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Our Paper 09/1989

Our Paper

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We Are Everywhere
We Are Everywhere
We Are Everywhere

INSIDE

• Meet Alix
• I Want to be a Lesbian
Oops...Sorry Diane!

Our Paper would like to express its sincere apologies to Diane Elze for omitting two critical paragraphs from her fabulous "Speech Opening Ceremony of the Quilt" article in the July issue (Never Again).

Because of prior space commitment, we can only print the correction, so if you would all take out your July issue, turn to page 3.

The fifth paragraph should have read: I witnessed the first unfolding of the Quilt in Washington, D.C., two years ago, during the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. The image of that Quilt stretching across the Capitol Mall was breathtaking. And I thought to myself, how wonderful it would be to have a part of a community that would so beautifully remember its dead, and so gracefully invite others to be a part of such a wondrous monument.

[This Quilt arrives in Maine during a dramatic week for the gay and lesbian community, a week mixed with joy and sorrow, hope and despair, anger and compassion, that same well of emotions we bring with us tonight as we witness the unfolding of this sacred memorial.

As many of you may know, last week the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance won a stunning victory in the Maine House of Representatives when the House passed a bill granting civil rights protections to gay and lesbian people. We felt honored by the tremendous courage and passion of our allies as they advocated for the bill on the floor. One legislator wept as he told his colleagues about the homophobic murder of his brother-in-law. Another legislator told her colleagues that she knew this bill was necessary because she had a gay son.

I know I live for moments like that. There is something so absolutely beautiful when we are being the very best we can be, when we take risks on behalf of each other.]

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OUR PAPER

PURPOSE
Our Paper is published monthly by the Our Paper volunteer collective, PO Box 10744, Portland ME 04104. The purpose of Our Paper is to serve as a voice for lesbians and gay men in Maine. We wish the newspaper to be a source of information, support, and affirmation, and a vehicle for celebration, by and for members of the lesbian and gay men's communities.

We want the paper to reflect our diversity as well.

EDITORIAL POLICY
We will consider for publication any material that broadens our understanding of our lifestyles and of each other. Views and opinions appearing in Our Paper are those of the authors only. We request that all material submitted be signed and include an address and/or phone number.

We reserve the right to edit material as necessary, unless otherwise instructed. Within the pages of Our Paper, articles can appear anonymously, upon request, and strict confidentiality will be observed. Editors appear in Our Paper represent the opinion of the collective as a whole.

We welcome and encourage all our readers to submit material for publication and to share your comments, criticisms, and positive feelings with us. Remember, Our Paper is Your Paper!

SUBSCRIPTIONS
Subscriptions are $12 for one year (12 issues), $20 for two years, and $25 for three years. Make checks payable to Our Paper.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
September 12, 1989

WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP!

Respond immediately to OUR PAPER. Volunteer Coordinator, PO Box 10744, Portland, ME 04104.
Families
by Rob Gorsline

I enjoy life more being a parent than not, despite the times I wish "we" were two rather than three (and sometimes six!). However, I am learning to take adult time, even some time for myself.

I have discovered, too, the often awkward, sometimes hurtful moments known only to step-parents, especially gay/lesbian step-parents. Both as partners and as co-parents we are often invisible. For example, only gay parents have to cope with a nine-year-old daughter's request that both "Dad's" accompany her to the annual father-daughter Valentine's Day Dance at school!

Our daughter is also learning about being defined out of existence. This spring she reacted angrily when her teacher defined a family as a mother, daddy, and one or more children.

Fortunately, we have been blessed by the friendship and support of other parents and children. A lesbian couple and their two children have shown us the way to sanity many times. A non-lesbian single parent with an especially difficult child-rearing situation has given us courage.

We also sought and received practical guidance from professionals.

You can learn a lot from kids - if you're open and willing - and my four daughters have been excellent teachers, each in her own way. I share with my lover, a very gifted man and loving parent, a commitment to the well-being of our children, and that is one of our strongest bonds. Certainly, co-parenting with another man is an education!

Now, thanks to the Gay/Lesbian Community Network, in northern and eastern Maine we have a chance to share the learning process more widely with other lesbian and gay and bisexual parents and their children. The Support Group Task Force of the network is setting up a schedule of regular gatherings for parents and children, and also for others in our community needing support. Young people, newly coming out men and women, persons feeling beaten up in our heterosexist society, etc. The hope is that by more openly supporting one another our community can less and less resemble the dysfunctional families from which most of us come.

No one is quite sure how to introduce gay/lesbian/family/community might look like, and that's part of the adventure. Certainly, I'd like to feel more part of a community struggling to pull together in mutual care. That's the intent of the network's support groups (working in tandem with a task force on politics and education, and on presenting social events).

Recently my three daughters boarded a plane bound for Detroit - where they live with their mother - after their summer visit with me. After the divorce, I thought they and I would get accustomed to these comings and goings, but I haven't. While we all seem less threatened by the separations now we know there will be more visits, something that was less clear in the beginning.

I still cry after escorting them at the airport, their eyes to be going around in the corridor. For a short while, I feel as if the bottom has dropped out of my life. I can't get used to the quiet on the ride home.

I have other feelings as well. I am relieved that I can return to my own life, which, six years after my divorce, is not centered on daily child-rearing. I treasure every moment of our seven weeks together in the summer (and our week between Christmas and New Year's), but as any parent - full-time or part-time - will tell you, kids are demanding. If you're not careful about setting and maintaining boundaries, they will take over every nook and cranny of your life, leaving you little room to breathe.

Breathing is what my lover and I are doing on this mid-August weekend as I write this. We are breathing together - without children - for the first time in almost a year. Last fall, soon after his ex-wife died after a long bout with cancer, his daughter came to live with us full-time.

Even before the two of us moved into the house we had just bought and were able to enjoy living together in our own space, we became a family of three. I moved into the house during the same week he travelled south to bring his daughter - our daughter - home. Each of us, all of us, have had a year of significant transitions and adjustments.

Recently, at a meeting of the Gay/Lesbian Community Network in Bangor, a large number of those present indicated interest in a parents' support group. I was surprised. I had forgotten that "we are everywhere," including in the ranks of parents.

Parenting is not an activity which fits the public's perception of us as irresponsible hedonists. When I came out seven years ago I did not include co-parenting in my new "lifestyle." Life looked a good deal sexier and freer then, and of course simpler.

If you're interested in the support group - both to help and to be supported - please contact Robin Long at 862-5907.

By our very being we challenge the patriarchal definitions of family. However, we can do more than challenge the old order. We can participate in building the new one, a new world of families based on the realities of people's lives rather than the cold blood of their genealogies.

To do we offer a great - if not always appreciated - service to a crumbling social structure. And most of all, we help ourselves.

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The Straight and Narrow
Pennsylvania Burning

by Holly Valero

I have never been to one of my class reunions. I don't even know if the class of 1980 from Troy Senior high has ever had a class reunion. If they have, I never heard about it...and I graduated Valedictorian. You'd think I would have received an invitation.

