Founder of Peabody House Celebrates 95th Birthday

Frannie Peabody, founder of "Peabody House" will celebrate her 95th birthday in an event sponsored by Peabody House at the Portland Museum of Art.

Ms. Peabody, well known as the founder of Peabody House, has lived an amazing life of community service. Her first volunteering experience was assisting with a tea party given by the Governor's wife, her next milestone in 1917 was when she helped roll bandages for the troops in World War I. Her first insight of war showed it meant bloodshed and death not glamour. A good lesson to learn early.

Ms. Peabody received her Bachelors degree in Government and Art History from Smith College in 1925 and since has received two Honorary Doctorates of Humane Letters one from Bowdoin College in 1989 and one from the University of New England in 1991.

During her college years she took advantage of every opportunity to do volunteer work. In the Drama Association, she built scenery, helped create costumes and even helped in advertising and design. In the 1930's she married and began her family.

It was during the Great Depression that Mrs. Peabody became active in the National Farm and Garden Association, an organization formed to help farmers and gardeners make ends meet. She founded the Sweetser Children's Home in 1941, the Butler House of Portland in 1942, and the Portland Museum of Art. She also served as a Chairperson or Board member of many Organizations and Affiliations in Maine such as the Sweetser Children's Home in Saco, Maine; Victoria Society of Maine; and Greater Portland Landmarks in Portland, ME.

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This meant information had to be gathered from across the country and volunteers needed to be trained immediately. This became the hot button issue. What began as a volunteer effort had in a year time became the structure which is today the largest professional AIDS organization in Maine.

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You are cordially invited to join us in honoring "Frannie Peabody" on her 95th birthday.

Sunday, April 19, 1998 from 7 to 9 p.m.
Portland Museum of Art, 7 Congress Square, Portland, Maine
Sponsored by Peabody House

Sweetser Children's Home "For Services to Children With Special Needs" Award in 1983; "women of Achievement" sponsored by Westbrook College, The Women's Center, and the Junior League of Portland; Human Rights Campaign Fund of Boston Special Award in 1989; Leadership Honoree for Maine, Second Northern New England Partnership in Philanthropy Conference in 1990; Maine Lesbian & Gay Political Alliance, Cameron Duncan Award in 1993; Visiting Nurse Association of Southern Maine, Inc., Award "for bringing the power of healing to the fight against AIDS" also in 1993; International Women's Forum, "Woman That Make a Difference," Atlanta, Georgia in 1995; National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Excellence in community Service Certificate of Award, are to name but a few.

Ms. Peabody became Co-Founder of the AIDS Project of Portland in 1995 at the beginning of the AIDS epidemic. It was a major undertaking, especially when one considers there were no clients (there was a rumor that there was one man at the Maine Medical Center with AIDS!) There were no precedents in Maine, and no one really knew what was needed. What was known was that there would be clients and their numbers would increase rapidly.

So, it was decided to get volunteers and start a hot line.

...and the list goes on, so come join Peabody House at the Portland Museum of Art on April 19th, enjoy the performance of the Gay Men's Chorus and help celebrate this amazing woman's life.
Gay Rights Veto Foes Outspend Referendum Winners 5-2

By Glenn Adams

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) — The winners in last month's referendum that repealed Maine's gay-rights law spent less than half as much as the losers, newly filed campaign finance reports show.

Maine Won't Discriminate, criticized for its stance on an upcoming Gay and Lesbian Pride March and Festival on May 2.

The law had been passed by the Legislature months earlier, capping a 20-year effort. The heavy spending edge even for a losing cause should not be surprising, Maine Won't Discriminate's president said.

"It's a classic situation. It's always harder in whatever the struggle has been. The minority group has always had to spend more money than the majority group," said Pat Peard. "They have the built-in organization in their churches," said Peard. "Trying to replicate that kind of organization required heavy spending, she added."

Michael Heath, executive director of the Christian Civic League, agreed the winning side benefited from the support and activism of many churches and their members.

But Heath said his group did not have the exclusive support of religious groups, noting the Maine Council of Churches sided with the anti-repeal forces.

Heath said the outcome of the referendum calls into question the standard assumption that money is a major factor in such elections.

"If this issue comes up again, one would be hard pressed to suggest it is a money battle," he said.

Mayor Finds Support For Stance On Gay Festival

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (AP) — Mayor Mark McBride, criticized for his stance on an upcoming gay and lesbian pride festival, found support among most of the 130 people who turned out for a city council meeting.

McBride was criticized after saying recently that allowing gays and lesbians to march sets a dangerous precedent for "skinheads," "Black Panthers," and other groups, he labeled as undesirable. He was the only council member who voted against closing city streets for the South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Pride March and Festival on May 2.

But at Tuesday night's council meeting, people handed out bumper stickers that read, "Support McBride." Many addressed the council and most applauded.

"We believe that, in many ways, Myrtle Beach sets the pace for our entire county and it has become apparent in recent years that some disturbing events have come to the forefront in our area," said Conway's Steve Hubbard, an associate minister at Grand Strand Baptist Church.

Patrick Evans, the festival's co-chairman, told the council meeting that his group is no different than others.

"We come from all walks of life, all religions, all ages and all income levels," Evans said. "And yes, each year we march down the street because we are proud of whom we are."

Councilwoman Rachel Broadhurst says she was saddened by the meeting's tone.

"All council people are committed to fight for the rights of all people ... diversity makes us stronger," she said.

However, Cherri Staley of Conway, who attended the meeting, said she backed the mayor "with all my heart."

"He's trying to pull this community back together," she said.

Gay Ave Residents Unhappy Over Name Change

CALLAWAY, Fla. (AP) — Many people who live on Gay Avenue are anything but happy about a decision to rename the street after a neighbor who donated $10,000 for repaving it.

"It was the city's idea to name the street for him. He said he allowed the city to use vacant land he owns to store and burn debris from Hurricane Opal in 1995, saving taxpayers thousands of dollars that it would have cost to haul the material to a dump.""

"We do not want his name on our streets," said Joe Ricci of Scarborough Downs race track, who is listed as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor, and Guy Gannett Communications of Portland, each contributed $2,500 to the anti-repeal effort. The gay-rights campaign was aided by Midcoast Won't Discriminate, which spent $5,985, and the Religious Coalition Against Discrimination, which spent $1,643.

