

Community Pride Reporter

Volume 7 Proudly serving the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community. Number 16

Suzanne Returns to Maine



Richard Lawlor Events in partnership with The Maine Gay Men's Chorus & Fresh Samantha present: An Evening with Suzanne Westenhoefer, Saturday, May 8th at 8pm

Westenhoefer, Saturday, May 8 8 p.m.

Ballroom of the Holiday Inn by the Bay 88 Spring Street, Portland.

According to Suzanne, "Homosexuals are like gold Visa Cards - we're everywhere you want to be..." You'll want to be at this very special event when the "platinum card" of the Lesbian/Gay comedy returns to Portland for an outrageous evening of laughter.

All seats \$20 PortTix 842-0800, 20 Myrtle Street, Portland
Fax 842-0810 ptibox@porttix.com.

Tickets also available at Drop Me A Line, 611 Congress St, Portland.

Join Suzanne to help The Maine Gay Men's Chorus find their way to San Jose!

A limited number of \$40 tickets are available which include a ticket to a very special reception with Suzanne immediately following her engagement. Proceeds will help MGMC to attend the International Gay & Lesbian Choral Festival in 2000.

"A center stage diva, Suzanne bursts out of her closet with explosions that could make even Bette Midler blush." The New York Daily News

"Disarmingly funny in all the unpolitically correct ways." The Dallas Morning News

Youth Pride Day reaches third year: Local youth celebrate with dignity

Washington, DC -With the goal of building awareness and self-esteem among gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, and straight youth, many national celebrities, speakers from other states, and several testimonials by youth in the Metro DC Area will take place at the Third Annual D.C. Youth Pride Day, scheduled to begin at noon on Saturday, April 17th in Dupont Circle, Washington, DC.

"We hope that Youth Pride participants will leave with a much better sense of self and a higher degree of esteem," Founder Christopher Dyer explains. "The fact is, there are gay, lesbian bisexual, transgendered

(GLBT) and straight supporting youth who are dying. This day sends a powerful message to those who are struggling that they are not alone. Everyone deserves to live, love and be loved."

Informational booths will be available to local and national community organizations that provide services to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth. Loren Becker, 18-year-old Co-Chair of DC Youth Pride explains "The youth are taking it upon themselves to be honest and open about the issues of GLBT youth. We are doing our best to fill the gaps where the system and schools fail us."

In addition to various

local bands, Youth Pride Alliance has invited numerous youth speakers to provide testimonials on timely issues of homophobia, coming to terms with one's sexual orientation, organizing, and hate crimes.

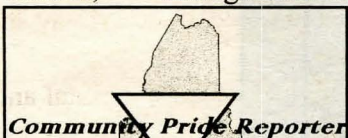
A few keynote speakers will anchor the program such as Michael Bisogno, a 16-year-old activist from Bergen County, NJ, who dedicates his life to the safety and well being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth and the end of homophobia, and Bruce Murray and his mom, Rhea Murray, a proud and eloquent PFLAG mother and author of the powerful book Journey to Moriah.

Brian McCarthy, 18-year-old Co-Chair of D.C. Youth Pride, says events like D.C. Youth Pride offer a positive escape from the isolation and harassment many gay youth face each day in school. "We're simply providing a positive escape, where kids can learn to respect themselves and each other - gay, straight or anywhere in between."

The Youth Pride Alliance is a coalition of over 20 youth support and advocacy groups in the Metro DC Area including Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League (SMYAL), Parents, Family, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG DC),

Whitman Walker Clinic, Safe Schools Coalition of Montgomery County, Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN DC), seven campus student groups, Metro Teen Aids Coalition and BiNetwork DC.

By sponsoring events such as Youth Pride Day, the Alliance strives to achieve its goal of providing safe and healthy spaces for youth to grow. For additional information, contact Donald Hitchcock at (202) 223-0554, call the 24-hour YPA hotline at (703) 518-0631, e-mail donald@youthpridedc.org, or visit the website www.youthpridedc.org.



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Anti Gay comments diminish "Inclusive Image"

Texas Governor Warned That Pandering to Intolerance Will Doom Candidacy

(Washington) The nation's largest gay Republican organization strongly criticized comments on gays by Texas Governor George W. Bush (R), and warned the likely Republican presidential candidate that he will not be able to avoid addressing the issue of anti-gay intolerance in the 2000 elections.

At a press conference on March 22, Governor Bush was asked about legislation in the Texas state legislature that would ban gay individuals or couples from adopting children or providing foster care in all possible circumstances, and would order the state to remove children currently in the homes of gay people in the state.

Bush was quoted as saying: "I believe children ought to be adopted in families with a woman and a man who are married" and "I am opposed to gay adoptions." When asked if he then supported the removal of children from gay homes, he said: "I have no idea whether the children ought to be removed or not removed."

Bush further stated that he believes there is no reason to include sexual orientation a state hate crimes bill, which is mov-

ing through the Texas legislature. Since his comments at the press conference, Bush spokespersons have tried to back away, saying he would "carefully consider" legislation that comes to his desk.

"This seems like a case of 'here we go again,'" said Rich Tafel, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans. "The Governor appears to be making the same mistake as his father made in 1992, and Bob Dole made in 1996. Pandering to the religious right in the primaries and trying to run back to the center in the general election has failed over and over again. But worse, it seems like the Governor was badly prepared to address these very serious issues."

"Governor Bush needs to understand that the gay vote is as large as the Latino vote, and it's just as Republican," Tafel said. "And when you attack gays, you have families and friends and others that make up the swing voters that you need to win a general election. Republicans everywhere were hoping this campaign would be different, but this might be an indication that it will be more of the same."

On the adoption issue, Tafel said: "You don't just wade into the issue of tearing children out of stable, loving homes if

you want to be the leader of the free world. I hope the Governor will take another, much more serious look at this issue, because he needs to understand the terrible moral implications of what he said in the context of what is sitting in his own legislature right now."

On February 9, Tafel wrote to Bush about the gay adoption bills in the legislature, detailing how the bills "are so sweeping and aggressive that from an objective standpoint, their passage would do serious harm to the best interests of adoptive and foster care children in the state of Texas." Tafel wrote that the bills "were designed merely to express a blanket intolerance towards gay people in Texas, with innocent children as political pawns." See Letter Below

On hate crimes, Tafel observed: "If the governor believes that all of the people in Texas are protected under current laws, than he needs to be consistent and call for the end of all hate crimes legislation, and not single out gays. In fact, there are few states in the country with a worse record of allowing perpetrators of anti-gay violence to get off scott free than Texas."

"We are still asking Governor Bush to listen to other

points of view on these issues," Tafel said. "He needs to demonstrate that he wants to be a leader of all the people."

Log Cabin Republicans is the nation's largest gay Republican organization, with state and local chapters nationwide, a federal political action committee and a national office headquartered in Washington, D.C.

February 9, 1999

The Honorable George W. Bush
Governor of Texas State Capitol
P.O. Box 12428 Austin, TX 78711

Dear Governor Bush:

I am writing today regarding legislation introduced in the state legislature which would prohibit gay individuals from being adoptive or foster parents in the state of Texas under any possible circumstance. I am asking you to support the principle that in the foster care and adoption policies of the state of Texas, the best interests of the children must always come first and not the gay-bashing agenda of a narrow interest group.

Two bills have been introduced on this issue in the legislature. A bill by Representative Warren Chisum would establish the prohibition without any possible exception in both foster care and adoption. A bill by Representative Robert Talton

Continued on page 4

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 and open-minded people. C.P.R. pledges to present materials that contribute in positive ways to lesbians, gays, bisexual and transgendered people.

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signed and include address and/or phone number for verification.

All submissions are subject to editing. Please keep letters to the CPR Mailbag to 300 words or less. Slightly longer and more composed submissions may be considered for a guest editorial at the Publishers discretion. If requested, the Publisher may agree to withhold the name of the author for appropriate reasons. Questions regarding submissions should be directed to the Publishing Editor.

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Please contact the office at 207-737-3498 for special publishing needs especially inclusion in a particular issue

Prairie Lights Conference

Prairie Lights: The Sixth Midwest Regional Conference of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) Jews, will be held for the first time in Minnesota's Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul on May 7 - 9, 1999.

Conference attendees will come from across North America to attend seminars on a variety of topics, including family, spirituality, community, and culture. Participants will also attend a world premiere of an original play, "I Did Not Speak in Secret: An Ancient Song in Modern Voices".

The play is being created by Michael Robins, Sima Rabinowitz and David Harris for Into the Light: A Celebration of Jewish Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Arts and Culture, a special arts series being presented by the St. Paul Jewish Community Center and the St. Paul Companies.

Our Simchas, Our Lives, Our Pride, a photo display also created for Into the Light, will be displayed. The photos are selected from submissions that show different special times and events in the lives of Jewish GLBT people.

Sabbath and Havdallah services are being specially created for Prairie Lights which concludes with a panel featuring local Jewish congregations and organizations that have made special efforts to be inclusive and welcoming of GLBT Jews. Prairie Lights is cosponsored by the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Jews and Keshet Ga'avah, the Twin Cities organization for GLBT Jews.

Registration brochures are available by calling Keshet Ga'avah at 612.374.8638, writing: hzuckman@firsttech.com or Keshet Ga'avah, 3500 Holmes Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55408. Information and forms are also available on the internet at www.wcgljo.org/wcgljo/MayConf.html. Registration for the full conference is \$95, prior to April 22, or \$105 from April 23-April-30. Planners will attempt to honor all requests for scholarships, but will make awards on a first come, first served basis. For further information, contact

Co-Chairs: Harvey Zuckman 612/824-5194 (h); 612/374-8036 (w) hzuckman@firsttech.com Amy Ollendorf 612/473-2704 (h); 612/833-4659 (w) aollendorf@brauncorp.co

Historic Human Rights Meeting

The first international meeting of Amnesty International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) human rights activists was held in London this past week. (26-29 March 1999). In all, 47 activists from 25 different countries came together representing Amnesty International LGBT groups in all five continents.

Delegates broke into spontaneous applause on the arrival of the Albanian representative who succeeded in attending, despite the war in Kosovo and interruption in Balkan travel, by making a 1000-mile detour!

At the meeting, delegates and officials representing the International Secretariat, Amnesty International Francisco Olivera from Argentina said, "Amnesty International can enhance the human rights of thousands of lesbian and gay Argentinians and those from other developing nations.

This meeting represents a major step forward in the status of LGBT human rights across the world."

Delegates discussed human rights violations against LGBT people around the world as well as actions Amnesty International members could take to combat these violations. Among the current actions being pursued by Amnesty International is an action targeting the New York City Police Department.

The action is based on allegations of police brutality in New York City against participants at a protest rally held this past fall after the hate motivated killing of gay Wyoming student, Matthew Shepard.

Daniel Soto-Mayorga

"Mi libertad termina donde empieza la de los demas"

"My freedom ends where other's begins."

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Shepard's Murderer Pleads Guilty

Receives Two Consecutive Life Terms; Second Defendant's Trial Begins in August

(Washington) The nation's largest gay Republican organization praised the decision by Wyoming District Judge Jeffrey A. Donnell to sentence Russell Henderson to two consecutive life terms in the beating murder of gay student Matthew Shepard in Laramie last October.

Henderson confessed in court yesterday to his part in the brutal anti-gay murder, escaping a possible death sentence which prosecutors were seeking had Henderson been convicted in a jury trial.

"You are deserving the fullest punishment this court can mete out," said Judge Donnell from the bench as he formally sentenced Henderson. Donnell declared that anti-gay hatred was indeed a motive in the crime, saying the murder was "part because of [Shepard's] life-style."

