

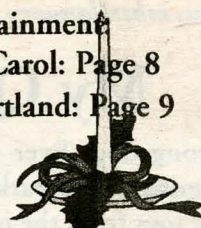


Phyllabuster Alert:
Page 3,
60 Days and counting. Also; TG shot
six times.

Dyke Psyche: Page 6
Native American;
Two Spirit People
My Queer Life:
It's All in the Cards



Arts & Entertainment
A Christmas Carol: Page 8
New Years Portland: Page 9



Special Announcements:
Union Ceremony,
Welcome aboard
Free Portland Parking:
Page 11



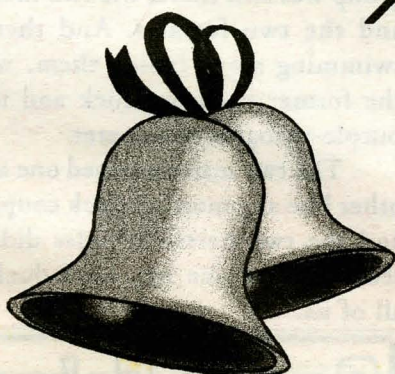
Community Pride Reporter

Volume 6

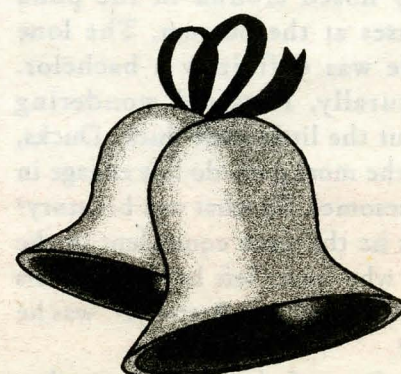
Proudly serving the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender community

Number 14 [Nov, 1998]

Happy Holidays to All



and to



All a Good Night



My Queer Life: Odd Ducks

by Micheal Thomas Ford

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 there's water, 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 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 son who never left home? Had his mate been killed? Better yet, was he gay?

One of the arguments that some homophobes use to "discredit" gays and lesbians is that queerness does not appear in the animal kingdom, so therefore must be unnatural. I always find this line of reasoning 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, humans aren't the only ones with a gay bent. Take, for example, Stormy. Stormy is a big bitch. Literally.

A cross between a shepherd and a husky, she's an enormously

strong dog. Ever since she began coming to the park, she's been taking toys from the other dogs whenever she wants them and putting in their place any dogs foolish enough to put their noses near her butt. At least until Patsy came along.

Patsy is a dainty little black cocker spaniel. She couldn't hurt a fly if she threw all of her twenty pounds on it. Not that she would ever do that. It would mess up her fur. The first time Patsy trotted into the park, Stormy charged over to give her the usual once-over. Then, as we looked on in amazement, she rolled over, put all four paws in the air, and started licking Patsy's face.

To the straight folks in the park, this was a miracle. Stormy had been transformed. But I'd seen it before. Stormy had simply met her femme. They've been inseparable ever since. When Roger and I first started going to the park, Roger was enamored of a spunky mutt named Kendall, whose name and appearance both provided no gender clues.

As it turned out, Kendall was a female, and she and Roger formed a friendship that excluded all the other dogs. I confess that I was disappointed. But after a few months of hoping he might change, I accepted that my boy was indeed heterosexual.

Six months ago Kendall moved away, breaking Roger's heart. For a long time he wouldn't even look at other dogs. He ignored their attempts to get him to play chase. He didn't want to walk around the pond with anyone but me. Then Ezra came along. Ezra is a hunky 130-pound Rottweiler with a spiked leather collar circling his tree-trunk neck.

When he appeared at the park one evening, he and Roger eyed one another for an hour or so and then finally introduced themselves.

They've been together ever since. For the first time since Kendall's departure, he is a happy dog again because he is in love.

Whenever Ezra comes into the park, Roger runs over to meet him, tail wagging. Ezra's stumpy little tail wags back, and the two of them are off. It's quite a sight watching a huge Labrador and an equally huge Rottie tear through a park, knocking each other over and pulling on each other's ears. Sometimes one of them will bring the other a ball or stick and lay it on the ground as a gift, looking on expectantly until the offering is accepted.

