

Community Pride Reporter

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

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Maine Is Gearing Up For A Summer Of Pride



Computer Network Flaps Raises Issue Of Free Speech vs. Taste

By Victoria Brett

Portland, Maine (AP) University of Maine sophomore Casey Belanger sat down at the computer in his dorm room and typed a nasty, threatening message to a fellow student he had never met.

Using a slur for homosexuals, he wrote that if he saw the student, "I'm gonna shoot you in the back of the (expletive) head." Inadvertently, he sent the message onto campus computer bulletin boards, including one run by a gay-lesbian group.

A week later, the state attorney general slapped the 19-year-old with a hate crime lawsuit, accusing him of violating the civil rights of homosexuals.

"I don't even know the guy," Belanger said in a telephone interview from the campus in Orono. "I was just mouthing off."

On the Internet and via e-mail, threats and offensive jokes fly through cyberspace between anonymous users, often without repercussions.

But when such expressions appear on college and university computer networks, they can trigger complaints or even criminal investigations. They can also set off a debate pitting First Amendment rights against campus administrators' authority and responsibilities.

"Universities are concerned about libel and slander," said Peter Burke, an attorney in the corporate technology practice group at Powell, Goldstein, Frazer & Murphy, an Atlanta and Washington law firm. "By operating e-mail systems, does the university become responsible for what gets posted there?"

In some cases, Burke said, universities and colleges are walking the tightrope between censorship and free speech.

"Some universities are overreact-

ing. They're treating electronic mail differently than they would treat communications using a pen and paper," said Barry Steinhardt, president of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a San Francisco-based online civil liberties organization.

Steinhardt said colleges don't appear to care where students send their mail via the U.S. Postal Service, but with e-mail and the Internet there is a trail they can follow.

The University of Maine case is one of many:

At Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., four freshmen sent a derogatory "joke" about women to their friends through e-mail. The message was sent in 1995 to 20 of the students' friends, who then passed it along to countless Internet e-mail addresses, prompting angry responses from across the country. The four were required to attend rape awareness classes.

At the University of North Carolina, officials closed an e-mail account belonging to a former student after a racist message from that account was posted on at least 10 Internet news groups. Anyone reading the joke about "why all blacks should go back to Africa" could see that it originated at the university.

At Virginia Tech, a student was punished for posting a note on the World Wide Web page of a gay organization that suggested gay men be castrated and killed.

At Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, a student used the computer network to type an obscenity-laced message saying she hated white people. Bates officials called the message "offensive and divisive." The college's Hate Crimes and Bias Committee said the incident alerted it to other student postings

"sexist, racist, homophobic" and condemned them all as "inappropriate in any context."

Offensive or not, many would argue such postings are free speech, especially on campus, where ideas are continuously debated, Burke said.

"Do we have people deciding what ideas are good or bad?" he said. "Don't say that, it might offend somebody." "We'd rather you speak good ideas so everyone is happy."

David Merkwitz, a spokesman for the American Council on Education, a Washington-based trade association for 1,800 colleges and universities, said incidents on campus are forcing more and more educators to reassess e-mail and computer use policies.

"But the extent that it's a problem is difficult to gauge," he said.

At America Online, its 10 million subscribers must agree to the terms of service: No obscenities, no threatening, no harassing.

If they fail to comply, they lose their account, and in some instances law enforcement is alerted. AOL learns about violations mainly through other members, but it does not reprimand users for the quality of their e-mail jokes.

"There is an infinite amount of information and communication within the AOL community. There is no way to monitor each and every word, nor should we," said AOL spokeswoman Trish Primrose.

Some businesses monitor employee e-mail content, Steinhardt said. "Private companies pretty much have a carte blanche to control the use of their own resources," he said.

But public universities cannot legally punish students for what they say on the campus computer network,

Steinhardt said, unless the mail constitutes a violation of the law, like the Belanger case.

That incident started when Belanger stated on his resume on a student bulletin board that he "disliked fags." That prompted a barrage of anonymous e-mail, he said.

He sent the threatening message to the person he thought was sending the anonymous messages. But his message ended up going to 10 other students as well as the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual public conference folder and three other computer folders.

Soon after, students alerted campus security, who then forwarded the matter to police and the state attorney general's office.

"It all just got blown out of proportion," Belanger said.

The university ordered him to serve 30 hours of community service and suspended his computer account. The state waived a \$5,000 fine when Belanger signed an agreement promising not to harass or threaten others.

Belanger said he would never have said in-person what he wrote while hidden behind his screen name.

"It was just a spur of the moment thing," he said. "Given the opportunity, I would definitely go back and reword it."

Maine Attorney General Andrew Ketterer said there's an easy way to know when speech is inappropriate and possibly illegal: People should not be scared by a message they receive through their computer.

"I think that people may say, 'Hey, I got a First Amendment right to say whatever I want,'" Ketterer said. But he added: "It does not include the right to threaten."

Two Webster Men Lur And Beat Cambridge Man

Worcester, Mass. (AP) One of two Webster men accused of beating a Cambridge man after luring him to their town using an Internet chat room for gays has been charged with smuggling LSD into the jail where they await trial.

William D. Peters, 21, scheduled to be arraigned May 7, was further charged this week with conspiracy to violate the controlled substance laws, according to the Telegram & Gazette of Worcester.

According to court documents, correction officers at the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction in West Boylston found the drug in Peters' mail March 2. The LSD was sent by a relative to the jail, where Peters' is being held on \$10,000 cash bail.

William E. Frisch, deputy jail superintendent, told the newspaper Thursday that no decision had been made on whether to seek charges against the relative.

Prosecutors said Peters and Frank Labbe, 18, lured a 46-year-old Cambridge man to Webster Jan. 8.

The victim told police he went to meet Peters and Labbe after conversing

through an online chat room. He said they directed him to drive to a deserted field, where they attacked him while making anti-gay comments.

After police questioned Peters, according to the Telegram & Gazette, the Cambridge man received a telephone call, during which he was told he would be killed if he continued to cooperate with investigators.

Peters and Labbe, awaiting trial in Worcester District Court, are each charged with armed robbery, assault and battery with a shod foot, a civil rights violation with bodily injury, assault and battery to intimidate with bodily injury, threatening to commit murder, intimidation of a witness and conspiracy. Labbe is being held on \$20,000 bail.

In addition to the criminal charges, Attorney General Scott Harshbarger has obtained an injunction prohibiting Peters and Labbe from using the Internet to prey on people perceived to be gay, and from having any contact with the Cambridge man.

Violation of the injunction is punishable by a maximum of 10 years in state prison if physical injury results.

Investigation Of Marriage Group Fund-Raiser

HONOLULU (AP) The state Campaign Spending Commission is expanding its investigation into a November fundraiser held by a group opposing same-sex marriage.

The commission Tuesday voted to formally investigate the new complaints that campaign spending laws were violated in connection with the event. The complaints were filed by gay activist William Wood.

Save Traditional Marriage '98, a political action group, netted about \$90,000 dollars from the fund raiser.

The group is preparing for this fall's election, when voters will be asked to vote on a constitutional amendment that would limit marriage to one man and one woman.

Last month, the commission issued a ruling that Australian Consulate General Colin McDonald improperly made a \$200 contribution to the fundraiser. McDonald, who made the donation without knowing it was a political event, is barred from contributing under state law because he is a foreign national.

Woods has since raised more complaints about the fund raiser.

Commission attorney Brian Nakamura said the commission received a number of calls from people who attended the event and who did not know it was a fund raiser. He said it may be that some of the money was raised under false pretenses, which would be a major violation if proven.

Canada's High Court Back Gays In Landmark Ruling

By David Crary

Toronto, (AP) In a landmark gay-rights case, Canada's Supreme Court ruled Thursday that Alberta's human rights code must offer specific protection to homosexuals.

The ruling was a triumph for Delwin Vriend, 32, who was fired as a lab instructor by a Christian college in Edmonton in 1991 because he was gay, then told by Alberta's Human Rights Commission that he had no grounds for a complaint.

Alberta is one of three Canadian provinces that have not included homosexuals in their human rights codes. The others, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, have pledged to make the change.

The Alberta government's lawyers argued before the Supreme Court in November that it should be up to elected officials, not the courts, to decide whether

special protection for homosexuals should be included in the human rights code.

The high court rejected this argument and said Alberta should immediately amend its code to cover sexual orientation.

Excluding homosexuals from the code "sends a message to all Albertans that it is permissible, and perhaps even acceptable, to discriminate against individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation," the high court said.

At a news conference in Edmonton, Vriend said he was delighted by the ruling and criticized officials in the western province.

"It's extremely shameful that the government kicked and screamed and whined for the past seven years, all the way to the Supreme Court," he said.

Alberta has developed a reputation as Canada's most conservative

province. Its premier, Ralph Klein, said Thursday evening the province would obey the high court ruling, at least for now, and he indicated a Cabinet task force would examine whether the decision would lead to demands for the province to recognize same-sex partnerships and marriages.

More than a dozen groups intervened in the case, including some that saw the case as a test of religious freedom the right of King's University College to hire according to its beliefs.

The Supreme Court had ruled in a separate 1995 case that Canada's Charter of Rights prohibits discrimination against homosexuals even though it doesn't specifically state it.

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"Suddenly, my name and face were being blasted all over. It was like, 'Oh boy, I'm out now,'" Vriend said in February.

He now works in the University of Alberta library system. The high court ruling does not mean he automatically can get his old job back it does mean the provincial human rights commission would be obligated to consider his complaint.

Big-Busted Women Find Support In Portland

By Victoria Brett

Portland, Maine (AP) Magda Adrien wears a tight purple shirt proudly displaying her large 38DD breasts. But she was not always so proud, or so comfortable.

She once considered breast-reduction surgery because traditional bras amounted to torture, the thin straps digging into her shoulders, her breasts spilling out over the cups.

"I didn't understand," she said. "If we can send a man to the moon, then why can't I find a bra?"

Adrien never found a bra that fit right, so she started making her own three years ago. And it has turned into a profitable business that serves a market eschewed by many mainstream bra manufacturers.

Adrien's Society, as her business is known, is a godsend for women whose breasts are so big as to become an impediment.

Just how big?

Adrien's She Bras come in sizes up to 48FF, which can support breasts the size of 15-pound watermelons. Adrien said she gets requests for even bigger JJs the size of basketballs.

"When these women call me, they're desperate because they've been suffering all their lives," she said. "They don't make bras for women with big breasts, they just add fabric. It's a big

version of a little bra."

Women with big busts often complain about pain in their back, neck and shoulders, said Dr. Darrick Antell, a New York doctor who performs about 40 breast reduction surgeries a year.

Some women actually have deep grooves in their skin from the strain of the bra on their shoulders.

"Imagine if you were carrying a backpack full of books, and the way your shoulders feel," he said.

Lauri Postenrieder, 41, of Albuquerque, N.M., said she never had a bra that felt good or even lasted more than two months. At 21, she had breast reduction surgery and went from an EE cup to 36C. Then she had children and now wears a 40DD She Bra.

"I bought them at special bra stores and they didn't last. I would wear it for a month and they would fall apart," she said.

Women who try ordering a big bra from mainstream lingerie companies like Victoria's Secret may be disappointed, judging from the incredulous response from a company spokeswoman.

"G or H? Oh my god, I could jump into one of those," exclaimed Monica Mitro, whose company's limit is DD.

But there are big bras out there.

Lilyette, a division of

Maidenform, sells about 3 million bras up to size 42DDD through department stores.

Goddess Bra Co. in Boston sold \$50 million worth of plus size bras last year, with the largest a 46L.

"There aren't many bra manufacturers Warners, Bali, Playtex and these people are interested in the department store business. They are much larger companies and they don't have time to cater to the kind of women we cater to," said Gerold Kirschner, president of Glamorise Foundations Inc., a 77-year-old bra and corset company in New York City.

Glamorise sells thousands of bras in "hard-to-find sizes," something that means as big as 56L.

"If you saw that bra hanging in the store, you'd need three hangers to hang it on," he said. "We make hammocks."

In 1996, 57,679 women opted for breast reduction surgery, according to the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons, based in Arlington Heights, Ill.

Adrien considered the operation, but now is happy with her buxom chest. "I like them. They're my credentials," she said sitting in her office and sewing workshop.