Legal experts say it is virtually impossible that Henderson could ever qualify for parole, and the chief prosecutor made his staunch opposition any parole clear on the steps of the courthouse by insisting that Henderson must spend the rest of his natural life in prison.

Codefendant Aaron McKinney, who Henderson said in his confession was the mastermind of the kidnapping and murder of Shepard, faces trial in August.

Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty if McKinney is convicted by a jury. "We applaud how the prosecutors and Judge Donnell have conducted this case so far," said Rich Tafel, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans. "They have upheld the principle we have advocated that justice must be complete in this case.

As we have been saying since the defendants were apprehended in October, this brutal crime demands the most severe punishment allowed under state law.

As anti-gay violence has increased, too many judges and prosecutors around the country have let the murderers of gay Americans off with reduced punishment or none at all.

Judge Donnell and the prosecutors have set an example for the rest of the judiciary to follow. We urge them to continue on this course in prosecuting codefendant Aaron McKinney and those who were accessories to the crime to the fullest extent of the law until this case is closed."

"This case has become such a symbol because of its brutality, and because the anti-gay intolerance that motivates this violence goes right up into the courts in many parts of the country," Tafel said. "We must send a message to every courtroom and every community that the lives of gay Americans are of equal value to every other American, and when the most heinous kind of crimes are committed, the perpetrators must face the most severe punishment under the law."

Log Cabin Republicans is the nation's largest gay Republican organization, with state and local chapters nationwide, a federal political action committee and a national office headquartered in Washington, D.C.

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My Queer Life: Prom Queen

Michael Thomas Ford

Spring is traditionally the time for high schools across the country to hold that most agonizing of teenage experiences the senior prom. As planning committees perfect the art of making tissue paper roses and fight over choosing The Times of Our Lives or An End and a Beginning as the theme, girls fret about what to wear and boys wonder if they'll get lucky.

Things were a little more agonizing than usual this year for 18-year-old Charles Rice, a senior at Taylor High School in Pierson, Florida. Charles, who is gay, not only had to worry about what to wear, he had to be concerned with dancing in heels. Putting a new twist on an old theme, Charles attended his prom in full drag, which featured a stunning red satin evening gown and rhinestone accessories. Not surprisingly, this did not go unnoticed.

When Charles's plans were first announced, school officials told him he would be barred from the event "for his own protection," even though he had appeared in drag at several school functions before with no negative results. They later reversed the decision when Rice threatened legal action.

When I read about Charles, I found myself thinking back to my own high school days, when Carla Becker wore a tuxedo to the prom. Carla, who played left field on the softball team and wore her hair in the prototypical dyke haircut of long in back and short all around, brought as her date a femme who came in the

traditional gaudy dress with too many bows and too-big hair.

The two of them danced the night away to the sounds of "I've Had the Time of My Life" while everyone applauded their individuality, never once considering that they might be more than gal pals poking fun at prom culture.

I didn't get to see Carla and her date in person. Being the school fag, I didn't find things like dances to be wonderful opportunities for social interaction. Even though some of my female friends begged me to go with them to save them from other, less appealing options, I opted to stay home and think about how much above it all I was.

But I heard about it afterwards in a long, breathless phone call from my friend Rebecca, who recounted what everyone was wearing and just how slutty Mary Lou Ackerby looked after she'd given John Kernans head in the parking lot and came back with her lipstick smeared and an oil stain on her dress.

I did get a chance to experience a prom first hand, but it wasn't until my sophomore year in college, when my friend Leslie invited me to be her date to the spring formal. This was a big deal at our little religious college.

It was to be held on a boat that sailed around New York, and it would feature music, if not dancing and alcohol, both of which were forbidden to us. Making it even more festive, Leslie and I were double dating with my friend James and a young woman named Vickie.

Now, James and I assumed that Leslie and Vickie knew we were both gay. After all, we'd hung around with them for two years, and even though the word had never been uttered aloud (Christian colleges being the originators of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy) we thought the situation was fairly clear. In our minds, the evening was simply one of four friends hanging out together and having a good time.

We were wrong. As it turned out, Leslie and Vickie indeed thought we were on dates. Real dates. With hand-holding and kissing and things to tell their mothers about later. This realization hit us when at one point in the evening James grabbed Vickie's stunning beaded bag and started doing his best Marilyn Monroe impression.

When I joined in on the chorus of "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend," the confused expressions on the girls' faces caused me to declare an emergency planning session with James in the men's room. "What do you mean they don't know?" He said, shocked, when I voiced my suspicions. "How could they **not** know. I mean, I complemented Leslie on her **shoes**, for heaven's sake. How many straight guys would do that?"

There really wasn't anything we could do about the situation except see it through, so we went back to the table and tried to continue on as if nothing were out of the ordinary.

Except that something **was** out of the ordinary, and all of us felt it. Now that I knew Leslie thought

we were on an actual date, I felt like it was high school all over again. I didn't belong on that boat, and I didn't want to be there.

To make things even worse, the man I had a heartbreaking crush on was there with his girlfriend, looking as handsome as could be in his tux only a few tables away. As Leslie took little disinterested bites of cheesecake, I imagined dancing with the object of my obsession and feeling his big hands on my back.

The rest of the event is something of a blur of strained conversation, nervous laughter, and an awkward ride home. Back at the dorms, as I said good night to Leslie, I fumbled with my words while she looked at her feet.

Then, perhaps in a last ditch effort to salvage her vision of what the night should have been, she kissed me. It was a restrained romantic effort, wanting to be something more than it could be, and when it was over we quickly went our separate ways.

I might never have had my prom fantasy come true, but I love thinking of Charles Rice dancing the night away, the lights flashing off his rhinestones as he laughed and enjoyed himself with his friends. I'm proud of him and of all the openly gay young people out there for being who they are. And I hope at the end of the night, he got kissed by the man of his dreams.

Michael Thomas Ford's new book, *That's Mr. Faggot to You*, will be invading stores shortly. He welcomes e-mail at Shopiltee@aol.com.

Continued from page 2: Anti Gay comment diminish "Inclusive Image"

would order the state to immediately remove all children currently in foster care with gay people, and would require the state to question and investigate all new applicants on their sexual orientation.

Both bills are so sweeping and aggressive that from an objective standpoint, their passage would do serious harm to the best interests of adoptive and foster care children in the state of Texas. We believe you should veto both bills if they come to your desk.

During my work as Director of Adolescent Health Services under Governor William Weld in Massachusetts, I would see cases of wonderful little children languishing in state care with no adoptive parents. The principle behind the legislation proposed in Texas had been pioneered by former Governor Michael Dukakis who literally used the power of the state to remove a young child from the care of a gay couple.

The courts eventually forced the Dukakis administration to reverse course, but not after serious damage was done. The child taken from the gay couple had been sexually molested in the home of a heterosexual couple. Sadly, politics got in front of the best interests of that child.

The Chisum and Talton bills officially establish any gay couple as unfit for consideration as parents in all cases, regardless of their merits and clear ability to provide a loving home. Stereotypes like that are the product of ignorance and prejudice, not founded on the key principle of protecting the best interests of children.

The Chisum legislation is dangerous because it establishes the policy that in the state of Texas, there can never be a circumstance when a gay individual or couple could either adopt a child or serve as a foster parent, even if completely qualified and capable of providing a good home for a needy child. Furthermore, the legislation prohibits the considerations of homes where "homosexual conduct is likely to occur," and a wide latitude is left for caseworkers to conclude how such a "likelihood" exists.

The Talton legislation is particularly harmful in that it will summarily remove all children currently under foster care with gay individuals or couples, even if the home environment has been excellent for the child, and/or the child has been in placement for an extended period of time and positive

attachments have formed.

Furthermore, it requires foster care caseworkers to conduct wide-ranging investigations of the private lives of foster care applicants and gives similarly wide latitude for them to establish that an applicant may be homosexual or bisexual in order to bar them from participation. Information gathered by investigators, even hearsay and false information, would be admissible and in the hands of state agencies.

This is a reckless and gratuitous expansion of state power, designed simply to harass and intimidate people, not to help children.

Both bills would cost the state up to \$10 million a year to implement, mostly in the added cost of initial and ongoing investigating of people's personal lives and the added casework of removing children from homes. It is clear that neither bill will result in furthering the best interests of children in Texas.

They were designed merely to express a blanket intolerance towards gay people in Texas, with innocent children as political pawns.

As the arbiter of adoption and foster care policy, the state has a clear interest in assuring that all children under state care

are placed in the best home available to them. The North American Council on Adoptive Children recently concluded that blanket prohibitions against gay adoptive and foster parents is not justified.

We are here to help you on this issue. Any such radical changes in child care policy should have the input of professionals and the broader community in Texas.

Since the legislation is aimed directly at gay people, we believe that the views, experience, and empirical evidence offered by gay Texans must also be strongly considered as you make your decision on this or any such legislation. We hope that the best interests of children, and not special interest politics, will guide child care policy in your administration.

We look forward to working with your administration on this important issue.

Sincerely,

RICHARD TAFEL Executive Director Log Cabin Republicans

Log Cabin Republicans Kevin Ivers (202) 347-5306 phone Director of Public Affairs (202) 347-5224 fax <http://www.lcr.org>

Community Pride Resources

Youth Support

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

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

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

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

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

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

HIV/AIDS Drop-in Support Group
HIV/AIDS drop -in support group for those infected and affected

by HIV/AIDS. Every Thursday 6:15 - 7:45 in Rockland. For location call Marjorie at the Coastal

AIDS Network at 338-6330
The Lesbian Health Project - Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center.

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

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

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work at 338-6330

G/LSEN

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

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

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

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

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

Body & Soul

The Gentle Wind Project is a non-profit world healing organization with a unique healing technology.

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

Use of the healing instruments is always free. Call for the name of someone near you. Our researchers offer Introductory, Advanced, and Relationship Seminars for a minimum of 20-25 people with specific per person donations. For more information call: (207)374-2184 seminarg@aol.com http://www.gentlewindproject.org

Gay-OK!

Of Greater Farmington is an informal social and discussion group for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, and Questioning (LGBT&Q) individuals from the Farmington community and beyond.

We welcome newcomers and old friends each Thursday night from 7:30 until 9:00PM in the seminar room in the rear of the Psychology Building of the U Maine at Farmington campus (62 High Street). Please call Brian at 778-7379 FMI.

Sister Space

A lesbian discussion group, meets on Monday evenings and topics will vary based on group interest.

This group is open to all Lesbians and will be held at the Unitarian Church on School St in Saco. School St intersects Main St. half way downtown.

The cost for the group will be \$2.00 to defray the cost of the room. For time and other information contact Bobbi at 467-9166 or email msw@ime.net.

Calendar of Events

Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance

Saturday, April 3 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Belfast Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance is sponsoring a one day writer's workshop. "Submission Basics. Belfast Community Music studio, located above the post office, 1 Franklin Street, Belfast. Call MWPA to register, (207) 729-6333.

Saturday, April 10 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Brunswick. Mystery writer Kate Clark Flora will teach a one day Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance workshop on writing mystery novels at the MWPA office 12 Pleasant Street, Brunswick call MWPA to register (207) 729-6333

Tuesday April 20 - May 11 6-9 p.m.
Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance is sponsoring an intensive four week workshop for writers of memoir or short fiction. Led by Susan Hand Shetterly, this class will meet on four consecutive Tuesdays at a private home in Surry. (participants will receive details and directions) call MWPA to register (207)

729-6333.