Then it's all kisses and grunts. Sometimes the two of them engage in more carnal delights, mounting one another 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.

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. He doesn't try to interest Ezra in the female dogs any more, and he even has a picture of the two boys sharing a stick up on his refrigerator.

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 Walter" 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 along 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.

Phyllis Frye Here; On the recent votes

In the recent elections, Hawaii and Washington and Ft Collins, CO, lost in election bids concerning the right to same-sex marriage.

I hate to beat a dead horse, but again I will state (going on about six years now) that a strategy that is continually omitted by the LG leadership in all of this is the strategy of pushing that same-sex marriages are already legal.

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-

sue never brings this point up in the Sunday morning talk shows or in the debates or in the legal points remains a mystery to me. I have offered them (and actually pushed at them) this strategy for six years now.

Sometimes the response is that to so argue would put transgender same-sex marriages at risk. I think not, and will one more time state the why.

If in the defense of transgender same-sex marriage, the speaker is the transgendered spouse, then I agree that we would probably lose.

BUT IF THE SPEAKER IS THE

NON-TRANSGENDERED SPOUSE, arguing that all she or he did was get married in good faith, legally, and she or he has remained true to the vow of "for better or worse, in sickness and in health, til death do we part" and who the hell does the State or the theocrats think they are trying to nullify her or his marriage vow, there is no question that the same-sex marriage will stand.

But what the hell, the LG leaders on this issue have not listened to me for six years. They continue to push it their own way. Why should they listen to me now?

Savoir Fairy



Murphy's Manor comic strips
BY KURT ERICHSEN

Remember disco, cruising, and Ronald Reagan? Visit the Gay Community of those days in *Savoir Fairy* — a 32 page collection of *Murphy's Manor* cartoons from 1982-1985. *Murphy's Manor* appears monthly in *Community Pride Reporter*. Order your copy of *Savoir Fairy* today — Just \$5.95 plus



Kurt Erichsen
Cartoonist & Illustrator
2539 Scottwood Ave
Toledo, OH 43610-1358
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What are you doing New Year's Eve?

Southern Maine PRIDE presents the first annual New Year's Eve BASH Thursday, December 31, 1998 Holiday Inn By The Bay 88 Spring Street Portland 8:30 - 1 am \$12 in advance \$16 at door \$2 off (at the door only) with your New Year's Portland '99 button

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Phyllabuster 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 District 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 or family member of these people.

Tell them what your bad employment experiences or bad employment fears are. Tell them why leaving transgenders out of the past ENDA Bills

and the next ENDA Bill will leave transgenders, masculine appearing lesbians and effeminate appearing gay men OUTSIDE of the legal protections sought by ENDA.

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 1999.

If you are an MTF, DO NOT, DO NOT, DO NOT send photos of yourself in a mini skirt or nightgown. DO NOT e-mail or fax these people can be 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 concise and focused, 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 boil 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 Senators and Representative if you wish.

2. If you live in Massachusetts, do the above PLUS; contact the local and state LGBT organizations and work with them to convince both Senator Kennedy and Representative Frank that they should 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 1999.

3. ALL OF THIS MUST BE DONE BEFORE THE END OF JANUARY 1999.

4. Re-read #3.

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 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 (aka 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 Whiteway, JoAnna McNamera and I (all again representing ICTLEP) learned at the 1994 Lavender Law Conference in Portland Oregon, 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 Senators and Representative from our states (Vermont, Texas, Minnesota and New York) on transgender issues and on transgender inclusion in ENDA.

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

Cont; page 4

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 faggot." One of the youths told Leonard that they "didn't allow no drag queen faggot bitches" to come through 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 thinking of renting in the neighborhood, one of the youths struck 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 sauntered 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 Vine is Recovering, 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 expect him to have a long, 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 him, 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 people 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.

Until attitudes change, individuals in our community need protection. We call on officials at every level of government to pass hate crimes legislation immediately."

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Phyllabuster Alert: 60 Day "Window" for TG's into ENDA - Act Now!

Continued from page 3.

transgender 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 education 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 picketed HRC fundraisers.

