Community Pride Reporter, 08/1999

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A Proclamation

Thirty years ago this month, at the Stonewall Inn in New York City, a courageous group of citizens resisted harassment and mistreatment, setting in motion a chain of events that would become known as the Stonewall Uprising and the birth of the modern gay and lesbian civil rights movement. Gays and lesbians, their families and friends, celebrate the anniversary of Stonewall every June in America as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month; and, earlier this month, the National Park Service added the Stonewall Inn, as well as the nearby park and neighborhood streets surrounding it, to the National Register of Historic Places.

I am proud of the measures my Administration has taken to end discrimination against gays and lesbians and ensure that they have the same rights guaranteed to their fellow Americans. Last year, I signed an Executive order that amends Federal equal employment opportunity policy to prohibit discrimination in the Federal civilian work force based on sexual orientation. We have also banned discrimination based on sexual orientation in the granting of security clearances. As a result of these and other policies, gay and lesbian Americans serve openly and proudly throughout the Federal Government.

My Administration is also working with congressional leaders to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would prohibit most private employers from firing workers solely because of their sexual orientation.

America's diversity is our greatest strength. But, while we have come a long way on our journey toward tolerance, understanding, and mutual respect, we still have a long way to go in our efforts to end discrimination. During the past year, people across our country have been shaken by violent acts that struck at the heart of what it means to be an American and at the values that have always defined us as a Nation. In 1997, the most recent year for which we have statistics, there were more than 8,000 reported hate crimes in our country—almost one an hour. Now is the time for us to take strong and decisive action to end all hate crimes, and I reaffirm my pledge to work with the Congress to pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

But we cannot achieve true tolerance merely through legislation; we must change hearts and minds as well. Our greatest hope for a just society is to teach our children to respect one another, to appreciate our differences, and to recognize the fundamental values that we hold in common. As part of our efforts to achieve this goal, earlier this spring, I announced that the Departments of Justice and Education will work in partnership with educational and other private sector organizations to reach out to students and teach them that our diversity is a gift. In addition, the Department of Education has issued landmark guidance that explains Federal standards against sexual harassment and prohibits sexual harassment of all students regardless of their sexual orientation; and I have ordered the Education Department's civil rights office to step up its enforcement of anti-discrimination and harassment rules. That effort has resulted in a groundbreaking guide that provides practical guidance to school administrators and teachers for developing a comprehensive approach to protecting all students, including gays and lesbians, from harassment and violence.

Since our earliest days as a Nation, Americans have strived to make real the ideals of equality and freedom so eloquently expressed in our Declaration of Independence and Constitution. We now have a rare opportunity to enter a new century and a new millennium as one country, living those principles, recognizing our common values, and building on our shared strengths.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 1999 as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month. I encourage all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that celebrate our diversity, and to remember throughout the year the gay and lesbian Americans whose many and varied contributions have enriched our national life.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-third.

William J. Clinton
Dole welcomes Gay support

"I Want to Bring People Together. I Want To See Healing In This Country" Joins Bush, McCain in Stating that Merit, Not Sexual Orientation, Will Be Criteria For Appointments

(WASHINGTON) GOP presidential candidate Elizabeth Dole joined two other front-runners for the Republican presidential nomination — Governor George W. Bush of Texas and Senator John McCain of Arizona — in stating that she would not discriminate against openly gay people in appointments to a Dole Administration.

Dole also said that she would welcome the support of Log Cabin Republicans, the nation's largest gay Republican organization.

In an interview with NBC's Lisa Myers, broadcast on the "Today" show, Dole was asked if she "wanted the support of Log Cabin Republicans" and whether gay Republicans "are welcome in the party." Dole responded that "all people are welcome," adding "I'm not a person who is divisive ... I want to bring people together. I want to see healing in this country, in terms of being able to work together, towards an agenda." Dole added that if LCR "sent a check to my campaign, I would not turn it away," a reference to the decision by the campaign manager of her husband's 1996 presidential campaign to return a $1,000 check from LCR which the campaign had openly solicited.

"Because what that says to me is, they're accepting my agenda," Dole said. "They believe in reduced taxes, and increasing the defense budget. They believe in getting rid of illegal drugs in this country. They believe in restoring our public schools to greatness. So, it's a matter of their accepting my agenda."

On the subject of administration appointments, Myers asked Dole directly if an openly gay person would be disqualified. Dole responded: "I'm going to appoint qualified conservatives. And that applies up and down the line. The first thing you'd have to do is make certain that a person has the excellent qualifications."

"A qualified conservative, who shares my philosophy, which again is restoring honor and integrity to government," Dole said. "And moving forward - to increase that defense budget, to decrease taxes. And insure that we are eliminating drugs from this country, and restoring our public schools to greatness. Those are the core issues."

"What is remarkable at this stage of the campaign is that the candidates who embrace non-discrimination principles toward gays are in the lead while those who bash gays are trailing far behind," said Rich Tafel, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans. "It's a breakthrough for the Republican Party, and bodes well for the future if it stays on this course and continues reaching out."

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

The following are excerpts from the interview:

ELIZABETH DOLE: If they sent a check to my campaign, I would not turn it away. Because what that says to me is, they're accepting my agenda. They believe in reduced taxes, and increasing the defense budget. They believe in getting rid of illegal drugs in this country. They believe in restoring our public schools to greatness. So, it's a matter of their accepting my agenda.

