

Community Pride Reporter

Proudly serving the Lesbian, Gay,
Bisexual, Transgendered Community

Volume 6

Number 12 [Sep, 1998]

SOFT & SMOOTH



SUEDE

Internationally acclaimed pop jazz vocalist SUEDE will be appearing at the Holiday Inn by the Bay.

Southern Maine PRIDE's Caberout Night. As part of activities planned in recognition of National Coming Day, Southern Maine PRIDE will present, "**Flair: A Caberout**" on Friday, October 9, 8 pm at the Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland.

Popular entertainer Suede will headline the event being described as "an evening of stylish music in a casual cabaret setting featuring some of the areas most theatrical performers." (*Watch next issue for details of the line-up of cabaret entertainment from the area's musical theatre world as well as other activities set to mark National Coming Out Day and weekend*)

Suede's music is an intriguing blend of popular, jazz and blues styles. She is an accomplished self-taught musician and writer on piano, guitar, and trumpet, yet it is Suede's vocals that are truly extraordinary.

Her beautiful, powerful voice and spar-

ling onstage demeanor have garnered Suede high praise from critics and devoted audiences from Atlanta to Boston, Albuquerque to New York City, Maui to Anchorage, Sidney to Zurich. Milwaukee to San Francisco, Miami to Washington, D.C. and most places in between.

Suede's quick wit, spontaneity and intimate rapport with the audience make for stellar performances. She has also produced two top selling recordings, *Easily Suede*, and *Barely Blue*, both on her own label, *Easily Suede Music*.

Catapulted into fame during her' victorious lawsuit against The Sony Corporation, Suede has appeared on 20/20, MTV, and in the film *A Simple Matter of Justice*. She performed at President Clinton's Inaugural Ball, at the 1993 March on Washington, and on many Olive Cruises.

She also holds the distinction of having been the only woman member of the gay a capella singing sensations *The Flirtations*, seen on HBO and in the movie *Philadelphia*.

Singing original material and pop, blues, and jazz standards, Suede has commanded standing ovations from critics and fans around the world. Accompanying herself on the keyboard, guitar, and trumpet, her performance, sparkle with warmth, wit, and musical artistry.

The New York Post proclaimed "*Voices like her's come along maybe' generation*".

The Hartford Courant added "*Wow Great Singer!*".

Bern .Switzerland's Der Bund anointed her "*Einer Grossen Blueslady*" and **The Provincetown Banner** declares "*Suede will rub you the right way!*"

The Holiday Inn By the Bay is located at 88 Spring Street. Cabaret seating

Tickets: Reserved: \$20, General Admission \$17 Reserved Tables of 10 are available at a discounted rate! On sale, September 9, 1998

Ticket information: 775-6002 (available at Drop Me A Line, Amadeus Music (Portland), MacBean's (Brunswick))

Important Survey and Contest: Details inside!

Southern Maine Pride needs your input! Take advantage of this contest and by doing so, you will insure that your next Pride Festival is all that it can be for you and your loved ones.

We all want our festival to reflect as much of ourselves as possible and to that end SOME Pride has developed a survey to get an idea of what *you* want to do, see, and hear in the Pride Fests to come. So take a moment to answer a few questions and you may even win a neat prize!

Maine Group Continues Attempts to Oust Ogunquit Selectmen's Chair

Ogunquit, Maine (AP) A group of citizens angry with selectmen's Chairman John Miller for his alleged remarks about homosexuality said it has enough signatures to force a recall election.

"We feel we have the support" for voting him out, Hal Feldberg, one of the organizers of the petition campaign, said Monday. "Mr. Miller should have stepped aside."

Town Clerk Judith Shaw-Kagiliery said she won't know until Sept. 1 whether enough valid signatures were collected.

If enough signatures are collected, selectmen are expected to schedule the recall election, the town's first, for Nov. 3. If a majority votes to remove Miller, a second election will be held within three months to replace him.

Miller started a firestorm in June when he told reporters he couldn't accept homosexuality.

Members of the gay community _ led by then-Selectman Robert Brown _ failed to pressure him into quitting. Brown, who also failed to persuade selectmen to vote Miller out, resigned in protest.

Miller said Monday he should be free to air his views on homosexuality, even if they are controversial.

"How they live is their business," he said, contending his original views were taken out of context. Of the people trying to pull him from office, Miller said he doesn't believe their views represent the majority. He said he is "fairly confident" he would beat back a recall, but stopped short of saying he would run for the position again if ousted.

Although many Maine communities have charters or ordinances with recall provisions, they

are rarely used, said Michael Starn of the Maine Municipal Association.

"Recall is so cumbersome a process that by the time people finally get to the recall election they've found other ways to deal with it," he said. Sometimes the target of a recall resigns instead, he said.

Miller's comments about homosexuality came during his dispute with two local innkeepers over their display of a rainbow flag, a gay symbol.

Miller complained the banner was illegal under town zoning laws. But the Planning Board later ruled the flag made a political statement and was therefore legal.

Miller said he did not know what the flag represented.

Reassignment for Rebel Priest Who Ministers to Homosexuals

By Ben Dobbin

Rochester, N.Y. (AP) The Rev. James Callan conducts gay weddings, allows women an active role on the altar and serves Holy Communion to non-Roman Catholics in a downtown parish he has ministered for 22 years.

All of these actions are forbidden by church rules. Now Callan is being reassigned to another parish. He thinks the ejection was ordered by senior officials at the Vatican who want to rein him in for his disobedience.

"Deep down I knew that this day would come, that I would be removed," Callan said Wednesday. "I was hoping, since it went on so long, that everybody would look the other way and just let reform happen in the church. But I guess it's not going to happen that easily."

His parishioners are not letting him go easily, either.

"Father Jim is the holiest man I know. I wish the church would realize what a true gift he is," said Mary Louise McClelland, one of 1,300 congregants who rallied around him at Corpus Christi Church last Sunday.

Bishop Matthew Clark of the Catholic Diocese of Rochester, who courted criticism himself for holding a Mass for gays and lesbians last year, said it was his decision to reassign Callan. He warned that the parish needed to change some of

its ways to line up with "definitive church teachings."

Callan has challenged church doctrine previously. Before arriving at Corpus Christi in 1976, he was suspended from the priesthood for two months for refusing to live in a rectory he considered "too luxurious."

Weeks earlier, he'd been recalled from a church in Elmira, 90 miles south of here, for allowing women on the altar and letting congregants drink out of the communion cup. "In those days, you could only have the bread _ it sounds stupid now," he said.

It seems likely that the suburban Rochester native will end up once more on the far side of the 12-county diocese in western New York for challenging the church ban on gay marriages and the exclusion of women from the altar.

Callan performs same-sex "union or commitment services" off church grounds. "These are people that belong to the parish that want to spend the rest of their lives together," he said.

He lets his longtime associate pastor, Mary Ramerman, wear a stole, recite various prayers and lift the communion cup at Mass. "Things like that are considered only to be done by a priest," he said.

At the church on East Main Street, which

draws up to 4,000 people, "we've tried real hard to build an inclusive church where everybody is welcome and treated with dignity and without distinction," he said.

The Rev. Joseph Hart, the diocese's vicar general, said priests usually remain at a parish for no more than 12 years _ and the time has come for Callan to move elsewhere.

"Most of what Father Callan does is wonderful ministry _ a very small minority of what he does is problematic," Hart said.

"The bishop himself has been very much in favor of using women to the furthest extent allowable in the law" and has "gone out of his way" to welcome homosexuals into the church, Hart said.

What Clark is asking Callan to do is "just to pull it back a bit within the edge of what is allowable in church law," he added.

Often, Callan responded, priests leave their vocation rather than speak out. "A lot of people dream dreams but not everyone is willing to pay the price to make them come true," he said.

His future, he said, "is in God's hands. I presume it's going to be rough for a while and then I'll end up in another parish doing the same thing."

Survey Looks at Perpetrators of Anti - Homosexual Violence and Harassment

San Francisco (AP) Nearly one-quarter of community college students who took part in a survey admitted to harassing people they thought were gay, a University of Washington researcher says.

The survey of nearly 500 students said to be the first of its kind was presented Sunday at the American Psychological Association convention. Previous studies had mostly focused on the victims of such crimes.

The study by forensic psychologist Karen Franklin found that 24 percent of those surveyed admitted to anti-gay name calling.

"Indeed, assaults on gay men and lesbians were so socially acceptable that respondents often advocated or defended such behavior out loud in the classrooms, while I was administering my survey," Ms. Franklin wrote.