In the last two years, Adrien has sold 4,000 bras across the United States.

That's a tiny piece of the overall industry estimated by bra maker Playtex to be worth \$4 billion, but Adrien hopes to boost that to 4,000 bras a month when she completes a TV infomercial.

The She-Bra, which is made with underwire, cushioned shoulder straps, and a silky supportive material, comes in solid colors or a sexy cheetah print. The bras, which sell for \$89.95 for three, plus shipping, are stitched together by workers at the Maine Center for the Blind.

Adrien, a graduate of New York's Fashion Institute of Technology, plans to eventually make bathing suits and lingerie, and she is driven by the desire to help other women and girls with big breasts. She wants women and girls to be comfortable in their bras and in their bodies.

It's not an easy task, she said, in a society that says the ideal woman is a size 8 and really big breasts are the butt of jokes.

"I really want to provide information first for young women, share my story, let them know that they're not a freak, they're not abnormal, they're OK and it's going to get better," she said.

Adrien appears on radio and television talk shows, calling herself "America's Big Breast Expert."

"One woman called me her Big Breast Hero," Adrien said. "That's why I do what I do."

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Lesbian Mothers and Their Children: Interview With Nanette Gartrell

By Esther Rothblum

In the early 1980s lots of lesbians were beginning to figure out ways to have children by donor insemination. Nanette Gartrell, a lesbian psychiatrist, was interested in studying these pioneer lesbians. "We had no money," she said in a recent interview, "but of course none of the work I've ever done has been funded. It's usually too controversial to be funded by any of the traditional sources, such as the National Institutes of Health."

It's years ahead of its time in terms of when such agencies would fund this kind of research. We decided if we waited for funding agencies to get over their homophobia to fund this study, we'd be waiting another decade. So we went ahead and funded it ourselves."

Nanette's study is now the longest-running study of lesbians who had children via donor insemination. "It's already been well-documented that kids of lesbian moms are healthy," Nanette told me, "so we're not trying to re-establish that. What we're interested in is how they have coped with homophobia."

At the time, Nanette's major collaborator was living in Washington, D.C. and Nanette was living in Boston, so they began the research with lesbians in those two cities. Then Nanette moved to San Francisco and included lesbians from the Bay Area.

The first step was finding lesbian mothers to participate. Nanette's research

team advertised in bookstores and gay and lesbian newspapers. They made up flyers to distribute at lesbian films and community events. They went to all the workshops on choosing children and told participants about the study.

The original study began with 154 mothers. The first interviews took place when the mothers were pregnant. Then the mothers and co-mothers were interviewed again when the children were a year and a half old and when they were five. Nanette's team is currently interviewing the families now that the children are 10, and this for the first time includes interviews with the children themselves.

Then the families will be interviewed next when the children are 17 and when they are 25. "When we interviewed the mothers at first, when they were pregnant, they anticipated being out as lesbians," said Nanette. "For the most part they used unknown donors, because there was a lot more fear at that time that somehow the state would come in and take the children away."

By the time of the next interviews, when the children were toddlers, many of them regretted this and wished they had used a known donor who could have participated in the child's life as a father. Lesbians that we interviewed even a few years later had begun to use known donors.

We actually stopped inviting new participants in 1992 because the 'old' lesbians differed so much from the 'new' ones in terms of donor identity."

Not surprisingly, the children were very much desired. When the lesbians were first interviewed while pregnant, about half the women were in coupled relationships, and had been with their partners from a few months to a decade or more. Others were single mothers.

When Nanette's team re-interviewed the mothers when the children were a year and a half, they were not surprised to find completely exhausted, harried mothers who had very little time for their own lives other than childrearing and paid employment.

One of the areas of difficulty was the little contact with their partners, and this was often a source of tension. By the time of the interviews when the children were five, a number of the couples had broken up.

Those couples where the mothers had spent time away from the children, in order to have more time with each other, were more likely to still be together than the couples that had been most child-focused.

Now the team is interviewing the ten-year old children. "It's very exciting to be interviewing the kids for the first time," said Nanette. "Because we have these very articulate kids who are

highly educated around issues of diversity, racism, and homophobia."

Doing longitudinal research is not easy. When Nanette had a flood in her basement a few years ago, some of the file cabinets got wet. "I was frantically using a hair dryer to dry the pages of the interviews so the data wouldn't be lost," she recalls. Nanette phones all the families each year to see if they have moved, so she won't lose touch with them.

A couple of women who once identified as lesbians are now involved with men; a few women have died. But Nanette has stayed in touch with just about all the women from the original sample.

As couples break up and then get involved with new partners, Nanette incorporates all these "step-moms" in the study. "This means we may be the only study that has more participants at the end of the study than at the beginning!" she said.

More information about the study results can be read in: Nanette Gartrell et al. (1996), *The National Lesbian Family Study: Interviews With Prospective Mothers*. American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, volume 66, number 2, pp. 272-281.

Esther Rothblum is Professor of Psychology at the University of Vermont and Editor of the Journal of Lesbian Studies. DYKE PSYCHE is a monthly column. Community Pride reporter is happy to welcome Ms. Rothblum aboard!

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Community Pride Resources

ML/GPA

a state-wide, non-partisan 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, promote civil rights, develop and review legislation, endorse candidates, build a coalition, and oppose anti-gay legislation and referenda. Meetings are the third Thursday of the month at the Maine Education Association building in Augusta. Questions, please call (207) 761-3732 or (800) 55-MLGPA.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

P-FLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Come and celebrate our children and friends just the way they are! (See listings for Maine & New Hampshire under PHONE SUPPORT and SUPPORT GROUPS.)

Northern Lambda Nord

an educational, informational, social, and service organization serving lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people in northern Maine and New Brunswick. Meetings are 2nd

Sunday of every month at 1 pm (ME), 2 pm (NB), at the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 S. Main St., Caribou. FMI write NLN, PO Box 990, Caribou, ME 04736-0990. The Phoneline is staffed every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7-9 pm. Call 207-498-2088 or 1-800-468-2088

The Matlovich Society

An educational and cultural organization of lesbians, bisexuals, gay men, and friends committed to sharing our history as well as providing person-affirming presentations 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 St. Portland. Free parking and accessible to the mobility-impaired. Call 207-773-8308

National Association of Social Workers, ME.

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 someone you know been a victim? Call the Civil Rights Section of the Maine Department of the Attorney General at 626-8844.

Citizens Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights: (CAGLR),

New Hampshire's oldest progressive gay/lesbian civil rights organization, welcomes all those interested in these goals to weekly meetings, programs, socials and various other events. Newsletter. Call Info-line 603-224-1686 or write to PO Box 730, Concord, NH 03302-0730.

The Rainbow Business & Professional Association

A state-wide, non-profit organization established to create a gay, lesbian, bi and transgendered "chamber of commerce" for Maine. Meetings for networking or dinner with speaker events, held in the Greater Portland area, second Monday of the month. FMI write P.O. Box 6627, Scarborough, ME 04070-6627, call 207-775-0015 or e-mail wildboys@mainelink.net.

Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights Trains and deploys volunteers state-wide 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: 207-879-0480 or write: MSOP, 123 Congress St., #1, Portland 04101. You need not be a speaker to work with Speakout!

Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network

GLSEN is a national organization working to end homophobia in schools. GLSEN members are committed to the belief that all students have the right to learn in schools which are free from discrimination, harassment and threats. All people who share this philosophy, regardless of sexual orientation or occupation, are welcome as members. The Southern Maine chapter of GLSEN meets 6:30 - 8:30 on the fourth Monday of the month (with some exceptions for holidays and vacations) at Waynflete School Library, 64 Emery St., Portland. Non-members welcome. FMI 207-773-9547 or write POB 10334, Portland ME 04104. **GLSEN Downeast Maine:** Meetings held the first Sunday of each month at the Downeast AIDS Network, 114 State St, Ellsworth, form 2 to 4 PM. FMI call 358-2347. All supportive persons welcome, including non-educators.

Support Groups

Lesbian/Gay Catholics

The organization Dignity/Maine offers supportive Masses for lgbt Catholics & their friends/families. Meets every Sunday at 6:00 pm in St. Lukes Cathedral, side chapel, 143 State St., Portland. Coffee & dessert after the liturgy. FMI call Rosemary or Janet: 207-646-2820 or Laurie: 207-878-0546 or write: Dignity/Maine, POB 8113, Portland 04104. All replies kept confidential.

The Appollo Society

an out-reach, networking and social organization for New England's gay and lesbian atheists, free-thinkers, ethical humanists and Hellenes. Free speech/civil rights advocacy group offering freedom-from-religion support, religious de-programming and fun! FMI call 207-773-5726 or P.O. Box 5301, Portland, ME 04101.

Circle of Hope MCC.

Circle of Hope Metropolitan Community Church meets each Sunday at 2:00 PM at 156 High Street (corner of Deering and High - Immanuel Baptist Church building) A Christian church founded in and reaching beyond the gay and lesbian community. FMI email MCCclergy@aol.com or call toll free 1-888-264-6223. PO Box 1671 Portland, ME 04104.

Central Maine Gay Men's Support Group

We provide a safe place to discuss issues going on in our lives or just to be with people in a safe non-alcoholic environment.

FMI call 207-621-1888 or 207-621-4254.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Discussion Group

1st and 3rd Fridays each month, 7-9 pm. First Universalist Church, 345 Broadway, Rockland, ME. FMI call Larry Godfrey at 207-594-2957.

Support Group—Penobscot & Surrounding Counties

For men who have sex with men. Monthly meetings to talk about issues and concerns. Call 207-990-2095 for more info & meeting times.

Q-Squad

Support group for lesbian, gays, bi's & transgendered. Serving Franklin County, based at UM Farmington. FMI call and leave message at 207-778-7380.

TransSupport

Support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, their families, friends. Meets in secure locations to provide support, education & social activities. Write TransSupport,

P.O. Box 17622, Portland, 04112 or phone 207-945-3092.

Gender Talk North

Gender support. Write for newsletter, P.O. Box 421, Peterborough, NH 03458. 603-924-8828. E-mail gtnorth@top.monad.net Web page (under construction) <http://top.monad.net/~gtnorth/index.htm>

Trans Counseling

Cheshire Counseling Assoc., PO Box 1124, Keene, NH 03431. 603-357-5544.

Maine Bisexual People's Network

Meets as a part of Bisexual Discussion & Support Group (see listing below). For counseling &/or other bi support, write: P.O. Box 10818, Portland, ME, 04104-6818

Bisexual Discussion & Support Group

Discussion and support group for women and men. Meets 1st & 3rd Wednesdays monthly, 7:30-9pm in room 1,

Payson Smith Hall, Falmouth st., University of So. ME, Portland. Open to non-students and students of all ages.

FMI Fax: SHOLMES@maine.maine.edu. or Call 780-3757 (private voice mail)

Prisoners of Gender

(Refusing to be Barbie, Ken or both). Meets every Friday at 1:15 pm at Davis Room, Memorial Union, UM at Orono

Lesbian/Bisexual Support Group

Meets every Tuesday, 7-9 PM, at Women's Resource Center 101 Fernald Hall at UM Orono. FMI call 207-581-1425.

Dover, NH

Gay/Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered support Group meets Sundays 7-8pm, Quaker Mtg. House, Central Ave. Social times too. FMI call 603-743-GAY2 eves.

Lewiston/Auburn

A new gay, lesbian, bisexual support group for the Lewiston/Auburn area meets Mondays at 7 pm at the Unitarian-Universalist Church on Spring St., Auburn.

Bangor Lesbian Support Group

This Lesbian Support Group welcomes any woman who self-identifies as a lesbian. They seek to create woman-only, lesbian-positive space to explore issues and affirm themselves and each another as lesbians. Confidentiality, open-mindedness and respect are required.

Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 pm.

Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center

334 Harlow St., Bangor. FMI call 207-947-5337. S.N.A.P.

Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests. Monthly support group for men & women healing from sexual abuse by clergy of any denomination. Meets in Portland location on third Friday of the month. FMI call 207-774-5025.

DEGLO (Down East Gay & Lesbian Org.)

Meets 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. Write McGrESS, PO Box 1894, Bangor, ME 04402-1894 or call 207-945-3092.