LISA MYERS (NBC NEWS): Another divisive issue in your party is homosexuality. Do you want the support of the Log Cabin Republicans? They're a group of gay Republicans.

ELIZABETH DOLE: If they sent a check to my campaign, I would not turn it away. Because what that says to me is, they're accepting my agenda. They believe in reduced taxes, and increasing the defense budget. They believe in getting rid of illegal drugs in this country. They believe in restoring our public schools to greatness. So, it's a matter of their accepting my agenda.

MYERS: But as far as you're concerned, then gay Republicans are welcome in the party.

DOLE: I think that you know, all people are welcome. In other words I'm inclusive. I'm not a person who is divisive. I want to, I want to bring people together. I want to see healing in this country, in terms of being able to work together, toward good things for America.

MYERS: Would you consider appointing someone who was openly gay to your administration? Assuming that person shared your philosophy and agenda?

DOLE: Well, basically - what I would say here is, I'm going to appoint qualified conservatives. And that applies up and down the line. The first thing you'd have to do is make certain that a person has the excellent qualifications.

MYERS: So as long as a person is a conservative, there are no disqualifying factors.

DOLE: A qualified conservative, who shares my philosophy, which again is restoring honor and integrity to government. And moving forward - to increase that defense budget. Decrease taxes. And insure that we are eliminating drugs from this country, and restoring our public schools to greatness. Those are the core issues.
Stop trying to STOP the March

Millennium March Opponents Criticized "Ad Hoc" Meeting Called Disheartening

By Jim Baxter, Editor The Front Page GLBT Press Serving North and South Carolina copyright by Jim Baxter

Washington. The meeting was a meeting of what was called the "Ad Hoc Committee for an Open Process." This is a group that formed in response to next year's Millennium March on Washington. The meeting was held in Pittsburgh, just prior to NGLTF's annual Creating Change conference.

The ostensible purpose of the meeting was to address "the top down and closed-door process which continues to be used by the organizers of the so-called 'Millennium March.'" In all my years as an activist, that meeting was the most disheartening experience I can remember. If they'd called themselves the "Stop the Millennium March" committee, or the "Smash HRC" committee, it would have been more honest. And I would have known to skip it.

The sad thing, for me, was these were the people I identify with: the progressives, the liberals, the radicals, the socialists. The bunch in that crowded auditorium included friends and heroes.

But what I heard for the five hours the meeting lasted, was long-held grudges masquerading as issue politics. What I heard was the language of a movement I believe in being misused. The bitterness in the auditorium was overwhelming, but there was also a deep-seated denial, an inherent dishonesty that made me very sad.

And still the battle rages on. Every day brings new mail from the Ad Hoc Committee trumpeting that "support for the Millennium March is eroding," while organizers of the March send news of new supporters and fresh triumphs.

The basic argument boils down to this: the Millennium March on Washington has not been organized in the same way the previous three national marches were organized.

My question is: Why should it? The way it was done before didn't work. A lot of questions were ignored and unanswered after the last March on Washington in 1993, and because they did, I don't think any of us grassroots types have the right to criticize organizers of the Millennium March. '93 March on Washington.

Did you go to the March on Washington in 1993? Did you know that you marched in support of a political agenda comprised of 7 major demands and 55 separate points? Did you know that your presence in D.C. was showing your support for the "repeal of all 'English Only' laws" and to "restore and enforce bilingual education?" Or "the ban of all discriminatory ROTC programs and recruiters from learning institutions."

I'm willing to bet that a majority of those who went to DC in '93 would read the platform and say "Hey, wait a minute..." But the truth is, they didn't even know about it. "The platform contains the comprehensive legislative agenda demanded by our community," one organizer said at the time.

I'm not convinced. I think the platform contains the agenda demanded by the people who attended the meetings not at all the same thing as "our community."

Internet Fraud Hits the Gay Community

If you visited a web site or read a brochure for an internet service provider (ISP) called Rainbowvoice, that said they were the first national ISP for the LGBT community, you'd tend to believe them.

Being first is important in any market and is an especially important boast on the Internet. The only problem is, this isn't true. Not even close!

Rainbowvoice launched June 15, 1999. GLINN Network One, "Americal Gay Owned and Operated Internet Service Provider" (sm) launched a nationwide dialup network for the LGBT community on October 25, 1997, with the parent company GLINN Publishing Corporation serving the LGBT community since 1987, and with a major web presence since June 27, 1996.

Today, GLINN has the largest gay presence on the Internet (in number of pages and sites). If you went to the Rainbowvoice office to ask them about this, you'd be a bit uncomfortable. Their "office" (listed on their web site and elsewhere) is about 12" x 12" x 5"... specifically a mailbox at an Atlanta, GA "Mailboxes, Etc" location. The office is not the only thing that is entirely non-existent.

If you went to the office of GLINN Network One, (www.glinn1.net) you'd find a real office with employees, high speed internet connections, Cisco routers, v90 access equipment, and some 18 web, email and ftp servers and other computer systems, as well as extensive support facilities.

GLINN CEO, Dan Schramm, explained, "If a potential customer reads the Rainbowvoice material, he or she would likely believe that ISP was their only choice and had done something special by being first to serve our community.

Unfortunately, that is just not true, it is unfair, and it is an outright fraud to misrepresent material facts." Although puffy is a common advertising tactic, such as saying one is the "best" or the "greatest", it is an illegal fraud to make statements of fact which are not true.