Among men, 18 percent said they had physically assaulted or threatened someone they thought was gay or lesbian. Another 32 percent admitted they were guilty of verbal harassment. The figures were less for women.

Ms. Franklin's study, which did not identify the colleges of those surveyed, reported that almost half the students said they would assault

again in certain circumstances and either lacked remorse or did not see anything wrong with their behavior.

Many explained their actions as self-defense, which Ms. Franklin said was based on their perception that gays are sexual predators.

Others were thrill seekers or simply went along with their peers.

Students who held back from attacking or harassing gays did not necessarily show more tolerance than the assailants. Many feared getting in trouble, she said.

Gay Activist Sees Good in Ryan Memo; Poshard Seeks Investigation

By Mike Robinson

Chicago (AP) Republican George Ryan was described by aides as "very upset" Thursday over the leak of a campaign memo that told how gay groups and others were being mobilized to aid in his race for governor.

The memo, plainly intended only for a select group of campaign aides, also indicated that Ryan's employees in the secretary of state's office were working in his campaign.

"The secretary is very upset about this," spokesman Dave Urbanek said. "His instructions are to get to the bottom of this, and when we do, the appropriate action will be taken."

"This is something that never should have happened," Urbanek said. He said Ryan aides weren't ruling out the possibility that someone deliberately faxed the memo to radio station WILL in Champaign to sabotage the GOP campaign.

A WILL reporter approached Ryan at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield with the memo on Tuesday, shortly after the secretary had joined Gov. Jim Edgar and a group of congressmen in unveiling an agricultural initiative.

Ryan was embarrassed to see that a memo outlining the secret inner workings of his campaigns had been leaked even if by accident, Urbanek said.

A copy of the memo obtained by The Associated Press does not indicate who drafted it

or when. Urbanek said he did not know the answer to those questions.

The memo said that an employee in the secretary of state's office "has plotted out a more definitive course of action" in organizing opposition to Democratic candidate for governor Glenn Poshard in the gay and lesbian community.

Poshard, a Southern Illinois congressman, has been attacked repeatedly by gay activists this summer for his voting record on gay-related issues on Capitol Hill. He was the only Illinois Democrat to receive a zero rating from the Human Rights Campaign a gay and lesbian activist group.

"Mr. Poshard was beat up again in the Windy City Times," said the memo, referring to a newspaper that circulates in the Chicago gay community. "We will be generating more letters to the editor, two or three guest editorials and a weekly (we hope) ad campaign highlighting Poshard's votes offending the gay community."

It said that a Chicago gay activist would be "raising the dough to pay for these ads, which will begin around the end of June."

"The goal of this campaign is to knock Poshard so far back on his heels that he'll never be able to recover," the memo said. The employee in the secretary of state's office "... has

asked permission to establish a committee to give this drive more legitimacy."

Such a committee, the memo said, "will allow us to focus on more than gay issues and also provide some cover from the right wing." That apparently referred to antagonism from some religious conservative groups normally part of the Republican coalition toward gay activist organizations.

The memo also focused on organizing efforts among pharmacists, anti-gun groups, veterans, seniors, labor, mayors, chambers of commerce and county officials.

It said another employee of the secretary of state's office has requested "250,000 more flag amendment brochures for Fourth of July parades."

"We passed 5,000 (stamped with GHR's name) out on Memorial Day and they were well received" by veterans groups, the memo said.

Poshard campaign manager Joshua Silverman said that the memo proved that Ryan was drawing on individuals within the secretary of state's office to staff his campaign and setting up front groups. He said the state police should investigate to determine if the secretary's employees were being used illegally.

But Urbanek said they were working on their own time.

NY Group Calls for task Force in Wake of Greenwich Village Murder

By Donna De La Cruz

New York (AP) A Bronx man was arrested today in the stabbing death of a Greenwich Village man, Police Commissioner Howard Safir said.

Eric Carolina, 21, was charged with second-degree murder and criminal possession of a weapon. Police arrested Carolina at St. Vincent's Hospital, where he was being treated for various injuries.

Safir would not comment on what led police to Carolina, only saying that investigators found a number of inconsistencies in Carolina's story about how he got his injuries. Police believe Carolina was hurt when he struggled with Fitzroy Green, 36, at the man's apartment.

The two met Monday evening on the street and Green invited Carolina back to his apartment, Safir said. He would not comment on whether the pair had known each other or

just met. Safir would also not comment on published reports alleging Green was a prostitute.

Green was found in his apartment Tuesday afternoon. His murder was the second killing in Greenwich Village in less than a week.

Safir stressed that Green's murder does not appear to be part of a pattern. On Wednesday, the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project called for the creation of a task force to investigate several homicides that have occurred this year in the village and in nearby Chelsea.

"I want to make clear that the facts in this case do not support any theories of a pattern. No connections to any other homicides in the area have been found," Safir said.

The Anti-Violence Project called Green's death a bias crime because Green was gay, said executive director Christine Quinn. But Safir said police had yet to determine if Green was

killed because he was gay. He would not comment on the motive.

Acquaintances of Green's told police they last saw him with two men on Monday night leaving Two Potato, a gay bar on Christopher Street two blocks from his home. Salaudin Muhammad, a friend of Green's, said he was known to carry large quantities of cash.

Last Wednesday, Ki Lim, 34, the owner of a West Village novelty shop was killed in his Christopher Street store.

On Memorial Day, Peter Garcia, 32, was fatally stabbed in Chelsea shortly after he left a nightclub. Ms. Quinn said there are many similarities in the Green and Garcia homicides.

"Both victims were gay men of color, both men were stabbed multiple times, both men were last seen leaving a gay establishment, and both victims let the perpetrator into the room where they were murdered," Ms. Quinn said.

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Chief Says he Apologized Over 'Outing' Remarks

Albuquerque (AP) The new director of the New Mexico American Civil Liberties Union denies threatening to expose gay lawmakers in North Dakota during a fight over same-sex marriages, but admits an article he wrote sounded that way.

Keith Elston and the ACLU's national director, Ira Glasser, both apologized for the remarks Elston made while ACLU director for North Dakota and South Dakota.

Elston wrote in a Grand Forks, N.D., arts guide in February 1997 that he would expose legislators if they supported the proposal to ban homosexual marriages.

"That's not a threat," Elston wrote. "It's a promise."

Elston said Thursday he meant not to out homosexual lawmakers, but rather "expose the hypocrisy of a politician going to gay private citizens to raise money" then working against those same citizens in the Legislature. Outing refers to exposing people who are secretly gay.

In a short article for the weekly alternative paper, he said he wrote, "I know who you are and that kind of hypocrisy needs to be exposed."

"It wasn't a threat to 'out' them, but the way it read, it sounded that way," Elston said.

His article focused on people who would admit privately that the same-sex marriage ban "wasn't the right thing to do, but because they didn't want to seem too pro-gay, were willing to sacrifice their own

beliefs," he said.

He also criticized the North Dakota media, which he said seized on his remarks. "And while the newspapers were decrying the practice of outing, they were only to happy to write that I am a gay man," he said. "So the only one outed was me."

Elston said he never intended to expose anyone.

"I was writing that article at midnight, and I was tired and angry because we weren't making any progress," he said. "It was probably a mistake to put it that way, and I apologized to the Legislature."

But, he said, while the controversy swirled over his writings, the North Dakota Legislature passed measures that he said hurt people — the same-sex marriage ban, a bill that made it harder for disabled workers to get benefits and another that raised the average phone bill by up to 40 percent.

"All those things hardly made a blip on the screen because the focus was on something that was hardly relevant to what was going on," Elston said.

Elston, recently hired to replace Jennie Lusk as executive director of the New Mexico ACLU chapter, said he discussed the furor over his article with the local board and doesn't expect it to have any bearing on his new job.

"Quite honestly, I consider it a nonissue," he said.

Court Confirms Clinic Was Right To Reject Lesbian

Brisbane, Australia (AP) Queensland's highest state court ruled Tuesday that a donor sperm clinic did not discriminate against a lesbian when it refused to inseminate her.

Last January, the Queensland Anti-Discrimination Tribunal found the 24-year-old woman had been discriminated against by the clinic on the basis of her sexuality.

The woman, who is now a mother of two, has gone on record as saying she led the crusade for lesbian access to the clinics because stringent testing meant the clinics did not carry the same risks as private donor insemination, notably the possibility of AIDS contamination.

