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"Discovering that you're a lesbian in Towanda, Pennsylvania is a little bit like discovering that you're a cannibal in the vegetable section of Shaw's."

See Centerfold, Page 8

INSIDE
- $2500 Offered For Best First Novel
- Maine House Makes History!
Maine House Makes History!

by Eric Gordon

In what Maine Public Radio called “a near-perfect lobbying effort”, MLGPA (Maine Lesbian Gay Political Alliance) realized a stunning victory for the first reading of L.D. 556, An Act To Prevent Discrimination, in the Maine House of Representatives. The winning vote of 73 to 67 represents the first time the Maine House has ever supported a gay rights initiative.

Eleven legislators spoke in favor of the bill. Only one, Mary MacBride, spoke against.

At press time, MLGPA lobbyist Sadhbh Neilan and scores of others were organizing for a second reading House vote and for a victory in the Maine Senate.


What They Said: Quotes From The Maine House Floor

Gerard Conley, Jr.
Portland Democrat
Voted in favor

“The problem is real. The need is great. The solution is simple. And it is here before us today.”

Cushman Anthony
South Portland Democrat
Voted in favor

“If Gertrude Stein, or Holly Near or Walt Whitman came to Maine would we discriminate against them?”

James Oliver
Portland Democrat
Voted in favor

“I recently spoke with two neighbors of mine, two wonderful gay men who were viciously harassed.”

Neil Rolde
York Democrat
Voted in favor

“I’ve never before spoken out on this issue. I usually just sit quietly in my seat and vote against this.”

Maria Glen Holt
Bath Democrat
Voted in favor

“On does not “choose” to be gay. It is a fact of life, not a lifestyle. The “choice” gay people make is not to pretend any longer.”

William O’Gara
Westbrook Democrat
Voted in favor

“Some people claim that God has told them homosexuality is wrong. I would bet that God talks much more frequently against discrimination than against homosexuality.”

Anne Rand
Portland Democrat
Voted in favor

“Let’s stand behind freedom and justice for all.”

M. Ida Luther
Mexico Democrat
Voted in favor

“L.D. 556 deals with justice and an insistence on human dignity.”

James Handy
Lewiston Democrat
Voted in favor

“My daughter Alexis is three years old. I don’t know if she’ll be a lesbian. But believe me, if she’s discriminated against, I’ll fight for her.”

Peter Hastings
Fryeburg Republican
Voted in favor

“Pass away your fears of darkness.”

Mary MacBride
Presque Isle Republican
Voted against

“Our civil rights laws have been written for all of us.”

Portland has no sexual orientation protection ordinance. Let’s join the 80 U.S. cities that do. Passing a Portland ordinance could be a piece of cake. Call 871-1014 and I’ll tell you why.
An Urgent Appeal to the People of Maine

The Problem:

- More than 60 Maine residents have already died from AIDS: a 12-year-old boy from Lewiston, a father of two from Presque Isle, a pastry chef from Portland and a prisoner from Thomaston have been among those Maine residents whose lives have been claimed.
- During the first 4 months of 1989, 28 new cases of AIDS were diagnosed in Maine. This represents a dramatic rise over 1988, when the total number of cases diagnosed in the state was 25.
- 150 Mainers are currently living with AIDS. Cases range in age from 4 to 80. This number of cases will at least double by January 1991!
- Many people living with AIDS (PWAs) are trying to make ends meet on disability checks of as little as $220 per month. In the past, the Maine Health Foundation has provided up to $200 per month of financial assistance to PWAs to cover such basics as housing, childcare, and medical care when all other means of support have been exhausted.
- The rapid escalation of AIDS cases in Maine has created an unprecedented demand for assistance funds that far exceeds contributions.
- The Maine Health Foundation PWA Financial Assistance Fund is in crisis!

The Solution:

- Until now you may not have thought you could help. This is your opportunity to make a difference.
- The Maine Health Foundation is a private, nonprofit, 100% volunteer organization. The Maine Health Foundation is Maine's only statewide fundraising organization for AIDS-related programs. Your contribution to the Maine Health Foundation PWA Financial Assistance Fund will go directly to PWAs in Maine.
- The Maine Health Foundation has formed an important new membership opportunity known as Helping Other People Everyday (HOPE). In 1989 we're hoping to find 1,000 people who will make a difference by contributing $200 annually. The $200,000 raised will enable us to provide continued financial assistance to the men, women, and children who so desperately need your help.
- Here's what HOPE membership will mean for you:
  - HOPE members will have the satisfaction of knowing their tax-deductible donation is being used to dramatically enhance the quality of life of Maine people living with AIDS.
  - HOPE members will receive membership cards entitling them to a 50% discount on admission to all Maine Health Foundation concerts, cruises and events.
  - HOPE members will receive the Maine Health Foundation newsletter which will keep you informed about how your donation has made a difference to your neighbors in Maine.
  - You will not be solicited again by the Maine Health Foundation throughout the year!

For the price of a fast food lunch ($3.85) per week, you can make the difference. Please...give today. Give HOPE.

Yes, I want to give HOPE!

☐ I want to become a member of HOPE with a tax-deductible donation of $200
☐ Check enclosed
☐ Charge my VISA/MasterCard
  Acct # .............................................................
  Signature ..........................................................
  Expiration date ..................................................
☐ Charge my VISA/MasterCard $50 every three months for one year
☐ Yes, I want to help Maine people living with AIDS.
Enclosed, my tax-deductible donation of $ ..........................

Name .................................................................
Phone ...............................................................
Address .............................................................

☐ You may ☐ You may not use my name in media publications.

Send this coupon & your donation to: Maine Health Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 7329op Downtown Station, Portland, ME 04112
For more information call: 772-2717
Canada Customs Strikes Again!

Canada Customs, notorious for seizing "obscene" lesbian and gay literature and art, struck again in April when 15 photographs were detained at the U.S.-Canada border. The photographs were to be displayed at The Queer Culture festival in Toronto as part of a show called Lesbian Sex Art.

Ruthann Tucker, the curator of the show, was forced eventually to pay $600.00 in duty charges to ensure that the photographs were in Toronto in time for the show. An understandably irked Tucker said, "The arbitrary nature of Canada Customs is appalling in how they interpret the various classifications. Having to pay $600.00 in duty for an art show that will be sent back after three weeks - that's obscene."

This is not the first time Canada Customs has seized lesbian and gay art and books. Last fall, several works of gay literature destined for bookstores in Canada were detained by customs officials.

Gay Museum Founded in New York

The Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center of New York City has announced the founding of the first museum in the United States devoted to lesbian and gay history. The museum, to be called the National Museum of Lesbian and Gay History, will also store and develop a library and archival collection of periodicals, books and memorabilia, as well as such research materials as the retired files of such national and personal papers and biographies of gay people.

Richard Wandel, an archivist and member of the Museum Committee, says, "There's a real need for a place to collect and preserve papers important to our experience. My coming out process was enormously influenced by reading. We owe it to future generations to protect and make available everything we can accumulate that documents our past."

The museum's first independent project, entitled "Imagining Stonewall," will take place in June. Lesbian and Gay Pride and History Month.

Sponsors Line Up For Hate Crimes Act

Nearly one-half of all U.S. Senators and one-fourth of all members of the House of Representatives have become co-sponsors of the federal Hate Crimes Act. According to National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) lobbyist Peri Jade Radecic, 43 Senators and 114 Congresspersons have endorsed the bill as of April 28, 1989, making it the most widely-supported bill pursued by the lesbian and gay civil rights movement.

Radecic attributed the large co-sponsor list to the efforts of individual constituent lobbying, particularly local gay and lesbian groups, and the work of a 60-member Hate Crimes Coalition which NGLTF launched in 1987 in order to generate broader support for the Act. "The large number of co-sponsors shows that our lobbying efforts work. Today, a significant percentage of all Members of Congress recognize violence against lesbians and gay men as a serious problem deserving federal attention," said NGLTF.

The Hate Crimes Statistics Act mandates collection by the federal government of data on crimes motivated by prejudice based on race, religion, sex or sexual orientation. The bill’s chief sponsors are Senators Paul Simon (D-IL) and Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Representatives John Conyers (D-MI) and Peter DeFazio (D-OR). Constituent lobbying is urgently needed.

Mainers, In Poll, Back Gay Rights

Augusta - Results of a random telephone survey of 422 Maine voters, as reported in the Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram-Gazette, show that Mainers overwhelmingly support a legislative proposal to extend protection of the Maine Human Rights Commission to Maine homosexuals.

Of those responding, 77.3 percent supported the proposal while 15.3 percent were opposed and 7.1 percent were undecided.

"I have to say I am very surprised," said James W. Davis, chairman of the Commission, "but very pleased.

Last week, 422 randomly selected Maine registered voters were asked the question: "Do you support the proposal to extend the protection of the Maine Human Rights Commission, banning discrimination in employment, housing, credit or public accommodations, to all Mainers, regardless of their sexual orientation?" as part of a general survey on issues before the Legislature conducted by CNS.

"I think the wording of the question was crucial," said Diane Elze, president of the Maine Lesbian & Gay Political Alliance. "When Maine people are asked exactly their opinion about the existence of discrimination, it's clear that Maine people do not support discrimination."

During the survey, some respondents offered comments as well as answering the yes or no questions. A middle-aged man from York County who identified himself as a Republican and a conservative told the interviewer he wanted his position to be clear.

