every Thursday at UU Church corner of Canal and Main St., behind City Hall in Bangor.

Portsmouth/Oxford: Families of gay men of all ages in southwestern New Hampshire and southwestern Maine who get together for potluck supper meetings at 6:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month at the Center of Hope in Rednsorption (NH); outdoor activities and meetings are listed in the monthly newsletter. FMI: MVM, Box 36, Car Conway, NH 03868; Paul Burke, 603-524-1034; email DESPALT@AOL.COM.

Seacoast Gay Men: Social group meets Mondays (except holidays), 7 pm Unitarian Universalist Church, 24 State St., Portsmouth.

W.O.W. (Wild Outdoor Women): Recreational group meets monthly for outdoor activities followed by potluck socials. Activities include: hiking, hiking, camping, kayaking, boating, birding. FMI: Jen @ 207-877-2379.

Seacoast Stein Club: Meets every Thursdays at 6:30 pm at Memorial Union, Sutton House on the campus of the University of New Hampshire.

Dartmouth Women's Meeting: Meets every Monday at 9 pm at the Women's Resource Center, Dartmouth College. FMI call 603-646-5636.
Seaglass Performing Arts
Seaglass Chorale will perform a Spring Concert together with the Boy Singers of Maine, Saturday March 21, 8:00 PM at St. David’s Church, Route 1 South, Kennebunk and Sunday March 22, 4:00 PM at the Chestnut Street Church in Portland. FMI 207-985-8747.

Brunswick
"Poetry Workshop with William Carpenter." Saturday, April 4 from 11 AM - 4 PM at the MWPA office, 12 Pleasant St, Brunswick. Call MWPA to register at 729-6333.

Calender Items

"Steal This Idea!" A workshop for Self-Publishers. Saturday, March 28 at the MWPA office in Brunswick.

Attention Writers:
For the first time ever, Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance is sponsoring a writing competition focusing on childrens literature: the 1998 Maine Chapbook Award. Writers may submit picture books, middle readers and young adult books. For a copy of the competition guidelines call 729-6333, write to MWPA at 12 Pleasant Street, Brunswick, ME 04011, or refer to the March issue of Maine in Print, the MWPA newspaper. Manuscripts must be received by Friday, April 3, 1998.

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

San Francisco Gay/Lesbian Tourism Guide
An online merchant-sponsored Internet website geared to gay and lesbian travelers to the San Francisco area. It is compatible with most mainstream

Music & Art

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

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

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

Online/Internet

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

The Maine GayNet Home Page
An ever-changing display of events and information. Meetings, contact people, resources & referrals. Point your WEB Browser to: http://www.qrd.org/www/usa/maine. FMI e-mail Paula Stockholm: paula@maine.com
C. M. Brennan
The promise of spring hiding just around the corner gives life to all those hopeful hopes of renewal under the sun's warming rays: shamrocks, tulips, daffodils ducking their heads at passersby; maples strip-teasing new leaves from red buds; Sluggal the Sea Dog returning from his winter digs in Casco Bay; battalions of bumblebees and single lesbians looking for new honey.

We are at least assured that the bees will get theirs. As for the single lesbians, well....let's just say that every day that passes, we think they will have a winning season, too. Somehow, I never make it to the big dance, either.

Maybe it's just me, but the older I get, the harder it is to find a suitable date. Seems like when I was in my early twenties, things like financial stability and family-orientation never crossed my mind — all I cared about was if the lady in question was single, even if only for a few hours. Cuteness counted far more than compatibility. Cute simply doesn't cut it anymore. These days, when I look into a woman's eyes, I wanna see "retirement portfolio", not just "I want to make love." But I am tired of the bar scene. Actually, "tired" is the wrong word: "dis­flapjacks on your tummy." Like a lot of single lesbians, I"DARLENE."

I'M NOT GONNA CALL "WHAT?"
"CALL ME DAR-L-E-N-E!"
"I'M NOT GONNA CALL YOU 'DARLING,' WE JUST MEt!

Worse still when considering that such futile attempts at conversation aren't reserved for the sobriety-challenged: in a bar, it is entirely likely that you will make a completely uninvited move out of yourself without assistance from St. Louis. The possibility for unintended spectacle is inversely proportionate to the amount of alcohol consumed: when a goodly number of patrons are tanked, standing upright makes one stand out like a sore thumb. It can be a trial.