Such misrepresentations can result in civil or even criminal action. Schramm added, "Rainbowvoice in fact knows it is not true. We have contacted them by email and telephone in a conversation with Jeff Strobe, operations manager, he admitted they knew it wasn't true, having visited the GLINN Network One web site, but that 'it was too good of a marketing angle to pass up'. He added that they had no intention of changing it.

Weeks later, the false claims are still prominently displayed on the web site. The Rainbowvoice web site, for instance, states: "rainbowvoice.com, or Rainbow Voice, Inc., is the first nationwide Internet Service Provider (ISP) created especially for the LGBT community."

Telling the truth is not the only thing missing. In fact, Rainbowvoice consists of nothing more than a marketing campaign. They do not own or operate any of the equipment a typical ISP requires.

Everything, from their web site to their dialup network, and even customer service is jobbed out to other companies.

The dialup network is owned by UUnet, a division of MCI-Worldcom. Rainbowvoice is a reseller. Pete Cousins, VP of Picas Communications, confirmed that they host the Rainbowvoice web site and provide customer service.

Even critical DNS service is provided by a different firm located in Norfolk, Virginia. Rainbowvoice could not even manage to design their own web site. And who are these people lying to our community? You won't learn anything about the stockholders, officers or employees from the web site.

Not a single name is mentioned. Is this company owned by straight who just want to get on the gay marketing bandwagon? You wouldn't know by looking at their web site or anything else.

GLINN Network One, on the other hand, provides extensive information on the company's involvement in the LGBT community and provides detailed information about the CEO, Dan Schramm, and makes clear that he is a gay man who has a long history in the community.

GLINN Network One offers the best prices and features of the two companies. A monthly dialup account is $15.95 down to $12.95 with prepayment, while Rainbow is $19.95.

GLINN offers more email boxes, personal web space, and other features. Potential customers aren't the only ones being taken in by this Internet fraud. The Gay Financial Network launched an exclusive affiliation with Rainbowvoice, announced in a June 15 news release on the PRNewswire.

On the page featuring the Gay Financial Network is the statement, "The first nationwide Internet Service Provider born this way."

"The Gay Financial Network apologizes for any error on our part from their promotional material. However, we released our statement in good faith and under the belief that it was correct and accurate."

"I have had my displeasure over this to Rainbowvoice.com and will not release any additional information with that particular claim attached to it. Further, if in fact these are false statements on the part of their site with gfn.com, I will instruct my attorney to seek action to correct it."

Rainbowvoice prominently displays "affiliations" with other major gay organizations, using those groups to bolster its own credibility, while promoting its fraud on our community.

This is a news release from the Gay Lesbian International News Network (www.glinn.com) a division of GLINN Publishing Corporation, Dan F. Schramm, Executive Editor. All facts and statements contained herein are true and correct and have been verified as of July 5, 1999.
Norvir Bulletin from Search for a Cure

By the AIDS Writers Group
July 7, 1999—Good news for people taking Norvir liquid. The gel-caps are here! Last week, the FDA and Abbott Labs announced the approval of the long awaited Norvir (ritonavir) soft gelatin capsules.

They are white, oval shaped opaque capsules (a little like vitamin e capsules) each containing 100 milligrams of Norvir, much like the old capsules of Norvir.

They should be in stores this coming week. The new ritonavir capsules should be kept in the refrigerator. They will last about 30 days for sure if kept on the shelf at temperatures below 77 degrees, and every thirty days, you should get a new supply.

But in the refrigerator, if your capsules are a few days over 30, they probably are just fine. Pharmacies are being told to store their capsules in a refrigerator between 36 and 46 degrees F. Make sure that capsules you get at the pharmacy come from a refrigerator, not from the shelf.

If you have to have the capsules in a hotter place for a very short period of time, don't worry too much. However, like the liquid, the capsules will lose their strength over time when left at high temperatures for longer periods. Putting them back into the fridge will NOT bring back their power to fight HIV. Instead, the Norvir should be replaced.

When traveling, if it is NOT possible to keep your Norvir consistently at temperatures below 77 degrees, then it should be refrigerated. Norvir is approved for twice daily dosing. And it can be taken without food even though a light low fat meal has been shown to slightly increase absorption of the drug. However, the main reason the company suggests having some food with ritonavir is to help with the side effects, not with the amount of drug that gets into the blood stream.

For those who are taking ritonavir-Portovase (saquinavir) combinations and ritonavir-crixivan combinations, especially those concerned about lipid levels, you might note that it is NOT necessary to have a high fat meal with these double protease combos. A low fat meal will do just fine.

If you have any questions about the capsules, you can call Abbott at 1-800-441-4987 or visit their webpage at www.norvir.com.

This bulletin was prepared by David Scodras of the AIDS Writers group, reviewed by Robert Krebs of Search for a Cure and officials at Abbott Laboratories.

Gay Bias Law is Adopted 12-3 - Changes clarify gender identity, other questions

By Geoff Marshall, Herald-Leader Staff Writer

The Urban County Council banned discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation last night after more than two weeks of furious debate.

The ordinance was adopted by a 12-3 vote after a set of amendments was passed to clarify parts of the law. Advocates have talked about the law for years, but the public debates have come about only in the past few weeks.

"We've been talking about it for a long time," said Jeff Jones, a co-chairman of the Lexington Fairness Campaign. "It's nice to see the city step forward to look after all her citizens."

