

Community Pride Reporter

Volume 7 Proudly serving the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community. Number 17

Lynne Deeves and Kate Shrock

Guitarist/singer-songwriter Lynn Deeves' rich, soulful voice and dynamic stage presence together celebrate humanity, diversity, nature and spiritual growth.

Lynn has appeared with *Chris and Tret*, *Catie Curtis*, *Janis Ian*, and *Ferron*. She has two CD's "*Connecting the Dots*" and "*Soul Food*" on her own music label. Lynn performs at concerts, festivals and coffee houses



around New England.

Kate Schrock's intimate lyrics and moody piano blend rock, jazz and gospel influences into dark, emotional grooves. She's returning from a successful national tour with drummer Reed Chambers.

Kate has shared the stage with Taj Majal, Stephan Stills, the Bodeans and Sonia Dada. Kate's earlier work, "*Refuge*" and "*Shunyata*" on her Kakelane label will be joined by her third work "*Shooting up on Faith*" which is scheduled for a July release on Zero Hour records.

These two Maine natives look forward to sharing their songs in the reverent space of the UU Sanctuary on Saturday June 12 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8/\$6 seniors and students \$20 per family. FMI (207) 947-7009.

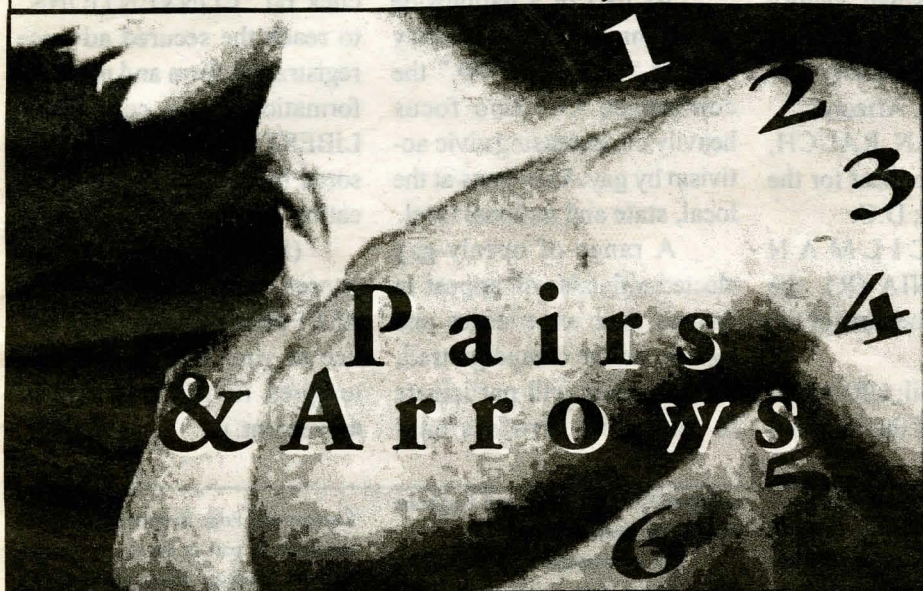


Southern Maine Pride "Warm Up" to Pride Guide



Prelude information in center fold

Flaming Productions To Join Maine Film Maker, Bob Poirier, In Production of Two New Films



a Bob Poirier film in association with
Flaming Productions
written by Michael Bendzella

Flaming Productions, the theatrical company that brought you *JEFFRY*, joins local film maker, Bob Poirier, in producing two new films in the upcoming year.

In order to raise money for these films, Flaming Productions,

will be holding a benefit at the Oak Street Theatre on June 22, 1999 and will present, in coordination with Gay Pride, a staged reading of both screenplays.

Admission is a five dollar minimum donation and audiences will receive a discount coupon good for Flaming Productions upcoming event, KOOKS.

Bob Poirier has recently solidified his reputation as a film maker with *Tangible Fathers*, a documentary about a Roman Catholic priest struggling with his homosexuality, currently airing on Maine PBS.

The first film, currently in pre-production, is a comedy short entitled *Traditional Family Vampires*. Written by Michael Bendzella, this film pokes fun at traditional American values as a family of vampires go door to door indiscriminately sucking the blood of some very "unsavory" characters.

The second film, currently in development, is a feature length film entitled *Pairs & Arrows*. Also written by Michael Bendzella, this film depicts the life of a young man, Perry, who runs away to Maine with his college professor, Rich. In this setting Perry finds a new off-kilter family and a steamy affair with a closeted police officer, the husband of a right wing anti-gay activist.

For More information or for reservations for this event, contact the Oak Street Theatre at (207) 775-5103.

Article Satirizing Political Apathy of Gay Men Sparks Controversy

An article published by the electronic edition of the San Francisco Bay Guardian, the city's premiere alternative weekly, has some in the gaypolitical establishment up in arms.

The article presents a modern-day fable about a rich, charismatic gay man who is mobilizing well-heeled gays across the country to raise money for minority issues such as mental health care, the welfare of prisoners and immigrants rights.

"White gay men rising up on behalf of other minorities, why that MUST be fiction," reacted Lon A. Troyer, a political

theorist and fellow at the University of California at Berkeley. Jacques Servin, a well known artist and community activist commented, "What a nice fantasy."

Other community leaders were less amused and have criticized the article claiming it reinforces unfair stereotypes which have no grounding in reality.

The following is the article in dispute. We urge you to read on and send us your thoughts.

San Francisco Gays embrace minority status

Charismatic leader challenges affluent gay men to transform political agenda The

crowd of more than 200 men could be mistaken for a gathering of young Republicans.

Nattily dressed and well heeled, the invited guests fill both floors of the Kenneth Cole boutique in downtown San Francisco and are spilling onto the sidewalk by the time the evening's program begins.

Shortly after 7:30 p.m., a lithesome man in his early 30s takes the stage. After making a few off-microphone jokes with reporters at the front of the room, Clay Beauchamps announces, "Brothers, you are here to pick up where your late boyfriends left off." The room falls silent and then slowly fills

with applause.

