

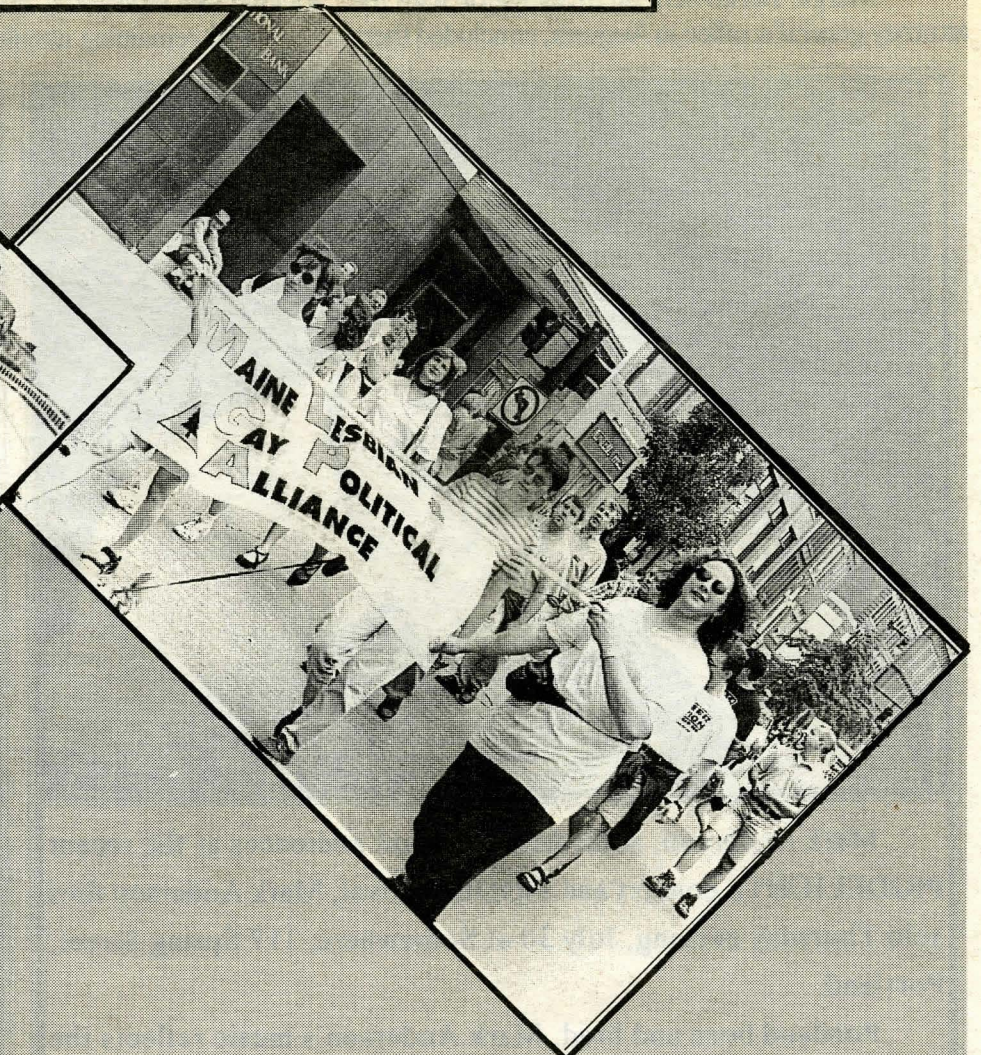
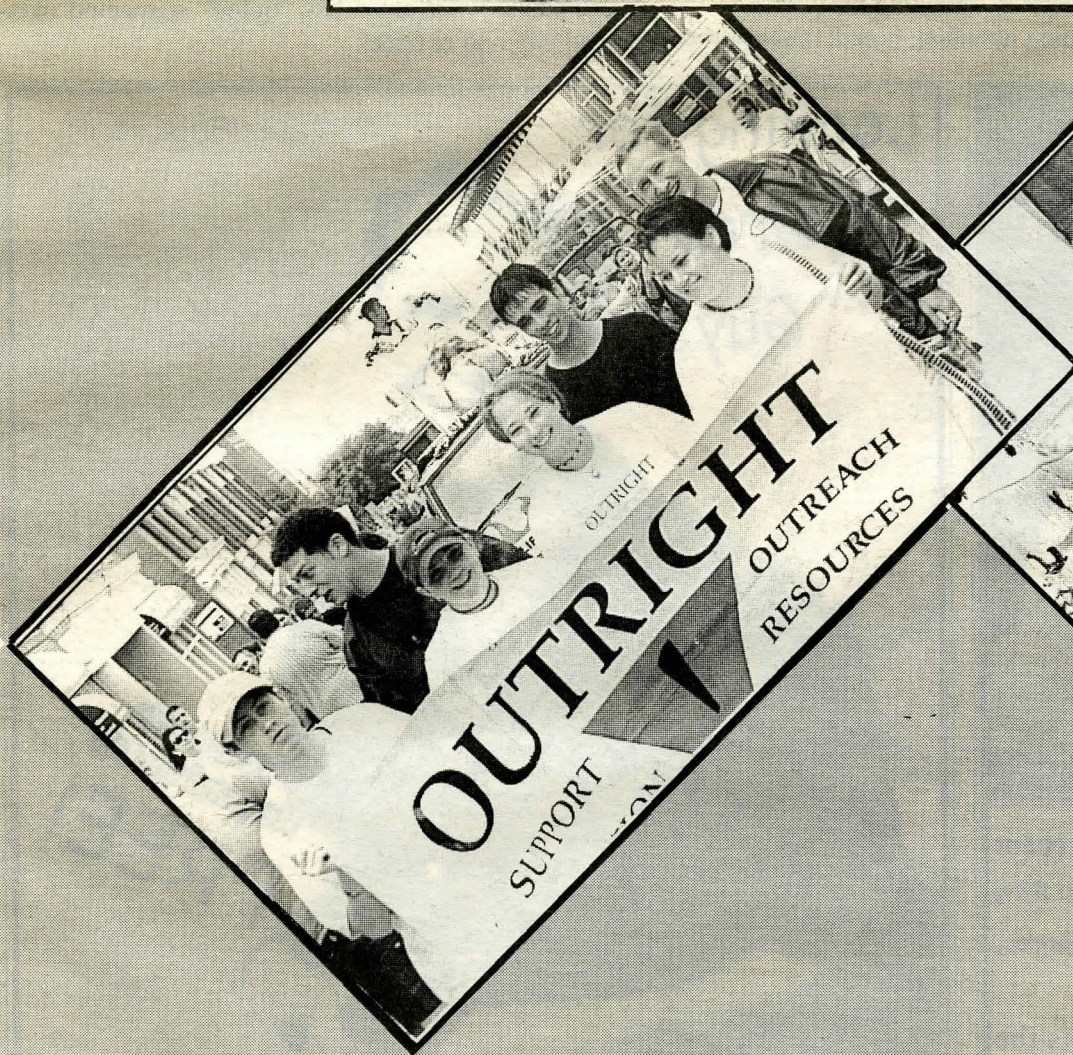
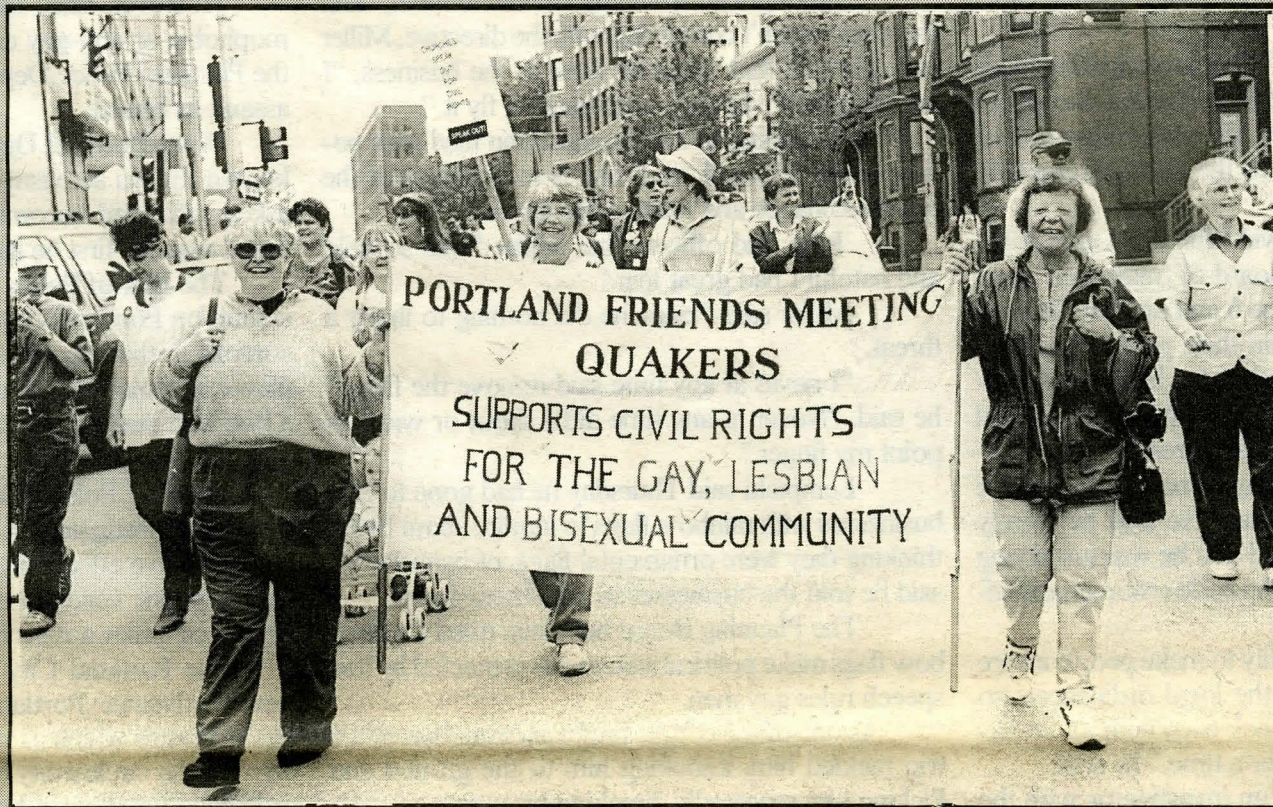
Community Pride Reporter