However, the state Supreme Court overturned the decision after the clinic appealed, saying it had the right to refuse treatment because the

woman was not infertile.

The Court of Appeal upheld the Supreme Court finding on Tuesday, saying the woman had not been directly discriminated against on the basis of her lesbianism.

Justices Bill Pincus, Geoffrey Davies and James Thomas found the tribunal president, Roslyn Atkinson, erred in finding that lesbianism was the reason for the refusal of treatment.

However, the court sent back to the tribunal issues of indirect discrimination and a possible exemption under the Anti-Discrimination Act.

The issue of indirect discrimination relates to whether the clinic acted reasonably in its imposition of a condition that all women treated must have a consent form signed by a male partner.

Church Court Votes to Keep Gay Elder

Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (AP) A church court has decided that a gay man may remain in his position as elder.

The decision Tuesday by the highest court of the 2.6 million-member Presbyterian Church (USA) ended a legal battle over Ray Whetstone's homosexuality.

Fellow church member Ronald Wier filed a complaint against Whetstone after his ordination in January 1996. Wier cited a church

law that banned gays from ordained ministry.

The Permanent Judicial Commission ruled that while the ordination was "irregular," the panel lacked the authority to annul the position.

But the court warned that Second Presbyterian Church could not ordain another gay elder. Whetstone also won't be allowed to serve another term under the court's agreement after his three-year term expires in December.

Sri Lankan Gays Want Law Repealed

Colombo, Sri Lanka (AP) Sri Lanka's only gay rights group Wednesday called for the repeal of a 19th century law which makes homosexuality a criminal offense.

"Gay people don't even dare come out in the open while this law is there, branding them as criminals," Sherman de Rose, a spokesman for the group Companions On a Journey, told reporters.

The 130-year-old law, passed when the Indian Ocean island was a British colony, makes homosexual acts punishable by up to 12 years in prison.

No studies have been done on the number of gays in Sri Lanka,

where homosexual issues are rarely discussed in the open.

De Rose said gays are hopeful that their attempt would succeed. A previous move in 1992 to repeal the law was approved by the country's Cabinet, but was never presented to parliament.

De Rose said the law was even hampering AIDS and safe sex education for gay people.

Sri Lanka has detected only 267 AIDS cases among its 18 million population, but some research groups estimate that there may be up to 8,000 infected cases who have not developed full blown AIDS.

Man Convicted in Slaying Similar to 11 Murders

By Sonja Barisic

Newport News, Va. (AP) A man was convicted Friday of a gay sex slaying similar to 11 unsolved murders. The jury recommended a life sentence.

The murder of Andrew D. Smith, 38, was similar to the others in southeastern Virginia over the past decade, but Elton M. Jackson was charged only with Smith's death.

Jackson, 43, had sex with Smith at Jackson's Portsmouth home, strangled him and dumped his nude body near a dirt road in Chesapeake. The body was discovered July 22, 1996, more than 24 hours after authorities say Smith went to Jackson's home, where the two had consensual sex.

Jurors were never told of the other slayings. Jackson was convicted of first-degree murder and will be sentenced Oct. 27.

"We're disappointed in the verdict, and he still maintains his innocence," said Jackson's attorney, Pamela Hampton.

Jackson has not been ruled out as a suspect in the other cases.

The bodies, all nude except for the first, began turning up in 1987. Many of the victims were gay, some were hustlers, and nearly all were drifters or transients and last seen in or near gay bars in Norfolk or Portsmouth.

Smith's body was the last to be discovered. There have been no other similar slayings since Jackson's arrest in May 1997.

Court documents indicate Jackson had contact with some of the other victims and the blood of one, Reginald Joyner, was found in Jackson's bed along with the blood of Smith, authorities said.

Prosecutor Nancy Parr said Jackson could be a future threat, noting that three men testified he tried to choke them during sexual encounters.

Jackson spent about an hour testifying in his own defense Thursday. He said he had sex with Smith but initially lied to police about knowing Smith because he was afraid.

"I'm black, I'm gay and he and I had a nice time. ... Then he turns up dead," he said.

Community Pride Support & Resources

Youth Support

Outright/Lewiston-Auburn has drop-in sessions for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth age 22 and under. We meet the first and third Friday evening of each month. For more information call 786-2717 or write Outright/Lewiston-Auburn P.O. Box 7738, Lewiston, ME 04243-7738.

Meetings and support for gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning youth. Outright advocates to create safe supportive environments for youth. Meetings in Camden area, Call 338-6330 for details

Maine Gender Resource and Support Service. Education, information, referrals for Maine's crossdressing and transsexual community. PO Box 1894, Bangor, ME 04402-1894, phone: 207-862-2063. Email: megress@hamtel.tds.net.

TRANSSUPPORT. Non-sexual, peer support for Maine's crossdressers and transsexuals and their SO's. Yearly dues. PO Box 17622, Portland, ME 04112. Phone: 207-862-2063.

AIDS Support

A workshop titled "HIV/AIDS Prevention": a three week support group on harm reduction for Gay/Bisexual Men will be held Sept. 16,23,30 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Coastal AIDS Network, 156 High St., Belfast

Ron King Director of DownEast AIDS Network will facilitate. The workshops will begin each week with time to socialize. Pizza and sodas will be served.

Topics for discussion:

• **Sept. 16:** Understanding the purpose of the group and how HIV/AIDS has impacted men's lives
• **Sept.23:** HIV/AIDS risk and personal harm reduction

Sept.30: Commitment to harm reduction and on going community and individual support

This workshop series is an ongoing project of Men's Resources "Mr." and is open to all Gay and Bisexual men. The Maine Bureau of Health and the Coastal AIDS Network, (CAN), funds men'sResources.

G/LSEN

Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network works nation-wide to end homophobia in schools. All people who share in this philosophy, regardless of sexual orientation or occupation, are welcome to attend meetings of the Southern Maine chapter of GLSEN.

Meetings are held the fourth Monday of most months, with exceptions possible for school holidays.

GLSEN-Southern Maine meets from 6:30 to 8:30 at Deering High School, 379 Stevens Ave., Portland. Non-members welcome. For more information, call Janis at 207-998-5252 or write to P.O.Bx 10334, Portland, ME 04104.

Gay, lesbian & Straight Education Network, Downcast Maine Chapter, meets the first Sunday of each month at 2 PM at the Downeast AIDS Network, 114 State Street, Ellsworth. (In case of major holidays on that date the meeting may be rescheduled.) All who support the goal of schools becoming safe for all students and teachers are welcome, whether they are teachers or not.

We are a good mix of men and women, gay and straight, teachers and others. We do teacher training and public education; and together with Downeast AIDS Network we are forming a chapter of Outright for young people. We coordinate our educational efforts with PFLAG and the Maine SpeakOut Project. For more information call Karen at 359 2347 or write to PO Box 373, Ellsworth ME 04605.

For more information on "Harm Reduction Workshop For Gay/Bi Men" or any other Mr. programs or services, call 338-6330 or write: Men's Resources. P.O. Box 956, Belfast, ME. 04915

Support groups, education, and counseling for gay/bi men at risk of HIV infection to stay safe. Potluck/discussion group 4th Friday of each month at 7 p.m. Support group 1st and 3rd Monday of each month 156 High St., Belfast 7-9 p.m. Support group in Waldoboro area 2nd and 4th. Tuesday each month 7-9 p.m. Call 338-6330 for details.

Body & Soul

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Based on understanding human beings in terms of our electromagnetic structures, the Gentle Wind Project's healing instruments repair and restore a person's energy field from the damaging effects of personal tragedy and negative life experiences: alleviating anxiety, depression, and stress-related conditions.

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HIV/AIDS Drop-in Support Group

HIV/AIDS drop -in support group for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Every Thursday 6:15 - 7:45 in Rockland. For location call Marjorie at the Coastal AIDS Network at 338-6330

The Lesbian Health Project - Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center.

Bangor will be offering low-cost, woman positive, lesbian-centered health clinics, usually on the first Saturday of every month from 9:00 am to 12 noon. The next two dates are September 12th and October 3rd. The Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center is located at 362 Harlow Street, Intown Plaza, Bangor.

Services will include women's health physical examinations, health screening and referrals, health education and advocacy Health care will be provided by female practitioners in, a lesbian friendly environment For more information or to make an appointment, call 947-5337.