During the next two hours Beauchamps and other speakers will implore, beseech, upbraid, encourage, and motivate the audience to fight for everything from immigrant rights to low-income housing and even universal mental health care.

Rather than being put off, the crowd, sipping complementary Absolut cocktails and mingling against a backdrop of \$300-a-pair shoes, is electrified. By 10 p.m. nearly three quarters of the men have pledged their time or money or both to Beauchamps's revolutionary campaign.

For the last two years

Beauchamps and his small cadre of politically active and financially successful gay men have been organizing similar events in metropolitan areas across the country.

Based in San Francisco, the loosely knit team is single-mindedly pursuing an ambitious agenda of transforming the political identity of gay men in the United States.

"Have you heard the one about how to keep minorities out of the country club?" Beauchamps asks. "You let one in and then he keeps the rest out."

Continue on page 9



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.



Esther Rothblum
Dyke Psyche

Daralyn Maxwell
Trans Forum

Phyllis Randolph Frye
Phyllabuster National Updates
&
Comentary

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Log Cabin Republicans Forum

Kick off Pride week in the right Spirit!

Circle of Hope Metropolitan Community Church kicks off Pride week with our first annual "Pride Opening Service". We will celebrate in worship and song the joy of being all that God created us to be! After service we will hold our most popular class, "Homosexuality and the Bible: What the Scriptures Really Say".

Don't leave your spirit behind during Pride. Join us as we share the Good News that God's love is for all people!

MCC Brings Faith to Pride Circle of Hope Metropolitan Community Church will bring

faith to this years Pride celebration.

COHMCC is a member church of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC). Founded by the Rev. Troy Perry in 1968, UFMCC is the world's largest and oldest organization offering positive Christian spirituality to the GLBT community.

From its humble beginnings with 12 people in attendance that first Sunday, UFMCC has grown to more than 42,000 members in 15 countries. UFMCC has been continually on the front lines in

the struggle for civil rights for the G/L/B/T community and for all oppressed peoples.

The membership of MCC is as diverse as God's creation! We are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and straight. People from all backgrounds and walks of life make up our clergy.

UFMCCs work is not limited to our own denomination. We have built bridges with many other mainline churches and stand as a constant reminder to others to examine God's inclusive gospel.

UFMCC joins with our sis-

ters and brothers in the GLBT community as we celebrate Pride together. We are Proud to be free to be all that God has made us be!

Service begins at 2:00 PM. Meetings place: 156 High street in downtown Portland (corner of Deering and High in the Immanuel Baptist church building). Call toll free 1-888-264-6223 for more information. COHMCC is a member church of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

"Liberty for All!": TIME IS RUNNING OUT!!

Time is RUNNING OUT for Advance Registration at "LIBERTY FOR ALL!" REGISTER ON THE WEB TODAY: <http://www.lcr.org>

MAYOR RUDY GIULIANI (R) will headline LIBERTY FOR ALL! The 1999 Log Cabin National Leadership Conference, in New York City in August.

MAYOR GIULIANI will deliver the keynote address at the conference banquet at the Roosevelt Hotel in Manhattan, also the headquarters of the New York State Republican Party.

The Mayor will join top gay and lesbian leaders, writers, elected officials and activists from across the political spectrum in appearing before the largest annual gathering of gay and lesbian conservatives

in the nation, which has been broadcast nationwide by C-SPAN each year since 1995.

Other confirmed speakers and panelists throughout the weekend will include ANDREW SULLIVAN, celebrated author of such books as "Virtually Normal" and "Love Undetectable"; BRIAN BOND, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund; MAYOR NEIL GIULIANO (R), openly gay mayor of Tempe, Arizona;

JONATHAN RAUCH, national correspondent for the National Journal; D.C.

COUNCILMAN DAVID CATANIA (R), the first openly gay member of the Washington

City Council; URVASHI VAID, director of the National

Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute; REP. STEVE MAY (R), openly gay members of the

Arizona House of Representatives; WINNIE STACHELBERG, political director of the Human Rights Campaign; and NORAH VINCENT, the controversial columnist for The Advocate.

As part of a nationwide effort announced in January entitled "Strategy 2000," the conference will also focus heavily on increasing civic activism by gay Americans at the local, state and national level.

A range of openly-gay elected officials will appear to discuss their experiences and lessons on the campaign trail, and attendees will participate in intensive Professional

Workshop Trainings on fundraising, running for office and grass-roots organizing.

LIBERTY FOR ALL! will be held August 27 through 29, 1999 at the Roosevelt Hotel. You can register *today* for "LIBERTY FOR ALL! 1999 Log Cabin National Leadership Conference" Just go to <http://www.lcr.org> and click on "CONVENTIONS" to reach the secured advance registration form and more information on the conference. LIBERTY FOR ALL! is sponsored by the Log Cabin Education Fund.

(If you have already registered for LIBERTY FOR ALL! please forward this notice to your friends and colleagues in the Log Cabin movement.)

Our Mission: Community Pride Reporter serves as a source of local, state, national and international news, information, ideas and opinions by and for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered and open-minded people. C.P.R. pledges to present materials that contribute in positive ways to lesbians, gays, bisexual and transgendered people.

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 week 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.

Reasons For Hope; Closing the third eye of Shiva

A computer virus named "Melissa" swept across the United States last week, wiping out email accounts. Users tried to warn each other ahead of the errant code, but for many it was too late.

To the rescue came a team of scientists in India who quickly found a cure and made it available. Worldwide. For free. The experts were based at a powerful computer software company in Chennai, India.

At dispensaries in Mumbai (Bombay), one can buy any medicine available in the USA, made by the hundreds of pharmaceutical firms in India. Many are subsidiaries or partners of American firms.

The largest democracy on earth, the largest English speaking country in the world, with an infrastructure that supports science, manufacturing and more movies than Hollywood, India is the most underestimated of nations-to our great loss. And it is the key to solving the growing global crisis called AIDS.

