Gay & Lesbian Times of Maine (Our Paper) 01/1993

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Oh my GOD!

WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO OUR PAPER?
Editorial

"I work with Our Paper..."
"What paper?"
"Our Paper..."
"Your paper?"
"No. Well, it's my paper... but its Our Paper..."
"My Paper?"
"No. No. No. Let me start over..."

This conversation happens all the time— in person, on the phone, everywhere. Like that Lou Reed (or was it Romy Mitte?) song that goes, "there's a moon in the sky called the moon," Our Paper was first named so because it was. Of all the their papers, this was the only Paper that was Ours.

For ten years it has been written. Until today.

The line between the thins and ours blurs. There are more oppressed ours out there than ever before.

So whose paper is it?

It is now the Gay and Lesbian Times of Maine, GLT for short, and out of the closet at last—after all these years. GLT, published by Our Paper, Incorporated, is still your paper. It is your paper in which to showcase your creativity, views, opinions, research, letters, and events. It is your paper in which to... advertise. And it is your paper to support.

We ask our readers to get involved in the process. The first step is your subscription. Your $15 every year helps us pay our $10,000 yearly bills. We encourage writers and artists and photographers to get involved as well. To all the gay and lesbian owned and/or friendly businesses—unless you sell closets, your ad should be in here. It's as simple as that.

Non-profit and local lesbian-gay agencies, groups, networks, and clubs should make it a point to get into our calendar section.

I know what you're saying... and it does seem like a lot of work. But that's why we always said, "Our Paper is Your Paper." It is only as good as the people who work together to make it happen. We are now and have always been a non-profit community resource. It's time to realize that a community relationship involves give and take, support, and dedication on both sides. If just half the people who read GLT made a New Year's resolution to subscribe we could produce a full color newspaper every month. It could easily become the best gay/lesbian publication across New England. If just one percent of the people who read GLT volunteered their time and talents to produce the paper we would have, quite easily, the best lesbian/gay publication in the East.

This year, make a New Year's resolution to support the Gay and Lesbian Times of Maine. It is your paper...

—By Our Paper

P.O. Box 737
Portland, ME 04104
(207) 761-0733

POLICY AND PURPOSE

Purpose

GLT, The Gay and Lesbian Times of Maine is Maine's monthly source of news, information, ideas and opinions by and for the lesbian, gay, and bisexual communities. Produced completely by volunteers, GLT is produced by Our Paper, Incorporated, and is dedicated to increasing awareness of gay and lesbian issues, offering support and affirmation as a community resource, and celebrating the diversity within our communities.

Editorial Policy

GLT members consider for publication all materials that broaden understanding, enrich, and serve the greater gay and lesbian community as a whole. Views and opinions appearing are those of the authors only. GLT does not endorse any candidacies for public office; however, we will educate our readership to all political opinions. Editorials appearing in GLT represent the opinions of the Editorial Board as a whole unless otherwise noted. Guest editorial from Maine citizens are encouraged.

Submissions Policy

We request that all material submitted for publication be signed and include an address and/or phone number for verification. We reserve the right to edit material as necessary, unless otherwise instructed. Articles may appear anonymously upon request, contact names, however, are required. Strict confidentiality is observed. We welcome and encourage reader participation in the form of writing and volunteering.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions as of January 1, 1993 are $15 annually, $25 for two years, and $35 for three years. Send your mailing address and check payable to: Our Paper. Mailed subscriptions arrive in a plain manilla envelope. GLT does not allow the use of subscriber mailing information or lists for any purposes other than mailing GLT.

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GAY & LESBIAN TIMES OF MAINE

Washington DC
APRIL 25, 1993

LEZZIE ANN

DON'T MISS THIS ONE!
Dear Our Paper,

I say that Your Paper in comparison is like a child compared to an adult. It is way past time for Your Paper to grow up. Please stop the bitchiness, become a true friend to us, and make us feel as welcome as we always have felt in your family. Everyone I've seen as a parent has been able to do a better job than our family to date. Your Paper in its statement of Purpose says that you "celebrate the diversities of sexual orientation and gender expression." There is room in our family for everyone regardless of our age, race, sex, color, beliefs, etc.