When I left Troy, Pennsylvania, home of the Troy Trojans (Yeah, yeah - I called 'together' for a lecture from one of the graduates, practicing cadence and other graduation aerobics, when we were all thing like $13.47 in the class war chest. I took some pride in their school, - unlike...I never saw any jokes, faculty members. She opened by reminiscing over the good old days when students took some pride in their school, - unlike our class. She then told us that we were the first graduating class in Pennsylvania history to have coughed up so little money for our class treasury, and that this was a good indication of the type of disorganized, pathetic, shabby futures we could expect for ourselves. She also tossed in a couple of tidbits regarding how disappointed she was with us and that marking her words, the day of some classes, we had survived the children's - photo-hand-about. Not only was it her 20th class reunion (a milestone), but it was held in her hometown in this state! Maine! Not only that, but she took me with her. We walked into the dining hall, among all those couples, she introduced me to some old classmates, we had dinner, and even survived the children's - photo-hand-about. Nobody was nasty. Nobody was violent. And nobody asked us to leave. Of course, some folks were not as polite as others, but a few people made up for that by voluntarily chatting with me.

It took a lot of courage for my partner to do that. It took the lesbian version of "the right stuff." I don't know if I would have the same guts. But I guess I'll get my opportunity in the year 2000, when my 20th reunion comes up. All I can say is, "look-out, Pennsylvania..."
GLOBAL GAYZETTE

compiled by Eric Gordon

**Denmark Legalizes Gay Marriage**

In a law that will take effect October 1, Denmark became the first country in the world to legalize gay marriages.

Two issues remain to be resolved once the law takes effect, activists say. Absent gay marriages will only be permitted at city halls, not in churches. Although the two styles of marriage are legally identical, activists believe the state Lutheran church can be persuaded to open its arms to gay couples. A second issue concerns adoption of children, a right which the law specifically avoided granting to gays.

Tom Stoddard, executive director of New York's Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, said the question of whether Danish gay marriages would be recognized in other countries has no clear answer.

**Iowa Town Loses Rights**

Saying he was representing the majority of his constituents, Don LeMor, mayor of Muscatine, Iowa, vetoed an ordinance passed July 6 that would have banned discrimination against people because "affectational preference." The order, which was issued on August 7, grants the bereavement leave to city workers who register their domestic partnership with the Personnel Department.

"Over time, society changes," Koch said. "So must the government which serves it. Practices or policies that might have seemed unacceptable to our grandparents or unusual to our parents seem equitable, indeed necessary, to our generation. We honor the past, but we cannot be held captive to it."

**NY Mayor Signs Exec Order**

New York Mayor Ed Koch issued an executive order granting paid bereavement leave for city workers involved in non-traditional partnerships. Covered are both unmarried gay and non-gay couples, senior citizens and handicapped people.

The order, which was issued on August 7, grants the bereavement leave to city workers who register their domestic partnership with the Personnel Department.

"Over time, society changes," Koch said. "So must the government which serves it. Practices or policies that might have seemed unacceptable to our grandparents or unusual to our parents seem equitable, indeed necessary, to our generation. We honor the past, but we cannot be held captive to it."

**TWA Gives in to Gay Couples**

TWA had been the last holdout among major airlines to refuse to include unmarried domestic partners in its definition of "family members" who qualify for frequent flyer programs.

After a lawsuit filed by Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, TWA agreed to amend its policy. The airline is currently mailing notice of the change in policy to members of its frequent flyer program.

A spokesperson for TWA commented, "We are aware of the non-traditional lifestyles prevalent in our society and our sole interest is the promotion of travel, not social commentary."

**Bush Appoints PWA**

President Bush recently named two individuals to the National AIDS Commission. Including a person with AIDS (PWA). The Commission, now complete after the U.S. Congress named its appointees earlier in the year, will evaluate and affect federal policy for fighting the epidemic.

The appointments of Belinda Mason, president of the National Association of People with AIDS and a PWA; and Dr. David Rogers, a professor at Cornell Medical College in New York City, were praised by AIDS community leaders.

"We are extremely pleased with these appointments, especially with the critical and important perspective brought to the commission by Mason," said Tim McFeeley, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HCRF), a national AIDS and gay and lesbian civil rights advocacy organization.

"Tens of thousands of people living with AIDS around the nation are applauding the inclusion of their collective voice in the nation's pre-eminent AIDS policy group," said McFeeley. "President Bush is to be commended for his understanding of the need to have the community most affected by the epidemic participate in the development of national AIDS policy."

Source: Human Rights Campaign Fund

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- We're your centralized resource for information on HIV-AIDS programs, services, and materials.
- A service of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control
Michigan Women's Music Festival - Celebrating Diversity?

by Crop Top

The world-wide gathering of women at the Michigan Women's Music Festival is over for another year. Every August for the past fourteen years, women have come together at a campground in Michigan to celebrate women's music, women's lives, and women's diversity. The women who came to the Festival work to create a community in which differences of lifestyle, religions, cultures, and racial backgrounds are accepted as valid and powerful realities. This year, however, something different.

The difference in this year's Festival can be named in one word - OPPRESSION. The community of S/M lesbians at Michigan was oppressed and persecuted for the entire time it was on the Land. I cannot, and will not, speak for anyone else, but as a member of the S/M lesbian community, I would like to share my personal experience of this oppression.

The week before the Festival opened, I received a copy of a letter that had been disseminated to a group of women who were opposed to S/M lesbians on the Land because we promoted "violence against women." This group was preparing to actively work toward making our Festival experience "unpleasant" by staging non-violent demonstrations whenever we tried to come together for community sharing, workshops, and play parties. I, unfortunately, do not have a copy of that letter at this writing, but the overall tone was one of hatred, disgust, and an overwhelming fear of what the authors thought S/M represented.

When I arrived on the Land a few days before the Festival actually opened, I discovered that the workers who had been preparing for the Festival in the previous weeks and months had already had a meeting to discuss the "S/M issue." The outcome of that meeting was a positive commitment to the idea of accepting diversity and allowing women to choose their own actions in a safe, sane, and consensual manner.

Once the Festival opened and the campers started arriving, there were indications of an active anti-S/M presence on the Land. Flyers were posted in many of the "porta-Janes" saying that lesbian "sado-masochism" (it was always spelled out completely) was wrong, that it represented the oppressive patriarchal concepts of domination and submission, and that it undermined the creation of positive women's energy at the Festival. Another flyer circulated was a photocopy of a news article from several years ago concerning a prominent member of the S/M lesbian community. She had been charged with assault after a consensual S/M encounter with a woman who later changed her mind. These flyers apparently originated from a group of women attending the Festival as campers, but it was clear that the Festival officials were also attempting to negate our presence on the Land.

The S/M lesbian community has camped at the same site for many years (as have other groups) and the area in which we camped had a Festival-sanctioned fire-pit which was enjoyed as a space for community gatherings. This year, however, the Festival organizers decided to close this particular fire-pit, ostensibly to prevent damaging the land by overuse. The S/M issue was never stated as the reason for closing the fire-pit, but it does seem odd that none of the other fire-pits were changed. (Our fire-pit was excavated and used every evening throughout the Festival.)

