
Community Pride Reporter

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Happy Holidays to All

and to

All a Good Night
Ducks

by Michael Thomas Roed

At one of the ponds that my dog, Roger, and I like to walk around in the mornings, there is a small flock of ducks. There's nothing especially interesting about that; where I live there are usually lots of ducks around. But this particular group of ducks is different in that it's made up of five members: two male/female couples and one lone male.

Ducks always pair up, so it surprised me the first time I saw the solo male swimming behind the two heterosexual couples. At first, I assumed that his mate was just paddling around somewhere else.

But day after day I would see the fivesome trolling around in the reeds or treading water, tails-up, as they nosed around in the pond grasses at the bottom. The lone male was definitely a bachelor. Naturally, I started wondering about the little male duck, ducks, for the most part, do not engage in threesomes. So what was his story? Was he the duck equivalent of the As it turned out, Kendall was wondering fascinating.

I'm no expert on animal behavior, but I have a pretty good window into their world, particularly through the dogs in the play group Roger meets every evening. And if canine behavior is any indication, other dogs. He ignored their atte

as you can imagine, I'm thrilled that Roger has found a boyfriend. Finally, I can stop trying to hide his heterosexuality from my friends by saying that he "just hasn't met the right guy yet." Ezra's dad isn't as thrilled.

The first time he saw the two of them going at it, he tried to pull them apart, and made all kinds of apologies for his son's behavior. "I don't know what's gotten into him," he said with embarrassment. "Maybe I don't play enough catch with him." But slowly he's come to accept Roger and Ezra's relationship.

So if a same-sex marriage that began heterosexually is legal, what is the legal and moral basis for blocking a same-sex marriage that begins homosexually? Why the LG leadership on this is so arguable would put transgender same-sex marriages at risk. I think not, and will one more time state the why.

As for that little bachelor duck, I feared he would have to spend the long New England winter all by himself. Maybe the other ducks would invite him to holiday dinners and introduce him as "funny Uncle Walser" or something, but it wouldn't be the same as having his very own mate.

Then, a couple of days ago, I saw another flock of ducks land on the pond. Like the first group, there was a lone male among them, a shiny black and brown guy with a handsome purple band around his throat. He shook his tail feathers and swam around proudly.

This morning when Roger and I walked by, accompanied by Ezra and his father, most of that second flock was gone. But the original group was still there, the two males and the two females. And there, swimming alone beside them, was the former bachelor duck and the purple-throated newcomer.

The two males preened one another like any married duck couple, and the two hetero couples didn't seem to care one bit. Odd ducks, all of us.

My Queer Life: Odd Ducks

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PARKSIDE WOMEN'S COUNSELING

Confidential Affordable Empowering Psychotherapy Vivian Wades, L.C.P.C., Lesbian Feminist Practitioner (207) 774 - 2403 236 Park Avenue, Portland, ME 04102-2928

Phyllis Frye Here; On the recent votes

In the recent elections, Hawaii and Washington and Ft Collins, CO, lost in the defense of transgender sheep, a husky, she's an enormously enormous. Sometimes the two of them engage in more carnal delights, mounting another one clumsily with their big paws while their hind ends bounce back and forth futilely. There don't seem to be any particular rules to their amorous encounters, and neither one seems to have a preference for who's on top.

But if any other dog tries to hone in on the action, both Roger and Ezra growl and chase him or her away. As you can imagine, I'm thrilled that Roger has found a boyfriend. Finally, I can stop trying to hide his heterosexuality from my friends by saying that he "just hasn't met the right guy yet." Ezra's dad isn't as thrilled.

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What are you doing New Year's Eve?

Southern Maine PRIDE presents the annual New Year's Eve Bash Thursday, December 31, 1998 Holiday Inn By The Bay 88 Spring Street Portland, ME 8:30 - 1 am $12 in advance $16 at door $2 off (at the door only) with your New Year's Portland '99 button Tickerts available at: Drop Me A Line 611 Congress Street Portland Amadeus Music 332 Fore Street Portland Or call 774-7800 Dance in the New Year with top DJ's, Surprise Guests, Champagne Toast at Midnight 1999 Theme: We're Beautiful - Damn it
Phyllabus Alert: 60 Day “Window” for TG’s into ENDA

by Phyllis Randolph Frye

I have concluded that a ninety day "window of opportunity" has presented itself wherein some concentrated actions by lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgenders and supportive straights can get transgenders into the next Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) that will be re-presented to the newly elected Congress sometime in the spring of 1999.

If I may, please allow me to explain the concentrated actions and the reasons why I have reached this conclusion.

The CONCENTRATED ACTIONS 1. A simple one-page letter, two pages max, neatly handwritten or typed, and mailed to the following two people, with copies to whomever else you choose.

The Honorable Edward Kennedy Senator from Massachusetts United States Senate Washington, DC 20510 202-224-4543

The Honorable Barney Frank Representative from Massachusetts 4th Dist. United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20510 202-225-5931

Plus a courteous, follow-up, phone call made two weeks after the letter is mailed.

What to write and call about? Tell them that you are either transgendered or a masculine appearing lesbian or an effeminate appearing gay man or friend to boil it down to the fourth or fifth draft.

Do make sure that it is legible. DO NOT be concise and focused. That is hard to keep it at one page.

Tell them your bad employment experiences or bad employment fears are. Tell them why leaving transgenders out of the ENDA Bill and the next ENDA Bill will leave transgenders, masculine appearing lesbians and effeminate appearing gay men OUTSIDE of the legal protections sought by END.

