Courage to be Ourselves

Southern Maine Pride
Portland, Maine
June 20, 1998
Southern Maine PRIDE '98

In our 12th year, Southern Maine PRIDE continues the tradition of providing networking, entertainment and visibility. The Portland-based event brings together communities from all over New England. With attendance in the thousands, the economic impact is immense!

In light of the February 10th set back for human rights in Maine, this year's festival is likely to be one of the most important gay and lesbian community gatherings ever.

In light of the talk of a possible backlash - even a potential boycott of Maine - it is more important than ever that the community pulls together to support the ever expanding mission of Southern Maine PRIDE - a daily recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

The schedule to date (as of June 4, 1998):
Every Tuesday at Somewhere 117 Spring Street Portland karaoke with Larry & Lorry % of proceeds to Benefit PRIDE

Saturday, June 13 Bus to Boston Pride Leaves marginal way at 8am returns to Portland at 8:30pm $15 until May 15. $18 after. Tickets include breakfast and movies on board, Boston "Kite "Call 879-7323/878-9277 for tickets.

Sunday, June 14 5 p.m. Our 2nd Annual Community Awards Dinner Holiday Inn By The Bay, Portland Tickets are $25 and include a fabulous buffet! Keynote: Massachusetts State Rep. Liz Malia, The first openly lesbian (or gay) Mass. State Legislator in over 20 years, Liz is a living history resource of the movement for rights in one of America’s most “gay positive” states.

Award recipients (accepted at this time): Sarah Holmes, USM for "Safe Zones" project; Paul Fuller, "Vote No" walk; State Rep. Michael Quint, D-Portland; Sarah Goodyear, Editor Casco Bay Weekley. Karen Geraghty, Portland City Councilor and l/g/b/t rights advocate Rainbow Business & Professional Guild (Call 207-775-6002 or 879-7323)

Wednesday, June 17 3rd Annual PRIDELIGHTS Concert Congress Square, Portland Free festivities start 8:30pm. Tree lighting: 9:30pm LIGHT-UP Congress Square. Entertainment: including Diva Brazilia, Mark Anderson, Miss Maine 1997 and Maine Gay Men’s Chorus.

Thursday June 18 "Tangible Fathers" A Film by Bob Poirier Keystone Cafe 504 Congress Street A Portland premiere event! Reaching through layers of isolation and fear, Matthew, a Catholic Priest reared in rural Maine, struggles to grasp a hold of his sexual identity and interpersonal relationships. Not To Be Missed! 3 showings, 6, 8 and 10pm $5

Friday June 19 8p.m. till 1 am PRIDE Pier Dance at The Maine State Pier DJ’s, Tim Staneey and Lisa Vaccaro and a special live performance by Chan & Company! Cash bar (with ID) and soda bar. All ages. Tickets are $10 adv, $12 gate Tickets available at Drop Me A Line, Condon Sense (The old Port), Portland community/g bars.

Friday June 19 8 p.m. “PROUD and OUT LOUD” Maine Gay Men’s Chorus Portland High School Auditorium $12 advance $15 door Call 772-1384 for ticket information

Saturday, June 20 Southern Maine PRIDE Day! 10 am Interfaith Service First Parish Church 425 Congress Street With Dignity’s Rosemary Ananis, MCC’s Rev. Hornby by Bill Nemitz, Portland Press Herald 11am to noon Pre-Parade Party Assembly Monument Square Guest Speakers

High Noon Pride Parade to Deering Oaks From Monument Square Cindy Solomon, Seminarian Antoinette Pizet 1 pm to 3:30pm PRIDE Festival in Deering Oaks On Stage: Mark Anderson, Rachel Binder, Miss Maine 1997, Ed Kavor斯基, The Jean Meike Band, Mona Rae Band, and David Hall (Giuseppe Joe Records, NYC), plus local celebrities.

8 p.m. If You Ever Loved A Concert For PRIDE: Lucie Blue Tremblay with special guest, Anni Clark State Street Church Call 775-6002

9 p.m. 1 am Rainbow Ball (Stronger Productions) 18$ Holiday Inn By The Bay Grand Ballroom Tickets at door $10 ($2 off with Lucie Blue or MGCME ticket stub)

June 21 Sunset Karaoke Cruise with Larry and Larry Buffet, Cash Bar +1 only, prizes, sails at 6:30 pm.