Even so, in the spring of 1997, another transgender-less ENDA was introduced to the new 1997-1998 Congress, just as will 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 every national queer rights organization is now LGBT either in name or in bylaws. 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 ICTLEP sponsored group of twenty transgenders onto "the Hill" and we met with the offices of every Yes voter.

In summary what we heard was 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 that 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 key-noted the Lavender Law. Before he spoke, the outgoing NLGLA Chair made remarks that were all LGB&T inclusive.

Following that another speaker made remarks that were all LGB&T inclusive. Following that, a resolution was read and approved that was very, very (I did the final edit) LGB&T 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 L&G only except he remembered to add the "B" word twice towards the end and he never said the "T" word, not a single time.

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 Sheperd, 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 LGB&T 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 that state's sodomy law. The Court ruled that the law violates the Georgia 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 applaud 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 Shahr, whose job

offer from then-Attorney General Michael Bowers was rescinded after discovering she was planning a commitment ceremony with her partner.

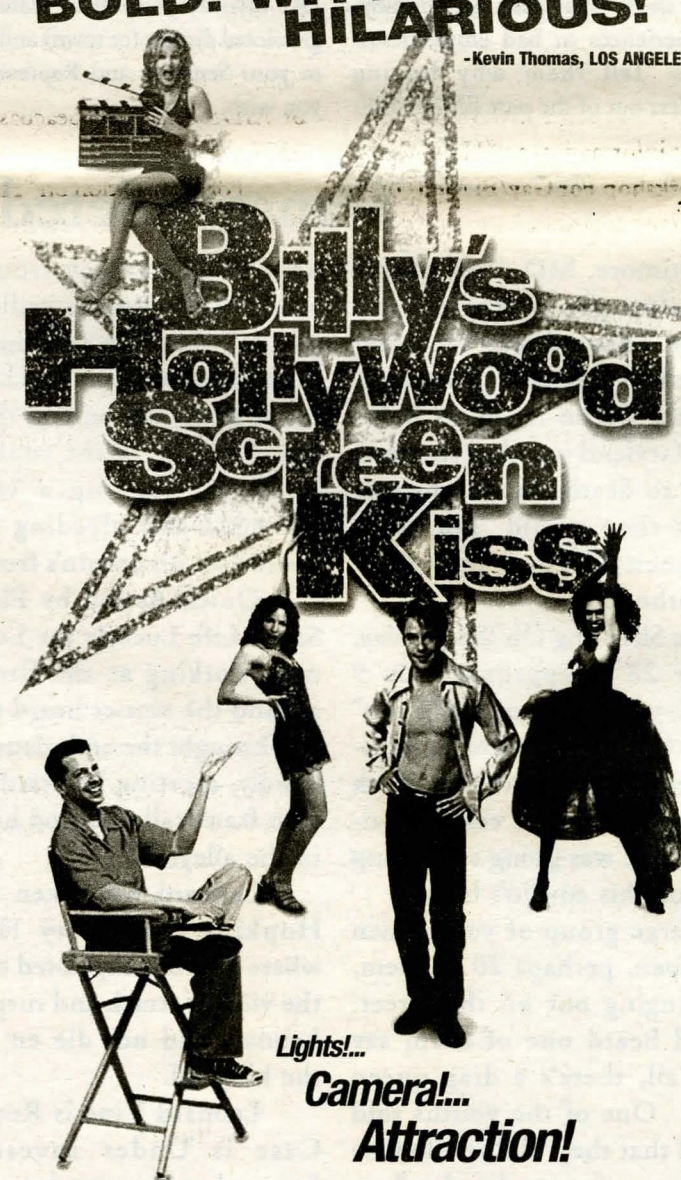
Bowers claimed her lesbian relationship violated the Georgia sodomy law, which he himself defended in Bowers v. Hardwick. "We must be vigilant not only in the passage of civil rights laws, but also in the repeal of sodomy laws," continued Lobel. "Even though they are rarely enforced, they are frequently 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.

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-Kevin Thomas, LOS ANGELES TIMES

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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

Midcoast Outright - Brunswick: A safe place for youth who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or questioning (age 22 and younger) offers ongoing weekly drop-in center 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 15 Pleasant Street, Brunswick. Use the Middle Street entrance. Confidential. Refreshments. Peer advising available. FMI: call 798-4586 Mondays 7-9 p.m. or 729-8515 Tuesdays 7-9 p.m. Sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick.