Ask them, beg them, to include "gender identification" or "transgenders" (which along with either "sexual orientation" or "lesbian, gay and bisexual" will FINALLY cover the masculine appearing lesbians and effeminate appearing gay men) in the ENDA Bill that they will introduce sometime after the end of January.

If you are an MTF, DO NOT, DO NOT send photos of yourself in a mini skirt or nightgown. DO NOT e-mail or fax those people that are our friends: let us not anger them by flooding their e-mail or fax. DO NOT be rude or ugly. DO NOT go over two pages, try hard to keep it at one page.

DO NOT threaten them! DO NOT tell them that you are a citizen and a taxpayer they assume that. DO NOT say that you hope the letter gets by their staff that is also rude. DO NOT apologize for taking their time if you are conscious, they will be glad you wrote and called.

DO be concise and focused. That means DO NOT SEND THE FIRST OR SECOND DRAFT take the time to build it down to the fourth or fifth draft.

DO make sure that it is legible. DO identify yourself by state and congressional district (or town) and send copy to your Senator and Representative if you wish.

The reasons why I have reached this conclusion:

1. The timing is obvious. Although many incumbents will remain in both Houses of Congress, by law it will be a new Congress and can consider only NEW bills. Bills like the current ENDA that are remaining from the previous 1997-1998 session, must be reintroduced even if word for word and given their own numbers and places in the order of the NEW Congress.

2. My experience with the Employment Non-Discrimination Act goes to July 1994. For some of you, this may be review, but for other readers it may be new. So, in short, I will restate the history.

In July 1994, Karen Kerin of Vermont and myself from Texas, both representing the Transgender Law Conference (alca/ICTLEP) arrived in Washington DC in an attempt to testify before a Senate hearing on the need of including transgenders into the transgender-less 1993-1994 ENDA Bill.

It was then that we learned that "the coalition", headed on this issue primarily by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and including many influential organizations, such as Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) and the National Organization for Women (NOW), had knowingly decided to exclude transgenders from the 1993-1994 ENDA Bill.

Later that year, Sharon Stuart, Melinda Whitty, JoAnna McNamera and I (all again representing ICTLEP) learned at the 1994 Lavender Law Conference in Portland that "the coalition" had concluded that transgender inclusion in ENDA would cost them about 30 votes. So for about 30 votes (or 30 pieces of silver, whatever) transgenders were betrayed.

The next time we were in DC was the Spring of 1995 when Karen Karin and spouse, myself and spouse, Jane Fee and Riki Wilchins came to Washington DC to lobby those bills. There, the "coalition" concluded that transgender inclusion in ENDA Bill would cost them about 30 votes. So for about 30 votes (or 30 pieces of silver, whatever) transgenders were betrayed.

Two months later in June 1995, a transgender-less ENDA was introduced to the new 1995-1996 Congress. It was perceived that transgenders had been deliberately deceived by "the coalition", headed on this issue by HRC, and the coalition continued to be under investigation by the Baltimore Police Department, Eastern District.

The case continues to be investigated by the Baltimore Police Department, Eastern District. The perpetrators are thought by many to be local youths. Leonard believes that the police have caught the man who punched them, but they have not yet caught the shooter.

Take Back the Street Rally and Call for Hate Crimes Legislation A Rally to Take Back the Street in Baltimore and End the Violence Vigil is being organized by Leonard’s aunt, Beverly Vines, also a Baltimore resident. At this point, Leonard plans to attend.

It will be held on Friday, November 6, at 5:30 p.m. on the 200 block of Maderia Street (between Orleans and Fayette Streets) where the assault took place. People from the neighborhood, local officials, gay rights activists, and others from the community and around the state are expected to attend.

"We are grateful that Leonard Vines lived through this attack on his life. We are outraged at the level of hate and violence targeted at gay people and who do not conform to our society’s rigid gender norms," said Nancy Meyer, Board Co-Chair of the Free State Justice Campaign (a Maryland political organization working for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights). "It is not acceptable for a person to be shot simply because of who they are."

Liz Seaton, FSJC Executive Director, "What happened in Wyoming is happening everywhere and it is happening here.

It is time for people to wake up, to recognize that bias does lead to violence, and to take action. Fair-minded citizens must take a stand that anti-gay bias is not acceptable under any circumstance. Wyoming is happening everywhere and it is happening here.

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We call on officials at every level of government to pass hate crimes legislation immediately.

Transgendered Person Shot Six Times

Baltimore, MD - Less than a month after gay college student Matthew Shepard was viciously murdered in Laramie, Wyoming, a gay drag queen living in Baltimore, Maryland was shot six times - nearly to death - by youths saying that they would "not allow drag queen faggots" into their neighborhood.

The Shooting On Wednesday, October 28 at approximately 9 p.m., 31-year-old Leonard "Lynn" Vines, a lifetime resident of Baltimore, walked onto the 200-block of Maderia Street (in eastern Baltimore). He was going to pick up a key from his cousin’s house.

A large group of young men and women, perhaps 20 of them, were hanging out on the street. Leonard heard one of them say "Hey y'all, there's a drag queen fag floating around the corner."" He walked towards the street.

Leonard said that he didn’t want any trouble. While he was explaining that he was there to pick up from his cousin a key to an apartment he was renting in the neighborhood, one of the youths stuck him in the face.

When Leonard repeated that he didn’t want any trouble, another of the youths pulled out a gun and shot him six times - twice in the arm, twice in the chest, once in the back, and once in the shoulder. Then all of the youths scattered off leaving a seriously wounded and bleeding Leonard behind on his cousin’s front stoop.