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

Vol 6 Number 10

July 1998

Out & Proud '98... *Courage To Be Ourselves*



Mother's Day Gay Bashing Receives Little Publicity

by Michael Rossetti

A Portland gay couple was gay bashed over Mother's Day weekend, yet nothing has showed up in the Portland or Maine press regarding the assault.

On Saturday of Mother's Day weekend the two men were leaving the Underground, a popular Portland gay dance club, when they heard the approach of three young men breaking bottles and overturning trash cans.

The couple hurried across Portland's Monument Square to avoid the approaching trio, but the group followed the couple across the Square and down a side street, stopping and surrounding them in an empty parking lot.

The trio had been drinking in Portland's Old Port area and began taunting the gay couple into a fight, yet not using anti-gay language against either of the

Ogunquit, Maine (AP) An investigation failed to produce evidence to support a claim that the town's top elected official violated the civil rights of two gay innkeepers, according to the attorney general's office.

The innkeepers, David Mills and Garry John, said the chairman of the Board of Selectmen came to the Admiral's Inn on June 6 and ordered them to remove the rainbow flag on their porch. The flag, they said, is a national symbol for businesses welcoming gays and lesbians and is displayed by several businesses in this summer coastal resort.

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"I feel the responsibility to make people aware if they are in violation of the local ordinances, so they may correct them on their own without invoking code enforcement officer's time," he said.

Margie Berkovich, an investigator with the attorney general's office in Augusta, concluded there

was insufficient evidence to support a violation of the Maine Civil Rights Act.

To bring a charge under the law, Berkovich wrote in a report to town officials, "there must be evidence of violence, or the threat of violence or destruction of property," and it must have been motivated by the perpetrator's having known the person was "of minority status."

Miller said he did not know what the flag signified.

Miller also said Code Enforcement Officer Paul Lempicki had told him that he Lempicki had told several businesses their rainbow flags were illegal under an ordinance forbidding ornamental banners. Miller said he mistakenly thought the Admiral's Inn was one of those businesses.

"I thought he'd already spoken to them," and that they weren't complying with the directive, Miller said. He said that when he went to the business, "I merely asked why they continued to fly it."

According to a statement John filed with police, Miller shouted "that flag is in violation of the town ordinance and must come down."

John told officers that Miller "was so wild and hateful I had great fear."

Miller said Friday he did nothing to imply a threat.

"I never at any time said remove the flags," he said. "Never at any time did I shout or wave or point my finger."

Lempicki said Thursday he had gone to two businesses with rainbow flags to inquire about them, thinking they were ornamental flags, or banners. He said he told the businesses to take them down.

The Planning Board has since ruled the rainbow flags make political statements protected by free speech rules gay men.

As one of the couple broke and ran, two of the trio tackled him, knocking him to the ground and kicking him repeatedly, breaking his wrist.

The remaining assailant, a well dress and well

groomed blond man in his early twenties, continued to taunt the sole gay man. When the attacker jabbed the gay man across the side of his head, the victim, who had studied marshal arts, gave him an unexpected jab back.

Stunned at the response, for a few moments the two stood staring at each other a little dumbfounded. The attacker broke the silence by calling his buddies off the downed victim and scrambling off down Congress Street, their original route.

The police took down a description of the three young men nearly 2 hours later, at the home of the two gay men. A composite drawing was done of the leader of the trio and the police questioned the gay couple for over an hour, refusing to examine the broken wrist without rubber gloves.

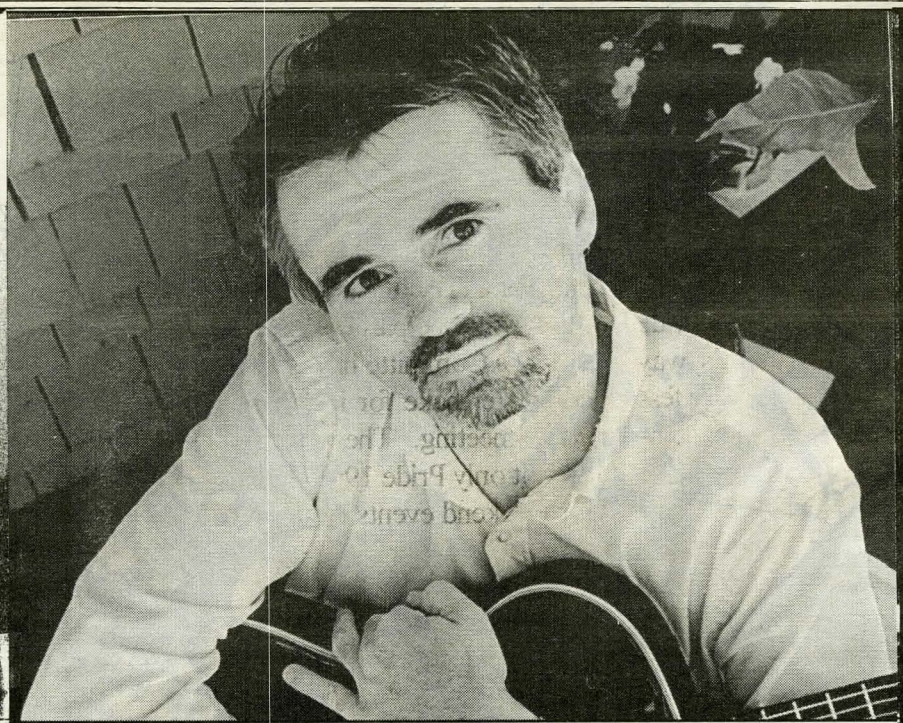
However, since the assailants did not use homophobic or anti-gay comments during the attack, the Portland Police Department did not classify the assault as biased.