India is under attack from the virus. There are already over 10 million people infected. Sincere, dedicated, and committed physicians and scientists in India toil daily against the odds to overcome an epidemic that is reaching apocalyptic proportions.

In Boston, the HIV crisis continues. Antivirals have given us a breathing spell, and for the first time in years, the papers do not have daily obituaries of the young killed by HIV.

But there is a shadow over the good news. We need to find other ways to stop this virus and soon, for the drugs do not work for everyone, may not work forever, are difficult to use, cost a lot and have side effects which may well be cumulative and therefore limiting.

Across the country and in Europe, a series of efforts are underway which spell hope for the future. Many vaccines have been built that may protect. Microbicides, lubricants with virus poison, have been made which may make sex much safer.

Two efforts to restore the immune system's capacity to control HIV are underway interrupted therapy and the use of a therapeutic vaccine.

The success of either method would mean long drug holidays for patients. Even the possibility of just protecting the immune system's capacity to fight illness without worrying about the machinations of the virus is being looked at-if it worked, drugs might not be needed to protect from disease.

Each of these ideas could save millions of lives, is inexpensive enough to be available to people in developing countries, is badly needed in the United States and Europe, and would end the worldwide reign of terror from this disease. But, not one of these possibilities can be tested in the United States or Europe in a reasonable amount of time.

For example, there is a substance called IL-2, which can replenish t-cells faster than HIV can destroy them. This might keep an infected person healthy in spite of the virus.

Chiron Corporation, which makes IL-2, is prepared to spend 40 million dollars and commit six years to test IL-2 here in the United States. This is admirable, but, it would take only 4 million dollars and one year to test in India.

It is taking 20 million dollars and 3 and 1/2 years for the NIH to test one vaccine in a modest way in the United States. A test which won't even tell us if the vaccine works. In India it would take a few months and a small fraction of the cost. And we would find out if it is effective.

We could find out quickly in India if pulsing, interrupted therapy, therapeutic vaccines or some combination can restore immunologic control of HIV allowing for an end to the need for constant use of antivirals.

The last world AIDS conference had the theme "closing the gap". It implied that there was a moral imperative to find ways to share the success of antivirals with developing countries.

What we propose is far more radical-that working together we can test therapies accessible to everyone and better than what is avail-

able in rich countries right now. We are already testing to make sure that each of these ideas is safe in the US.

But we test them to see if they work here, for to do so we need a country with a very large number of people who are HIV positive, whose transmission rate is very high, where there is no access to antivirals and which has an infrastructure that can support the sophisticated design and execution of clinical trials. We need India... And many understand this.

In Thailand the US Army is testing vaccines. Dr. Kenneth Mayer of the Fenway Community Health Center can be found from time to time in Delhi working on the testing of immunogens. In Pune we can find Robert Bollinger of the Johns Hopkins University working on studies that should happen in India.

We read of the testing of nevirapine in vertical transmission in Africa. In Asia we can find the Harvard AIDS Institute working on ways to end the worldwide epidemic.

Soon there will be an agreement signed between the National Institutes of Health and the Indian Council of Medical Research, and a significant amount of money from US AID and other sources will follow.

For the sake of both the people of Bombay and the people of Boston, the programs under this agreement need to go beyond prevention, which is the usual content of these collaborations.

It is imperative that they include testing the new ideas which may make therapy a realistic option for everyone. Shiva, a Hindu god, the destroyer, has her third eye open, which brings destruction to the world. To close the third eye we need to work together with the people of India, and put an end to the distance that separates us, for we are one people with one enemy.

Mr. David Scondras is a former member of the Boston City Council, and presently is president of Search For A Cure-a Boston based non-profit dedicated to HIV/AIDS treatment advocacy and education.

Dr. Chad Womack is currently a research fellow at the Harvard AIDS Institute, Harvard School of Public Health and founder of the Global Health Resource Foundation a non-profit organization dedicated to the building of indigenous capacity and infrastructure for the promotion of health and infectious disease research in developing countries.

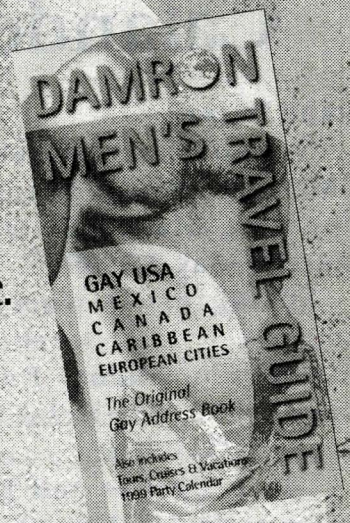
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Community Pride Resources

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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work at 338-6330

G/LSEN

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

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

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

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

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

Body & Soul

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

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

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

Gay-OK!

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

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

Sister Space

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

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

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

Calander of Events

Lynne Deeves

Symposium. University of Maine at Presque Isle. Also appearing Martin Swinger. Saturday May 2, 1999

Springfest womyn's camping weekend. Lincolnville, Maine Friday June 4, 1999. For ticket info call (207)737-0930

Lynne Deeves and Kate Shrock at the UU Church 120 Park St. Bangor ME. Saturday June 12, 1999 from 7-10 PM Tickets are \$10.00 at the doors, which open at 6:30 PM FMI (207)947-7009

Lilith of the Valley

Concert with Cosie Sheridan, Catie Curtis, Lynne Deeves and many more at the DRYLONGSO COFFEE-

HOUSE in West. Ossipee N.H. On Thursday July 8, 1999.

Seaglass Performing Arts

"American Musical Review" Pops Concert will be held Wednesday June 9 at 7:00 at the Holy Family Church in Sanford. Call Lorraine for info at 324-9273. Admission for this benefit for St. Thomas School is \$8, \$6 for seniors and children under 13. \$20 maximum per family.