Saturday, April 17 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Brunswick. Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance is sponsoring a one day workshop on writing feature articles and columns for newspapers. Led by Steve Greenlee, features editor of the Portland Press Herald and Maine Sunday Telegram. The class will be held at the MWPA office, 12 Pleasant Street. Call MWPA to register (207) 729-6333.

Saturday, April 17 Bangor Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance offers a workshop to help participants flex their writing muscles. Led by Cynthia Thayer, the class will be held in the board room of the Bangor Public Library, 145 Harlow Street. Call MWPA to register (207) 729-6333.

Saturday, April 24 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Maine Writers & Publishers alliance is sponsoring a workshop for writers of commercial fiction. "Create the Perfect Scene," Leal by Jackie

Manning, will be held in the seminar room of the Olson Student Center on the UMF campus. FMI and to register call MWPA at (207) 729-6333.

GLSEN

Tuesday April 27 Portland GLSEN meeting - Caring For Difference: A Resource and Dialogue Workshop for nurses, guidance counselors and social workers in schools. Note that this workshop will take place on Tuesday instead of Monday (to avoid the return date from school vacation) and from 3:30 - 5:00 P.M. instead of their usual evening meeting time. Held at Deering HS. Call (207) 775-0173.

Mercy Hospital

Thursday, April 15 Portland 6:00 p.m.
"An Evening in Italy" Mercy Hospital is sponsoring an Italian dinner with silent auction, at the Elks Lodge, 1945 Congress Street. There will be a cash bar and entertainment. "An Evening in Italy" will benefit McAuley Residence, a transitional housing program for women in need of support, shelter and guidance

as they commit to increasing the quality of their lives and the lives of their children. Call (207) 879-3605 for ticket and auction information.

Wednesday April 21 Portland 5-6 p.m.
The Breast Health Resource Center is offering free breast self-exam classes. These classes teach women how to perform breast self-exams, what to look for, what a lump might feel like, what to do if something is found that doesn't seem quite right. To register or for more information please call (207) 879-3791. (if you need special assistance to attend, please call 879-3486 five days in advance of the event to make arrangements.

PFLAG - Stratham

Tuesday, April 7 7:00 - 9:00
Transgender/Transsexual issues will be the program. Stratham Community Church Emery Lane off route 33 and just south of the Stratham traffic circle. FMI about PFLAG NH: Seacoast/Stratham, call Sally at (603) 772-3648 or Betty at (603) 772-5196.

Arts & Entertainment

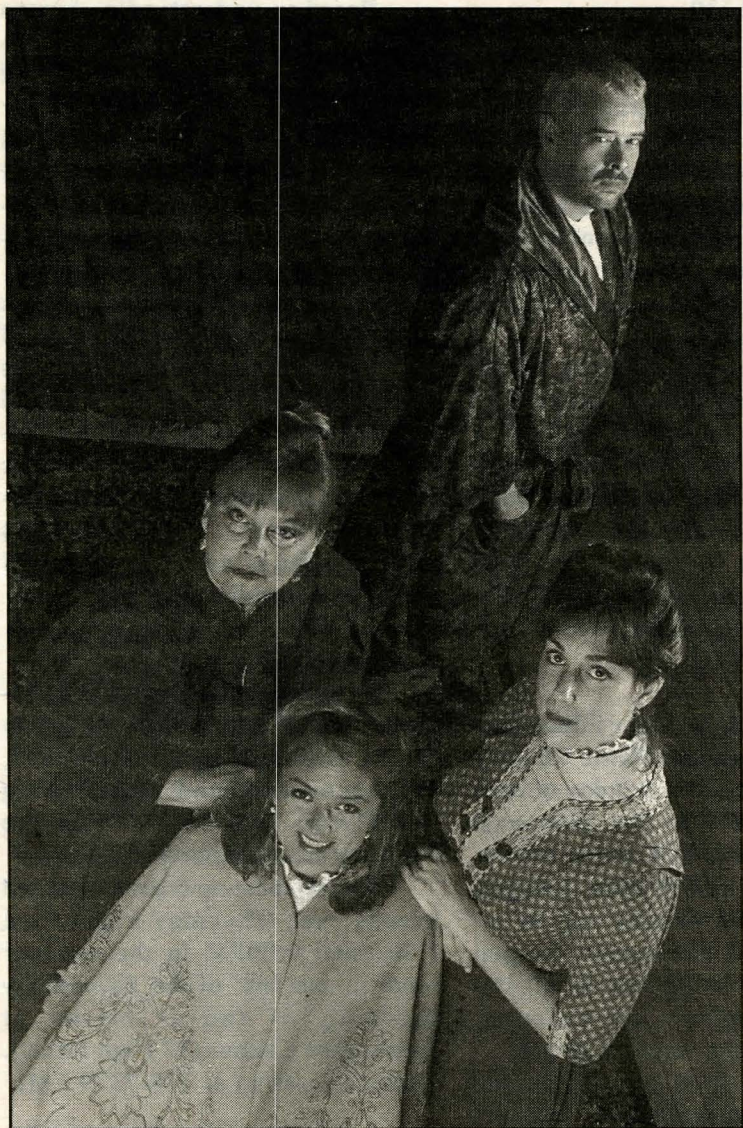
Mad Horse Theatre Company proudly presents
Three Sisters by Anton Chekhov

Photo by Annie Rose Photography

(Portland, ME) In this masterpiece of frailty and desire, Chekhov maps the landscape of the human heart with great humor and tenderness.

Set in a provincial Russian city, *Three Sisters*

evokes the fin de siècle angst of a family trapped in their visions of life in the excitement and culture of Moscow.

Time has found them further and further from their dream and more ensconced in the monotony of small town provincial living. Each attempts to enliven their existence by dedicating themselves to Love or Work.

Olga, the eldest sister, rises to the rank of headmistress at the local school, Masha, the middle sister, begins a doomed adulterous affair with Colonel Vershinin, Irina, the youngest, tries working at numerous unsatisfactory jobs and finally succumbs to the offer of marriage from Baron Tuzenbach while their brother Andrei is captivated by his less-than-cultured wife, Natasha.

Each in their own fashion is searching for an idealized notion of the meaning of life. As with many idealists, when faced with the reality of their situations they find themselves incapable of making the changes that would move them closer to their dreams.

"Almost every person I've ever known seems to show up in this play," said director Andrew Sokoloff. "It's funny and heartbreaking, ridiculous and sad all at the same time."

There's a story that Chekhov thought he had written a light, happy comedy and, after he read the play aloud to the cast at the first rehearsal, looked up to find a room full of sobbing actors.

Three Sisters is an astonishing play because it deals with the human comedy: it's unconcerned with politics, with ideology. Chekhov puts people's happiness and lives at stake and still manages to create outrageously funny behavior.

Three Sisters asks the huge questions that we all face: how do I find meaning in my life? What is the price of happiness? Why and how do families drift apart? How do I find my heart's desire? Can we ever get to Moscow?

The cast of *Three Sisters* includes Mad Horse Company members Deborah Hall as Olga, Michael Howard as Chebutykin, Michael Kimball as Solyony, Christine Marshall as Natasha, J.D. Merritt as Andrei Prozorov, Renee St. Jean as Masha, and Kathleen Weddleton as Irina. Guest Artists include Robert Hill as Vershinin, Brian Hinds as Tuzenbach, Chris Horton as Kulygin, Patricia Mulholland as Anfisa, Lill Rayne as Ferpont, John Sawyer as Rode and Benjamin Turner as Fedotik. Designers include Mad Horse Company Members Joan Sand (lights and Christine Marshall (props) with guest artists Christopher Price (sets), John Sawyer (sound) and Jen Roe (costumes).

Mad Horse Theatre Company produces its season at the Oak Street Theatre, a small intimate 98 seat space located at 92 Oak Street, Portland ME. The physical nature of the building guarantees "not a bad seat in the house." Mad Horse is Maine's longest running resident ensemble theatre and is celebrating its Thirteenth Season. *Mad Horse Theatre Company* is a registered Non-Profit 501 (c) 3 organization.

For further information and reservations please call 775-5103 or visit our website @www.madhorse.com.

Maine Music Society and Seaglass Performing Arts presents:
Beethoven's *Missa solemnis*

It will be a rare event when Beethoven's celestial *Missa solemnis* is performed on April 10th and 11th at the Gorham Performing Arts Center and Lewiston's Church of Saints Peter and Paul. Peter Frewen, artistic director of the Maine Music Society, will conduct four extraordinary solists, the Maine Chamber Ensemble and the combined Androscoggin and Seaglass Chorales. Frewen describes the mass, which Beethoven composed just before his Ninth Symphony, as "a work of the grandest magnificence."

"This is a landmark even," says Frewen, who likens the live performances to a museum exhibition of a Rembrandt painting. "*Missa solemnis* is a profound work of art," he says. "To attend a live performance is the only way to be swept away by its extraordinary sensory power and spiritual beauty."

The Maine Music Society programmed *Missa solemnis* to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Androscoggin Chorale. Because the massive size of this work requires a larger chorus, Frewen decided to add the Seaglass Chorale from Kennebunk and directed mezzo-soprano and concert soloist, Jean Strazdes, to join forces with the Androscoggin Chorale.

Newer than the Androscoggin Chorale by almost two decades, the Seaglass Chorale has performed to acclaim in Europe as well as in southern Maine. In addition to the two choruses, the 50 members of the Maine Chamber Ensemble represent some of the best musicians in the state.

The vocal solists include soprano, Bonnie Scarpelli from Portland, mezzo-soprano, Jean Strazdes from Kennebunk, tenor, Timothy Neill Johnson from Scarborough, and bass, Dean Jorgenson from Wiscasset. Dean Jorgenson, a professional opera singer who also builds boats, is a new soloist for the Maine Music Society. But Scarpelli, Strazdes, and Johnson performed roles, just last month, in the Society's concert production of Mozart's comic opera, *Così fan tutte*.



Originally commissioned to be a celebratory high mass for the installation of a Cardinal, the five movements of *Missa solemnis* have a liturgical function. But the size of the work makes it unsuitable for a service. It is always done as a self-standing concert work.

For Beethoven, composing was an ethical undertaking. He believed that music had the power to focus mankind's aspirations on our better natures. Long before Beethoven began working on this mass, he had become completely deaf. This led to a deep despondency.

Though he was eventually able to accept this loss as a challenge to his artistry, his deafness and resultant isolation caused him to do some serious thinking. Out of

this and four and half years of hard work, came music that was unlike anything anyone had heard before or would hear for a very long time.

Described by Frewen as music that reaches out beyond the body and into space, *Missa solemnis* is one of few pieces that tries to deal with the cosmos. "One is led to contemplate the infinite and man's place in it. The means of this contemplation are on a very grand scale." Because of this, it is rarely performed. "This is an incredibly challenging work, emotionally, both for the listener and the performer. There are quietly prayerful moments, lyrically beautiful places, harsh, almost brutally complex rhythms, and some very big sounds."

Lucie Arnaz is Coming To The Seacoast Repertory Theatre!



1996 Tony Award winner for Best Play. The setting is a Julliard auditorium where Maria Callas provides sharp critiques to the three aspiring singers. Callas occasionally breaks from teaching to share with the audience intimate moments of her extraordinary life.

Master Class is a powerful tribute to a legendary performer. "One of the white-hot moments of contemporary theatre. A total triumph," says *The New York Post*.