The opposing side was bolstered by the Maine Grassroots Coalition, which spent $6,356, and Citizens Against Regulatory Excess, which spent $3,327.

"Gay Ave Residents Unhappy Over Name Change"

William H. Sandstead
Attorney at Law

123 Main Street
Myrtle Beach, SC 29575

(803) 555-1234

WilliamHSandstead.com

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"Gay Ave Residents Unhappy Over Name Change"
White Shocks Assembly: His Remarks On Gays and Races

By Sharon Thierer

MADISON, Wis. (AP) Lawmakers sprang from their seats to give Reggie White a hero’s welcome when the Green Bay Packers’ “Minister of Defense” strode to the Assembly podium.

But legislators who applauded his efforts to improve the lives of the poor went silent, shocked and stony-faced, when White segued into a condemnation of homosexuality and offered a string of opinions on slavery and racial differences.

White charged undeterred for nearly an hour Wednesday as lawmakers sank lower and lower in their chairs.

The United States has gotten away from God, in part by allowing homosexuality to “run rampant,” the ordained minister said.

Homosexuality is a sin and the plight of gays and lesbians should not be compared to that of blacks, he said.

“Homosexuality is a decision, it’s not a race,” White said. “People from all different ethnic backgrounds live in this lifestyle. But people from all different ethnic backgrounds also are liars and cheaters and malicious and back-stabbing.”

Blacks were enslaved largely because their skin color made them stand out in white society, he said.

Whites could not enslave other whites because they blended in. They couldn’t enslave American Indians because the native people “knew the territory,” White said. The Indians “knew how to sneak up on people,” he said.

White, who is black, told the largely white Assembly that he had thought a lot about why God created different races. Each race has certain gifts, he said.

Blacks are gifted at worship and celebration, White said. “If you go to a black church, you see people jumping up and down because they really get into it,” he said.

Whites are good at organization, White said. “You guys do a good job of building businesses and things of that nature, and you know how to tap into money,” he said.

“Hispanics were gifted in family structure, and you can see a Hispanic person, and they can put 20, 30 people in one home.”

The Japanese and other Asians are inventive, and “can turn a television into a watch,” White said. Indians are gifted in spirituality, he said.

“When you put all of that together, guess what it makes: It forms a complete image of God,” White said.

Afterwards, even the man who invited White to speak, Assembly Speaker Scott Jensen, called the comments about homosexuality “disappointing.” Homosexuality is a genetic predisposition, not a decision, said Jensen, R-Waukesha.

“This is the first time I’ve been at a loss for words,” Assembly Minority Leader Walter Kunicki, D-Milwaukee, said. “You can still tell from the tension in the room that much of this was offensive.”

Church Withholds Payments in Protest

MARJETTA, Ga. (AP) One of the largest United Methodist churches in the Southeast has decided to withhold $58,427 from the national denomination to protest its stands on homosexuality and other social issues.

The board of stewards of the First United Methodist Church of Marietta voted 142-58 Sunday to redirect the money to three north Georgia ministries.

“I doubt that this will be a wake-up call for the Methodist church,” said the Marietta church’s pastor, the Rev. Charles Sineath.

“But we made this decision because we want our church to be restored to mainstream, classical, orthodox Christianity.”

The church has about 5,000 members.

Another $164,939 that the church is obligated to pay to the denomination remains unchanged, but that money goes to support ministries within the denomination’s North Georgia Conference.

A report sent to the local conference said the church out of doctrinal concerns did not want its payments to support the denomination’s administrative funds, a world service fund, an interdenominational cooperation fund or a ministerial education fund.

The Rev. Jamie Jenkins, superintendent of the Atlanta-Marietta District, said the church’s decision was unusual but it would be honored.

He warned that if other churches give selectively, the practice could alter the complexion of the conference and its ministries.

The controversy was triggered in part by last year’s decision by trustees of Methodist-founded Emory University to permit same-sex commitment ceremonies at its campus chapels.

But Sineath said members of his church had been considering for some time with what they saw as deviations within the denomination.

Two Men Sued for Civil Rights Violations

Worster, Mass. (AP) Two men accused of using an Internet chat room to lure a gay man to a deserted field and then beating him have been sued for civil rights violations.

The attorney general’s civil rights division filed a proposed preliminary injunction Thursday in Worcester Superior Court against William D. Peters, 21, and Frank Labbe, 35, both of Webster. If successful, the injunction would mandate stiff punishments should the men commit additional civil rights crimes.

Peters and Labbe allegedly attacked a 46-year-old Cambridge man in the early morning hours of Jan. 3 after exchanging messages in a gay-oriented online chat room.

After the computer session, the victim drove to Webster to meet Peters, who directed him to a deserted field nearby. At that point, officials say, Labbe joined Peters, and the pair beat and taunted the Cambridge man.

According to court documents, the defendants used anti-gay language to taunt the victim and warned him, “If you go to the cops, we’ll kill you.” And if we ever see you online again or in any (chat) rooms again, we will kill you!”

Labbe and Peters also allegedly stole the victim’s compact disc player and wallet and locked him out of his car.

Brused and bleeding, the victim walked more than a mile to a local gas station and contacted police, prosecutors said.

The men were arrested by Webster Police several weeks later.

Earlier this month, Labbe and Peters were indicted on charges of armed robbery, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, civil rights violations, threatening to commit a crime, intimidating a witness and conspiracy, according to the Worcester County district attorney’s office.

The Webster men, who are being held in the Worcester House of Correction, are scheduled to be arraigned on those charges April 3.

Assistant Attorney General Richard Gordon said the civil rights action filed Thursday, which is separate from the criminal charges, was brought because of the severity of the case.

In the affidavit filed this week, the victim said he remains terrified of his alleged attackers.

“The defendants’ threats and intimidation towards me have made me fearful for my safety, even in my own home,” the testimony reads. A hearing on the request for a preliminary injunction is scheduled April 2 in Worcester Superior Court.

If that effort is successful, prosecutors will ask a judge for a permanent injunction against the men, Gordon said.
Vermont Gays, Politicians, Worry About Possible Backlash

By Ross Sneyd

Montpelier, Vt. (AP) Signs have begun popping up in recent weeks that a conservative movement is organizing in Vermont that could turn back gay civil rights advances of the past decade.