All Maine Transgender

Group Support for all Crossdressers, Transvestites, Transgenders, Transsexuals. All inclusive group, gay, lesbian, bi, straight. Confidential and discreet, Bangor meeting place. Meets the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Call 207-947-1686 for time and place; or FMI write AMT P.O. Box 145 Brewer, ME 04412.

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Parents Group

For dates, places and times write GLB Parents Group, P.O. Box 10818, Portland, ME 04104.

Mothers and Kids Group

Social events and group support for lesbians and their children. Emphasis on inclusion of lesbians in the process of becoming pregnant or adopting. Meets monthly in the greater Portland area. FMI write: P.O. Box 2235, South Portland, ME 04116.

GLAD to be Sober

Meets Wednesdays at 7:30 pm at the North Church - at the corner of north Main and Washington Streets - in Concord NH. Use the Washington street entrance.

Tiffany Club of New England (TCNE)

TCNE is a weekly support group for all transgender-identified individuals: cross-dressers, transsexuals, and others, along with their spouses and significant others. Meetings are Tuesdays from 7-10pm. FMI: TCNE, PO Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888-0483.

Maine AIDs Alliance

Maine AIDS Alliance: 39 Green Street, Augusta, ME 04330. Call 207-621-2924. Fax: 207-622-2662.

AIDS Coalition of Lewiston/Auburn: P.O. Box 7977, Lewiston, ME 04243. Call 207-786-4697.

AIDS Lodging House: 142 High Street Suite 609, Portland, ME 04101. Call 207-773-7165.

Camp Chrysalis: PO Box 990, Belfast, Maine 04915. Call 207-3338-5089.

Community AIDS Awareness Program: PO Box 457, Rumford, ME 04276 Call 207-364-8603.

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

Dayspring AIDS Support Services: 32 Winthrop St., Augusta, ME 04330. Call 207-626-3432.

Down East AIDS Network: 114 State St., Ellsworth, ME 04605. Call 207-667-3506.

Eastern Maine AIDS Network: PO Box 2038, Bangor, ME 04401. Call 207-990-3626.

Merrymeeting AIDS Support Service: PO Box 57, Brunswick, ME 04011. Call 207-725-4955.

Names Project/Maine: P.O. Box 10248, Portland, ME 04104. Call 207-774-2198.

Oxford Hills Community AIDS Network: PO Box 113, Paris, ME 04271. Call 207-743-7451.

Peabody House: 14 Orchard St., Portland, ME 04102. Call 207-774-6281.

People With AIDS Coalition of ME.: 696 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101. Call 773-8500.

The AIDS Project (TAP): PO Box 5305, Portland, ME 04101. Web page - www.neis.net/aidsproject. E-mail - aidsproj@neis.net Call 207-774-6877.

Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: P.O. Box 956, Belfast, ME 04915. Call 207-338-1427.

Medical Support

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England

Serving men and women, offering annual exams, pregnancy testing, birth control info. & supplies (free condoms!), testing and treatment for infections and STD's, menopause support and more. Evening hours, affordable services, and complete confidentiality. Medicaid welcome. 970 Forest Ave., Portland. FMI call 207-874-1095.

FREE FAMILY THERAPY

available for individuals & families (of any type) who are affected by HIV disease. FMI, contact Chris Behan, MSW at Center for Training and Special Programs. 207-773-6658.

Teen Life Center

Youth Clinic sponsored by City of Portland Public Health, Monday-Friday (10:00-11:30 am) The homeless health team's youth clinic is a place where you can receive free health care in a friendly environment. Located on Chestnut St. across from Portland High School. Confidential health services with access to other support

you may need. Drop in between 10 to 10:45 am.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic

Portland STD Clinic provides full range of services from screening & treatment, education & counseling and HIV antibody testing and counseling. Located in Room 303 of City Hall. Anonymous HIV testing by appointment on weekdays from 8 am to 5 pm. Call 207-874-8784. For other STD services: 207-874-8446.

Coping with Caregiving

Provides support for those caring for a disabled or chronically/terminally ill person. Group meets on 2nd and 4th Friday of the month at noon at Mercy Hospital Board Room, sixth floor. FMI call 207-879-3477.

Breast self-exam classes

The Breast Health Resource Center at Mercy Hospital is offering free self-exam classes to teach women how to perform breast self-exams, what to look for, what a lump might feel like, and what to do if you find something that doesn't seem right. Classes are on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

HIV Related Support Meetings

Portland:

Mondays: People Living with HIV disease and all friends, families, partners & caregivers, 6:30-8:00 PM.

Tuesdays: People living with HIV disease and all friends, families, lovers and caregivers, 10:30 am-Noon. TAP, 142 High Street Suite 632, Portland, ME 04101.

2nd & 4th Tuesdays: Living Well focusing on quality of life and empowerment.

Wednesdays: Drop-in discussion group for married/gay/bisexual/questioning men. FMI call Gerry at 207-774-6877.

1st Wednesday: PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support), 5:30 pm. Call 775-PAWS. Charles Wynott, Program Coordinator.

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

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

The above Portland support groups meet at The AIDS Project, 142 High St., 6th floor, except the Tuesday group, Living Well. FMI on that call Sandy Titus at Stratogen Health Care. Call Jane O'Rourke at 207-774-6877 or 1-800-851-2437 for more information.

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

careproviders. Meets every 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 pm, at the Aroostook Medical Center, conference room A. Presque Isle. FMI, Deb Madore of Health 1st, 207-768-3056 or 1-800-432-7881.

Auburn: People living with HIV disease, Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00 pm at Auburn Family Planning. Call Diana Carrigan, Androscoggin and Oxford Case Manager and Support Services Coordinator for TAP at the Auburn office, 207-783-7301.

Bangor: Man 2 Man HIV prevention program for men who have sex with men. M2M offers education, HIV testing, support groups, HIV/AIDS Hotline and workshops. To volunteer or FMI on the program call 207-990-2095 or write: Man 2 Man, POB 2038, Bangor, ME 04402.

Children's Support Group: Fun activities and outings for children who are affected by HIV/AIDS. Meetings are held twice monthly on Mondays 3:30pm - 5:00pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, Park St., behind City Hall in Bangor. FMI call 207-990-3626.

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

Biddeford: People affected or infected by HIV, Mondays, 5:30-7:00 pm. So. ME. Medical Center classroom opposite cafeteria on 2nd floor. Call John Bean, York County Case Manager, 207-774-6877.

Farmington: Thursdays: 6:30-8:30 pm.

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

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

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

Lewiston: 4th Thursday: Great Sexpectations monthly drop-ins for gay, bi & questioning men of all ages. 7:00-10:00 PM, ACLA office (4 Lafayette St.) FMI, Sean-207/786-4697.

Rumford/Mexico Area: Mondays: AIDS Support Group/Phoneline meets from 7-8:30 pm at Mexico Congregational Church, Main Street, Mexico. Call 364-8603.

New Hampshire:

Derry area: Support group open to anyone infected with AIDS/HIV. Hosted by the Ecumenical AIDS Task Force, at St. Thomas Aquinas. FMI or reservations, call Jane Dwyer at 603-432-7530.

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

Keene: Support group for HIV positive people and those living with AIDS meets alternate Mon. 6:30

pm. For details call Schultz, 603-357-5270.

Lebanon/Hanover: ACoRN offers support groups, case management, community referrals and HIV prevention programs for people in the Upper Valley. FMI call John or Mark at 800-816-2220.

Monadnock Region: For info., referrals, testing, buddies, speakers & volunteer opportunities call AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region at 603-357-6855 or 1-800-639-7903 or call United Way Help-Line, 1-800-368-4357.

Nashua area: Two weekly self-help groups for those infected with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS. For times, dates and locations, call 603-595-8464.

N.H. Seacoast "Connections" support group for care givers, parents, families and friends, all those whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS. "Connections" meets every month on second Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the Exeter Congregational Church 21 Front St. Exeter, NH. Discussions, information sharing and support are offered in a friendly and private atmosphere. FMI 603-772-6221, or 603-436-8963.

Peterborough: Support group for family, partners and friends whose lives have been affected by HIV/AIDS meets Tues. at noon. Call Maria Rosario-603-924-7191, ext. 1126 for details.

Winnepesaukee Region: HIV/AIDS support group meets Wednesdays from 7-9 pm at Lakes Region General Hospital. FMI call Wayne at 603-524-3211 ext 3900.

Phone Support By Region

National Center for Lesbian Rights Youth Project: 1-800-528-NCLR.

Man 2 Man hotline -Providing HIV/AIDS information, and referrals for identity and emotional support services. Staffed Mon-Fri. 8:30 - 4:30. Call 207-990-2095 or in Maine 1-800-429-1481.

Gay & Lesbian Phoneline of Maine: Staffed Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7 pm - 9 pm. Call 207-498-2088 or (Maine) 800-468-2088.

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

National Hotline for gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender youth. Sponsored by the Indianapolis Youth Group. Staffed & trained, peer youth counselors. Lines are open Sunday thru Thursday 7-10 pm, Friday and Saturday 7 pm to midnight. Confidential and anonymous. Call 1-800-347-TEEN

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-5 pm, Mon. & Wed. evenings until 7:30 pm. Anonymous.

DIAL KIDS: For lesbian, gay, bi & questioning youth under 19 yrs. 774-TALK.

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

The AIDS Project 774-6877. Located at 142 High St., 6th floor, Portland 04101. Call for information and support group meetings in Portland, Lewiston, Brunswick.

Bangor: Eastern Maine AIDS Network: 990-3626

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

Belfast: Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: 338-1427

Brunswick: Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services: 725-4995

Bridgton: Community Task Force on AIDS: 583-6608 -

Rumford: Community AIDS Awareness Program: 823-4170

Lewiston: AIDS Coalition of Lewiston/Auburn: 786-4697

Waterville: Dayspring: 626-3435

Ellsworth: Down East AIDS Network: 667-3506

Oxford Hills: Oxford Hills Community AIDS Network: 743-7451.

Mid coast: Gay men's HELP LINE, 6:00-9:00 pm (only) M-F 207-863-2728. FAX 207-863-2794. Also, gay youth info.

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG) Contacts in Maine (* indicates monthly meetings)

*Dover-Foxcroft: 564-7986 - Sharon

*Brunswick/Bath: 729-0519 - Sally & Gene

*Lewiston/Auburn: 783-6964 - Estelle

*Portland: Rita, 766-5158 or Sue, 774-3441

CONTACTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

P-FLAG NH 24 hour Helpline: 603-623-6023

New Hampshire: Teen Crisis Line - 1-800-639-6095/1-800-750-2524.

Concord: Judy, 603/485-3943

Webster: Betsy, 603/746-3818

Nashua: Nancy, 603/880-8709

Kensington: Nora/John, 603/772-3893

Stratham: Betty, 603/772-5196

Francetown: Cy/Gordon, 603/547-2545

Rumney: Ann, 603/786-9812

Upper Valley: Fel, 603-785-4810.

DOVER, NH: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Helpline for information, referral or need to talk. M-F 6-10 pm, Sat.-Sun. 9am-2pm. 603/743-GAY2.

Youth Support

OUTRIGHT

Bangor: Outright Too: Supportive, informative and social meetings for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and questioning youth age 22 and under. Safe place for questions, growth, and fun. Held twice monthly. FMI call 207-990-3626.

Central Maine: Weekly confidential meetings for gay, lesbian and questioning youth 22 years and under. First Call at 207-795-6677 OR 1-800-339-4042 and ask about **Outright**.

Lewiston/Auburn: Meets first and third Fridays. Confidential meetings for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, & questioning youth 22 years and under. Call 786-2717 for more information.

Portland: Meets every Fri., 7:30-9:30 pm and every Tuesday 6 pm to 9 pm at The Cinamon Building, 1 Pleasant St., 4th floor, Portland. Safe & supportive discussions with and for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transexual & questioning young people. FMI call 828-6560, or 1-888-567-7600 or write to P.O. Box 5077, Portland, ME. 04101.

Waldo-Knox: Meets every other Sunday in Camden for g/l/b or questioning youth 22 & under. Confidential, support-

ive, safe space for growth, discussion & fun. FMI Coastal AIDS Network 338-1427 or write P.O. Box 956, Belfast, ME 04915. Collect calls okay.

Concord: Meets every Thurs., 7-9 pm at UU Church, 274 Pleasant St., next to concord Hospital & Orthopedics Clinic. 603/664-9169.