Master Class SPONSORED BY Flora Ventures, Inc. and The Bell Atlantic Foundation, is playing at The seacoast Repertory Theatre April 22-May 23 with an opening night gala reception in honor of Ms. Arnaz. Other corporations that have helped make the visit by Lucie Arnaz possible are Seaport Travel, The Sheraton Harborside Portsmouth Hotel, Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green, Boston Organ and Piano and The Sise Inn.

In a special benefit for The Seacoast Repertory Theatre Youth Programs, Lucie Arnaz will host her Emmy-award winning documentary, "Lucie and Desi: A Home Movie". It will air at the theatre on May 16th

In the role of world renowned opera diva Maria Callas, Lucie Arnaz is coming to the Seacoast Repertory Theatre in Portsmouth, NH to star in *Master Class*.

Lucie began her long career in a recurring role on *The Lucy Show*. Her most recent series was the critically acclaimed *Sons & Daughters* on CBS. Lucie's film credits included *The Jazz Singer* with Neil Diamond as well as several made for television movies. She has played on Broadway several times including *They're Playing Our Song*, *Educating Rita* and *I Do! I Do!*, to name a few.

Terrence McNally's *Master Class* IS THE

with a special narration by Ms. Arnaz. There will be a private reception with Ms. Arnaz before the show. Please call 603-433-4793 x 123 for more information.

Master Class showtimes are Thursdays @7pm, Fridays @8pm, Saturdays @8pm (with added 4pm performances the final 3 Saturdays) and Sundays at 3pm with an additional 7pm performance on May 9th. Tickets are \$17 & \$20 with the discounts for children, students, & seniors. Tickets may be purchased by calling the box office at 603-433-4472 or by visiting the ticket window at 125 Bow Street in Portsmouth, NH.

Ram Island Dance presents 'Alive & Well'

An Evening of Movement In Celebration of National Dance Week

New/in Progress/Experimental.

Featuring: *Sara Whale and members of the Ram Island Dance Company Debi Irons & Dance Inside/Out, Upbeat Feet, Casco Bay Movers' Student Company Diuana Sorus Kwabena CHAN AnsaPilsqehSis Students of the Portland School of Ballet and Ram Island Young Dancers Program*

'Alive & Well' is a bi-monthly performance series designed by **Ram Island Dance Company Director, Sara Whale** in 1996 to create more performing opportunities and exposure for choreographers from the community.

The series has grown into a forum for movement based performers of all disciplines to show and discuss their work in a relaxed environment, enabling and encouraging dancers, choreographers and students to stretch artistically without fear of critical or financial repercussions.

In 1997, the Maine Arts Commission awarded **Ram Island Dance** a grant to upgrade the performance space by adding theatrical lighting and curtains to enhance the

quality of the productions which are an entertainment bargain for the \$2 suggested donation.

In three years, the huge range of movement styles and the artists presenting them have been extraordinary in both their quality and ability to spark interest and interaction amongst fellow performers.

Included in the roster have been artists from all over New England presenting classical ballet, contemporary dance, capoeira, ballroom dance, juggling, uni-cycling, contact improvisation, poetry, Middle Eastern Dance, jazz, tap, Tai Chi, live music and hip-hop, to name a few.

Anyone interesting in participating in the series is encouraged to contact us 2-3 weeks before a scheduled event to ensure a space on the program.

Friday, April 30 7:30pm \$2 Suggested Donation

Ram Island Dance/Studio 1 Portland Performing Arts Center (2nd floor) 25A Forest Avenue, Portland (207) 773-2562

Boston Comedy Theatre

One of Boston's most acclaimed Improv Comedy Troupes, is appearing at the Oak St. Theatre, Portland for one performance only, Wednesday, April 14, 1999 at P.M.

The Boston Comedy Theatre provides one-of-a-kind, interactive improvisational comedy performances. **The Boston Comedy Theatre** is made up of some of Boston's most talented and experienced Improv comedy performers.

In improvisational comedy, the performers build hilarious spur-of-the-moment scenes based on suggestions from the audience. These audience inputs may consist of a work, a location, a current event, or even the title of a yet-to-be written song-the possibilities are endless!

Among the performers in the Portland show are: **Kevin Shone:** This show represents a homecoming of sorts for Kevin Shone. Kevin started doing improvisational comedy several years ago when he was a Portland resident.

In Portland, Shone performed regularly in the Improv troupes "Mixed Nuts", "Ferrell; Raffkin and Shone", and "Ferrell, Chessie and Shone". His one-man show "Shone Alone", which received rave reviews in Boston, debuted in Portland.

While a resident of Portland, he appeared in several local commercials and he performed in several **Mad Horse Theatre Company** productions. In Boston, he was a member of **ImprovBoston**, the Artistic Director of the **NextImprovBoston** and is currently the Artistic Director of the **Boston Comedy Theatre**.

Christine Cannavo: Christine Cannavo is a graduate of Emerson College. She has been performing Improv comedy, in the Boston area for several years. She was a member of the **ImprovBoston** and **ImprovBoston**. She was the Artistic Director of the **Boston Comedy Theatre** training troupe, and is one of its founding members.

Elizabeth Swan: Elizabeth Swan was a long-time member of the **ImprovBoston** and **ImprovBoston**. She was also a member of **ImprovBoston** for several years. As a founding member of the **Boston Comedy Theatre** as well as a consultant in the "real world", she has been responsible for helping us to introduce the **Boston Comedy Theatre** to an unsuspecting corporate world.

Contact person: Christine Cannavo (617) 349-2477/(617)969-8810 Tickets are \$10. Call the theatre @ (207) 775-5103 for reservations.



Out and About's

Spring Fling

1999

When: Saturday May 8, 1999

Where: Elks Lodge Jones Ave., Portsmouth

Time: 8pm-midnight

Price: \$6/advance \$8/at the door

Music provided by DJ Lorraine, there will be raffles, 50/50, cash bar, smoking on the outside deck. 21 and over please.

Tickets may be purchased by mail (send SASE to Out and About, P.O. Box 5691, Portsmouth, NH 03802), by phone (603)436-6338 or by seeing any committee member. Tickets are limited, so don't wait too long!



Richard Lawlor Events in partnership with Maine Public Radio and Fresh Samantha present: *Terry Gross Live*

Terry Gross has a gift for revealing what makes someone tick, but did you ever wonder what makes Terry Gross tick?

In this exclusive Maine engagement, Terry Gross will talk about her techniques for good interviews and tell a bit about who she is and why she does what she does.

In 1973, Terry Gross began hosting and producing Fresh Air at WHYY in Philadelphia; it has since become a daily, one-hour program distributed nationally to 160 stations. Over the years, Fresh Air has received numerous awards, including the prestigious Peabody Award and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting Award for "Best Live Radio Program."

Tune in to National Public Radio's daily afternoon program, Fresh Air, and you're certain to hear her interviewing some of the most prominent figures of our time: John

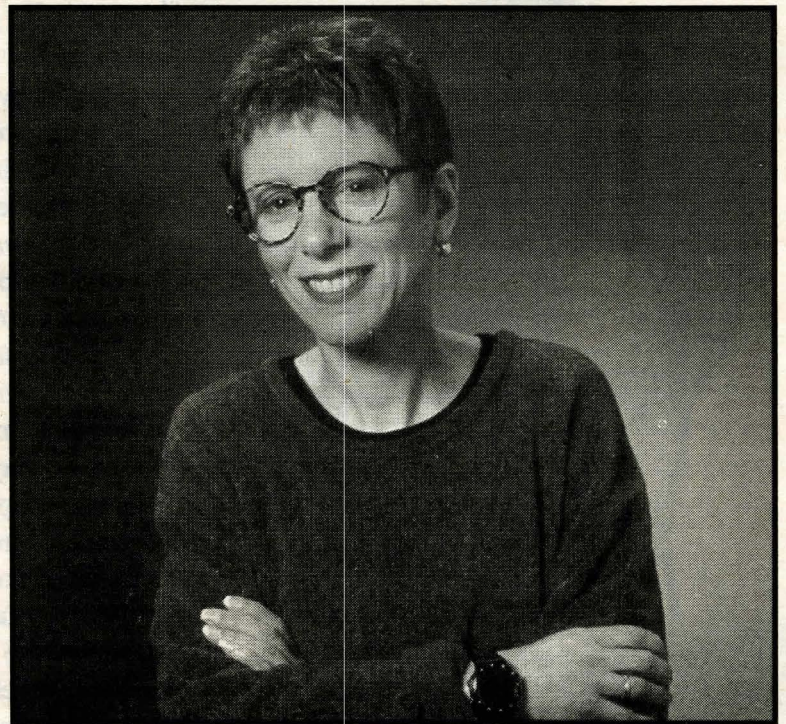
Updike, Arthur Miller, Spalding Gray, John Sayles, Diane Keaton, Elvis Costello.

Engaging her guests with an unusual mixture of confidence, genuine interest, and just a touch of vulnerability, Terry Gross brings us into an intimate place where the "celebrity" becomes more understandable more human.

And while she truly has a knack for getting her guests to reveal their essence by way of their art, it's noteworthy that she never shows very much of herself during an interview.

A rare opportunity to see and hear Terry Gross. "Arguably one of the most thought-provoking interviewers working in media today a working rival of Ted Koppel and Larry King."

Los Angeles Times "Certainly the best cultural interviewer in America, and one of the best all-around interviewers, period. Her



smart, thoughtful questioning pushes her guests in unlikely directions."

National Public Radio's Most Popular Host, Monday, April 26, 1999 7:00 PM

The Ballroom of Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring Street Portland, Maine. All seats \$25

Benefit Reception \$50 (includes ticket, desserts and coffee with Terry Gross immediately following her engagement)

Proceeds to benefit Maine Public Radio

PortTix: 842-0800 Fax: 842-0810 ptixbox@porttix.com

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lesbians are invisible
has never travelled with us!

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Photo: Chloe Atkins

AIDS Response Seacoast 9th Annual AIDS Cut-A-Thon

Hair Salons Donate A Sunday To Fight AIDS

For the ninth year in a row, Seacoast area salons are opening their doors on a Sunday to donate a day of proceeds to fight AIDS. Current customers and newcomers alike are invited to make appointments for Sunday, April 11, at participating shops.

Fees for styling services provided on that day will be donated to benefit AIDS Response-Seacoast, the nonprofit agency providing HIV/AIDS education, prevention and client services to Strafford and Rockingham Counties in NH, and Southern York County in Maine.

The AIDS Cut-A-Thon is a local tradition in the Seacoast. "We are very grateful for the work of the stylists and the cooperation of the shop owners," said Wendy Noyes, Executive Director of AIDS Response-Seacoast. "They have succeeded in raising over \$80,000 to fight AIDS in the last nine years. I know their efforts make a big difference not only in providing HIV/AIDS services to the seacoast, but in raising public awareness about the disease."

"The number of new HIV infections continue to climb, and that means our caseload is growing," said Ms. Noyes. "We continue to seek out new grants, but it may take months from the time we apply to when a grant is awarded. In the meantime, we have folks coming to our office that need help now. The more funds we raise at events like the Cut-A-Thon and our May 16th AIDS Pledge Walk, the easier it is to meet emerging needs."

In New Hampshire, approximately 25% of all reported AIDS cases are in Rockingham and Strafford Counties. AIDS Response-Seacoast has been providing services to persons living with HIV infection or AIDS and their families and loved ones for 10 years. Funding for this work comes from competitive businesses and corporations.