During the years between then and now I and we welcome you under our Rainbow Flag. Your Paper in its statement of Purpose says that you "celebrate the diversities of sexual orientation and gender expression." There is room in our family for everyone regardless of our age, race, sex, color, beliefs, etc.

I think it's crucially important to distinguish between bitchy complaint and bitchin' analysis. There was dissent within Equal Protection Portland campaign might not generously be summed up by the saying, "Don't mourn, organize," attributed to slain labor organizer Joe Hill. I love this saying and try to live by it. But I think it's crucially important to distinguish between mourning and autopsy, between bitchy complaint and bitchin' analysis.

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Your depictions of and opinions on the Equal Protection Portland campaign might not generously be summed up by the saying, "Don't mourn, organize," attributed to slain labor organizer Joe Hill. I love this saying and try to live by it. But I think it's crucially important to distinguish between mourning and autopsy, between bitchy complaint and bitchin' analysis.

I don't mourn, I organize! Thank you for your hard work and dedication in contributing to Maine's queer press month after month. I write in appreciation of this effort, but more out of dedication in contributing to Maine's queer community and truly become OUR PAPER.

Federal Reserve - Portland, Maine

K.J.
the United Way and distanced the Boy Scouts from the efforts of Wyman. After the Boy Scouts renounced Wyman's boycott, Wyman tried to save face by saying that he never called for a boycott. Nevertheless, he called the boycott off.

MAINE MAN SUES OHIO HOSPITAL FOR AIDS DISCRIMINATION

The American Civil Liberties Union filed suit in federal court in Ohio against a hospital in Fremont, Ohio, which refused to treat a man with AIDS who was suffering a severe allergic reaction to his medication.

According to the ACLU, Fred Charon, a 29-year-old Maine man, was driving to Wisconsin when he had an allergic reaction to his medicine. He was suffering from severe diarrhea and fever and he called Memorial Hospital for advice. A doctor, over the phone, told him to get to the emergency room. The emergency room staff, at first treated him. But once a supervising physician learned Charon had AIDS, he called an ambulance and ordered him to be delivered to another hospital.

The ACLU complaint charges that the hospital's actions violate the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibits discrimination based on HIV infection.

COLORADO COVERAGE

Gays and lesbians and supporters of gay and lesbian civil rights are mounting a boycott of Colorado which will cost the state millions of dollars in lost revenue and economic loss to businesses located in the state.

Colorado is being singled out because of the passage of a state constitutional amendment which prohibits the state or cities or towns from enacting laws which protect gays and lesbians from discrimination based on sexual orientation. The amendment passed by referendum vote on November 3. The amendment passed by a vote of 812,763 or 53% in favor to 709,560 or 47% opposed. The law which goes into effect this month requires that Denver, Boulder and Aspen, which have anti-discrimination ordinances, repeal them.

In the days following the election, tourism and government offices took more than 2,200 calls from outraged people in several states who said they were canceling trips in Colorado.

MAINE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

The proposed ordinance to be considered by the Lewiston City Council is substantially similar to the amended ordinance approved by the Portland City Council as written by Gary C. Wood, Corporation Counsel for the City of Portland. It is based on the Maine Human Rights Act (M.R.S.A. Section 455-402) and focuses only on sexual orientation. It does not cover such other grounds for discrimination as race, sex, color, national origin, or age because these grounds are already covered by the Maine Human Rights Act. (Neither the Maine Human Rights Act nor any federal law provides protection for individuals in Maine against discrimination based on sexual orientation.)

If enacted, this ordinance will prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation in the areas of employment, public employment, housing (including public housing), public accommodations, and in the extension of credit.

What can the gay/lesbian community do?

1. Call your city councilor and ask them to support the ordinance. Mention that you are in their district. It helps to know you, perhaps you should come out to him/her.

2. Come out to your family and friends and ask them to become involved. Friends and family can also contact the city councilors.

3. If you are interested in offering testimony, contact EPL: (207) 784-2251.

4. EPL also needs volunteers for telephone work, canvassing, and fundraising: (207) 784-2251.

Phone Your Rep!'