When Portland Deputy Chief Mark Dion, well known for his activism against biased crimes, was asked what had become of the case, he explained that it was the first he had heard of it.

The lack of Police investigation regarding the assault on Portland's two of gay citizens is in sharp contrast to the very active part Portland Police have played in attempting to close the Fine Arts Theater, a Portland theater known for its male-male encounters.

Portland Police Chief Michael Chitwood was the primary instigator for a City ordinance that would not only have effectively closed the theater, historically a public vendetta of his, but would also have facilitated easier arrests in Portland's cruising areas.

The Portland City Council rejected the proposed ordinance. Portland already has an anti-cruising ordinance which allows Police to arrest and fine drivers who circle a city block more than twice. The ordinance when used has "outed" suspected closeted gay and bi males.



Mark Anderson, A hit with Portland audiences at the recent PRIDELIGHTS concert and PRIDE Festival, Mark Anderson flies solo Thursday evening, July 30 at Somewhere, 117 Spring Street, Portland.

Portland born and bred, Mark Anderson's music reflects the diversity and breadth of his experience. "Soul" music in its finest form, Mark has written and performed original music for the past two decades.

While music has taken him from coast to coast, he currently resides in Portland. Mark will be performing an eclectic range of popular songs and original music such as "Feeling Proud", "Courage To Be Me" (in homage to the 1998 PRIDE theme,

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Record Crowds for Portland's Pride Festival

Although weather nearly canceled or rained out every outdoor event scheduled by the Southern Maine Pride Committee of Portland for its annual lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community Pride festival over the week of June 14 through the 21, decisions not to reschedule proved successful as record numbers of participants showed up for all of Portland, Maine's Pride festival events "We learned a lot by attending the rained out Boston parade."

We learned that the crowds will still come, they still want to march. The best thing is to leave your security team in place and go with the people," said Michael Rossetti, co-chair for the festival committee.

"Whether people were frustrated with the Boston cancellation, or fed up with the lousy spring to summer weather, or that they felt this was a good opportunity to speak up against the February vote repealing the Maine gay rights law, for us the decision to stay on schedule and stay outdoors brought the largest number of participants we've ever seen."

Weather would have cost the group their annual Friday night pier dance on the Portland waterfront. The key fund-raiser for the Pride festival and for the Pride Committee's annual projects, the dance is an annual event that had brought in nearly 3,000 people in a community of only 60,000.

The pier dance set-up had to start at noon, with lights and sound equipment, wiring, inflatable sculptures and concessions, all having to be up in a process that normally takes all day. The decision to move the dance to another date or indoors was still hanging as of 1 am Friday morning.

Set up was not in progress until 4 p.m. Friday afternoon, causing the dance to open nearly an hour late but still the best attended dance ever with an estimated 3,200 people.

Portland's Pride week started with a bus trip to Boston Pride on Saturday, June 13th. The bus was only half full, although it also included a few riders from another bus scheduled by the Maine Speak Out Project but canceled for lack of riders. The Boston day trip turned out to be a wash out, with most of the travelers spending the day shopping or dining.

The rain caused the cancellation of Boston Pride until July 11th, but that cancellation called local attention to Portland's plans, keeping the Maine community in suspense about its cancellation.

The kick off of Portland's Pride week was the 2nd annual Community Recognition Dinner, held at the Holiday Inn by the Bay on Sunday the 14th.

The audience included State Treasurer Dale McCormack, Portland City Councilor Karen

Geraghty, and State Representatives Scott Cowger of Hallowell and Michael Quint of Portland.

Also, attending were several candidates in the November election, Mark Dion running for Cumberland County Sheriff, Nolan McCoy running for the Maine House from South Portland, and John Wade running for the Maine house from Kennebunk. Massachusetts State Representative Liz Malia, the first openly lesbian (or gay) member of the Massachusetts Legislature in over 20 years, gave a keynote address.

Portland's version of PRIDE LIGHTS, a free event meant to build bridges between the gay and non-gay community and supporting the PRIDE LIGHTS Foundation, was a concert in Congress Square for some 200 people which featured folk singers, beauty queens, and a men's chorus. The sounds of Diva Brazilia, a samba and rhythm group, were the featured performers, with a finale given by the Maine Gay Men's Chorus.

The highlight of the event was the lighting of Congress Square with thousands of pink lights which remained on throughout the weekend festival.

Saturday, June 20th, was the primary festival day. The day started off with a well attended interfaith service at the First Parish Unitarian/Universalist Church.

The homily for the service was given by Portland Press Herald columnist Bill Nemitz, a vocal supporter of civil rights for lesbian and gay people and a constant target of the radical right.

The service ended on the steps of the church with the blessing of some 25 couples, primarily gay and lesbian, given by the Reverend Cindy Soloman of the Metropolitan Community Church of Portland.

After the service, a "people's rally" was held in Monument Square in the heart of downtown Portland. The rally was festive and upbeat, between community leaders who were given a turn at the microphone to speak up about their groups and community projects dance music blared.

About 2,000 people filled the square prior to the day's parade, as TV cameras poked in and out of the crowd, and floats and spectators filled the side streets.

After Portland Mayor Thomas Kane officially declared Saturday, June 20, 1998 Portland's Pride Day the parade entourage loudly made its way through the heart of the downtown to the day's festival at Deering Oaks Park, about a mile away, without incident.

Annually, the Seventh Day Adventist hold their

regional conference in Portland during Pride week. The two events seldom have any contact, as the conference planners schedule the primary event of their get together for Saturday morning, thus avoiding the overwhelming presence of gays and lesbians in the downtown.

However, meandering groups Jehovah's Witnesses encounter the day's festivities without intrusive comments to the Pride participants.

The afternoon and evening of Pride Day featured local and national performers. In the park were Mark Anderson, the Jean Mieke Band, Mona Rae and the Dashboard Magellan, and New York songster Dave Hall, along side some fifty vending and information tables, including a 30 foot climbing wall and a local ice cream truck.

The Maine Gay Men's Chorus held its six annual Pride Concert that evening at Portland High School Auditorium. While at the State Street Church, local favorite Anni Clark and international singer and song writer Lucy Blue Tremblay performed on Lucy's first stop of a national tour.

The week ended with a sunset cruise on Casco Bay, ornamented with karaoke and buffet on the lower deck for those who still had the energy. "Everything worked pretty smoothly," said professional promoter Richard Lawlor, who had lent his expertise to advertising Pride week and producing the Anni Clark/Lucy Blue Tremblay concert. "It all went remarkably well considering the problems we could have had with the weather."

The Pride Committee intends to finally open its long waited for office sometime over the summer with the proceeds of this June's festival allowing it to recruit new committee members. Cochair Rossetti says, "The whole package from planning to finally counting the proceeds and the people is an exhausting job."

We do it because we know the events give our community exposure and the best opportunity for needed outreach and networking that Maine's gay community has.

Our office give people a place to contact us, while we hope it will allow spread the tasks over more volunteers, allowing us to do a better event next year and incorporating more community groups who want to be part of the planning."

The Committee has scheduled a late July cruise and lobster bake for its 1998 volunteers and an a review meeting. The group will begin planning in July not only Pride 1999, but also National Coming Out Weekend events for this October.

Selectman Did Not Violate Innkeepers' Rights

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Arts & Entertainment

MSMT Presents a Cole Porter Classic

Anything Goes

Cole Porter's glorious songs are the highlight of ANYTHING GOES. With the entire action taking place on the "S.S. American" sailing from New York to England, this hilarious comedy featuring ex-evangelist Reno Sweeney with her leggy back-up Angels is filled with delightful deception and changing disguises.

The musical is loaded with such rich and pungent numbers as "I Get A Kick Out Of You," "It's Delovely" and, of course, the title song.