Casco Bay Ferry Terminal, Commercial & Franklin PRIDE FESTIVAL/VENDOR INFO LINE: 878-9277

(Wide Screen gives good results)

SoMePride announces Community Service Awards.

Once again Southern Maine Pride will initiate Pride Week by recognizing those people who have helped to make greater Portland a more tolerant and safe place for the lesbian-gay/bi and transgendered community.

Our keynoter quest is Massachusetts State Representative Liz Malia of Boston. Liz has been an advocate for gay and lesbian rights within the Massachusetts Democratic Party and has been an aid to Mass. Rep. John McDonough.

Upon his resignation, she was elected in a field of three possible candidates, to the Massachusetts House with over 60% of the vote, making her the first openly gay/lesbian Massachusetts State Legislator since Elaine Noble, over 20 years ago. Liz is a living source of first hand civil rights history in one of the nations most progressive cities and state.

The recipients this year are as follows: Sarah Holmes: Sarah is a graduate student at the University of Southern Maine. She has time and again organized lgbt visibility and education events on campus and was the originating activists for the campus Safe Zone program.

State Representative Michael Quint: Michael has been one of the most open voice for gay rights in the Maine Legislative. The Speaker of the House, Elizabeth Mitchell said of Michael: “Michael has distinguished himself as one of our most capable policymakers and a true advocate for his constituents.”

Sarah Goodyear, Editor Casco Bay Weekly: Sarah’s mark on the weekly editions of CBW has been to aid in it becoming a focus on gay politics and issues. To many in the gay community, CBW has become a local source of information and history.

City Councilor Karen Geraghty: As a City councilor Karen has provided the Council a first hand awareness of the gay/bi communities needs and interests. It goes without saying that she has been a long time advocate and lobbyist for gay rights at the State House.

The Rainbow Business and Professional Association: Rainbow has been quietly building a network of self-supporting businesses and services within the gbti community. With membership into the hundreds Rainbow is providing a means for our community’s businesses to survive.

The SoMePride Committee’s “Person of the year Award” goes to Paul Fuller: Paul led one of the most well organized and positive events during the past referendum through his walk across Maine. His courage, stamina and attitude made our community many friends and provided many local opportunities to be connected in the effort for civil rights.

The Dinner will be held on Sunday, June 14 at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland. Cocktails are at 5 pm, followed by dinner and the awards (toast and roast) ceremony. Reservations can be made at 207-878-9277, 879-7323 or 775-6002. Reservations are $25, $20 for RBPA Directory listed businesses and for Outright members.
Pride Around The World

INTERPRIDE GLOBAL CALENDAR 1998
International Association of Lesbian/Gay Pride Coordinators, Inc. (IAL/GPC)

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND/AFRICA
Adelaide, AUSTRALIA ........ August 2
Amsterdam, The Netherlands ... August 1
Auckland, NEW ZEALAND;
”Hero”; February 6-21
Brisbane, AUSTRALIA .........June 27
Johannesburg, SOUTH AFRICA ... September 9
Melbourne, AUSTRALIA ... August 2
Perth, AUSTRALIA ... October 3
Sydney Gay Mardi Gras, AUSTRALIA ... February 28
Wellingotn, NEW ZEALAND ... August 3

CANADIAN PRIDE EVENTS
Barrie, ON, ................. August 9
Calgary, AL, .......... June 13-21
Edmonton, AL, .......... May 16-23
Kelowna, BC, .......... June 26-28
*London, ON, ......... July 5-12
Ottawa, ON, .......... July 10-19
Prince George, BC, .... September 5-6
Toronto, ON, .......... June 27-28
*Vancouver, BC, .......... August 2
Victoria, BC, .......... June 28-July 5
Valletta, MALTA ............ June 27-28
*Vienna, AUSTRIA ... July 3-5

EUROPRIIDE1998

Stockholm .................. 18-26 July

EUROPRIIDE1999, London..... July 3

MEXICO/CENTRAL/SOUTH AMERICA
Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA ... November 6
Mexicali, BC, MEXICO ........ September 19
Tijuana, BC, MEXICO........ June 20