New to the Cut-A-Thon this year are baskets of hair care products to be raffled off at each participating salon. Customers can support the fight against HIV/AIDS by buying raffle tickets, even if they cannot make an appointment for the day of the event. For information on scheduling appointments, contact these participating shops:

Portsmouth Convertible Hair, Cost Cutters, Doo, Follicle, Guys and Dolls Hairstyling, Patrix, Terramagra

Dover Hair Sense of Sixth, Styling Loft

Raymond Salon 27

For information about HIV or AIDS, or ways to help, call AIDS Response-Seacoast at 603-433-5377

A & E Calendar

Terry Gross

National Public Radio's Most Popular Host,
Monday, April 26, 1999 7:00 PM

The Ballroom of Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88
Spring Street Portland, Maine. All seats \$25

Benefit Reception \$50 (includes ticket, des-
serts and coffee with Terry Gross immediately fol-
lowing her engagement)

Proceeds to benefit Maine Public Radio

PortTix: 842-0800 Fax: 842-0810
ptibox@porttix.com

Seacoast Repertory Theatre

Master Class with **Lucie Arnaz** will be at
Seacoast Repertory Theatre April 22 - May 23.
Show Time's are Thursdays at 7p.m., Fridays 8
p.m. Saturdays 8 p.m. with added 4 p.m. perfor-
mances the final 3 Saturdays) and Sundays at 3 p/
.m. with an additional 7 p.m. performance on May
9th. Tickets may be purchased by calling the box
office at (603) 433-4472 or by visiting the ticket
window at 125 Bow Street in Portsmouth, NH.

Camelot March 4 - April 11 Lerner and
Loewe's enchanting musical retells the legendary
story of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round
Table. This timeless tale of chivalry, secret love
and shattered dreams captures audiences with the
magic of wizards and the romance of knights in
shining armor. For ticket information or reserva-
tions call (603) 433-4472.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory March
13 - April 11 The story of 5 winners of a chance
to enter a world of pure imagination were dreams
not only come true, but are edible too! For ticket
information or reservations call (603) 433-4472.

Auditions: April 22 - May 23. The Sea-
coast Repertory Theatre is currently seeking adult
opera singers/actors for it's upcoming production
of **Master Class** starring **Lucie Arnaz** which plays
April 22 - May 23. For an appointment or addi-
tional information call (603) 433 - 4793 ask for
Eileen at ext. 125 or Dana at ext. 117.

Granite State Ballet

Cinderella April 18 Portsmouth, NH. The
Music Hall 1-4 p.m. Family Entertainment at it's
Best, the Cinderella story, in one form or another
has enjoyed popularity around the world for hun-
dreds of years. FMI write or call The Music Hall
Box Office 28 Chestnut St. Portsmouth, NH
03801, (603) 436-2400.

Cinderella April 24 Keene, NH. The Colo-
nial Theatre 2-7 p.m. Family Entertainment at it's
Best, the Cinderella story, in one form or another
has enjoyed popularity around the world for hun-
dreds of years. FMI write or call The Colonial
Theatre P.O. Box 77 Keene, NH 03431 (603)
353-2033.

Seaglass Performing Arts and the Maine Music Society

Missa Solemnis April 10, 8:00 P.M. Fea-
turing the Seaglass Chorale, Androscoggin Cho-
rale, Maine Chamber Ensemble. McCormack
Auditorium Gorham Performing Arts Center,
Gorham High School and April 11, 3:00 p.m. St
Peter & Paul Church Lewiston Maine. Tickets
are available at Starbird Music, Monument Sq.
Bookland in Portland, Bookland in Lewiston,
Biddeford, Mall Plaza in South Portland, Shaws
and Shop and Save in Lewiston/Auburn, and at
Record Rendezvous in Kennebunk. Call (207)
985-8747 or (207) 782-1403 for more informa-

tion, reservations or tickets.

Mad Horse Theatre

Three Sisters will run from April 8 through
May 2, 1999 at the Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak
Street, Portland, Maine

Performances are Thursdays at 730 PM, Fri-
day and Saturday at 8 PM, and Sundays at 5 PM
Tickets are \$18.00 (\$16.00 Students and
Seniors)

Tickets for Saturday night performances are
\$20.00 (\$18.00 Students and Seniors)

Tickets for our Preview performance on
Thursday 4/8 are \$10.00 *Our Gala Opening Night*
is Friday 4/9

Our *Pay What you Can Nights* are Sunday
4/11 and 4/18

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and 4/22

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thanks to our friends up North.

FREE GOLF-May 1-June 17*Stay three
nights or more and we'll give you a round of golf
on us! Our choice of courses. This offer is based
on one or two to a room with private bath, ex-
cludes holidays, does not include a gold cart; and
cannot be combined with **Spring Fling** special.

Maybe Abe Lincoln Was Gay

In the March 16, 1999 issue of the *PHILADEL-
PHIA DAILY NEWS*, the question was asked...

How honest was Abe about his sexuality?

Who cares whether one of the Teletubbies is gay?
How about the 16th president of the United States?
Seems maybe Honest Abe wasn't so honest after all.
Or maybe the gatekeepers of the Party of Lincoln
thought it prudent to be not quite so forthcoming about
the Great Emancipator, given all the money that pours
in from all those conservative types.

What in the name of Pat Buchanan am I talk- ing about?

It's the revelation by longtime gay and AIDS ac-
tivist Larry Kramer that Lincoln had a relationship with
a shopkeeper while he still lived in Springfield, Ill.,
but ended it and forged what many historians believe
was an unhappy marriage with Mary Todd.

Actually, Kramer is not the discoverer of this
supposed truth, only the latest one to spread it. The
author of a gay-slanted history of the United States
said recently in Madison, Wis., that in the late 1830's
and into the early 1840's, Lincoln and a man named
Joshua Speed had an intimate relationship.

Lincoln, Kramer's version goes, arrived in
Springfield at age 28 and immediately was smitten by
Speed, a 24-year-old man described as having jet-black
hair and blue eyes. Lincoln was broke and had no place
to stay, so Speed offered him his hospitality.

"For years, they shared a bed and their most pri-
vate thoughts," Kramer said. "They fell in love with

each other and slept next to each other for four years."
He even quoted alleged letters from Speed writing about
Lincoln: "He often kisses me when I tease him, often
to shut me up . . . He would grab me up by his long
arms and hug and hug." Another time, Speed alleg-
edly wrote, "Yes, our Abe is like a school girl."

Elsewhere are allegations that long before White
House interns got into presidential trouble, Marines
engaged in dalliances with the nation's commander in
chief.

Is it naive to believe such revisionist history, es-
pecially when all parties involved have conveniently
shuffled off this mortal coil? Maybe, but to borrow an
analogy from a folk musician who criticized the critics
of those who alter traditional music: If we never re-
vised music traditions, we'd still be playing with rocks
and sticks. God knows, we got it wrong for years about
Walt Whitman, Willa Cather and others.

So who's to say Abe wasn't gay?

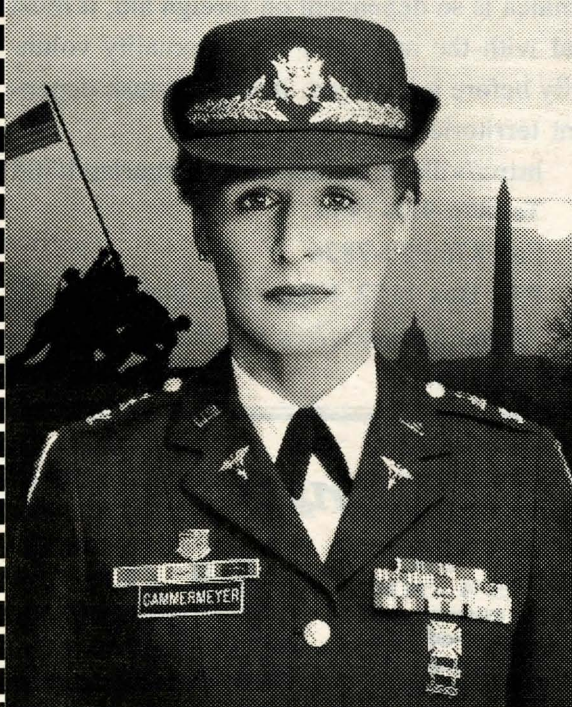
I guess the ones we should admire most are mem-
bers of the Log Cabin Club, the gay Republican orga-
nization. Guess they got it right all along. And now,
who can wait for the Republicans to coronate their next
presidential nominee here in Philadelphia next sum-
mer. Makes you hope that they change the meaning of
GOP to Gay Old Party.


*Debbie Woodell is a Daily News sports desk
editor. Her column appears here every other Tuesday.
Send e-mail to mailto:woodeld@phillynews.com.*

GLENN CLOSE JUDY DAVIS

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A Soldier. A Fighter. A Hero.





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My Queer Life: Size Matters

Michael Thomas Ford

Researchers at the Kinsey Institute recently announced, after a study of some 1500 male college students, that the length of the average man's penis has been downsized from 6.16 inches to 5.2 inches. As you can imagine, this reevaluation of the male member is of no little importance.

Around the world, men are rejoicing in the fact that they have now become either closer to average or another inch or so beyond it. Not since the release of Viagra has male self-esteem been at such a high.

But I'm not so sure it's all good news, especially to those of us who have a special interest in the rating system for male endowment. I am speaking, of course, of size queens. I must confess I am one. I know, it's shameful and wrong.

But there you are. I like big ones. Not that I have anything against little ones, medium ones, or sort of big ones, mind you. They're all fine in my book, and I welcome their company. But the really big ones have, well, a special appeal.

And after years of exacting scientific research, I have come to one undeniable conclusion: men lie about how big they are. I have yet to meet the man who has never checked to see how he measures up. It's one of those things that guys just do, like drinking right out of the milk carton and not asking for directions.

At some point in every man's life there is a moment when he just has to know just how many inches he's packing. And inevitably, he's disappointed at the results. Before measuring, you can look at your pride and joy resting in your hand and think about how impressive it looks all puffed up and at the ready.

But then out comes the tape measure, and you realize that an inch is a lot longer than you thought it was. Staring down at the numbers, you convince yourself that surely there's something missing. Maybe a number was left out by accident during the production process. Or perhaps inches

are shorter in Taiwan or China or wherever the measuring apparatus was manufactured. So you measure again.

Maybe you try forcing more blood down there, hoping the exertion will push you past the magic number you have in your head. If that fails, there's always measuring from different angles, or holding in your stomach to give you an extra half an inch or so.

According to the Kinsey researchers, the proper way to measure the length of a penis is along the top, from the point it joins the body to the tip. I'm glad they set some ground rules about this, because some of the men I know clearly have been using most unusual methods.

One gentleman of my acquaintance claimed to log in at 9 inches which, after getting a look at him, I knew simply wasn't true. Finally, after pressing, he admitted that he had measured along the bottom, apparently starting at his prostate. "Maybe the tape measure slipped back a little." He said sheepishly as I docked him three inches.

For size queens, the biggest controversy surrounding this average length question concerns the descriptive phrase "well-hung." Carrying with it a sense of mystery and adventure, this classification can elicit enthusiastic reactions when used judiciously in personal ads, general conversation, and chat rooms of the sexual variety.

For most of us, it implies that the user's penis stretches significantly over that magic average mark. But how far is far enough, especially now that the Kinsey people have lowered the bar? Is a man hefting 10.3 inches of joy more well-hung than one waving 6.9? Or is it simply a question of degree, with anything over 5.2 being technically equal to 11.8? You can see the dilemma, and those of us concerned about this matter are lobbying for clarification.

Yes, this obsession with size isn't very healthy, and I admit that bigger doesn't always

mean better. I've met more than one well-endowed fellow who thinks he's done his duty simply by being blessed with generous proportions.