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 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 by female practitioners in, a lesbian friendly environment. For more information or to make an appointment, call 947-5337.

AIDS Support

(NH Seacoast) **Connections**, a support group for caregivers, families, friends and all those whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS will hold it's final meeting on Tuesday, December 8th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, 1035 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth.

For ongoing support and information, call 603-436-8963, 603-964-8192, or AIDS Response Seacoast 603-433-5377.

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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. Box 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 seminar@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.

Community Calendar

December Event sponsored by the UMASS Stonewall Center

Amherst, MA: below are the events planned by The Stonewall Center at UMASS from December 1, 1998 to January 1, 1999. For further information please contact Heather King at the Stonewall Center at 413-545-4824, email the office at stonewall@stuaf.umass.edu, or check out our web site at http://www.umass.edu/stonewall. All events are free, open to the public and wheelchair accessible unless otherwise noted. Thank You!

GLBT Lunch Lecture Series

Thursday, December 3: Michael Bronski, author and activist will present, *The Eroticization of the Male Body*. This event will be held at 12:30 p.m. in The Campus Center Room 804. This is part of the GLBT Studies Lecture Series and is cosponsored by The Stonewall Center, Food for Thought Books, GLB Graduate Student Organization. Women's Studies, & The Chancellors

Task Force on GLBT Matters.

Thursday, December 10: Michael Wiseman and Oscar Jones contributors to the new book, *"Out on Fraternity Row"* will discuss issues presented in the book. This event will be held at 12:30 p.m. in The Campus Center Room 804. This is part of the GLBT Studies Lecture Series and is cosponsored by The Stonewall Center. GLB Graduate Student Organization. Women's Studies & The Chancellors Task Force on GLBT Matters.

Cultural Evening Programming, Saturday, December 5: Quintessentially Queer Cafe, an evening of GLBT, 5-College, student expression including poetry readings, musical performances and a photography exhibit. This event will take place at 8 p.m. in the Graduate Student Lounge, Campus Center.

Thursday, December 10: *The X-Gay Files: The Science Fiction of Conversion Therapy*. Local activist Cindy

Beal will present a multi-media presentation that will bring to light the basic facts about the Religious Right's proposed "conversion therapy" and ex-gay movement. This lecture will also examine these movements in their historical, scientific, political, and religious context. This event will be held at 7 p.m. (place TBA).

Tuesday, December 15: Stonewall Center Study Break. A time for 5-College students to take a break from finals hang out eat popcorn and relax. We will be showing a fun, uplifting, "forget you have finals" movie. This event will take place at The Stonewall Center at 7:30 p.m. Free snacks will be provided. This event is not wheelchair accessible

Stonewall Center Fund Raiser

Monday, December 7: An evening of Queer Shopping. This event will be take place at The Stonewall Center from 4-6 p.m. This event is a fundraiser for the Stonewall Center.

Local queer artisan, Nicole T.

Lauro, will do a "Jade Tree Lane Shopping Party" and exhibit her jewelry to sell. Come and buy gifts for the upcoming holidays and support The Stonewall Center at the same time.

There will be free gifts and prizes as well as "family" discounts on each item, delivery time less than two weeks, and 25% of total sales donated back to the Stonewall Center. This event is NOT wheelchair accessible.

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Dyke Psyche; Native American Two-Spirit People

Community Pride Reporter

P.O. Box 125
Richmond,
Maine
04357

Phone & Fax
207-737-3498

E-Mail
cprpride@ime.net

Catherine Clark
Publishing Editor

Angel Castro
Managing Editor

Micheal Doherty
Distribution Manager

Distributors

CPR Thanks the many
individuals involved in
the distribution of
the paper.

Contributors

Esther Rothblum
Dyke Psyche

Daralyn Maxwell
Trans Forum

Phyllis Randolph Frye
Phyllabuster National Updates
&
Comentary

Michael Thomas Ford
My Queer Life

Kurt Erichsen
Murphy's Manor

The Community Pride Reporter is printed on recycled paper using soy based inks.