Seaglass Pops! Will be performed at The Arundel Barn Theater, Friday June 11 at 8:00 PM. Admission for that concert is \$10.00. Reservations are strongly recommended. Call 985-8747

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A prelude to the
Southern Maine Pride Festival Guide

Yellow Birch Farm
(207) 735-2807
yellowbirchfarm@maine.com

THEME AND LOGO



***We're Beautiful!
Damn It!***

This year's theme is "We're Beautiful, Damn it!" And the logo features a large Gothic sunflower. The idea behind the logo and theme is great. The sunflower is an often disregarded garden plant, yet it can dominate the garden with its presence. The sunflower comes in a wide varied, some coarse, some delicate.

The sunflower is always turning toward the sun, looking up, absorbing light and life. We thought that was relevant to the lgbt experience. The slogan reflects the general demeanor of Pride over our community's usual public presentation.

It seems that as a community we're always being presented as oppressed or subjects of violence. We find ourselves, through seeking legislative protections or struggling with family, friend, employers, health issues or assailants as always having to justify our lives, our relationships or habits.

Not that we don't recognize those parts of our life as often all too real, but Pride in contrast is a celebration of who we are. If one looks at the accomplishments of our community in the face of all the difficulties, there is but one conclusion: "We're beautiful, damn it!"

A NEW PARADE

Although Portland City Council past the Pride Committee's Festival Declaration request and permit in minutes, the difficulty of putting on Portland's largest pedestrian parade gives the Southern Maine Pride committee a tougher job.

This year, rather than half of Congress Street, the parade will take the entire street, blocking traffic on Congress Street for at least a half hour. The logistics more than double. More street ushers, more barricades, more police escorts, more costs.

Also multiplied are the complaints about blocking traffic and the number of irate motorists. The move to take the entire street has been an objective of the Pride Committee's since the parade first started. Being primarily concerned with the safety of participants, given the prior sizes of the parade and the number of street usher volunteers, a full street parade was considered beyond Pride's ability to make some guarantee of participant safety.

With the increasing size of the parade and the increasing number of volunteers, along with the growing experience of the pool of street security, it has become both a necessity and doable. The biggest difficulty with the new parade will be turning the corner at the top of High and Congress Street at Congress Square.

Because traffic will need to be detoured west in that intersection, one of the City's busiest, there will be a limited radius of turn for large floats. As a solution, Pride will be instructing float applicants to limit the length of single pieces to the float. For example, a cab and flat bed can be forty feet long, so long as nei-

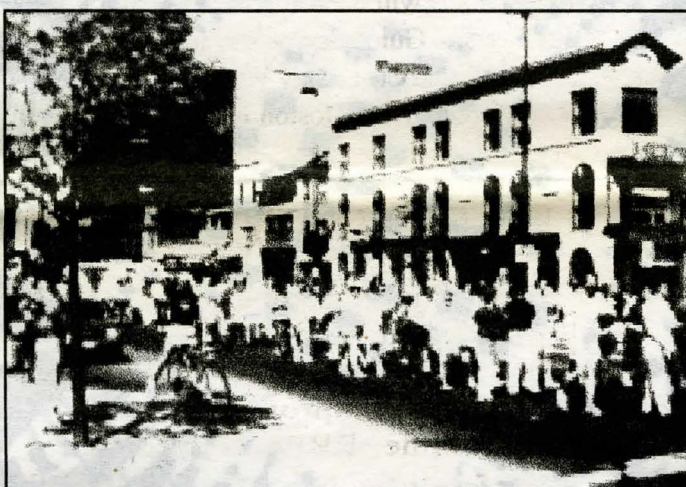


Photo: Tom Antonik

ther part is over twenty feet in length.

As twenty feet is the maximum allowed solid length for any vehicle. As for volunteers to usher the parade, it requires no prior experience. All volunteers get a brief training and are paired with more experienced ushers.

All street ushers will be stationed at preassigned intersections to allow the Pride Committee to present the parade without the normally required and expensive road barriers. All in all, the Committee is finally satisfied with the status of our event. Taking the full width of Congress Street gives us the feel and status of all other Portland parades.

PRIDELIGHTS

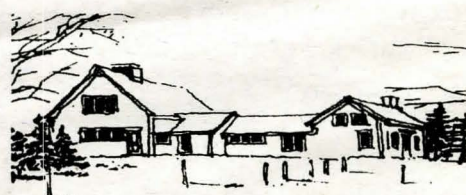
This will be Pride's fourth PRIDELIGHTS concert. A free concert in Congress Square on Wednesday, June 16 of Pride Week. This year's concert will feature Ernesto Lijoi who has an Ogunquit base and performs in the Boston area, along with Darien Brahms and her band. The finale of the event is the turning on of thousands of little pink lights across the square which stay lit throughout the week.

The Pride Committee sells these lites in hopes that the community will display their Pride during the week as well. Unfortunately, in the past the standard lights purchased from the Pridelights Foundation have been inadequate. Many not lighting, all fragile, and fading in color fast.

The purchase of the lights allows the Pridelights Foundation to give grants to organizations which build bridges between communities. Drop Me A Line in Congress Square has provided Pride a great solution. Pride will be selling the identical lights used in Disney World and other resorts, only pink of course, through Drop Me A Line.

The lights are more durable, don't fade in sunlight, last longer and are easily exchanged if they don't work on the first try. In the end, SoMePride will write a check for the Pridelights Foundation allowing us to continue to call the event PRIDELIGHTS and allowing the foundation to continue its mission. Lights are available in early June and are limited in supply.

Yellow Birch Farm



Young's Cove Road
Pembroke, Maine 04666

(207) 726-5807
yellowbirchfarm@nemaine.com

Bunny Richards
Gretchen Gordon

THE SCHEDULE:

This year we have great new additions to Pride and an entire list of improvements. Primarily the greatest part of 1999 is how we incorporating community groups into Pride.

We're particularly Proud of the Rainbow Business and Professional Association having such confidence in Pride as to hold their Excellence Awards Dinner as one of the first events. (Please see the accompanying article and see the SoMePride Guide out on June 10th) Once again Bob Poirer will be allowing Pride participants to be part of one of his film projects through discussion and input based on prepared clips of the new works.