This type generally lies back as if you've come for an audience with the Pope, waiting for you to kiss it and ask for a blessing. And then there's the whole maintenance issue. I once dated a wonderful fellow who was simply huge all over.

The only problem was, it took all the blood in his body to maintain his erections. Whenever he got hard, his eyes glazed over and getting him to process even simple sentences was impossible. I was always afraid that in his effort to keep it up he would pass out and I'd have a lot of explaining to do to the paramedics.

Frankly, I think this decreased penis length figure is all a new marketing strategy. Condom manufacturers have long known that making men think they're bigger than they are will increase sales. So they make their regular condoms smaller, forcing their once average-sized customers to instead buy the "King Size" or "Magnum" varieties, and gladly.

What guy wouldn't be proud to slap a box of "Stallion Super-Duper Extra Wides" on the check-out counter? Little does he know that the contents are the same 6-inch condoms that used to appear in the plain old blue box he was mortified to be seen buying.

In the end, I suppose guys can call themselves whatever they want to. It's not as if you can hide a length deficiency when the actual unveiling comes. And really, once you've gotten to that point, how many men are actually going to get up and leave because of a slight size exaggeration? I know I wouldn't. Probably. But be warned: until there's a stricter rating system, I'm carrying around a tape measure, and I know how to use it.

Michael Thomas Ford's new book, *That's Mr. Faggot to You*, will be invading stores shortly. He welcomes e-mail at Shopiltee@aol.com.

Jamaica Forum of Lesbians, All-sexuals and Gays

The Jamaica Forum of Lesbians, All-Sexuals and Gays notes with interest some of the conditions attached to the decision of the United Kingdom to grant British citizenship to nationals of its dependent territories in the Caribbean.

Especially noteworthy is the condition, reported in the Jamaican press on 1999 March 17, that the territories will be required to repeal their laws prohibiting certain homosexual acts.

The requirement, which is in keeping with European Union and other international standards, should be of interest to Jamaica's political leaders.

The Jamaican government, through its minister of National Security and Justice, the Hon. K.D. Knight, has made it clear that the country will not change its laws regarding certain homosexual acts.

In a Reuters report of 1998 December 16, Mr. Knight stated: "There's no plan by the government to repeal the laws relevant to homosexual activities."

The law is founded on a moral imperative which has not changed." J-FLAG is cautioning

the government that such hard line positions are untenable in a world of increased interdependence between and among nations.

J-FLAG maintains that by refusing to repeal the laws that make sex between consenting adult males illegal, the government is depriving many of its citizens of their fundamental rights.

J-FLAG remains firm in its conviction that consensual sex between mature persons of the same sex has no lesser or greater effect on the morals of society than consensual sex between heterosexual adults.

The organization is also concerned about the state's consistent legislation of morality. If homosexual acts between adults are criminal because they are immoral, then adultery and fornication should likewise be criminal, since the Church deems them immoral.

The nation's legislators must evaluate the laws relating to homosexuality and make the amendments that will guarantee the human rights of Jamaica's gay citizens.

If this is not done, the country may risk losing out on aid packages that are tied to hu-

man rights records.

Gay rights are becoming increasingly important to many of the countries that provide developmental aid to Jamaica. Considering that Jamaica is so dependent on foreign aid, it must deal with the matter of homosexuality voluntarily before it is forced, like the British dependent territories, to do so.

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- Bob Marley

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Flannagan To Run For U.S. Senate

Burlington-Vermont State Auditor Ed Flannagan, the first and openly gay statewide elected official in the U.S., declared his candidacy to face incumbent U.S. Sen. James Jeffords (R-VT) in the 2000 election, making his announcement following the filing of papers with the Federal Election Commission declaring his intention to run for U.S. Senate against Jeffords.

Flannagan, a Democrat, is the only declared challenger to Jeffords, a two term Republican U.S. Senator who barely survived his last election in 1994 winning with only 50% of the vote in the watershed election for Republicans nationally. With Jeffords receiving only 42% of the vote in a recent statewide poll, and Vermont's trend towards the Democratic

party this decade, national Democrats consider the Vermont Senate race to be a toss-up.

"As Auditor, I've stepped forward to protect Vermonters by fighting for higher quality managed health care and child care services, and by shining light on waste and abuse in government programs.

As a United States Senator, I will make sure we have real reform in our health care system and we do all that is possible to improve our kid's education," said Flannagan. Flannagan, during his four year term as State Auditor has saved taxpayers millions of dollars and improved services for needy populations by reviewing competitive bidding practices and conducting audits of state agencies.

Flannagan has fought the HMO establishment

to protect Vermont's health care consumers, and to protect full funding of Vermont's pension funds.

Flannagan attended the University of Pennsylvania, receiving his B.A. in History and Political Science and attended law school at Harvard University, earning his J.D. in 1976.

Flannagan has a reputation as a strong advocate for gay rights, and is the first openly gay candidate to run for U.S. Senate. In 1998, Wisconsin made history by electing the first gay or lesbian candidate to the U.S. House of Representatives, Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin. Vermont has an opportunity to build on that achievement by electing the first openly gay person to the U.S. Senate.

Right-Wing-Watch: Paul Weyrich, Cal Thomas, 2000 Elections

The media has been buzzing with reports that the Religious Right is having a crisis of confidence because a few longtime right-wing leaders have criticized the political process. New Right founder Paul Weyrich announced that mainstream culture was so corrupt that conservatives needed to withdraw and find a better way to effect their goals than the current political process.

Commentator Cal Thomas and minister Ed Dobson have written about their regrets in mixing religion and politics during their days with the Moral Majority. A media frenzy followed, overshadowing the continuing evidence of the Religious Right's political planning for the upcoming elections.

This issue of Right Wing Watch On-line takes a look at the controversy and what political activity is going on beneath the radar screen.

1 - WEYRICH'S LETTER SETS OFF A FIRESTORM ON THE RIGHT.

In mid-February, shortly after the Senate acquittal of President Clinton, Heritage Foundation founder and current head of Coalitions for America, Paul Weyrich declared that "politics itself had failed." The people he once termed the "moral majority" should "drop out of this culture, and find places where we can live godly, righteous and sober lives." Weyrich posted his message in an open letter on the website of the Free Congress Foundation, the Washington-based political group he heads.

Weyrich's very public renunciation of the political arena set off a major debate in the right-wing political movement. Many national right-wing figures responded by calmly but quickly refuting his arguments.

Larry Arnn of the Claremont Institute and Ed Feulner of the Heritage Foundation wrote in the March 16th Los Angeles Times that Weyrich's "strategy will lead to disaster" and that conservatives "should not allow impatience for final victory to cloud their judgment."

The Family Research Council's executive vice-president responded by promising to "fight another 20, 40, 60 years - whatever it may take."

FRC also tried to provide a counter to Weyrich's message by running ads on 200 radio stations urging conservatives to call Congress and "voice your values so Congress will value your voice." Gary Bauer, who recently left FRC to pursue the GOP presidential nomination, called dropping out "a silly idea."

D. James Kennedy of Coral Ridge Ministries quickly rebuked those who held the view that religious Right activists should withdraw from the public arena.

"To those who say that the culture war is over, I say, 'We have not yet begun to fight!'" said Kennedy to an audience at his "Reclaiming America for Christ" conference in February.

In case anyone is worried that Kennedy's patience will wear thin, he assured one interviewer that "In any war, there are times when it seems like you are losing. It's not going to be over in 2000 or 2004 or 2006 or 2008 or 2010. We're in this for the long haul."

Religious Right radio host and 1996 Republican Presidential candidate Alan Keyes also disagreed, telling Weyrich to "Cheer up" in a column on the right-wing WorldNetDaily website. Weighing in on Weyrich's side was Howard Phillips, the head of the Conservative Caucus and the U.S. Taxpayer's Party candidate for President in 1996.

2 - FORMER MORAL MAJORITY FIGURES CAL THOMAS AND ED DOBSON ADD TO THE DEBATE.

The public feuding started by Weyrich's open letter was heightened by the release of a book that provides a more introspective critique of the Religious Right political movement.

Syndicated columnist Cal Thomas and Baptist minister Ed Dobson have written a new book titled "Blinded by Might" in which they criticize the core ideas behind the Moral Majority and the Christian Coalition.

Formerly involved with the Moral Majority, Thomas and Dobson argue that American society should be improved by changing individuals not politics, and that conservative Christians have been tainted by their involvement in politics.

The authors now say that they see the down side of the Moral Majority's political involvement - an unhealthy focus on media coverage and fund-raising.

Thomas and Dobson have been sharply criticized by some on the right since they went public with their critique. D. James Kennedy withdrew an invitation for Thomas to speak at the Reclaiming America for Christ conference, Jerry Falwell said in a news release that he would not discuss the book, and James Dobson (no relation) reportedly sent the authors a note effectively saying don't call me again.

Said Kennedy, "I'm fighting for God and for truth and for morality and for decency. When we quit doing these things we might as well lay down and die."

3 - DON'T BE FOOLED. THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT WILL NOT ABANDON POLITICS.

Paul Weyrich's polemic, followed by the publica-

tion of the Dobson/Thomas book, sparked widespread speculation about whether the Religious Right's troops would heed Weyrich's call.

In fact all of the squabbling and the subsequent media coverage might lead one to believe that Religious Right activists were preparing to abandon political activity. A closer examination suggests just the opposite.

The movement is gearing up to work harder than ever to advance its agenda during the 2000 elections.

In fact, the Christian Coalition is heading into fund-raising overdrive to prepare for the elections. Like Weyrich, Pat Robertson pledged to defend the House managers. The CC will also target the swing states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan and Illinois (containing 99 electoral votes), raise \$21 million for this political activity and distribute 70 million "handbills and postcards in churches, synagogues, civic meetings and union halls."

Religious Right candidate Gary Bauer has already qualified for federal matching funds and has been busy touring the country with his "Bauer Power" signs.

These are not the signs of a movement that is ready to throw in the towel. Additionally, just a few days before he posted his open letter Weyrich himself announced plans to rally support for the House managers who prosecuted President Clinton in the Senate impeachment trial.

Representatives Tom DeLay and Henry Hyde are among those to be awarded the Free Congress Foundation's "Liberty Award" for their "efforts to try to save America." Furthermore, Weyrich and other Religious Right heavyweights such as Phyllis Schlafly, Randy Tate and Mike Farris have formed the Committee to Restore American Values.