"I don't like them, I don't like what they do," he said, "but I don't think we should discriminate against them."

Dale McCormack, a longtime gay rights activist, disagrees. She says the poll results indicate Mainers will not support discrimination against any group, and that includes people whose lifestyle they may personally disapprove.

"I would think it would quell some of the reservations that lawmakers have had that their constituents do not support this kind of issue," she said. "It shows Mainers can separate the issues of discrimination from other issues."

Commission Chairman Munday said he believes the poll results are important, because of the wording of the question: "I am one of those people who do not put much stock in public opinion polls because of the way questions can be used," he said, "but this question was straightforward and reinforces my belief that Maine people are basically fair."

Women supported the proposal more strongly than men responding to the survey, with 81.9 percent of the women saying yes to the question, 73.1 percent supported it.

The survey indicates broad support for the issue, with clear majorities of all ideology groups and political affiliations supporting the proposal, although the percentage of support among conservatives was the lowest at 62.9 percent, and the highest among liberals at 85.3 percent. Among all respondents analyzed by income, age, education and how long they have lived in Maine, there were some fluctuations in support, but in all cases, a clear majority of each group supported the proposal.

The Capital News Service survey is based on telephone interviews with 422 randomly selected registered voters, using a computer-generated random-digit dialing method that assures sampled representation of Mainers with telephones, regardless of whether their phone number is listed or unlisted.

On a question in the survey based on all 422 respondents, CNS predicts an accuracy of plus or minus 5 percent if all adults had been contacted by the interviewers. There is less certainty on questions answered by fewer respondents. The survey was conducted April 23-26.

Another Alliance Is Born

On May 3, 1989, the newly formed Lifestyle Alliance was recognized by the University of New England undergraduate student senate as a student group. The organization is modeled after other university student groups in Maine, and will be providing similar services in York County, joining the network of services to gay, lesbian, and bisexual people in Maine.

This type of organization was attempted before at UNE but failed to become recognized and established. This year, however, support from faculty, staff, administrators, and students proved to be fruitful.

Currently, the Lifestyle Alliance has a group of volunteers willing to speak in the community on gay and lesbian issues - the Speakers Bureau - and continues to formulate and realize the other services it has planned.

Longterm goals include: an active speakers bureau, an ending library of gay and lesbian literature, support and discussion groups, referral services, special events, sports, peer counseling, and public relations.

The staff consists of myself and Annette Costombe as co-coordinators, Jeff Haas as Financial Officer, Carlos Esquendo as Public Relations Specialist, and Susan Milton and Jennifer Perry as Support Staff. Dr. Vern Patterson, a full-time faculty with the Division of Human Resources, and Barbara Hazard, the Dean of Students, make up the male and female team of faculty advisors. Although there are many others and that list is too long for this article, the above are active students holding offices and serving.

The staff will take the summer to formulate policies and procedures, an 89-90 operating budget, as well as support and educational services. If all goes as planned, the organization will be in its infant stages of providing services in September, 1989, particularly for in-coming students.

This group formed relatively quickly. In September, a couple of students inquired at Student Affairs as to whether or not UNE has a Lesbian/Gay Student Organization. They learned that there was not, but were connected up to each other, as they both expressed an interest in starting one. In other words, this year the need and interest was apparent and Student Affairs responded with their support. After a few short months, three groups were formed: one to formulate a constitution, another to assess the educational (social and academic) needs of the university community, and a third to look at the university's Equal Opportunity Clause, which currently lacks the term "sexual orientation."

Since the organization was formed in the end of the school year, it will have to wait until next academic year to submit a budget.

As the organization progresses, it will submit updates to Our Paper and announces its events, which are to be open to the public. It is hoped that the Lifestyles Alliance at UNE will join the other Maine gay, lesbian, bisexual, or straight alliance's efforts to work on relevant issues for this community, will be welcomed into that network, and will be used and depended upon as a resource. Your support, be it monetary, volunteer hours, books or referrals, would be very much appreciated.

Together we are stronger, and offer of support can be directed to: Lifestyles Alliance, c/o Student Affairs, University of New England, Hills Beach Road Beddoford, ME 04005-9599
Bored Stiff: The Real Sin of Pornography

by Michael Bendzela

(The following article uses some explicit language to make its point.)

You would think, given the vehemence with which Christian and "family" groups protest the sale and distribution of the same core pornography, that it is potent stuff, able to promote mental illness and the complete moral breakdown of its purveyors (as these groups indeed claim). However, one, two, or even three looks at some porn tapes let you know that nothing so drastic will become of you should you happen to view such material. Pornography cannot harm you. It is too boring.

Pornography treats the story as one continuous climax; it doesn't build up to scenes, it doesn't create the climaxes through steady, developing humanization of its characters and situations, it simply shows off its special repertoire of specific sex acts, and keeps showing it, as if to make you sick of it. In semantic cessation, the repetition of a certain word outside of the meaningful context of its meaning, the hollow sound and essence of that word: say dildo over and over and keep saying it and see if it doesn't soon become just a noise devoid of significance. Dildo. Dildo. Dildo. Dildo. Pornography is like this, and what it destroys is intimacy. Is it any wonder the poor souls can't come on screen?

So why can't you just be entertained, you may ask. Why do you always have to play critic when playing critic is so inappropriate to porn-watching? .. Because, you can't presume that a good quality movie is therefore unentertaining. Because you shouldn't shut your eyes to important matters just so you can buy a lie. Because you deserve better, if you appreciate love and intimacy and sex.

The bad thing about pornography, its real sin, is that for all its anatomical clarity, there is a shocking lack of intimacy.

Looking up a guy's anus is not necessarily the same as looking into his soul. It is scandalous and ironic that there are hundreds of gay porn titles to choose from in this town but little of anything else. Go to Videoport and rent Pedro Almodovar's Law of Desire if you want to see a bit of the truth. This film about trying to understand how the sex acts that you anguish over in your parched adolescence could have become these cheap, boring bumphings on the screen. This tiresome sawing back and forth is the deed which has led so much of humanity to despair? This shuffling and scrubbing the pivotal event around which the human personality revolves, the point at which both Church and State become utter wrecks? Of course it is, but don't let the boredom of the video fool you. Though it pretends to show everything and then some, ironically, pornography doesn't tell even half the truth. It may be explicit, but it lies in its explicitness. Though no stone is left untold, the real drama is occurring off-camera, and before the cameras even roll, and after-the-fact.

A California "blond" in a BMW picks up a "blond" hitchhiker. They say some things that you can't hear because the music is too loud. Then they pull over to the side of the road and drop their pants in the bushes. The one blond, erect now, dictates that the other should "suck that dick." Second blond does so, interminably. Then he leaps up against a tree and takes it up his rear end. His cries of joy, or anguish, are extinguished by the noise from the nearby L.A. freeway and the creepy, third-rate generic rock music on the soundtrack. This goes on for twenty minutes, a half an hour (they switch places a couple of times). Then, like squeezing milk out of a pork chop, one boy manages to ejaculate upon the other. An Asian turns the wheel, and the one who has done this is pulled out of the car and handed to the other, who is given a series of instructions: "Put this in from behind, come up front, put this in from behind." The other boy does it, and the Asian guy locks himself up in a stall.

From the very beginning of the tape to its meager end, a porn director can be so deliberately crass, so relentless in his repetitions, and so cheap in production and benefit of imagination that you may be left wondering how the sex acts that you amused over in your parched adolescence could have become these cheap, boring bumphings on the screen. This tiresome sawing back and forth is the deed which has led so much of humanity to despair? This shuffling and scrubbing the pivotal event around which the human personality revolves, the point at which both Church and State become utter wrecks? Of course, it is scandalous and ironic that

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unlike— they are porn sex. Pretending to be straightforward, they fumble to show what happens during sex. But what happens during sex has everything to do with what has happened before the sex takes place, and what will happen afterward. It has everything to do with the history of the people involved, why they are there, what they want from each other. The bad thing about pornography, its real sin, is that for all its anatomical clarity, there is a shocking lack of intimacy. Not an honest word is exchanged between actors. Dysfunctions—common and troublesome in real gay life—are treated as bad takes. As pornography eschews the standard virtues of the good story—character development, rising action, falling action, complication, tension, dialogue, etc.—it suffers from emptiness and coldness; it has nothing to say.
Healthy Curiosity... About Menstruation

by R.J. Bass

A: First of all, your question is NOT RIDICULOUS at all! Most women have been given very little basic information about the menstrual cycle, often in the course of obtaining birth control, or if there is a problem requiring medical attention, so don't be surprised that you and your friends don't understand the menstrual cycle. This basic ignorance is the main reason there are so many misunderstandings about women's periods and cycles.

What you refer to as the "mechanics" of the menstrual cycle are events triggered by the activity of hormones—chemical messengers produced in many parts of the body. Hormones control many body functions, including menstruation and the menstrual cycle.

The onset of menstrual periods, referred to as menarche, usually happens near the end of puberty. Menarche can occur anywhere between the age of 9 and 18. Many women's ovaries contain about 400,000 immature egg cells. Between menarche and menopause (the cessation of menstrual cycles), only three to five hundred of these cells will develop to mature eggs.

A typical cycle of bleeding, usually called "the period," is the beginning of a hormone cycle that takes about a month. The length of a cycle, which is measured from the first day of bleeding to the first day of the next period, can vary greatly from woman to woman. While we commonly refer to cycles as being 28 days in length, many women have cycles that are as short as 14–21 days or as long as 42 days.