In 1996 Exposures was such an event with Pride from which Bob's excellent and highly praised film "Tangible Fathers" was the result. This year's event is a staged reading of two works to be in conjunction with Flaming Productions: "Pairs and Arrows" and "Traditional Family Vampires".

Watch for the exciting details in the SoMePride Festival Guide out on June 10th. Also, we haven't quite nailed down the details but we'll be doing something special with South Portland to recognize that community's victory at the polls last November in securing a new gay rights ordinance.

You know where to look for details on June 10th (the SoMePride Guide) This year's dance will have lots of new features. The bar will be run by Lobster Jacks, the catering end of Federal Jacks with help from Shipyard Brewery.

There will be new, fantastic light and fabric sculptures since we'll have improved electrical supply. And hold on to your wigs, the Ferry Fair-

ies, an entourage of drag aficionados, will make a grand entrance alongside the pier at 10:30 P.M. on one of the Casco Bay Lines boats. Tickets this year are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. We'll have both a soda bar and a 21 plus cash bar. Group sales at \$10 a ticket if paid for by June 1st for 5 tickets are more are available to community organizations by contacting us at 207-774-7800.

Other details: rain location is Portland Yacht Services, 4 DJ's, more porta potties and new lighting. Other events: The blessing of the couples will be in Monument Square at 11:30 P.M. after the interfaith service and arrival of the South Portland contingent; The couples walk around back cove happens on Sunday the 21th.;

The Bus to Boston Pride is Saturday, June 12th with tickets available up to June 9th; The MCC service at Emmanuel Baptist on Sunday, June 13th at 2 P.M.;

The Maine Gay Men's Chorus concerts on Friday and Saturday night of Pride week; The concert with Darth Jennings on Friday night at the State Street Church.

By the way, PFLAG will be setting up our table vending area this year, so please be nice to them and visit their table in the Park. This year's entertainment in the Park include: Dave Hall and band, Jean Mieke and band, Yolanda and the Plastic People, finishing with Day and Night. Our MC's will include Miss Maine 1999 (Stefany Stanley) and Mr. Maine Leather (Mike Fish).

All the details will be available in the Southern Maine Festival Guide due out on June 10th as an insert to CPR and Casco Bay Weekly or in over 100 other locations from Boston to Bangor.

VOLUNTEER

Pride looks like the community because we are a diverse collection of people from various part of the community. We are all volunteers, but there are certain perks to being part of the committee.

The committee meets every third Monday of the month from 6 P.M. To 8 P.M.. At the Pride Resource Office in suite 508, 142 High Street, Portland, on the fifth floor directly above Drop Me A Line.

You can see the office at night from the PRIDELIGHTS in our windows. All are welcome at meetings or at any community event held in the office. The office is available to community groups for meetings.

Call 207-774-7800 Pride celebration volunteers are needed for the following general functions: setup and cleanup for Pridelights, the dance and the Park festival; for street ushering during the parade; for chalking street areas, putting up parking signs, checking parade vehicle registrations; for concession area help; for pier dance security and buffer zone guards; for registration tables, ticket areas, and ID checks. Volunteers get: a "worker bee" T-shirt to be worn during Pride duties; a SoMePride 1999 T-shirt at the festival; lunch or supper at the dance or park festival; an invitation to the Pride volunteers party; personal satisfaction for helping thousands of Mainers and their friends to be "Out" and Visible.

Contact the office at 207-774-7800, drop by during posted hours or leave us contact information, or contact the volunteer coordinator Shelley over the internet to pridemaine@aol.com. The Southern Maine Pride Committee is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to networking, education and supporting the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered communities of Maine and greater Portland.

THE EXCELLENCE AWARDS DINNER

Scholarship and awards for excellence in the business and professional community will be the focus of the gala event on June 13, Sunday night at the holiday inn by the bay.

Folks gathering at 5:30 will socialize and then dinner at 6:30 will proceed the second scholarship award to a worthy individual and the awards for excellence given to a small business, a non profit organization, an individual and a major business.

The Rainbow business and professional association is a nonprofit organization, dedicated to promoting the vitality, productivity, and growth of the GLBT business and professional community in the state of Maine. Each year RBPA publishes a membership directory and distributes it to over 3000 businesses and individuals throughout the state.

The organization holds monthly dinner / speaker meetings at the embassy suites hotel on the second Monday of each month and hosts a summer picnic. The two major fund-raising events are the bizarre bazaar and auction in mid November, where members display their wares and services for sale, just in time for the holiday gift giving season.

The second major fund-raiser is the scholarship and awards night, which

will be held this year on June 13, as the kick off event for gay pride week in portland.

As business and professional colleagues in Maine, RBPA is cordially inviting you to join us in contributing to this celebratory event and in this important work.

You can participate in several ways...

1. Join us for dinner on Sunday evening at 5:30 at the holiday inn by the bay. Ticket are \$30 per person. For information and reservations call 775-0077; or checkout our website: www.rbpa.org. As you may suspect, reservations are due by June 4 in order for the chef to create an enticing dinner.

2. Make a tax-deductible contribution to the RBPA scholarship fund: * Pal up to \$74 dollars Friend \$75 Patron

\$125 one dinner ticket Sponsor

\$250 two dinner tickets Sustainer

\$350 two dinner tickets Benefactor \$500 two dinner tickets Underwriter

\$1000 two dinner tickets *All donations will be listed in the Scholarship and Excellence Awards Banquet

Brochure unless the donor specifically requests their name not be included. **checks should be made payable to the "RBPA scholarship fund".

RBPA would be honored if members of the public would meet, network and socialize together at the kickoff event for Portland gay pride week.

We have been working together in the business and professional community as colleagues and consumers for years; now we invite you to come to the dinner table with us on this celebratory occasion.