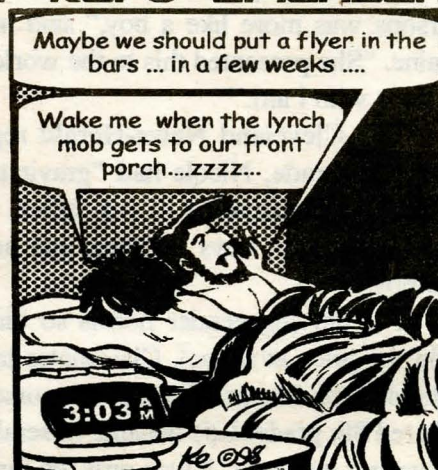
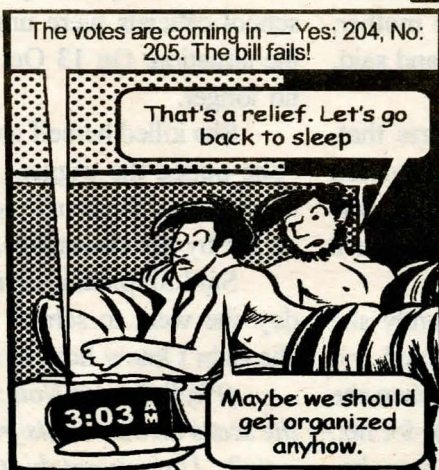
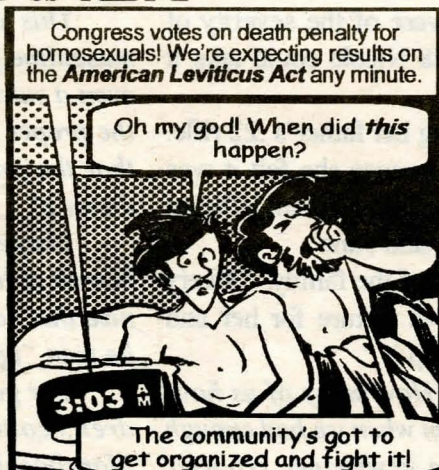
The purpose of this ad-hoc group is to pick a successful right-wing Republican presidential candidate who can galvanize the Religious Right vote in 2000.

Weyrich has also expanded on his initial statement. After days of constant interviews and talk show appearances, Weyrich issued a commentary saying, "We are not talking about dropping out of politics."

We are talking about recognizing that, in terms of culture, politics is not going to get us where we need to go." For Weyrich, a polluted culture requires a kind of Christian separatism, but the main goal is still to reclaim mainstream culture and eventually regain political power.

Learn more about the activities of the Religious Right at PFAW's website: <http://www.pfaw.org/issues/right/>

MURPHY'S MANOR



by Kurt Erichsen

Legal Change in Quebec without required genital surgery

After over 2 years, it is finally over. There are many details, but for the purposes of getting this out to everyone who may be affected, they are not listed here.

There are many FTMs who have moved out of Quebec, but nevertheless had to have their birth certificates altered here. They too were unable to do so unless they underwent surgeries that are now no longer required.

Dale Altrows completed his gender transition at the Gender Programme of the Montreal General Hospital, one of three Gender Clinics in Canada. He has had hormone therapy, a mastectomy, and a complete hysterectomy: the interventions required by the Director of Civil Status prior to this whole affair.

In December 1996, D.A. applied for a change of designation of sex status. After months of bureaucratic wrangling, the Name Change Bureau informed Dale Altrows that a vaginectomy would be required before a gender change could be le-

gally recognized.

Several experts and surgeons in the field of transsexuals intervened, and the Bureau withdrew this demand - only to insist upon the need for the « construction of male sex organs » a full ten months later!

On March 24th, 25th and 26th, the hearing of D.A. vs. Guy Lavigne was to take place at the Superior Court of Quebec in Montreal. For the first time a decision of the Director of Civil Status concerning the change of designation of sex was being challenged.

Mr. Altrows was being opposed by the Attorney General of Quebec, which had intervened to represent the Director of Civil Status, Mr. Guy Lavigne.

On March 3rd, the Director of Civil Status had decided to revise his previous refusal and to accord the change of designation of sex. This decision therefore clarifies a law that was wrongly

being interpreted, disabling the transphobic attitudes of the bureaucrat who arbitrarily imposed such unreasonable demands, as well as preventing such happenings to occur in the future.

The interventions which are therefore now legally required to Change one.

Phyllabuster note: It just proves that when a good idea's time has come, many people independently discover it at about the same time. And so it is with my push of recent years, as you read in the Virginia Prince acceptance speech, for removing the LEGAL NEED for genital surgery.

Others were pushing the same idea. Happy days for this courageous FTM. Send him lots of love and congratulations for "staying the course." Well done, Dale. Contact him at: tada@sympatico.ca.

As many of you may already know, I have been involved in a major battle with the Quebec government regarding civil status (name and designation of sex).

Equality denied at home

Equality denied at home: Visibly gender variant people are not included in Maryland Antidiscrimination Bill despite assurances by Gay and Lesbian Lobby Group

Silver Spring, Maryland - Maryland's House of Delegates passed an antidiscrimination bill yesterday that provides protection from discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations for gay men, lesbians and bisexuals with passing privilege (who are straight-appearing and acting).

However, House Bill 315 does not cover visibly gender variant people, which includes effeminate gay, bisexual and straight men, masculine lesbian, bisexual and straight women, and transsexual, transgendered and intersexed people.

The bill originally contained fully inclusive language that would have provided protection to all gender variant people in Maryland. During hearings for the bill, Liz Seaton, Executive Director of the Free State Justice Campaign (FSJC), was asked by a committee member if her organization would continue to support the bill without the new inclusive language.

According to an eyewitness, Seaton chose not to express her organization's unequivocal commitment toward the new language.

The House Judiciary Committee apparently took her answer as a go-ahead to adopt "compro-

mise" language, stripping the section of the bill protecting visibly gender variant people.

Visibly gender variant people (who lack passing privilege) comprise a sizable minority of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community of Maryland.

It's Time, Maryland! (ITMD) a state chapter of It's Time, America! has been advocating for the rights of transgendered and other visibly gender variant citizens of Maryland for the past five years.

During that time, ITMD has fought for inclusive antidiscrimination language in FSJC's antidiscrimination bill, finally achieving that goal this session.

Accordingly, ITMD members have worked closely with FSJC, serving on committees and also contacting their delegates and state senators to express their support. Two transsexual women even testified for the bill, at no small risk to themselves.

Violence against transgendered people, while under-reported in the media, has reached pandemic levels.

1999 marks the fourth time in five years that the Free State Justice Campaign has either blocked the inclusion of visibly gender variant people or failed to deliver on its promise to include them. "We are extremely disappointed - again - to not

be included in the antidiscrimination bill" said Mary Konchar, ITMD Co-chair and a resident of Baltimore. ITMD

Spokesperson Jessica Xavier said, "It's clear that we were the bargaining chip. FSJC made us the sacrificial lamb to pass this bill." She added, "While excluding transgendered people is nothing new for FSJC, they've also betrayed visibly gender variant gay men and lesbians. They've sold out their own kind.

In a front page article in the March 20 (Saturday) Baltimore Sun, Delegate Dana Dembrow (D, District 20) was quoted as asking his fellow House Judiciary Committee members, "So why are we saying it's OK to discriminate against transsexuals?" That question might better have been asked of the Free State Justice Campaign.

(Phyllabuster note: In my personal opinion, there are maybe five other TG activists that I respect as much as Jessica Xavier, certainly none more.

With great courage, she and her friends keep fighting for justice in Maryland. This time the TGs were screwed again by the state lesbian and gay political group during the very week that many of us celebrated "Equality Begins at Home." But it seems for the TGs in Maryland it was "Equality Denied at Home.")

Gender Questioning Teen in Cleveland Ends the Pain

Cleveland, OH: Fifteen year old Nicole Seely identified as a boy. "She decided that her outside persona was more like a boy," said her mother, Elaine. "She presented this to the world and said, 'This is who I am.'"

The Cleveland News-Herald reports that, since 3rd grade, Nicole had "gravitated toward masculinity" according to her father, Greg. She wore short hair, boys' clothes, and acted like a tomboy.

For defying gender norms so blatantly she paid the price at school. Classmates taunted and ridiculed her. The problems grew worse when she entered 8th grade. Life became miserable for her. "It wasn't just guys, it was girls too that were ha-

rassing her," said her mother.

Nicole kept her problems to herself. Even school officials were unaware of the severity of the situation. On 13 Oct 98 Nicole could take it no longer.

She killed herself using her father's .22 rifle. "She pulled the trigger... because she felt it was the only way she could escape the torment inflicted on her by her classmates," said June

Said Shiplett, a friend of the family. "Every day she went to school was torture for her and she didn't know how to stop it."

(Phyllabuster Note: How many of us have the scars on our wrists from when we had enough pain? Unfortunately, the newspaper reporter

contributed to the problem of future teens by using the wrong pronouns in the article.

This young man deserved the courtesy of masculine pronouns. It is amazing to me how even a suicide does not seem to earn the right to the proper pronouns to some clod-heads. I hope that the journalist organizations will wake up, damn it!

I hope that all the local groups that deal with homeless teen "gays" will take a tip and recognize that some of these teen "gays" may in fact be teen "tgs".

For good books on the issue of our TG children, contact justevelyn@earthlink.net and MaryBoenke@aol.com.)

DYKE PSYCHE

Dyke on the Ice: Being a Lesbian in the Antarctic

By Esther Rothblum

The Antarctic is the coldest, highest, and driest continent on earth. Unlike the Arctic, which consists of frozen water surrounded by land, the Antarctic is land surrounded by water.

Land is colder than water, so the Antarctic has temperatures ranging from 40 degrees Fahrenheit in the warmest part of the continent in the summer to minus 100 degrees Fahrenheit (not including the wind chill factor) in the winter. Ninety-eight percent of the continent is covered with ice, and in fact the Antarctic contains 90% of the world's ice.

The ice is several miles thick in parts of the Antarctic interior, so that the altitude is similar to high mountainous regions. Even though the Antarctic contains 68% of the world's fresh water locked up as ice, the almost total lack of precipitation classifies it as a desert.

Frequent blizzards and high winds form "white outs" that make it difficult to see, and the view is often a monotonous sheet of white snow and ice.

Why would anyone choose to go to this barren continent? In 1913, explorer Ernest Shackleton placed an ad in a newspaper that stated: "Men wanted for hazardous journey. Small wage, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness.... Safe return doubtful.... And recognition in case of success." He received about 5,000 applications.

Most people who have come "to the ice" in recent decades engage in scientific research or support those who do. About a dozen nations have built permanent research "stations" in the Antarctic. For several years I conducted research on women in the Antarctic.

I wanted to study women who take

risks, and the Antarctic seemed the ideal setting. This work resulted in the recent book *Women In the Antarctic* (Haworth Press, 1998), coedited with Jacqueline Weinstock and Jessica Morris.

Only one woman that we interviewed for this book came out as a lesbian, and she was part of an all-women's expedition that skied to the South Pole. Our research team did not feel we could ask our participants about their sexual orientation.

In those days the U.S. Navy transported personnel to the Antarctic (these days, it's the Air Force) and as a result we were concerned that our participants might now want to come out to us as lesbian or bisexual.

But we speculated that there might be some lesbians among the women who live and work in the Antarctic. So I was intrigued to read an article entitled "Below the Ice: An Antarctic Journal" by Peggy Malloy in a recent issue of WEIRD SISTERS, a Colorado lesbian newspaper. I emailed Peggy in the Antarctic (the wonders of technology!) And she responded as follows:

For most people who come to work in Antarctica, it is the sense of adventure that draws us to this extreme environment. Most of us would never have the money to be a tourist-visitor; and we would not be able to learn to love it during such a short visit, as many of us have done over the seasons.

Those who get through a season here are strong spirited to start with, and stronger still upon leaving. Being a lesbian was not a contributing factor, whereas persistence, flexibility, emotional and physical strength are more important.

There is a joke that usually goes around town toward the middle of the season: How do you get a date with a woman? Answer: be one. There are approximately 36% females working in the Antarctic program. Yes, there are other lesbians in town, and a very small handful of gay men. The men are quite closeted.

This was a military base at one time and there are still plenty of military influences since so many ex-military currently work for Antarctic Support Associates, the civilian contracting firm in the Antarctic. The lesbians are generally out, but several are not.

This is a generally accepting environment, mainly since we all have to work and live together for long periods of time. If someone doesn't agree with a life-style, it's futile to fight it. I do not try to hide my sexuality, but I don't flaunt it either.