UNITED STATES
Augusta, ME .......... August 15 or 22 (TBD)
Albany, NY .......... October 4
Albuquerque, NM, .......... June 13
Atlanta, GA .......... June 26-28
*Bangor, ME, .......... July 9-11
Boston, MA .......... June 7-13
*Cedar Rapids, IA .......... July 11
Charleston, WV .......... June 21
Chicago, IL .......... June 28
Cleveland, OH .......... June 27
El Paso, TX .......... June 7
Elmira, NY .......... June 21
Erie, PA .......... June 13 / October 10
Eureka/Arcata, CA, ........ June 14
Hartford, CT .......... June 20
*Honolulu, HI .......... June 20
Houston, TX .......... June 12-28
*Huntsville, AL .......... June 20
Hyannis/Cape Cod, MA .... July 18
Iowa City, IA .......... June 20
*Indianapolis, IN .......... June 13
Jacksonville, FL .......... June 13
Kapa’a, Kaua’I, HI .......... June 19
Knoxville, TN .......... June 7-14
Lansing, MI .......... June 19-21

LOS ANGELES METRO
Claremont, CA ........ October 10
*Glendora/Citrus College, CA(......TBD)
LA /West Hollywood, CA ...... June 27-28
*Orange County/Erlvise, CA-August 15-16
Pasadena, CA .......... September 19
Riverside/San Bernadino, CA ... July 11
Simi Valley, CA .......... May 31
Milwaukee, WI .......... August 28-30
Missoula, MT .......... June 12-14
Monterey, CA .......... June 20
* Nashvill e, TN ....... September 19
*New Orleans, LA ....... September 26-27

NEW YORK CITY METRO
Brooklyn, NY .......... June 13
*Bronx, NY .......... July 11
New York City/Manhattan, NY .... June 21 -
Queens, NY .......... June 13
Oklahoma City, OK .......... June 28
Palm Springs, CA .......... November 7-
Pensacola, FL (Seville Park) ...... June 21 (first
Philadelphia, PA .......... June 14
Portland, ME .......... June 13-21
Salt Lake City, UT .......... June 13-14
Santa Barbara, CA .......... June 6 & 27-28
San Diego, CA .......... July 24-26
SAN FRANCISCO / BAY AREA METRO
Marin, CA .......... June 20
Oakland, CA .......... June 27-28
San Jose, CA .......... June 14
San Juan, PUERTO RICO ...... June 7
Santa Cruz, CA ....... June 7
Seattle, WA .......... June 28
Syracuse, NY .......... June 20
St. Louis, MO .......... June 27-28
Tampa Bay, FL .......... July 3-5
Tucson, AZ .......... October 17

West Palm Beach, FL .......... June 28
Wichita, KS .......... June 19-20
Wilmington, DE .......... October 3

Schedule of Events for Bangor Pride ’98
Thursday: July 9th: Comedy Palozzo @ The
Spectrum Bangor’s community will be treated with the
hilarious comedy talents of two popular comedians -
direct from New York City. Ticket pricing and infor-
mation will be forth-coming!

Paul J. Williams: Deemed the “Best Little Homo
in Texas”, Paul Williams brings his political humor and
his “big hair” to Bangor in the first part of a two-hour
comedy night scheduled for Pride Week.
You’re sure to bust a gut as he pulls out his wig
and demonstrates how real estate agents have all the
right answers to your questions about home owner-
ship. Catch him before he jumps on the plane heading
for Miami Pride!

But wait... There’s More!
Michele Baland: When the Pride Committee re-
viewed her short video audition tape, it left us in
stitches and crying for more. Now, we’re bringing
Michele to The Spectrum to get your comedy juices
flowing.

We’re sure you’ll be yelling -Encore! - when
Michelle is through with you! This is a special per-
formance by Michele, as she is making a quick trip up
from her shows in P-Town for the event!

Friday Night: July 10th: Street Dance @ Club
Visions: Information to be announced. This event is
NOT YET confirmed. Proceeds will benefit the Bangor
Pride Committee.