Monadnock: Meets every Thurs., 7-9 pm at "The Place To Go", 46 Concord St. (Rt. 202 N), Peterborough, 603/547-2545.

Nashua: Meets every 2nd & 4th Thursday at UU Church corner of Canal & Lowell Sts. (near Dunkin Donuts). Call Steve or Gypsy at 603/672-0792. Email: OutrightNH@AOL.com

Seacoast: Meets every Sun. 5-7 pm (movie night), Tues. 6-8 pm (drop in), & Friday from 7 to 9 pm (support group) at the UU Church Annex (next to fire station), 206 Court St., Portsmouth NH. FMI call 603/431-1013, P.O. Box 842, Portsmouth NH 03801.

COLAGE

A national support group run by and for the children of gay, lesbian or bisexual parents. FMI call COLAGE, 2300 Market St., #1

Social Groups

Maine Frontrunners: a gay and lesbian running club sponsoring weekly run in Portland. We meet at the beginning of Back Cove Walkway (corner Baxter Blvd. & Preble St. Ext.), Saturdays, 9 am. FMI call Jim 761-2059 or John 828-4896.

Out on MDI: For gays, lesbians, bi's and our friends. Very active social/support group. Meets every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Newcomers always welcome. FMI, write OUT ON MDI, PO Box 367, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679-0367 or call 207-288-2502 and leave a message.

SOLO: Monthly Gatherings for Older, Single Lesbians: for fun & friendship. FMI call Kathy 207-688-4737 or 207-725-0179.

W.O.W. (Wild Outdoor Women): Recreational group meets monthly for outdoor activities followed by pot luck socials. Activities: biking, hiking, camping, canoeing, kayaking. FMI: Jen @ 207-787-2379

Wilde-Stein Club: Meets every Thursday at 6:30 pm at Memorial Union, Sutton Lounge, UM at Orono.

ALMA: Active Lesbians of the Monadnock Area (formerly the Monadnock Area Women) meet on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. FMI call 603-363-4961.

Dartmouth Women's Meeting: Meets every Monday at 9 pm at the Women's Resource Center, Dartmouth College. FMI call 603-646-3636.

LINC: Lesbians Inviting New Connections. A network serving women in New England. FMI call Pauli at 603-668-9245.

Mountain Valley Men (MVM): A 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 Redstone(NH); outdoor activities and meetings are listed in the monthly newsletter; FMI: MVM, Box 36, Ctr Conway, NH 03813; Paul or Dave at 207-925-1034; e-mail DFISPALP@AOL.COM..

Seacoast Gay Men: Social group meets Mondays (except holidays), 7 pm Unitarian Universalist Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH. FMI call (603) 430-4052, or write P.O. Box 1394, Portsmouth 03802-1394.

Women Meeting Women: Lesbian social/support group meeting monthly at the Unitarian-Universalist Church on the 2nd Saturday of the every month from 2:30 - 6 pm. FMI call Dianne at 603-881-4268, or by e-mail DBalbat@aol.com.

Chiltern Mountain Club: Gay and Lesbian outdoor organization with about 1,200 members throughout New England. Activities include hiking, back packing, biking, canoeing, skiing etc; Monthly newsletter listing trips each month. Call either Tracy Green at 207-828-2535 or Mike Boisvert at 603-669-1936.

Calendar Items

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

These seminars will be held on the second Monday of every month, at 7:15pm, at the Methodist Church, Elm Street, South Portland.

For more information, contact Julie Shackley at 207-780-8624; Grace Moulton RN at 207-799-3179; or Rev. Tom White at 207-799-0407.

(VNA) will be holding on an-going Adult Immunization Clinic/Health Screen
Eastern Maine AIDS Network

Eastern Maine AIDS Network (EMAN) offers the following on-going professionally-sponsored support groups. The EMAN offices are located at 80 Exchange Street, 4th Floor, Bangor, Maine. The office number is 990-3626. Times, locations or contacts for individual support groups may vary, and information is provided as applicable.

Kool Kids Club - Activities for children affected by HIV/AIDS. Kool Kids Club meets every other week from 3:30pm - 5pm. For more information, call Chuck or Erica at 990-3626.

PFLAG - Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets one per month from 12:30pm - 1:30pm. For more information, call Arline at 945-5897 or Sarah at 825-3254.

Man 2 Man - Prevention programs and support. For more information, call 990-2095.

MEN'S Support Group - Man 2 Man HIV/AIDS prevention program for gay, bi or questioning men who have sex with men. Man 2 Man offers education, HIV testing, HIV hotlines and workshops. For more information, or to volunteer, call Shawn at 1-800-429-1481; or write to Man 2 Man, PO Box 2038, Bangor, Maine 04402.

Women's Support Group - for women living with HIV/AIDS. Meets the last Wednesday of the month from 10:45am - noon. For more information call Latona at 990-3626.

Press Releases

Poetry Contest: You may enter a free poetry contest sponsored by the Berkeley Bards, one of America's most prestigious poetry societies. The grand prize has been increased this year to \$1000.00 and everyone is invited to enter.

The guidelines are simple. Your poem must be 21 lines or less and may be written on any subject, using any style. To enter send one poem only: Free Poetry Contest, 1678 Shattuck Avenue, Suite 101, Berkeley, California 94709. Or enter on line at www.freecontest.com.

Says noted Poetry Director Dr. Ralph

Kasper, "Maine has a great reputation for producing fine poets and we think that this contest will yield exciting results. As an incentive to beginning poets we reserve the right to publish the winning poems!"

Deadline for entering is May 26, 1998. Winners will be announced by the last week in October and a winners list sent to all entrants.

Maine Real Estate And Economic Development Association: Real Estate Spring conference on Thursday, May 21, 1998 at the Sheraton Tara Hotel, 363 Maine Mall Road, So. Portland between 1:15 and 4:30p.m. (Registration at 12:30p.m.) The conference is sponsored by Bell Atlantic. To register for the conference or for more information, please contact MEREDA at (207) 874-1939. The registration fee is \$50.00 per person for MEREDA members and \$65.00 per person for non-members.

Safe Schools: a workshop for Waldo, Lincoln, and Knox County teachers, counselors, and administrators, will be held Saturday, May 16 from 10a.m. to 2p.m. at Camden-Rockport High School, Knowlton Street, Camden. This event is being organized by Coastal Outright and the Coastal AIDS Network.

Coastal Outright is funded by the Maine Bureau of Health and the Coastal AIDS Network. For more information on Safe Schools or Coastal Outright services and programs for youth or educators, call 338-6330 or write Coastal Outright, PO Box 956, Belfast, ME 04915.

Public Service Announcements

Maine Rural Network: May 9...Alive and kicking: Life after Feb.10-A workshop on local Organizing. One day conference at Colby College, Waterville 9:30-3:30 Includes panel discussion on rural organizing and introduction to MRN FMI, call Janet May, 862-5907 or Mitzi Lichtman, 338-5889.

Greater Portland YMCA: Summer is only a couple of months away. Plan for a fun filled summer now!

* Have a backyard pool? Have us drive out to you to teach in your pool. Call the YMCA and ask about our "Home learn-to-swim" program.

* America's favorite swim lessons are offered here at the YMCA. We will be offering our special 2 week Summer Session. Call Aquatic Director, Mathew Engineeri for information.

* Take the plunge into summer camp with Aquatic Adventure Camp for kids ages 8-11 years. Children that attend this camp can expect the best times of their summer.

* Teens, ages 12-15 years, can challenge their aquatic skills with Aquatic Challenge Camp. Teens will be able to white water raft, canoe trip, whale watch and much, much more.

* Teens 16 years and up can prepare for a summer job as a lifeguard by taking YMCA Life-guarding Classes here at the Greater Portland YMCA. Classes start May 14, 1998.

* Dive into the great underwater world of Scuba Diving. Classes are offered May 4th, June 15th, and August 3rd. Stop by the YMCA to pick up information.

F.M.I. contact Mathew Engineeri Aquatic Director, Greater Portland YMCA. (207) 874-1111 ext.210

Calendar Items

Portsmouth- The Seacoast Repertory Theatre presents the phenomenal Rock Opera, **Jesus Christ Superstar**, which is currently running through May 17th. Performances are: Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 4 p.m. on May 2, 9 and 16, and Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$17-\$20, with discounts for children, students, and seniors. Tickets may be purchased by calling the box office at 603-433-4472 or 800-639-7650, or by visiting the ticket window at 125 Bow

Cancer Lecture

Dr. Claes Nilsson will discuss early diagnosis, and the varieties and types of treatment modalities available to help cure or control cancer. This lecture will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 7pm at the Catherine McCauley High School Auditorium, 631 Stevens Avenue, Portland.

Cancer remains a frightening reality in Maine, with over 8,000 people diagnosed last year alone. Whether its breast, lung, prostate or some other cancer, early diagnosis, treatment and information are important. There have been many advances in the treatment of cancer, including new drugs and new modes of treatment which give patients hope and help to maintain a better quality of life.

Dr. Nilsson, M.D., is the director of The Oncology-Hematology Center at Mercy Hospital, a center offering treatment and supportive care for all types of cancers and blood-related disorders.

For more information, call Mercy's Public Relations Office at 879-3486.

Skincare Seminar

Dr. Michael Taylor will discuss what's normal and what's not, when it comes to the skin we're in. This lecture will be held on **Wednesday, May 13, 7:00pm** at the Catherine McCauley High School Auditorium, 631 Stevens Avenue, Portland.

Part of a healthy lifestyle includes caring for our skin. Problems can arise from rashes and sun damage to melanoma. What is appropriate skin care? What can we do about the aging of the skin? What about those lumps, bumps, spots and dots? J. Michael Taylor, M.D., is a dermatologist in Portland who has practiced for over 15 years. For more information, call Mercy's Public Relations Office at 879-3486.

Men's Resources

Coastal AIDS Network, 156 High Street, Belfast, offers support groups,

Street in Portsmouth, Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Portsmouth- The Seacoast Repertory Theatre presents **Johnny Appleseed**, a Youth Theatre musical production currently running through May 17. Performances are Saturdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. All seats are \$5.00. Tickets may be purchased by calling the box office at 603-433-4472 or 800-639-7650, or by visiting the ticket window, Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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 7:00 p.m.. Potluck/discussion groups are held on the 4th Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Support groups are held on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month from 7 - 9 p.m. Support groups are also held in the Waldoboro area on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. For more information, call 207-338-6330.

Coastal Outright

Support group meetings are held for gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning youth by Coastal Outright. Outright advocates creating a safe supportive environment for youth. For more information in the Coastal Maine area, call 207-338-1427.

HIV/AIDS Drop-in Support Group

Drop-in support is available for those infected with HIV/AIDS every Thursday from 6:15 - 7:45 p.m. in Rockland. For more information, call Marjorie at the Coastal AIDS Network at 207-338-6330.

Stress and Anxiety Screening

Wednesday, May 6 is *National Anxiety Disorders Screening Day*. Free screenings will be held on that day at the following times and locations: **8am - 10am** Intermed, 259 Main Street, Yarmouth.

11am - 1pm Intermed-Stroudwater, 1685 Congress Street, Portland.

30pm - 3:30pm Intermed-Generations, 619 Brighton Avenue, Portland.

4pm - 6pm Integrated Behavioral HealthCare, 1 Forest Avenue, 2nd Floor, Portland.

The screenings are **free of charge**, and include a written self-test for anxiety. Screenings will be conducted by mental health professionals, and an educational presentation will be available.

Symptoms of anxiety include constant worrying, sleep difficulties, anxiety

Music & Art

Women In Harmony

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

Maine Gay Men's Chorus

a community chorus which brings men together to enhance social tolerance and diversity in the Greater Portland area, as well as affirming the gay/lesbian experience with creative and 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

Online/Internet

The Maine GayNet Mail List

Share your ideas and opinions with other list members. To subscribe to this list, send e-mail to majordomo@abacus.oxy.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: paula@maine.com.

San Francisco Gay/Lesbian Tourism Guide

An online merchant-sponsored Internet website geared to gay and lesbian travellers to the San Francisco area. It is compatible with most mainstrea

Community Pride Reporter

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Arts & Entertainment

Nightclubs Courting Gays And Lesbians

Hartford, Conn. (AP) Nightclubs trying to broaden their clientele have added a new theme night to their weekly lineups "alternative" night, catering to the gay and lesbian community.