After the council's vote to adopt the fairness ordinance, preceded by more than an hour of debate and discussion, a packed crowd erupted with cheers.

The ordinance, which takes effect immediately, bans discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations — such as restaurants, stores and parks — on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Last night, the council created a new definition for gender identity, the inclusion of which had been one of the more controversial parts of the ordinance for some supporters.

The ordinance now defines gender identity as "having a gender identity as a result of a sex change surgery; or manifesting, for reasons other than dress, an identity not traditionally associated with one's biological maleness or femaleness."

Other amendments clarified how religious organizations could be exempt, made it possible for businesses to have dress codes preventing employees from dressing like a member of the other gender and allowed for designated gender-specific restroom and shower facilities.

Council member Bill Farmer said last week that he would vote against the ordinance after similar amendments he made had failed. Last night, he voted for the law after the amendments were voted down.

Some expected the vote to be a little closer than 12-3. George Brown, who voted for the ordinance, delayed his trip to a National League of Cities meeting in Florida so he could stay for the vote.

Linda Gorton, the only council member who did not declare where she stood last week, also voted for the ordinance. In addition to religious organizations, there are some other exceptions to the law.

Private clubs would be exempt as would landlords who rent one unit in a building where they or their relatives also live. The Human Rights Commission will be in charge of investigating and handling complaints.

The commission's rulings could be appealed to the Fayette Circuit Court. Debates over the law have been relatively genteel, though council members said last night they have received rude phone calls, letters and e-mails from some citizens on both sides of the issue.

Councillor Al Mitchell, who spoke against the law for more than a week and voted against it, said he was called a bigot by some of the law's supporters. "These correspondences truly opened my eyes and confirmed why we need this ordinance," said council member Gloria Martin.

Last week, the council heard three hours of public comment on the proposed ordinance. Last night, each side got 15 minutes to make its point. Those who opposed the ordinance said homosexuality and bisexuality are personal choices that should not be endorsed by the government. Supporters argued the issue was civil rights.

Opponents had called for the council to slow down and give the law more consideration. "There are questions that can be raised and more thoroughly researched," said Kent Ostrander, director of the Lexington-based Family Foundation.

Ostrander and other opponents said that the law was on a legislative fast track. The Human Rights Commission voted on June 21 to recommend the law to the council. The next day, the council put it on its agenda. Some thought more time would not have made a difference. "Further delay will not change anyone's mind," said council member David Stevens.

GLAD Files Suit Alleging Violation of Federal Equal Access Act

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders ("GLAD") filed suit in federal District Court against Manchester School District on behalf of several Manchester High School West students who tried to start a Gay Straight Alliance ("GSA") at their school but were denied the opportunity to do so by their Principal, Robert A. Baines.

According to GLAD attorney Jennifer Levi, who along with Manchester attorney Marlene Lein filed the complaint, "This is a clear-cut violation of federal law. As long as there are any noncurricular clubs at a high school, which is not in dispute in this case, no student group may be treated differently based on the content of speech at proposed meetings.

The federal Equal Access Act prohibits any public secondary school from denying equal access or discriminating against any students who wish to conduct a meeting at that school, which is exactly what Principal Baines has done in this case."

According to GLAD's complaint, several students first sought school recognition of the proposed GSA in April, 1999, following school instructions by filing a proposal with the assistant principal, Richard Donegan.

In a meeting with several school administrators, the students were told that they could not obtain school recognition and, further, were instructed that they would have to seek School Board approval to go forward with the proposal.

According to the students, no other student group has ever had to obtain School Board approval to form a noncurricular club.

Michaela Wood, a West High graduating senior who, along with two other unnamed students is a Plaintiff in the suit, said, "This sends a terrible message to kids. At the same time that we are trying to form a group to provide support and education for tolerance and diversity at West High, the school is sending a message of divisiveness and unequal treatment. The school's response to our proposal is just one example of why we need this GSA."

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.
DYKE PSYCHE - Lavender Jane STILL Loves Women:
An Interview with Alix Dobkin

by Esther Rothblum

What's the first thing that comes to mind when we think about women's music? Many Lesbians will recall Alix Dobkin's album LAVENDER JANE LOVES WOMEN.

I recently spoke with Alix and asked how she first became a Lesbian musician. "I was writing about my own life," she recalled, "so music was part of my consciousness raising." Alix had been a professional folk singer for many years. "I was at the right place, at the right time, with the right background, doing the right thing," she told me.

She produced a number of albums of women's music: LAVENDER JANE LOVES WOMEN (1973), LIVING WITH LESBIANS (1976), XXALIX (1980), THESE WOMEN (1986), YAHOO AUSTRALIA (1990), and LOVE AND POLITICS (1992, a compilation album). LIVING WITH LAVENDER JANE (1998) was a re-release onto CD of the first two albums. In addition, ALIX DOBKin's ADVENTURES IN WOMEN'S MUSIC (NOT JUST A SONGBOOK) was published in 1978.

I asked Alix what other music was around for Lesbians when she first began performing. The answer: not much. Robin Tyler had produced Maxine Feldman in 1972; a 45-rpm record with two songs.

There was the Chicago Women's Liberation Rock Band and the New Haven Women's Liberation Rock Band Double Album. And in New York, Lesbian Feminist Liberation conducted a talent show and recorded it—the record was called A FEW LOVING WOMEN. LAVENDER JANE LOVES WOMEN was the first album of women's music that was distributed internationally.