Another way in which the Festival organizers tried to make us invisible was to deny us access to a safe space for our play parties. (A play party is a gathering at which we celebrate our sensuality and sexuality as S/M lesbians.) In years past the S/M lesbian community had used a performance area known as the Acoustic Stage for late-night play parties because it is in an isolated area of the Land which is normally deserted at night and which has no nearby camping areas. We were told this year that the Acoustic Stage was totally off-limits, no negotiation, no compromise. A friend and I walked out to the area one evening after midnight and found the large storage tent behind the stage flattened and occupied by at least one person. The Festival was taking no chances that we would congregate there to engage in "certain activities." (This was the phrase used by Festival officials in referring to S/M activity.)

Our alternative site for play parties was in an area known as "Workshop Row." This was a series of open areas along a dead-end dirt road which were used during the day for gathering spaces for women interested in exploring particular elements of women's culture. Several of these workshop areas had large tents set up for shade and rain protection; we chose one of the most isolated tents as a safe space away from general camping areas. We also posted our own security women on the road to let other women know there was an S/M party in progress.

The first two nights we gathered there, the guards were approached by anti-S/M campers and/or Festival officials and were subjected to verbal harassment and intimidation. We were determined to stay at the site and used civil disobedience tactics to deny them access to the play area. They finally got frustrated by our refusal to cooperate in our own destruction and left the area. However, they were not finished with us yet.

The next afternoon, as we were planning the evening's entertainment ("goods and services" auction with play money) and discussing various actions we could take to show our solidarity and presence on the Land, we were told that the sides of the tent we had been using had been removed.

After the initial shock of disbelief, we decided we could bring tarps and blankets to create our own walls for privacy. Not more than two hours later, we discovered that the entire tent had been taken down and removed from the area. By this time, the S/M lesbian community was an emotional, spiritual, and physical wreck. Women were being destroyed by the hatred and disgust directed at them throughout the Festival. We were determined, however, that we would not allow our oppressors to deny us access to a safe space for our "certain activities.

That evening, we decided to move to an even more isolated area along the perimeter of the Land and again posted our own security. In addition, there were supposedly some Festival security women posted along the road to provide a buffer between us and any anti-S/M women who might have tried to disrupt our gathering. This particular evening I had gone back to our camp-site with a woman who was relieving the security we had posted there. As I was returning to the play party, I passed a group of women sitting along the road in the dark. They made no challenge to me as I passed them and approached a group of women standing farther down the road. Four of the women were familiar to me (and we were obviously dressed as S/M lesbians), but it was not clear who the other women were or why they were there. When I joined this tense circle of women, I was asked by one of these unidentified women if Festival security had arranged any kind of buffer for us. As she was speaking, it became clear from her attitude that they were anti-S/M women again harassing our security women. I felt an icy rage fill me inside as I asked if we were all women "into" sado-masochism. I looked at the S/M women, locked eyes with her, and said yes, we were. I quickly amended that to say yes, I was. As I did not want to speak for anyone else. I introduced myself, offered my hand, and asked her name. She shook my hand like it was a cobra about to strike. I then asked her if she was affiliated with the Festival in any capacity and when she said no, I asked what her purpose was in approaching our security. She said the exact proceedings have blurred for me beyond this point, but I seem to remember her saying that the handcuffs hanging at my waist were offensive to her and promoted violence against women. I told her that if she didn't want to see my handcuffs, she didn't have to be there. We were purposely meeting in an isolated and untraveled area so that anyone who didn't want to be exposed to our lifestyle could avoid us. I must have intimidated them enough to make them back down, because they all retreated down the road like scared little bunnies. After they left, I screamed in frustration and started crying on the shoulder of one of the S/M lesbians. She held me and kept saying I was right. I was good, I was powerful until I knew she was telling me the truth.

In spite of all the harassment, the S/M lesbian community at the fourteenth annual Michigan Women's Music Festival managed to have play parties almost every night, managed to have our camp-site and community fire-pit, managed to create a network of women strong enough to support each other, and managed to have some fun along the way. Now that the Festival is over for another year, I am left with many questions. In a community of women dedicated to celebrating diversity in all things, why is sexual diversity persecuted? In a community of women who say our bodies are our own, why is an exchange of power between consenting adults denied? In a community of women working toward undoing all forms of oppression, why is sexual oppression sanctioned? I welcome your comments regarding this issue.
Ask Alix

Ask Alix is a new advice column addressing the common issues in our community. Please submit any questions to: Alix at Our Paper, PO Box 10744, Portland ME 04104.

Dear Alix:

Every time I meet a woman I find attractive, I'd rather just go to bed with her than try to get to know her because I'm afraid I won't like her. Then, when I get to know her, if I get to the point where I don't like her, I stop talking to her before we get to the good part, which is frustrating. How do I deal with this? Should I have nameless sex? Signed, Wondering Woman.

Dear Wondering Woman:

I believe most people can relate to your frustration. The physical attraction is usually the primary part of a new relationship. Once two people get to know each other's annoying little habits, however, even the most attractive people suddenly lose their natural beauty. Unless you take the time to build a friendship based on mutual respect and sincere consideration of each other's needs, the relationship falls apart.

You seem to be looking for something more than a temporary, though exciting, short-term relationship. The only solution is to take the time to find out what you need from others, and what you truly can offer. Satisfying and lasting relationships are built on trust. If you are getting half way into a relationship and then backing out again, you need more time. Be patient with yourself.

Dear Alix:

I used to avoid going out to bars and dances because I have a hard time asking women to dance with me. It seems that they always say "no." I finally figured out what my problem is: I was asking the wrong ones. I always asked the ones who stand against the wall with their arms crossed looking like they aren't having a good time.

Now, when I go out to have fun with my friends, I don't worry about having a good time, and I stay away from the wallflowers. I have a great time. Signed, Fran the Dancin' Fool.

Dear Fran:

I'm glad you learned a secret and passed it- on. Thanks for the story and keep on dancin'.

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Two New Bars Open

In Waterville (exit 34 at Pine Tree Mall), Chip & Dale's opened its doors in late June and has enjoyed considerable success ever since. The dance bar features munchies, darts, video games and regular shows. The bar is open Wed-Sun with hours 8-12 a.m. on Wed., Thurs., and Sun., and 8-1 a.m. on Fri. and Sat. Cover is $2 (regular hours) and $4 for shows. Speaking of shows, Chip & Dale's will have a show on Labor Day Weekend (Sunday Sept.3) and will feature Miss Roxy, our Miss Gay Maine.

Cambridge Indigo caters to women. Indigo, a women's bar in Cambridge, MA, opened several months ago and also seems to be going strong. The area's only club for women regularly books entertainment pertinent to the clientele, has buffets, door prizes, gift certificates, and has two open dance floors for dancing on Saturdays.

Regular hours begin Thursday and Friday at 4 p.m. with no cover charge on Thursday evenings. Free passes are distributed then for Friday and Saturday evenings. For more information contact Cynthia Barone (617) 523-3440. Indigo is located at 823 Main St., Cambridge MA 02139.

The Maine Health Foundation Inc. must have immediate funds to maintain the PWA financial assistance fund. The need is greater than available funds. Please, send a check today.

