

Community Pride Reporter

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

Vol 6

Number 9

June 1998

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 duly 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 Lorry & 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 Pride "Kit" 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 Weekly. 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 8 p.m. till 1 am *PRIDE Pier Dance* at The Maine State Pier DJ's Conrad, Tim Staney 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, Condom Sense (The old Port), Portland community g/l 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. Homily 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 Kavorski, The Jean Meike Band, Mona Rae Band, and David Hall (Giuseppi 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 159 State Street Portland Ticket: \$20, \$17. UP Patron Tickets available with \$50 Contribution to PRIDE Ticket information: 775-6002

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

9 p.m. *Rainbow Ball* (Spectrum Productions) Holiday Inn by The Bay Grand Ballroom \$10 (\$2 off with a

ticket stub from Lucie Blue or MOMC Concerts) Tickets available at the door.

Sunday, June 21 *Sunset Karaoke Cruise* Sunday, June 21 *Sunset Karaoke Cruise*, leaves at 7:pm, Tickets are \$18 at dock side (\$16 in advance) available at Drop Me A Line and 879-7323 only Bigger and better, we've added a larger buffet, cash bar, and, of course, *Karaoke* (with Larry and Larry).

At A Glance:

The Official Southern Maine PRIDE Schedule

June 14-Recognition Dinner (Resv: 878-9277)

Holiday Inn By The Bay, \$25/p 5 p.m.

June 17 - PRIDELIGHTS Congress Square 8 p.m. Portland (free)

WI Diva Brazilia, Mark Anderson, Miss Maine 1997, MGMC

June 18 - Tangible Fathers A Film by Bob Poirier Keystone Theater: 6, 8 and 10 p.m. \$5

June 19 & 20 - "PROUD and OUT LOUD" "Concert

Maine Gay Men's Chorus Call 772-1384 Portland High School Auditorium 8 p.m.

Saturday June 20 Southern Maine PRIDE Day!

• 10 am *Interfaith Service* First Parish Church

• 11 *Pre-Parade Party* Monument Square

• Noon *PRIDE Parade* to Deering Oaks

• 1 - 4 p.m. *PRIDE Festival* Deering Oaks

• 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* (Spectrum Productions) 18+ Holiday Inn by The Bay Grand Ballroom Tickets at door Tix: \$10 (\$2 off with Lucie Blue or MGMC tix stub)

June 21-Sunset Karaoke Cruise (with Larry and Larry)

Buffet, Cash Bar 21+ only, prizes, sails at 6:50 p.m.

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

(Parade, dance, festival have rain dates)

Widest 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 Legislator. The Speaker of the House, Elizabeth Mitchel 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 have 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 lgbt 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 As-

sociation: Rainbow has been quietly building a network of selfsupporting businesses and services within the glbt 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 Out-right members.

Pride Around The World

INTERPRIDE GLOBAL CALENDAR 1998

International Association of Lesbian/Gay Pride Coordinators, Inc. (IAL/GPC)

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND/AFRICA

Adelaide, AUSTRALIAAugust 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
Wellington, NEWZEALAND...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 3-12
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

EUROPRIDE1998,
Stockholm.....18-26 July

EUROPRIDE1999, London.....July 3

MEXICO/CENTRAL/SOUTH AMERICA 8

Buenos Aires,
ARGENTINA.....November -6 event)
Mexicali, BC,
MEXICO.....September 19

Tijuana, BC, MEXICO.....June 20

UNITED STATES

Augusta, ME.....August 15 or 22 (TBD)
Albany, NYOctober 4
Albuquerque, NM.....June 13
Atlanta, GA.....June 26-28
*Bangor, ME.....July 9-11
Boston, MAJune 7-13
*Cedar Rapids, IAJuly 11
Charleston, WV.....June 21
Chicago, ILJune 28
Cleveland, OH.....June 27
El Paso, TX.....June 7
Elmira, NY.....June 21
Erie, PA.....June 13 / October 10

Eureka/Arcata, CAJune 14
Hartford, CTJune 20
*Honolulu, HI.....June 20
Houston, TXJune 12-28
*Huntsville, AL.....June 20
Hyannis/Cape Cod, MAJuly 18
Iowa City, IA.....June 20
*Indianapolis, INJune 13
Jacksonville, FLJune 13
Kapa'a, Kaua'i, HIJune 19
Knoxville, TN.....June 7-14
Lansing, MIJune 19-21

LOS ANGELES METRO

Claremont, CAOctober 10
*Glendora/Citrus College, CA(TBD)
L A/West Hollywood, CA June 27-28
*Orange County/Ervine, CA-August 15-16
Pasadena, CASeptember 19
Riverside/San Bernadino, CAJuly 11
Simi Valley, CA.....May 31
Milwaukee, WI.....August 28-30
Missoula, MT.....June 12-14
Monterey, CA.....June 20
*Nashville, TN.....September 19
*New Orleans, LASeptember 26-27
NEW YORK CITY METRO
Brooklyn, NYJune 13
*Bronx, NY.....July 11
New York City/Manhattan, NYJune 21 -
Queens, NYJune 7
Oklahoma City, OK.....June 28
Palm Springs, CANovember 7-