"Those days were tremendously exciting," Alix said. "First of all, I was writing about myself AS A LESBIAN. I was writing the kinds of songs in which you could not change a pronoun and have it still make sense.

In other words, you could not change my music into heterosexual songs. They were clearly and openly songs about women loving women. I realized that as long as I was writing songs like that, I was writing unique material.

No one had ever written that before, and even the women depending on Lesbian audiences all most never write about Lesbians—in fact, they rarely mention women!"

Even today, Alix feels that there is a great need for Lesbians to be writing about their lives. She has stated at times that women's music has received a bad rap, when in fact it is precisely because of the foremothers in women's music that performers like the Indigo Girls have been successful. "There is this belief that women's music is confined to folk music, which it never was," said Alix. "The negative reaction coming from many young Lesbians is due largely to the backlash against feminism."

Our communities very much reflect what is going on in the world generally and feminism has been dismissed, even by women in our own communities. I would recommend the book EDEN BUILT BY EYES: THE CULTURE OF WOMEN'S MUSIC FESTIVALs, by Bonnie Morris (Allyson Press, 1999) for an excellent overview and more details.

Women's music is about raising consciousness, and most people don't even know what that is anymore. Furthermore, due to budget cuts in education, we've also lost a generation that was schooled to appreciate music. Nevertheless, Alix is excited by the fact that many of her performances these days are at universities, so that she does have an impact on young women.

After a lifetime in New York, Alix is now living in California. She still performs around the country, and is involved with a club that features concerts by women and holds further our culture. The Director, Barbara Price, used to co-produce the Michigan Women's Music Festival. Alix is writing a column for CHICAGO OUTLINES and working on a book of her memoirs.


To order Alix Dobkin's music and music by other women and Lesbian musicians, contact Ladyslipper Music, P.O. Box 3124, Durham, NC 27715, tel. 1-800-634-6044 or 919-383-8773.

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.
Community 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 transgender community. PO Box 1894, Bangor, ME 04402-1894, phone: 207-862-2063. Email: megness@hamtel.tds.net.

TR ANSS UPP ORT.
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 to 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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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 semenarg@aol.com http://www.gentlewindproject.org
Free Foot Reflexology Clinic
Every Tuesday from 4-7 PM. Spots are limited so call ahead for an appointment: 846-9445

Gay-OK!
Of Greater Farmington is an informal social and discussion group for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, and Questioning (LGBTQ) 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 dafray the cost of the room.

For time and other information contact Bobbi at 467-9166 or email msww@ime.net.

Your organizations listing is “FREE” to print if your services are free to the LGBT and questioning community

If you know of or a affiliated with any organization which provides services “Free” of charge to the GLGBT community, Please send us your resource listing or call: 207-737-3498. email: cpride@ime.net
My Queer Life: Why I Am Queer

Michael Thomas Ford

Recently I received a letter from a reader, a gay man, who said he objects to my using the word "queer" in my books to describe myself and to describe other lesbian and gay people. He said he believes that it sets gay people apart as something strange and out of the norm, and that hearing it applied to himself makes him feel alienated. "I love what you have to say," he wrote, "but I wish you would stop using that word."

I understand his feelings, but I like "queer." I like it precisely because it means "strange and unusual," and because it implies that the person being referred to in some way causes others to be just the tiniest bit nervous.

Things that are queer make people question their perceptions. Because they have to stop and notice that something is creating a disruption in their surroundings, they are forced to reevaluate what their own definitions of things are.

Coming across something queer, their world view is altered, if only for a moment, and maybe that tiny pause will be enough for them to start seeing things differently.

I spend a fair amount of time in used bookstores. A number of years ago, I started noticing that I was coming across a lot of books with the word "queer" in the title. Mostly they were from the early 1900s. At that time, "queer" meant something delightfully out of the ordinary, and the use of the word in the title of a book was a sure sign that the contents were going to be surprisingly fun. In Dorothy Dale's Queer Holidays!, for example, the heroine of this popular series for young people has all kinds of adventures that make her friends green with envy.

I love that. I love the idea of being queer as being something to be envied, something that not everyone can have or be. One of the nicest things a straight friend ever said to me was, "I wish I could be queer. It seems like such fun." She's right. It is fun. It's fun to show the world that there are other ways to live.

It's fun to escape the boundaries of roles like "straight" and "gay," with all their accompanying baggage. It's fun to define for yourself who and what you are.

In this time when many gay activists and public figures are calling for us to be pretty much like everyone else, being queer is a dangerous thing to be. Assimilation and blending in offer comfort to some and protection to others. I can understand this. For many of us, especially those of us who have experienced discrimination or worse because of our sexuality, the idea of fitting in or not, even just being left alone, can be very appealing.

But for others, blending in means the death of the spirit. A friend of mine who grew up and still lives in the middle of the Bible Belt said the other day, "Being just like everyone else is a luxury for those who live in big cities. They have the option of fitting in or not, But for those of us in most of America, fitting in is a requirement."

We do it because it's the only way we can survive. So when someone tells me that the best way for the gay community to get ahead is to be as much straight people as possible, it makes me furious. I would love to be able to be queer, to be out and visible and outrageous if I want to. To me, being just like everyone else is to be invisible and imprisoned. I've never fit in. I don't fit into the straight world, and I don't fit neatly into the gay world. Growing up, I had the word "queer" scrawled on my locker at school, and spat at me by boys in gym class when I screwed up.