Maine Health Foundation, Inc. Box 7329 DTS Portland, ME 04112

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URGENT FUNDING REQUEST

Thank You
ENTERTAINMENT

I Want to be a Lesbian

by tim g. grover

The lesbian event of the year took place on July 31, 1989 at Portland City Hall, not in any historic signing of lesbian legislation, but at a concert by an extraordinarily talented singer named k.d. lang.

To put it in perspective, and without exaggerating, k.d. lang is the sexiest country and western singer alive, male or female. To go on about her immense potential and talents would be silly - she is great!

Worth commenting on, though, was the celebration-like atmosphere that was pervasive in the filled auditorium. k.d. lang mentioned that she was "pleasantly surprised" by the audience, which was probably 95% of the "big-boned women" to which her second song was dedicated.

Everywhere you looked, women embraced women, gleaming with pride and self-love. It was like Entre Nous had rented out the entire City Hall for one giant lesbian party. It was absolutely beautiful.

The lesbian movement has so much of which to be proud, as they openly showed with their outright admiration of this spunky, courageous sister from Alberta, Canada. The movement has had to fight not only the establishment, but is also in direct conflict with its straight male power base. Lesbian-repulsion by straight men is just one of the many abusive sexist treatments that men express toward women. It's amazing what happens when pride expresses itself publicly; you can't help but imagine how much we have bottled up inside of us ready to burst open. What would happen if that "stuff" that's been bottled up for years burst apart? What will probably come bursting out will not be anger and aggression, but likely mounds and mounds of love. Imagine all this love spilling onto the streets (straight-bashing without physical force). Wouldn't that be great? Wouldn't they be pissed?

k.d. was puzzled by country music's unacceptance of her. She told the audience that musically, she didn't know where she belonged. Her mother told her that it was "just a stage you're going through. You'll grow out of it."

k.d. might not be changing what country music has been for many years (just another cigarette song), but she is definitely changing the music-listening patterns of 5% of the nation. Her talent is too big for anyone to ignore; country music will come around. k.d. might be forced to move to a more rock-influenced sound to be widely accepted, but as this concert proved, she is definitely on the right track.

For now I envy the lesbian movement and their "Dame in Shining Armors." On July 30th, I wanted to be a lesbian and celebrate with them. They are a class act. Congratulations on your celebration. Thanks for sharing it.

We're proud of OUR PAPER,

inspired by OUR
**Movement and Body Awareness for Incest Survivors**

Karin Spitfire will offer a fall workshop utilizing movement, voice, yoga and creative expression for adult women incest survivors. The workshop focuses on reclaiming our bodies through self-empowerment, emotional release and sharing as part of the healing process.

Karin Spitfire, an incest survivor, uses her own healing process, six years of experience working with survivors, ten years of training in movement and body work and twenty years experience in the women's movement to create an environment for moving through the havoc wreaked on our lives by incest. She recently graduated from the School of Body/Mind Centering and has trained with Pia Mellody, as well as providing the Creative Expression Workshops for "Looking Up" for three years.

The workshop will be four Saturdays, Sept. 23, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, and Dec. 16 from 10 to 4 each day. The cost is $45 per Saturday and the workshop will be held in Bath. Space is limited. Please call 338-5634 to register and for more information.

Spitfire will also be available for private sessions in Bath on the Fridays preceding the workshop days.

**National Lesbian Conference 1991**

The National Lesbian Conference is being planned for April 24-28, 1991 in Atlanta, GA. It is by, for and about Lesbians. There have been two national meetings to create the structure to plan this gathering. The first was in March 1989 in Durham, NC. The second was held in Portland, OR in July 1989. In both communities local lesbians welcomed those of us from away with much love and joy. They provided us with housing, transportation, lesbian entertainment, food, love, an introduction to their home town and their inspiration.

In Durham, NC lesbians of color initiated the meeting and demanded that racism be addressed at the start of the meeting. We decided that lesbians of color should have at least 50% representation on every planning committee, work committee, steering committee, as workshop presenters, as facilitators, as entertainers, as keynote speakers, in regional representation, in everything. Also, lesbians with disabilities should have 20% representation in all matters.

We committed ourselves to making the Atlanta conference accessible to all lesbians who want to be there. A fund has been established to make the conference accessible.

In Portland, OR the fundraising committee announced that a deposit of $4,000 is needed by August 31, 1989 to reserve the Atlanta Civic Center for the conference. The Deaf Lesbians Caucus expressed the need for deaf culture to be represented as a culture, rather than a group of disabled lesbians.

Ana Kissed is the self-designated representative of the Northeast region, including New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, and Maine. She wants together with other lesbians from the state to decide what we want and need from the conference and what we can do to create it. She can be contacted at (207) 761-2494. For copies of the minutes from Durham, NC and Portland, OR please enclose SASE and a donation to cover printing and mailing to National Lesbian Conference, PO Box 3057, Albany NY 12203. Your tax-deductible contributions are urgently needed.

Source: NOTES ON THE NATIONAL LESBIAN CONFERENCE contributed by Ana R. Kissed.

**Homophobia or Homo-apathy?**

Our Paper has learned via the via the Communique, published by Northern Lambda Nord, that the only gay-oriented club to serve northern Maine and northwestern New Brunswick has closed its doors after 12 months of operation.

While skeptics in the area were concerned that homophobia locally would cause problems, the real problem seemed to be the lack of support from the gay community. Typical complaints ranged from too much smoke, to too many men/women, not enough men/women, to the wrong kind of music, to paranoia about being seen. Hardly isolated complaints, but all told, they spelled doom for the St. John Valley club.

Even though the club closed, the individual(s) courageous enough to initiate the club's opening should be congratulated for the hard work and determination set forth. It is too bad that it was not reciprocated by Our Community.

**READERS, and indebted to OUR ADVERTISERS**

Deborah Cole MsEd
National Certified Counselor
with special interest in:
- transition & loss
- non traditional families
- dysfunctional & ACOA patterns & issues
- internalized oppression

19 South St., Portland, Maine 04102  772-0990

**Final Quilt Display October 6-8**

The final display of the entire Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt will be seen in Washington, D.C. on Columbus Day Weekend. According to Cleve Jones, executive director of the Names Project, "The Quilt is simply growing too large to continue to spread out in any one place. We will continue to accept panels and display them, but in smaller, more manageable and cost-efficient displays."

This year, for the first time, the President of the United States has received a special appeal from the Names Project to attend the Quilt display, to join with the tens of thousands of Americans in mourning their loved ones lost to AIDS.

Source: The Names Project

Attention U Maine Gay and Lesbian Alums
Did you know there is an organization just for you? U Maine GALA (Gay and Lesbian Association) will hold its First Annual Homecoming Reception (off-campus) on Saturday, October 7, 1989.

For more information on the time and place, or if you would just like to know more, contact:

U Maine GALA
PO Box 536
Orono ME 04473

Please note: U Maine GALA members' shipping/ mailing lists are strictly confidential and are not released to the university or other organizations.