Pensacola, FL (Seville Park)....June 21 (first
Philadelphia, PAJune 14

Portland, MEJune 13-21
Salt Lake City, UT.....June 13-14
Santa Barbara, CAJune 6 & 27-28
San Diego, CAJuly 24-26
SAN FRANCISCO / BAY AREA METRO
Marin, CAJune 20
Oakland, CAJune 27-28
San Jose, CAJune 14
San Juan, PUERTO RICO...June 7
Santa Cruz, CAJune 7
Seattle, WAJune 28
Syracuse, NY.....June 20
St. Louis, MO.....June 27-28
Tampa Bay, FL.....July 3-5
Tucson, AZOctober 17

West Palm Beach, FLJune 28
Wichita, KSJune 19-20
Wilmington, DEOctober 3

Schedule of Events for Bangor Pride '98

Thursday: July 9th: Comedy Palooza @ 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 information 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 for 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 ownership. Catch him before he jumps on the plane heading for Miami Pride!

But wait.... There's More!

Michele Balan: When the Pride Committee reviewed her short 10 minute 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 performance 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 entertainment, 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 balloon tosses and more, please email us: bangorpride@hotmail.com. WE NEED YOUR HELP. PLEASE VOLUNTEER!

Interfaith Service

Southern Maine Pride Interfaith Service 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, Sherril Wells, Antoinette Pezet, Glenn Richards and the Dignity Choir. Homily: Bill Nemitz, Portland Press Herald

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

NH's Pride Parade To Be Held In Manchester

Manchester - New Hampshire Pride, Inc. will hold its Annual Gay Pride Parade in Manchester, 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 Association of Lesbian/Gay Pride Coordinators, Inc. Communications & Technology/Internet Chair

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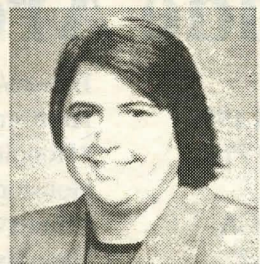
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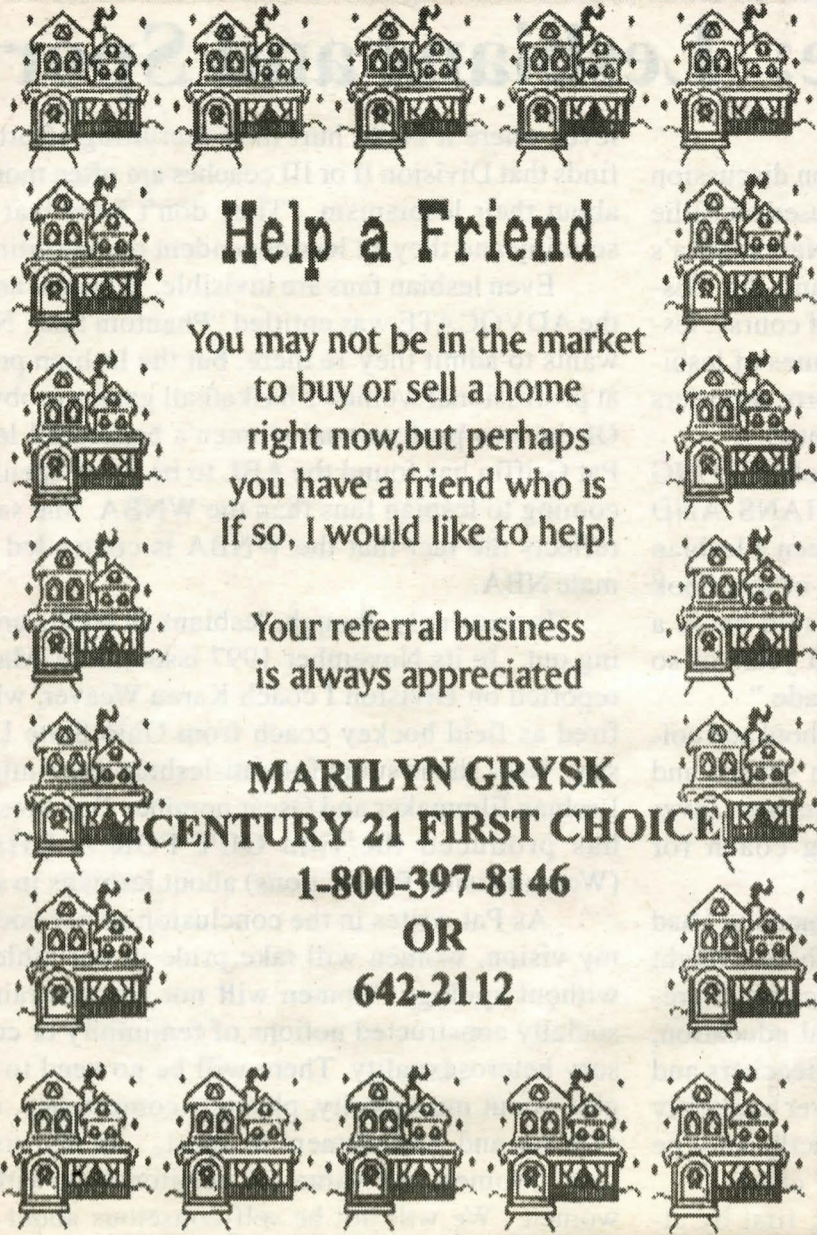
Program Outline