Lewiston City Councilors

Ward 1 Paul J. Poliquin 784-2282
1501 Main St.
Ward 2 Leoana G. Carperintier 786-2093
40 Fortin Way
Ward 3 Lionel R. Goulet 781-3183
4 Toole St.
Ward 4 Norman Poulin 783-6674
2 Carew Ave.
Ward 5 Edouard G. Plourde 782-0194
25 Coburn St.
Ward 6 Lionel P. Potvin 783-2398
267 Lincoln St.
Ward 7 Peter Grenier 786-3011
River Rd.

Norma Kraus Eule, M.S.W., L.C.S.W.
Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Psychotherapy
Individual and Group

10 Minot Ave.
Auburn, Maine 04210
784-8747
COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

MLGPA:
Portland: MLGPA Legislative Committee Meetings.
The first of Portland's MLGPA legislative meetings for anyone interested in working to support civil rights for lesbians and gay men at the statewide level will begin with an organizational meeting, Wednesday, January 13, at 7:00 p.m. at Campus Center C, Portland campus of the University of Southern Maine. There will be a variety of opportunities for involvement and information about the progress of the statewide effort. This is the first in a series of weekly meetings. For more information on subsequent times and dates call the Gay Lesbian Info Line at 871-0432, or Larry Bliss at 767-4996.

Gay and Lesbian Bulletin Board
There's a new voice for the lesbian and gay community (and friends) in Southern Maine...it's YOURS! The Gay and Lesbian Bulletin Board is providing live attendants at announced times. For some 6 years the board has provided information that has ranged from "Where are the bars?" to "Where can I see legal or emotional help?" The way the service works: a base of volunteers has a monthly meeting at which they agree to set aside specific hours on a specific day during the month to answer their own phone with "GAY AND LESBIAN BULLETIN BOARD." During that period calls going to the board (871-0432) are call forwarded to the volunteers phone. The board is listed with the Portland directory and many national directories. First organizational meeting (coffee) is Tuesday, January 12. Call for details: (207) 871-0432.

ACT UP/PORTLAND
(AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) Join us! We are the people who have protested George Bush every time he comes to Maine, bring condoms and latex gloves to high schools all over Maine, for AIDS-based discrimination, march for universal health care, and lots more. All you have to do to join us is come to a weekly meeting, Sundays at 7 p.m. at the YWCA, 81 Spring St., Portland. For more details, call (207) 828-0566.

Several groups have canceled conventions and meetings, including the American Foundation for AIDS Research, the American Foundation of Law Libraries, the National Organization for Women, and the National Council for Social Studies. The loss business from those cancellations alone could cost the state more than $10 million dollars in economic benefits.

The Atlanta City Council and the City of Philadelphia have banned official travel to and spending in Colorado, and other cities, such as San Francisco and New York, are taking similar steps.

Several celebrities, including tennis stars Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert, who live in Aspen, and entertainers Cher and Barbara Streisand have urged the public to help efforts to overturn the amendment. Several Colorado-based corporations, including software giant Quark, have jumped on the boycott bandwagon.

Not all supporters of the repeal of the amendment agree that a boycott of Colorado is the best way to put pressure on the state to get rid of the law. The cities that may be hit the hardest by the boycott are Denver, Aspen and Boulder, the cities that have anti-discrimination ordinances and which voted overwhelmingly against the amendment. A coalition of private businesses and government agencies took a full page ad in the December 10th issue of the New York Times stating that the amendment was "regrettable and wrong" and that they would not follow a law that would require them to discriminate against any human being for whatever reason. The mayor of Denver, Wellington Webb, appeared on the Arsenio Hall Show to discourage boycotts against the state.

In addition to the economic boycott of the state, several lawsuits have been initiated seeking to have the amendment declared unconstitutional. One lawsuit was filed on November 12 in Denver District Court on behalf of several lesbians, gay men and bisexuals, as well as the cities of Denver, Aspen and Boulder. Martina Navratilova is one of the individual plaintiffs.

The plaintiffs' suit argues that the amendment violates several provisions of the United States Constitution, primarily the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment.