Quick Action by Firefighter Saved Life Luckily for Leonard, a man working at the fire station around the corner heard the shots and brought the ambulance immediately, meeting Leonard’s cousin who frantically flagged him down in the alley.

Leonard was taken to Johns Hopkins University Hospital, where doctor’s expressed dismay at the violent attack and surprise that Leonard did not die en route to the hospital.

Leonard told Vines, a Recovering Druggie. Case is Under Investigation Leonard spent a week in the hospital before being released into his mother’s care on the evening of Tuesday, November 3. Given the number of times he was shot and the extent of his injuries, his doctors were thinking he had a slow recovery. He is currently using a wheelchair, and it will be some time before Leonard can return to his regular job with a housekeeping agency.

The case continues to be under investigation by the Baltimore Police Department, Eastern District. The perpetrators are thought by many to be local youths. Leonard believes that the police have caught the man who punched them, but they have not yet caught the shooter.

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We call on officials at every level of government to pass hate crimes legislation immediately.

SEACOAST OUTFRONT Don’t Hide Out - Hang Out! Aged 21 and Under Joining Your Transgender Bisexual Lesbian Community Drop-In Center Sundays 5-7 pm Tuesdays 6-8 pm
Phyllabuster Alert: 60 Day “Window” for TG’s into ENDA - Act Now!

Continued from page 3.

Phyllabuster war with the Human Rights Campaign began.

Following this came the October 1995 event when Riki, Karen and I placed over 100 transgenders and supporters from 35 states into the Halls of Congress for cloture on transgender issues.

Since that time, and without the details being necessary, transgenders have been organized and on "the Hill" numerous times to educate the Members of Congress on transgender issues and on the need for being included in the ENDA Bill. And since that time, many meetings have been held between transgender leaders and the HRC and transgenders have picked up HRC funding.

Even so, in the spring of 1997, an- other transgender-less ENDA was intro­duced to the new 1997-1998 Congress, just as well in the spring of 1999, another transgender-less ENDA will be intro­duced to the new 1999-2000 Congress UNLESS SOMETHING CHANGES.

3. So, what do we change? How do we motivate the "coalition" to ask for a trans­gender-inclusive ENDA in the spring of 1999?

Note that the "coalition" has changed. For one, PFLAG is now transgender inclusive in its by-laws and mission statement. For two, NOW is now transgender inclusive in its activities and voted so in an annual convention two years ago. For still another, other organi­zations of the "coalition" have heard more about transgender since Karen and I first started poking at the problem in 1994.

Also, with the exception of HRC, almost ever national queer rights organization is now LGBT either in name or in by-laws. And although HRC remains transgender-excluding in its by-laws and mission, they are helping transgenders in the area of hate crimes. (For those of you who follow my writings, saying anything positive about HRC is not easy, but I do give credit when it is due.)

4. Examine the initial hypothesis of the "coalition" that transgender inclusion into ENDA will cost them thirty pieces of silver, oops, votes. In the fall of 1996, the US Senate voted on the transgender-less ENDA and it received 49 Yes votes.

In February 1997, I lead an ICLTEP sponsored group of twenty transgenders onto "the Hill" and we met with the offices of every Yes voter.

In summary what we heard was that they had no problem with transgender inclusion. We were told over and over and over again, that if Ted Kennedy and Barney Frank put transgender language in the ENDA Bill, they would vote for it. If Ted Kennedy and Barney Frank omitted transgenders from the ENDA Bill, they would still vote for it.

In sum, they did not care either way and would vote for whatever ENDA Bill was introduced by Kennedy and Frank.

A few months later in 1997, the new transgender-less ENDA Bill was intro­duced to the New 1997-1998 Con­gress.

5. Concerning Kennedy and Frank, during my time in Boston for the Lavender Law Conference, last 14-17 October 1998, I was struck by two things. One thing concerned Barney Frank. He key­noted the Lavender Law. Before he spoke, the outgoing NLGLA Chair made re­marks that were all LGBTQ inclusive.

Following that another speaker made remarks that were all LGBTQ inclusive. Following that, a resolution was read and approved that was very, very (I did the final edit) LGBTQ inclusive.

Barney Frank was in the room, I saw him there, to hear it all LGB & T. Then Barney Frank spoke, it was all limited to LGB & T. Then Barney Frank spoke, it was all limited to LGB & T. Then Barney Frank spoke, it was all limited to LGB & T. Then Barney Frank spoke, it was all limited to LGB & T. Then Barney Frank spoke, it was all limited to LGB & T. Then Barney Frank spoke, it was all limited to LGB & T.

The second thing was the vigil held that same night in front of the State House (state capitol building) in Boston just across the street from the Boston Common. It was held to remember Matthew Shepard, the gay man assassinated in Wyoming because he was openly LGBT. Representatives from state and city government and from numerous or­ganizations around the city and state were there and spoke from the podium. EVERYONE WAS LGB & T INCLUSIVE.

That night, I concluded that the above strategy, this "90 day window of opportunity" for focusing a laser beam of lobbying action onto both Kennedy and Frank and ONLY on Kennedy and Frank was the needed NEXT action.

6. The three obstacles for transgender inclusion in the next ENDA before the new Congress in 1999-2000 are A. Kennedy in the Senate, B. Frank in the House, and C. "the coalition" led on this issue by HRC. As I noted above, we have bullied HRC for four years (and I plan to continue until transgenders are in their mission) and "the coalition" has changed a lot.