David Squillante, owner of Velvet in downtown Hartford, says there was a time when sponsoring an alternative night would have been "the kiss of death." Now, he says, it's a good way to gain revenue.

Velvet turns into "Groove Box" on Wednesdays, offering dancing and entertainment aimed at the gay and lesbian crowd. Two weeks ago, Squillante added a second alternative night on Sundays.

"The gay people we see in here are successful, friendly, open-minded people who spend more and leave bigger tips than a straight crowd," Squillante said.

Clubs such as The Bar With No Name and Webster Theater are also offering alternative nights to fill a void in business.

No Name draws a mixed

crowd on Sundays with its live show that includes drag karaoke and "The Gay Dating Game."

"Without a doubt, it is a wise, profitable business venture," said Fran Delmastro, who recently purchased the downtown Hartford bar.

Delmastro said bar owners are being forced to look for new customers. "There are less people drinking now, given health, insurance and the law. It forces us to go after every market now to try to keep afloat," he said.

Michael Begun, advertising and marketing manager for Metroline, a magazine aimed at Connecticut's gay and lesbian community, said he is amazed at the interest in alternative nights.

"Bars that are straight most of the week see an opportunity to make money on slower nights, especially on Wednesdays and Sundays," Begun said.

But some of the bars that have been dedicated to the gay and lesbian community are a bit worried about the new competition.

Dan Brewer, who manages The

Sanctuary in Hartford and Avalon in East Windsor, both gay bars, says he has seen a decline in the city crowd as more alternative nights spring up. Brewer is scheduled to close The Sanctuary on April 19.

Bruce Lamothe, manager of the 25-year-old gay bar Chez Est, said he, too, has mixed feelings about the sudden interest in the gay and lesbian market.

"I'm aggravated that they are trying to capitalize on something they used to scorn," Lamothe said. "It siphons off business from those of us who have supported the community all along."

But Michael Bell, a 29-year-old insurance actuary who recently moved from New York, said the downtown bars offer a different atmosphere.

"I know there are a few other gay bars around here, but they attract an older crowd," Bell said. "I'm young and at a different point of my life. I want this kind of ambience; big city kind of stuff."

Stabbing Called A Bias Crime

By Donna De La Cruz

New York, (AP) Three teen-agers came to Greenwich Village for a good time, police said. They ended up arrested after making anti-gay remarks to a group of people, sparking a confrontation that ended with the stabbing of a 22-year-old man.

Capt. Barbara Sicilia, commanding officer of the bias crime unit, said Wednesday's incident was "bias-sparked" but has not been deemed a bias crime yet. She added that police do not believe the teens came into the area along the piers of the Hudson River to harass gays.

"In fact, they were here to visit the water, and to come to this area and have a good time," Sicilia said.

The incident began when the teens an 18-year-old male and two girls, ages 14 and 15 walked by a group of people near Christopher and Hudson streets at 1:15 a.m. Wednesday.

"An anti-gay remark was made, just in passing we're talking about juveniles the victim took offense to it, had

some words," Sicilia said.

One of the girls made the remark, but Sicilia would not disclose what was said.

The victim identified by The New York Times today as Colin Brown, 22 approached the teens. The male attempted to defend the girl who made the remark, and a fight started.

"There was an initial punch thrown by the perp, he missed the victim, the victim returned the punch and then the knife came out," Sicilia said, adding that the weapon was a hunting knife.

Sicilia defined a bias crime as an incident motivated by race, religion, ethnicity, disability or sexual orientation.

"I don't believe their intent was to have a bias attack," Sicilia said. "I think these were juveniles who were saying things that they shouldn't have been saying."

Christine Quinn, executive di-

rector of the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, asserted that the attack was a bias crime because of the attackers' "perception" the man was gay. She also disputed the account the teens were just visiting the area.

"They came in a group ... and they came with a weapon," Quinn said. "They came on the subway, in their car, whatever, with a knife, and that's very typically what we see in bias crimes, people will bring weapons from home."

The victim was listed in serious but stable condition at St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center. Sicilia said the victim was from New Jersey and was in the city with friends.

Police arrested the teens just a few blocks from where the incident occurred. Robert Cockrel, 18, of Queens, was charged with assault and weapon possession. The two girls, whose names were not released, were charged as juveniles with assault and weapon possession.

Group Drops Gay Rights Proposal

Brunswick, Maine (AP) A group of Brunswick activists have abandoned their push for a municipal gay rights ordinance, and say they will now concentrate their efforts on the passage of a statewide law.

"We were trying to think of what really would make gay and lesbian people feel more safe in their community, and an ordinance may not do it," said Judy Lloyd, media co-ordinator for the local chapter of the National Organization for Women and an organizer of the Brunswick coalition. "In fact, it may bring out the opposition."

NOW was joined in the Brunswick group by representatives of the American Association of University Women, the League of Women Voters

and several church groups.

The local effort started shortly after voters in February overturned a statewide gay-rights law that the Legislature had just passed.

The activists said Tuesday they will begin to focus their efforts on public education and letter-writing campaigns.

"One thing is universally agreed upon, and that is that we need to do much more education, especially in the non-urban areas, about what the bill does and does not do," said David Garrity, a board member of the Maine Lesbian-Gay Political Alliance.

"There's a mistaken belief that we're somehow protected in some other way, and we're not," he said.

Betsy Smith, president of the MLGPA, said a variety of local efforts could drain resources needed for a statewide gay rights campaign. Local ordinances also face the same repeal efforts that brought down the state law.

Lewiston voters several years ago rejected a gay rights ordinance enacted by the city council.

Smith said activists should be gearing up for an organized grass-roots campaign, because the law eventually will be decided by voters, either in a referendum, or in an attempt to repeal a legislative act.

"This is going to end up at the polls," Smith said. "The people will decide this issue."

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Using recycled paper sometimes results in the paper having a toned down or grayish tinge. However we feel this is a small price to pay as Community Pride Reporter does it's part to "Color ME Green."

Coast-To-Coast NationsBank To Extend Health Coverage To Partners

Charlotte, N.C. (AP) The merger pairing NationsBank Corp. with San Francisco-based BankAmerica Corp. will extend domestic partner benefits to one of the biggest employers in the Bible Belt.

BankAmerica has offered health insurance to partners of gay workers since January 1997 under a policy that also covers live-in adult family members. NationsBank, with about 100,000 employees, will become one of the largest companies in North Carolina or South Carolina with such a policy.

Hugh McColl Jr., the NationsBank chief executive officer who will head the merged bank, said Wednesday that employees won't lose any benefits they now have and NationsBank workers could gain unspecified ones from the merger.

When asked whether same-sex benefits would be extended to NationsBank employees, bank gave a succinct answer: "Yes."

NationsBank and BankAmerica announced their \$66.6 billion merger Monday, which would form the nation's largest

bank and the first to extend from coast to coast.

Domestic partner benefits may be one of the clearest example of the challenges faced in merging differing cultures at the two banks.

The new headquarters will be in Charlotte, a conservative city that has become the banking capital of the Southeast, in part because of NationsBank's growth through mergers and acquisitions. BankAmerica's hometown of San Francisco is considered one of the country's most tolerant and one where gay and lesbian residents wield considerable political and economic power.

"It's a historic merger, and the new corporation will offer these benefits," said Shelly Schoenfeld, a NationsBank assistant vice president in Charlotte. "I appreciate Mr. (Hugh) McColl's stance on this issue. And I know a lot of other gay employees feel the same way. It's a great victory for us."

Details and timing of extending

benefits are being worked out, spokeswoman Mary Waller said.

BankAmerica's "extended family benefits" policy lets employees enroll in their health plan another qualifying adult in their household: a parent, a grandparent, a sibling, a same-sex or opposite-sex domestic partner.

"It's a realization that the dependents our employees support might be parents, siblings or domestic partners," said BankAmerica spokesman Dennis Wyss.

BankAmerica won't say how many employees have signed up under the new policy. Its equal employment opportunity policy also protects gay employees from being fired, denied a promotion or harassed just because of their sexual orientation.

NationsBank, like nearly half of all Fortune 500 firms, doesn't include homosexuality in its nondiscrimination policy. "That issue has not been addressed," Waller said.

Lesbian Group Says IRS Has Cheated It Of Tax-Exempt Status

By Paul Tolme

Providence, R.I. (AP) A group in South Kingstown that helps lesbians with cancer complained to the IRS on Tuesday, a day before the filing deadline, that it had unfairly been denied tax-exempt status.

The group was told by the Internal Revenue Service that it had to extend its service to all women, not just lesbians.

"What they are suggesting is that lesbians aren't worthy enough," said David Buckel, a lawyer for the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund Inc. in New York City.

Lambda sent a letter of complaint on Tuesday to the Internal Revenue Service on behalf of Kathys' Group.

Buckel said plenty of other groups, including the American Association of Retired People and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, have been given tax-exempt status despite serving a segment of the population.

"As far as we've been able to determine, the IRS has no authority to require Kathys' Group to alter its mission," he said.

A spokesman for the IRS in Washington said he couldn't comment because all such matters except the awarding of tax-exempt status for nonprofits are confidential.

"Whether somebody applies for tax-exempt status none of that is a matter of public record," said Ken Hubenak.

Kathys' Group provides free counseling to lesbians, their partners and families. The group was founded in 1995 after one member of a lesbian couple both named Kathy became sick with breast cancer.

About 31 women have received the services of a therapist since the group's inception.

Founder and director Lorry Garvin said the group applied for nonprofit status last year and was informed in February that it would have to broaden its mission.

Although the group pays no taxes now because its budget is tiny, the lack of a nonprofit status prevents it from applying for foundation grants that go solely to tax-ex

Student Goes Before Disciplinary Committee

Lewiston, Maine (AP) A Bates College student accused of raping one female student and sexually assaulting three others has decided to withdraw from the college, according to a school official.

The student had been scheduled to graduate in May. He will not be allowed to re-enroll at the school unless he participates in a college hearing to determine the veracity of the charges, said Patricia A. Lawson, a Bates spokeswoman.

Lawson declined to identify the student, but most of the school's 1,600 students know who he is. The man left Lewiston on a bus last week after 300 students outraged over the allegations protested on the front lawn of college president Donald Harward.

Another male student accused of sexually assaulting two students had his case heard in a closed hearing by the college's conduct committee that began Friday and ended early Saturday.

The conduct committee, a panel of students and faculty, investigates allegations of disciplinary violations and decides

whether to mete out punishment. It could decide to expel the student, but Lawson said the committee's decision was not being made public.

A hearing for a third male student accused of raping a female student has been postponed for at least two weeks, Lawson said. That female student came forward last week during the turmoil on campus.

None of the female students who accused the three male students of rape and assault is pressing criminal charges. College officials have declined to release details of the alleged assaults and rapes, saying they do not want to identify the alleged victims and suspects.

After last week's protest, students suggested that some of the alleged assaults might have been prevented if college officials had notified students on campus.

As a result, Bates officials have decided to let students know about allegations of sexual assaults after alleged victims file charges with the dean's office.

That notification process also will be extended to Lewiston police, Lawson said, in a decision made this week after Dean Celeste Branham and other college officials met with local authorities.

However, few details about the circumstances of each alleged incident will be released to the campus and to police unless college officials believe there is a threat to other students. Bates officials believe doing so would make it too easy for alleged victims of sexual assaults or suspects to be identified.

Bates officials have agreed to provide more sensitivity training for members of the conduct committee. The school is also considering hiring a victims' advocate.

There were no protests last week on the campus, where students were preparing for their final examinations next week.

"Students are harried and spending a lot of time in the library studying," Lawson said.

Community Pride Reporter

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

Please contact the office at 207-282-6045 for special publishing needs especially inclusion in a particular issue.

Arts & Entertainment

Oak Street Theatre: Queer North

Second annual festival of gay and lesbian performances will take place from May 14-24 at the downtown theatre facility.

Oak Street Theatre is pleased to announce their second annual festival of gay and lesbian performances, this year new titled "Queer North!", which will take place over two weekends from May 14-24, 1998 at Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak Street in downtown Portland.