Last year, Ms. Vanessa Joanne Morgan was selected as the recipient of RBPA's scholarship award for her work in the community, fostering diversity through speaking engagements, her work as on Outright peer advisor, and her personal example as a positive role model in the academic environment and the community at large.

This year, Ms.Morgan will assist us in presenting the scholarship award to our new recipient on Sunday night, June 13, at the Holiday Inn by the Bay. "The envelope, please...." Will be the words that create the exciting moments for worthy people who have been working diligently to foster excellence in the workplace. The public is warmly welcomed to participate in this exciting evening.

Pride Generic Registration Form:

Mail to: Southern Maine Pride, POBox 11502, Portland, Maine 04104 or drop off at: Suite # 508, 142 High Street, Portland
Tel: 207-774-7800 or email: pridemaine@aol.com

Check box

_____ **Bus Registration:** \$20 per person, June 12

Leaves Marginal Way Portland at 8 a.m. returns 8 p.m.

Leaves Exit 4, Biddeford Parking area at 8:30 a.m.

(do not mail after June 3)

_____ **Parade Registration:**

Check-in at Monument Sq. by 11:15 am, Sat. June 19)

(do not mail after June 10, \$5 additional on all Parade fees after June 10)

_____ **group** \$20 _____ **group with undecorated vehicle** \$25

_____ **Float** \$40 (Float fee may include marching group)

_____ **Vendor Table:** \$20 for 1/2 table (4') \$30 for full table, 8'

(do not mail after June 10, tables are limited first come first served)

Pridelights are available at *Drop Me A Line*, T-shirt will be available after June 10.

Pier Dance tickets are \$12 adv, \$15 at the door. We can exchange your volunteer time for any Pride entry fee.

Tickets are available at *Drop Me A Line*, Congress Street Portland or *Condom Sense*, Fore Street, Portland. Or by mail before June 10, 1999.

SoMePride can accept mastercharge or visa only, call our office prior to June 10 for any charge arrangements.

DYKE PSYCHE Lesbians and Breast Cancer

Esther Rothblum

There has been some speculation about whether lesbians are at higher or lower risk for breast cancer than are heterosexual women. But there has been little research.

Now Dr. Deborah Bowen, a psychologist at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and a member of the Lesbian Health Research Institute, is conducting research on breast cancer that includes lesbians. "Five years ago, this was guess-work; there was no data," she told me in a recent interview. "At my Cancer Center, we do a lot of research about the causes of breast cancer and how to prevent breast cancer."

There are many experts on breast cancer, so I had a lot of colleagues I could talk to about my ideas about lesbians and breast cancer."

In talking with lesbians, Dr. Bowen realized that the common perception was that breast cancer was more frequent among lesbians and that perception was frightening to lesbians.

As a scientist, she knew there was no proof yet one way or the other. "That's when I began thinking that we could make some in-roads into this," she said, "either by collecting new data on lesbians or else by including questions about sexual orientation into existing studies."

Dr. Bowen has done both, she has written research grants to fund studies specifically on lesbians and breast cancer and also begun to examine sexual orientation in some large-scale community surveys on hundreds of thousands of women.

"The biggest risk factor for getting breast cancer is being a woman," Dr. Bowen said, "and the second biggest risk factor is age."

Even though we hear a lot about younger women getting breast cancer, it is really a disease of older women. And the problem is that very few people have studied older women who are past menopause.

So we don't even know much about breast cancer in women in general." Other risk factors for breast cancer are having a family history of breast cancer. "Having a close or even a distant relative who has had breast cancer is now known to put women at higher risk for breast cancer, but we don't know much about why this is so," Dr. Bowen continued. "Much of the research has focused on women who have multiple relatives with breast cancer, but that only accounts for about 4% of all women."

What about the woman who had a great-aunt Matilda who had breast cancer? How does Aunt Matilda's breast cancer transfer to her?" Cancer researchers are also beginning to learn more about environmental exposures, "the toxins, chemicals, and maybe even the radiation that we experience, some of it naturally occurring and some it put there by technology" as Dr. Bowen described it, "but we don't know and we don't know when the exposure to these environmental factors has to occur in order to become a risk for breast cancer."

Research begins to happen when the government puts funds behind it, and right now the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Science has published a report on lesbian health which will stimulate research on lesbian health issues. Dr. Bowen said: "It's expensive to do this kind of research. You have to have lots of money to call up 20,000

women, and with breast cancer you have to call a lot of women in order to reach some who have the disease."

Dr. Bowen's research team now asks about sexual orientation in both paper and pencil surveys and in telephone interviews. They ask this in two ways—by asking about identity (do women identify as heterosexual, bisexual, lesbian, or other) and also by asking about sexual behavior. "If we only ask the former, we lose women who have sex with women but don't identify as lesbian, and if we just ask about sexual behavior we lose women who are not currently sexually active," she explained.

Dr. Bowen thinks there are two camps of thoughts in the lesbian community about breast cancer. "One has to do with reproductive factors. Fewer lesbians have children than do heterosexual women."

The 'fewer' can range from about 36% to about 60% of lesbians who have had children. Whereas with heterosexual women it's actually quite high—between 80-90% of all women have had children.

Not having had children or having had children late might be a factor in developing breast cancer. Pregnancy might cease certain hormones that are linked to the development of breast cancer."

"The other camp of thought has to do with access to reliable, good, open, access to health care," Dr. Bowen said, "and lesbians may not have such access. We know that if cancer is caught at a later stage when it has had more chance to grow and spread to other parts of the body, it's harder to treat and can't be treated as well."

The theory goes that if lesbians have a harder time finding affordable

and affirmative check-ups, then they may be less likely to have mammograms or to interact with a health provider in a way that would help with early diagnosis.

So it may be that lesbians aren't at higher risk for breast cancer, just that lesbians don't get good health care and are likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer at a later stage when it is harder to treat."

I asked Dr. Bowen what she would recommend that health care professionals do to increase the comfort of lesbian patients.