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

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

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



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*babe**

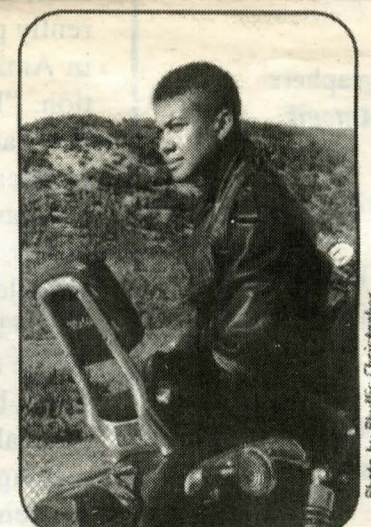
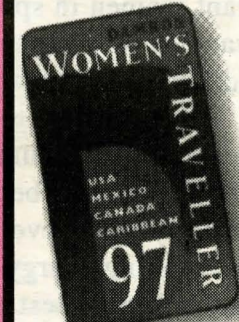


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P. O. Box 178
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Phone & Fax
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E-mail
cprpride@ime.net

Catherine Clark
Publishing Editor

Angel Castro
Managing Editor

Michael Doherty
Distribution Manager

C.M. Brennan
Cranky Observations

Distributors

*CPR Thanks the many
individuals involved in
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Photographers
Tom Antonik

Contributors

Tania Jo Hathaway
"To your Health"

David O.Cook
"Rant"

Daralyn Maxwell
"Trans Forum"

The Community Pride Reporter is printed on recycled paper using soy based inks.

This practice reflects our commitment to responsible use of earth's resources.

Using recycled paper sometimes results in a toned down or grayish tinge.

However we feel this is a small price to pay as Community Pride Reporter does its part to "Color ME Green."

Dyke Psyche: 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 "palimony" 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 lesbians athletes, coaches, and media sports reporters but these women were very, very closeted.

Now Pat Griffin has written the book **STRONG WOMEN, DEEP CLOSETS: 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 "cover." 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 CLOSETS 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 and Oscar nominee Dee Mosbacher has produced the film **OUT FOR A CHANGE** (WomanVision 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 muscularity, 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 Closets 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

Sportsdykes: Stories From On and Of the Field, edited by Susan Fox Rogers. St Martin's Press, 1994.

Sweat, edited by Lucy Jane Bledsoe. Seal Press, 1995.

A Whole Other Ballgame: Women's Literature and Women's Sport, edited by Joli Sandoz. Noon Day Press, 1997.

Lesbians In Basketball

The Necessary Hunger, by Nina Revoyr. Simon and Shuster, 1997.

Lady Lobo, by Kristen Garrett. New Victoria Publishers, 1993.

Lesbians In Tennis

Courted, by Celia Cohen. Naiad Press, 1997

Forty Love, by Diana Simmonds. Naiad Press, 1997.

Lesbian Swimmers

The Sea of Light, by Jennifer Levin. Penguin Books, 1993.

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 e rothbl@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."



Our Mission

Community Pride Reporter serves as a source of local, state, national and international news, information, ideas and opinions by and for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. CPR pledges to present materials that contribute in positive ways to lesbians, gays, bisexual and transgendered people.

Our Editorial Policy

Views and opinions, political and personal, expressed in Community Pride Reporter are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily those of the publisher. Community Pride Reporter may endorse candidates we feel represent our community most completely. Community Pride Reporter disclaims legal responsibility for errors in editorial, or advertising content, as all reasonable care is taken to prevent such errors. If an error has significantly detracted from the clarity of information presented, the Publisher may consider printing a clarification at her discretion. No assumption should be made concerning the sexual self-identification of either contributors or advertisers.

Submissions Welcome

CPR encourages readers to write! Material submitted for publication must be legibly signed and include address and/or phone number for verification. All submissions are subject to editing. Please keep letters to the CPR Mailbag to 300 words or less. Slightly longer and more composed submissions may be considered for a guest editorial at the Publishers 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 207-282-4551 for special publishing needs especially inclusion in a particular issue.

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