This practice reflects our commitment to responsible use of earth's resources.

Using recycled paper sometimes results in a toned down or grayish tinge.

However we feel this is a small price to pay as Community Pride Reporter does its part to "Color ME Green."

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 "lesbian."

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 come forward."

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 movement 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 being 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 aspect 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 name, its own structure. How can we 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 in-

dividual." Carrie House, of Navajo/Oneida descent, writes: "Our oral traditions acknowledge that the he-shes and she-hes (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 probers into the ways of the future, and they quickly assimilated the lessons of changing times and people.

Recent studies into the lives of she-hes and she-hes have recovered models or near models of this rich, inventive, reverential, 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.

Will Roscoe (1998). CHANGING ONES: THIRD AND FOURTH GENDERS IN NATIVE NORTH AMERICA. NY: St. Martin's Press.

Lester Brown (1998). TWO-SPIRIT PEOPLE. NY: Haworth 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:

ASTRAEA 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.

Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) has been awarded \$20,000 in support of its efforts to combat anti-gay prejudice in K-12 schools.

Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, Inc. has been awarded \$20,000 toward expansion of efforts to protect the legal rights of gays and lesbians.

LLEGO - The National Latina/o Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Organization has been awarded \$20,000 in support of its efforts to identify, document and respond to the health needs of lesbian and bisexual Latinas.

Midwest AIDS Prevention Project (MAPP) has been awarded \$10,900 to raise awareness of and help prevent alcohol and drug abuse in gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities.

National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) has been awarded \$20,000 in support of its work to stop the institutionalization and psychiatric abuse of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender young people in the U.S.

National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA) has been awarded \$20,000 to expand its education and outreach efforts to lesbian and gay student journalists.

Treatment Action Group (TAG) has been awarded \$20,000 toward its work in monitoring and developing improved standards of care and up-to-date treatment information for people with HIV disease.

About the Endowment

The Rainbow Endowment seeks to foster positive physical and mental health, promotes increased visibility, and advance full participation and access to social, cultural and civic life for members of a diverse gay and lesbian community.

It is governed and staffed by a volunteer board of directors. Funds dispersed by the Endowment are derived from use of the Rainbow Card, a Visa card issued by Travelers Bank USA, and through its Founding Sponsor, Subaru of America, Inc., and official airline sponsor, British Airways.

Martina Navratilova is co-founder and spokesperson of the Rainbow program. "We're just three years old," she says of the Rainbow Card and Rainbow Endowment, "and our total contributions will exceed \$495,000 by the close of 1998. We're pleased with the program's early success and the positive impact it has already had throughout the country."

Notice of Next Funding Cycle

The Rainbow Endowment's next cycle of grantmaking will be in the spring of 1999. Proposals are due by January 15. Successful applicants will be announced in April of 1999.

Those interested in applying for funding are urged to review carefully the Endowment's revised funding guidelines available at its website, www.rainbowcard.com/endowment. Guidelines can be requested by writing to: P.O. Box 2165, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

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, BI, or 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 classmates had just voted in (500 in favor, 100 against) a club to be called the "Gay and Straight Alliance." As one woman said "what was so good about the process was that it was so out there, and an explanation went along with it, so people knew it wasn't just a gay thing." In fact, one of the club's organizers received a school medal for her efforts.

But school life is not without harassment. One student said: "Yesterday, a kid came up to me and said 'I would really appreciate it if you didn't make out with other girls in the

hallways.' 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 will refer to something they don't like as "gay," as in "that dress is so gay."

The women I interviewed were aware of internalized homophobia as well. One woman said: "In eighth grade there was this kid that everyone said he was gay. He had a very hard time with harassment. Then when I came out my freshman year, he started making fun of me! I said to 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."

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 be 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 felt 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.

My Queer 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 holiday cards. It used to be 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, I've accumulated a lot 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 all it could have been. Then I add the new people, the editors I desperately want to buy things from me, the photographer who took the only good picture of me in existence, the dog's latest vet. It's endless.

These lists are crucial. If I forget my editor's assistant, then my next check mysteriously disappears for three weeks. Innocently omit the reviewer who gave my book such a rave? The phrase "a piece of trash" is sure to appear in her critique of my next one. We won't even discuss what happens when friends are forgotten in the madness. Let's just say that weeping is involved.