Maine Civil Rights March & Rally Info Line:

Oct 10 March & Rally in Bangor has Info Line for all of Maine 1 (877) CIVIL-11

In response to the repeal of the Civil Rights law on February 10th, Maine citizens and activists from many organizations have been meeting and networking to plan a statewide Civil Rights March and Rally in Bangor. Weekly meetings have occurred at the Hammond Street Congregational Church in Bangor.

Our common belief in the dignity and value of ALL citizens of the state of Maine has led us to desire to build a coalition that moves forward an agenda of civil rights and human rights - creating a safer place for all people to live and work.

Organizers are planning on 3,000 people attending the Rally at Paul Bunyan Park on Saturday October 10. The March will be starting from the Maine Center for the Arts at the University of Maine in Orono. The Committee will be continuing its networking to get as many persons involved as possible in the March & Rally.

The Committee has been developing County by County contacts and building coalitions to begin the process of awareness about the March. It is our desire to get organizations in local communities and rural areas involved. With 16 counties in the state, the Committee is looking for at least 200 from each county to reach it's goal of 3,000.

The purpose of the Info Line is to provide a means for interested persons and organizations in the state to call and request information be sent to them on how they can participate. There are many ways individuals and organizations can get involved -from volunteering, to marching the entire route, to joining in as it passes by or joining the March at the Rally.

For further information, please call Ron Hersom 941-8454.

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

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

DYKE PSYCHE

Anti-Gay and Lesbian Hate Crimes: An Interview with Jeanine Cogan

By Esther Rothblum

There has been a lot of recent media focus on crimes that take place based on victims' membership in oppressed groups. To find out more about anti-lesbian and gay hate crimes, I phoned Dr. Jeanine Cogan, a psychologist who has conducted research and influenced federal policy on this issue.

"Hate crimes are defined legally by specific legislations," said Jeanine Cogan, "however the commonality across the different pieces of legislation is that hate crimes are crimes that are based on real or perceived group membership.

Usually that includes race, ethnicity, national origin, and religion. Sometimes it also includes sexual orientation, disability and gender.

That means you were specifically chosen, sometimes out of a crowd, because you belonged to or where thought to belong to, one of the above groups."

Along with Drs. Gregory Herek, Roy Gillis and Eric Glunt at the University of California at Davis, Jeanine worked on a long-term grant funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (in fact, the first grant ever funded by that organization about gay and lesbian issues that did not focus on AIDS).

The purpose of the research study was to look at the psychological consequences of having survived an anti-gay or anti-lesbian hate crime.

The research team also predicted that experiencing a hate crime would have more serious consequences than experiencing a crime that was not based on the group membership of the victim.

They surveyed more than 2,500 people in the greater Sacramento, California area, including people who lived up to 100 miles away in rural areas. "When we were recruiting participants we never said 'please take part in a study of hate crimes,' because we didn't want to bias the kind of person who would participate in the study," said Jeanine.

Instead, they referred to the study as one examining a range of experiences important to lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals with a focus on health and well-being.

All members of the research team were familiar members of the gay and lesbian communities that they studied.

The research team found that one in four gay and bisexual men and one in five lesbians and bisexual women had experienced a hate-motivated crime since the age of 16.

Jeanine said: "We found that individuals who experienced a hate crime against their person—a physical or sexual assault, an attempted assault, a robbery—

had more psychological distress after such a hate crime than people who experienced a crime of similar severity that was not aimed at them because of their sexual orientation.

We also found a time factor. We know that people who experience a crime tend to be psychologically distressed. And, over time, people recover.

In our study, we found that those who had experienced a

crime that was not a hate crime tended to feel better after two years.

But people who experienced a hate crime took much

longer, five years on average for their symptoms to dissipate. So

if you're around someone who experienced a hate crime years ago,

you may still see some symptoms of distress."

These symptoms of distress could include depression, post-traumatic stress, anxiety and anger.

Then the research team interviewed 450 of the 2,500 respondents. They compared those who had experienced a hate crime, those who had experienced a crime unrelated to their sexual orientation, and those who had experienced no crime. "We got a lot of information about hate crimes," Jeanine said, "and those people who had experienced a hate crime often defined it as such based on tangible evidence.

For example, the language that was used—being called a dyke while being assaulted. Or, the vandalism indicated a hate-motivated crime, such as having the word 'lesbian' smeared on their door with paint. Or theirs was the only car with a rainbow flag, and the only car damaged in a parking lot."

Jeanine found that listening to the respondents' stories was quite frightening to her. She counseled the other interviewers about this fear, a phenomenon that has been termed "indirect trauma" (for example, lesbians feeling victimized just by hearing of hate crimes happening to other lesbians).

She also found a difference in the way lesbians and gay men were victimized. "Some lesbians were physically assaulted by a former male partner, such as a former husband, when the lesbians came out to these men," Jeanine recalled, "We ended up calling it 'heterosexual revenge.' Some gay men, on the other hand, were lured to have sex by other, presumed 'straight' men and then assaulted by these men. "And this was a pattern we found only among men."

Jeanine is now working at the American Psychological Association in Washington, D.C., where she is involved in chang-

ing hate crime policy at the national level. "I've been working with Sharon Shaw Johnson, who is the director of GLOVE Gay Men and Lesbians Opposing Violence and they collect hate crimes data and do interventions.

Both of us have noticed that it is the butch woman and the 'effeminate' man who are at particular risk for hate crimes because they defy our ideas of gender."

Jeanine's policy work focuses on broadening the definition of hate crimes. As part of a hate crimes coalition, she is attempting to amend a current civil rights statute that can be used against a perpetrator who bashes a person based on that person's group membership.

She is trying to include sexual orientation, disability and gender in the definition of hate crimes. "The real hot potato is gender," she says. "The FBI is concerned that if every rape against a woman is a hate crime, they don't have the personnel to cope with the huge numbers." With a broad-based hate crimes coalition, Jeanine had many conversations with the Department of Justice about the inclusion of gender as a hate crime.

In the end they supported adding gender, and President Clinton has endorsed the Hate Crime Prevention Act and has put funds into the budget for more FBI agents to work on hate crimes.

Jeanine is also thrilled to have been successful in combining research with policy. The Bureau of Justice Statistics conducts an annual survey on criminal victimization.

They sample 50,000 households in the U.S. about crime experiences in the past year. Along with many other advocates, Jeanine was successful in getting this survey to include questions about hate crimes. This will allow for national statistics about hate crimes over the next years.

Documenting the prevalence of an issue is an essential step for receiving an appropriate government response. So this will be an important contribution.

For more information, see Gregory Herek, Roy Gillis, Jeanine Cogan, and Eric Glunt (1997). Hate crime victimization among lesbians, gay and bisexual adults: Prevalence, psychological correlates and methodological issues. *Journal Of Interpersonal Violence*, volume 12, pp. 195-215.

Esther Rothblum is Professor of Psychology at the University of Vermont and Editor of the *Journal of Lesbian Studies*. She can be reached at John Dewey Hall, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405 and esther.rothblum@uvm.edu. DYKE PSYCHE is a monthly column.

South Portland Citizens for Justice is up and running!

We have a campaign plan, have begun raising funds, and have a critical need for volunteers!

If you live or work in South Portland ... or if you know someone who lives or works in South Portland ... or if you can identify where South Portland is on a map of Maine ... consider lending a hand!

Our meetings are on alternate Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm. We meet in the PROP building in South Portland, 24 Moser street, off Sawyer street near the Lyric Theatre. Our next meeting is September 8, September 22, etc.).

We can be reached at: South Portland Citizens for Justice, P.O. Box 2311, South Portland ME 04116. Phone: (207) 741-9033 Net: SP4Justice@aol.com

My Queer Life Sticker Shock

Michael Thomas Ford

One afternoon a few weeks ago, my roommate pulled up to the house in a car that wasn't his.

"What's that?" I asked from my perch on the front steps, where the dog and I were sitting. "It's your new car," he said, tossing me a set of keys. "I didn't buy a car," I said.

"I got a great deal on it at the garage," he explained. "You need a car, and I figured this was a good way to pay you back for when I was out of work and couldn't pay rent."

And just like that, I became a car owner. As it turned out, before I could actually get into the car and take it anywhere, I had to register and insure it. This involved standing in sixty-three different lines and filling out five hundred forms, none of which I did correctly.

I didn't know what the exact mileage was on the odometer. I couldn't trace the succession of owners back to the day the car rolled off the assembly line. I drew a blank when the insurance salesman asked me if I wanted blanket collision coverage or a per-item deductible based on standard industry scales.