Their hate made me sad, but the word never did. I know I wasn't like them, and that I wouldn't ever want to be like them, even if it meant never being hated again. I was queer then, and I still am. I am queer because I love men. I am queer because I refuse to believe that there is any one way to be. I am queer because I choose to be.

Ultimately, I think the division over the word "queer" is simply a sign that the community is maturing. Once upon a time, it was fine for us all to be "gay." We needed to band together under a common name that gave us the strength of numbers. But we have never been a homogenous community.

We are simply a group of people with a common link. Apart from that link, we are all very different. The fact that we are no longer accepting the lie that one word fits all of us is a tribute to our growing independence. It may make some of us nervous because it threatens to shatter the illusion of oneness we've been perpetuating for far too long, but sooner or later all movements need to outgrow themselves.

So be gay. Be queer. Be homosexual. Be a faggot or a pansy or a faerie, a dyke or a bulldagger or a butch. Be anything you want to be. Fit in or stand out or live somewhere in between. But whatever you decide to be, be it with as much joy and strength as you possibly can.

Because ultimately it doesn't matter what we put on our banners and signs. What matters is being who we are, and not what someone else wants us to be.

Michael Thomas Ford is the Lambda Literary Award-winning author of many books, including the new bestseller *That's Me. Faggot to You.* He welcomes e-mail at Shopiltee@aol.com.
Congressman announces strong opposition to initiative

Prods other officials who privately oppose gratuitous anti-gay measure: "To remain silent is unacceptable"

By Kevin Ivers

(WASHINGTON) A leading House Republican from California has announced strong opposition to the so-called Knight Initiative, a measure banning same-sex marriages on the California ballot in March 2000, and called on others "who will nevertheless be tempted to keep a low profile" to speak out against the measure.

"The more opinion leaders who note that the proposition is utterly unnecessary, and the earlier they do so," Campbell said, "the better our chances of defusing an issue that, if made more controversial, could result in increased hate and hurt in our state. Given that truth, to remain silent is unacceptable."

The statement makes Campbell the first Republican Congressman in California to publicly oppose the Knight Initiative. "Tom Campbell is one of the most intelligent and credential members of Congress," said Mike German, president of the Log Cabin Club of San Francisco, who worked closely with Campbell on the issue. "And the greatest value of Congressman Campbell's statement lies in his leadership role, coming so early in the campaign."

"We hope to see more Democrats and Republicans following his example and working with us to defeat this unnecessary and harmful effort."

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

Statement by Congressman Tom Campbell (R-CA) on the Same Sex Marriage Ballot in California

"I oppose the March 2000 California ballot initiative on same-sex marriages and urge all elected officials to do the same.

No opponent of this initiative need be in favor of gay marriage. To oppose this initiative, one need only be in favor of not seeking division in California on this issue now. Traditionally, initiatives become necessary when the legislature has repeatedly failed to address an issue that calls out for action, or when the legislature has acted in a way contrary to the people's will.

In this case, however, no legislation is pending in Sacramento to recognize gay marriages. Some leaders of our community who agree will nevertheless be tempted to keep a low profile.

However, the more opinion leaders who note that the proposition is utterly unnecessary, and the earlier they do so, the better our chances of de-fusing an issue that, if made more controversial, could result in increased hate and hurt in our state. Given that truth, to remain silent is unacceptable.

Marriage has both religious and civil consequences. Some religious faiths perform and recognize gay marriages; others do not. These questions are best left to the religions themselves, lest the state government involve itself in an analysis of whether the tenets of any particular church are acceptable or not.

On the issue of civil consequences, practical issues take precedence. Should one partner be allowed to visit the other in the hospital at times only "family" is permitted? If two people grow old together, and one develops Alzheimer's, should we hold that the other is unfit to be the conservator and protector of the one in need, giving legal preference instead to a remote blood-relative?

Civil consequences should be the same regardless of whether a couple, committed to a loving and permanent relationship, is of the same or opposite sex. I generally favor less rather than more governmental involvement in matters of individual freedom, and this is no exception. Neither government approval nor government disapproval is appropriate. As this proposition calls for government disapproval, I urge its rejection."

Congressman Campbell acknowledges the assistance and advice of members of the Log Cabin Republican Clubs of California in preparing his position and his statement. END OF STATEMENT

Religious Act Endangers GLBT Rights

JULY 15, 1999: The Religious Liberty Protection Act approved today by the U.S. House of Representatives would make it easier to discriminate against people on the basis of sexual orientation, marital or family status and disability status, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force warned today.

NGLTF Executive Director Kerry Lobel warned that under the legislation passed by the House today, owners of large apartment buildings would be able to cite their religious exercise protections to deny the civil rights of prospective tenants. She called on the Senate to add explicit language to the legislation that makes it clear RLPA does not create a defense to the enforcement of state and local civil rights laws.

"Protecting religious liberty is a worthy cause, but not at the expense of anyone's other civil rights," Lobel said. "We strongly believe both of these principles are important and neither should be sacrificed for the sake of the other. We don't have to play one critical civil right against another in order for both to prevail."