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ON FINE BAKING & CATERING
Shit...I'm tired of livin' but skedaddled a dyin'...There's too much rain...The bugs are bad...Rents are high...My car keeps breaking down...I feel like killing myself. There's nothing on TV. The commercials try to be cute and funny but are merely irritating and offensive...The new movies stink...The evening news is boring because it's all about George Bush...People are saying they hate Bush now as much as they o.ve hated Reagan. Not me. Bush at least is a recognizable specimen of human being. A pathetic and repellent specimen, true, but recognizable. When it isn't Bush on the news it's the equally uninteresting Pete Rose. An ape in a baseball uniform. During his long career Rose endeared himself to fans and sportswriters by behaving like a fatuous, conceited bully. Who doesn't admire those qualities in a man? His great triumph over his opponents by any means made him, too, a perfect role model for youth, particularly Hitler Youth...I need new shoes but can't afford them...Some table wine I bought at a small grocery was bad...I used to think money and power were sexy - until Donald Trump and Lee Iacocca came along and showed me what wrong I was...I don't think I can go on living although I may - with an heroic effort - be able to go on complaining...My mother called me up to assert self-righteously that it's a grave sin to burn the U.S. flag. I reminded Mother - notoriously incompetent in the kitchen - that Mom's Apple Pie is an important national symbol, too, and threatened to denounce her to the religious right the next time she burned one...During World War II the number one symbol among GIs wasn't the flag. It was Betty Grable's legs. So on Flag Day why don't we honor America's veterans by running that famous picture of Betty up the flagpole while twenty-one American Legion guys in funny caps stand at attention solemnly masturbating? Honk if you'd enjoy seeing this...There's so much noise. Dogs barking all night, people yelling all day, radios, lawn mowers, power tools, cars, trucks, buses, motorcycles, ambulances...The deadly air pollution caused by traffic will one day be the death of me if I can't wait that long...Those damn drawings by Shetterly in the Maine Times every week. God! - how pretentious and repulsive. Those drawings are to Hitler's mustache as to suave or a phony southern accent is to charming...Der Führer would be one hundred years old now if he'd lived. He's gone, of course, but we still have the Burger Daily News, also celebrating its centennial this year, more heavy-handed and mean-spirited than ever. An editor of the News denied recently on public TV that the paper has a right-wing bias, an impression that careful readers may have received from editorials decrying the abolition of slavery and demanding that Senator Joe McCarthy's birthday be made a national holiday. It's hard to understand how journalists' minds work. Looking for the best word to describe the petulant, vengeful, awkward, vain, shallow, confused, stammering, syphonic, credulous, tractable, selfish, misanthropic, platitudeous, self-centered, cold-blooded, snake-lipped, simple-minded, dangerously untalented Ronald Reagan, reporters again and again come up with "charismatic." Doesn't describing Reagan as charismatic suggest that members of the national press are - O, what is the mot juste? - "dickheads"?...Dick Clark looks the same now as he did thirty years ago. Ugly. Sickeningly ugly. Impossible to stare at without vomiting. I hate that face, almost as much as I hate the famous "smiley face" - the swastika of The Cheerful. My niece took part in one of those TV shows for teenagers that Dick Clark hosts and afterward told me that Clark, always so affable on camera, was mean to all the kids during breaks in taping. The vile two-faced bastard - I'll embarrass him by putting his name in the note the police find beside my body...Or should I say "bawdy"? Physical fitness enthusiasts always say "bawdy" instead of body just as evangelists always say "Gawd" instead of God. Evidently the "aw" sound is classier, more respectful than the "ah" sound. That's why whenever I'm at a gym and a Christian leader comes on to me - Oral Roberts, for example - and I want to get rid of him, but politely, elegantly, I just say, "O Gawk, look at your bawdy! It doesn't exactly get me laught and bawthered, Mr. Rawberson." "I'm sorry too that Orel Hershiser, the pitcher and Steve Sax, second baseman, are no longer on the same baseball team. When they both played for the Dodgers I could fantasize they were best friends and one day Steve and his wife would have a son in honor of the family friend name the boy Orel Sax - but no, that little dream of mine, like so many others, has gone unfulfilled...I did finally get to see the movie "Torch Song Trilogy" and Gawd what a disappointment. Harvey Fierstein's enormous charm is missing here, buried alive under the cliches and pathos. The director responsible for this incompetent bit of filmmaking ought to be sentenced to perform hundreds of hours of community service. The world deserves a great movie about a drag queen and a young schizophrenic woman. This film is everything "Torch Song" tried to be - funny, fascinating, affecting, and I'm glad I happened to think of it just now because thinking about it always makes me feel better. Suddenly I'm happy again. Y'all have a nice day!
POETRY

The Picnic
Oh, young woman-child
tall, slender, shy
standing behind your father
your father
so radiant
wild blue eyes
crazy smile
looking so vulnerable
so happy
You, with downcast eyes
so silent, so shy
with angry green eyes
looking so hurt
so neglected
Together - you flirt
you tell secret jokes
share secret smiles
you - looking at him
watching him
keeping track of him
and he, he beams
smiling modestly as other women
compliment you
Togetherness
Adoration
Love is not always as innocent as it seems

by Anastasia Bowers

AFTER DARK AGAINST AIDS:
A SUMMERTIME
FUNDRAISING EXPERIENCE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date  Location  Entertainment
September 7  Moose Alley  The Gordons

Dedicated to an Environmentalist
with a Heart

A lone flower growing in a crack of cement pavement,
Unjustly alienated
The skies clouded, rain pounded at me unmercifully.
Tearing at my petals, my protection,
Alone, lost, hurt.
As if saved by the sun's warm rays, I saw
you through the darkness.
You bent down and touched me softly,
Your smile radiated warmth,
Your touch of love.
You noticed me missing petals - my suffering,
Knew I had been victimized by an unkind element.
Your smile, caring words, and understanding lifted my
spirits in the dreariness.
You checked on me occasionally and gave me encouragement.
In return, I regained strength and beauty, only
to find you already had someone to occupy your time.
I envy the love and tenderness you give your lover.
I know from time to time we will meet.
If you only knew you could find a home in me and
a place for you in any despair.

by anonymous

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7 pm Tuesday night meeting at 9 Deering Street (rear) in Portland.

OUR PAPER

GREAT EXPECTATIONS!
Summer Reading: Baseball and Pirates

Changing Pitches
Author: Steve Kluger
The Bucconeer
Author: M.S. Hunter
Alyson Publications $7.95 & $8.95
by Harry Gordon

Part of my summer reading has been this pair from Alyson Publications. It occurred to me to review these two books together somewhere out in the cornfields (sorry, on a highway lined by miles of cornfields of Indiana. Perhaps I should have made notes, and perhaps I should be embarrassed that I can no longer remember what made me want to group them together. Could I have been thinking there was a baseball team named Pirates? Alike, these books are not. The contrasts are like night and day; black and white.

In my experience, many of Alyson Publications' titles are fantasy reading with considerable erotic content. Changing Pitches is not erotic. In fact, there is not even any kissing. Changing Pitches is about baseball. Presented in a format with jock-like narratives and newspaper headlines and stars, the book really does take on a baseball flavor. Scotty MacKay is a left-handed pitcher whose career and team are both in a slump. He is unsure about his relationship with the woman he lives with and, after 12 years of baseball, he is teamed with a new catcher with whom he is not happy. The catcher, Jason Cornell, is young and handsome, blonde with blue eyes, and MacKay's problem is that he is reading the wrong signals. Scotty thinks he is falling in love with Jason.