Once the final lists are drawn up, the tension shifts to choosing the perfect card. The holiday card must be something personal, a reflection of my own personality. No longer can I get away with sending the same thing everyone else is sending.

Now I have to pick something clever. Have you ever tried to find something clever while looking at stacks of cards that come ten to a package for \$15.00, calculating that you need at least thirteen boxes, and trying not to throw up? It's not easy, I can tell you.

That box of seventy-five cards with pictures of kittens wearing Santa hats for six bucks at Wal-Mart starts to look pretty appealing right about then. Besides, it's not just the outsides I have to worry about. I also have to consider the message.

Not everyone appreciates a jolly "Merry Christmas" greeting. I need to worry about my Jewish friends. And my pagan friends. And my American Indian friends. And everyone else out there. I used to have one pile of Yule cards, one pile of Hanukkah cards, one pile of "Season's Greetings" cards, and a pile of generic snowy-looking cards. But then I would get all confused and send my Jewish editor a Kwanza card, and my pagan friends 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 cards that work for everyone and the bank gives me a loan to purchase them all. The battle still isn't over. Now I have to write something in them. Simply signing them isn't an option. That looks cheap and unfeeling. At least that's what my publicist told me last year when I tried it.

No, everyone wants a personal message. This means I actually have to think of a good reason for why I'm sending each card. Sometimes that's easy. I usually remember why I like my friends. And telling your agent that she "makes life worth living" is always sure to please. But occasionally a name pops up on the list that I can't for the life of me put a face to.

Clearly there was a reason for adding the person to the roster, but why? In those cases, I have to come up with something vague yet cheerful. Even then, you never know. Last year I found a dozen names on my list that I couldn't account for. Undaunted, I wrote out cards to them all with the message, "May the new year be as good to you as this one has been."

A week later, the phone calls started coming in. "Um, hi. I just wanted to say I think your card was in really poor taste given what happened." I'd gotten my lists mixed up. The unfamiliar names had come from a list of writers whose work I'd soundly rejected for an anthology I'd put together earlier in the year.

Even after the cards go out, there's the whole insecurity issue. Every year, about two weeks after I send out my cards, I start getting cards in return. But I'm not convinced those people actually meant to send me cards. I think they only did it because they got mine and felt obligated. This simply adds to my agony.

I hate to think that I'm not already on someone's list, and that I only get cards from them out of guilt. So I keep track of the days that go by between when I send my cards out and when I start getting them from others. Three or four days in between suggests that our cards crossed in the mail, bringing a sigh of relief. Anything beyond that and I get suspicious.

Then I have to examine the received card minutely for clues. One with a scribbled signature and no message is suspect, but if the card is appealing enough I let it slide. One that looks like it came from a sampler pack, or has a pre-printed address label, is a dead giveaway, and I remove the sender from my own list. I know, I sound petty and awful.

I'm still better than my friend Julia. She actually keeps a list on her refrigerator of all her friends' names. If one of us fails to send her an appropriate card, we get crossed off. Then, when we go to her house for her annual holiday party, our shame is right there for everyone else to see.

You can just imagine the wonderful cards she gets. I make sure to enclose cash in mine. So here I am again. I've made my lists. I've checked them twice. I'm sitting here surrounded by mountains of cards. I'm working feverishly to get them all written and sent out in time. But I would just like to take this opportunity to say that if you don't receive one, it's not because I don't like you. It's just that my hand cramped up.

Michael Thomas Ford is the author of "Alec Baldwin Doesn't Love Me & Other Trials from My Queer Life." His new book, "That's Mr. Faggot to You: Further Trials from My Queer Life", will be out in February.

Community Pride Reporter

Our Mission

Community Pride Reporter serves as a source of local, state, national and international news, information, ideas and opinions by and for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people.

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

Our Editorial Policy

Views and opinions, political and personal, expressed in Community Pride Reporter are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily those of the publisher.

Community Pride Reporter disclaims legal responsibility for errors in editorial, or advertising content, as all reasonable care is taken to prevent such errors.