There is always a fear that one won't get rehired because of it. However, this seems to be residual from living in northern society, and not well founded in the hiring practices of this company.

If there are any prejudices, I would say it is against women in general, not just lesbians. There is no attempt by the U.S. Antarctic Program to be lesbian-affirmative, of which I am aware.

I have worked at the U.S. McMurdo Station on the Antarctic continent for three seasons so far. Each year the circle of friends increase: friends of friends tell friends, and end up coming to work here with us.

Each year there seem to be more males who gravitate to our circle. These are straight men who feel more comfort-

able striking friendships with us, mostly since we are "safe." There is no concern that we will want anything more than a friendship.

Email is the best way to keep in touch with the community from home. I am grateful to those who write and keep me informed of happenings, and gossip, and events such as the Rainbow Chorus concerts. I was quite involved with them before coming to work down here.

This is such an isolated place, very little outside stimulation from color (things are brown or white), smells (only the smell of fuel), and life (nothing grows here naturally other than some algae). We see some seals and maybe some penguins at the end of the summer season. News from home or small care packages from friends are treasured like a long lost love's return. Anything, and everything, is a special gift.

This is also the time when I have more contact with friends than usual, as I can sit at the computer and drop a quick note to say, "hi, how are you doing?"

Peggy Malloy can be contacted in the Antarctic via email me malloyma@hotmail.com. She works in the Denver office of Antarctic Support Associates during the boreal summer, and will be back there after she has taken two months off to travel in New Zealand and learn about plants, animals, cars, and civilization again.

Esther Rothblum is Professor of Psychology at the University of Vermont and Editor of the JOURNAL OF LESBIAN STUDIES. She can be reached at John Dewey Hall, University of Vermont, Burlington VT, email: esther.rothblum@uvm.edu.

Weyrich's letter set of a firestorm

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Weyrich's very public renunciation of the political arena set off a major debate in the right-wing political movement. Many national right-wing figures responded by calmly but quickly refuting his arguments.

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Bunny Richards
Gretchen Gordon

The Religious Right is still gunning for the 2000 elections

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This issue of Right Wing Watch Online takes a look at the controversy and what political activity is going on beneath the radar screen.

Don't be fooled... The Religious Right Will Not Abandon Politics

Paul Weyrich's polemic, followed by the publication of the Dobson/Thomas book, sparked widespread speculation about whether the Religious Right's troops would heed Weyrich's call.

In fact all of the squabbling and the subsequent media coverage might lead one to believe that Religious Right activists were preparing to abandon political activity. A closer examination suggests just the opposite.

The movement is gearing up to work harder than ever to advance its agenda during the 2000 elections. In fact, the Christian Coalition is heading into fundraising overdrive to prepare for the elections.

Like Weyrich, Pat Robertson pledged to defend the House managers. The CC will also target the swing states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan and Illinois (containing 99 electoral votes), raise \$21 million for this political activity and distribute 70 million "handbills and postcards in churches, synagogues, civic meetings and union halls."

Religious Right candidate Gary Bauer has already qualified for federal matching funds and has been busy touring the country with his "Bauer Power" signs. These are not the signs of a movement that is ready to throw in the towel.

Additionally, just a few days before he posted his open letter Weyrich himself announced plans to rally

support for the House managers who prosecuted President Clinton in the Senate impeachment trial.

Representatives Tom DeLay and Henry Hyde are among those to be awarded the Free Congress Foundation's "Liberty Award" for their "efforts to try to save America." Furthermore, Weyrich and other Religious Right heavyweights such as Phyllis Schlafly, Randy Tate and Mike Farris have formed the Committee to Restore American Values.

The purpose of this ad-hoc group is to pick a successful right-wing Republican presidential candidate who can galvanize the Religious Right vote in 2000.

Weyrich has also expanded on his initial statement. After days of constant interviews and talk show appearances, Weyrich issued a commentary saying, "We are not talking about dropping out of politics."

We are talking about recognizing that, in terms of culture, politics is not going to get us where we need to go." For Weyrich, a polluted culture requires a kind of Christian separatism, but the main goal is still to reclaim mainstream culture and eventually regain political power.

Former Moral Majority figures Cal Thomas and Ed Dobson add to debate

The public feuding started by Weyrich's open letter was heightened by the release of a book that provides a more introspective critique of the Religious Right political movement.

Syndicated columnist Cal Thomas and Baptist minister Ed Dobson have written a new book titled "Blinded by Might" in which they criticize the core ideas behind the Moral Majority and the Christian Coalition.

Formerly involved with the Moral Majority,

Thomas and Dobson argue that American society should be improved by changing individuals not politics, and that conservative Christians have been tainted by their involvement in politics. The authors now say that they see the down side of the Moral Majority's political involvement - an unhealthy focus on media coverage and fundraising.

Thomas and Dobson have been sharply criticized by some on the right since they went public with their critique. D. James Kennedy withdrew

an invitation for Thomas to speak at the Reclaiming America for Christ conference, Jerry Falwell said in a news release that he would not discuss the book, and James Dobson (no relation) reportedly sent the authors a note effectively saying don't call me again. Said Kennedy, "I'm fighting for God and for truth and for morality and for decency. When we quit doing these things we might as well lay down and die."

Wild Oscar's Happy Puzzle

"Journalism is unreadable, and literature is unread."—19th century Irish wit Oscar Wilde

ACROSS

1 Parton, "Queen of Country Music" always playing in gay clubs
5 beer brand from Budweiser people
9 actor James starred in 'Rebel Without a Cause'
13 abbr. for electron volt

27 Underwriters' Laboratories abbr.
28 British slang for toilet
29 'Mr.' contest sponsored by hard-core gay mag with finals in Sept. in S.F.
32 central part of a church
34 to such an extent
35 French public secondary school

Other Hand' 50 organized labor group that merged with A.F.L. in 1955
51 Australian bus and movie about drag and the Out Back
54 19th century American poet Whitman, initials ("Simplicity is the glory of expression.")

5 Britain's gov't-owned broadcast company
6 not he
7 Greek island & city of the island
8 stem of peas & beans
9 Calif. studio that produced 'Ellen'
10 noun suffix for one that performs (debauch to debauch..)

once wrote to school friend Martin Gay 'Why do you look after me? I cannot help looking out as you pass'

30 Reagan senior or junior
31 Roman numeral 1060
33 hysterical emotional condition ('Oh! I think I'm having the')
37 meaning
38 a roster; island in W Pacific; town in Spain hosting US Navy base

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13			14				15		16		
17		18			19	20					
21				22		23			24	25	26
27			28			29	30		31		
32	33				34			35			
36				37			38	39			
		40	41				42		43	44	
45	46				47	48		49	50		
	51				52	53		54	55	56	
57							58				

14 unit of verse for an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed one
15 most gray with age
17 short for beneath
19 angels
21 one who delivers oration
23 Sunshine State, abbr.
24 back of the neck

36 licensed advanced hookkeeper
37 pseudonym of MTV's Sebastian in his porn days, 2 words
40 rounded hammer head
42 Officer of the Guard abbr.
43 submerges
45 hold in contempt
48 common Internet acronym for 'On The

56 20th century American naval officer Nimitz, initials
57 entreated
58 actor Montgomery starred in 'From Here to Eternity'
DOWN
1 informs against
2 lap over
3 small
4 internet site for searching

("Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp, Or what's a heaven for?")
18 group for alcoholics, abbr.
20 actor Rock starred in 'Pillow Talk'
22 Batman's little chicken delight
25 very cold
26 19th century American poet Ralph Waldo

11 common Internet acronym for 'As Soon As Possible'
12 Canada's Northwest Territories abbr.
46 cape (as a postal address) abbr.
16 19th century English poet Browning, initials
49 19th century American poet Longfellow, initials ("The greatest firmness is the greatest mercy.")
52 gay bowling score of 200 as a Roman numeral
53 French masculine pronoun
55 Badger State, abbr.
Solution elsewhere this issue c. 1999 GULF FEATURES, PUZZLE GAY39

Tinky Winky is not alone

Thank God the Rev. Jerry Falwell has stepped in to clean up children's television. Several weeks ago he outed Tinky Winky, from that perverted show the "Teletubbies," because, Falwell pronounced, the character is clearly a fount of gayness: He's purple, the gay color; he has an antenna shaped like a triangle, the gay symbol; and he carries a purse, something all gay people do.

But Falwell's work is far from over. You see, kiddy TV is downright rife with gayety. Heck, Toon Town is like one big circuit party and has been for years.

*** Fred Flintstone

Evidence: His nickname on the Bedrock bowling team: "Twinkle-toes Flintstone." The show's theme song ends "... we'll have a gay old time!" Wears an orange dress with little triangles on it. Hangs out with Barney far more than Wilma.

*** Bugs Bunny

Evidence: Often stands with hand on hip. Plays a hairdresser in one episode. Frequently dresses in drag. Loves to throw on a top hat and tails and belt out Broadway show-tunes with his buddy Daffy who, it's worth noting, has a lisp.

*** Velma (of Scooby Doo)

Evidence: Always tries to sit next to Daphne in the Mystery Machine. Sports that butch haircut. Has broad shoulders and wears thick turtleneck sweaters and knee socks. Never once shagged Shaggy.

*** Popeye

Evidence: Eats lots of salad. Wears a sailor suit, even though he hasn't been on a ship in years. Does little sailor-dances. Dates a flat-chested transvestite named Olive Oyl. Best friend named Wimpy.

*** Batman and Robin

Evidence: Robin's nickname: Boy Wonder. Batman's real name: Bruce. Both wear tights. They're in great shape. They like to show each other their "grappling hooks."

*** Peppermint Patty

Evidence: Has a deep, gravelly voice. Wears pants, not dresses like the other Peanuts gals. Plays a mean game of football. Likes to taunt Charlie Brown. Always hanging out which that androgynous Marcie. Wears comfortable shoes. Nickname: Sir.

*** Snagglepuss

Evidence: A pink cat. Loves theater ("exiit stage leeeft"). Wears a bow tie and cuff links, and nothing else.

*** The Pink Panther

'Nuff said.

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Tuesday, April 27

3:30-5:00 P.M.

Deering High School Library, Portland

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network of Southern Maine, one of nearly 100 chapters of the national GLSEN organization, brings together gay and straight educators and community members to help create schools that are safe and respectful for all students.

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3:30-4:00	RESOURCE DISPLAYS and REFRESHMENTS (books, videos, catalogs/order forms, bibliographies, flyers, posters)
4:00-5:00	Introductions, brief PRESENTATION, exploration of core MATERIALS in workshop folder, opportunity for shared DIALOGUE and questions (led by school counselors, nurses & social workers)

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- What is GLSEN and what does this educational organization do?
- How can GLSEN support and inform the work of school social workers, counselors and nurses?
- How can these school staff people support and inform the work of GLSEN?
- How do we make ourselves and our offices safe for LGBT and questioning youth? How do we reach kids in need and find ways to ask the right questions? How do we help kids think through when, how, and to whom it might be safe to come out? How do we help harassed students survive??
- What new resources on sexual orientation issues and health/mental health care of LGBT youth are available? Which of these seem to be the most effective resources for students, faculty, families?

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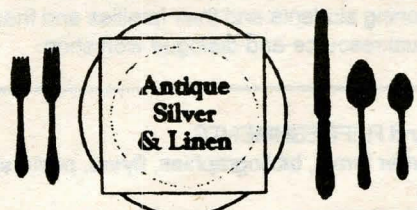
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