In a business where people communicate by one staring at another's crotch while the other gives finger signals down there in the shadows, love only causes problems. Anyway, the story develops along the twin themes of missed communications and the classic struggle with coming out. After all, how many of us would find it easy to tell that handsome young jock 90 feet over there that we loved him. You'd throw him a curve, too, right?

After I had learned more about baseball than I ever wanted to know, fast balls, curve balls, and knuckle balls became Real balls and Scotty came out. Read it if you like baseball. Read it if you like the anticipation of working a handsome jock. When I left our diamond duo, they were going into the World Series. Scotty was on the mound setting up a knuckle ball. Jason was behind the plate, and I would have struck out trying to swing a bat in all that sexual tension.

Travel back a few centuries now for an afternoon of swashbuckling excitement in the Caribbean. Such an idyllic setting - that string of islands anchored by Trinidad and Tobago and curving north and west to Puerto Rico. Balm air, azure waters, golden beaches, lush tropical foliage - the perfect setting for a fantasy or two. Here is the history of Tommy Cutler, who worked his way from his father's waterfront saloon to being a sea captain's playing boy and to being Tommy The Cutlass - King of the Pirates.

Written to instill a few rises in your breath, this book is full of sex and violence. When this guy Tommy isn't swinging his cutlass, he's taking aim on somebody with his pecker. Hell. I'd have done the same, but the book leaves me with a couple of problems. All the men in this book have proligious endowments and not the kind in the bank either, honey. Maybe they grew them bigger in those days because in my pirating experience... My real problem with The Bucconeer is what I perceive as racism. So, Tommy captures a slave ship, and so there is a pretty slave to liberate. I can live with that. M.S. Hunter, on the other hand, goes to hell with the story. More slave ships. More blacks, prettier, and can you believe it, bigger?

Too bad. I was hoping for a sea story like those by the other guy with the initials, but gay. If you are sensitive about the race issue, leave it. If you just want to stroke your libido, let me tell you about my favorite part...

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Making Gay Music. Accomplished, gay male singer, new to Portland, wishes to form "Gay" music group. Into Peter Allen, Kenny Rankin, Stevie Wonder, Carole Bayer Sager, Michael Callen, etc.

Looking for other interested gay musicians wishing to put their musical talents on the gay map. Pianist, bass guitar, etc. Call Tim at (207) 774-2142, leave a message.

---

GWF, Mid-30s, professional, attractive, feminine, healthy, good sense of humor. Enjoys nature, music, bicycling, walking, x-country skiing, singing, movies, theater, books, animals. Likes to help me sensitively explore my issues of sexual identity. Tell me what you like. Write to Box 10221, Portland ME 04104.

---

House to Share, Farmington. GM seeks male/female to share two bedroom A-frame house on a hilltop with views of the western mountains, 4 miles from downtown Farmington. Great x-country skiing, 45 min. from Sugarloaf. Rent is $165/mon. Includes gas, heat, stove. You must be over 25 years old, non-smoker, light drinker, physically active. Call Andy at 778-5310. Available Sept. 1 (1-Sept.) Write to Advertiser 114, Our Paper, POB 10744, Portland ME 04104.

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G Male, professional, attractive, very discrete. Fit tall, blue eyes, 185 lbs., would like to meet well-hung male 35-45 for mutual pleasure on occasional basis, relating to Portland (1-Sept.). Reply to Advertiser 116, Our Paper, POB 10744 Portland ME 04104.

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GFM, 38, professional, seeks GF for friendship, fun and companionship on my days off. Age is not important and distance is not a problem. I enjoy films, concerts, dining out, and outdoor activities. Prefer non-smoking companions. All replies will be answered. Write to Advertiser 91, Our Paper, POB 10744, Portland ME 04104.

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House to Share, Farmington. GM seeks male/female to share two bedroom A-frame house on a hilltop with views of the western mountains, 4 miles from downtown Farmington. Great x-country skiing, 45 min. from Sugarloaf. Rent is $165/mon. Includes gas, heat, stove. You must be over 25 years old, non-smoker, light drinker, physically active. Call Andy at 778-5310. Available Sept. 1 (1-Sept.) Write to Advertiser 114, Our Paper, POB 10744, Portland ME 04104.

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LE, 27, 5’5”, 180 lbs., introspective, prof. enjoys good films, quiet dinners, thunderstorms, raging seas, poetry, dancing, psychology, long walks, and “older” women. Seeks mature, intelligent, sensitive woman for a warm friendship and its potentials (75 mi. radius from Farmington only please). (1-Sept.) Write to Advertiser #115, Our Paper, POB 10744 Portland ME 04104.

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DGM, 27, weekend father. Chronic workaholic, frustrated Yuppie. Social drinker, nonsmoker. Not into drugs. Likes meeting new people, dancing, a wide range of music. Avid reader and enjoys second-hand bookstores, antique and "junk" shops, biking, being outdoors and exploring the coast of Maine and islands. Would like to learn to play tennis. Would like to meet other divorced gay men in Portland area. Write Advertiser 109, Our Paper, POB 10744, Portland ME 04104. (Ag-R)

---

Fun loving attractive Bi Female 40 non-smoker has open marriage with mature considerate gentle male seeking same for friendship scenic drives boating cookouts SPA fireside fireside conversation and overnight visits. She should be comfortable in male presence.

P.O. Box 574 Bar Harbor, ME 04609 (1-Ag)

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SYMBOLIC WEDDINGS for Gay and Lesbian performed by traveling non-denominational minister. Confidential. Respond to Ms. Evelyn, Box 1022, Waldoboro ME 04572 or call 832-6271.

---

My Ideal

You are an outdoorsman. Like to camp out, build fires, swim naked, make love, sleep close. You are younger (24-39), loving, needing older. You are virile, Greek active only. You are experienced, like lots of it, are good at it, can't get enough of it. You dream of being two men together in a love that is a household and a best friendship. You are a non-smoker (dope is ok) and you are real, not a phony. No games. No mindfucks. You know who you are, what you want, who you need, what you have to give and what you want back. Maybe you are a loner or shy, but you are intense in your feelings and lusty in your desires. You need it all the time. Need to lead. To be on top. Need to be inside. Need a man to yield to you.

You are an all man. Tall. Good-looking. Hairy. Healthy. Fit. Free. Experienced in love. I am your other half. I am free and willing to relocate, to come to you.

If you really have the courage to go for it, to stand up and say I want it and if you truly know you have to give someone in return, well, take a shot. Write at length. Send a photo. I am real. I am lusty. I am needing and searching for you too!

Please respond to Advertiser #81, c/o Our Paper, POB 87744, Portland ME 04104.

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I am a GWM looking for a weight-training partner to establish a schedule to begin workouts at the USM gym starting in September. My experience has been limited to date using nautilus and universal equipment - no free weights. Looking for either a GWM or GWF who preferably has the knowledge/background/experience and motivation in this endeavor. Please write to PO Box 4118, Station A, Portland ME 04101 (1-Sept.).

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Hairy Men! National adlists for bears and smooth or hairy traps! If you love fur, this is the list! Information? Send $3.00 to: MAN-HAIR, 59 West 10th St., NY, NY 10014.