Somehow I managed to get through it all, and ended up with a car that was registered, insured, and inspected. But before I could actually consider the process finished, there was one final decision to be made. One that was more crucial than all of the others combined.

"What kind of sticker are you going to put on the bumper?" my friend Diane asked as we stood looking at my newly-insured and approved conveyance.

"Sticker?" I said. "Sure," she said. "You need a sticker. It's your statement about who you are. Otherwise it's just a car."

Suddenly, the whole notion of car ownership took on an entirely new dimension. Before I'd simply thought of it as something to get around in if need be. But now it was an accessory. I had a reason to be interested.

I knew I wanted a gay-themed sticker. On the few times I'd been riding around in some unfamiliar territory while traveling,

seeing a pink triangle or other identifying sticker on another car had always been reassuring.

So off we went to the local gay bookstore, where I discovered a dizzying array of stickers, all in rainbow colors.

"How about this flag?" I suggested. "It's simple and to the point." Diane scoffed. "That is so last year," she said. She picked up a rainbow peace sign. "How about this? Two messages in one."

"I don't think so," I said. "It's too Grateful Dead."

I wanted to find just the right sticker, one that would make a comment about some part of gay culture that I had an interest in. Something that would be me.

We looked at rainbow triangles, rainbow Mars symbols, and rainbow cowboy boots. We considered and rejected stickers shaped like rainbow-tinted states of Massachusetts, a rainbow dog paw, and a sticker that said "Butch" in rainbow letters.

I was just about to give up and settle for last year's rainbow flag when I unearthed a rainbow sticker shaped like a bear. Having something of an affinity for hairy men, I thought it would be just the thing to let them know an admirer was driving along in front of them.

I put the rainbow bear on my rear bumper, where it looked very proud indeed next to the Southern New England AAA sticker. I had visions of some day needing a tow and discovering that the studly truck driver, clued in by seeing my rainbow bear sticker, was playing on my team.

I began to drive the car around, tentatively at first. I was a little shaky after more than a decade of being a simple pedestrian. But after a couple of days, when nothing really awful had happened, I started to loosen up.

It was kind of nice to be able to go to the grocery store when I wanted to, and not to have to carry the laundry down the street. Best of all, I started to notice all of the rainbow stickers affixed to bumpers and rear windows as I drove around. It was great to see family on the road, and I imagined people noticing my rainbow bear and nod-

ding in solidarity.

But what I was really waiting for was the chance to use it as date bait. Then one day, when I drove the dog to the park for his evening swim, a man parked near me in a pickup stuck his head out of his window. "Hey," he said. "Nice sticker."

"Here we go," I thought excitedly, noting his outdoorsy look and flannel shirt. "It's working."

"It's great to see that," he said, smiling. "Makes me feel right at home." I noted his hairy forearm where it rested along the window's edge. I tried to get a closer look at his open shirt, to see just how bear-like he really was.

"Well," I said. "Most guys are still into that smooth look. But that just leaves more hairy men for the rest of us." He gave me a weird look. "Hairy guys?" he said. "Yeah," I answered. "You know, bears. Hair. Bears."

"Oh," he said after a moment. He sounded disappointed. "I get it now. Sorry. I thought it stood for gay guys from Maine. I'm visiting from Bangor, and I thought you might be from around there too."

With that, he rolled up his window and left, before I could even offer to pack up my things and move further north with him. Dejected, I turned to let the dog out of the car.

But I couldn't. In my excitement, I'd shut the door and left the keys inside.

Michael Thomas Ford is the author of "Alec Baldwin Doesn't Love Me & Other Trials from My Queer Life." He always obeys the speed limit.

I'd like to take this opportunity to bid a sad farewell to Norfolk, Virginia's OUR OWN paper, which recently folded after more than twenty years of excellence. OUR OWN is where "My Queer Life" began, and I will miss them.

When something like this happens, it makes me appreciate all of you who work so hard to keep your papers going. Thank you all for giving me and other writers a place to have our say.

Be well, Mike

Ranchers and Foreman Accused of Harassing Lesbian Neighbors

Salt Lake City (AP) Two lesbian ranchers in Boulder and their foreman have been accused of harassing their neighbors. They say they only have been trying to scare off unidentified vandals who have been harassing them, possibly because of their lifestyle.

Jan Belnap, a retired nurse disabled from multiple sclerosis, said she woke up just after midnight on July 27 to find a flaming cross lying across the lawn and the words "Get Out" were scrawled on the front door.

She said that over the next few days, a gun was fired more than once into the ground as a warning to possible vandals.

Following complaints from her neighbor, lodge owner Mark Austin, and a police investigation, Belnap, 46, and her companion, Sunny Gilbert Hardy, 53, were charged with felonies.

Belnap contends she is the target of a malicious prosecution.

"I'm trying to stop the problem,

and the most immediate problem is the shooting," Garfield County Attorney Wallace Lee said. "We are not picking on them. You can't have gunfights, that's all there is to it."

Belnap and Hardy are each charged with three third-degree felonies: discharge of a firearm in the direction of a person, building or vehicle; aiding and abetting; and stalking. Their charges also include the misdemeanor offenses of maintaining a public nuisance, threats and disorderly conduct. Their foreman, Joe Parker, is charged with the same misdemeanors and misdemeanor stalking.

Belnap was among beneficiaries who inherited the ranch after her father, the purported polygamist author Henry Austin Belnap, died in 1996.

She moved to Boulder to manage the property, known as Eagle Star Ranch. Hardy moved from Las Vegas in March to start a bed and breakfast in one of the ranch's four homes.

The ranch abuts property belonging to Austin.

A feud developed between Austin and his neighbors after he began building his home close to Eagle Star's property line, according to Belnap.

The ranchers' decision to build a greenhouse and a hog farm near the edge of the property has escalated the discord.

Austin, who is traveling in Europe, could not be reached for comment.

Belnap contends the cross burning was the culmination of months of harassment, much of it anonymous. She complained sheriff's deputies are doing nothing to protect her.

The Austin family told police that bullets were directed at Mark on two occasions in late July and early August, Lee said. He also said a dead cow was dumped near Austin's home.

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.

C.P.R. 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 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 distracted 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 the 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 207-282-4551 for special publishing needs especially inclusion in a particular issue.

"Wait Until Dark" Opens Season for Penobscot Theatre Company

(Bangor) - Penobscot Theatre Company will open its winter season on September 23rd with the suspenseful *Wait Until Dark*, a mystery-thriller to be presented at the downtown Bangor Opera House through October 4th.

Wait Until Dark was written by Frederick Knott, author of PTC's popular film noir-style production of *Dial "M" for Murder*. This tense drama follows Susy Hendrix, a blind woman who is unsuspecting prey for a sinister con-man named Harry Roar and two ex-convicts in search of drugs believed to be stashed in her apartment.

Although the criminals cleverly deceive her at first, Susy quickly figures out that she is the victim of a bizarre charade. Soon she is alone with the con-man, and she is thrust into a deadly game of cat and mouse. Susy knows the only way to play fair is by her own rules, so when darkness falls, she turns off all the lights, leaving both of them and the audience in the dark until the game ends.

"The suspense in this piece," said director Mark Torres, "really puts you on the edge of your seat. The playwright wrings out every possible drop of tension before everything's resolved. The whole crime seems so neatly wrapped up until Susy turns her vulnerability into her advantage."

A number of famous actors have played the lead roles of Susy and Roar. Most recently, Marisa Tomei (*My Cousin Vinny*) starred in a revival with Quentin Tarantino (*Pulp Fiction*) which traveled through Boston on its way to New York.

The original 1966 Broadway production starred Lee Remick as Susy and Robert Duvall as Roar. A 1967 movie adaptation fea-

{ Pictured: Ron Adams & Deb Elz Hammond }



tured Alan Arkin along with Audrey Hepburn in a role which garnered her an Oscar nomination for Best Actress.

Penobscot Theatre Company's production offers as many regional favorites. Deborah Elz Hammond (Milbridge) leads the cast in the role of Susy. Hammond was most recently featured as Harper in *Angels in America* and in the familiar role of Stella in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, both at Penobscot Theatre Company in Bangor.

Ron Adams (Brewer) returns as the vicious but slick con-man, Harry Roar. Audiences will

remember Adams from his leading roles as Prior in *Angels*, Williamson in PTC's controversial production of *Glengarry Glen Ross* and Lyman in *Harvey*.