Even for an individual woman, her cycles may vary in length from month to month. About a week in fluctuation is considered normal. "Irregular" periods are not uncommon, but if a woman experiences extreme differences in the length of her cycles from month to month, she may, indeed, have irregular cycles. This may, or may not, be a problem.

At the beginning of the period, the hypothalamus and pituitary glands, located in the brain, send hormone signals to the ovaries. These signals instruct 10 to 20 immature egg cells to begin developing. As they mature, the egg cells form tiny buds, called follicles. Usually, only one follicle will fully mature. The follicles that do not mature produce immature eggs that disintegrate.

The follicle also releases estrogen, another hormone, as it carries the mature egg to the surface of the ovary.

Progestrone also can cause a very slight (less than one degree centigrade) increase in body temperature.

Periods generally last from about 2 to 8 days. The fluid is a mixture of uterine lining, vaginal and cervical secretions, and a small amount of blood. The average amount of menstrual flow is less than it used to be—only 2 to 3 ounces. (Some women may have longer, heavier, shorter, or lighter periods.)

Over the woman's period begins, the hormone cycle begins again. This is in simple form, an explanation of the mechanics of the menstrual cycle.

Over the course of their lives, women will experience changes in their cycles. Stress, aging, and pregnancy are common reasons for these changes.

Most women continue to have menstrual cycles till about the age of 30, with a range from 40 to 55 considered to be normal. The ending of menstrual cycles is called menopause. The transition between regular cycles and total menopause can take as long as fifteen years.

Excessive cramps with periods ("dysmenorrhea") are not directly related to the menstrual cycle, but are probably caused by the hormone prostaglandin. This hormone is produced in many parts of the body, including the uterus, and can cause very bad cramps, even diarrhea. Certain medical problems, like endometriosis, can also cause excess cramping. If a woman is having a hard time with the menstrual syndrome or dysmenorrhea, she may want to see her health care provider. There are many remedies, herbs, drugs, exercises, and dietary recommendations which can help alleviate these problems. It should be noted, though, that not everyone with cramps considers it a problem.

If you want to learn more about your own menstrual cycle, you can learn to monitor all the changes that you experience during your cycle: body temperature, cervical mucus, breast changes, emotional changes, etc. There are special charts which you can use to create a visual interpretation of the hormone activity in your cycle, or you can simply use a calendar or journal.

A good resource on the menstrual cycle is "Our Bodies, Ourselves" by the Boston Women's Health Book Collective, or, for a more technical explanation, Contraceptive Technology, by Robert Hatcher, Felicia Guert, et al.

If you are interested in charting your cycles, local family planning clinics can teach you how to use the charts, or provide books to teach you how to recognize symptoms and interpret them. Most of these books are written from the viewpoint of charting fertility for the purpose of planning or avoiding pregnancy, so they are not necessarily sensitive to lesbians. Their technical information is generally valuable, however.

If you have healthy curiosity about gay or lesbian health, sexuality, or mental health, send your question to Healthy Curiosity, c/o OUR PAPER, PO Box 9874, Portland, ME 04104, Portland, ME 04101. Names and locations will not be printed.

Gayzette
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to add co-sponsors and to defeat attempts by Sen. Jesse Helms to enact anti-gay provisions. A legislative packet on the Hate Crimes Statistics Act may be obtained from NGLTF, Count Hate Crimes, 1517 U Street NW, Washington DC 20009.

Harvard Gays Stage 
Hug-In

Several gay students attempting to expose anti-gay bias on campus staged a "hug-in" recently in a campus dance hall at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. The protest, which provoked a campus-wide debate on the rights of gay students, included hugging and kissing by lesbian and gay couples and was organized in response to an incident at a gay dance where a gay student was pushed around and verbally attacked.

Harvard's gay student group organized the hug-in as a result of the neglectful attitude expressed by school officials when told of the harassment.

Notable Quotable

"We are doing a movie together! It's based on an experience we had when we first met a few years ago." - Pee-See Herman, reacting to the news that 15,000 USA Weekend readers would cast him with tough-guy Clint Eastwood if they wanted a "really OOD couple to make a movie."

Judith Lippa, MSW
Lic. Clinical Social Worker
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• Individuals
• Couples
• Families
• Groups

Suite 423
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by Alan Kelly-Hamm

The 80s have not been a particularly good decade for the advancement of human rights, especially so for the Gay movement. First there was Ronnie "Bang Bang" Reagan, closely followed by AIDS and just three years ago the Supreme Court in all its wisdom saw fit to deny us the most basic of freedoms, the right to privacy within our own bedrooms. Am I being paranoid, is this a result of all those acid trips I took in college? I think not. Big brother is watching us and waiting, biding his time until he can slap us back a little deeper into our closets.

The way I see it I have a few choices as to what I can do to deal with our thoroughly unjust political system. I can rage quietly and develop an ulcer the size of Ronald Reagan's brain, I can move to Amsterdam, or I can fight for my rights every step of the way. Since I can't afford hospitalization and I don't like the weather in Amsterdam, it looks like I'll have to opt for the latter. Recently I was asked to speak before the judiciary committee of the Maine State Legislature. I would speak as a Gay school worker, on the need for civil rights protection for Lesbian and Gay people.

Therefore I have to be involved in the fight for my rights and for the rights of my fellow Lesbians and Gay men. I feel stronger and healthier. Now that I've got things under control I won't give up the fight.

The following is the text of my presentation to the judiciary committee of the Maine State Legislature:

My name is Alan Kelly-Hamm. I live in Searsport in Waldo County.

As a boy growing up in the town of Berwick, I thought that Maine was just about the most wonderful place a person could choose to live. Two years ago I returned to this state after a 10 year absence, and I feel that way once again.

There was a time in the 60's when Maine was not an easy place to be a boy who preferred reading to baseball. Adolescence can be difficult for anyone. I found it to be a horribly painful, alienating period. Looking back over those years it seems that every time I tried to be the person I really was there were subtle and not so subtle reminders that I was a misfit. Boys like me were never allowed to forget that we were "queer." Every gym class was a new lesson in humiliation with my clothes being thrown in the shower or having a basketball flung at my head. Some young men thrived on hurting those who are less able to stand up for themselves. For another I considered myself fortunate if I didn't get punched in the face more than once a month. My teachers turned a blind eye to this abuse. This was too ashamed and embarrassed to tell my mother. Hatred and anti-Gay violence were subjects that I came to know a lot about in those years.

Somehow I managed to get through high school. I was drunk or stoned whenever possible. School was a hateful experience, not a time of innocent pleasure. I started knowing a time, though, back in the 60's, that I was there for three years of my life, I graduated in the bottom third of my class. Somehow I managed to get into college. To everyone's surprise I did quite well. My first two years were painfully lonely. Though I tried dating women, my heart was never in it. The year I turned 21 I summoned up my courage and attended a pot-luck dinner sponsored by the newly-formed Gay Student Alliance. That night I found that there were lesbians and gay men who felt good about who they were. Over the next year I came out to myself and to those people I cared about. But I knew then that soon I would have to leave Maine and go some place more accepting if I was ever to find the support I needed to become a healthy, well-adjusted human being.

For the past year and a half I've worked with special needs children at a small school near my home. As an educator who is also gay, I lead a schizophrenic existence. Each day at work I listen quietly while my co-workers talk about their spouses, their children and their domestic lives. I sit quietly because I don't have the luxury of talking about my spouse. When I do mention my partner of eight years, Miles is usually reduced to being "a friend."

In the classroom there is a different set of restraints. I'm very physical with my kids, yet often I find myself holding back, being more cautious than I like. A teacher once worked with suspected I was gay. She told me she didn't want her first graders to sit in my lap any more. That hurt!

Several times a week I hear a first or second grade boy taunting a fellow student with "You're a faggot, you have AIDS." I wonder how these boys would feel if they knew their favorite teacher was a faggot.

It's a healthier emotional state to live with, but I do so because I love my work. I'm there because I care.

Our society goes to great lengths to keep lesbian and gay men away from children. Far too many qualified Gay people avoid teaching because of this attitude. It's a shame we are forced to make a choice. How many gay kids are out there trying to cope in a hostile, bigoted world. How many heterosexually teachers understand the magnitude of gay oppression?

Perhaps the most disturbing aspect for me and for many teachers is that we can at any time lose our jobs because we're gay. As I stand before you, I recognize the possibility that I am putting my livelihood at risk. By publicly proclaiming the words "I am gay," I could be fired. Someone could call my principal and tell him that one of his teachers is a queer. I have no job protection.

I don't understand the reasoning that allows, even encourages, blatant discrimination against 10% of the population. Why is it that I can lose my job because of who I love in the privacy of my own home, I don't want special privileges. What I would like is to be able to live without fear of violence in a state where my job is to be protected, and where I cannot be denied housing or public accommodations simply because someone chooses to deny me those rights.

As our elected officials, you have the grave responsibility of passing laws that protect the rights, and are in the best interests of the citizens of Maine. I ask you to search your hearts as well as your minds as you prepare to vote on Bill L.D. 556. You can send a message to the world that Maine cares about all of its citizens that our great State does not condone discrimination in any form.

That is the American way. Please vote YES on L.D. 556. Thank you.