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Hairy Men! National adlists for bears and smooth or hairy traps! If you love fur, this is the list! Information? Send $3.00 to: MAN-HAIR, 59 West 10th St., NY, NY 10014.

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Are you in the market for a condo? Let’s start a gay/lesbian condominium village in South Portland. Two-bedroom unit for sale, $87,500. Call 871-1014.

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The rate for classifieds is $4 for 30 words, $5 sign for each additional word. For personals add $2 for handling. All ads must be prepaid. Mail ads to: Our Paper, PO Box 10744, Portland, ME 04104. We ask that you not use sexually explicit language in your personals. Responses to personals will not be opened by Our Paper and will be forwarded to you twice monthly.

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883-6934 24-HOUR INFORMATION ON EVENTS, GROUP MEETINGS, AND PERSONALS FOR GAY MEN AND LESBIANS IN SOUTHWESTERN MAINE. ALL LISTINGS ARE FREE.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rape Crisis Center is offering 2 co-facilitated educational/support groups for Survivors of Rape and Incest. Groups will begin in early August, and both are free and confidential. Child Care is also available.

For more information please call the Rape Crisis Center Hotline at 774-3613 or write.

Our Paper Needs Office Furniture

The Our Paper collective is in need of new or used office furniture for space they soon will be occupying. Our Paper is experiencing "growing pains" and is searching for donations of the following items:

- new or used office furniture
- small office desks
- an electric typewriter
- IBM-compatible computer
- dot matrix printer
- tile cabinets
- new answering machine
- office chairs
- filing cabinets
- a few minutes from Santa Cruz, California on October 12-15, 1989.

Activities arranged by Great Outdoors Chapters include a tour of San Simeon, a Sacramento River delta houseboat trip and rock climbing with Stonewall rock climbers at Yosemite National Park.

IGLOO Jamboree '89 will cost $125-$140 per person, which includes housing and meals for four days and three nights. For more information, call Wayne Proctor at (602) 375-0054, 3750 North Country Club #44, Tucson, AZ 85716-1264.

The Rape Crisis Center is offering 2 survivor support groups for Survivors of Rape and Incest. Group 1 will begin in early August, and both are free and confidential. Child Care is also available.

For more information please call the Rape Crisis Center Hotline at 774-3613 or write.

NOW Discusses Lesbian Agenda

Delegates to the National NOW Conference enthusiastically endorsed a call for an "Expanded Bill of Rights for the 21st Century" to be added to the U.S. Constitution. Freedom from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is one of seven major points of that proposal.

NOW President Molly Yard said, "The lesbian and gay community strongly supported the April 9 March for Women's Equality/Women's Lives, and lesbians have always been on the front line on the abortion issue."

Certain issues were given particular emphasis at the NOW Conference: legalizing and protecting lesbian/gay families; supporting openly lesbian/gay feminist candidates for political office; supporting the rights of lesbians and gay men in the military; working for legal protection of the rights of lesbian and gay teachers; and coordinating a campaign to register voters supportive of lesbian and gay rights.

Source: National Organization for Women

Mass Needs Buddies

Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services is now accepting applications for the next Buddy Training Program to be held in September, 1989. We need volunteers who would like to provide ongoing emotional support to a person with AIDS. The training involves two consecutive weekends. We are also in need of mental health professionals or clergy who are willing to volunteer time to support the Buddy Program.

For further information call or write the Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services, 482-0113.

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THURSDAY, SEPT. 7

A new 15-week session of Jazz and Tap dance classes, with the Casco Bay Movers Dance Company, will begin on Thursday, Sept. 7th. Classes are held at 341 Cumberland Ave., Portland ME. For a complete schedule of classes or more information call 871-1013.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 9

WOMLAND monthly meeting on newly acquired land in Albion. Meeting is open to all women and begins at 1:30 p.m. For directions/more information, send SASE to PO Box 55, Troy ME 04987 or call 445-2863/924-5172.

Bikers should sign up now for the Dan Michaud Memorial 100-mile bike run to benefit the American Cancer Society. Entry fee is $15 and $150 in pledges must be collected for participation. For further information contact Glenis Allen at 1-800-482-0113.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 16

DANCE AWAY AIDS to the sounds of live Reggae and Rock music provided by Richard Thibeault and friends, Sept. 16 at the Unitarian Church Hall, 15 Pleasant St., Brunswick ME. Food, videos and speakers beginning at 7:30 p.m. No alcohol or drugs, please. All ages are welcome. For information call 729-9622.

Full moon gathering on cowenetre in Troy. Beginning with a prayer walk at 6:00 p.m. and followed by an energy healing firecircle, this is a woman-only, chemical free gathering. Camping space is available. For directions send SASE to Chris of cowenetre, Troy, ME 04087.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 27

BUILDING A MORE POSITIVE GAY IDENTITY - a support group for men seeking to deal with issues of coming out as an ongoing process, self-esteem, social pressures, and personal growth. Wednesday evenings, 5:30 to 7:00, beginning Sept. 27. To apply call 772-1307.
**MEETINGS**

**SUNDAYS**

Dignity, Maine Gay/Lesbian Catholics and their friends meets every Sunday at First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland. Door opens at 5:30, worship at 6:00 p.m. followed by social. Please use rear entrance.

Northern Lambda Nord — last Sunday of the month — business meeting, 1 p.m. followed by potluck.

Maine Lesbian/Gay/Political Alliance (MLGPA) — every third Sunday of the month. Meetings rotated throughout the state. See Calendar listing for location and time.

Gays in Sobriety, AA, 6:30-8 p.m. speakers meeting, Williston West Church, 32 Thomas St., Portland.

Lesbian/Gay Alcohols Anonymous — every Sunday. Discussion meeting 4 p.m., Unitarian Church, Main St., Bangor.

Bangor Area Gay/Lesbian/Straight Coalition (BAGLSC) meets the first Sunday and third Thursday of every month at 87 Sunset Strip in Brewer at 7 p.m.

Bates Gay/Lesbian/Straight Alliance — for discussion, support and planning — every Sunday, 8:30 p.m. in Hirasawa Lounge, Chase Hall, Bates College, Lewiston.

**MONDAYS**

Seacoast Gay Men — Mondays at 7 p.m. (except first Monday potluck party held elsewhere), Unitarian-Universalist Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH. Seacoast Gay Men, PO Box 1394, Portsmouth, NH 03808-1394. Call Al (603) 896-186.

Greater Bangor NOW, fourth Monday of every month, 7-9 p.m. Call 989-3306 for info.

Feminist Spiritual Community — every Monday at 7 p.m. Friends Meeting House, Forest Ave., Portland. 773-2294 (come early).

Adult Children of Alcohols (ACOA) — open discussion with focus on gay/lesbian issues, 7-9 p.m. Williston/ West Church

Belfast Area AIDS Support Group — For PWA's friends, family, and caregivers. Call 338-3736. (Family Planning Monday-Thursday).

**TUESDAYS**

Gays in Sobriety, AA, 6-7 p.m. — beginning meeting, First Parish UU Church, 425 Congress St., Portland 7-9 p.m. Speaker/discussion meeting.