A broad coalition of groups has come together to oppose RLPA because of the lack of exemption for civil rights protections. These groups include AIDS Action, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Rights Task Force, Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, Human Rights Campaign, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, National Latino/a Lesbian and Gay Organization, National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum, National Catholic AIDS Network and National Organization for Women.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in 1998 published Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Civil Rights Laws in the U.S., a comprehensive report that details the status of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people nationally and state by state. It provides details about what kinds of discrimination civil rights laws ban, what benefits domestic partnership measures provide and what penalties the hate crimes laws enforce, what penalties anti-gay laws require. For this and a complete list of NGLTF publications, please visit www.ngltf.org/pub/html.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has worked to eliminate prejudice, violence and injustice against gay, lesbian and transgendered people at the local, state and national level since its inception in 1973. As part of a broader social justice movement for freedom, justice and inequality, NGLTF is creating a world that respects and celebrates the diversity of human expression and identity where all people may fully participate in society.
Broadway & Hollywood Hit Ends SRT’S Summer Season!

West Side Story - July 24-September 5

The Seacoast Repertory Theatre is pleased to announce its presentation of Leonard Bernstein's classic musical, West Side Story, running from July 24th - September 5th. The urban remake of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet will electrify audiences with exciting dance numbers, powerful songs, and the moving tale of love surviving all odds. Capturing the conflict of two inner city gangs, The Jets and The Sharks, West Side Story deals with themes of friendship, love and acceptance: relevant themes in today's society.

Directed and choreographed by Jimmy Girgenti along with a cast of talented performers from all over the country, West Side Story will take runs from the faces of all ages. Mr. Girgenti's incredible choreography can also be seen during SRT's current production of The Rocky Horror Show - Live! currently playing Fridays and Saturdays at midnight through September 4th. For many of the 22 cast members, West Side Story marks their third production of the summer at SRT.

For over a decade, The Seacoast Repertory Theatre has been committed to making high quality, entertaining theater available at affordable prices. This tradition continues with West Side Story, playing Wednesdays-Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 3pm. Subscriptions for SRT's 1999-2000 season are on sale now. For more information call the Seacoast Repertory Theatre Box Office at: (603)433-4472.

The Seacoast Repertory Theatre is a professional, non-profit arts and educational organization.

MSMT presents its 3 week show of the 41st Season:

Grease, believe it or not, is an MSMT first. Pink Ladies and Burger Palace Boys are members of the Class of '59 at Rydell High. Grease pays musical homage to Elvis and Fabian, and image tributes to big hair, "Kookie" Barnes, sock-hops and guys who named their cars "Greasied Lighting."

With book, music and lyrics by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey and the distinction of being one of the longest running shows in Broadway history, this visit to the 1950s age tributes to big hair, "Kookie" Barnes, sock-hops and guys who named their cars "Greasied Lighting."

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Installed with dense cushion
*Includes new softback backing for added comfort underfoot.
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Value-priced stone textured pastels, tough glass that resists scratches and stains. PIJ IV
8x8........$1.59 SF
13x13 also available
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Good
Assorted color and design.

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The Seacoast Repertory Theatre is a professional, non-profit arts and educational organization.
Richmond Days Schedual of Events

FRIDAY JULY 23rd
9:00 A.M.  Swan Island tour (donation)
sign up at Front Street Market
3:00 P.M.  Swan Island tour (donation)
sign up at Front Street Market
4:00 P.M.  Promise (Christian Music Band)
6:00 P.M.  Coastal Cloggers
6:30 P.M.  Register for children's parade
7:00 P.M.  Children's parade Theme 'Flower Child of the 70's' held at the water front park.
8:00 to 11:00 Aces and Eights Band held at the water front park
  ISAAE F. UMBERHINE Antique MiniRoadshow
Bring your antiques, collectibles, items of interest to the library for experts to appraise.
A photo of the item is also acceptable.
DATE: July 31, 1999
TIME: 9 O’M, to 3 P.M.
PLACE: Umbersonic Library 82 Main Street
Richmond
PRICE: $3.00 per item or $5.00 for 2 items
Contact: Joyce Mckenney 737 4257
e-mailmckenney@ctel.net
Books and light refreshments for sale
SATURDAY JULY 24TH
6:30 A.M.  3RD annual five mile A-Spiro run registration held at the Richmond Junior Senior High School
7:00 A.M.  3RD annual five mile A-Spiro Run starts at Richmond Junior High school
8:00 to 3:00 Flea market held at the water front park
9:00 to 1:00 Book, bake, lemonade, strawberry shortcake sale held at the Richmond Library
9:00 to 12:00 St. Ambrose yard sale and baked goods
(held at Flower Spot parking lot)
9:00 A.M.  Swan Island tour (donation)
reservations at Front Street Market.
10:00 to 1:00 Horse show tournament held next to Front Street Market call Kathy or
Norman Knight for details 737 2776
10:00 Parde
11:00  Parade awards held at the water front park
11:00 to 5:00 Petting zoo at the Southard House Museum (free admission)
11:00 Swan Island tour (donation)
reservations at Front Street Market
11:00 to 2:00 Chicken Barbecue held at
Richmond Dresden United Methodist Church
11:30 to 12:00 Go cart racing held at the
Richmond Jr. Sr. High School
12:00 to 4:00 3rd Annual sidewalk art festival held at Main Street Dairy Treat
SALLY HOYT AWARD COMMITTEE
Connie Smith Irma Williams Mary smith
Richmond Days Hot Shots held at Richmond Utilities District by the water front park
all ages welcome.
12:00 to 2:00 Mark Hall & the Maniacs
Classic Rock held at tile water front park
1:00 P.M.  Swan Island tour (donation)
reservations at Front Street Market
1:00 P.M.  Pet show held at the Richmond Jr. Sr. High School
1:00 to 5:00 Richmond Library House Tour (gathering at the new Historical Society building on 52 South Pleasant street).
2:00 to 3:00 Lobster crate walk held at the water front park.
2:00 to 3:30 Children's Field day held at
Richmond Jr. Sr. High School
3:00 P.M.  Swan Island tour (donation)
reservations at Front Street Market
3:00 to 5:00 Smoked Salmon Band held at the water front park.
3:00 to 6:00 Horse show tournament held
beside Front Street Market call Kathy & Norman Knight for details 737-2776
4:00 to 5:30 Frog Jumping contest
Regatta Race (7 yrs & up)
Rocket show (9yrs & up w/ supervision)
All held at Richmond Jr. Sr. High School.
5:00 to 6:30 Static (modern rock band)
held at the water front park.
5:00 P.M.  Alumni Banquet social hour held at
Richmond Jr. Sr. High School
6:00 P.M.  Alumni Banquet dinner held at
Richmond Jr. Sr. High School
6:30 to 8:30 Square dance called by Perry Richards and rounds cued by Mark Ward held at the water front park.
For more info. call Perry Richards 737 4272
DJ service provided by Ryan Coe
FIREWORKS held at the water front park