Members of the state's gay and lesbian community and as some top elected leaders trace the movement to a lawsuit now pending in the Vermont Supreme Court that seeks to give same-gender couples the right to marry.

Few of them believe that the gains including laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, guaranteeing gays and lesbians the right to adopt children, and increasing the punishment for hate crimes based on someone's sexual orientation would be repealed.

But they do worry that the state could be in for some divisive debates about government protection against discrimination.

A Franklin County woman complained in a letter to the entire membership of the Legislature that her baby had been placed in a foster home headed by two lesbians. "That type of lifestyle is against my belief and I do not want my child raised in that type of environment," she wrote.

Social and Rehabilitation Services Commissioner William Young responded with a letter strongly reinforcing the state's policy of placing children in supportive homes, regardless of sexual orientation. "The question is really, 'Do I believe that a family that is not in a 'traditional' relationship can do a good job as foster parents?" he wrote. "The answer is absolutely."

There is nothing to suggest that all of the incidents have been coordinated by one group. But there is a general feeling that the gay marriage debate in which there are heartfelt differences of opinion even within the gay community itself could give an opening to those who would like to turn back existing protections.

An organizer of the Take It to the People initiative denies that his group wants anything more than to block the ability of gays and lesbians to marry.

"I don't recall anything in the survey that asked for reductions in current civil rights or political advantages that the homosexual community now enjoys in Vermont," said Jerry Smiley of New Haven, who frequently lobbies on conservative causes at the Statehouse. "There's certainly no objection I'm aware of in the group to civil rights, tolerance of homosexual rights."

Rep. Nancy Shetlar, a Derby Republican who introduced a bill that would ban gay marriage and who helped the Franklin County woman over the foster parent issue, said she did not want to repeal any of the laws.

But she said she wanted to preserve marriage as it now exists and prevent discussions of homosexuality in the schools.

"Hawaii was a state that was targeted for this issue and now Vermont is being targeted," she said. "There's been an agenda in place for a long time for these issues to be more and more accepted."

Some elected leaders are wary that eventually such views could become a political cause.

Sorrell is defending the state against the gay marriage lawsuit, but he said he was determined to do all he could to prevent that from mushrooming into a broader movement that might deny gays and lesbians their basic civil rights.

"I made a commitment to the plaintiff's attorneys that I wasn't going to be a party to that," he said.

"Legislators, too, so they worry. "We have to be concerned about the political climate," said House Speaker Michael Obuchowski of Rockingham. "You look toward Maine and you see what happened there."

He referred to a successful citizen-organized referendum in Maine earlier this year that overturned a civil rights law barring discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

"If you're a defender of individual rights, you have to be concerned," he said. "I think one of the jobs of government is to battle intolerance and ensure equality in the eyes of the law."

Judge finds Three Teens Guilty Of Intimidation

CORVALLIS, Ore. (AP) A judge has found that three teenagers committed first-degree intimidation when they attacked a gay Corvallis High School student walking home from school, prosecutors say.

Paul Miller, 17, said he was taunted with epithets about homosexuals before one of the boys slapped him in the mouth, knocking out two teeth.

Benton County Circuit Judge Robert Gardner said prosecutors had proved their case against Cyle A. Schroeder, 15, of Albany and Robert P. Hufnaker and Michael B. Nash, both 16, of Corvallis.

First-degree intimidation means to "intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly cause physical injury to another person because of the actors' perception of that person's ... sexual orientation."

In the courtroom last week, attorneys for the boys argued that the name-calling wasn't serious enough to warrant an intimidation charge.

Unlike adult court, in juvenile court the teenagers aren't viewed as defendants and aren't convicted of a crime, District Attorney Liz Carle said Tuesday. She didn't know when the sentencing would occur.

When Miller was asked Tuesday if he hopes the judge's decision sends a message, he said, "It would be nice, but I'm not going to get my hopes up."

"There's people out there who think what those kids did was right," he said.

Former Connecticut Legislator Admits He's Gay

NEW LONDON, Conn. (AP) When former state Representative Andrew Norton announced his decision not to run for Congress, he said it was because he needed time away from politics.

He now admits he was also concerned about telling voters in the 2nd Congressional District that he is gay.

Norton had been the favorite of district Republican leaders to run against nine-term Democratic Rep. Sam Gejdenson, before he announced in January that he had decided not to enter the race.

Norton said that he only recently told his friends and extended family members about his sexual orientation. Launching a campaign for Congress was not the time to tell the district constituency, too, he told The Day.

"It may have been difficult to ask people to take in this information, get used to it, and get the campaign going in full," he said.

"I don't think it would have been an issue," Torreniti said.

But maybe he felt it would become a real negative. I felt he certainly had the energy and the vision and the desire to run. I was quite surprised when he said no."

Don't Hide Out - Hang Out!

SEACOAST OUTRIGHT
Ages 21 and Under
Questioning Youth
Transgender Bisexual Lesbian Gay
Drop-In Center
Sundays 5 - 7pm
Tuesdays 6 - 8 pm
Support Meetings

Don't Hide Out - Hang Out!
Sunday of every month at 7 pm (ME), 2 pm (N), at the Gay-Lebanon Community Center, 398 S. Main St., Caribou. FMI write: Box 7977, Lewiston, ME 04243. The newsletter is published every Monday, Portland, Friday 7-9 pm. Call 207- 498-2088 or 1-800-468-2088.

The Mastiock Society

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

National Association of Social Workers,

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

Hate Crimes & Bias Incidents: Have you or some one you know been a victim? Call the Civil Rights Section of the Maine Department of the Attorney General at 626-8484.

Citizens Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights: (CAGLR)

New Hampshire’s oldest Progressive gay/lesbian civil rights organization, seeking to educate all those interested in these goals to weekly meetings, panels, workshops, and social and other events of interest. Call 603-228-1866 or write to PO Box 735, Concord, NH 03302-0730.

The Rainbow Business & Professional Women's Association

A state-wide, non-profit organization established to create a gay, lesbian, and bisexual chamber of commerce in the greater Maine. Meetings for networking or dinner with speaker events, held in the Greater Portland area, second Tuesday of the month, at the Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland. Call 207-773-6627, or call 287-775-0115 or e-mail wildboys@mainelink.net.