If an error has significantly distracted from the clarity of information presented, the publisher may consider printing a clarification at her discretion.

No assumption should be made concerning the sexual self-identification of either contributors or advertisers.

Submissions Welcome

CPR encourages readers to Write! Material submitted for publication must be legibly 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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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"

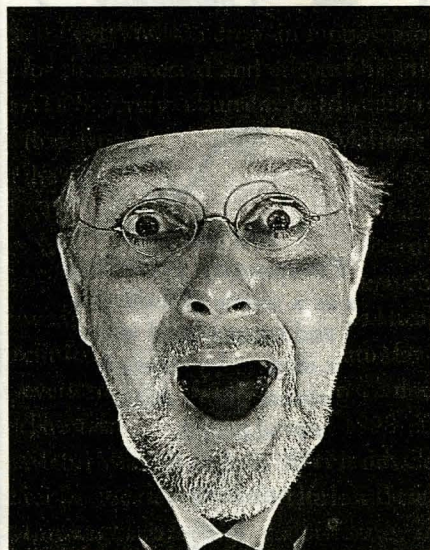


Photo: Jennifer Hutchins

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

Bartels from the Brunswick Times Record called the adaptation "abundant imagining" and "newly enlightening."

Directing A Christmas Carol is Portland Stage Company's Artistic Director Anita Stewart. The lights will be designed by Byron Winn and costumes will be designed by Ellen McCartney. Composer and Music Director Peter John Still, who recently became Portland Stage's literary manager/dramaturge, will once again compose and perform original music for this production.

Mad Horse Theatre Company presents

Road to Nirvana by Arthur Kopit

What would you do for money? For power? For fame? For Jerry, the price of producing the story of the world's biggest superstar may be a little too high. A outrageous, scathing satire of the excesses and emptiness of American pop culture.

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! (\$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 1/7 are \$10.00.

Our Gala Opening Night is Friday 1/8.

Our pay 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>!

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.

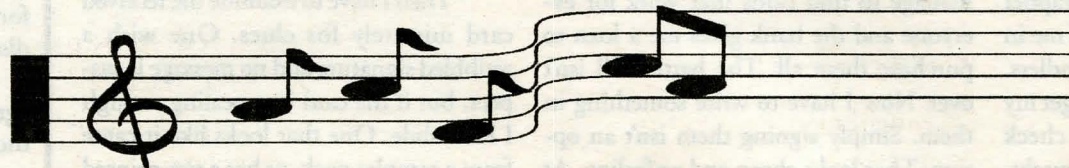
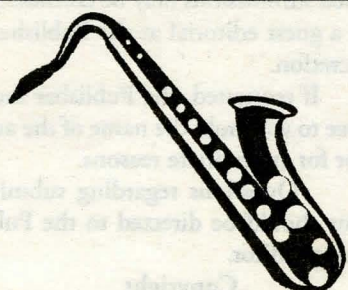
THE KING & I tells of the adventures of a nineteenth century Englishwoman who becomes a teacher to the children of the King of Siam after the death of her husband. "Shall We Dance", "Whistle a Happy Tune" & "Hello Young Lovers" are just a few of the memorable tunes you'll be humming long after you leave the theatre.

With a cast of 40 or so children & adults, incredible costumes & spec-

tacular 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 - 4pm & 8pm & 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, NH



Ain't no story like a Bluestory

Portsmouth, NH - On December 5, New Englanders will have a unique opportunity to experience the Blues with the electrifying presentation of Bluestory, at The Music Hall in Portsmouth. Through story music and song, Bluestory takes the audience back to the very roots of this original African-American music.

The illustrious American storyteller Diane Ferlatte will bring to life the tales of celebrated blues artists and legendary heroes and hellraisers. Seated center stage, luminous in distinctive ethnic garb, this modern day myth-weaver casts a mystical spell. She enchants her listeners with humorous, vivid, historic and sometime tragic accounts of the lives

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 renditions of traditional and original blues numbers will transport audiences from The Music Hall in Portsmouth to someone's front porch stoop. 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 "Stagolee," 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 com-

ment 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.



New Year's Portland!



Photo: Karen Swanson 1991c. all rights reserved. {Pictured NYP Parade 1991}

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 re-invented version of New Year's Portland's past.