Maine 's Town Fairs

Jul 15-18..........................Pitkston Fair
Jul 22-24..........................Richmond Days
Jul 23-25..........................World's Fair (Waterford)
Jul 24-25..........................Air Show (B.N.A.S.)
Jul 30-Aug 8.......................Bangor State Fair
Aug 4-7............................Monmouth Fair
Aug 6-8............................Athens Fair
Aug 8-14............................Topsham Fair
Aug 12-21.........................Skowhegan State Fair
Aug 22-28.........................Union Fair
Aug 26-29.........................Acton Fair
Aug 26-29.........................Piscataquis Valley (Dover-Foxcroft)
Aug 29-Sept 6.....................Windsor Fair
Sept 2-6............................Blue Hill Fair
Sept 2-6............................Springfield Fair
Sept 9-12.........................Clinton Lions Club
Sept 10-12.........................Litchfield Fair
Sept 15-18.........................Oxford County Fair (Oxford)
Sept 19-25.........................Franklin County Fair (Farmington)
Sept 24-26.........................Common Ground Fair (Unity)
Sept 26-Oct 2.....................Cumberland Farmers Club Fair
Oct 3-10.........................Fryeburg Fair
Oct 8-9.............................Bowdoin Harvest Days
Oct 3-10.........................Fryeburg Fair

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You'll see that when it comes to gay travel guides you can't improve on a classic.
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Wild Oscar's Happy Puzzle

"He to whom the present is the only thing that is present, knows nothing of the age in which he lives."—19th century Irish wit Oscar Wilde

ACROSS
2. Daughters of ..., last husband
5. 7th best
6. Peas, 9th suffix
13. Mental condition of right-wing religious leaders
15. Overhaul, singular in this case
16. Suffixes for act or process, final in a fail...
18. **Yarmouth, Maine 04096**
20. Second word in the Portland, Augusta and
23. Peace and privacy.
24. Perfect vacation choice
25. **President to address gay rights event**
26. 4th Sunday in March.
27. 3rd best
29. Second singular of... Gay magazine, British
31. Street in a gay dance bar
33. Another's unsupervised setting in doing evil on the ground of experience.
34. 2nd room who wins in a mirror
36. **Wharner**
37. Editorial for... Gay magazine
39. A 3-1/2 and 8th vowels of the alphabet
40. **Canadian and American.**
41. President of S.Fgay area, 3rd
43. House of British Roman
44. **Island**
46. **Room**
47. **House**
48. **Fishing**
49. President to address gay rights event
50. Chief cook
51. 2 words
52. President, singular in doing ruling dynasty
53. First sitting
54. 1st and 2nd
56. **Northwest**
57. **State**
58. 1st and 2nd
59. 1st and 2nd
60. **B&B or Weekly rental on**
61. **Peaceful, quiet. Brochure,**
62. **Highest priority.**
63. **Peace and Privacy.**
64. **Taylor**
65. **Debates.**
66. **Ad
67. **1st best
68. **7th best
69. **1st best
70. **1st best

DOWN
1. **Highest priority.**
2. **Mariah Carey.**
3. **Two words**
4. **One skilled in doing.**
5. **Separate**
6. **Selected kiss, 3**
7. **1st and 2nd
8. **Postal**
9. **Canadian and American.**
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Words
26 sounds like 'are you'
26. **First appeared**
27. **Handbook actually, an S&L opened in**
28. **S.F., 1981.**
29. **James who held up the heavens on his shoulders.
30. **4 Biblical abbe for Isaiah images
31. **Images of cows toes
32. **Russian numeral 301
33. **Spanish yes male saint...abbe.
34. **Texas' Vieux Carre.
35. **One's unsupervised... Gay magazine, British
36. **More than one's unsupervised... Gay magazine, British
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Classifieds

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Special Announcements
Dear Readers,
Please be aware that this issue is our summer issue and CPR will not be printed again until the first week of September.
Also if you have not seen CPR in your regular pick up point, please notify our office at: 207-737-3498. Your assistance is greatly appreciated!
Have a great summer!
Angel Castro & Catherine Clark.