Saturday July 11th: Parade & Festival
This year’s Parade & Festival will be similar to
last year, with a few exceptions:
-Speakers will at a rally to be held before the
Parade steps off. The festival will focus on entertain-
ment, fun, vendors, and food only. So, bring a blanket,
your sunglasses (hopefully) and plan to relax with us.
-There should be plenty of food to choose from
and we’re already receiving vendor inquiries from as
far away as Florida!
- More details will be forth-coming!

Sunday: July 12th: Family Fun Field Day
This day is still on the drawing table. We have no
details right now. However, if you would like to help
organize a fun-filled day of 3-legged races, water bal-
loon tosses and more, please email us: bangorpride@hotmail.com.
WE NEED YOUR HELP. PLEASE VOLUNTEER!

Interfaith Service
Southern Maine Pride Interfaith Service Sat-
Saturday, June 20 -10 am First Parish Unitarian
Universalist Church 425 Congress Street Portland
United by the theme, The Courage To Be Ourselves,
the interfaith service will include (among others) the
Rev. Cindy Solomon, Cathy Ferrick, Sherill Wells,
Antoinette Pezet, Glenn Richards and the Dignity
Choir. Homily: Bill Nemitz, Portland Press Herald

A Rite of Blessing of Unions Immediately fol-
lowing the service, committed gay, lesbian, bisexual
or transgendered couples are invited to join other
couples on the steps of the church to have their rela-
tionships blessed.

NH’s Pride Parade To Be Held In Manchester
Manchester - New Hampshire Pride, Inc.
will hold its Annual Gay Pride Parade in Manches-
ter, NH on June 20, 1998. This is the first time
that the Parade will be held in the State’s largest
city.

The theme for this year’s event will be “Unity
Through Diversity” with a variety of events being
offered throughout the day including the Parade
on Elm Street, guest speakers, entertainment and
more.

The Planning Committee for this year’s Pride
Day Celebrations is expecting to draw record num-
bers from the lesbian, gay, bisexual and
transgendered community. The group anticipates
that over 40 state legislators will be in attendance,
along with organizations and businesses from the
Gay community and their allies around the state.

New Hampshire Pride, Inc.’s mission is to
provide an educational forum in New Hampshire
which instills dignity, worth and self-respect for
the diverse gay, lesbian, bisexual and
transgendered community. International Associa-
tion of Lesbian/Gay Pride Coordinators, Inc.
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Program Outline

Portland
Wednesday Nights
June 24th- Aug 12
7 - 9 pm
142 High Street, 6th Floor

Week 1 Getting Started, Identity Issues
Week 2 Sexual Desire/Sexualities
Week 3 Sexual Health Issues
Week 4 Relationships I

Week 5 Relationships II
Week 6 Community
Week 7 Wellness
Week 8 Planning for the Future

Wells/Ogunquit
Thursday Nights
July 9 - Aug 27
7 - 9 pm
Location to be announced

Office: (207) 782-8311
Fax: (207) 782-2232
Pager: 851-3899
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Maine Gay Men’s Chorus
under the direction of Ed Reichert

6th Annual Pride Concert

Proud & Out Loud!

interpreted for the hearing-impaired by Meryl C.S. Troop.

8pm • Friday/Saturday June 19th & 20th
Portland High School Auditorium
Tickets $12 in advance • $15 at the door

Tickets available from any chorus member, or at
Drop Me A Line • Blackstone’s • Bookland Mallside Plaza • Amadeus
or charge to MasterCard/Visa by calling 772-1384
Dyke Phycbe: Lesbians and Sports

By Esther Rothblum

Until recently, there was little open discussion about lesbians in sports. The media focused on Billie Jean King's "paralmony" suit, Martina Navratilova's break-up with her romantic partner, and the "lesbian presence" in professional golf. Of course, lesbian sports fans could give you the names of lesbian athletes, coaches, and media sports reporters but these women were very, very closeted.

Now Pat Griffin has written the book STRONG WOMEN, DEEP CLOSSETS: LESBIANS AND HOMOPHOBIA IN SPORTS. "I've been a lesbian athlete and coach myself so a big part of this book comes from my own experience" she told me in a recent interview, "and over the last 15 years or so I've taken on this topic as a semi-crusade."