This year's festival includes solo performances by nationally-known artists Susan Miller and Bruce Ward, as well as a special evening with the Maine Gay Men's Chorus and a production of "Brave Smiles....Another Lesbian Tragedy," by the Five Lesbian Brothers, directed by Bates College Theatre professor Ellen Seeling and featuring local actors. Festival passes, valid for one entry to each performance, are on sale for only \$35 at the theatre.

Individual show prices and are: \$18 for Susan Miller's show, showing Friday and Saturday, May 15 and 16, \$15 for Bruce Ward's show, showing Thursday and Friday, May 21 and 22. \$15 for the Maine Gay Men's Chorus, showing Saturday, May 23, and \$7 for Brave Smiles, showing Thursday and Sunday, May 14 and 17, at 7:30p.m., Wednesday and Sunday, May 20 and 24 at 7:30p.m. and Saturday, May 23 at 10:30 p.m. (\$5 for the late show.)

Susan Miller is an Obie-award winning performer whose show, "My Left Breast" premiered at the prestigious Humana Festival of New American Plays in 1994 and has been touring around the country ever since. Performance venues include: Trinity Repertory Company, Walnut Street Theatre, and The Group Theatre in Seattle. Through a series of short vignettes, the performer details her

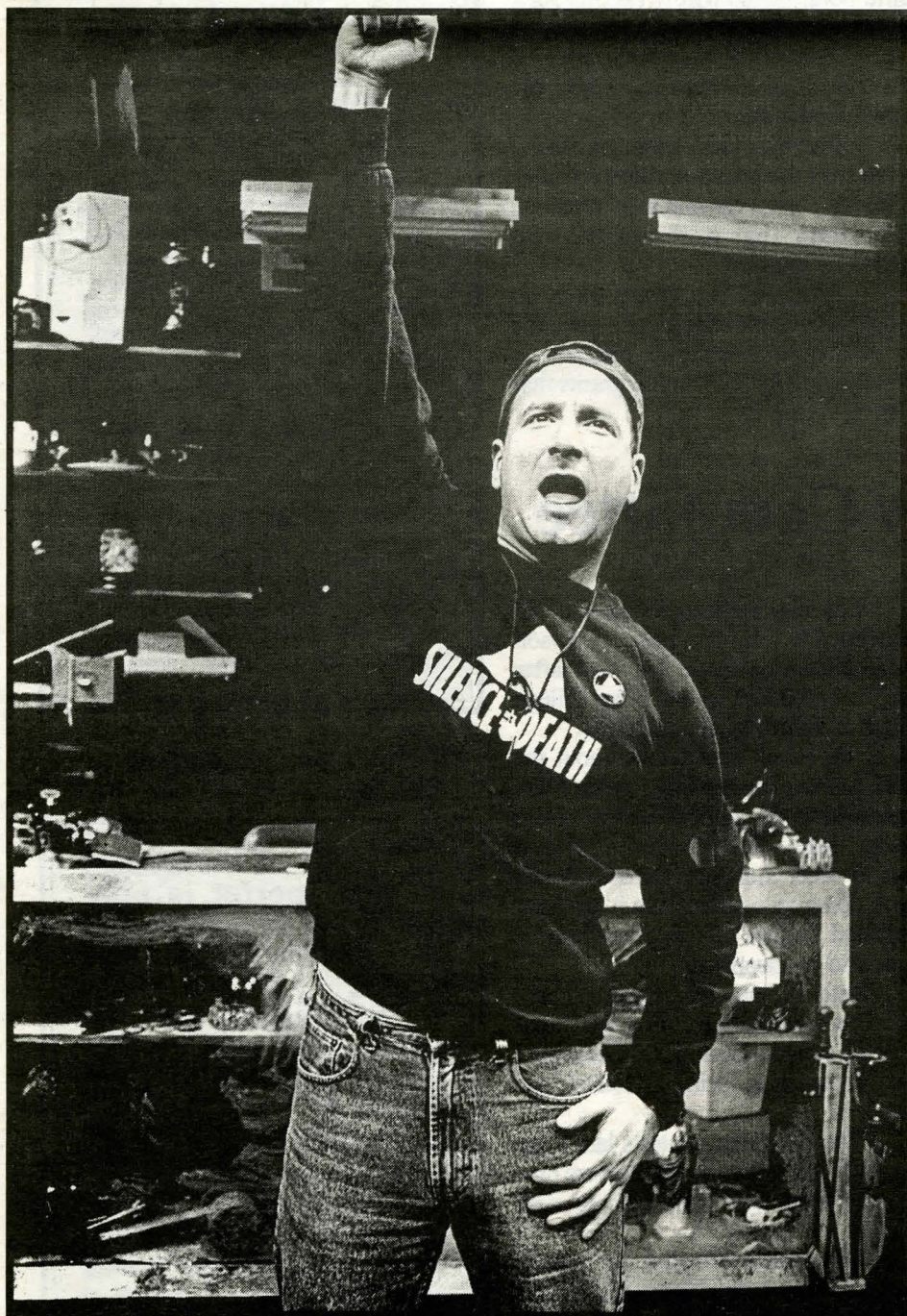
successful struggle with breast cancer with humor and self-awareness. "We are thrilled and honored to have booked a performer of Susan Miller's caliber," said Producing Director Michael Levine, "Portland audiences are in for a real treat when they see her work."

Bruce Ward is an actor, playwright and performer whose show "Decade: Life in the 80's" traces the lives of ten gay men in the decade during which AIDS became a tragic reality of everyone's lives. Bruce has performed nationally at theatres, festivals, and universities, and has met with widespread critical acclaim. Venues for the show have included the San Francisco Civic Auditorium; Boston Center for the Arts; Boston's Institute of Contemporary Art; Dartmouth College; and the national AIDS Hotline conference in Washington D.C. As an actor, Bruce was recently seen in Portland Stage Company's

production of Das Barbecu.

The Maine Gay Men's chorus is one of the region's most popular singing groups, and Oak Street Theatre is thrilled to be hosting a Pride preview concert with the group the second Saturday of the festival. The intimate Oak Street Theatre space promises to be a memorable venue to hear their unforgettable sound. The final addition to the festival is a local production of "Brave Smiles....Another Lesbian Tragedy," by the Five Lesbian Brothers. This delightful campy piece tells the outrageous story of five young women from an all-girl's school while skewering lesbian stereotypes from popular film, literature and theatre.

Tickets to the festival, including festival passes are currently on sale at the theatre. As last year, a portion of the festival's proceeds will benefit Portland's Pride Committee.

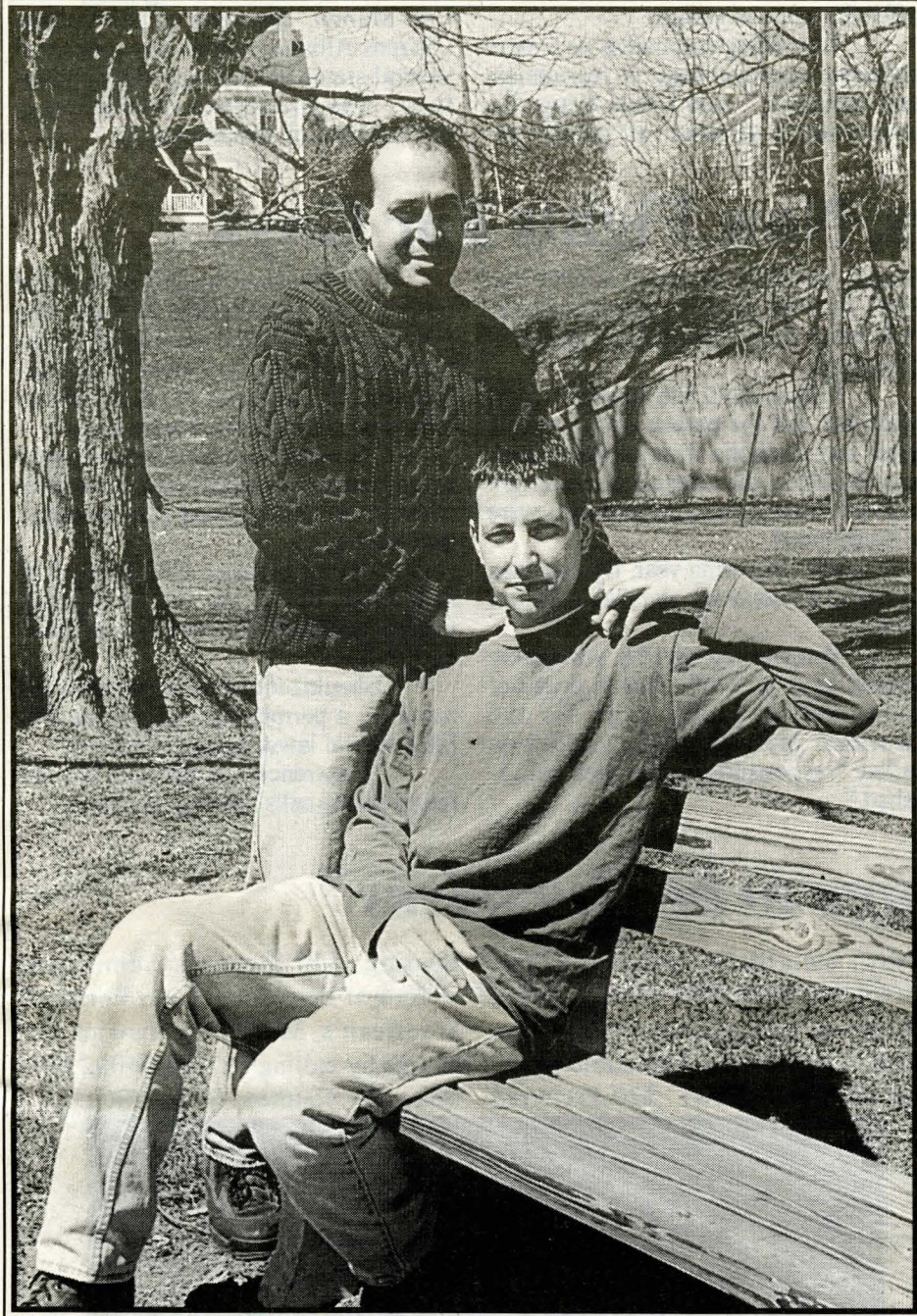


Bruce Ward: *Decade: Life in the 80's*



Susan Miller: *My Left Breast*

Penobscot Theatre Company Presents: "Angels in America: Millennium Approaches"



Robert Saoud (Boston) & Ron Adams (Bangor)

"Angels in America: Millennium Approaches" Closes Penobscot Theatre Company's Pulitzer Prize Winning Season.

Winner of the 1993 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award, Tony Kushner's landmark production, "Angels in America: Millennium Approaches," will have its Maine premiere at the Bangor Opera House, April 30-May 10. One of the most controversial and profound plays of the nineties, this ground breaking work deals with such issues as AIDS, gay rights, Mormon Doctrine and the Reagan political agenda.

With the gay rights referendum still in the news, "Angels" is the perfect play to explore this volatile issue. The arguments in "Angels" are ripped straight from the headlines surrounding the referendum vote. Who is protected under the constitution? All citizens no matter what their gender, sexual orientation, race or religion? Or only those people that conservative society deems to be worthy of protection?

The heart of "Angels" follows the lives of five gay men. Louis and Prior (Robert Saoud, Boston, and Ron Adams, Bangor), must deal with the daily effect of Prior's worsening AIDS condition on both their physical and emotional strength. Joseph Pitt (Greg Arata, Minneapolis), a married man, is continually struggling with the conflict of his homosexuality and his belief in the Mormon religion, while Belize (Reginald Wright, Boston), a registered nurse, faces many different struggles in the world because he is both gay and black.

All four of these men's lives are intertwined in a fascinating plot that involves the downfall of one of America's most powerful attorneys, Roy Cohn.

Roy (Ken Stack, Mt. Desert Island), the real life United States attorney hired by Joseph McCarthy, believes that labels indicate power and since he is a powerful person he cannot be called "gay." "Homosexual is what I am because I have sex with men. But really, this is wrong. Homosexuals are men who in fifteen years of trying cannot get a anti-discrimination bill through the City Council. Homosexuals...have zero clout. Does that sound like me?"

"Angels is a play of great humanity, intelligence and acerbic wit. Kushner has given us a play that tells the story of lives in turmoil, seeking happiness, seeking peace," says director Mark Torres.