VICTORIA ZAVASNIK, Ph.D. Licensed Substance Abuse Counselor

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Sheep farmer, radio deejay, cartoonist and funny lady Holly Valero. You've read her column, "The Straight and Narrow" in Our Paper. Now read a bit about this woman who has given us the likes of Fretega Truegrip, Lesbian TV, and The Queen of the Night Festival. Ladies and gentleman, Holly Valero.

Holly was born in a big city. I was seven, I assumed that the only two other places we could be going to would be California or New York. So all of a sudden I was seven, I assumed that it was a stop along the way...like we couldn't afford a hotel or something, and we were on our way to California. But we didn't leave. You can't imagine my shock when I realized that this is where we were going to live.

Holly does Towanda

Towanda, Pennsylvania is a very small town in Bradford County which is in northeastern Pennsylvania. Historically, nothing has ever happened there. To give you an idea of the social climate, Towanda is an Indian word that actually means "places where our dead are buried." It's a very nice town to live in, you know, if you're a dandelion. We did have county courthouse because we were the county seat. But as far as I'm concerned, never saw anyone go in there. In the sixteen years I lived there I didn't see a soul in that building. I just heard one of those fans that you see in the movies and I heard what sounded like an old lady walking around. That's it.

Holly's father was interesting.

My father had this desire, I guess, to raise sheep. I've heard you can cure that desire now with drugs and intense psychotherapy, but we actually did end up with a whole pile of sheep on this farm in Pennsylvania, and our nearest neighbor was two miles away. And when we got there, I just assumed that it was a stop along the way...like we couldn't afford a hotel or something, and we were on our way to California. But we didn't leave. You can't imagine my shock when I realized that this is where we were going to live.

Holly moves to Maine

Then, in October of '87, I decided to go back to school here at Andover. Celeste and I had moved up to Maine. She'd just gotten a wonderful job here, and I decided to get a degree. You know how your mother tells you that you really should get one, you know, in case your desire to be a ballerina doesn't really pan out? So I decided to get a degree in something, anything, so I could have something to fall back on.

Enter Celeste.

I moved from Towanda because a social life was impossible.See, discovering that you're a lesbian in Towanda, Pennsylvania is like discovering that you're a cannibal in the vegetable section of Shaw's.

I found myself with an incredible crush on Jaclyn Smith. I had a scrapbook.

And I realized that when shows like Charlie's Angels came out. Yes, I confess. I found myself with an incredible crush on Jaclyn Smith. I had a scrapbook. That was when I realized that I was not like all the other girls in school. And of course, one of the reasons I went to New Hampshire was that nobody knew me. For six months I didn't leave the house. But then I did date a couple of other women. And then I met a woman named Celeste who needed a partner for raquetball. And I thought, "Great, finally a friend, without any pressure to date...no ties, no nothing." And I don't know exactly how it happened, but we've been together for two and a half years, three in November.

Does Celeste like humor, too?

Well, Celeste is one of those people who doesn't laugh aloud. Some people are just natural-born laughers. She is the sort of woman who just sort of looks at something and smiles. I've heard her laugh aloud only twice, and I figured that it just had to be Oscar-winning material. I write the articles for Our Paper, and I make the mistake of bringing her a copy of my article to read. I think it's hysterical, and I'll hand it to Celeste. She reads it like maybe it's a tax assessment notice. She'll read it, flip through it, come up with a faint smile, and say something like "cute."

I would rather die a lesbian and have someone throw a grenade down my shorts than live forever denying who I am.

The Tao According to Holly

I would rather die a lesbian and have someone throw a grenade down my shorts than live forever denying who I am. And I never have any trouble with people ninety-nine times out of a hundred. People get to know me and love me, and later along the lines they find out that I'm a lesbian and it can be very shocking to these people. Suddenly they realize they know them, they like me, and it forces THEM to change, not me. I've never had anyone say to me, "Oh no, you're a lesbian. That means I can't be your friend anymore." Of course, other people are just more curious than anything else, asking questions like, "How do you know when you meet another lesbian?" I just tell them about our secret handshake.
The Coming Out Kit
by Holly Valero

"It's the Coming Out Kit. I got it from the Gay Times Support Group. It's got everything you need to come out of the closet. They have a version for lesbians, too. This one came with some safe sex pamphlets and trial condoms: the legal rights guide for your home state; directory of support groups, gay clubs, therapists, and supportive legal advice; directions to all the gay bars, dance clubs, and stores; current issues of the local gay publications; a videotape and guide filled with suggestions for coming out to parents, family members, co-workers, friends, and others; an upcoming calendar of political and social events; and, of course, if all else fails, the Gay Times Heart Starter with adapters for VCR's, car cigarette lighters, and automatic coffee makers."

"The Gay Times Heart Starter?"
"The thing plugged into the back of the VCR. It's for the one-in-seventy chance of stress induced heart failure. It's good for up to three small voltage heartzaps before it shuts down—to prevent any damage to the person's heart. It's completely biodegradable and disposable. Sort of a stop-gap measure between the initial heart failure and getting that person to professional medical help."

"Thank goodness you had this thing," Susan said as she gathered up the straights.

"Yeah, I got this one through the national Gay Times Hotline by calling 1-800-GAY-TIME, giving them my name and address and number of Heart Starters I needed—it came with the kit. It showed up in just a couple of days. When I moved to Maine I didn't know anybody. The Coming Out Kit was a real life saver for me!"

"Mom, too," Susan said, tossing an afghan over her mother, "I wonder what's the ambulance so long?"

"We're in Portland, remember? They probably can't find a place to park!"

Looking out the window, Susan spotted the red and white rescue van coming around the corner. "There they are! I better go outside and flag them down!"

Bill stood up, stretched, and stood by his mother, waiting for the rescue squad. A couple of men came in, gently lifted his mother onto the stretcher and took her outside to the waiting ambulance. She was just beginning to come around and was a little groggy. One of the crew members reassured her. "Everything's okay, Mrs. Abromowitz, just take it easy. We're going to take you over to the Osteopathic Hospital just to make sure everything's in working order. Just lie back and relax. You've had a bit of a jolt today!"

Bill followed them outside, the Heart Starter paddles in hand, and climbed in to the van next to his mother.

Bill's pulse raced as he tore open the sterile plastic wrapper surrounding the disposable heart paddles. Time was running out. Only six or seven minutes before permanent damage, he thought. The sweat collected on his upper lip as he fumbled with the VCR adapter. "Okay, ah...let me think, VCR adaptor to jumper cables. Jumper cables to heart paddle. TV channel set to MTV," he gasped. Frantically he tore open the jogging suit top of his mother. He placed the paddles over the chest area and shouted, "everybody clear!" There was a slight twitch. Then a pulse. Weak at first, but getting stronger. Bill's mother would be alright.

Bill dumped the floor, back propped against the living room sofa, his own heart pounding. His younger sister, Susan, returned from the kitchen. "The ambulance is on the way. How's she doing?"

"She'll be okay," Bill smiled, "but I may never be the same!"

"So what do you go and do? You come over on Mother's Day, of all days, and just drop the bomb on her!"

"Jesus, Billy, it's not like you haven't been warned or anything! So what do you go and do? You come over on Mother's Day, of all days, and just drop the bomb on her!"

"I had to tell her sometime. David and I are getting married this June. Every time I come over here it's the same story. Why don't you ever bring any nice girls to the house? What's wrong with Irma Peterson's daughter? She likes you, you know. Or my personal favorite: when are you getting married, Billy?—So, I told her. We're getting married June 24th!"

Susan let out a long sigh and put her hand to her chest. "Yeah, I got this one through the national Gay Times Hotline by calling 1-800-GAY-TIME, giving them my name and address and number of Heart Starters I needed—it came with the kit. It showed up in just a couple of days. When I moved to Maine I didn't know anybody. The Coming Out Kit was a real life saver for me!"

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Insect Veterinarian

by James One

My dear Rajendra is trying to cheer me up. He suggests I purchase some insects for my garden. I laugh wildly. Why should I buy bugs when there are already millions of free ones in my garden, eating it and driving me to despair?

Rajendra, who never gets angry or depressed, gently removes the badly chewed cabbage leaf from my hand, forces me to sit down on a sunny stone on the garden wall, produces a soothing cup of hot herbal tea for me out of thin air, and explains. Beneficial insects like ladybugs, praying mantises, shield bugs and vedalia beetles can protect plants from harmful insects like caterpillars, aphids, scales and tomato worms. The adult Rove beetle for instance is a ruthless predator of the cabbage maggot and in a single growing season may devour as much as eighty percent of the maggots in a garden. Now—if one’s environment is a little short on a particular menace—beneficial insects, one can buy some from another part of the world, introduce them into one’s garden and enjoy the spectacle—of minute mercenaries knocking off hundreds of evil bugs a la “The Seven Samurai.”

Rajendra Shapiro—what a guy. So sweet, calm, reasonable, reasonable. I’ve never heard anything about how I must live. He lived with me for two years. A self-described “Hinjew,” he spent several hours a day sitting on the floor beside our bed in deep meditation, wearing only a wristwatch and a dial psychologist. Victim of this rare mental disorder he suffers from post-psychosis. Why is he trying to cheer me up? He’s just happened to glance at the calendar, he says, and promptly eats it. The insect clinic—New England’s first—located in Penquis, a small inland city best known until now for leading the fight against the American Linguistics Association’s campaign to simplify the English language by, among other things, deleting the little-used letters q and u from the alphabet and from the handful of words in which they appear. The clinic is run by two veterinarians. Dr. Gross is the “big bug” man and works mostly out in the field. Dr. Hall specializes in smaller bugs and handles most of the office calls.