Anything Goes stars Karen K. Edissi as Reno Sweeney, Abe Reybold as Billy Crocker, Dan Schiff as Moonface Martin,

Maine native Ed Romanoff as Sir Evelyn, Beth Glover as Bonnie and Becky Watson as Hope Harcourt.

Karen K. Edissi (Reno Sweeney) After 19 years in NYC doing Broadway and Off-Broadway, K.K. married a Canadian and for the last eight years has lived in Waterloo, Ontario. Her career has continued with four seasons at the famed Stratford Festival from GUYS AND DOLLS (Miss Adelaide) to MERRYWIVES OF WINDSOR (Mistress Quickly).

In Toronto she did SIDE BY SIDE and created the role of Therese in NAPOLEON. A main-

stay at MSMT during the latter 70s and throughout the 80s, K.K.'s return for the 1998 season marks her third appearance in this decade following GYPSY in 1994, and Aldonza in this season's opening production of MAN OF LA MANCHA.

Abe Reybold (Billy Crocker) has appeared on Broadway in GRAND HOTEL: THE MUSICAL. His Off-Broadway and Tour credits include ONE TOUCH OF VENUS

(Encores! City Center), IRA GERSHWIN AT 100 (Carnegie Hall, PBS),

JOSEPH...DREAMCOAT (Pharaoh opposite Donny

Osmond), THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES (starring Keith Carradine). Regionally, he has performed in ANNIE 2 (Goodspeed), NIGHTCLUB CONFIDENTIAL (opposite Barbara Eden), A SWELL PARTY! (Kennedy Center, co-starring with Melba Moore).

Earlier this month Abe sang in Town Hall's 107th Birthday Celebration of Cole Porter.

Business Office: 14 Maine Street, Suite 109 Brunswick, Maine 04011 Tel (207) 725-8769 Fax (207) 725-1199 e-mail: msmtstev@gwi.net Visit our Web Site at: www.msmt.org

Maine State Music Theatre

"Rocky Horror Show" Revived for Halloween

The Seacoast Repertory Theatre will continue a summer tradition, and present the outrageous cult phenomenon, The Rocky Horror Show (Live!), every Friday and Saturday at Midnight until August 29.

The story revolves around Brad and Janet, two wholesome, All-American teenagers who stumble across a strange castle inhabited by "creatures of the night".

Leading the gruesome bunch is the seductive Frank N'Furter, a

cross-dressing alien from the planet Transsexual in the galaxy of Transylvania. Then there's Magenta, the psychopathic maid; Rocky, the pretty, blue-eyed, Frankenstein monster; and Riff-Raff~ the hump-backed butler.

The Rocky Horror Show is directed by Craig Faulkner, who was last seen as Jesus in Jesus Christ Superstar. The cast features many of the SRT summer company members, including Rob Scullin as the narrator, and Danny Vitale (Pha-

raoh in Joseph... Dreamcoat) as Eddie. Maurice Richard (Joseph in Joseph) plays Brad, and Bonnie Johnson plays Janet.

Critics have said that The Rocky Horror Show is an oddball, and often aggressively tasteless," which is exactly the cause for it's popularity. Since 1975, this show has been a cult classic, most often performed in conjunction with the movie version. The Seacoast Rep presents the musical in its original form-as a full-

length stage musical.

Audiences are encouraged to come in costume-the more gruesome the better!-and pay \$12 at the door for admission. Those who come without costume will be charged \$15. The -performance will be General Admission, with no assigned seating. For tickets, call 603-433-4472 or 800-639-7650, or come to the-window at 125 Bow Street in Portsmouth. Box office hours Tuesday through Saturday, 12:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Family Reading: Review of Alternative Family Magazine

by Daralyn S Maxwell

I recently became aware of a magazine, new to the market, directed at alternative families. It is titled, appropriately, Alternative Family Magazine.

After a little digging, I found the editors and got them to send me a copy if their premiere issue ahead of my scheduled subscription start. I must admit that it is intriguing to find a magazine that seems to address so many of my own issues regarding family.

Among the articles offered in the first issue are stories on Sol Kelley-Jones, an 11-year-old from Wisconsin who testified before the state legislature there about her two moms and what a normal family life she leads; a profile on a transgendered household with a FtM, her lover and their child; legal advice; and general info on being a member, parent or child, in an alternative lifestyle household.

You will also find a recipe section, advice on behavioral problems, and a resource guide in the back which I am sure will grow in time to substantial proportions.

As the transgendered partner in a relationship with another woman, I look for-

ward to reading how other women couples in my situation react and cope with the complexities of life. I want to know that the reactions of my partner's children are not unique to us, and that the experiences we have serve to create a stronger family unit.

There are, of course, many more traditional profiles of gay men and lesbian couples with children. These can only serve to broaden the scope of acceptability that we all basically seek: being an active member of a family.

Perhaps it will even allow couples who otherwise might have foregone parenthood to realize that it is highly possible to be a family unit.

If Alternative Family Magazine can develop and maintain the style that a lot of us in the national (international?) could use as the guide for our not-quite-unique parenting needs then they will surely not only draw a large following, but will probably spawn an industry of Family Circle like magazines for the g/l/t community.

I plan to ask Drop Me a Line to make this available locally, but you can write to Alternative Family Magazine at: AFM, PO Box 7179, Van Nuys, CA 91409.



“Viagra Falls”

by Michael Thomas Ford

“Hey, guess what this is,” my friend Sarah says. I look over. Sarah’s tongue is sticking straight out of her mouth. “Your tongue?” I answer, thinking maybe it’s a trick question. “No,” she says “It’s a lesbian on Viagra.”

I groan, not because the joke is bad, but because I’m all Viagraed out. It’s all anyone talks about now. It’s on television. It’s in the papers. Why, even Bob Dole went public and announced that taking it had spiced up his and Liddy’s sex life. She must be so relieved that she can throw out all her Al Gore dildos now.

I guess I should be happy that I live in a country that has managed to give men back both their hair and their erections in the same year. I mean, we wouldn’t want a bunch of balding impotents to suffer any longer while all of those selfish women with breast cancer are out partying up a storm now, would we?

And gee, I guess the fact that 85-year-olds are scampering around with newly-aroused stiffies must be a great consolation to the folks who can’t afford health care for their kids. Little Timmy still needs that inhaler, but at least Grandpa can get it on again.

Luckily for the poor, however, Congress is diligently working on passing legislation that would make Viagra covered under Medicare and other insurance plans. And then that nice man donated a million dollars to buy Viagra for the underprivileged. Thank heavens. At ten bucks a pill, Viagra is one of those wonder drugs whose soothing pleasures

might have remained in reach only of those with deep pockets.

Now at least everyone in this country will have equal opportunities for erections without having to pirate their children’s college funds. Isn’t that what democracy is all about?

I suppose I shouldn’t be surprised about all the fuss being made over this silly pill. This is, after all, a country where billions of dollars are being spent investigating just where Bill Clinton, who clearly does not need the aid of Viagra, has been putting his erection.

The American public is absolutely in love with the penis, and especially with penises that stand firmly at attention. Why, I’ve even heard rumors that certain members of the government are actively campaigning to make the erection the national symbol, replacing the bald eagle.

Where once that baldpated creature accurately represented our nation of overweight, thinning-haired citizens perfectly, now that we have hair restorers and Viagra, we need something more potent to signify our collective return to randy youth.

In fact, I think a monument is in order. What better way to commemorate the restorative powers of the century’s greatest medical achievement? That clever young woman who did such a nice job on the Vietnam veterans memorial could work something up, say a hallic-shaped tower of rarest blue-veined Italian marble.

Beginning at the bottom and spiraling up toward the turgid tip would be

the names of all the men whose sagging love lives had been saved by Viagra. Visitors would flock to this important site for years to come. Circling it slowly, they would scan the sides for the names of friends and loved ones. “There’s uncle Ken!” smiling children would squeal in delight while taking licks at their Viagrapops bought from nearby vendors.