Other actors returning to PTC include Alison Cox (Orono), Deborah Elz Hammond (Milbridge) and Catherine LeClair (Bangor). "Angels" will be directed by PTC Producing Artistic Director Mark Torres with scenic Design by Jay Skriletz (Perry), Lighting design by Lynne Chase (Connecticut) and costume design by Doni L. Allen (Winter Harbor).

This epic play will have a limited two week run April 30-May 10. Performance days and times are Thursdays at 7:00p.m., Fridays at 8:00p.m., Saturday, May 2 at 8:30p.m., Saturday, May 9 at 5:00p.m. and Sundays at 2:00p.m. Tickets can be ordered by calling the box office at (207) 942-3333, 12:00p.m.-6:00p.m., Tuesday -Saturday. Ticket prices range from \$10.00 to \$18.75.

The Bangor Opera House is located at 131 Maine Street in Bangor, ME, and is handicapped accessible (call for details). Penobscot Theatre Company is sponsored in part by WLBZ-TV News Center 2. (Some of the characters in "Angels" express themselves with the use of strong language.....it contains adult situations and is not suitable for children.)



Lucie Blue Tremblay

Lucie Blue Tremblay

Singer-songwriter Lucie Blue Tremblay has been making music in the U.S. and Canada since her self titled album in 1986. She uses the power of her romantic balladry, the charm of her very personal self-accompanied performance, and her passion for bilingual heritage to weave a spell.

And the magic works because Lucie Blue comes to her audience as a powerful truth teller, whose gift is to share her own honest human experience through her music. Lucie Blue's new CD "I'm Ready" is a powerful and diverse collection of her music which contains both live and studio cuts.

Having performed in Carnegie Hall/NYC, the Expo 1992 in Seville/Spain as well as in Saint Malo /France, Lucie Blue has had the distinct pleasure to perform with James Taylor and Randy Newman. This year will find Lucie on her "I'm Ready" tour in the U.S. and

Canada as well as Australia and New Zealand.

Lucie Blue Tremblay will be performing "A Concert For Pride" June 20 at 8 pm (Special Guest Annie Clark) in Portland's own State Street Church 159 State Street Portland.

\$50 Patron Ticket (Reserved Seat, Listing in program book, Contribution deductible to extent allowed by law). \$20 Preferred Seating, \$17 General Admission. Tickets at Drop Me A Line, Portland, MacBean's Music, Brunswick. Or charge by calling 207-775-6002

Presented by Southern Maine PRIDE

NOTE: You can catch a sneak preview of Lucie's gala Pride concert when Lucie appears at Jonathan's in Ogunquit on June 5 (1-800-464-9934 for info) and The Left Bank Cafe in Blue Hill, Maine on June 6th (207-374-2201) for information!

Partners Of The States 45,000 To Get Benefits

Eugene, Ore. (AP) Domestic partners of the state's 45,000 employees whether gay or heterosexual will be eligible for health benefits beginning June 1, the Public Employees' Benefit Board decided Tuesday.

In a unanimous vote, the board added Oregon to a growing list of states, cities and companies that have extended benefits to co-habiting couples.

"It's finally the right thing being done," said Kelly Matchett-Morris, one of two gay employees who sued the University of Oregon last year, claim-

ing the school had discriminated against them by denying health benefits to their partners.

Matchett-Morris, associate director of residence life, said he and his partner probably will drop their lawsuit in the wake of the decision.

"We really wanted the university to do the right thing, period," he said.

Nationwide, the states of New York and Vermont have adopted similar policies, along with an estimated 80

other government entities.

The city of Eugene extended such benefits earlier this year, joining the Eugene Water & Electric Board, the city of Portland and Multnomah County.

A couple hundred private companies, including Oregon, Sony, Intel, Bank of America and Hewlett-Packard, offer the same coverage.

"Anything that makes us a more attractive employer helps in recruitment and retention," said Linda King, the university's director of human re-

sources. "It also seems more equitable for our employees."

The state's most prominent anti-gay rights organization, however, denounced the board's decision as immoral.

"It reinforces what we've been concerned about for a long time," said Lon Mabon, chairman of the Oregon Citizens Alliance, which has sponsored several statewide anti-gay rights initiatives. "The government shouldn't be in the business of sanctioning im-

Lawyer Who Fought Gays, Now Fights For Gays

LAWRENCE, Mass. (AP) A lawyer who argued before the U.S. Supreme Court four years ago in support of banning gays from Boston's St. Patrick's Day Parade is now fighting on behalf of gays who want to march in Lawrence.

Boston attorney Chester Darling is representing the Gay and Lesbian Community Advocates of Lawrence, or GLCAL, in its bid to stage a gay-pride parade on June 14.

Darling said the unusual alliance was born when he read a report last week in The Eagle-Tribune of Lawrence stating that the group's request was denied by the City Council's Ordinance Committee.

Officials had told the newspaper that parade organizers failed to complete paperwork and appear before the council

to discuss the proposal.

City religious leaders had previously urged the committee to ban the parade, Darling said.

"My clients are trying to communicate their message and it is their First Amendment right to do so," said Darling, who is working for the group free of charge. "That's why I contacted them to offer my services."

Just four years ago, Darling was representing a very different group of activists the South Boston Allied War Council in their efforts to prohibit a group of gays from marching in their annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in the city's South Boston neighborhood.

Lower court orders had forced the veterans council to allow the Irish-American Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Group of

Boston, or GLIB, to march in 1992 and 1993. In 1994, sponsors canceled the parade rather than allow the gay group to participate.

In June 1995, the Supreme Court ruled 9-0 that the parade was a private event and symbolic form of free speech and, therefore, the veterans had the right to decide what groups and messages were to be included.

The following year, Darling was named as an honorary marshal in the parade.

But Darling says his advocating against gays in South Boston does not contradict his recent work for the Lawrence gay organization, which he called "responsible" and "well-established."

"I was never against gays. I had no problems representing veterans who wanted to exclude the message of an extreme group from out of town," said Darling, who claimed many of GLIB's members were not from the Boston area.

"I was also against judges ordering my clients' speech altered to the point where they had to cancel their parade," said Darling.

The Lawrence City Council is scheduled to act on the Ordinance Committee's recommendations on Tuesday.

Should officials refuse to grant the marchers a permit, Darling said he will file a federal lawsuit against the city.

Lawrence city officials did not return phone calls seeking comment.

Pride Schedule: "Courage to be Ourselves"

Southern Maine Pride in their 12th annual event is continuing the traditions of providing networking, entertainment and visibility in the largest such New England event for the gbt community north of Boston. The Portland event brings together communities from all over Maine, both rural and city with attendance in the thousands.

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 of the century.

Pride Slogan: Courage to be Ourselves!

Schedule to date:

Saturday, June 13 Bus to Boston Pride: Leaves marginal way at 8 am returns to Portland at 8:30 pm Tickets are \$18 after May 15 (\$15 till) Tickets include breakfast and movies on board, Boston Pride "Kit"

Sunday, June 14 (time, location TBA) Community Awards Dinner: Keynote: Massachusetts State Rep. Liz Malia. Liz is the first openly lesbian (or gay) Mass. State Legislator in over 20 year. Active in both Democrat and G/L politics for decades she is a living history resource of the movement for rights in one of Americas most "gay positive" States. Tickets are \$25, Award recipients TBA shortly

Wednesday, June 17 PRIDELIGHTS Concert: In Congress Square concert starts at 8:30 pm tree lighting at 9:30 pm (great and free entertainment will be lined up for our 3rd concert)

Thursday, June 18 a local made Movie Premier (TBA)

Friday, June 19 This year's Pride Pier Dance: At the Maine State Pier, 8 to midnite, cash bar (with ID) and soda bar, all ages. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door

Saturday, June 20 Interfaith Service: (10 am to 10:45 am) Location TBA. Preparade party/assembly in Monument Square 10 to noon

Parade to Deering Oaks: Starts at Noon from Monument Square, individual participation is free all others require parade permit, group registration (required) is \$25 after May 15 (\$20 now) groups are allowed 1 unadorned vehicle, float registration (required) is \$35 after May 15 (\$30 now) floats are vehicles with more than signs, trucks or vehicles with anything in tow. Motorcycles \$5 with proof of vehicle registration.

Festival in Deering Oaks: 1 pm to 3:30 pm entertainment TBA vendors: 1/2 table \$30 after June 1 (\$20 till) full (8') table \$40 after June 1 (\$30 till)

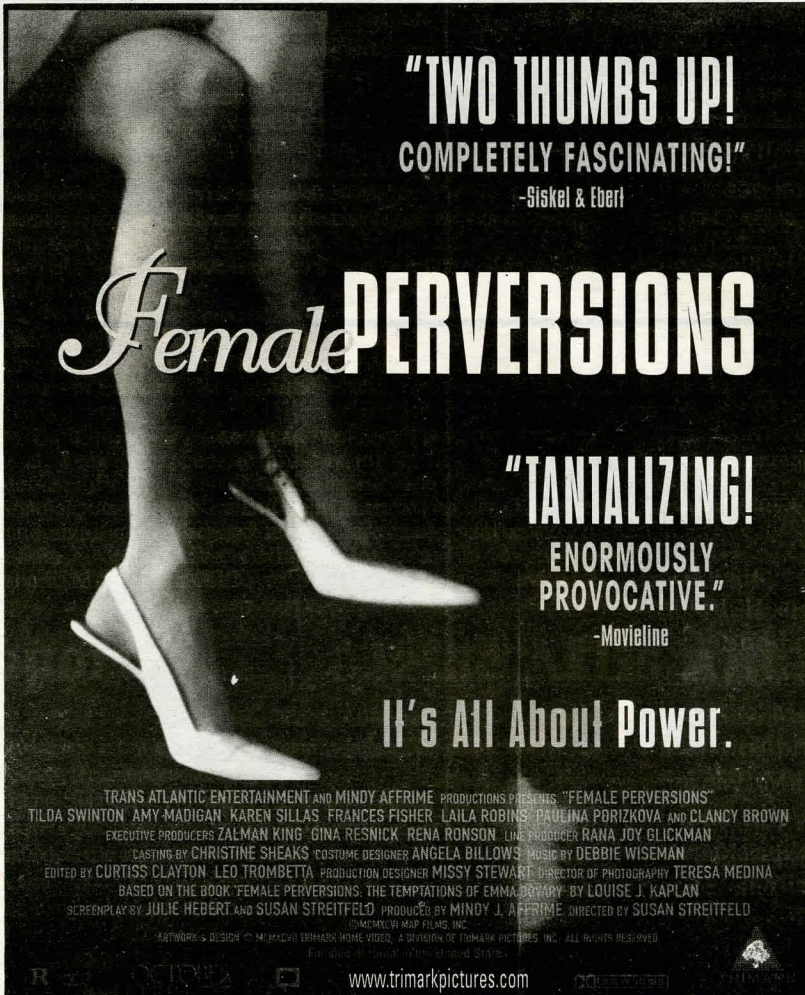
PRIDE'S SATURDAY NIGHT CONCERT: With Lucy Blue Tremblay Ticket information: 775-6002

Sunday, June 21, 1998 Sunset Cruise: (Cabaret entertainment, cash bar, buffet) \$16

Tickets will be available in several southern Maine communities by May 15th for further ticket information call 879-7323. Lucie Blue Tremblay: A Concert For Pride, June 20 at 8 pm (Special Guest Annie

Clark) State Street Church 159 State Street Portland, \$50 Patron Ticket (Reserved Seat, Listing in program book, Contribution deductible to extent allowed by law). \$20 Preferred

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More People Opting Out Of Military By Saying They Are Homosexual

BY SUSANNE M SCHAFFER AP
MILITARY WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) More people are opting out of the military by declaring they are homosexual, Defense Secretary William Cohen said Monday, but he denied that there has been any increase in sexual harassment.

Cohen insisted the military's policy on homosexuals is working properly.

"We intend to continue to emphasize the fact that this policy should not be abused, that there should be no attempt to hunt or seek out those who are, may be homosexual, and that we intend to strictly enforce the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy," Cohen said, appearing at a photo session in the Pentagon.

The secretary was asked about a Pentagon study of the issue, which is now in a draft form and has not been made public.