Maine Stewart Project for Equal Rights Trains and deploys volunteers statewide to speak with citizen groups in their towns and regions about their lives and the lives of others who experience discrimination in Maine. For information on activities in your county: 207- 879-6408 or write: MSOP, 123 Congress St., #1, Portland, ME 04101. For more information, please call 207-773-9547 or write to PO Box 1099, Portland ME 04104.

Downeast Mainers Meetings held the first Sunday of each month at the Downeast AIDS Network, 114 State St, Ellsworth, form 2 to 4 PM. FMI call 358-2147. All supportive persons welcome, including non-educators.

Support Groups

Hampshire PFLAG Meetings

Community AIDS Network: PO Box 7977, Lewiston, ME 04243. Call 207-786-5709.
PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Meet the third Thursday of the month at the Maine Education Association building in Augusta. Please call at 207-667-5650 or FMI: 207-786-4624.

Box 7977, Lewiston, ME 04243. Call 207-786-5709.

PFLAG is a non-profit organization formed to educate the general public, politicians, and media on L.G. issues. Primary goals are to involve the L.G community in Maine's political process, provide networking, and develop, promote and review legislation, endorse candidates, build a coalition, and oppose anti-gay legislation and related morality measures. Meet the third Thursday of the month at the Maine Education Association building in Augusta. Please call; at 207-667-5650 or FMI: 207-786-4624.

Baggage Claim

the 12th, previous Chamber of Commerce, weekends, people involved in lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered civil rights issues in the greater Maine. FMI call NASW: 207-622-7592.

Gay/Lesbian Catholic

The organization DignityMaine offers support- brite Mass, and Catholic faith. PO Box 21, Portland, Maine. Call 603-743-GAY2 (4292), or write: DignityMaine, PO BOX 8113, Portland, ME 04104. All-legal-affirmative

The Appollo Society

in outreach, networking and social organization for New England gay and lesbian-identified, ethnocentric and heterosexual. Free pre-event socializing, Diehard and in recognition of both, PO Box 777-508, PO Box 5010, Portland, ME 04104.

Rally of Hope Main-Community AIDS Network: PO Box 7977, Lewiston, ME 04243. Call 207-786-5709.

Bella's - Weekly meetings, 9A MA 2nd, 2nd Floor (above Jones & Co), every Wednesday, 6:15 pm. Women's Spiritual Gathering, Mondays, PO Box 2013, 7-9PM, Every Wednesday at 1156 High Street (corner of Deering and High -Immanently Baptist church building) a Christian church devoted to its mission and in recognition of both, PO Box 777-508, PO Box 5010, Portland, ME 04104.

Circle of Hope Metropolitan Community Church - meets every Thursday, 7-9PM, PO Box 3604, 8:30PM.

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Central Maine Gay Men's Support Group We provide a place to discuss issues going on in our city and just to be with people in a safe non- -alcoholic environment. FMI: 207-621-8888 or 207-621-4254.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Discussion Group to meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month, 7-9PM, At First Universalist Church, 345 Broadway, Portland, ME 04102.

Support Group-Peabody & Surrounding Counties Forms womb that has also met. Monthly meet- ings to talk about issues and concerns. Call 207-900-2059 for more info. and info on meetings.

Q-Squad Support group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered, 1st Saturday of each month, 10:30-11AM.

Support group for transsexuals, transvestites, their friends, families. Meets in secret locations to provide support, education & social activities. Write Transtaq Support, PO Box 17622, Portland, ME 04102 or phone 207-945-9052

Gender Talk North

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Dover, NH Gay/Lesbian & Transgendered Support Group meets every Thursday, 7-9PM, 123 Congress St., #1, Dover, NH 03820.

Leaves NH

A new "bisexual" biennial conference for the Lesbian/Acornia community meets every Thursday at 7-9PM at the United Nations-Institute Church on Spring St, Auburn. Contact LeeAnn Stewart Support Group for more information.

This Lesbian Support Group welcomes any woman who self-identifies as a lesbian. They seek to create women-only, lesbian-positive space to explore issues and affirm themselves and each other as lesbians. Confidentially, optionally, and respect an normed.

Meet 1st and 3rd Wednesday's 6:30-4:00 pm.

Mabel Wadsworth Woman's Health Center 314 Congress St., #1, Portland, ME 04101. Call 207-773-5337.

SNAP, Speakers Network of Those Affected by AIDS, Portland, Maine. Call 207-807-5174. Contact "community" about sexual abuse by any of any denomination. Meet in Portland location on 1st Friday of each month, 6:30-8:00 PM. Write SNAP, 1325 Congress St., #1, Portland, ME 04101.

DECOG (Down East Gay & Lesbian Org) Meet the 2nd Saturday of the month, 5:30 PM at the UU Church, Park Street, Bangor.

Maine Gender Resource & Support Service Information, referrals and education for the transgender community, helping professionals and the general public. Meet the 2nd Thursday of each month, PO Box 10815, Portland, ME 04104.

Maine Lesbian/Gay Support Group for dinners and support for lesbians and their children. Meet the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Call 207-646-6666 for time and place. FMI: AMT PO Box 145 Buxor, ME 04422.

Maine Lesbian/Gay Support Group for dinners and support for lesbians and their children. Meet the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Call 207-646-6666 for time and place. FMI: AMT PO Box 145 Buxor, ME 04422.

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Parents Group For dinners and support for all groups. Meet the 1st Saturday of each month, 6:30-8:00 PM. Write: Parent Support Group, PO Box 10815, Portland, ME 04104.

Mothers and Kids Group

Social events and support groups for lesbians and their children. Call 207-900-2059 for more information.

Glad to be Sober Meetings Wednesdays at 7:30 pm at the Portland Church - at the corner of north Main and Washington streets - in Concord NH. Use the Washington entrance for easier access. Contact "community" about meeting time.

Tiffany Club of New England (TCNE) TCNE is a weekly support group for all transgender individuals, transsexuals, transvestites, transgenders, and others, along with their partners and significant others. Meetings are Tuesdays from 7-10PM. FMI: TCNE, PO Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888-0483.
**HIV Related Support Meetings**

**Portland:**
- **Mondays:** People living with HIV disease and all friends, families, partners, caregivers. Call FM! at 207-774-6877.
- **Tuesdays:** People living with HIV disease and all friends, families, lovers, caregivers, at 10:30 am. Aboard Health Center, 2nd floor, Portland, ME 04103.
- **2nd & 4th Wednesdays:** Living Well focusing on quality of life and empowerment.