The clinic’s crowded waiting room resembles those of traditional veterinarians except that the “pets” on the laps of the waiting customers are smaller, virtually imperceptible. While my mantis and I await our turn with the doctor, a woman near me slides open a matchbox on her lap to give whatever is inside more air, says, “I spend so much money on vet bills for my dog and my cat—and now my trichogramma wasps—that I’ll probably end up on welfare.”

The word “welfare” shocks into life a well-dressed middle-aged man sitting stolidly beside her with a lethargic green lacewing resting on his hand. He says to the woman in a friendly, patronizing tone, “I’m opposed to the federal government throwing money away on ineffective social programs like welfare. However, I have an idea for a program I think will be worth the expense. I got the idea from reading about Utah in the Encyclopedia Americana. Did you know that Utah is a big empty salty desert with nothing living there to speak of except snakes, gophers and Mormons?”

Dr. Hall says pleasantly. Then he frowns into the microscope and beckons me over to look. Magnified, it’s easy to see my mantis’s problems: his mesothorax is sprained, his tympanum swollen, his spiracles dislocated and his prothorax covered with little cuts. “I’ll tell you the truth,” Dr. Hall says quietly, “obviously something nasty got ahold of him and kicked his butt. A particularly aggressive adult common asparagus beetle perhaps, or a strawberry corn borer.”

I know Mantis will have to be destroyed.

Did you know that Utah is a big empty salty desert with nothing living there to speak of except snakes, gophers and Mormons?

I feel oddly mournful. Fragile, I consider the difference between East (where Mantis comes from) and West (where I come from). In the East one finds out the truth and enters a state known as nirvana, satori or sambháda; in the West one finds out the truth and enters a state known as chronic depression.

Dr. Hall is understanding. “I know. It’s easy to get attached to these little guys. Don’t worry. He’ll be put to sleep humanely, painlessly, with special equipment I have for that purpose. Leave it to me...just pay the receptionist on the way out. Eight dollars for the examination, six dollars for euthanasia.”

I thank him and leave. As I close the door I look back and catch a glimpse of Dr. Hall dropping something on the floor and stepping on it.

Now there’s Gary. Gary is nice, too, and better looking than Rajendra, but he has a problem. He suffers from post-prandial psychosis. Victims of this rare mental disorder behave perfectly normally except for an hour or two after lunch when they’re totally insane. Poor Gary has his toasted cheese sandwich and potato chips on the desk every day, then until two he laughs or weeps uncontrollably, or hallucinates, or tries to drive to town with no clothes on. Life, I remind myself during these episodes, can’t be all kisses and roses. But why is that?

Beneficial insects aren’t cheap. The quart of ladybugs I buy at the beginning of this garden season costs me $17.95. Other, more exotic bugs I order are even more expensive. So I confronted him with the truth. Rajendra, his prothorax covered with little cuts. I hope the doctor will know what’s wrong.”

When my turn comes Dr. Hall is delighted with the mantis; he’s read about the work the Japanese have done to breed this species smaller and smaller, more and more ferocious, but has never seen one up close and personal. Dr. Hall is less enthusiastic about me. He realizes at once that I’m queer. I don’t wear a tutu or anything. Underneath his professional courtesy I see Dr. Hall become more masculine, so I won’t try anything.”

He puts the mantis under the microscope and adjusts the focus while I look around at the examining room. The Delinquent apparently offers boarding among other services; there are hundreds of miniature cages—tiny jewel boxes—filled with vivid insects. In a cage set apart from the others carrying on wouldn’t bother others. Jews would feel right at home because, remember, it’s a desert. The handicapped could swim in the big salt lake without worrying about drowning. A non-swimming minority that comes to mind could be provided with radios and basketballs for recreation. Granted, it would be expensive to get all these nuisance groups settled out there but in the long run it would mean huge savings on programs like welfare, student aid, unemployment insurance, urban renewal, social security...”

He seems prepared to go on in this vein, possibly forever, but happily the wasp of the woman he’s haranguing jumps from its matchbox onto the green lacing resting on the man’s hand and promptly eats it. The woman recaptures her wasp and remarks thoughtfully to the stunned man, “I’ve never seen these wasps to control corn earworms but they attack everything. They were mailed to me from Texas. Do you suppose the change of climate may have upset them? I hope the doctor will know what’s wrong.”

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The Devil's Bath tub

by Sydnie Fagan

Rae and Claire were doomed. The doctors had pronounced the death sentence. The years of working late, smoking unfiltered cigarettes, eating junk food and potato chips, and believing that laughter was the best medicine—next to vodka—had brought them into the grave. They were the only ones who had ever been able to forgive Frank, for something sudden and unexpected, something like a fit of coughing or a good laugh might be enough to push them in. No one had noticed it, however, that she didn't seem ridiculous when she banged into a door jamb or when her interlocutors that her friend was uninjured.

Rae laughed silently as so not to put a strain on her worn-out lungs. She and Claire had never been able to forgive Frank, for many years an intimate friend, and when she tried to hide and should be ashamed of.

So great was her dignity and equanimity, however, that she didn't seem ridiculous when she banged into a door jamb or knocked things off a counter or walked straight into a physical embrace with a passing stranger. She always retained her presence of mind and in the incident with the tennis ball had been able in one smooth motion to pull Claire to her feet, absolve important onlookers that her friend was uninjured.

Claire and Rae drove around northern New England expecting to encounter an endless series of charming, quiet, old-fashined villages and the places they escaped from together as teenagers more than fifty years ago; towns with tall white houses, busy streets, and an office, a diner and movie theater, a church where people were friendly, everyone knew everyone else, no one got angry about waiting in line or being awakened by a barking dog; a town where graduation for high school was a big event and at Christmas there were electric candles in windows, wreaths on lamp posts, carolers. The kind of town, they discovered, that apparently didn't exist anymore. During the half hour it was vacation time and Rae and Claire were alone together on a long car trip. One of them had been given months to live, the other weeks. They had not expected to live forever and were not that interested, let alone enthusiastic about their fate. It was true that death was a part of life but so were religion and Dionysian movies and they had assiduously avoided those. Claire suggested that since time was so precious now they should try to husband it by using an abbrevi¬ated spoken English, for instance, instead of saying "I need a clean handkerchief," one could say, "I need a clean hankie," and use the time saved by this verbal short¬cut.

"What do you remember about Yan Gogh's ear?" Rae wondered who best deserved her Lifetime Achievement award, Pete Seeger or Bob Dylan? "I don't notice the little things anymore, dear, the details. I notice it's day, it's night, I'm hungry, I'm sleepy, I'm warm. I'm eating—me, I think, is interesting, a dog is eating—me-things like that.

"Doesn't this place seem familiar?" Claire took out a cigarette and lit it with Rae's help. She blew the cigarette smoke out the window so as not to dilute Rae's oxygen supply.

"I'm sure this is where we met Spoon. Do you remember her? It was the first trip we took by ourselves in your brother's old Hudson Super-six. The engine cooked out and we coasted into this garage, or one of this type. It was owned by a man named Witherspoon. He had a daughter our age who was nicknamed Spoon. At first I thought she was called Spoon because her Christian name was something dreadful, but after she explained it, Spoon was interested in us because it was unusual in those days to see two young women out motoring alone, without a man.

"Spoon and I talked while you and your father tried to get the engine working. It was hot that day too and she invited us to go with her to a little restaurant near the beach where she knew. It was called 'The Devil's Bath tub' because the rushing water had worn a big basin in the stone. We drove up to it.
Devil's Bathtub
continued from page 11
an old horsetrack—remember now? It was far back, in the woods and deserted. We wondered if the car would make it or cook out again miles from anywhere. The brook an old horse track—remember now?!
the beech trees had started to change to a
far back in the woods and deserted. We
nut trees at us. Spoon said I looked very naughty
without my clothes and kept trying to make
shout 'O
as we could. You and I were so relieved to
groceries, but we were amazed of left and right
the light with our hair and
while we were balleting around in front of
get back home that night. We didn't dare to
anyone could corrupt that Spoon.
enty."
Rae. "She was older than us, and wilder. I
the street; before cruising it into the ash tray
she took the final drag; it nearly killed her. As
Claire realized she was
fat lady said in a husky voice, laughing.
"I've been called that in years," the
attitude of condoning the horrible and
golden retriever.
Claire realized what she had disliked as a girl
for punishing the young for all the unattractive
goody-goody, and the Mt. Washington Valley. Our pur-
Claire out the other side. Once she was on
in the center of the village there was a
despite the women's community of Western Maine and the Mt. Washington Valley. Our purpose is to bring women in our community together through scheduled social activities, as well as to provide information concerning upcoming events in the surrounding areas.
Our newsletter is published seasonally. We may publish monthly in the future depending on the feedback we get from the community. Please write to: R.A.G. Box 3293, North Conway, N.H. 03860. We ask for a donation of $5 per year to help defray costs.

"Everyone here is ancient," Rae agreed, inclining her head
"That's right. We are," said Claire. I keep forgetting. We're both old and you're ugly." It was an effort for Claire to raise herself onto the long wooden porch that provided a step up from the pavement to the front door of the store. She waved and Rae had to steady her. "Christ," Claire said, "I almost faw down an' go boom!"
The store occupied the whole lower floor of a wide building. A small bell shook when Claire and Rae closed the door behind them. There was a line of people at the register, waiting patiently and chatting. They looked twice at the women who entered but refrained from staring. Just inside the door, nearly blocking it, was one of many new-looking archaeonite storefronts which had been installed at irregular intervals between the wide, worn floorboards.