Pat herself played sports in high school and college, and then went on to coach high school and college students. She lived with her lesbian lover but dated the high school wrestling coach for "compensation."

As she writes in her book:

"I remember a teacher evaluation meeting I had with the principal of the high school where I taught and coached. He complimented me because 'I presented such a good image for physical education, not like some of the other women P.E. teachers and coaches in the country.' Though he never explicitly mentioned being a lesbian, I knew exactly what he meant and cowered further back in my closet."

Later on, Pat began to come out, first by attending lesbian events and then by speaking openly about homophobia at women athletic conferences. After a lifetime as an athlete and coach, she is currently professor at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst in a program on social justice education. "I see myself as an educator/activist," she told me, "and a lot of that comes from my sport and physical education background. I have coaches in my classes now, and some of what I say blows their minds, particularly when I talk about heterosexism. In athletics, this topic is so silent."

STRONG WOMEN, DEEP CLOSSETS focuses on the fact that homophobia doesn't just affect lesbians, but all women athletes and coaches. The lesbian label is used to intimidate women. "The main message that I'd like women to get is how lesbians are demonized in sports, and how that works to the detriment of women's athletics in general," said Pat. "There is so much divisiveness among women in sports heterosexual women are afraid of being called lesbians and they resent lesbians and blame them for having caused this 'image problem.'"

I want women in sports to realize that it's to their advantage to work together against that kind of intimidation that's how women's sports is going to grow. It's not going to grow by women being embarrassed by the lesbians and insisting that the lesbians be closeted, or being defensive about their own femininity. Whenever women put energy into that, they're taking energy away from being strong women and being the best athletes and coaches they can be."

"I wish there were more lesbians that could come out," Pat continued. "Some of it is internalized homophobia. Some of it is the nature of athletics athletes and coaches are often not particularly political. Coaches don't want to do anything that is controversial, especially at the Division I college level where it could hurt their recruiting efforts." Pat finds that Division II or III coaches are often more open about their lesbianism. "They don't have that public scrutiny and they're less dependent on recruiting."

Even lesbian fans are invisible. A recent article in the ADVOCATE was entitled "Phantom fans: Nobody wants to admit they're there, but the lesbian presence at professional women's basketball games is obvious." Of the two professional women's basketball leagues, Pat Griffin has found the ABL to be more openly welcoming to lesbian fans than the WNBA. She says this reflects the fact that the WNBA is controlled by the male NBA.

Increasingly, though, lesbians in sports are coming out. In its November 1997 issue, OUT Magazine reported on Division I coach Karen Weaver, who was fired as field hockey coach from Ohio State University. Now she is suing for anti-lesbian discrimination. Lesbian filmmaker Oscar nominee Dee Mosbacher has produced the film OUT FOR A CHANGE (Women's Vision Productions) about lesbians in sports. As Pat writes in the conclusion of her book: "In my vision, women will take pride in our athleticism without apology. Women will not be constrained by socially constructed notions of femininity or compulsory heterosexuality. There will be no need to apologize about musculality, physical competence, or passion for and commitment to sport.... In my vision of sport, women will value our relationships with other women. We will not be self-conscious about loving teammates and competitors as friends or lovers."

STRONG WOMEN, DEEP CLOSSETS can be obtained from Human Kinetics, 1607 North Market St., P.O. Box 5076, Champaign, IL 61825-5076.

More Books About Lesbians In Sports

If it's a rainy day, or your favorite sport is over for the season, here are some books with a lesbian sports theme to enjoy:

General Fiction About Lesbians In Sports


Lesbians In Basketball


Lesbians In Tennis


Lesbian Swimmers


Esther Rothblum is Professor of Psychology at the University of Vermont and Editor of the Journal of Lesbian Studies, and can be contacted at the Department of Psychology, John Dewey Hall, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405, email erothbl@dewey.uvm.edu. DYKE PSYCHE is a monthly column.

Copyright Esther Rothblum
Opinion Editorial: Eye on Equality

by Kerry Lobel, Executive Director, NGLTF

Rescue Who?

Disney tops the entertainment food chain. Ask Ellen. Ask Flip Benham and his pals from Operation Rescue. They demonstrated last weekend to protest Gay Day at Disney.