The newly elected House Minority Leader, Sam Williams, is drafting a constitutional amendment to repeal the anti-gay and lesbian
Man on Film!

AKARI'S LIVING END: BY SHAWN TOTH

ive fast, the young, and leave a beautiful corpse1 is the theme for Gregg Akari's latest film Living End. It is the most well produced and well written film from this young cinematographer. In an age of severe responsibility and the threat of AIDS hanging on every relationship, Akari decides to go politically incorrect with The Living End and turns being HIV positive into battle against the world. The two main characters are handsome gay men both recently diagnosed HIV positive and both dealing with the news in very different ways. Luke, the rebellious blonde, sees his HIV status as a new beginning. To Luke, being HIV positive is his guiltless ticket from all the laws that govern everyday society. He sees his almost guaranteed death as his immunity from all crimes, including larceny and murder. Ask Luke how he can do it all and he'd reply "Fuck the system!" Akari plays Luke to be the tough and somewhat unstable hero out to blame the world while simultaneously fighting to get everything he wants from it at all costs. It is on the run from the murder of a four gay bashers that Luke and Don meet. Don is a freelance writer working on an article titled "The Death of Cinema." He is depressed and confused about just receiving his HIV test and vulnerable to the advances that Luke plays against him. Luke's heary of hard-living tension and blatant luxany keeps Don hopefully frightened and fazed. Luke finally takes things to the extreme and one day kills a police officer, engulping Don in his lifestyle on the run. They begin their travels cross-country and upon arriving to each new spot Luke does some out of hand thing to cause them to once again break out to a new town or state. As Don grows sicker he can no longer escape the realization that they must inevitably face the responsibility of their disease. Luke can never accept his HIV status and would rather attempt death than to show the signs of AIDS. In the end Luke and John must both face their fears.

The Living End is definitely a superior film for Akari, but it is not without its bad parts. At Luke can not escape AIDS, the viewer can not escape the subject of death so often apparent in The Living End. Akari packs the film with death at every corner; from the title of Don's article, gun battles on T.V., dead fish from the fish tank, newspaper stories about murder, songs on the radio, a fake skeleton in Don's dresser, Luke murdering people, and references made to the stick. Akari tries to show how the sixties got free love but the nineties got AIDS. The appearance of AIDS brought a new onslaught of gay hatred and in addition the new responsibility of risking one's life at having sex. Akari fights back with making The Living End a kind of gay Bonnie and Clyde for the nineties.


during this month.

Opponents of the amendment have formed a group called Ground Zero to fight the enactment of the amendment and to mount a new challenge against discrimination against gays and lesbians in Colorado.

Breaking its silence after the election, Colorado for Family Values ("CFV") spokesperson, Kevin Tesbodo said that they led the effort to uphold the new law. Tesbedo decried the backlash against his group and said, "Gay groups are "fanning the fires of hatred" in Colorado with the boycott effort and attacks on the religious right. He went on to say, "The homosexuals have an agenda, and I believe these boycotts will do one of two things: Prove they are a strong special interest group and don't need protection, or that when they don't get their way, they act like children.

CFV is receiving legal assistance from Pat Robertson's National Legal Foundation which may take over the legal challenge to the amendment. Reports of gay and lesbian bashing in Denver have increased threefold since the election in November.

Three more cities have joined the many cities nationwide which have laws protecting the civil rights of gay men. Cincinnati, Ohio, Arlington, Virginia, and Miami Beach, Florida recently announced new laws making it illegal to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in the areas of employment, housing, credit, and public accommodation.

The Cincinnati measure was passed by a 7-2 vote by the city council. Unlike the Portland ordinance, the Cincinnati law makes it a misdemeanor for violations.

Councilman Nick Vehr, who voted against the ordinance called it special interest legislation and said, "It represents everything this city hates." One religious right activist, Charles Winburn of the New Wave 2000 coalition, said of the ordinance, "This is a sex ordinance. It's a sex manual, and I don't think it has any place in the chambers of City Hall. It's anti-family, it's anti-business, and it's definitely anti-God."

In a unanimous vote, the Arlington County Board added sex-

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APRIL 25, 1993

DON'T MISS THIS ONE!