We must convince in a polite and constructive, yet firm manner, Senator Kennedy and Representative Frank to become transgender inclusive in the next ENDA Bill to be introduced sometime after January 1999 to the new 1999-2000 Congress. That gives us 90 days. So send the letters, make the follow-up phone calls. DO IT CORRECTLY AND NICELY.

Send copies to your local PFLAG and enlist their letter writing action. Send copies to your local NOW and enlist their letter writing action. And please, please, the folks in Massachusetts who are LGBTQ friendly, you will have their greatest impact of all.

Ninety days and counting.

Supreme Court Repeals Sodomy Law

Washington, DC-November 23, 1998. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force celebrated a 6-1 vote by the Georgia Supreme Court to repeal the state's sodomy law. The Court ruled that the law violates the Geo­orgia Constitution's guarantee of a right to privacy.

"Sodomy laws are the linchpin in attacks against the gay, lesbian, bi­sexual and transgendered commu­nity," said Kerry Lobel, executive di­rector of the National Gay and Les­bian Task Force. "They are used to criminalize our behavior and are the basis for discrimination in employ­ment, housing, health care and against families.

We applauded the Court for its vote today and also salute the tireless work of Georgia activists who have helped change the climate in the state."

The Georgia law has been the basis of two U.S. Supreme Court cases. The first was the landmark Bowers v. Hardwick in 1986, when it found no constitutional right to privacy for same-gender conduct. And earlier this year, the Court refused to hear the case of attorney Robin Shahar, whose job offer from then-Attorney General Michael Bowers was rescinded after discovering she was planning a com­mitment ceremony with her partner.

Bowers claimed her lesbian relationship violated the Georgia sodomy law, which he himself defended in Bowers v. Hardwick. "We must be vigilant not only in the passage of civil rights laws, but also in the repeal of sodomy laws," continued Lobel. "Even though they are rarely enforced, they are frequently used as the basis for other forms of discrimination - in the workplace, in the schools, and with the custody of our children."

With the Georgia law now in­valid, thirty-one states and the Dis­trict of Columbia will have no laws forbidding same gender sexual rela­tions. Of the nineteen states that will have sodomy laws in place, six state's laws apply only to same-gender activ­ity - Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Maryland. Thir­teen other states have an opposite and same-gender sodomy law - Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Massachu­setts, Michigan and Minnesota.
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 evening each month 7-9 p.m. Call 338-6330 for details.

Gay/Lesbian 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 date December 5, 1998. 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 in a lesbian friendly environment For more information or to make an appointment, call 497-5337.

AIDS Support (NH Seacoast) Connections, a support group for caregivers, families, friends and all those whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS will hold its final meeting on Tuesday, December 8th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, 105 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth.

For ongoing support and information, call 603-436-8063, 603-964-8192, or AIDS Response Seacoast 603-433-5377.

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, PO. 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 evening each month 7-9 p.m. Call 338-6330 for details.

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AIDS Support (NH Seacoast) Connections, a support group for caregivers, families, friends and all those whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS will hold its final meeting on Tuesday, December 8th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, 105 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth.

For ongoing support and information, call 603-436-8063, 603-964-8192, or AIDS Response Seacoast 603-433-5377.

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**Dyke Psyche:** Native American Two-Spirit People

At a time when sexual orientation and gender are being viewed as more continuous categories, there is renewed interest in the fluidity of who is a “woman” and who is a “man.”

In many Native American cultures, gender and sexuality have not been as fixed as in western cultures. Recently, a number of books have appeared on “two-spirit people,” a term coined by Native Americans for individuals in their cultures who are gay or lesbian, or who are transgendered, or who have multiple gender identities.

The term “two-spirit” is an attempt by Native American communities to redefine their past from the way in which it has been depicted by white male anthropologists, and also to distinguish Native American concepts of gender and sexuality from those of the western gay and lesbian communities.

I recently spoke with Sue-Ellen Jacobs, one of the co-editors of the book TWO SPIRIT PEOPLE: NATIVE AMERICAN GENDER IDENTITY, SEXUALITY, AND SPIRITUALITY. She said: “There are a number of instances where there are Native women, living on reservations, who don’t stand out, who don’t conform to the ways that we’ve been told they should be.”

The gay white men who are out there studying Native American men don’t see the women because these researchers don’t recognize these women as who they are within their culture. Not many Native women use the words ‘lesbian’ or ‘dyke’ to describe themselves.

The researchers didn’t realize that there was a more ‘lesbian’ going on within the Native American communities, the two-spirit movement.” Sue-Ellen Jacobs described instances of “male-bodied women” or “female-bodied men” who took on the roles and became known as beholding of the “other” gender in Native American cultures.

As Jacobs and the other editors state in the introduction to their book: “Using the word ‘two-spirit’ emphasizes the spiritual identity of one’s life and downplays the homosexual persona.”

In the chapter “I am a Lakota womyn,” Beverly Little Thunder writes: “Most tribes that I have had the honor of knowing have specific names for men who love men and women who love women. . . . I can understand that there may be a need by some to find a pan-Native term that can be used as a marker for the general population of Native lesbians and gays.

We are all so different in so many ways, however. Culturally and physically, we are all different. Each tribe has its own culture, its own sense of how we can all even be called ‘Natives?’ . . . The words I would like to see written about me and read fifty years from now should be words that reflect who I am as an individual.” Carrie House, of Navajo/Oneida descent, writes: "Our oral traditions acknowledge that the he-shes and she-shes (those who hold in balance the male and female, female and male aspects of themselves and the universe) were among the greatest contributors to the well-being and advancement of their communities.