Responding to personal ads is a little like trying to pogo-stick through a mine field: as if the endeavor itself wasn't dangerous enough in its own right, you never know when some pretty peony is going to blow up in your face.

School teachers who bemoan the lack of creative writing in modern society have not picked up a copy of Casco Bay Weekly and read the personal ads. Based on my own experience (having met a few women in this fashion), there seems to be some mighty fine creative writing happening on those pages, some more unintentional than the rest.

To wit: "Professional lesbian ISO like-minded other." Professional lesbian — you mean, I could get paid for this? As opposed to an amateur lesbian? Misplaced modi­fiers aside, it is a challenge to find an ad literate enough to consider answering, no matter how alluringly the others may dangle their participles. And, due to the tide of lesbian chic, it is hard to pick out the genuine article from amongst the lesbian wanna-be crowd: it becomes a classified version of "Where's Waldo?" A few Melissa CDs and a pair of Birkenstocks do not a lesbian make.

There are the on-line chat rooms, of course, which are little more than animated personal ads.

Eventually we have to realize when and where, if and where, I might meet the woman who will be The One. Drop Me A Line? At City Hall when I renew my fishing license? Hadlock Field? Thumping melons at the local farmer's market? Or, perhaps, when I least expect it, when my hair's a mess and I have once again slopped coffee down my shirtfront, I will look up and there She will be.

Is it ever really that easy? I hope so.

Florida Woman Offended By Library Book Subject Matter

The Community Pride Reporter is printed on recycled paper using soy based inks. This practice reflects our commitment to responsible use of our earth's resources. Using recycled paper sometimes results in the paper having a toned down or grayish tinge. However we feel this is a small price to pay as Community Pride Reporter does it's part to "Color ME Green."

Coral Lee Craig, who failed to get the book banned from the library last year, has taken matters into her own hands, keeping a copy checked out for about a year.

There's more than one way to skin a cat," said Ms. Craig, of Palm Bay.

Ms. Craig, a member of the Christian Coalition, said she and some friends have borrowed the book for three weeks at a time throughout the year. They haven't been completely successful since the library system has four more copies of the book.

Ms. Craig said the children's book is inappropriate for youngsters because of its homosexual theme. "Daddy's Roommate" is written from the viewpoint of a young boy whose father divorces his mother and moves in with a male partner.

The book caused a stir when it was published in 1990. Ms. Craig said it's a recruitment tool for gays.

Ms. Craig also has managed to keep another gay-oriented children's book off the shelves. "The Duke Who Outlawed Jelly Beans" tells fairy tales that have gay adults throughout the stories.

Ms. Craig said the children's book was the most difficult because it is harder to tell when and where, if and where, the gay content is occurring.

Worse still when considering that such futile attempts at conversation aren't reserved for the sobriety-challenged: in a bar, it is entirely likely that you will make a completely uninvited move out of yourself without assistance from St. Louis. The possibility for unintended spectacle is inversely proportionate to the amount of alcohol consumed: when a goodly number of patrons are tanked, standing upright makes one stand out like a sore thumb. It can be a trial.

Responding to personal ads is a little like trying to pogo-stick through a mine field: as if the endeavor itself wasn't dangerous enough in its own right, you never know when some pretty peony is going to blow up in your face.

School teachers who bemoan the lack of creative writing in modern society have not picked up a copy of Casco Bay Weekly and read the personal ads. Based on my own experience (having met a few women in this fashion), there seems to be some mighty fine creative writing happening on those pages, some more unintentional than the rest.

To wit: "Professional lesbian ISO like-minded other." Professional lesbian — you mean, I could get paid for this? As opposed to an amateur lesbian? Misplaced modifiers aside, it is a challenge to find an ad literate enough to considering answering, no matter how alluringly the others may dangle their participles. And, due to the tide of lesbian chic, it is hard to pick out the genuine article from amongst the lesbian wanna-be crowd: it becomes a classified version of "Where's Waldo?" A few Melissa CDs and a pair of Birkenstocks do not a lesbian make.

There are the on-line chat rooms, of course, which are little more than animated personal ads.

Eventually we have to realize when and where, if and where, I might meet the woman who will be The One. Drop Me A Line? At City Hall when I renew my fishing license? Hadlock Field? Thumping melons at the local farmer's market? Or, perhaps, when I least expect it, when my hair's a mess and I have once again slopped coffee down my shirtfront, I will look up and there She will be.