Once every fifteen minutes the fountain cleverly concealed within the monument would erupt, showering everyone within a fifty-foot radius with life-giving waters. Drenched, they would clap and cheer at the wonder of it all. Eventually, of course, the marvels of Viagra would grow to miraculous proportions. An entire religion would spring up. Worshipers would gather in their temples to rejoice in the God-given gift of eternal erections.

Communion would consist of receiving the little blue triangle on outstretched tongues. After consumption, the congregation would celebrate the most holy of unions while singing their praises to the pharmaceutical angels who delivered the gift unto the Earth.

Okay, so maybe things would never get that bad. But honestly, what does it say about us as a people that we’re making such a big deal over all this? We can’t manage to educate our children enough so that everyone can read. We can’t feed all the people who don’t get enough to eat every day. But we can invent a pill that saves us from the horrors of performance anxiety.

Surely it will only be a month or two before Andrew Lloyd Webber pens

Viagra: The Musical. And what does it say about our notions of sex that we define lovemaking by whether or not a man can get hard? If someone invented a pill that ensured that women had orgasms every time they had sex (let’s call it Niagra), you can bet there wouldn’t be a parade or legislation to make it available to everyone.

It’s only when wieners across America are able to function properly that we call it a national holiday. In this day and age, where everyone is taking some kind of pill for something, you’d think these scientists would be able to use their skills for more worthwhile purposes.

I’d be more impressed if someone could invent a medication that did something really useful, like make men suddenly feel an uncontrollable urge to clean the house. Or how about a pill that caused the taker to crave commitment.

Personally, I would be first in line for anything that would enable me to read the newspaper without feeling nauseous. I like to be informed, but too often knowing what’s going on in the world leaves me a little dizzy.

But no. What we get are pills that make our hair and our erections both grow. I suppose for some people that’s enough, but I wouldn’t want to know any of them.

Michael Thomas Ford, who currently takes no prescription medications, is the author of *Alec Baldwin Doesn’t Love Me & Other Trials from My Queer Life*. He welcomes e-mail at Shopiltee@aol.com.

Acorn Productions Offers “Summer Shakespreare”

Measure for Measure will be Michael Levine’s final production as Producing Director of Oak Street Theatre Acorn Productions, the in-house production company of Oak Street Theatre, Inc., concludes its 1997/98 season of four plays with Producing Director Michael Levine’s chamber production of *Measure for Measure*, a late-period Shakespearean play categorized as a “dark comedy.”

In this fascinating piece, the corrupt deputy Angelo is placed in temporary charge of Vienna and abuses his position by offering to spare Claudio’s life if Claudio’s virtuous and virginal sister Isabella will sleep with him. Levine’s pared-down production brings the play to life with an ensemble cast of seven, emphasizing the essential dramatic action of the story.

Measure for Measure will be given fifteen performances only at the Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak Street, in downtown Portland, from July 17 - August 9, 1998. Generous support for this production has been provided by the Edward H. Daveis Benevolent Trust.

Producing Director Michael Levine, who previously directed Acorn’s critically acclaimed productions of *Bur-*

ied Child and *Burn This*, will be directing this season finale, which also represents his final project as Producing Director of Oak Street Theatre.

The innovative staging will incorporate a raised walkway around the stage, ramps and platforms where scenes may be played in the audience, and, in a nod to the “groundlings” of Shakespeare’s day who used to pay a minimal cost to stand on the ground in the front of the stage, seating on the sides of the stage, offered at every performance for only \$5.

The cast, some of whom will be playing as many as four roles, will also perform choreographed segments to further enhance the story dramatized in the production.

The plot of *Measure for Measure* begins when Angelo, a seemingly upright and virtuous man, is placed in charge of Vienna by the Duke to govern in the latter’s absence. One of Angelo’s first edicts is to try to “clean up the city” by striking down all the “houses of ill-repute” in the city and condemning a young man named Claudio to death for getting a woman with child out of wedlock.

Claudio’s sister Isabella comes to plead with Angelo for her brother’s life,

and the seemingly ethical leader promises to free him if she will sleep with him. One need only look at recent headlines to know that the corruption and hypocrisy of politicians is a universal theme, and Shakespeare explores it masterfully in this play with some of his greatest poetry.

Michael Levine (‘)(Director)) is the co-founder of Oak Street Theatre and Acorn Productions. While at Oak Street, he has directed *Drinking in America*, *Speed-the-Plow*, *Buried Child* and *Burn This*, all for Acorn Productions, in addition to working as lighting designer on several projects, including *The Secret Waltz of the Flies* and *Idols* with the Esduardo Mariscal Dance Theatre.

Before Oak Street, Mike served as the General Manager for Portland Stage Company and the New Repertory

Theatre in Newton, Massachusetts. Mike graduated from M.I.T., where he studied with Kristen Linklater and Shakespeare and Company, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Literature.

Harlan Baker (Escalus/Provost) was recently seen as Henry James in Acorn’s *Alice in Bed*. Harlan was born in 1947 in White Plains, New York, and graduated from Emerson College in 1969 with a B.S. in Speech.

His roles have included Pischik in *The Cherry Orchard* and Curlino in *Wait Until Dark* at the Theater of Newburyport; Mr. Mell in *The Play is the Thing*; Lane in *The Importance of Being*

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photo by tom Antonik



Photo by Tom Antonik

{pictured: Former Miss Maine F

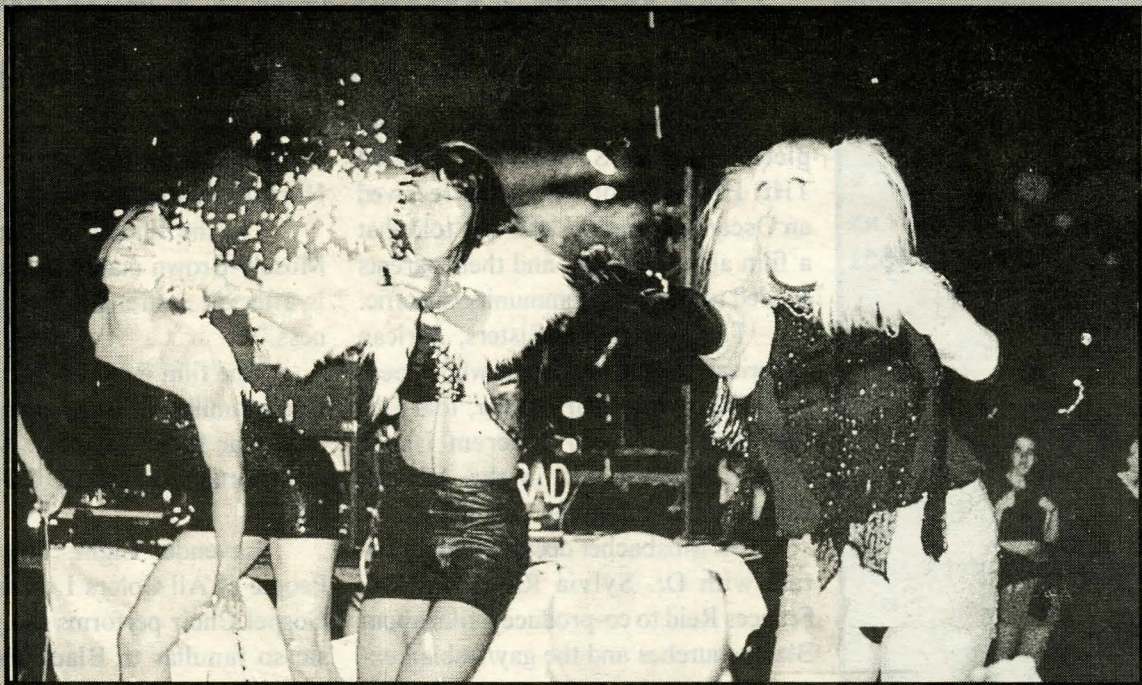


Photo by Tom Antonik { Pictured: rodney Mondor }



ine Pride '98

Be Ourselves



"Spice Girls" Ajonas, Brent Langolois {Pictured: Willie Hall, Chan and John Roberge}