**Bangor:**
- **2nd Thursday:** Drop-in discussion group every Tuesday for gay/bisexual/questioning men at 7:00-9:00 pm.

**Lewiston:**
- **1st Wednesday:** PWS (Pet's Are Wonderful Support) 5:30 pm. Call 774-990-3626, Charles Wyzekt, Program Coordinator.
- **Thursdays:** People living with HIV meets from 5:30-7 pm. Tap, 142 High Street Suite 632, Portland, ME 04101.

**New Hampshire:**
- **DOVER, NH:** Support group open to anyone infected with AIDS/ HIV. Located at the University of New Hampshire's Counseling Services Center, 2nd floor. Call John Bean, York County Case Manager, 207-774-8777.

**Phone Support By Region**

**National Center for Lesbian Rights Youth Project:**
- **1st Wednesday:** Drop-in discussion group for married/transgendered gay men. FMI call Gerry at 207-774-6877.

**Gay & Lesbian Phoneline of Maine:**
- **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday:** 3:00-7:00 pm. TAP, 142 High Street Suite 632, Portland, ME 04101.

**Families and Friends Accepting Change Together (FFACT),** a support group sponsored by Northern Maine AIDS Network for friends, families, & caregivers.

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<tr>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>207-774-6877</td>
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<td>Lewiston</td>
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**Youth Support**

**OUTRIGHT**

**Bangor:**
- **Outright Too:** Supportive, informative, and social meetings for gay, lesbian, bisexual, for identity and emotional support services. Staffed Mon.
- **Friday:** 3:30-4:30.
- **Maine:** 1-800-429-1481.

**Gay & Lesbian Phoeline of Maine:**
- **Staffed Monday, Wednesday, and Friday:** 3:00-7:00 pm. Call 207-498-2088 or (Maine) 806-648-2088.

**Boston Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Youth (BAGLY):**
- **1-800-347-TEEN (2336).**

**New Hampshire:**
- **1st Monday:** Drop-in discussion group for single lesbians. Call Jane O'Rourke at 207-774-6877 or 1-800-851-2477 for more information.

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

**The AIDS Line:**
- **1-800-851-AIDS or 775-1267:** HIV/AIDS related questions, call Mon.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm, Mon. & Wed. evenings until 7:30 pm. Anonymous.

**BANGERS:**
- For lesbian, gay, & bi-questing youth under 19 yrs., 774-TALK.

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

**The AIDS Project 774-6877:** Located at 142 High St., 6th floor, Portland Office. 207-774-6877. Call for information and support groups meetings in Portland, Lewiston, Bangor, and Orono.

**Bangor:**
- **Eastern Maine AIDS Network:** 990-3626.

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

**Waldoboro:**
- **Knoxl:** Meets every other Sunday in Camden for g/b or questioning youth 22 & under. Confidential, supportive, safe space for growth, discussion & fun. FMI Coastal AIDS Network 338-1427 or write P.O. Box 956, Belfast, ME 04915. Collect calls only.

**Concord:**
- **Meets every Thurs., 7-9 pm:** at UHM 927 U Street, 774-1011. Next to concord Hospital & Orthopedic Clinic. 603-664-9169.

**Monadnock:**
- **Meets every Thursday at 7:00 pm:** “The Place to Go” or call Concord 603-547-2545.

**Vassalboro:**
- **Waldoboro-Knoxl AIDS Coalition:** 338-1427.

**Brassworks:**
- **Merrymeeting AIDS Support Groups:** 725-4959.

**Bridgeport:**
- **HIV/AIDS Task Force, St. Thomas Aquinas. FMI or reservations, call Jane Dwyer at 603-432-7530.**

**Kearsarge:**
- **Support group for families, friends, partners:** 823-4170.

**Waterfield:**
- **Daysville: 626-3435.**

**Ellsworth:**
- **East Down East AIDS Network:** 667-3706.

**Oxford Hills:**
- **Oxford Hills AIDS Community Project:** 743-7451.

**Main Coast:**
- **Gay Men’s HELP LINE:** 603-900-9330 (M-F 207-863-2730)

**Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG):**
- **Contacts in Maine (indicates monthly meetings)\**
- **Dover-Foxcroft:** 564-7986
- **Sharon, ME:**
- **Brunswick/Bath:** 729-0519

**DOVER, NH:** Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Helpline for information, referral or need to talk.
- **Monday to Friday:** 9:00-5:00

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<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
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<td>Franco Trainor: A gay and lesbian running club sponsoring weekly run in Portland. We meet at the beginning of Back Cove Walkway (corner of Bar harbor Blvd. &amp; Preble St. Ext.), Saturdays, 9 am. FMI call Jim 761-2079 or John 822-4896.</td>
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<td>On Out MDI: For gays, lesbians, bi &amp; our friends. Very active social/support group. Meets every Tuesday at 7:30 pm. New activities and meetings are listed in the monthly newsletter. FMI: VMM, Box 363, Clar, Conway, NH 03831; or 603-722-9116.</td>
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<td>W.O.W. (Wild Outdoor Women): Recreation group meets monthly for outdoor activities followed by pot luck socials. Activities: biking, hiking, camping, canoeing, kayaking, etc.</td>
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<td>county, 292 State St., Portland, ME 04102. FMI call (207)-774-6877 or 1-800-750-2524.</td>
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**LINC: Lesbian Inviting New Connections:**
A network serving women at large.
- **New Hampshire:**
- **207-698-9812.**

**Mountain Valley Yin (MVY):** Group of gay men of all ages in northeastern New Hampshire and southwestern Maine who get together for potluck supper meetings at 6:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month at the Center of Hope in Redington (NH); outdoor activities and meetings are listed in the monthly newsletter. FMI: VMV, Box 363, Clar, Conway, NH 03831; or 603-722-9116. | |
| **DOVER, NH:** Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Helpline for information, referral or need to talk. M-F 6-10 pm, Sat.-Sun. 9-4. | |
| **VMM, Box 363, Clar, Conway, NH 03831; or 603-722-9116.** | |
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**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

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There is an HIV/AIDS drop-in support group for those infected and affected by HIV every Thursday evening in Rockland from 6:15 pm to 7:45 pm. For location of meetings, call Marjorie at the Coastal AIDS Network at 207-338-6330.