Is it ever really that easy? I hope so.
WASHINGTON, DC March 2, 1998 Recent court rulings in favor of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) rights provided a welcome contrast to the recent, disappointing repeal of Maine’s civil rights law and slow-going progress in state legislatures. In less than a week’s time, February 27 to March 4 - three important court rulings have come down in favor of equality for GLBT persons.

The courts have once again proved an important safety net in ensuring basic constitutional and human rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people,” stated NGLTF executive director Kerry Lobel.

Today the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force released its latest Legislative Update. The Legislative Update tracks GLBT-related and HIV/AIDS-related bills in state legislatures throughout the country for the 1998 legislative year. This Update documents well over 100 pieces of GLBT and HIV/AIDS-related bills in 33 states. Attacks against GLBT families in the form of anti-adoption/ fostering, anti-marriage, and anti-domestic partnership measures were numerous. In addition to legislation, in other state news

On the judicial front, on February 27 an Alaska Superior Court rejected the state’s request to dismiss a lawsuit filed by two men for right to marry. Similar to the way the Hawaii marriage case progressed, the judge ruled the State of Alaska must show a compelling interest to prohibit same gender couples from marrying. The state will likely appeal the ruling to the State Supreme Court. If the lower court ruling is upheld, a trial would be held where the state would be made to demonstrate a state interest.

Days later after the Alaska decision, a New Jersey court came down on the side of discrimination. On March 2, a New Jersey state appeals court ruled that the Boy Scouts of America prohibition against gay men was a violation of the state’s civil rights law which bans discrimination against persons based on sexual orientation.

Then on March 4, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously that federal sexual harassment law includes same-sex harassment. This is an important victory as harassment against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons often occurs as a form of sex harassment where men are ridiculed for being "too feminine" or women for being "too masculine."

These rulings are stark proof to the repeal last month of Maine’s civil rights law. The measure was passed by the state legislature and signed into law by Governor Angus King last May. Right wing groups secured signatures to put the issue to a public vote, employing Maine’s rarely used ‘people’s veto’ provision. The law was repealed by less than two percentage points on February 10.

The invoking of New Jersey’s civil rights law in the Boy Scouts decision highlights the necessity of anti-discrimination laws and the disappointment in the repeal of Maine’s law. “These recent decisions further underscore the importance of civil rights laws for our community. Without the law in New Jersey, the court may not have ruled as it did,” said Kerry Lobel.

Ten states have laws banning discrimination based on sexual orientation. They are New Hampshire (1997); Rhode Island (1995); Minnesota (1993); California, Vermont and New Jersey (1992); Hawaii and Connecticut (1991); Massachusetts (1989); and Wisconsin (1982).

As of March 11, 1998, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force tracked 146 gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender (GLBT) or HIV/AIDS-related state legislative measures. They have been introduced in 33 states and Puerto Rico. The Task Force has classified 67 of these bills as unfavorable and 79 as favorable to the GLBT community. HIV/AIDS related bills account for approximately a third (49) of all measures tracked. When these HIV-related measures are taken out of the equation, 56 bills are considered favorable in the arena of civil rights, 14 favorable measures were introduced, though passage for most of them seems unlikely. In addition, while 4 states in 1997 passed hate crimes laws that included sexual orientation (see NGLTF’s Capital Gains and Losses 1997), it’s unlikely that 1998 will come close to a repeat of such a major legislative success.

Insurance Tips: Am I Covered?

by Carolyn Salbert

Do you use your car in the course of your employment? You may not have coverage!

If your employer asks you to transport clients and you use your own vehicle, you may not have coverage!

In recent months, we have received an alarming influx of phone calls from our insured clients who ask us if they should be covered if they have rides to clients or to medical appointments, interviews or to drive them for personal care errands. If you are providing transportation as a paid employee in nearly all cases your are not covered under your personal auto policy.

If you volunteer, and do not accept monetary compensation, the State of Maine Insurance Department will enforce that your insurance carrier provide coverage under your personal auto insurance policy.

However, if you are an employee and are found liable for an accident while transporting a patient, client or transporting goods during the course of your employment your personal auto policy will not respond.