Rachel Binder & Frannie Peabody



Photo by Tom Antonik

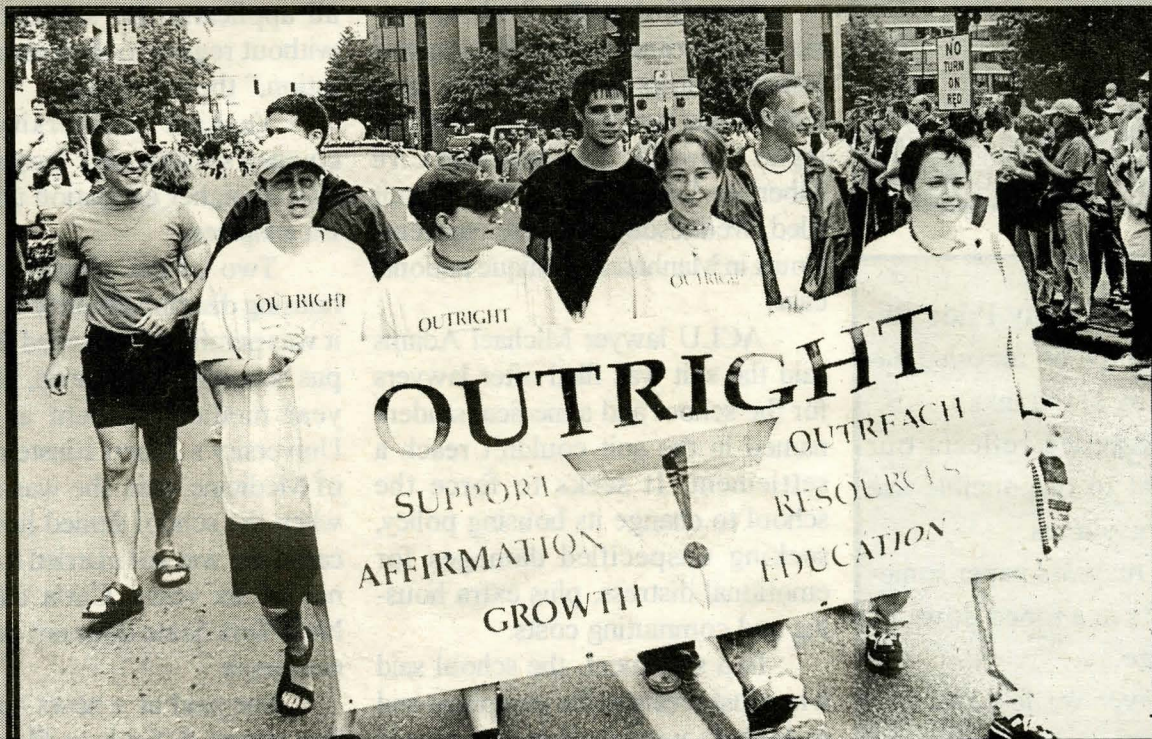


Photo by Tom Antonik

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DYKE PSYCHE

African American Lesbians and the Church:

An Interview with Filmmakers Dee Mosbacher and Sylvia Rhue

When Dr. Dee Mosbacher completed the film STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART (for which she received an Oscar nomination) she was told that a film about lesbians and their parents needed to be more community-specific.

The Washington Sisters, African American lesbian musicians who appear in the film with their mother, told Dee that lesbians faced different issues around homophobia in the African American church-going community.

Dr. Mosbacher decided to collaborate with Dr. Sylvia Rhue and Ms. Frances Reid to co-produce a film about Black churches and the gay/lesbian experience.

Dr. Rhue came up with the new film's title, ALL GOD'S CHILDREN, a phrase that was used so often by the people they interviewed. As Jesse Jackson says in the film, "In the larger civil rights movement, we must see all people as God's children."

The Reverend Dr. Cecil Murray of the First AMC Church, the oldest Black church in Los Angeles declares: "The church exists for all God's children."

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN is a 26 minute documentary that explores the issues of homosexuality and homophobia within the context of the Black church and its congregants.

As Dr. Rhue told me: "It was important to get church leaders that our parents respect, the senior pastors. Marjorie Hill, Ph.D. from the National Boad Unity Fellowship Church says in the film: "Gay and lesbian African Americans are intertwined with our community, and we need the church."

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN also includes interviews with prominent people from the Black community such as Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Linda Villarosa, Executive Editor of Essence Magazine, and Cornel West,

Professor in Afro-American Studies and the Philosophy of Religion at the Harvard School of Divinity.

In the film, U.S. Senator Carol Mosely-Brown states: "...our diversity is after all a strength and not a weakness."

The film includes interviews with Black families who discuss having a gay or lesbian family member. Music plays an important role in ALL GOD'S CHILDREN.

Lavender Light: The Black and People of All Colors Lesbian and Gay Gospel Choir performs the gospel music so familiar to Black churchgoers. "You have to understand that music is part of the message too; it's not filler," explained Dr. Rhue, "because even when we play the film to people who are resistant to the message they can't resist the music."

The three co-producers all have prior film-making experience, but that's where the similarities end. Dr. Mosbacher is a psychiatrist. Dr. Rhue has a Ph.D. in human sexuality and is a Bible scholar/student.

She says: "Western society has kept sex and spirituality very separate and that shouldn't be." Frances Reid is a professional film-maker whose work received two Oscar nominations in one year.

The co-producers are now involved in getting the film shown across the country. "The bottom line is that lesbian, gay and bisexual people should see the film and feel better about themselves.

It is important for them to see people, including leaders in the Black community, support them as heterosexual allies, and to see the pioneers of the current Black gay movement on film," said Dr. Rhue. "This is also the first time that Black gay and heterosexual people have gone on record to this

degree for an absolutely pro-gay stance.

The film includes interviews with six Black ministers. Since the Black church is the strongest institution in the Black community, to have the ministers talk is very important.

The project itself, I think, was divinely led," she concludes.

Dr. Mosbacher explained "We really try to use the film as an organizing tool. Our efforts have been trying to get the film to as many people as possible who would take it to their community—whether the church community, the educational community, PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), etc.

We've tried to act creatively, and have gotten a number of people to subsidize copies of the videos and accompanying materials so that the film can get out."

After completing the film, Woman Vision wrote a joint promotional letter with Phill Wilson, the founder of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum.

Dr. Rhue continues to travel all over the country presenting the film and lecturing about the issues it raises. Since its release, ALL GOD'S CHILDREN has been screened in over thirty film festivals and has won six awards, including the Lambda Liberty Award and Best Documentary at the National Black Arts Festival.

The film ALL GOD'S CHILDREN can be obtained from Woman Vision, c/o Transit Media Film Library, 22-D Hollywood Avenue, Hohokus, NJ 07423, tel. 800-343-5540, fax 201-652-1973. The price is \$99.95 for institutions.

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. copyright Esther Rothblum

University Discriminates Against Gays

by Larry Neumeister

New York (AP) Yeshiva University discriminates against gay and lesbian couples by barring them from living together on campus, according to a lawsuit. The American Civil Liberties Union called the lawsuit filed Wednesday in State Supreme Court in Manhattan a unique national case.

ACLU lawyer Michael Adams said the suit was filed after lawyers for the school and a medical student named in the suit couldn't reach a settlement. It seeks to force the school to change its housing policy, seeking unspecified damages for emotional distress, plus extra housing and commuting costs.

In a statement, the school said it had just received the complaint and its lawyers were reviewing it. It said it was the policy of the school to comply with all anti-discrimination laws applicable to student housing. "Our

housing policy is applied equally to all applicants for student housing without regard to their sexual orientation," the school said.

Yeshiva University is the country's oldest and largest institution of higher education under Jewish auspices.