Outright is holding meetings in the Camden area for support of gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning youths. Outright advocates to create a safe supportive environment for youths.

Meetings will be from noon to 2 pm on Saturdays March 14 and 28. For more information call 207-338-6330.

Social and support groups, education and counseling for gay/bi men at risk of HIV infection to stay safe. Video nights are the 2nd Friday of each month at 7:00pm. There is a potluck and discussion group held on the 4th Friday of each month. FMI call 207-338-6330.

The Visiting Nurses Association & Hospice (VNA) and the American Cancer Society will sponsor a series of seminars held on an ongoing basis.

Among the services to be offered are blood pressure checks; cholesterol screening; TB skin tests; Hepatitis B vaccine; Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccines, Flu Vaccines (seasonally); and pneumonia (must be 65 years or older) to adults 18 years and older. These clinics are by appointment only. For more information call the VNA at 207-780-8624.

The Birthplace at Mercy Hospital offers childbirth education classes through the year at various locations, with each session lasting six weeks. Classes are held at St. Joseph’s College, Windham, and VNA & Hospice, 50 Foden Road, Portland, beginning April 9; at 353 Ocean Avenue, Portland and Mercy Hospital beginning March 11; and at Yarmouth Intermed, 259 Maine Street, Yarmouth, and at Mercy Hospital beginning April 6; and at Mercy Hospital beginning April 7. The fee is $70.00 for six sessions. All classes are from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

A condensed version of the six week Childbirth Education Class is offered on Saturday, March 21, from 9:00am to 3:00pm. The cost is $45.00. Saturday Childbirth Education Classes are held at Mercy Hospital. Tours of The Birthplace at Mercy Hospital are offered on a regular basis. FMI or to register, call 207-879-3950.ing Clinic for Adults on the 4th Tuesday of each month.

The Maine Gay/Lesbian/Transgender Center is offering a series of meetings to help plan for stronger links between Portland’s neighborhoods with our arts and cultural resources. These meetings are part of an ongoing planning process to create a cultural plan for the city. Each of the four community meetings will have a particular focus. The meetings include:

- Arts Meeting: Monday, April 13 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. at the University of Maine, Portland Center; 533 Congress Street.
- Neighborhoods Meeting: Monday, April 13 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Middle School, 522 Stevens Avenue.
- Education Meeting: Thursday, April 16 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. at the Portland Arts & Technology High School, 196 Allen Avenue.
- Community & Social Services Meeting: Friday, April 17 from Noon-1:30 p.m. at the Family & Children’s Workshop, Classroom 309, 215 Congress Street.

The public is invited to participate in a series of meetings to help plan for stronger links between Portland’s neighborhoods with our arts and cultural resources. These meetings are part of an ongoing planning process to create a cultural plan for the city. Each of the four community meetings will have a particular focus. The meetings include:

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Music & Art

Women in Harmony is 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 207/774-9040.

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

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

Mother - Daughter Connection, Loosening The Knots, Strengthening The Ties.

Workshop will be held in the Boston area, Sun., Apr. 5, 1998. (Workshops are usually held on Sat., 10-4:30 & limited to 10 participants.)

Workshops have proved particularly useful for M-D combinations where one or the other is lesbian or bi. Jean Chapin Smith has extensive professional experience in working with families with queer kids and has 2 herself. Sybil Hendrickson also has adult daughters.

For further information, contact Jean Chapin Smith, LICSW, BCD, (617)-876-2113 or Sybil Hendrickson, MA, CAS, LMHC, (617)-864-9887. Workshop fee is $95 per person (insurance accepted, sliding scale available).

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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@abcars.oxyc.edu. In the message part, write "subscribe me-gaynet".

The Maine GayNet Home Page

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

San Francisco Gay/Lesbian Tourism Guide

An online membership-sponsored Internet website geared to gay and lesbian travellers to the San Francisco area. It is compatible with most mainstream
Students and Faculty Rally Against Self-Proclaimed Prophet

By Katheryn Ritchie

James McCusker says he has been instructed by God to sit in the Memorial Union today to stop what he regards as "sin" of homosexuality.

"We’re not personally attacking them. We’re attacking their sin and lifestyle that we know God is against," the Farmington man said from his booth. "We want everyone to go to Heaven."

McCusker set up shop in the Union with two other members of the Friends of Jesus Christ, adorning his booth with the questions "What is wrong with Homosexuality?" and "What is wrong with Fornication?" And providing answers to students’ questions.

Given no notice of the booth’s presence, members of the campus Wilde-Stein organization hastily threw together their own booth to refute McCusker’s. By mid-afternoon, their table was adorned with marker-drawn signs reading "We’re All Gods Children!" Informational handouts and books from the Wilde-Stein library.

"It’s really disturbing," said Kathleen Worchester, co-chair of Wilde-Stein. "I know a lot of queer people who have not gone to class because they are upset."

She left her introduction to lesbian studies class when someone told her about McCusker’s table. Drawing off a cigarette outside the Union doors, she wondered why the University would allow an outside group to spread propaganda against a segment of the University community.

"The big question is would they allow someone to come here with the question "What is wrong with the Jewish Lifestyle?" She said. Not wanting to be taken by surprise a second day, Wilde-Stein planned to have a larger informational booth as well as a large public display of affection at noon around McCusker’s table.

McCusker and his wife frequent the University of Maine at Farmington every Thursday evening to host a similar booth. When asked what brought his group to UMaine, McCusker said, "We just try to follow the spirit of God as he leads us, where to go and when."

He said they last visited UMaine two years ago, when there was an effort to establish a homosexual dorm wing. The group received more verbal violence at that visit compared to this one. He estimated he had the support of 50 percent of the people who stopped by.

McCusker, who paints houses for a living, said he speaks of homosexuality from experience. He said his wife was a lesbian before she was converted by God. The two will celebrate 22 years of marriage next month.

He said homosexuals don’t understand that he is not "out to get them," but merely to get them to stop their "risky behavior."