They were (and we are) the greatest prophets into the ways of the future, and they quickly assimilated the lessons of changing times and people.

Recent studies into the lives of he-shes and she-shes have recovered models or near models of this rich, inventive, spiritual, and highly productive approach to keeping balance within a society viewed as an extension of nature.” For further reading see: Sue-Ellen Jacobs, Wesley Thomas and Sabine Lang (1997). TWO SPIRIT PEOPLE: Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press.


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.

Rainbow Endowment Announces Grant Awards

The Rainbow Endowment has announced 1998 grant distributions totaling more than a quarter of a million dollars. Through its Fall funding cycle, 12 organizations serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community have been awarded grants ranging in size from $10,900 to $20,000. Founded in 1995, the Endowment funds organizations and projects that are national in scope.

The following non-profit groups are among this funding cycle’s recipients:

ASTREA National Lesbian Action Foundation has been awarded $20,000 to further its mission of providing financial support to health-related lesbian groups and initiatives.

Community Research Initiative on AIDS (CRIA) has been awarded $15,000 for its health treatment education activities.

Family Pride Coalition (formerly Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International) has been awarded $20,000 for its Children of Lesbians & Gays Everywhere (COLAGE) project and other health-related initiatives.

Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) has been awarded $20,000 to increase capacity of its Family Law Project.

Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) has been awarded $20,000 to support expansion of media relations and skill-building training programs geared to grassroots youth organizations.
Being lesbian, Bi, questioning and young: A conversation with teens

Esther Rothblum

I recently talked with a group of five young women in a Vermont high school about what it means to be lesbian, bisexual, and questioning. These women students and a teacher have been meeting weekly in their school after hours. Hard as it may be for us older lesbians to believe, but such groups are a part of all high schools in the Burlington, Vermont area.

The women were proud that their school had a GSA (Gay and Straight Alliance). These are groups that work for an environment where everyone is treated with respect and where harassment is not tolerated. The GSA at this school has several lists of friends, and what happens when friends are forgotten.

"I'm sitting here surrounded my mountains of cards. I'm working feverishly to get them all written and sent out. And in doing so, I'm finding the process to be extremely enjoyable."

"I've never done anything like that in school." Another student has called another woman, who is bisexual, a "dyke". Also, students in their high school refer to something they don't like as "gay", as in "that dress is so gay." One of the students was very upset about the fact that her friend had told her that she was gay. The woman interviewed was aware of internalized homophobia as well. One student said: "In eighth grade there was this kid that everyone said he was gay. He had a very hard time with it. But then when I came out my freshman year, he started making fun of me and I told him: 'Don't you remember how bad it felt when everyone made fun of you?'" He said, 'But I wasn't and you are.' In some ways, I was his revenge.

Another woman was concerned about how her heterosexual friend would be viewed. She said: "I think my being fairly out in school affected her. We used to sit together in class and spend a lot of time together. We've been friends since kindergarten."

As I'm sitting here surrounded by mountains of cards, and what happens when friends are forgotten, I'm acutely aware of the reviewer who gave me my book such a rave? The phrase "looks cheap and unfeeling. At least that's what my publicity told me last year when I tried it."

Even after the cards go out, there's the whole insecurity issue. Every year, about two weeks before I send out my cards, I start getting cards in the mail from friends and everyone else out there. I used to have one pile of Yule cards, one pile of Hanukkah cards, one pile of "Seasons Greetings" cards, and a pile of generic cards. But then I would get all confused and send my Jewish editor a Kwanzaa card, and my pagan friend were not really all that pleased to see baby Jesus when they opened their envelopes.

Now I demand one-size-fits-all. Let's assume, for the sake of argument, that this is a perfect world and I both manage to find more friends, and even more acquaintances. I now have several lists of people who expect to receive cards. Every year I go over them, weeding out the editor who didn't buy anything from me in the previous year or the former friend who said my last book wasn't as good as the year before. I've trimmed down the list of people who took the only good picture of me in everyone and the bank gives me a loan to worry about my Jewish friends. And my "Merry Christmas" greeting. I usually recommend people to send her an appropriate card, we often think about the fact that we are gay, bisexual, and transgendered people. What does that mean? It means that work for ev­

My Queen Life: It’s All in the Cards

by Michael Thomas Ford

I can't believe it's that season again. I'm talking, of course, about that dreaded annual chore of holiday cards. It's easy. I only had a couple of friends. Every year all I had to do was buy a single box of cards and send them out. But as I've gotten older, my world has expanded. Now I have a couple of friends, and even more acquaintances. I have several lists of people who expect to receive cards. Every year I go over them, weeding out the editor who didn't buy anything from me in the previous year or the former friend who said my last book wasn't as good as the year before. I've trimmed down the list of people who took the only good picture of me in everyone and the bank gives me a loan to worry about my Jewish friends. And my "Merry Christmas" greeting. I usually recommend people to send her an appropriate card, we often think about the fact that we are gay, bisexual, and transgendered people. What does that mean? It means that work for ev­

I think the fact that we were so close actually negatively affected her, with people assuming that she was gay as well. I found myself pulling away from her so that she wouldn't be stereotyped. I wanted her to be able to find a boyfriend and by happy! I didn't want her harassed."