Her suggestions: "The person who comes to a doctor has to trust that doctor and she has to feel comfortable bringing scary problems to that doctor. And I'm hypothesizing that one of the problems bringing up sexual orientation in a health care setting is that you might feel okay saying you have a cold or a stomach ache, but not that you want the provider to feel your breast, for example."

Lesbians might also worry that the provider might force them to use high-tech solutions for their problem when they would prefer to begin with alternative solutions.

Lesbians often have good reason not to trust 'the system' and right now the solutions we have for breast cancer have to do with technology, such as chemotherapy, radiation, or surgery." She also recommends that lesbians look for open, trustworthy providers if these exist in their communities.

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.

Gays Embrace minority status

Continued from page 2

Without missing a beat, the wry financier laughs knowingly at his own joke. It is vintage Beauchamps.

Perhaps the key to Beauchamps's almost cultlike draw is the persistence with which he has challenged well-to-do gay men to "embrace their minority status." He contends that gay men are at a crossroads and that they can either take a stand for something more than their own welfare or be absorbed into the mainstream.

"In the past, the cause was AIDS, AIDS, AIDS," Beauchamps explains. "But if all of America is tuning in, our cause must be AIDS and poverty and education and racism. We're card-carrying minorities with money in the bank. Who better to fight the good fight?"

The scion of a wealthy San Francisco family, the handsome Beauchamps could pass for a stylish jet-setter were it

not for what his friends call a "bad case of political Tourette's." From the age of 19, Beauchamps has had a knack for putting himself in the center of some rather unlikely debates.

During his college years, the irascible heir to a sizable shipping fortune first angered his parents by picking a very public fight with former California governor and family friend Pete Wilson on the subject of Iran-contra. After graduating, the Stanford economics major camped out in downtown San Francisco for a week to protest the plight of the city's homeless.

Throughout it all, members of the Beauchamps clan have refused to comment publicly on Clay's polemical escapades. Of course, it doesn't help matters that this political wunderkind is also unapologetically gay.

Today, Beauchamps's campaigns

are inspiring more than his family's ire. In the past two years he has raised millions of dollars and deputized hundreds of influential gay men in crusades on behalf of causes not traditionally associated with the gay community. Building shelters for battered women.

Funding research on environmental racism. There's even a job training program for ex-convicts with Beauchamps's name on it.

Despite his role as catalyst of an unlikely political zeitgeist, Beauchamps bristles at recent press depictions of him as a powerful populist with p.c. leanings. In fact, he attributes his success as much to the social networking opportunities afforded by his "rabble-rousing" events as to the inherent worthiness of the political causes he advocates.

Calling the politicized gay man an endangered species, Beauchamps be-

lieves mainstreaming has unsavory cultural as well as political consequences. He defends his own lavish lifestyle as vigorously as he pursues the concerns facing other minorities. "I'm certainly not taking a vow of poverty for any cause," declares the financier who favors Helmut Lang suits and hundred-dollar haircuts. "However, I'm willing to do just about anything else to help others who are on the outside looking in. I like to think the revolution will be catered."

The South to the Future World Wide Wire Service is a weekly feed of technology and media news commentary and satire published by the San Francisco Bay Guardian. Quotations attributed to public figures who are satirized are often true, but sometimes invented. Some fictional statements may, in fact, be true. Any other use of real names is accidental and coincidental.

MY QUEER LIFE: Not What the Doctor Ordered

Michael Thomas Ford

What is it with straight people thinking they have it so good?

In a recent broadcast of her popular radio show, Dr. Laura Schlessinger, known to her legions of fans as simply Dr. Laura, uttered the now-infamous line, "Hear it one more time, perfectly clear; if you're gay or lesbian, it's a biological error that inhibits you from relating normally to the opposite sex."

Ignore for a moment that as a counselor, you'd think Dr. Laura would have a slightly more informed view on sexuality. That's not really the point, because her views on most things pretty much originate in the thought processes popularized in the Middle Ages.

What's more intriguing is the motivation behind her statement. For if Dr. Laura is to be taken seriously, one has to accept her unspoken belief that heterosexuality is the pinnacle of human existence.

This is intriguing, because if you look at heterosexuality, it's not particularly enticing as a way of life. Granted, it is the most popular form of behavior on the planet, but that's not saying much when you consider that many of its adherents are the same people who voted for Reagan and consider golf an actual sport.

I don't know about you, but as far as I'm concerned wood-paneled station wagons, all-you-can-eat fish fry, and family vacations to the Grand Canyon do not a paradise make. I much prefer a Volvo with a sunroof, sushi dinners, and summers in Provincetown.

Besides, I don't have any problem relating to the opposite sex. I think women are great, and some of my closest relationships are with women. Sure, I know a lot of gay men who don't have many women in their lives apart from Streisand and Midler. And I know a lot of lesbians who won't give anything with a penis the time of day.

But I know just as many straight women who wouldn't talk to straight men if it weren't for the fact that they sometimes want help carrying in the groceries. And I honestly can't think of any straight men I know who would happily go shoe shopping with their gal pals unless they

had a foot fetish.

So if Dr. Laura's idea of "normal" relations between men and women comes down to being sexually aroused by the opposite sex then no, I don't meet her criteria.

But if that's the case, then why not say that heterosexuality is a biological error that inhibits people from relating normally to the same sex? Sure, many heterosexual women have women friends they're close to. But would they really watch their backs during a rugby scrimmage? And how many heterosexual men do you know who do much with their male buddies besides drink beer and talk about all the women they'd like to "relate" to?

If that's normal male bonding behavior, I'll stick to going to Oscar parties and having intelligent conversations with the boys. I suppose Dr. Laura would argue that this is all our fault. After all, if straight guys weren't so afraid of being mistaken for queers, maybe they would go to the opera together more often and help each other find pants that make their asses look better.

But I doubt it. For one thing, I've met more than the occasional "straight" man, complete with wife and kids, who goes in search of man-on-man action when he wants to really get it on. And I have many straight women friends who would take a banana split with chocolate fudge sauce over a penis any day.