Robert Libbey (Bangor) joins the cast as Susy's husband, Sam. Libbey was recently seen as Oberon in Maine Shakespeare Festival's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, but he is also easily recognized from PTC productions of *Noises Off*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, and *Amadeus*.

Also from the cast of the Maine Shakespeare Festival are Michael A. Mayhall, Jr., (Folsom, Louisiana) and Mike Abernathy (Orono) as the ex-convicts. Mayhall played Lysander, Bardolph, and Tybalt in *Midsummer*, *Merry Wives of Windsor*, and *Romeo and Juliet* respectively; Abernathy portrayed both foolish Bottom and infamous Falstaff. Anna Wieck (Orono) plays Gloria, the not-so-pleasant child from next-door, while Allen Adams (Bangor) and Kenny Volock (Orono) appear as the investigating police officers.

Timothy Krause (Ellsworth) will design the scenery, Lynn Chase (Hamden, Connecticut) will light the show, and Ginger Phelps (Newport) is the costume designer.

Performances run September 23rd through October 4th at the Bangor Opera House, 131 Main Street in Bangor. Season subscriptions range in price from \$35-\$108 and individual tickets are priced \$10-\$22. Group discounts start as low as \$6.00 per ticket.

Several matinees will be offered. For details, call Penobscot Theatre Company box office at 207-942-3333, noon - 6:00 P.M., Tuesday through Saturday. Information is also available on the PTC website at: <http://www.maine-guide.com/ptc> or sending e-mail to: penthtr@agate.net.

Southern Maine Pride Special Survey

Survey says

Return this survey and you may win a pair of free tickets to "FLAIR" Southern Maine Pride's Cabaret night with very special guest SUEDE (Friday October 9 at 8 pm)

And everyone's name will automatically be entered into a drawing to win:

THE GREAT PUMPKIN PACKAGE!

A room for two, Halloween Night at the Holiday Inn By The Bay.

A gift certificate to Katahdin and two tickets to ML/GPA's

Great Pumpkin Ball '98 (Saturday October 31!!!)

SOUTHERN MAINE PRIDE WANTS YOU!

Survey:

1) What events did you go to:

- Boston Pride Bus ☐
- Boston Pride June 13 ☐
- Pride's Awards Dinner ☐
- Pridelights ☐
- "Tangible Fathers" ☐
- Pier Dance ☐
- Friday Men's Chorus ☐
- Saturday Men's Chorus ☐
- Sunday Men's Chorus ☐
- Interfaith Service ☐
- Pre-Parade Rally ☐
- Parade as Participant ☐
- Parade as Spectator ☐

Festival in Deering Oaks ☐

2) How much did you spend?

I spent \$ 12 at Festival

Item bought earrings

Lucie Blue Trembaly Concert ☐

Rainbow Ball ☐

Speak Outs' Variety show ☐

Karaoke Cruise ☐

3) What Bars did you go to:

Blackstone's ☐

Somewhere ☐

Underground ☐

Sister's ☐

Went to a friends ☐

4) Where did you eat:

Katahdins ☐

Natasha's ☐

Coffee By Design ☐

Barking Squirrel (The Oaks) ☐

Street Vendor ☐

Cafe Uffa ☐

Zephyr Grill ☐

Mesa Verde ☐

Kinicki's Pizza ☐

Dela's Catesen ☐

other _____

5) I was there with my...

alone ☐ friend ☐ partner ☐ kids ☐ ex-partner ☐ dad ☐ mom ☐ group ☐

6) Prices were: Too low ☐ Just Right ☐ A little high ☐ Way too High ☐

6a) What Prices were high

7) What did you volunteer for:

8) How did you hear about PRIDE events?

☒ A) PRIDE GUIDE

B) Community Pride Reporter

C) Casco Bay Weekly

D) Maine GayNet

E) PORTLAND Newspapers

F) Received flyer

G) Maine Times

H) In newsweekly

G) OTHER?

Overall impression of 1998 PRIDE events?

(Use separate sheet if necessary)

9) Are you interested in being notified of volunteer opportunities for Southern Maine Pride?

Name

Address

City State zip phone

MAIL SURVEY TO: PRIDE SURVEY

Box 11502

Portland, ME 04104

SoME Pride Thanks all of you who return this survey. By doing so you are helping us to better serve our community by providing the events and services you would like to have at your Pride Festival.

Watch for upcoming events throughout the year.



THE MAINE CIVIL RIGHTS MARCH & RALLY

Join the CIVIL RIGHTS CELEBRATION

8pm • October 10

Maine Center for the Arts • University of Maine • Orono

ADMISSION: \$12 & \$10

(207) 581-1755 • (800) MCA-TIXX



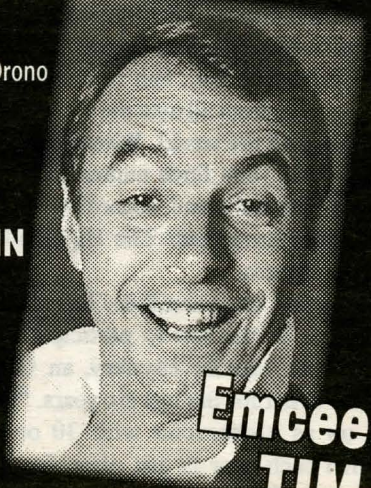
featuring
STEVE SCHALCHLIN
Composer/Lyricist:
Off-Broadway hit
"The Last Session"

and
SUEDE

Popular/Jazz
Vocalist & Musician



plus **MAINE GAY MEN'S CHORUS**



Emcee
TIM SAMPLE

**Sat., October 10
BANGOR, MAINE**

MARCH STARTS AT 9 AM SHARP

7-9 AM Registration

At Maine Center for the Arts
University of Maine, Orono



RALLY • 1:30 PM

Paul Bunyan Park • Bangor

To get information or participation forms call
1-877-CIVIL-11 (877-248-4511)

The Maine Civil Rights March & Rally

Oct 10, 1998 March & Rally in Bangor a coalition is growing.

A coalition is coming together.

In response to the repeal of the Civil Rights law on February 10th, Maine citizens and activists from many organizations have been meeting and networking to plan a state-wide Civil Rights March and Rally in Bangor. Weekly meetings have occurred at the Hammond Street Congregational Church in Bangor.

Our common belief in the dignity and value of ALL citizens of the state of Maine has led us to desire to build a coalition that moves forward an agenda of civil rights and human rights - creating a safer place for all people to live and work.

Our common beliefs include:

We believe in equality for all Maine citizens and in enactment of the repealed Civil Rights Law...

We believe in the fundamental right of freedom from all forms of violence, harassment and abuse, safe home environments, safe schools, safe work places and safe communities...

We believe that all people should have equal opportunity to housing, credit, public accommodations, employment and worker's rights and benefits for themselves and their family... and

We believe that justice is a universal concept embraced by all spiritual persons.

To this end, we will work together to build a safe home: **MAINE, the way life COULD be!**

Organizers are planning on 3,000 people attending the Rally at Paul Bunyan Park on Saturday October 10. The March will be starting from the Maine Center for the Arts at the University of Maine in Orono.

The Committee has been networking by developing County by County contacts and building coalitions to begin awareness about the March. It is our desire to get organizations in local communities and rural areas involved.

With 16 counties in the state, the Committee is looking for at least 200 from each county to reach its goal of 3,000. To date, we have over 50 organizations from around the state participating in our network, including such state-

wide groups as the Maine Council of Churches, the Maine Civil Liberties Union, the Maine Women's Lobby, the Maine Lesbian & Gay Political Alliance, Bangor Theological Seminary, the Maine Speak Out Project, the Maine Rural Network, the Maine Women's Fund and OUTRight.

We are looking for a few thousand people who voted NO in February or wish they had.

We are looking for a few thousand people who believe that basic civil rights protections, regardless of a person's sexual orientation, are worth standing up for.

We are looking for people who have basic civil rights protections now to come out, stand and march in solidarity with those who do not.

We are looking for a few thousand people who are willing to march in the tradition of Gandhi, Mandela and Martin Luther King; saying that we, too, are people who have been judged and stereotyped unfairly; that we, too, are worthy of dignity and our full rights and responsibilities as citizens in our towns, our state and our country.

10 miles... on the 10th day... of the 10th month...

We are asking people on Saturday, October 10th - gay and straight, young and old, friends and family, co-workers, faith communities and those people committed to social justice- to march with us the 10 miles from the University of Maine- Maine Center for the Arts, through Orono and Veazie to downtown Bangor and then to our Rally at Bass Park (Paul Bunyan Park).