"The man looked at her as if she
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at him and realized he was a hundred years
over. The two women couldn't stop staring until they'd recognized each other.
Claire pointed out the narrow blacktop road that branched off to the left. If you didn't know where you were going you had to go further than the descent filling station. "I know how we can tell if this is the same place we met Spoon," she said in a strained voice, holding smoke in her lungs. "Claire and I walked down that road, or another like it, while you and Mr. Witherspoon worked on the car, to get you some smokes at the store.
I still remember what we talked about. We walked along pretending we were great fans of Basil Fomene and the Fomene Trio.

"Funny, isn't it? You live a long active life and what you remember best at the end is some silly little thing that happened when you were seventeen."
"Spoon couldn't still be alive," said Rae. "She was older than us, and wilder. I don't think she made it forty let alone seventy."
Claire was encouraged to say, "That's why they call me elderly!"

On one side of the road there was a row of cows looking over a pasture fence. On the other side there was a row of small houses. "Those houses weren't here when Spoon and I walked down this road," Claire said.

Rae was encouraged to say, "I don't think this is the same road."

About a mile's drive from the highway the road rose on a hill and from the crest the two women were suddenly looking down on the town Claire had predicted.

"That's beautiful!" Rae exclaimed.
"I was wrong, again. You've got all the luck."
"No—your luck too. Weren't you too young to fight in the first world war and too

and the ceiling of stamped tin, apparently to keep the old place from collapsing. The aisles between the shelves of merchandise didn't run straight and parallel as in modern groceries, but were a maze of left and right turns, dead ends and3293, North Conway, N.H. 03860. We ask for a donation of $5 per year to help defray costs.

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over. The two women couldn't stop staring until they'd recognized each other.
Claire pointed out the narrow blacktop road that branched off to the left. If you didn't know where you were going you had to go further than the descent filling station. "I know how we can tell if this is the same place we met Spoon," she said in a strained voice, holding smoke in her lungs. "Claire and I walked down that road, or another like it, while you and Mr. Witherspoon worked on the car, to get you some smokes at the store.
I still remember what we talked about. We walked along pretending we were great fans of Basil Fomene and the Fomene Trio.

"Funny, isn't it? You live a long active life and what you remember best at the end is some silly little thing that happened when you were seventeen."
"Spoon couldn't still be alive," said Rae. "She was older than us, and wilder. I don't think she made it forty let alone seventy."
Claire was encouraged to say, "That's why they call me elderly!"

On one side of the road there was a row of cows looking over a pasture fence. On the other side there was a row of small houses. "Those houses weren't here when Spoon and I walked down this road," Claire said.

Rae was encouraged to say, "I don't think this is the same road."

About a mile's drive from the highway the road rose on a hill and from the crest the two women were suddenly looking down on the town Claire had predicted.

"That's beautiful!" Rae exclaimed.
"I was wrong, again. You've got all the luck."
"No—your luck too. Weren't you too young to fight in the first world war and too

and the ceiling of stamped tin, apparently to keep the old place from collapsing. The aisles between the shelves of merchandise didn't run straight and parallel as in modern groceries, but were a maze of left and right turns, dead ends and dead ends and dead ends and dead ends, sometimes crisscrossing and pricing stock on the shelves, pairs of shoppers who had stopped to talk, the toppling of a high stack of new men's works from a counter in the clothing section, a cluster piled high with boxes of nails in the hardware section, a river of water flowing from under a frozen food chest, a child who had reached with her hand through a lightning strike in the floor and couldn't get it out again, and a sleeping golden retriever.
Claire was pleased with the store. Passing at a display of potatoes and carrots she said pleasantly to an old man looking over them: "It isn't, that we, the dominant species, the rulers of the earth, still must gnaw on roots and tubers like so many mice and rabbits to survive?" The man looked at her as if she was something he had to remove from a sink drain basket with bare hands. Claire looked at him and realized he was a hundred years old. He had no hair, not even eyelashes, and he was thin, hard and glossy as a candle. "Right, never mind," Claire said. She turned to look for Rae and found herself face to face with a stout, tanned woman-brightly

"No—you're lucky too. We weren't you too.

On one side of the road there was a row of cows looking over a pasture fence. On the other side there was a row of small houses. "Those houses weren't here when Spoon and I walked down this road," Claire said.

Rae was encouraged to say, "I don't think this is the same road."

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GREAT EXSPECTATIONS!

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ing, send it to The Typing Room. The Typing Room — complete photo-
ysetting and proofreading services at reasonable rates.

Classifieds

Attractive GWF, age 40, non-smoker, chemical-free seeks same in GF compan-
ing aged 30-45. I enjoy nature, intelligent conversation and good food, have many interests. Lewiston/Auburn, Brunswick or Augusta area. Please send photo number. Please respond to Advertiser #96, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 10744, Portland ME 04104.

Bangor GWM, 42, 5’7”, 140 lbs. Healthy, intelligent, honest, sincere and discreet. Looking for a mature 25-45-year-
 old level-headed individual for friendship and/or relationship. I enjoy music, theater, gardening, physical fitness, good conversation, quiet evenings at home. No smokers, drugs or drinks. Please write to Advertiser #70, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 10744, Portland ME 04104.

GF, head on shoulders, feet on ground, in tune with life, healthy, attractive, intelligent, real. Seeks female pal. 35-45 for that elusive love that binds two for life. Is this the spring of my life and perhaps yours too? Be positive! 50 mile radius of Port-
land. Please respond to Advertiser #79, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 10744, Portland ME 04104.

GWF, 39, Health professional. Attractive, trim, easygoing. Enjoys work, spots, garden, movies, books, children. Seeks similar GWF to share same. Non-smoker, light drinker. Please respond to Advertiser #90, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 10744, Portland ME 04104.

My Ideal
You are an outdoorsman. Like to camp out, build fires, swim naked, make love, sleep close. You are younger (24-39), lov-
ing, needing older. You are virile, Greek actively active. You are experienced, like lots of it, are good at it, can’t get enough of it. You dream of being two-together in a love that is a household and a best friend-
ship. You are a non-smoker (dope is ok.) and a non-drinker, no phony. No games. No mindfucks. You know who you are, what you want, who you need, what you have to give and what you want back. Maybe you are a loner or shy, but you are intense in your feelings and lusty in your desires. You need it all the time. Need to lead. To be on top. Need to be inside. Need a man to yield to you.


If you really have the courage to go for it, to stand up and say I want it and if you truly know you have to give someone in return, well, take a hoot. Write at length. Send a photo. I am real. I am lusty. I am needing and searching for you too! Please respond to Advertiser #81, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 10744, Portland ME 04104.

Hairy Men! National austerity for bears and smooth or hair trappers! If you love fur, this is the list! Information. Send $3.00 to: MAN-HAIR, 59 West 10th St., NY, NY 10011.

Houseboy needs home: Handsome, charming, talented. Willie cat is the purr-
fect home companion. No claws, no balls, but will fetch. My master loves me, but can only love me from a distance (allergies). If you can give me a loving home, call the bitch that can’t keep me anymore. Jim. 774-6964. Leave message.

Won’t you be my neighbor? Buy a condominium near me and let’s start a lesbian/gay homeowner community. Beautiful two-bedroom townhouse in South Portland. $89,000. Call 871-104.

HOUSEMATE WANTED: Mid 30s. GWM seeks responsible, non-smoker to share 2 bedroom mobile home near Bangor. Quiet lot, non-drug user, please. $195/month plus 1/2 utilities. Security deposit. Write Advertiser #85, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box #10744 Portland, Maine 04104.

SHARE HOME near Bangor/Orono. Two GWF seek third; own entrance. Pets and cigs o.k. No drugs. $250 per month plus 1/3 utilities. Begin summer or fall. Please respond to Advertiser #99, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 744, Portland ME 04104.

I am lusty. I am

my other half. I am free and willing to relocate, to come to you.

Looking for a matur e 25-45-year-

and/or relationship. I enjoy music. theater, gardening, physical fitness, good conversation, quiet evenings at home. No smokers, drugs or fens. Please write to Advertiser #70, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 10744, Portland ME 04104.

GF, non-smoking, sober, professional seeks same to share lovely new home in Old Orchard. Write Advertiser #83, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 10744, Portland ME 04104.

NEW TO SCENE: BUWM, 24, 6’1”, 190 lbs. Good looks and build. Masculine 100%. Straight-acting and looking. Look-
ing for new friends, for fun times. Not overly experienced, not really into gay scene. 100% safe, many interests: movies, outdoor music, good conversation and
timber. When looking WMs ages 18-28, please write, will answer all. Respond to Advertiser 84, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, ME 04104.

GWM, thirty-something: Tall, dark hair, bearded hairy. Has four opening soul mate. Qualified GWM’s must possess dark hair, beard. Hating In the Greater Port-
land area are. Into starlight, passion, rarefied, moon shadows, lust, Secure with their sexuality. Write PO Box 681, Freeport, ME 04032.

GWF, quiet, conservative, non-smoker, non-drinker, athletic, androgynous, affec-
tionate, responsible, seeks GWF, 35-50 for friendship and/or relationship. Please respond to Advertiser #86, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, ME 04104.