The old hetero thing might be fine when you want to be accepted socially, but when it comes to expressing sexual desire, it's frequently another matter altogether.

So if now we can remove attraction from the equation, maybe we should revise our definition even more and say that heterosexuality is simply a biological formula for the continuation of the species. This works for me, but in this age of donors and turkey baster babies, it's a definition that's teetering on the brink of obsolescence.

No wonder Dr. Laura is so afraid of us and thinks we're the aberrations. Imagine how her theory would hold up if we were able to eradicate ignorance and prejudice? If society were somehow freed of these restrictions, and we were all free to pair up with whomever we really wanted

to, would people indeed conform to the "norm" of heterosexuality?

Sure, some would. Maybe even a lot would. But I suspect the majority would fall along a spectrum, neither completely one thing nor another. Dr. Laura frequently says that what we really need is a return to morals, values, and religion. I agree with her on the morals and values.

I even agree with her on the need for religion sort of. But what Dr. Laura doesn't understand is that religion is only the outward expression of innate spirituality, and that any religion based on fear and easy answers is a weak one.

True spirituality teaches acceptance of the divine in all its forms, which is something Dr. Laura knows nothing about. Nor does she understand that the morals and values we need are, quite simply, love and kindness, not holding to an outdated ideal that never really offered anything useful to begin with.

Or maybe she does understand this but, because she is conveniently included within the majority that dictates how things should be, she prefers to keep everything just the way it is. It's not at all surprising that Dr. Laura's audience adores her.

Because they are the ignorant and the confused, the ones with lives so wildly dysfunctional that just hearing Dr. Laura berate them for their stupidity gives them a giant jolt of self-esteem.

But you have to wonder about Dr. Laura herself. From her seemingly endless rage, it's clear that she gets little from "helping" her listeners.

In many ways, she reminds me of the Christian God of my childhood kindly when you agree with him but willing to turn you into ashes if you dare to say he isn't always right. Is it just possible that, unhappy with her own existence, Dr. Laura has to take it out on those of us who indeed are truly content? I hate to break it to the good doctor, but if what she is passes for normal, I'll happily stay in my sick bed.

Michael Thomas Ford's book **Alec Baldwin Doesn't Love Me** recently won a Lambda Literary Award for best humor title. His new book, **That's Mr. Faggot to You**, is in stores this month.

Stereotyping by Western Mass. Bank

On April 29, 1999, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders ("GLAD") filed suit against Park West Bank & Trust Company on behalf of Lucas Rosa, a transgendered individual who was denied a loan application by a bank teller because Rosa did not appear dressed in traditional male clothing.

According to GLAD attorney Jennifer Levi, who along with GLAD's Civil Rights Director Mary Bonauto filed the complaint, "The United States Supreme Court said in the 1989 case *Hopkins v. Price Waterhouse* that sex stereotyping is impermissible sex discrimination.

Lots of people do not fit society's rigid definitions of what counts as male and female. Refusing to provide service or extend credit to a person who was born male but dresses in female clothing and often passes for a woman is impermissible sex stereotyping. Both state and federal law forbid such practices."

Plaintiff Rosa was born a biological male but often dresses in women's clothing and passes for female. The suit stems from an incident on July 21, 1998 when Rosa, dressed

in female clothing including earrings, entered West Bank in Holyoke, Massachusetts and requested a loan application.

A West Bank loan officer asked Rosa to produce three pieces of identification. Rosa complied, producing three pieces of photo identification, one in which Rosa looked like a man, one in which Rosa looked like a woman, and one in which Rosa's gender was indeterminate.

The bank teller then refused to provide Rosa with a loan application saying she would not provide one until Rosa went home, changed clothing and appeared in what the teller considered to be usual clothing for a man.

The suit charges that West Bank engaged in impermissible sex stereotyping in violation of the federal Equal Credit Opportunity Act that forbids sex discrimination in lending. It further charges the bank with discrimination under state law that forbids discrimination in credit and in places of public accommodation on the basis of sex, sexual orientation and perceived sexual orientation.

The teller's actions devastated Rosa who explained, "I was extremely embarrassed, humili-

ated and upset when the loan officer said she would not give me a loan application until I went home and changed my clothes.

The loan officer had three photographs sitting in front of her to confirm who I was. What I wear should not affect whether or not I get to apply for a loan."

GLAD's Mary Bonauto pointed out that "There is an overlap in the type of discrimination faced by transgendered people and gays and lesbians. Transgendered people as well as many gays and lesbians including masculine women and effeminate men do not conform to society's gender stereotypes.

When people allow their prejudices against gender nonconforming people to bubble over in the form of discrimination and bigotry, courts must step in to enforce existing nondiscrimination laws."

Celebrating its 20th anniversary year, GLAD is New England's leading legal organization conducting impact litigation and education to secure equal justice under law for gay, lesbian and bisexual people and people with HIV and AIDS.

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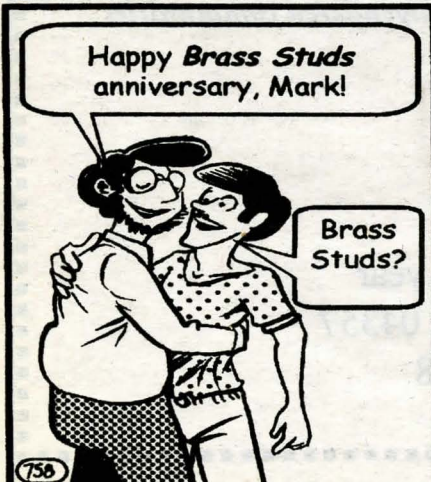
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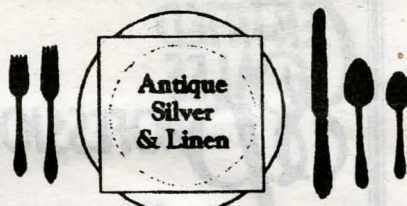
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