Two of the alleged victims of housing discrimination told reporters it was painful to be barred from campus housing. Sarah Levin, 26, a third-year medical student at Yeshiva University's Albert Einstein College of Medicine, said she was surprised when the school denied housing because she was not married to her partner of six years, Carla Richmond. New York State does not permit gay marriages.

She said at a news conference that it was difficult to file a lawsuit against the school. Ms. Levin said she never wanted to launch a political battle. "However, I feel that if I al-

low myself to be relegated to the closet, which has been one of the most powerful weapons of homophobia and is certainly one of the intentions of this policy, then I am compromising my integrity."

Ms. Levin said she sought the help of the ACLU because she was forced to live off-campus in more costly quarters that forced her to commute and sacrifice precious study time.

"Heterosexual married couples get to take advantage of cheap rent and nice apartments close to school, while gay partners are not even acknowledged," she said. "My partner and I don't even have the option of marrying."

Market rates for apartments around the medical school in the Bronx are about twice the \$330 charged by the school for a studio or the \$767 charged for a two-bedroom apartment, the ACLU said in a statement.

Most Americans Support Gay and Lesbian Rights

"In its opposition to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender equality, it is the right wing that is out of step with mainstream America." Kerry Lobel, NGLTF executive director

Washington, DC: A growing majority of Americans support gay and lesbian equality, according to a new report released by the National Gay and Lesbian Task (NGLTF) Policy Institute.

"From Wrongs to Rights: Public Opinion of Gay and Lesbian Americans Moves Toward Equality" is the most comprehensive analysis of trends in public opinion about gay men and lesbians during the past twenty years.

The report demonstrates overwhelming support for non-discrimination in housing and employment, as well as spousal benefits for same-sex couples. It also shows increasing support on issues such as same-sex marriage and adoption.

"In its opposition to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender equality, it is the right wing that is out of step with mainstream America," stated Kerry Lobel, NGLTF executive director.

"This report empirically and objectively proves that while the voice of the anti-gay right wing may be loud in its opposition to equal rights, its claim to majority public opinion is unjustified."

Among other facts, "From Wrongs to Rights" shows that strong majorities of Americans now support equality in employment (84 percent); housing (81 percent); inheritance rights (62 percent)

and social security benefits (57 percent) for same-sex couples; and gays in the military (66 percent).

In addition, disapproval of same-sex relationships dropped a substantial 19 points from a peak of 75 percent in 1987 to 56 percent in 1996.

The report also shows the percentage of people opposed to same-sex marriage (and those opposed to adoption by gay and lesbian couples) to be declining.

"These findings confirm that three decades of struggle for gay and lesbian equality has succeeded in winning greater understanding and significant change in public attitudes," said Urvashi Vaid, NGLTF Policy Institute director.

"This report proves that over time and in dramatic fashion, the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender movement is winning the battle of public opinion on civil rights issues.

Our effort to reach the hearts and minds of the American people by being open and honest about our lives holds the key to our success," added Vaid.

"From Wrongs to Rights" also demonstrates the paradoxical nature of public support, showing that despite the significant gains in positive attitudes regarding legal equality, gay men and lesbians remain unpopular.

Despite the persistence of anti-gay sentiment, however, the report shows that the public's censure of gay and lesbian relations is declining over time.

"In this report, the continuing para-

dox of the gay and lesbian experience is laid out before us. Our gains in some ways have been as great as the resistance we still face," said Vaid.

"The dislike and disapproval we continue to face should serve as a call to all supporters of gay equality to redouble our efforts to educate mainstream America about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people's experiences and lives."

"From Wrongs to Rights" is published by the Policy Institute of NGLTF and authored by Alan Yang, doctoral candidate in the Department of Political Science at Columbia University.

An introduction is provided by Dr. Kenneth Sherrill, Chairman of the Political Science Department at Hunter College, City University of New York.

The report examines public opinion polls over the last two decades that measured attitudes toward gay and lesbian people and equal rights issues.

The author reviewed only the most credible polls: those that measured opinion among systematically selected and representative samples of the U.S. adult population as a whole.

For a copy of the report or to schedule an interview with Urvashi Vaid and Alan Yang, contact Betsy Gressler, Deputy Political Director, at (202) 332-6483 ext. 3306 or by pager at (800) 757-6476.

An Executive Summary and the full report are available at NGLTF's web site at <http://www.nglft.org>.

Cyber-Hoax Rocks Gay Academia

contributing story sent by Richard Schneider, Jr.

Editor-in-Chief The Harvard Gay & Lesbian Review

Take the anonymity of the Internet and the volatility of a thousand academics debating the finer points of Queer Theory, and you've got all the makings for a truly head-slamming arena of debate.

And you have the makings for a hoax that takes just about everybody in, as happened recently on the "listserv" known as QStudy-L, the unofficial forum for anyone answering to the name of queer theorist, social constructionist, or postmodernist follower of Michel Foucault.

Reported in the Summer 1998 issue of The Harvard Gay & Lesbian Review, the hoax was the work of Daniel Harris, author of the 1997 book, The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture, who posted a passage on gender from the fictitious Marie Françoise de Ricci and asked for comment.

Harris's "translation" was calculated to use all the right queer theory buzz words but to say exactly nothing of substance. A number of QStudy-L members responded in earnest, some at considerable length, to Harris's vacuous verbiage.

One member, a French sociologist, did spot the ruse.

The hoax attracted national attention when it was picked up by The Chronicle of Higher Education, the

must-read weekly for college profs everywhere, which declared: "Another fictional postmodernist has sneaked into academic discourse, this time striking on an e-mail discussion list about queer theory" (June 19, 1998, issue).

The article went on to compare Harris's hoax with that Alan D. Sokal, a physicist who in 1996 got a phony postmodernist article published in the respected journal Social Text.

Like Sokal, Harris is not just pulling a fraternity prank, but wants to call attention to what he sees as something of an academic scam: Queer Theory, which dominates gay and lesbian studies programs in the U.S., has evolved into a jargon-laden, hair-splitting, rigidly doctrinaire approach to the study of homosexuality.

Harris offers example after example of passages posted on the listserv most of them unrelated to his "scam" that show QStudy-L members arguing over the smallest distinctions of language, sometimes lashing out at one another with invective that would be unthinkable at a scholarly conference.

Writes one member: "My 'I' may be different from your 'I' ... and what do you mean by 'you'?" Another rails: "You are a monster of psychotic disturbance." The trouble with Queer Theory, Harris concludes, is that it starts with the premise that all categories are arbitrary, so it spends all its time trying to establish categories with which to communicate.

The host for the QStudy-L hoax, The Harvard Gay & Lesbian Review, is a quarterly journal that's widely read by gay writers, teachers, and intellectuals nationwide. The Review's editor-in-chief, Richard Schneider, Jr., commented that he ran the piece because he found it "brilliantly written and very funny." Observed Schneider: "It's actually two papers in one, a commentary upon the subculture of the Internet and a skewering of queer theory itself."

Harris questions the common notion that the Internet "builds community," observing that the listserv's anonymity makes for an especially vitriolic style of exchange, even by academic standards.

But he homes in on QStudy-L as a special case of academic pettiness, narcissism, and elitism qualities he sees as rampant in Queer Theory itself. Communicating in a language so specialized, so rarefied, only initiates can begin to understand it, queer theorists have set themselves up as an intellectual elite that never deigns to communicate with the gay and lesbian masses.

For this reason, Harris contends, they have not provided intellectual leadership for the lesbian and gay movement and are largely irrelevant to it.

For more information, please contact The Harvard Gay & Lesbian Review (call 617-421-0082 or e-mail HGLR@aol.com).

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.

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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.

Law Repeal Celebrated At Gay Pride Parade

Providence, R.I. (AP) People who gathered for the 23rd annual Gay and Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Pride Parade and rally celebrated a political victory.

Speakers praised the Senate's repeal this month of the 102-year-old sodomy law forbidding oral and anal sex. The House had earlier passed the bill and Gov. Lincoln Almond has said he will not veto the bill.