I'm no stranger to Flip and his friends. I lived in Arkansas from 1985 to 1994. Bill Clinton's presidential campaign and the first year following his election resulted in a swarm of visitors to “Arkansas: The Natural State.” (Arkansas used to be called the “Land of Opportunity,” but that is the subject for another column.)

Most memorable were the visitors who helped us understand the linkages between issues. First, Little Rock was targeted by Rev. Otwell from Texas. He and 40 of his followers picketed first Governor and then President-elect Clinton’s home church.

They targeted lesbians and gay men, people of color, doctors who provided family planning services, and people living with HIV and AIDS with their wrath. For three months, Sunday after Sunday, we gathered 100 counter-protesters across from the church.

We were subjected to taunts and physical threats. Worst of all, week after week, we watched the children of Otwell followers hoisted on top of coffins and encouraged to shout AIDSphobic chants.

By the time Flip Benham, Operation Rescue, and other demonstrators came to picket and block entrance to family planning clinics, we were ready. We had molded ourselves into the Arkansas Liberty Alliance, a coalition representing social, political and religious organizations.

We had hands-on training from the Fund for the Feminist Majority. Some of the most ardent foes of women’s right to choose were on the scene. Randall Terry, Joseph Scheidler and others attempted to divide our town.

Importantly, few people took the bait. Most heart-breaking were the scenes of children yelling threats and taunts as we escorted women to clinics for family planning services.

Moving fast forward, Operation Rescue has announced that intends to hand out religious pamphlets and “minister” to gay visitors at the Magic Kingdom, protest two Barnes and Noble Bookstores, and picket two family planning clinics in Orlando. Orange County, CA deputy sheriffs are expected to stand by in riot gear.

Flip Benham says that it hurts him to think of people “shaking their fists at God.” What really hurts Flip is the notion that Americans in growing numbers support civil rights for gays and lesbians, support women’s access to reproductive health services, and that bookstores offer children and adults the tools they need to think critically about issues facing our society.

It hurts me to think of children entering Disneyland and Walt Disney World subjected to the Flip Benhams and those of his ilk. But it hurts me even more to think of the children of the demonstrators — children that are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered or questioning — learning to hate themselves and learning that to love they’ll have to leave their families.

As a recent report issued by NGLTF’s Policy Institute indicates, the rate of disapproval of homosexual relationships has dropped precipitously over the last ten years. By shining a light on our families, Flip and friends provide us with a tremendous opportunity to do what our communities have done best — educate those around us through living lives based on love, respect, and accountability to our community.

Tangible Fathers:

“Reaching through layers of isolation and fear, “Matthew”, a Roman Catholic Priest reared in rural Maine, struggles to grasp a hold of his sexual identity and his unfulfilling interpersonal relationships.”

Tangible Fathers explores “Matthew’s” life from the birth of his spirituality in his pre-teen years, through the discovery of his sexuality in his early adulthood, to his present day struggle with accepting his sexual identity in the light of his role as a man of the cloth.

This is the story of his journey through a lonely world divided by two beacons, the light of God and the warmth of another man’s touch.

The Producer:

Bob Poirier was born in raised in Biddeford, Maine; studied International Affairs and Theatre at the University of Maine in Orono. After two years of producing promotional spots and commercials for the local Fox affiliate, Bob returned to the University of Maine to study Theatre at the University of Maine in Orono.

Bob moved to Portland when he accepted a position with Varied Directions International, a documentary film production company. Since then Bob has Associate Produced films and television programs for the Turner Broadcasting Network and the Discovery Channel as well as co-producing E-Maine, a 13 part series for Maine Public Broadcasting.

Tangible Fathers is Bob’s first independent film that has been three years in the making. With the sponsorship of the Equity Institute of Maine, many community organizations, his family, friends and personal resources Bob raised the approximately $8,000 needed to produce the 53 min. film.

“The process of telling this story has helped me understand what it meant to grow up gay in a Roman Catholic community; dealing with my sense of isolation and fear. For me the film is an exploration of how sexuality and spirituality can evolve together and flourish into a wonderful coexistence or how each element can strangle each other in an attempt to be the dominant controlling force of my existence.”
Service Directory

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