"There are some indications that there has been an increase as far as some of the people who have declared themselves to be homosexual and

have opted to getting out of the military," Cohen said. "But in terms of the policy itself overall, I think it's working."

He did not elaborate.

However, the number of people who have either left or been kicked out of the service on grounds of homosexuality rose from 850 in 1996 to nearly 1,000 in 1997, according to a Pentagon official familiar with the study. The official, like Cohen, declined to say how many of those voluntarily said they were homosexuals so that they would be discharged.

A second official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, said a variety of reasons appears to explain the increase. He said it appears many of those who are volunteering to discontinue their homosexuality do so shortly after entering the service. Some officers speculate that homosexuality may be used as an excuse by people who are unhappy with being in the military.

Those dismissed for homosexuality receive an administrative discharge, which does not carry a bad-conduct stigma.

The 'don't ask, don't tell' policy, adopted soon after President Clinton entered office, is supposed to allow gays to serve if they keep their sexual orientation private, but it punishes those who engage in homosexual acts or take actions that call attention to their orientation.

Commanders are not to ask about sexual orientation or launch investigations without credible evidence.

But critics of the Pentagon's approach say they believe that harassment of homosexuals is on the increase.

"We think they are not following their own rules," said Dixon Osburn, the co-executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a gay rights advocacy group. "We think there is a huge amount of harassment going on. ...

Commanders are asking questions they are not supposed to be asking."

Osburn said the number of service members who were kicked out of the military on grounds of homosexuality steadily increased from 597 in 1994, to 722 in 1995 and 850 in 1996.

In its annual report released in February, the group said service members reported 563 "command violations" in 1997, including instances where they said they were asked about their sexual orientation or harassed in direct violation of the administration's policy.

The number was up from 443 violations reported in 1996, the Washington-based group said.

The report attributed the upsurge to a lack of commitment to the policy by top military and civilian authorities. Commanders in the field never received specific instructions on the limits on investigations, and service members were left with no recourse when their rights were violated, it said.

Michigan State Readies For Gay pride Week

EAST LANSING, Mich. (AP) Benefits for domestic partners are just one issue that members of Michigan State University's gay and lesbian community will be celebrating during this week's Pride Week.

Domestic partner benefits are one of several signs of an improved campus climate for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students and employees, Brent Bilodeau said.

"It's certainly a significant step forward," said Bilodeau, the school's assistant for lesbian, bisexual, gay and transgender concerns. "When an institution supports policy inclusive of same-sex relationships, it sends a powerful message."

Pride Week starts Wednesday and runs through April 19 at Michigan State. Highlights include an April 13 film documentary on author James Baldwin, an April 14 gender workshop and the keynote address by author and activist Torie Osborn on April 16.

The university's gay and lesbian employees won a huge victory last fall when the university's board of trustees voted to extend benefits to same-sex partners.

So far, 32 people have registered for the benefits which range from health insurance to access to the university's recreational facilities at a total cost of \$58,000 to Michigan State, human resources director Keith Groty said. More could sign up during an annual enrollment period that starts April 20.

The University of Michigan and Wayne State University also offer same-sex benefits.

In January, a bill outlawing the use of state money to pay for domestic partner benefits passed the Senate. House lawmakers have yet to address the issue.

If the bill, sponsored by Sen. Bill Schuette, R-Midland, becomes law, Michigan State still would pay for benefits through nonpublic revenue sources. The majority of the school's 5,000 union employees are entitled to the benefits in their contracts.

The environment for gays, bisexuals and transgender students has improved during the last four years, Bilodeau said. Training programs to raise awareness toward their concerns have roughly doubled, he said.

*babe**

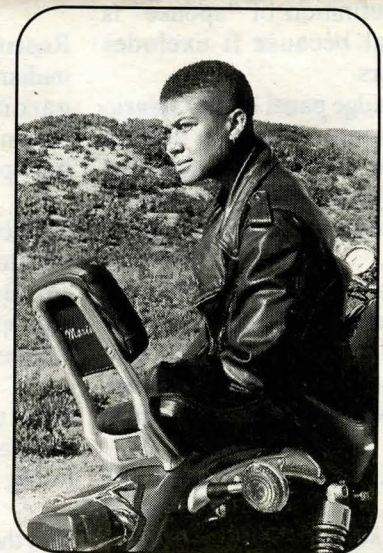
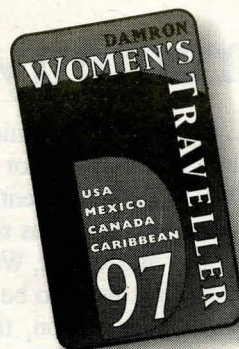


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Two Gay Couples Take Prominent Roles In Campus Life At Ivies

By Brigitte Greenberg

New Haven, Conn. (AP) The names Harvard and Yale by themselves evoke decades of tradition and conformity.

Now these Ivy League bastions are breaking new ground for universities, as homosexual couples provide new models of domestic life for undergraduates as dormitory leaders.

And so far, the ground-breaking appointments have created little commotion.

This July, a lesbian couple will assume duties as housemasters at Harvard's Lowell House, a six-story brick building with a grassy quadrangle and a bell tower close to the fabled Harvard Yard.

A gay man appointed dormitory dean is moving with his partner into Yale's Trumbull College, a Gothic structure of seam-faced granite with limestone trim and arching windows enclosing three courtyards.

"I think it's a great new era in being able to provide role models that have not been available at this level before," said Peter Novak, 32, the Yale

appointee. "We've been welcomed, and it says a lot about the Yale community and how tolerant it is, especially within the administration."

At Harvard, professor Diana Eck, 52, realizes that she and her partner of 20 years may raise some eyebrows.

"We know what it's like in the culture generally: There are many people who are still very uncomfortable with this issue, so I'm sure that will be the case here," said Ms. Eck, a professor of comparative religion and Indian studies at Harvard.

The dormitories are not forsaking their traditions, however. The housemaster at Lowell House, for example, has been host of a weekly afternoon tea since 1930, a custom Ms. Eck plans to continue.

Novak, who is pursuing a master of fine arts in dramaturgy and dramatic criticism at the Yale School of Drama, says he will help students with academics and personal problems.

"This will allow me to be an influence in people's lives," Novak said. His partner of four years, Curtis

Lee, a store manager, will not have an official role but is "very excited about doing intramural sports and being a part of students' lives," Novak said.

In a Yale dorm, the dean and the master act as surrogate parents in the lives of the 440 students who live there. Master Janet Henrich, a medical professor, has lived in the dorm for a year with her husband, Victor, a physics professor.

At Harvard, Ms. Eck and Dorothy Austin will become housemasters overseeing daily life for 450 students. Ms. Austin will split her time between Harvard and Drew University in New Jersey, where she is an associate professor of psychology and religion.

"We knew that it would be an issue for the first time to have a same-sex couple as masters," Ms. Eck said. "I don't know if we would have been appointed 10 years ago."

Administrators say sexual orientation made no difference in the appointments, which were decided by student-faculty committees. Dean of Harvard College Harry Lewis said many

people had suggested Ms. Eck for the position not knowing what her sexual orientation was.

"Our first criterion in looking at people was the quality of the individual master and what they would bring to the house," he said.

At Yale, Novak will succeed dean William di Canzio, who lived alone in the dorm for eight years and is leaving for California.

Ms. Eck and Ms. Austin will replace professor William H. Bossert and his wife, Mary Lee, who are retiring after 23 years.

Harvard students seemed to see the appointment as little cause for concern.

"People are more interested in who she is, and what her dedication to the house is, than her personal life, which isn't our concern," said Lisa Mignone, a senior from Bronxville, N.Y.

The same goes for many at Yale.

"It's really not a big deal," said Tya Harris, a sophomore from Nashville, Tenn. "There are a lot of people who are openly gay on this campus."

Ontario Gives Recognition To Same-Sex Couples

Toronto, (AP) Ontario's highest court has ruled that the Canadian government's definition of "spouse" is unconstitutional because it excludes same-sex partners.

A three-judge panel of the Ontario Court of Appeal ruled Thursday that the definition of "spouse" should be amended in the federal Income Tax Act to recognize same-sex couples as well as opposite-sex couples.

The ruling came in a case involving pension benefits and technically applies only to the Income Tax Act. But gay activists said it could set a precedent that would affect similar sections of other federal acts.

"It opens the door for same-sex pension benefits, certainly, but it's also a very significant statement by the courts that discriminating against same-sex couples is not only immoral, it's unconstitutional," said John Fisher, executive

director of Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere.

The case was brought by Nancy Rosenberg and her employer, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, regarding pension benefits which Rosenberg sought to arrange for her lesbian partner.

The union in 1992 amended its pension plan to extending spousal benefits to include gay and lesbian employees. But Canada's revenue department argued the amendment violated the tax's opposite-sex definition of spouse.

Thursday's court ruling gave the union the right to include same-sex partners in its private pension plan without losing any tax benefits.

Revenue department officials said they hadn't decided whether to appeal the ruling to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Board Says To Gay School: School's Out Forever!

By Pat Milton

Bay Shore, N.Y. (AP) A public high school for gay and lesbian students was shut down before it even opened and now the school's organizers are facing discipline for not telling superiors about the plan.

Plans to open the school were scrapped by the Eastern Suffolk Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES). Officials on the board of the government agency, which would have sponsored the school, said they learned of plans for the school only when questioned by a reporter from Newsday.

"The superintendent and I looked at each other and said, 'What are they talking about,'" said Bruce Brodsky, BOCES board president. "We didn't have a clue."

Newsday reported Thursday that officials immediately halted plans to open the school. "I couldn't care less if the Pope said it was true, it ain't true. The subject has not even come up, much less had a board discussion. To say we have a school for gay and lesbian students that's absurd," the paper quoted Brodsky.

Brodsky later said, "I don't believe there should be a separate facility for gay and lesbian students. I don't want to throw them back into the closet."

The newspaper reported today that the BOCES employees who planned to start the school are likely to face disciplinary action for proceeding without approval from their supervisors. "These are senior people who know better, who know there are procedures to follow, and I feel we have to do something about it," Brodsky told the paper.

BOCES employees planned to open the school in the next two weeks

at facilities operated by the Long Island Gay and Lesbian Youth Inc. in Bay Shore. The school had been advertising to attract students for several weeks. So far, three had signed up.

"We are baffled. We thought they were going to sponsor a separate school here at our facility," said David Kilmnick, executive director of the Long Island Gay and Lesbian Youth group.

"We are still going to push for this and plan to meet with officials at BOCES and other schools in coming months," Kilmnick said. "We want to make sure that this school happens, that these kids are not harassed or subject to violence because of their sexual orientation. They need a safer place to learn," he said. Brodsky said he too was in favor of protecting young gay people.

"I think we need to teach tolerance in the school systems so that these students who are gay or lesbian are not harassed," Brodsky said. He said he has only heard of a small number of gay and lesbian students who have dropped out because the harassment became intolerable. "But we need to try to provide an education to these students. They should not be deprived an education because of harassment. That is outrageous," he added.

Edward Milliken, superintendent of the BOCES schools, said that as far as he was concerned, a gay and lesbian school does not exist and will not be planned.

He said some of the BOCES staff got overenthusiastic in looking into alternatives to provide education for gay and lesbian students who had dropped out. "Our mission is to help all kids stay in school and be successful. But I don't see a separate facility for gay and lesbian students," Milliken said.

Festival Features Beachfront Commitment Ceremony

Myrtle Beach, S.C. (AP) Same-sex couples will gather on the beach this weekend for a mass commitment ceremony, the closest thing to marriage as possible for gays in South Carolina.

"It's the only kind of ceremony these people can have," said Roberta Weir, a member of the local Metropolitan Community Church.

The ceremony, which tops off the ninth annual Gay and Lesbian Pride Festival, will be at 3 p.m. Sunday near the beachfront picnic table pavilions at Myrtle Beach State Park. An interdenominational worship service is scheduled

for 10 a.m., followed by a picnic lunch.

The ceremony is not legally binding, but it is a commitment by two individuals in a monogamous relationship to each other and to God, Weir said.

"People just want to be able to show they love this person, they are committed to this person," she said.

The ceremony, which will be performed by the Rev. Jay Neeley, an MCC district coordinator from Atlanta, will be a first in South Carolina, Weir said. For more information, call the Gay Pride hot line, (843) 272-3341.

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