GYM new to Camden-Rockland area, now living in South Thomaston looking to meet other GYM for friendship. I am profes-
sional and 35, 6’2”, brown hair, blue eyes, and discreet. Please respond to Ad-
vertiser #87, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, Maine 04104.

Lesbian, 30, bright, funny and healthy, seeking gag for correspondence and camar-
raderie. I enjoy the outdoors, vegetarian cooking, fine literature, Frisbee and Star
Trek. Not in to heavy drinking or high fashion. Moody intellectuals welcome. Please respond to Advertiser #88, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 744, Portland, ME 04104.

Free Astrological Chart & Horoscope: Buy one, Get one Free! Send names, dates, times, and places of birth to wfe@0000. Z.Q. 1465 Westbrook St., Portland, ME 04102

EXPLORING LESBIANISM
A SPIRITUAL PATH
A FIVE DAY RETREAT
JUNE 30-JULY 5, 1989

In a gentle and relaxed way we will explore lesbianism and spirituality. The beautiful Earth and Sky mediation, as de-
scribed in Diane’s book, The Inner Dance, will form the foundation for our spiritual practice. In circle, in silence, and in song, we will rediscover the female creative spirit, nourish our strengths, grieve our losses, celebrate our uniqueness and our connec-
tions. We will dance, sing, meditate, envision and heal.

Shull Goodman, M.A., has been cele-
brating women’s spirituality since 76. She has practiced and studied in both the Native American and Buddhist traditions. Shull is a ritual artist and singer of sacred songs. She is the creator and producer of the Inner Dance and Mother Wit audio cassette tapes.

Diane Mariechle, M.A., teacher and counselor with over twenty years experience, has shared rituals, meditation, healing, and visualization practices with thousands of women. Diane, the author of three books (Mother Wit, Crystal Visions, and The Inner Dance) has had intensive practice in both Buddhist and Native American tradi-
tions.

Accommodations
The retreat will be held at The Essex Retreat Center, in Essex, Mass. Comfortable and cozy rooms, beautiful grounds, delicious food, minutes from the ocean, and an incredible hot tub and sauna house, make for a nourishing and replenishing retreat.

Fees & Registration
Costs for the entire retreat, including room, board and tuition, is $459-$455-
$405. This sliding scale is a response to meet the needs of lower income women. Please respect this carefully by assessing your finances. To register, send a $150 deposit to Full Circle Workshops, 68 Conway St., Shelburne Falls, MA 01370. Call (413) 586-4287 M-F, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. for more information.

The rate for classifieds is $4 for 30 words, $10 for each additional word. For personals add $2 for handling. All ads must be prepaid. Mail ads to Our Paper, P.O. Box 10744, Portland ME 04104. We ask that you not use sexually explicit lan-
guage in your personals. Responses to personals will not be opened by Our Paper and will be forwarded to you twice monthly.
SUNDAY, JUNE 16
Chiltern Mountain Club.
A canoe camping weekend in southwestern Maine. No experience required. Call Roy (603) 661-4346.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17
Full Moon Gathering starting with a potluck at 6 p.m. and followed by an energy healing circle. Women only and chemical free. Camping space. Gathering Ground in Dexter. For directions or more information send SASE to Chris of Coventree, Troy 04987.

SUNDAY, JUNE 18
Sunday, June 18 - Fixed price buffet at a STEP ABOVE CAFE in North Conway, N.H. For info, write R.A.G. (Rural Activist Group), Box 3293, North Conway, N.H. 03860.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24
Saturday, June 24 - "Looking Up" hosts a day-long workshop for men in committed relationships with survivors of incest.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25
Friday, June 23 - "Looking Up" hosts a day-long workshop for men in committed relationships with survivors of incest.

PRIME Timers:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gaylaxian Science Fiction Society

The Gaylactic Network is an international organization for gay people and their friends who are interested in science fiction and fantasy literature and media. It is associated with a number of local science fiction organizations for gay people: The Gaylaxians (central New England), the Canopus Fiction Group (Albany, N.Y.), the Tri-State Gaylaxians (Metropolitan New York City), the Great Lakes Gaylaxians (Detroit), and the Philadelphia Area Gaylaxians (Greater Philadelphia).

The Gaylactic Network, with the assistance of these local Gaylaxian organizations, is organizing a major participation by the gay SF community during the 47th World Science Fiction Convention, Norcon 3, to be held in Boston, Mass. on August 31-September 4, 1989.

Norcon 3 will be held at the Sheraton-Bosto Hotel and Hyatt Convention Center. The guests of honor are Betty and Ian Ballantine, and Andre Norton. Preliminary membership rates will be $80 until July 15, 1989. Previous World Science Fiction Conventions, also called Worldcons, have had over 8,000 science fiction and fantasy fans attend. Between 3 to 5 programs on gay--and bisexual-related themes will be held at Norcon 3. Panels held by the Gaylactic Network and other Gaylaxian Groups at previous SF conventions have dealt with "Vampires and Homo-eroticism," "Gay Science Fiction and Political Correctness," and "Faire Tales: Gay People in Fantasy Literature." An open business meeting with representatives from all the Gaylaxian organizations is also planned.

Another aspect of participation in the 1989 Worldcon are plans for a hotel suite for use by gay fans and their friends during the 5 days the convention will take place. The Gaylactic Network/Gaylaxian suite will be a place where gay science fiction and fantasy fans, authors, and artists can meet and talk during the day and evening.

Gay fandom suites at many previous conventions have proven to be one of the most enjoyable elements.

Norcon 3 will offer gay science fiction fans and their friends a special opportunity to reach out to both the science fiction and gay communities. With fandom, they will have the chance to show their pride as gay and bisexual people. With the gay community, they will be able to help other gay people appreciate the importance and validity of the science fiction and fantasy genre and the impact it has had and will have on humanity.

For more information about the Gaylactic Network, any of the local Gaylaxian groups, or the 1989 World Science Fiction Convention, write:

Gaylactic Network, PO Box 8051, Back Bay Annex, Boston, Mass. 02118-8051

Sappho's Sisters: Lesbians Alone and Together

Sappho's Sisters: Lesbians Alone and Together July 15-22

Provincetown Express

Getting to and from Provincetown, at the tip of Massachusetts' scenic Cape Cod, has just gotten easier with the introduction of The Provincetown Express, a new charter bus service presented by Ashland Travel (781-872-2052).

The non-stop Express operates summer weekends from Memorial Day to Labor Day, round trip between Boston's Back Bay/New South End area and Provincetown.

The Provincetown Express is designed to allow a full day of work or play in Provincetown before or after a stay in Boston. Tickets leave from in front of Club Cafe, a gay-owned and operated restaurant and nightlife club at the corner of Commercial Avenue and Berkeley Street, at 7 p.m., arriving in Provincetown approximately 2-1/2 hours later. Another bus leaves Saturday and Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. for Provincetown.

There is a return bus from Provincetown's main wharf every Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m.

Fares are $25 on-way, or $35 round trip. Several Provincetown inns are offering special deals in conjunction with The Provincetown Express. For example, the popular Boat Slip Motor Inn will offer an extra night free on any two-night stay, if guests buy round trip Provincetown Express ticket, any time between now and June 22. The Boat Slip may be contacted directly for this special offer.

Hagen's firm is negotiating with other inns to provide package deals.

For more information: Ferry Beach Park Association, 5 Morris Avenue, Saco, ME 04072.
HAVE YOU HAD AN ABORTION?
Do you know someone—your mother, your sister, your daughter, your friend—who has had an abortion? We are asking for personal experience stories which show how abortion has affected the lives of lesbians and gay men in Maine. If you would like to contribute a story about your experience with abortion for inclusion in our July issue, please submit your story to the Our Paper office no later than June 15th. Stories will be printed anonymously if requested. Please try to limit your story to two pages. Typed submissions would be greatly appreciated, but clearly written, double-spaced submissions would also be acceptable. Thank you for helping us explore this painful and personal issue.

Woodsford's Café
129 SPRING STREET
PORTLAND, MAINE
772-1374

Mondays
Seacoast Gay Men—Mondays at 7 p.m. (except first Monday potluck party held elsewhere). Unitarian-Universalist Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH. Seacoast Gay Men, PO Box 1394, Portsmouth, NH 03801-1394. Call A1 (603) 898 8185.

Tuesday
Greater Bangor NOW, fourth Monday of every month, 7-9 p.m. Call 989-3306 for info.

Feminist Spiritual Community—every Monday at 7 p.m. Friends Meeting House, Forest Ave., Portland, 773-2294 (come early).

Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA)—open discussion with focus on gay/lesbian issues, 7-10 p.m., YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland.

Belfast Area AIDS Support Group—For PWA's friends, family, and caregivers. Call 338-3736. (Family Planning Monday-Thursday).

Tuesdays
Gays in Sobriety, AA, 6-7 p.m., beginning meeting, First Parish UU Church, 425 Congress St., Portland. 7-30 p.m. Speaker/discussion meeting.

Families of Gays Support Group—second Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m. For more information call Ingraham Volunteers, 774-HELP.

Bowdoin College Gay-Lesbian-Straight Alliance—7:30 p.m., Chase Bar, Bowdoin College, Brunswick.

College Lesbian Women's Rap Group—6:30 to 8 p.m., 92 Bedford St., Portland (USM campus). Bisexuals welcome. Call 780-4085 for more information.