“We love people... and don’t want to see people get hurt," he said. "Ultimately, we are out here to save souls. That is our mission." He is against homosexuality for several reasons, one of which is that the Bible condemns it. Another reason he cited was anatomy, saying women and men were built for each other.

"I think it’s nice they have their opinions on things, but I don’t think they have any right to force them on other people," Kris Broski, the other co-chair of Wilde-Stein, said. "How are we not supposed to take it personally when they tell us who we are is wrong?"

He said reaction to his group’s table had been positive, with a few people donating money and others taking buttons to wear.

"It surprises me that groups like that can come onto campus and spread hate information," Broski said. "I don’t agree with what they are saying, actually, especially for a college campus," said senior Barbi Nason of McCusker’s booth. "We all know that the only reason for sex is not procreation."
Eastern N.C. Methodists call for Ban on Homosexual Ceremonies

By Randall Chase

Raleigh, N.C. (AP) United Methodist Church leaders in eastern North Carolina want the denomination's stance against same-sex "marriage" ceremonies spelled out in no uncertain terms.

But Bishops Marion Edwards, spiritual leader of Methodists in 56 eastern North Carolina counties, is requesting a special session of the General Conference, the denomination's national governing body, to pass an outright ban on same-sex ceremonies.

A former North Carolina pastor ignited a debate over the church's position on such ceremonies when he performed a lesbian wedding at his Nebraska church in September.

Edwards, leader of the North Carolina Annual Conference, called a special meeting of his 12 district superintendents last week. A church panel acquitted the Rev. Jimmy Creech of disobeying church rules.

Edwards and his cabinet agreed to ask the national Council of Bishops, which meets once a year in Lincoln, Neb., next month, to call for a special session of the General Conference. Edwards plans to take the request with him to the council meeting.

"I'll probably be just one of hundreds doing this," he said Wednesday.

The council meeting will be held about an hour's drive from Omaha, where Creech performed the lesbian ceremony in defiance of his bishop. Earlier this month, following a two-day inquiry in Kearney, Neb., a panel of 13 ordained elders voted 8-to-5 to convict Creech of violating the Order and Discipline of the United Methodist Church. The vote fell one short of the nine required under church policy for conviction.

"I think this is an issue over which there is a radical difference of opinion, but the official position of the church ... still stands," Edwards said.

According to the 1996 Discipline of the United Methodist Church, homosexual-like heterosexuals, are individuals of sacred worth.

"Although we do not condone the practice of homosexuality but consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching, we affirm that God's grace is available to all," he said.

It further states that "self avowed practicing homosexuals" are not to be accepted as candidates for ordination, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in the church.

Regarding marriage, the book states: "Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by a United Methodist minister and shall not be conducted in our churches."

"The issue on that is, 'Is this law, or is it something that is recommended to live by?'" said the Rev. Kermit Braswell, superintendent of the Raleigh district of the North Carolina Annual Conference.

Braswell said he supports the call for a special session of the General Conference, which is not scheduled to meet again until 2000.

Two years ago, clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference voted to endorse a policy declaring homosexuality incompatible with Christian teaching.

"There are some people that may not agree with it, but that is the position of the church," Edwards said.

Creech, a Goldsboro native, had served in pastorates within the North Carolina Annual Conference for two decades. He lost his job at Fairmont United Methodist Church in Raleigh in 1990 after making a homosexual rights parade. He later became senior pastor of Omaha's largest Methodist church.

Following the Nebraska panel's decision, Edwards issued a pastoral letter stating that the panel's decision does not alter the church's position on homosexuality or same-sex ceremonies.

"Only the General Conference sets the rules and the Bishops of the Church are given the responsibility for interpreting them officially, as Bishop Martinez did in the Creech matter," Edwards wrote.

The North Carolina conference has taken a stand on homosexuality in the past. The conference stopped giving money to the North Carolina Council of Churches in 1993 when it submitted a predominantly-gay Metropolitan Community Churches. Creech, who was then working at the council, was instrumental in admitting the denomination.

Creech said the cabinet's statement stems from a fear of homosexuality.

"If the reaction continues like this, we're on our way to becoming the most homophobic denomination in the country," he told The News & Observer of Raleigh from his Omaha church.

"What kind of Christ are we giving witness to when we're so distressed by our fears and feel such a need to be punitive and unaccepting of gay men and lesbians?"

Charlene Kammerer, bishop of the Western North Carolina Conference, was unavailable for comment Wednesday but also issued a pastoral letter following the Nebraska decision. In a memo to district superintendents accompanying the letter, she said she fully supports the church's position.

Mayor's Gay-Protection Order Blocked

HOUSTON (AP) A judge has blocked the city, at least temporarily, from enforcing Mayor Lee Brown's executive order banning discrimination against lesbians and gays in city government.

State District Judge Patrick W. Mizell agreed with City Council member Rob Todd and conservative business leaders Hotze and Mizell also found that Hotze lacks standing to pursue the case.

Brown said he is considering an appeal. Mizell agreed with City Council members Rob Todd and conservative business leaders.

Although criticized by some City Commission conservatives, Brown's order is intended to suppress homosexuality, not the mayor.

Todd has denied that their lawsuit was intended to suppress homosexuality. He and Hotze say their suit is aimed at a procedural concern alone.

But in the gay community remain unpersuaded, including some gay conservatives who said eradicating discrimination is a goal all conservatives should share.

Some in the gay community remain unpersuaded, including some gay conservatives who said eradicating discrimination is a goal all conservatives should share.

"It's certainly ironic that Mr. Hotze wants to perpetuate discrimination, and that in all the years he has been involved in politics in Houston he has never questioned the mayor's right to issue executive orders until it comes down to employment equality for gay city employees," said Clarence Bagby, president of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus.

Brown signed the order in January, fulfilling a campaign pledge to ban discrimination in city government on the basis of sexual orientation.

Although criticized by some City Council conservatives, Brown's idea had the support of a council majority if he decided to seek an anti-discrimination ordinance. But Brown issued an executive order, instead.

Mizell ruled that the council had not authorized the city to impose such an order.

However, Mizell also found that Hotze lacks standing to pursue the case, leaving Todd as the lone plaintiff.

"I would not have filed the suit if I hadn't been utterly convinced I was right and that it involved a substantial policy interest," Hotze said. "I think it's fair to me to call on the mayor to do the right thing, and if he wished to proceed, to put it back to the voters."