In some ways, being gay is viewed as trendy in their school, but only when it refers to female students, mostly those who are bisexual. But the women I interviewed mentioned that trends are viewed as a phase and their classmate's wonder when this particular trend will finally be over. "My friends thought I was a "poser" because I told them that I was, said one woman.

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.

The Community Pride Reporter is published the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

Submissions are welcome throughout the month and will be published, at the publishers discretion, in the next available issue.

Please contact the office at 207-737-3498 for special publishing needs especially inclusion in a particular issue.
Portland Stage Company Continues Holiday Tradition with Dickens Family Classic “A Christmas Carol”

Portland, Maine - This December, Portland Stage Company reprises its critically acclaimed adaptation of Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol.

A seasonal favorite since 1996, A Christmas Carol depicts Scrooge’s discovery of the true holiday spirit and features an ensemble of professional and community actors who transform the stage into a magical celebration for all ages.

A Christmas Carol previews December 1, 2, and 3, opens December 4 and runs through December 24 at 25A Forest Avenue in Portland. In its third year, Portland Stage Company’s production of A Christmas Carol is one of the best-selling productions in Portland Stage history.

Last year, it was voted “Best Theatrical Production” in the Casco Bay Weekly’s Reader Opinion Poll, and Thomas Power from the Portland Press Herald called it enjoyable and entertaining. Allison Grover from the Exeter News-Letter wrote, “Portland Stage...presents a sparkling, imaginative production,” and Barbara

Mad Horse Theatre Company presents Road to Nirvana by Arthur Kopit


Road To Nirvana will run from January 7 through February 7, 1999 at the Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak Street, Portland, Maine.

Performances are: Thursday at 7:30 PM, Friday and Saturday at 8:00 PM and Sundays at 5:00 PM. Special 2:00 PM matinee on Sunday, January 31st.

Tickets are $18.00 ($ i 6.00 Students and Seniors). Tickets for Saturday night performances are $20.00 ($18.00 Students and Seniors). Tickets for our Preview performance on Thursday 1/7 are $10.00.

Our Gala Opening Night is Friday 1/8. The night we what you can Nights are Sunday 1/10 and 1/17.

Buy 1 Get 1 Free Nights are Thursday 1/14 and 1/21.

For further information and reservations please call 775-5103 or check out our website at http://www.madhorse.com!

Ain’t no story like a Bluestory

of a people who invented a unique sound called the blues.

Musical accompaniment is by John Cephas on master guitar and Phil Wiggins playing a pulsating blues harp. The harmoniously rhythmic and high-spirited rendition of traditional and original blues numbers will transport audiences from The Music Hall in Portsmouth to someone’s front porch stool. Cephas and Wiggins provide the very best of the soulful, head-nodding, hand-clapping, foot-tapping sounds of the southern U.S.

The evening includes tales of the giants of the Blues literature, “John Henry,” arch desperado “Staggerlee,” and a biographical story of Robert Johnson, king of the delta Blues. A full set of music by Cephas & Wiggins features work by Furry Lewis, Skip James, Reverend Gary Davis and Mississippi John Hurt. The telling of the Robert Johnson legend was originally commissioned by the Chicago Blues Festival.

It is generally accepted that the Blues has influenced most major modern musical forms including jazz, rock, country, pop and modern classical music. By emphasizing the poetry and literature of the Blues tradition along with the music, Bluestory gives the audience a much better idea of the historical and social context of the Blues than music can by itself.

The Blues is a strong comment on injustice African-Americans faced in the post-reconstruction era.

The Blues provided a pantheon of heroes and rebels who could say and do things the singers themselves could not.

In Bluestory, the artists help the audience get past the surface of the music, to reveal an expression of the human condition.

Bluestory plays one night only, on Saturday, December 5 at 8 p.m. Ticket prices are ‘$27 for A seating and $23 for B seating; $13 for audiences under 21. Tickets may be purchased at the Music Hall box office, located at 28 Chestnut Street in downtown Portsmouth, or by calling (603) 436-2400.

Kick off the Holidays with Rodgers & Hammerstein’s “The King & I”

Portsmouth - Come celebrate the holidays and enjoy Seacoast Repertory Theatre’s production of THE KING & I. Based on “Anna & the King of Siam” by Margaret Landon, Rodgers & Hammerstein have transformed this story of conflict & love into a musical masterpiece.

THE KING & I tells of the adventures of a nineteen century Englishwoman who becomes a teacher to the children of the King of Siam after the death of her husband. “Shall We Dance”, “Whistle a Happy Tune” & “Hello Young Lovers” are just a few of the memorable tunes you’ll be humming long after you leave the theatre. With a cast of 40 or so children & adults, incredible costumes & spectacular set, SRT’s production of the KING & I is sure to please the entire family!

THE KING & I generously co-sponsored by Redhook Ale Brewery & Belknap Dental Associates is playing December 10, 1998 thru January 10, 1999. Showtimes are Thursdays - 7pm, Fridays - 8pm, Saturdays - 6pm & Sundays 3pm with additional 7pm shows the final three Sundays.

Tickets are $17 & $20, with discounts for children, students, & seniors. Tickets may be purchased by calling the box office at 603-433-4472 or 800-639-7650, or by visiting the ticket window at 1 Street in Portsmouth, N.H.
New Year's Portland!

After months of planning, meticulous research and development, Maine Arts announces a new and improved New Year's Portland.

Portland, Maine ... New Year's Portland '99 has been reformulated by Maine Arts. This year's community celebration of the end of 1998 is a reinvented version of New Year's Portland's past.