The celebration, which features 15 distinctively 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 definitive 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-stops 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 is 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 it's 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 Vivavidi'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.

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BOPSIE'S FUNWEAR

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

What are you doing New Year's Eve???



Southern Maine PRIDE presents the first annual

New Year's Eve BASH

Thursday, December 31 • 8:30 p.m.-1 a.m.

21+ • Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland

\$12 in advance • \$16 at the door

\$2 off (at the door only) with your New Year's Portland '99 button

Tickets available at:

Drop Me A Line, 611 Congress Street, Portland

Amadeus Music, 332 Fore Street, Portland

or call 774-7800

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 for the past fourteen years, including two sold-out runs on Broadway. Avner's appearance in Portland this year is presented by the Acorn School for the Performing Arts, the new organization run by Oak Street Theatre founders Michael Levine and Elizabeth Buchsbaum, in conjunction with Portland Stage Company. Audience members are urged to purchase their tickets early, as last year's performances sold out weeks before opening.

In addition to his performances as Avner the Eccentric, Avner is well-known to audiences for his endear-

ing portrayal of the Jewel, 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 Mathnet. 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. Crumb Comix, and co-starred with his wife, Julie Goell, in the world premiere of Zoo of Tranquillity. 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 Forest 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

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

ACROSS

1 talk with great enthusiasm

4 Mae West's character in 'My Little Chickadee' (1940)

12 following the afternoon

13 WIT in a mirror

14 readily, willingly

15 Ellen's last

name on the TV show

17 19th century American author Herman

..... had writings that sometimes pointed to male-male love

20 able to be sold

22 Internal Revenue Service

24 drama with sad ending

26 announce a verdict

29 South American country with Quito as capital, abbr.

30 one that excels

32 explanation

34 to bond

35 Prince who was married to Di

37 the other Everly brother from Don, initials

38 sounds like 'eye gee'

39 AMY in a mirror

41 strip of land connecting 2 larg-

er land masses

44 by the year, per

46 famous Calif. photographer specializing in beefy men

48 sleeveless, collarless garment

49 very small

50 agitating

54 national gay mag turned 30 years in 1997

55 Austra-

lian bird

56 network that was 'Ellen'

6 one who wields

7 revolution of a motor

8 extension of a building

9 plants of the genus Lili-

um, which are particular pretty

10 sneer

11 way the

letter F is pronounced

13 Armistead Maupin's newspaper column that became PBS miniseries, '..... from the City'

16 prevent from speaking

17 American comedian Berle, initials ('A committee is a

group that keeps minutes and loses hours.")

18 blue jean company

19 most arctic

21 HAYA in a mirror

23 most sane

25 ruled as a sovereign

27 crescent (as a postal address) abbr.

28 short for

51 Hawkeye State, abbr.

52 Italian WWII Fascist dictator Mussolini, initials ('Blood alone moves the wheels of history.')

53 3rd & 5th vowels of the alphabet

Solution elsewhere this issue

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district attorney
31 Truman
....., author of 'Breakfast at Tiffany's'

33 work, especially of music

34 AWAIT in a mirror

35 state of West Hollywood & South of Market, abbr.

36 British spelling of liter

39 400-mile river of S.E. China

40 Roman numeral 2600

42 haven (as a postal address) abbr.

43 prefix meaning very big

45 Silver State, abbr.

46 time zone of New Orleans not during daylight savings, abbr.

47 half of a lulu

51 Hawkeye State, abbr.

52 Italian WWII Fascist dictator Mussolini, initials ('Blood alone moves the wheels of history.')

53 3rd & 5th vowels of the alphabet

Solution elsewhere this issue

c.1998 GULF FEATURES, PUZZLE GAY41

MURPHY'S MANOR



by Kurt Erichsen

Special Announcements

CPR has moved! Please make note of our new address & phone P.O.Box 125, Richmond Maine, 04357. Phone & Fax 207-737-3498.

Email address is still cprpride@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 as much as we do.

We look forward to your comments 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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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 Sweeney of Wisconsin stood up for Bea & Buffy Loftus 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.

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

There is no charge for bold or italicizing words.

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

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