After a briefing by city attorneys, Brown said he is considering an appeal.

"We are disappointed with Judge Mizell's ruling," Brown said. "We continue to believe that our interpretation is correct, that the mayor has the power to issue executive orders."

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The Community Pride Reporter is published the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

Submissions are welcome throughout the month and will be published, at the publishers discretion, in the next available issue.

Please contact the office at 207-232-6045 for special publishing needs especially inclusion in a particular issue.
**Arts & Entertainment**

**The Year Of The Tiger: Celebrate Cambodian New Year in Portland**

Join Portland's Performing Art's House Island Project and the Maine Khmer Council in celebrating the rebuilding of a culture shattered by civil war and removal to a new land. The 1998 Cambodian New Year Festival includes Cambodian food and performances of classical and folk music and dance.

Master Dancers Chan Moly Sam and Sam Ouen-Tes lead the Portland Cambodian Dance Troupe with special musical performances by Kim Chhay, a virtuoso of the trousoi (Cambodian two-string spike fiddle) and Sam-Ang Sam, director of the Apsara Ensemble.

Cambodian New Year Festival is a collaboration of Portland Performing Arts/House Island Project and the Maine Khmer Council and is supported by the Lila Wallace-Reader's Fund and the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional support from Shop & Save, Holiday Inn by the Bay and WMPG.

Trained at the University of Fine Arts in Phnom Phen, Sam-Ang Sam was studying advanced music composition at the Conservatory of Music, University of the Phillipines, when his homeland was taken over by the Khmer Rouge. As a refugee to the United States in 1977, he continued his studies, earning a Masters in Music Composition from Connecticut College and a PhD in ethnomusicology from Wesleyan University.

As the director of the Apsara Ensemble, and the author of several books about Khmer music and dance, Sam-Ang has been instrumental in the preservation of classical Cambodian Dance and music, which was nearly lost during the years of the Khmer Rouge holocaust. In 1994, Dr. Sam-Ang Sam received a MacArthur Fellowship in recognition of his contributions to the survival of Cambodian dance and music traditions.

During the early '70s, Chan Moly Sam was the principal soloist with the royal court dance company in Phnom Phen. When Cambodian fled to the Khmer Rouge, the dancers and musicians associated with the palace were persecuted and most died. Chan Moly came to the U.S. as a refugee, and discovered that she was one of the few surviving bearers of the great Khmer classic dance tradition.

She has helped preserve Cambodian Dance traditions in the U.S. by training a new generation of dancers and creating performances with her company, the Apsara Ensemble, directed by Sam-Ang Sam. Chan Moly has performed throughout the U.S. and at the White House. During her House Island residencies over the past three years, she has worked with Sam-Ang Sam and local dancers to develop the Portland Cambodian Dance Troupe.

The Portland Cambodian Dance Troupe is directed by Sam-Ang Sam and musicians of the Samaki Ensemble, Maine's Cambodian music group.

The Festival is being held on Friday April 17, 7:30 p.m. at Father Hayes Center, 699 Stevens Avenue, Portland. Admission is $6/under 12 free. Family admission is $12. For information call Mary Beth Lapin or Bau Graves at 207-761-0591.

**Interest in Gays Spawns Clash Over Exclusive Club**

By Rosalind Bentley

Minneapolis, Minn. (AP) This is the rhythm of two cultures keeping a curious distance, at times clashing, at times chatting, but never quite embracing.

It takes place almost every Friday and Saturday night at the Gay 90's, the Twin Cities' most recognized gay nightlife spot. It unfolds like clockwork. Just sit on a bar stool and watch.

Friday, shortly after 8 p.m.

From the porch along the massive bar on the main floor where the male strippers will perform later, the dinner hour is in full swing. Nearly 100 babyboom men laugh and talk.

There is an intimacy here, of the private club sort. No matter that a handful of women dot the crowd. All around are clues to who lays claim to this cavernous lair.

But the certainty that this is a gay men's nightclub endures with every tick of the clock.

About a quarter-to-nine, a couple arrives. An obvious difference is apparent. She: makeup picture perfect, dress disco-sung; He: skin heavily coifed, suit freshly pressed. Their gaze says they belong to each other. A man eating dinner gives them a long once-over.

By 9:30 p.m. straight couples are pouring in. A pink-sweatered woman already a couple of sheets to the wind is stuffing a $1 bill into a dancer's red G-string on the strip bar. Sam-Ang Sam was studying classical and folk music and performances of Cambodian food and performances of classical and folk music and dance.

The Gay 90's, a bastion of gay night life for the past 20 years, has become a forum for a peculiar movement already.

Father Hayes Center, 699 Stevens Avenue, Portland. Admission is $6/under 12 free. Family admission is $12. FMJ, call Mary Beth Lapin or Bau Graves at 207-761-0591.

**Alice in Bed:**

**Susan Sontag's strange allegorical work**

Pre-eminent philosopher William James and his Nobel laureate brother Henry had an equally brilliant sister, Alice. Why have we never heard of her?

Henry James Sr pushed his sons to "convert and convert" their experiences of culture into highly articulate and self-conscious written works. Alice was not allowed to "settle" into an occupation, but goaded to pursue "something unconnected with specific doing...free and consciously conscious..." an activity which she battled through these impossible prescribers, Alice was confined to bed with nervous disease and lost most of her adult life, and produced only her belovedly published diaries and letters.

Alice was further impeded by her father's view of women as vessels of virtue, innocence, and self-sacrifice, and by her mother's belief that women should "give everything and get nothing." Though Alice was permitted to study, she rarely run or play, was corseted, and was restricted from visiting friends because she was "too excitable."

Small wonder that, after hours confined in their library, she would find herself overwhelmed with the idea of revolution. To change the world, to throw herself out the window, or knock the head off her father. Afraid of her own impulses and with nowhere to turn, Alice took to her bed and safely confined her insights to her diary.

This was a historical fantasy on Alice James's life features a witty, rebellious, and most indecorous Victorian heroine - an upper-class "lady" who threatens to marry a burglar, and offers her tea party guests a hookah. And what a party! Her guests include poet Emily Dickinson and philosopher Margaret Fuller, who shared her father-dominated world, and wentful and guilt-ridden characters out of popular opera and ballet of her period.

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