The celebration, which features 15 distinctly different events in 15 locations around Portland, will give revelers an experience that is beyond comparison.

"Over the past few months we have taken the time to develop a New Year's Portland program that will give people the opportunity to take-in as many or as few events as possible without feeling pressured to rush from one venue to the next," says Nick Bloom, Maine Arts Executive Director.

In past years New Year's Portland featured a tightly scheduled itinerary of events that had definite start and end times. This year, the 15 events will be on-going and self-contained mini-parties. New Year's Portland '99's eclectic mix features such things as a beatnik coffeehouse; experimental dance performances; a hippie festival of poetry, music and soloists; silent films; and a swing dance party.

"The idea here is to give people a chance to enjoy a pull-out-the-stop experience of variety that is fun alternative to bars or parties," adds Bloom.

"We see this as an event that is focused on bringing our entire community together for a night of chem-free revelry," he continued.

The evening is capped off by a dazzling fireworks display at City Hall. Admission buttons for New Year's Portland '99 are available in advance at Shop 'n Save Supermarkets until December 30. Prices for the buttons which gets unlimited entry to all venues are $10 for adults, $4.50 for kids (12 & under) and $8.50 for teens (13-17) and seniors (65+). On New Year's Eve admission buttons will be available at all venues for $12 for adults, $6 for kids (12 & under) and $9 for teens (13-17) and seniors (65+). Individuals interested in volunteering for New Year's Portland can pick up registration forms at most Key Bank offices in Southern Maine.

Volunteers earn free admission to the event. New Year's Portland is produced by Maine Arts, a non-profit organization that celebrates and enriches Maine audiences by preserving musical, visual, performance and multi-cultural arts events.

Their focus is on cultivating a statewide community of the arts, celebrating master artisans, nurturing emerging talents and building strong links between disparate elements both inside and outside the arts community.

Maine Arts offices are located at 582 Congress Street, Portland, Maine. For more information about New Year's Portland or any other Maine Arts sponsored event, call (207) 772-9012.

Seaglass Performing Arts presents;

Seaglass Chorale proudly presents its third joint Christmas Concert with the Community Orchestra of the Portland Symphony, Sunday, December 5th at 3:00 PM at the Holy Family Church, North Ave., Sanford.

This very warm Christmas tradition, featuring popular songs of the season, is a benefit concert for the Family of Churches Food Pantry. Admission is "free will" monetary donation.

Then, on December 12 and 13, The Chorale will perform Vivaldi's Gloria and Handel's Messiah in the traditional Kennebunkport Prelude to Christmas Concert series. The Chorale will be joined by the Seaglass Kids and the Seaglass Strings for these Christmas classics.

The public is invited to bring their Messiah musical scores and join in song. Saturday, December 12, 7:30 PM South Congregational Church, Kennebunkport and Sunday, December 13, 3:00 PM, St. Martha Church, Rt 1 No., Kennebunk. Admission is $8/$6 seniors.

For more information call 985-8747 or visit our web site www.biddeford.com/seaglass.

Fundraiser for Portland Artist

A newly formed group "Friends of Esduardo Mariscal" will sponsor screening of Mexican choreographer's latest work to support the ongoing creative work of Esduardo Mariscal dance theater, a number of community residents have come together to form "friends of Esduardo Mariscal." The group will raise funds, generate performance and teaching opportunities, and promote Mariscal's dance-theater community project.

The friends group, which consists of USM provost Mark Lapping, Assunta Kent (USM Theater dept.), Ellen Seeling (Bates College Theater dept.), Simone Federman (Bowdoin College Theater dept), Manny Morgan, Richard Doherty, June Fitzpatrick, Jonathan Lee and Nancy Margolis, welcomes additional members.

The friends of Esduardo Mariscal are inviting the public to a screening of a video of the fall of time, his latest successful dance piece developed and premiered in Brazil with the Corpo Vivo Dance Company only a few weeks ago.

Mariscal, a guest artist at USM since 1995, will also give an informal lecture about the creative process of this choreography and his work in general.

The presentation will be at the Luther Bonney hall auditorium at USM in Portland on Wednesday, December 16th at 7:30 PM.

Tickets are $5. Proceeds will be used for Esduardo's spring 1999 production in Portland.

What: a video screening of E. Mariscal's latest dance

When: Wednesday, December 12 at 7:30 PM

Where: Luther Bonney hall auditorium at USM

How much: $5

FMI: call 871-9056
Avner the Eccentric offers rare local performances

In a limited holiday engagement

After turning hundreds away last year at Oak Street Theatre, Exceptions to Gravity moves to Portland Stage Company.

After selling out six performances at Oak Street Theatre last December, Avner the Eccentric will be making another rare local appearance this holiday season when he performs Exceptions to Gravity at Portland Stage Company from December 26 to 29, 1998.

This hilarious show mixes of masterful clowning, dexterous magic, and slapstick humor in a show that holds an equal appeal for all ages. Exceptions to Gravity offers Portland audiences the unique opportunity to see a veteran local performer at the height of his craft.

Peaks Island resident Avner Eisenberg has toured internationally as Avner the Eccentric, Avner is well known to audiences for his endearing portrayal of the Jew, the scene-stealing holy man in The Jewel of the Nile, co-starring Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner. He was also featured in the film Brenda Starr and has been seen on television on Webster and Matron. In 1987, Avner co-starred in Lincoln Center's production of Shakespeare's The Comedy of Errors, and he returned to Broadway in 1989 in a principal role in Ghetto.