Families of Gays Support Group — second Tuesday of each month. 7-9 p.m. For more information call Ingraham Volunteers, 774-HELP.

Bowdoin College Gay-Lesbian Straight Alliance, 7-30 p.m. ChaseBarn Chamber, Bowdoin College, Brunswick.

College Lesbian Womyn's Rap Group, 6:30 to 8 p.m., 92 Bedford St. Portland (USM campus). Bisexual welcome. Call 780-4085 for more information.

Down East AIDS Network
Every Tues., 7 p.m. Support group in Ellsworth. Led by clinical social worker Carole Pascal, the group is open to all people affected by AIDS. Call 326-8580 for location.

**WEDNESDAYS**

Colby College Bisexual, Lesbian and Gay Community, 7-30 p.m. Mary Low Coffeehouse, Colby College, Waterville.

Gays and Lesbians United potluck supper meets the last Wednesday of each month at the Sanford Unitarian Church on the corner of Lebanon St. (Route 202) and Main St. (Route 109) in Sanford, Me. All welcome. Call 649-3540 or 490-1295 for details.

College Gay Men's and Lesbian Womyn's Rap Group, 7-30-9 p.m. at 92 Bedford St., Portland (USM campus). Bisexual welcome. Call 780-4085 for more information.

**THURSDAYS**

Down East AIDS Network holds a Healing Circle for all people affected by AIDS. Call 326-8580 for info & location.

**FRIDAYS**

Free To Be of Group AA meetings Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Jewett Hall, UMA, Room 84.

Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Friday, 8-9:30 p.m. — Gays Together in Sobriety (open discussion), Church of Episcopal Church, 80 Lafayette Rd., Portsmouth, NH.

OUTRIGHT — Portland Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Youth (22 years old and younger), 7-30 p.m. Preble St., Chapel, 311 Cumberland Ave., Portland.

**SATURDAYS**

Bangor Area Gay/Lesbian/Straight Coalition (BAGLSC) dances meet first and third Saturdays of each month at 8:00-10:00 at the old Bangor Community College Student Union.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**AIDS Project’s Bike-A-Thon**

AIDS Project’s Bike-a-thon Needs Riders

The AIDS Project of Portland will sponsor a second annual “Bike for Hope” bike-a-thon.

Bikers will embark on a 27 mile course to Cousins Island, Maine leaving from St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 678 Washington Ave. in Portland on Sunday, September 23, 1989 at 10:00 a.m. For registration forms, call or write AIDS Project, 22 Monument Square, 5th floor, Portland ME 04101 (207) 774-6877. A $10.00 registration fee will benefit the AIDS Project, $5.00 for students.

**Lambda Car Club Forms in Maine**

Lambda Car Club Forms in Maine

A Maine chapter of Lambda Car Club, the international gay and lesbian group for auto enthusiasts, has been formed. Activities include meetings, trips to auto shows and social get-togethers. Auto ownership not required. For more information, call 563-8575.

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**Festival too! Michigan '89**

AIDS Support Group is for PWAs, friends, family and caregivers. Call 338-3736 (Family Planning, M-Th) or Alan, 548-2929 evenings or 725-4955.

The Colby College Bisexual Lesbian Gay Community

Contact: Activities Office, Colby College, Waterville, ME 04901.

Meetings: Wednesday nights at 8:30 in the Mary Low Coffeshouse.

Informational phone line 2: Monday nights.

Integrity meets the first Friday of each month. This month we will meet at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew’s Church, Hallowell.

Integrity, St. Matthew’s Church, 18 Union St., Hallowell ME 04347 is a group of gay, lesbian and gay Episcopalians and their friends. It is a family within the church, a place to find close community and support. It offers an opportunity to find growth, education and prayer. For more information, call 623-3041 or 845-2985.

DELGO

Unitarian Church, 126 Union St., Bangor ME 04401. Phone: 942-6503

Feminist Spiritual Community

9 Deering St., PO Box 3771, Portland, ME 04102. Phone: 773-2924

Gay/Lesbian Acolytes Anonymous

First Parish Unitarian Church 425 Congress St. Portland ME 04101

Gay/Lesbian Alliance

92 Bedford St., Portland ME 04102 740-4805

Gay/Lesbian Support Group

780-4085 or 772-4741, Portland

Gay/Lesbian Parents Support Group

PO Box 4044, Portland ME 04101

Harbor Masters Inc.

For more information contact Nan Stone, 338-5559.

The Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition (AVAC) is a not-for-profit organization with the following goals: to provide community education about AIDS/HIV; to coordinate and support community-based services to people living with AIDS/HIV; their families and significant others; to assess AIDS needs in our communities and present a unified front on AIDS needs issues; and to provide a forum for the exchange of support, professional skills and technical resources. We have been meeting regularly at the Tri-County Chapter of the Red Cross in Auburn since late 1988, and welcome all interested parties to attend our meetings. For information please write AVAC, POB 7977, Lewiston ME 04240, or call 795-4357.

The Belfast Area AIDS Support Group is for PWA’s, friends, family and caregivers. Call 338-3736 (Family Planning, M-Th) or Alan, 548-2929 evenings or weekends.

The Colby College Bisexual Lesbian Gay Community

Contact: Activities Office, Colby College, Waterville, ME 04901.

Meetings: Wednesday nights at 8:30 in the Mary Low Coffeshouse.

Informational Phone line 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month (873-3536). For more information write contact Mark at 877-9994 or AI at 872-3000.

Integrity meets the first Friday of each month. This month we will meet at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew’s Church, Hallowell.

Integrity, St. Matthew’s Church, 18 Union St., Hallowell ME 04347 is a group of gay, lesbian and gay Episcopalians and their friends. It is a family within the church, a place to find close community and support. It offers an opportunity to find growth, education and prayer. For more information, call 623-3041 or 845-2985.

Greater Bangor NOW will meet the fourth Tuesday of every month, at 7 p.m., Amy’s apartment in Augusta Hall, Bangor Community College campus. For more information contact Nan Stone, 338-5559.


The group provides education in the schools, businesses and the community as a whole, and offers support to people who are affected by AIDS. For more information contact Nan Stone, 338-5559.

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Gay AA Meeting (speaker-discussion), Saturday nights, 8-9 p.m. Beacon Club (old Mitchell School Bldg.), 36 High St., Bath ME 04530. Phone for information: 443-4288.

Dignity/Maine, PO Box 8113, Portland, ME 04104. Dignity/Maine is an organization of gay and lesbian Catholics and their friends. organized to reinforce our self-acceptance and sense of dignity as people of God, to develop leadership and to be an instrument through which gay and lesbian Catholics may be heard by the church and society.

The Down East AIDS Network (DEAN) is a community-based, grassroots organization. We provide community education and support services for those affected by AIDS. DEAN is a gay-positive organization. Call DEAN: 326-8350. Support group for HIV(+), family, friends and those at risk every Tuesday 7-8:30 p.m. at Little C Clyde’s. Call Tracy at 326-8350 for information.

Greater Bangor NOW will meet the fourth Tuesday of every month, at 7 p.m., Amy’s apartment in Augusta Hall, Bangor Community College campus. For more information contact Nan Stone, 338-5559.


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