"Brothers and sisters, we have repealed the sodomy law and we are a huge step closer to freedom," said Kate Monteiro, president of the Rhode Island Alliance for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights. "But we have a long way to go ... love, not hate will set us all free."

Other advances made this year are significant, Monteiro said Saturday.

Mayor Vincent Cianci is planning to recruit openly gay police officers to the force, said W. Fitzgerald Himmelsbach at the rally.

Himmelsbach, the city's liaison to the gay and lesbian community, said it is part of Cianci's effort to make the police force sensitive to gays and lesbians.

Cianci did not attend the event because he was at a mayor's conference in Reno, Nev., Himmelsbach said. But to commemorate Pride week, the rainbow flag of the gay pride movement is flying over City Hall for the first time.

The events attracted about 3,000 people, some of whom marched through downtown streets and paddled canoes along the Providence River.

Gay rights activists said their biggest threat comes from the Christian fundamentalists. In a speech earlier this month, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott said homosexuality was a problem that could be cured like alcoholism or other addictions.

"I think people have been hurt by the church and turned away," said Gary Harris, 57, of the American Baptists of Rhode Island. "We are here to let people know there are other Christian voices that support them."

Lesbians' Signs Stolen From Route 4

Lebanon, N.H. (AP) The Upper Valley Lesbians are getting the message that someone doesn't like their highway signs, but that is not going to stop them from being part of the state's Adopt-a-Highway program.

The original signs were stolen after they went up last fall. Then replacements were repeatedly defaced with spray paint. Now the signs have

been stolen again.

The signs identified the Upper Valley Lesbians as the volunteers who keep a 3-mile section of Route 4 in Lebanon litter-free. The group is one of about 500 in the state that have adopted more than 1,200 miles of roads.

Department of Transportation spokesman Bill Boynton said one of the signs had the name plate removed and the post bent. The second was

removed completely, and a highway survey crew later found the post along the road, he said.

Boynton said the department paid for the first replacements at about \$60 each, but the Adopt-a-Highway program rules forbid it from replacing them again.

Boynton said the Upper Valley Lesbians group has indicated it would pay for a third set, which the department already has started making.

Gay Union Blessed In Episcopal Ceremony

by Deepti Hajela (Associated Press Writer)

Fair Lawn, New Jersey (AP) In a state that does not legally recognize same-sex unions, Jon and Michael Galluccio came as close as they could to getting married.

Standing before family and friends during a weekly worship service at The Episcopal Church of the Atonement on Sunday, the men made their vows to each other and exchanged rings.

"When we first came out 16 years ago, first fell in love, this wasn't an option," said Jon Galluccio, who changed his name earlier this year from Jon Holden.

The couple had already taken a big step toward family life by jointly adopting a 2-year-old boy, in a case that prompted a landmark change in state adoption laws last December. As a result, New Jersey became the first state in the country to allow gay or unmarried couples to jointly adopt.

A settlement reached after the two brought a class-action lawsuit required the state Division of Youth and Family Services to scrap its policy barring joint adoption of its wards by gay or unmarried couples.

The settlement talks began after a judge approved a petition by the couple to adopt 2-year-

old Adam Galluccio, a foster child the two men had cared for since he was 3 months old. The Galluccios also plan to adopt an 18-month-old foster daughter.

Holden, 34, and Galluccio, 36, were raised as Roman Catholics but became Episcopalians four years ago, saying the Protestant denomination was more accepting of their sexual orientation.

The national Episcopal church is divided over same-sex unions. A proposal endorsing the blessing of same-sex marriages lost in a nearly even vote at last year's national convention.

NGLTF Briefs White House

Washington, DC. At the invitation of the White House, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) briefed White House staff on its new groundbreaking report From Wrongs to Rights. The report tracks public opinion toward gays and lesbians for the past twenty years.

The briefing had the feel of a Task Force executive directors reunion of sorts. Current Task Force executive director Kerry Lobel was joined by Urvashi Vaid, Task Force executive director from 1989 - 1992 and now director of NGLTF's Policy Institute.

Among the White House staff in attendance was Assistant to the President for Management and Administration Virginia Appuzo. Task Force executive director from 1982 - 1985.

"How wonderful, in NGLTF's twenty fifth anniversary year, that I am joined at a White House briefing by two of the organizations most important leaders and visionaries," said Lobel. "It seems only a short time ago in 1977 that NGLTF lobbied for and at-

tended the historic first ever White House meeting with leaders from our community.

Now the White House solicits our expertise. It's a fitting testament to NGLTF's efforts over the past quarter century," she added.


Lobel and Vaid were joined by Rebecca Isaacs, Task Force political director, and Alan Yang, author of the report. The report is the first ever survey of trends in public attitudes towards gays and lesbians over the past twenty years and documents a major favorable shift in public opinion in just two decades, especially in the area of civil rights.

It also shows that while gays and lesbians are among the most disliked groups in the country, this negativity has decreased markedly.

White House staff attending the meeting represented, among others, the offices of the Vice President, Chief of Staff, White House Counsel, Political Affairs, Public Liaison, and Communication.

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Special Announcements

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Job Announcement

National Coordinator, Equality Begins At Home

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force seeks a National Coordinator for the Equality Begins At Home actions which will occur in March, 1999.

The National Coordinator Director will oversee the Equality Begins At Home activities in conjunction with representatives for the Federation of Statewide Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Political Organizations. The National Coordinator will work out of NGLTF's Washington, DC office.

The National Coordinator will: * Coordinate the Equality Begins At Home activities in conjunction with representatives of the Federation of Statewide Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Political Organizations * Lead NGLTF's participation in the Equality Begins At Home activities * Assist in coordinating participation from other national and regional organizations * Supervise Regional Coordinators for Equality Begins At Home who are responsible for regional activities and actions in states where no state organizations exist * Coordinate interns, and volunteers dedicated to the project * Work with state and local activists to mobilize their communities * Provide organizing assistance for Equality Begins At Home actions to state and local groups * Write newsletters, bulletins, action alerts, and

other materials for print and electronic distribution * Assist with joint fundraising efforts with Federation member groups

Qualifications include the following: * Extensive grassroots organizing experience at the local, state, regional or national level * Thorough understanding of the fundamentals of effective constituency building and extensive experience building coalitions and linkages with allies across race, gender, age, religion, class and culture * Demonstrated commitment to support and foster the work of state and local organizations * Demonstrated experience supervising staff and volunteers in an organizing setting * Comprehensive knowledge of the LGBT community nationally and regionally * Experience working in a multi-cultural environment where commitment to diversity based on race, ethnic origin, gender, age, sexual orientation and physical ability is an important institutional value * Excellent communication skills, both orally and in writing * Computer and internet proficiency * Travel required

Application deadline: Open until filled Start Date

Temporary full-time position starting immediately through April 30, 1999 Salary: Commensurate with experience

If you are interested in this position, send a cover letter, resume, and three references to: Personnel Director NGLTF 2310 17th Street NW Washington, DC 20009 No phone or email inquiries, please.



Birth Announcement

Catherine (Pacillo) Clark & Angel Castro-Reyes are proud to announce the birth of their son, James Alexander Pacillo-Reyes.

Born on May 14th, 1998, 4:45 A.M. and weighing in at 8 pounds and 14 ounces, 19 and 3/4 inches long. A definite "Keeper"!

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To learn more, contact Teresa Arendell, Ph.D., Dept. of Sociology, Colby College, Waterville, Maine, 04901.

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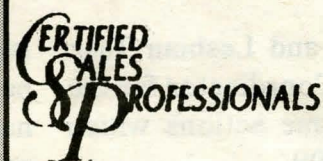
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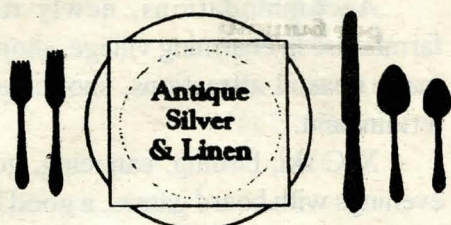
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