In regional theatre, Avner has played Estragon in Waiting for Godot, played the title role in R. Cumb Comix, and co-starred with his wife, Julie Goell, in the world premiere of Zoe of Tranquility. He has been featured in numerous festivals and television specials throughout the world and recently won a special jury award at the International Festival du Cirque in Monte Carlo. Performance calendar for Exceptions to Gravity:

Saturday, December 26, 7:30 p.m., Sunday, December 27 3 p.m. Sunday, December 28 7:30 p.m.
Monday, December 28 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 29 3 p.m. Tuesday, December 29 7:30 p.m.

All performances take place at Portland Stage Company, 25A Forrest Avenue in downtown Portland. Tickets to this special engagement are $18 for adults, $14 for students and seniors, and $10 for children twelve and under. Call 772-5580.

Wild Oscar's Happy Puzzle

Clue: In America the President reigned for four years, and Journalism governs for ever and ever.—19th century Irish wit Oscar Wilde

ACROSS
1 talk with great enthusiasm 26 Prince who was married to Di22
5 network that was "Ellen" 27 she other
6 Max West's character in his Little Chickens (1946)
8 confusion 28 Everly brothers
12 following the afternoon 29 sounds like "eye see"
13 WIT in a mirror 30 AMY in a mirror
14 readily, willingly 31 strip of land connecting 2 large
15 Ellen's last name on the TV show 32 large
17 19th century American author 33 A man who wields company
Herman had writing that was returned to male love
20 able to be sold 34 land masses
22 Internal Revenue Service 35 home land masses
24 drama with sad ending 44 by the year, per ...
25 move the alphabet 45 famous Calif. photographer
26 announce a verdict 46 specializing in bony men
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39 AMY in a mirror
41 tip of land connecting 2 large

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1 talk with great enthusiasm
2 Internal Revenue Service
3 drama with sad ending
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46 specializing in bony men
50 agitating
51 great event
52 network that was "Ellen"

Solutions elsewhere in this issue:
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Special Announcements

Michele Lane & Bea Brush
United in Love
September 11, 1998

The Fort Allen Park Gazebo was the site of a sunset Union Ceremony on September 11, 1998 between Michele Lane & Bea Brush.
Michele & Bea exchanged vows in front of their families & friends.
Sally Gore presided over the ceremony.
A reception was held at the couples East End home & they spent a long weekend in Connecticut in November.
Michele’s son, Daughter-in-law, Daughter & 2 grandchildren were present to show their support. Michele’s brother was unable to attend due to a hospital stay.
Bea’s parents, three sisters, two brothers, brother-in-law two sisters-in-law, niece & two nephews, all from Connecticut were there to show their support as well.
Julie Sweezy of Wisconsin stood up for Bea & Buzzy Lofsh of Woolwich stood up for Michele.

Classified Ads

Lesbian Roommate wanted
Seeking quiet, nonsmoking roommate to share sunny 2 bedroom apartment on the East End in Portland. For $300. per month (heat included) you get: Large room, small room, private entrance. Shared kitchen and bathroom. No pets (I have a cat). Available immediately. Call 773-0476.

Roommate Wanted
Gay male looking for responsible individual to share large 3 bedroom duplex near Woodfords Corner. Furnished bedroom if needed. Lots of storage. $140 per week includes utilities. Please call 772-0516.

Belfast Area:
Accommodations, newly renovated farmhouse in charming village, short drive to many coastal attractions, shopping and entertainment.
X-C ski, birding, canoeing, golfing, or evenings with board games, a good book and a hot tub soak. Weekly or nightly rates.
The Station house, P.O.Box 125 Brooka ME, 04921, 207-722-3322.

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

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CPR has moved! Please make note of our new address & phone P.O.Box 125, Richmond ME, 04357. Phone & Fax 207-737-3498.
Email address is still cprrade@ime.net
Remember folks CPR is always looking for dedicated volunteers in the following positions:
Distribution, Book reviews, A&E reviews, general office assisting.
From: All of us at CPR
Have a Safe & Happy Holiday

CPR is proud to welcome Kurt Erichsen on board! Kurt is a talented cartoonist and illustrator from Toledo Ohio.
His cartoon strip “Murphy’s Manor” is one of our newest additions.
Kurt Erichsen has received the Gay and Lesbian Press’ Outstanding Achievement in Illustration Award both in 1985 and 1988, as well as being the Artist Guest of Honor at the 1998 Gay Laxicon National Convention (Gay & Lesbian sci-fi) and will be a special guest artist at the 1999 Gay Laxicon National Convention.

We sincerely hope you enjoy his smart, witty humor on his work, and we look forward to a long and happy relationship with Kurt
Sincerely,
Angel Castro,
Managing Editor CPR

Free Weekend Parking at the Spring St. Garage and Elm St. Garage
The City of Portland Parking Division would appreciate your assistance in announcing the following, concerning the City’s plan to offer free weekend parking to downtown shoppers between Thanksgiving and Christmas.
The Spring St. Garage and The Elm St. Garage will be offering FREE PARKING Saturdays & Sundays until Christmas for shoppers only. All other times, ask your retailer for Park & Shop stamps. Each good for one hour of free parking.
We are doing this as a gesture of goodwill that we hope will result in increased retail activity for the downtown merchants, and a greater awareness of the ease and convenience of utilizing a parking garage for visitors of the downtown.
Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.
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Happy Holidays to you all, 1998/1999 Page 11
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**Kurt Erichsen**
Cartoonist & Illustrator
2539 Scottwood Avenue
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