Together, we hope to march in the same spirit as Gandhi and King marched - in the spirit of love, respect, and civility toward the goal of a peaceful, safe, just and inclusive society. Please join us.

March & Rally organizer Ron Hersom hopes that "the March & Rally will reflect that we are friends, neighbors, and family; people who make positive contributions to our communities in our day to day lives."

People marching the entire 10 miles must register by completing the registration form in our flyer or sign-up at the Maine Center for the Arts the morning of the march from 7-9AM. The March will start promptly at 9AM.

Participants may also join in the March at Cascade

Park in Bangor or along the route on State Street and Main Street in Bangor. Participants may also wait at Paul Bunyan Park for the Marchers and join us for the Rally starting at 1:30PM. Live music at Paul Bunyan will begin at noon with performers including - a "Dixieland" band, an a Capella chorus, and Darthe Jennings.

More detail information about the Rally and speakers will be forthcoming in the next two weeks.

There are two other events occurring in conjunction with the Maine Civil Rights March & Rally.

The first is on Friday, October 9, 1998 at 7PMI at the Hammond Street Congregational Church in Bangor, ME. A "Candlelight" Interfaith Service entitled "What Binds Us Together" will be offered in preparation for the events on the next day.

The service will be multi-denominational and will have music, prayer, reflection and words of inspiration. For information about this service call the Hammond Street Congregational Church at (207) 942-4381 or the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bangor at (207) 947-7009.

The second is on Saturday, October 10, 1998 at 8PM at the Maine Center for the Arts, University of Maine, Orono. Entitled "Civil Rights Celebration", the evening of music and comedy will be emceed by Tim Sample and includes performances by Suede, a popular / jazz vocalist and musician, Steve Schalchlin, composer / lyricist of the off-Broadway hit "The Last Session" and the Maine Gay Men's Chorus.

For tickets for this event call the Maine Center for the Arts at (207) 581-1755 or 1 (800) MCA-TIXX. Ticket prices are \$10 for balcony & \$12 for orchestra.

Please note that separate press releases will be forthcoming about the Interfaith Service - "What Binds Us Together" and the "Civil Rights Celebration"

The Maine Civil Rights March & Rally Committee are planning a press conference for Thursday, Oct 1 in the early afternoon. Actual date, time and location will be determined soon.

If you have any questions, please call Ron Hersom (207) 941-8454.

The Highlands Inn Celebrates 15 Years of Lesbian Paradise

Bethlehem, NH: Whether you are traveling from the North, South, East, or West it doesn't take long before the mountains surround you with their beauty. The White Mountains of New Hampshire consume the horizon, with snow-capped Mt. Washington looming in the distance. These are magical mountains, peaks that have inspired poets and philosophers while healing others from distant cities.

It is fitting that in their healing domain there is a place for women to come to one like that described by poet Jane Welsh Carlyle: "The only thing that makes one place more attractive than another is the quantity of heart in it."

For 15 years The Highlands Inn has provided "quantity of heart" for women travelers seeking respite, recreation, and relaxation from the everyday world. Nestled in the White Mountains in Northern New Hampshire, this enchanting Inn is situated at the end of a country lane on a hill overlooking its own 100 acres of woodlands and fields.

For most visitors, the first drive up the lane, past the quaint Victorian farmhouse to the 19th Century Inn, is a journey into the past, to a simpler way of life where conversation, nature, and nurturing abound.

A four-time winner of Out & About's Editor's Choice Award, the Highlands Inn "A Lesbian Paradise" as it has been labeled by countless gay and lesbian guidebooks - is celebrating its 15th year of operation, the culmination of a dream long held by owner Grace Newman. Originally from Brookline, Massachusetts, Grace and one-time partner, Judi Hall, purchased the Inn in May of 1983 when, according to Grace, "it was in shambles and, by all accounts, ready for the wrecking ball." But from the moment she first drove up the lane, Grace says she knew that this would one day be a home to women, a haven for those who sought it.

"When we first saw the Inn, we knew that this was the place for which we were searching," says Grace, who became the sole proprietor in December, 1990. "Standing outside of it, you couldn't help but feel the peacefulness of its environs and the potential it held for dreams and imagination."

It would be dreams and imagination that sustained Newman and Hall during the hard work ahead. Built as a farmhouse during the mid-1800s, the structure was converted to an Inn in the early 1900s and remained so through several owners. But, when the two purchased the Inn, it had been abandoned for three years and was virtually uninhabitable.

"I remember one evening, after we had literally torn wood off the walls and used it for firewood, just sitting in the living room in front of the fire and crying out

of frustration," said Grace. "It seemed like no one would ever want to stay here, that we would never be able to finish it."

Though advised to tear down the original structure and begin anew, Newman and Hall wanted to preserve the Inn's character. With the help of 10 to 12-person crews, they tackled the monumental task of restoring and decorating the Inn, its 100-foot combination living room/dining room, 14 guest rooms, and 12 baths. By July, 1983, six guest rooms opened and, by September, all 14 rooms at The Highlands Inn were opened just in time for foliage season.

"In my mind, that was the most beautiful fall I have ever seen anywhere," said Grace, a New Englander since birth. "The sunsets then and now always remind me of what a treasure this place is."

Guests could not agree more. "The Highlands Inn is an empowering tribute to women everywhere," said Marion Royston of Worcester, Massachusetts. "It has the right formula that creates a very special place for women to retreat and vacation to."

Newman has created a Victorian mood with antique furniture and accessories, even though the Inn is not a museum of Victoriana, but rather a blend of a generation of objects, some old, some new. In fact, the mood of the Inn travels from grandmother to contemporary without missing a beat.

Rooms are decorated with floral bedspreads and matching curtains, fresh flowers, paintings of mountains and portraits of Victorian women. Antiques adorn each room, from deep wardrobes to brass beds, delicate writing desks and comfortable, cushioned rocking chairs. The 10 rooms in the Main Inn have private bathrooms.

For the many newlyweds she hosts, Grace re-designed Room 2 with a canopied bed, a large, comfy couch, a writing corner and plush carpet. But whether booking the "honeymoon suite" or a smaller room, guests are surrounded with the ambiance of home.

When not in their rooms guests relax in the Inn's living room, where a large stone fireplace serves as the centerpiece for conversation, games, jigsaw puzzles, and a moment's reflection. Guests are also encouraged to borrow from the Inn's substantial library, which includes the writing of well-known lesbian novelists, as well as history books and other non-fiction offerings.

Off the living room is a large sunny breakfast room where guests are served anything from scrambled eggs, to waffles or yogurt and fruit on various mornings. A luxurious, private whirlpool spa, television, and VCR help lighten rainy days or enliven a quiet evening.

"In the beginning, it was hard to be-



lieve anyone would ever want to rent a room here," said Grace, reflecting on those days 15 years ago when she began the restoration and renovation. But rent rooms they do, to people from all over the United States, Canada, and the world. When reading the Guest Book, one finds names from as far away as Australia and, according to Grace, Canadians have made The Highlands Inn a yearly Mecca.

In fact, one nurse from Toronto drives each year to the Inn to participate in its Halloween Murder Mystery, an October annual event for the last six years. "Dressing up as a character with 30 or more women each year is just plain fun," said the nurse. "We wouldn't miss it." The Halloween Murder Mystery is just one of many annual traditions at The Highlands Inn.

Others include special Thanksgiving and New Year's packages, complete with dinner and dancing, cross country ski and golf packages and, of course, honeymoon packages. In April, The Highlands Inn offers Canadian guests a stay where their dollars equal American dollars, and in June, a 10 percent discount is offered to those guests who bring proof that they attended a Gay Pride event.

In addition to the 10 rooms in the Main Inn, there are 4 rooms in the Annex off the Main Inn, smaller but equally decorated with a shared bath. Behind the Main Inn is a cottage that can accommodate up to 4 people and their pets. At the bend of the lane leading up to the Inn is the Farmhouse, with 5 rooms, three private and two shared baths, a full kitchen and a television and VCR.

Greeting all guests is Daisy, Grace's miniature schnauzer, and Minnie, the Inn's gray tabby. Their presence reflects the Inn's welcome to visitors' pets in a few selected rooms. The pet fee is nominal for those who prefer not to leave their animal companions at home.