If you are delivering pizza or sandwichwiches and use your own vehicle, which is insured under a personal auto policy, your policy will have exclusionary language specific to this regard that you should read. Delivering newspapers with your own car - same problem.

Personal auto policies do not contemplate this additional exposure and are specific about excluding this type of commercial exposure. Personal auto policies do not build a sufficient premium base to support this type of open ended exposure.

There is no way for the employer to control what type of condition the employee’s auto is in such a regular safety inspection, reviewing driving records, making certain all state safety laws are enforced or that they are adequately insured. It’s a litigation nightmare waiting to blow up.

Employers, managers and organization leaders - do you want to expose both your organization and employees to lawsuits?

Do you know what your company or organizations position is on this? Also think twice about what would happen to all those concerned if no coverage is provided.

Whether transporting individuals or pizzas in the course of employment for a fee, you need commercial liability insurance. Don’t take chances, call your agent and make certain you have it in writing that you are covered.

All too often the agent and insurance company don’t know that you are using your vehicle for this purpose. Winging it is often the method of choice in our society and we hear it often - Won’t happen to me, or I’ll chance it.

Doing things the right way may cost a little more but consider the negative impact of an uncovered property loss accompanied by extensive injuries. Court costs alone could drain your household, business or organization of all of its financial resources.

The purpose of carrying insurance is to provide you with protection, but if you choose to ignore a potential exposure - the ramifications can be devastating. When in doubt, call your agent.

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Favorable Court Rulings Contrast Legislative Progress:

State Republican Parties Adopt Anti-Gay Platforms

Our Mission

Community Pride Reporter serves as a source of local, state, national and international news, information, ideas and entertainment for the GLBT, gay, bisexual and transgendered people.

CPR pledges to present materials that contribute in a positive way to the GLBT, gay, bisexual and transgendered people.

Our Editorial Policy

Views and opinions, political and personal, expressed in Community Pride Reporter are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily those of the publisher. Community Pride Reporter endorses candidates we feel represent our community as a whole.

Community Pride Reporter disclaims legal responsibility for errors in editorial or advertising content, as all reasonable care is taken to prevent such errors. If an error has significantly detracted from the clarity of information presented, the Publisher may consider printing a correction.

Disclaimer of errors and discretion as to assumption should be made concerning the sexual self-identification of either contributors or advertisers.

Submissions Welcome

CPR encourages readers to write! Material submitted for publication must be legibly signed and include address and/or phone number for verification. All submissions are subject to editing. Please keep letters to the CPR Mailbag to 200 words or less. Slightly longer and more complex submissions may be considered for a guest editorial at the Publisher’s discretion. If requested, the Publisher may agree to withhold the name of an author for appropriate reasons. Questions regarding submissions should be directed to the publishing editor.

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Please contact the office at 207-282-6045 for special publishing needs especially inclusion in a particular issue.
Advice to “Ellen”: Make Your Point But Make Us Laugh

By Lynn Elber

LOS ANGELES (AP) “Seinfeld,” which is about nothing, is wrapping up its nine-year run covered with glory as TV’s most popular sitcom. “Ellen,” a show that is very much about something, is dying a slow and painful death.

But “Seinfeld” isn’t popular because it’s about nothing, and “Ellen” isn’t facing cancellation because it has a point to make. The difference between the two is more fundamental, at least in TV terms: One is funny, the other isn’t anymore.

“It’s gay, the character’s gay and that’s the problem everyone has with the show. It’s just too controversial, nobody wants to deal with it,” star Ellen DeGeneres said last week on “Entertainment Tonight,” the TV program.

She’s right, of course, when it comes to tackling any subject as long as we’re not preaching, as long as we remember we’re doing something amusing and funny. But when comedy becomes about something, it isn’t anymore.

The shows also know to follow the TV rules. DeGeneres has said she fully expects ABC to cancel her series after this season. Network officials insist the matter isn’t decided, but it’s clear they would welcome the show’s demise as fallow ground.

The network could argue that it’s not getting rid of the first TV program to feature a gay or lesbian lead character; it’s merely cutting loose a weak show.

But if ABC would give DeGeneres one more try, with the breathing room and support she needs to do “Ellen” right, and if the actress could give the show the comic edge it must have, it could be turned around.

Maybe we expect too much of DeGeneres and too much of the network. But if they deliver, viewers might be willing to ask more of themselves.
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