Community Pride Reporter

Community Pride Reporter, 07/1998

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Out & Proud ‘98...
Courage To Be Ourselves

PORTLAND FRIENDS MEETING
QUAKERS
SUPPORTS CIVIL RIGHTS
FOR THE GAY, LESBIAN
AND BISEXUAL COMMUNITY

OUTRIGHT
OUTREACH
RESOURCES
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 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 gay and lesbians, and is displayed by several businesses in this summer coastal resort.

Garry John, said Friday he never ordered the innkeepers to remove the flag. He said he merely pointed out the violation and that he was just trying to spare them a visit from the code enforcement officer.

“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 dressed 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 martial arts, gave him an unexpected jab back.

“Stunned at the response, for a few moments the two stood staring at each other a little dazed,” 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 fire 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 marred 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 rainy out Boston parade,” said Portland’s Pride committee chairs, and saw that 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 koupy spring to summer weather, and that they felt this was a way to 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 rain-lander for the Pride festival and final day’s storms delayed the parade, but it was 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, wire, 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 PM 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 all 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 more aware of its situation.

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 Quin 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 PRIDELIGHTS, a free event meant to build bridges between the gay and non-gay community and supporting the PRIDELIGHTS 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 Dina Brazila, 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 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 Solomon 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 20th, Portland’s Pride Day the parade entourage loudly made it’s 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 held 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.

In 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 it’s 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 “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 it’s long awaited 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 it’s 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

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 involv-
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 forward 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.
by Michael Thomas Ford

"Hi, 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 pill on Viagra gum."

I groan, not because the joke is bad, but because I'm all Viagra 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 sex 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 stifles must be a great consolation to the folks who can't afford health insurance. But at least Grandpa still needs that inhaler, but at least Grandpa can get it on again.

Lucrily 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 doated 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.

We are once that baldheaded 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 range. 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 hallucinogenic 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 holiest of unions while singing their praises to the pharmaceutical angels who delivered the gift unto the Earth.

Okay, 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 out of 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 Viagra), you can bet there wouldn't be a parade or legislation to make it available to everyone.

It's only when wedgers 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 know 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 ShopIteke@aol.com.

**Acorn Productions Offers "Summer Shakespeare"**

**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 tempo of the stage, offered at every performance of the venerable Acorn Productions. While at Oak Street, Levine, who previously directed Acorn's claudio's sister Isabella comes to realize that her brother is not the saint she thought he was. Levine's production is pared-down and minimal in 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 prose. 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*, *Spice*, *The-Place-Beyond-Child-and-Burn This*, all for Acorn Productions, in addition to working as lighting designer on several projects, including the *Secret Walz of the Flies* and *Idols* with the Esquardo Mardiach 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 Bachel of Science degree in Literature. In 1989, Harlan Baker (Esquardo/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 Curlin in *Wait Until Dark* at the Theater of Newberyport; Mr. Mell in *The Play is the Thing*: *Lan in The Importance of Being Edgar*.

*92 Oak Street, P.O.Box 5201, Portland, ME 04101 Phone/Fax (207) 775-5103*
'Space Girls' Aromas, Brona Langdon (Pictured: Willie Hall, Chas and John Robarge)

Rachel Bendel & Frannie Peabody

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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 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 Board 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, Ms. Frances Reid is a professional film-maker whose work has 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 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 church leaders 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, Hoboken, NJ 07030, tel. 800-343-5540, fax 201-652-0742, 07423, tel. 800-343-5540, fax 201-652-0742.

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.
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" 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 and full equal rights, 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.

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 went out of his way to compare Harris’s hoax with that Alan D. Sokal, a physicist who in 1996 got a phony postmodernist article published in the well-regarded Social Text.

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 professors.

The report examines public opinion about gay and lesbian couples) to be declining over time.

For more information, please contact the office at 207-282-4551 for special publishing needs especially inclusion in a particular issue.

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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
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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.

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Community Pride Reporter
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, executive director from 1989 - 1992 and now the White House, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) briefing 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 and documents a major favorable shift in public opinion in just two decades, especially in the area of same-sex marriage.

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. 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

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.


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 lobbyed for and attended 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.
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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Belfast Area:
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The Station House, P.O.Box 125 Brooks ME, 04921, 207-722-3322.

Research Project:
Women Choosing Women
Looking to interview women who’ve left heterosexual lives (15 or more years) for lesbian (woman-centered) ones.
To learn more, contact Teresa Arendell, Ph.D., Dept. of Sociology, Colby College, Waterville, Maine, 04901.
207-872-3135; tjarendell@colby.edu