Down East AIDS Network—Every Tuesday, 7 p.m. support group in Ellsworth. Led by clinical social worker Carole Pascal, the group is open to all people affected by AIDS. Call 326-8580 for location.

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays—Fourth Tuesday of the month, 7:30 p.m. First Parish Pilgrim House, 9 Clevel-

Sundays
Dignity, Maine (Gay/Lesbian Cathedral and their friends) meets every Sun-

day at First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland. Door opens at 5:30, worship at 6:00 p.m. followed by social. Please use rear entrance.

Northern Lambda Nord—last Sun-
day of the month—business meeting, 1 p.m. followed by potluck.

Maine Lesbian/Gay/Political Alliance (MLGPA)—every third Sunday of the month. Meetings rotated throughout the state. See Calendar listing for location and time.

Gays in Sobriety, AA, 6:30-8 p.m. speakers meeting, Williston West Church, 32 Thomas St., Portland.

Lesbian/Gay Alcoholics Anonymous—every Sunday. Discussion meeting at 4 p.m., Unitarian Church, Main St., Bangor.

Banger Area Gay Lesbian/Straight Coalition (BAGLSC) meets the first Sunday and third Thursday of every month at 87 Sunset Strip in Brewer at 7 p.m.

Bates Gay Lesbian/Straight Alliance—for discussion, support and planning—every Sunday, 8:30 p.m. in Hirawawa Lounge, Chase Hall, Bates College, Lewiston.

THURSDAYS
Gays in Sobriety, AA, 6-7 p.m., beginning meeting, First Parish UU Church, 425 Congress St., Portland. 7-30 p.m. Speaker/discussion meeting.

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SUBSCRIBE!
Twelve issues for twelve dollars.

$2500 Offered For Best First Novel
A gay publishing house and a gay bookstore, with a shared interest in good writing, have established the "By the Bay Area" First Novel Competition.

The contest, co-sponsored by Boston-based Alyson Publications and the San Francisco branch of A Different Light Bookstore, carries a top prize of publication with a $2500 advance and a matching $2500 promotion budget. It is open to fiction which is either set predominantly in the San Francisco Bay Area (San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, and neighboring towns) or which is written by residents of the area: it is limited to first-time novelists.

Manuscripts received between June 1, 1990, and Feb. 1, 1990, are eligible. Work will be evaluated by a panel of judges as it is received, with finalists selected by March 1 and the winner announced at the annual meeting of the American Booksellers Association that May.

Before sending manuscripts, writers should request complete guidelines by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to "By the Bay Area." A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

THURSDAYS
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To Our Paper
P.O. Box 10744
Portland, Maine 04104

OUR PAPER
Dear Reader,

We on the Our Paper staff would like to ask your help in making some changes in the formats of the Lesbian Gay Network and the Meetings section. The name of the Lesbian Gay Network has been changed to the Maine Community Network and we are expanding this section to further meet our readers' needs. We need to have you review your group's entries in both the Maine Community Network and the Meetings section and update any information such as meeting times and dates, addresses, telephone numbers, and names of any contact people. We would also like to have you send us a short description (approximately 30 words) of your group's purpose or goal to help our readers better understand the resources available to them.

We would appreciate any additions, corrections, or deletions as soon as possible, so please take a few minutes to let us know we've got the right information for your group. If you have any questions or need more information, please write Our Paper at PO Box 8774, Portland, ME 04101. We're really excited about making these changes because we feel Our Paper will be better able to reach out to more of "our readers."

Sincerely,

The Our Paper Collective

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New Brunswick Coalition for Human Rights Reform
PB Box 1556, Station A, Fredericton, NB E3B 5G2

New Hampshire Citizens Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights
PO Box 756, Contoocook, NH 03239
(603) 228-9009

Northern Lambda Nord
PO Box 990, Caribou, ME 04736
Gay/Lesbian Phoneline, 498-2088

Our Paper
PO Box 8774, Portland, ME 04104

Portland Pride
PO Box 681, Scarborough, ME 04074

PWA Coalition
c/o The AIDS Project
22 Monument Square, 5th floor, Portland, ME 04101

USM Women's Forum
University of Southern Maine
92 Bedford St., Portland, ME 04010

Wilde-Stein Club
Memorial Union
University of Maine-Orono, Orono, ME 04469

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The group provides education in the schools, business and the community as a whole, and offers support to people who are affected by AIDS. For more information contact Nan Stone, 338-5559.

Bangor Area Gay, Lesbian, Straight Coalition (BAGLSC)
c/o 87 Sunset Strip, Brewer, ME 04412

DEVELO
Unitarian Church
126 Union St., Bangor, ME 04401
942-6503

Feminist Spiritual Community
9 Deering St., PO Box 3771, Portland, ME 04104
773-2294

Fredericton Lesbians and Gays (FLAG)
Box 1556, Station A, Fredericton, NB, Canada E3B 5G2
506/457-2356

Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic Anonymous
c/o First Parish Unitarian Church
425 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101

Gay/Lesbian Alliance
92 Bedford St., Portland, ME 04102
780-4085

Gay/Lesbian Contra Dancers
69 Mountain Ave. View, Bangor, ME 04401
947-2329

Gay/Lesbian Parents Support Group
780-4085 or 772-4741, Portland

Gay/Lesbian Support Group
PO Box 511, Station A, Portland, ME 04101

Harbor Masters Inc.
PO Box 4044, Portland, ME 04101

Dignity/Maine, PO Box 813, Portland, ME 04104
Dignity/Maine is an organization of gay and lesbian Catholics and their friends. Our purpose is to help religious and political leaders and the group's membership to be heard by the church and society.

The Down East AIDS Network (DEAN)
is a community-based, grassroots organization. We provide community education and support services for those affected by AIDS. DEAN is a gay positive organization. Call DEAN: 326-8580, Support group for HIV+ family, friends, and those at risk every Tuesday 7-8:30 p.m. Ellsworth. Call Tracy at 326-8580 for information.

Down East AIDS Network, Box 779, Blue Hill, ME 04649

Gay AA Meeting (speaker-discussion), Saturday nights, 8-9 p.m. Beacon Club (old Mitchell School B/D), 36 High St., Bath, ME 04530. Phone # for information: 443-4288.

Greater Bangor NOW will meet the fourth Tuesday of every month, at 7 p.m., Amy's apartment in Augusta Hall, Bangor Community College campus. For meeting info, Amy at 581-6075 or 677.

GBNOW's purpose is to take action to bring women into full participation in society now, exercising all the privileges and responsibilities thereof, in all aspects of citizenship, public employment, education and family life. GBNOW is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization.

GMSA (Gay Men's Social Association)
is a social group for gay men from Western Maine and Eastern New Hampshire. We meet at each other's homes for Pot Luck and plan activities as the members desire. Our address is Box 36, Center Conway, N.H., 03833 and you can call Paul at (207) 925-0344 for information.

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)
Box 2080 Great Island, Brunswick, ME 04011, 725-4769

This group supports attempts to help parents, relatives and friends change attitudes and create understanding so that our gay/lesbian family members can live with dignity and respect. Meets every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. at First Parish Church in Brunswick.

Maine Bisexual People's Network, PO Box 1972, Portland, ME 04101
780-4085. The purpose of the Maine Bisexual People's Network is to affirm ourselves and others the positive nature of bisexuality and to work toward greater acceptance in the bisexual, gay, lesbian, and straight communities.

The Maine Health Foundation is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization that offers both direct and indirect financial support for People with AIDS in Maine. Our other concerns are the special health issues facing Maine's gay and lesbian communities, including gay youth.

For information, please write to: The Maine Health Foundation, Inc., PO Box 7529 DTS, Portland, ME 04102.

Are you gay and under 22 years old? OUTRIGHT, Portland Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth, P.O. Box 5028, Station A, Portland, ME 04101. For more information, call Ingraham Volunteers, Dial-INFO: 774-HELP (24-hour hotline) or if you're 18 and under, you can also call Dial-KIDS: 774-TALK. Call now for more information concerning support, special events and fun!

We have speakers and events for the public on the fourth Tuesday of every month, at the WWCA, 87 Spring St., 7:30 p.m. Perry Krasow on his answering machine at 879-0877.

Seacoast Gay Men (SGM, Inc.) is a social group for gay men. We meet Monday evenings at 7 p.m. — holiday Mondays excepted. The first Monday of the month is a potluck supper. Remaining Mondays are given to a wide variety of presentations, discussions, films, etc.

Our address is: PO Box 1394, Portsmouth, NH 03808-1394. Contact persons are: AL 603-894-815, Paul, 207-439-6850.

TransSupport, PO Box 17622, Portland, ME 04101.
Contact person is Diana. Trans-support is a non-profit, non-sexual, social and educational peer support group for Transsexuals, cross-dressers, and their families and friends who desire a better understanding of gender-related issues.

Meetings are held bi-monthly, on Sundays at 6:00 p.m., write for location and more information.

Waldo County AIDS Education Committee
PO Box 77, Belfast, ME 04915.
Provides education in the schools, businesses, and the community as a whole. For more information contact Nan Stone, 338-5559.

WOMLAND (Womn owning Maine Land) Trust, Inc., PO Box 55, Troy, ME 04987

WOMLAND Trust is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to acquire land throughout the state to protect it for use by current and future generations of women and children. Meetings second Sunday every month, location varies.