Whether you seek solitude or camaraderie, all are available at The Highlands

Inn. With more than 15 miles of hiking, biking, and cross country ski trails surrounding the Inn and a 54-foot heated outdoor Olympic style swimming pool, there is plenty of terrain for the active.

The challenge of the White Mountains, Mt. Washington, in particular (at 6,288 feet the highest peak east of the Mississippi and north of the Carolinas) - and the White Mountain National Forest, allow guests to explore nature's wonderland firsthand.

There are two golf courses right in Bethlehem, including Maplewood, a Donald Ross course, and more than a half dozen alpine ski areas within a 30-mile radius.

For those a little less athletically inclined, there are historic covered bridges, quaint museums (such as the Robert Frost Museum in neighboring Franconia) and enticing antique shops. And, there is always shopping at the outlet stores in North Conway - just over 35 miles to the east, an incredible drive passing through Crawford Notch and paralleling the recently restored Conway Scenic Railroad, described by The Boston Globe as the most picturesque of all America's train rides.

The Highlands Inn is located in Bethlehem, New Hampshire, once a Mecca for health seekers "an asylum for all the sneezers of the world," according to historian Stearns Morse. With an altitude of 1,500 feet and air kept clean by the surrounding mountains, Bethlehem has been a summer home to the wealthy, the infirm, and a few religious groups for more than a hundred years. It is a quiet town, a town that complements the "quantity of heart" so prevalent at The Highlands Inn.

Rooms range from \$60-110 per night, including breakfast with discounts for week-long and mid-week stays varying seasonally.

For information regarding a stay at The Highlands Inn or a brochure, please call 603/869-3978 or write The Highlands Inn, P.O. Box 118, Bethlehem, N.H. 03574.



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Special Announcements

Dear Friend/Supporter of Civil Rights:

You and everyone interested in working for equal rights-are cordially invited and encouraged to attend a statewide community meeting on

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 1-4 p.m. U. U. CHURCH, 120 Park Street, Bangor.

This meeting is to discuss how to go forward in passing civil rights legislation. Questions to be addressed include, but are not limited to:

How should a new statewide civil rights coalition be organized? What structure, direction and responsibilities should it have?

- How do we make it inclusive and accountable to the LGBT community?

- How should educational and legislative plans be developed? What are our options for passing LGBT anti-discrimination legislation?

On July 28, Maine Won't Discriminate held a meeting in Augusta to discuss the "next steps" of the LGBT civil rights movement in Maine. Many at the meeting felt that more people should be involved in the decisions about "where we go from here," and that another meeting, better publicized, should be held. Also discussed were some of the pros and cons of possible strategies for attaining civil rights.

During the meeting, MLGPA presented a plan for a COALITION that would include everyone in the decision-making process. Here was general consensus that we should use this proposal as a starting point for discussion. MWD leaders suggested that MLGPA host this next meeting. The group decided to hold the meeting on a Saturday in central Maine to ensure that folks from Down East, the county and southern Maine can attend.

You are being invited to the first meeting of the proposed COALITION. Although MLGPA is funding the cost of the cost meeting, it is not proposing to lead this new coalition. We will need to decide together whether this is how we want to proceed for the next round of educating, lobbying and campaigning for civil rights.

On the back of this letter, you will find a rough (working) draft of the proposed Coalition. Please read it thoroughly before you come on September 12. And of course, bring your thoughts and ideas.

If we want things done differently, we have to be willing to step up to the plate and create change. Here is an opportunity to do just that. Please tell your friends and allies about this meeting. Everyone is invited. We want participation and representation from all across the state.

Any questions or suggestions before the meeting should be directed to a member of the Planning Committee:

Betsy Smith, 865-3618 or smittybj@aol.com · Susan

Farnsworth, 622-1077 or sfarnsworth@maine.com

Ron Hersom, 941-8454 · Mike Mayo, 354-8781 ·

Rich Couch, 780-6380 or RCouch0223@aol.com

Mitzi Lichtman, 338-5889 or mitzijoy@agate.net ·

Dave Garrity, 774-5412 or heydave@maine.rr.com

Janice Campbell, 625-3689 or jaye39@cybertours.com

· Dan Stevens, 622-6631 Dan Stevens, 622-6631 or DStevens@nea.org

Working draft of MLGPA proposal for Education and Legislative strategies...

Brief History: Though several groups and individuals have lobbied for the anti-discrimination bill in the past, MLGPA has been the primary coordinator and lobbying voice for each effort. Since its inception in 1984, MLGPA has worked with sponsors and supporters of the bill and developed legislative plans, which eventually resulted in passage of the bill (twice!).

Following the Feb. 10 vote, Maine Won't Discriminate changed its status with the state so it can operate as a civil rights organization beyond its original intention of a campaign. This has potentially created two organizations, which are interested in being the primary civil rights advocates in the legislature.

Proposal: We propose that we join forces with ALL groups committed to passing civil rights legislation. We do this by creating a COALITION and making the COALITION the primary coordination and lobbying voice behind the anti-discrimination bill. The COALITION would also serve as the primary "education campaign" coordinator.

The COALITION can be called the "Coalition to End Discrimination" or the "Coalition for Equality" or the "Coalition for Justice" or what have you. But the name MUST be the Coalition off for something.

Who is the Coalition? The Coalition consists of: the Maine Council of Churches, the Chamber of Commerce,

The AFL-CIO, the National Association of Social Workers, Bath Iron Works, University of Maine System, MCLU, Outright,

PFLAG, MLGPA, Maine Won't Discriminate, Maine Rural Network, Common Circle for Human Rights, Hancock and

Penobscot Counties MWD, Northern Lambda Nord, Dingo Alliance, NOW, Maine Women's Lobby, Choice Coalition,

Holocaust Human Rights Center, NOW, etc, etc, etc, etc. - all of our coalition partners from the past.

The Coalition works with legislators, choosing the sponsors of the bill, setting up the support system within the legislature, lobbying, reporting results statewide through an established network, etc.

The Coalition needs a structure. Who should coordinate the Coalition?

Advisory committee should consist of one rep from each member group in the coalition, unless that group chooses not to take part. Advisory committee meets monthly, disseminates information, makes certain decisions, etc

Steering committee should be a group of 10 or so chosen from coalition member reps and from anyone else that the group feels is vital to the steering committee and intimate decisions of the legislative campaign. Steering committee meets weekly, makes decisions based on information from lobbyist and coalition members.

*Coalition should hire a lobbyist, to work from Jan till end of passage (unless someone with experience wants to do it for free)

*All Coalition members should have an option of what they can give to the legislative campaign: first and foremost is money, on a sliding scale (ex: MLG/PA, MWD, and others give the most \$ - but everyone should have to pay something):

Second is volunteers - work to be determined by lobbyist, steering and advisory committees; third is getting people to a lobbying day and public hearing'. Fourth is making sure all members call/write legislators, etc, etc

What happens after legislative bill campaign? If and when the bill is passed, and we go into public campaign mode to uphold it, should the Coalition continue, or should we shift back to Maine Won't Discriminate, primarily due to name recognition and fund raising purposes? And if we shift back to Maine Won't Discriminate, how should it be structured?

Should the Coalition's Advisory and Steering Committees be the decision making structure, in terms of who to hire for staff, how to raise money, what kind of field plan to implement, etc? Or do we stick with MWD's "kitchen cabinet" or similar make-up from the Feb. 10 campaign?

We propose that the decisions about these specific questions be made at that time, immediately after passage of bill, knowing that we will shift one way or the other, but either way, we go right into the campaign, setting up its structure, with all its components. etc.

If we pass the bill in spring of 1999, and the legislature sends it to the people in November 2000, we have a year and a half campaign. We start immediately.

MLG PA has been around the state and to the state-house, and it is clear to us that the next campaign, be it legislative and/or public, must be more democratically structured. The structure we propose here begins to address this concern, and yet still enables the primary political groups, such as MLGPA and MWD, to utilize their best resources.

Classified Ads

GLSEN Yard Sale

The Southern Maine chapter of the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network will hold a yard sale to help the chapter carry out its mission of ending homophobia in our schools.

The sale will be held on Saturday, September 12, from 9 until 2, at 201 Bradley St., on the corner of Bradley and Brighton, in Portland. Donations of non-clothing items are welcome.

Call Janis at 846-5233, if you have something you would like to donate. If you like rummaging or if you are in the market for some quality junk (and non-junk), join us on the 12th.

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Classified Ads are \$10.00 for the first 40 words and 15 cents for each additional word over forty.

There is no charge for bold or italicizing words.

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