Washington DC
APRIL 25, 1993

DON'T MISS THIS ONE!
To Tell Her Stories

Who tells the story
about whom
asks the questions
about women
if not glamorous
or beautiful
and then the questions
are questions
about questions
like 'How to please your man'
but could
as easily be your mother
in-law or boss
or kid or home
but the question
before the question
and (no fact) Is
why women are expected to please
Given
this role
Assumptions
Why
And when questions become fact
our stories become myths
to support
to support
So who will be our storytellers
If not the note-takers
of our chance alliances
That is
of individual
to individual
living within
the myth

even
leaving
on the forms
when to
struggle
seems futile
and the enemy
overlooks
we are told
To find
the first story
is to ask
ourselves the other question
move from the familiar
breathe the outer rhythms
look hard in empty spaces
create create Tell the stories as they are known
tell the stories as they are known
tell the stories as they are known
tell the stories as they are known

Eva Papp

Camus

white first baptist church
with a picked pristine steeple
threatens
dusty snow falling
learning west
like Camus in thought
not believing

Continued page 15

It's a Normal thing.

by Alan Stearns

When I go to the mall, I almost always go by myself for the sole purpose of consuming as much as possible in the shortest period of time. I also try to avoid anyone who might recognize me and make note of my ruling class fascist liberal sweater fetish or report back to Portland's numerous informers.

Suggestions and Inference Committees (SIC)’s the fact that I bought my Christmas cards at Hallmark rather than Drop Me A Line.

I went to the mall today for the first time since the election. I made sure to go to an ATM before leaving Portland's city limits, confident that if I were refused credit I could sue the hell out of Yankee 24 for denying me my newly acquired special rights.

Anyway, soon I was in Filene's, pulsing in unison with mobs of Christmas shoppers as we cruised mannequins and lined up at counters for announcements of sample catalogs. In a ritualistic trance, the crowds thrashed toward a crescendo of 'suburban bliss' that has no parallel.

The mall has changed for me since the referendum, however. Instead of blending in with the anonymous masses, I found myself nodding toward the salesman who had worked the Equal Protection/Portland phone bank, waving to the boutique manager who had stuffed envelopes once a week with her partner, and grinning as I watched a queen and her royal entourage sweep through the jewelry stores undoubtedly in search of baubles for the next fundraiser.

I also changed to bump into someone not from Portland ("SNFP"), from some frontier outpost North of Freeport. As he introduced me to his friends, he mentioned to them that I had worked on the equal protection effort in Portland. His friends, two women apparently not up on the latest parlance, stared at me with an adigmatic approach to neohomogynolinquistic semi-sentiments.

I clarified by explaining that I am an equal protectionist and I worked on a campaign seeking to end discrimination based on equal protectionism.

Upon returning home, after purchasing a fabulous sweater, I decided it may be time to admit that it actually was a gay rights referendum. I decided to forget the past, however, and instead, propose a new paradigmatic approach to homophobia and linguistic semi-sentiments. Including herein by reference all of the standard disclaimers intended to preempt offense given or taken, I propose an abandonment of all current labels

NEW CATHOLIC CATECHISM: SAME STORY, NEW COVER

In November, the Roman Catholic Church issued its new catechism which is a summary of its teachings and doctrines. The last catechism was written in 1566 during the time of the Protestant Reformation. Not much has changed when it comes to gays and lesbians.

The catechism affirms the church's position against homosexual acts, but says that homosexuals should be treated with respect, compassion and sensitivity and not subject to unfair discrimination. Saying that homosexual acts are "against nature," the text also says that gays and lesbians "so not choose their homosexual orientation: for most of them it is an ordeal." The document goes on to say that "all manner of unjust discrimination should be avoided with respect to them." There was no indication that the church considered its own role in making "ordainment" of the lives of gay men and lesbians. The Vatican released a letter to American bishops shortly before the November election telling the bishops to actively fight against anti-discrimination laws calling such laws a threat to the family and church.

The catechism urges persons to be "chaste." The catechism also reaffirmed the Catholic Church's anti-woman stance. It asserts the church's opposition to the ordination of women,
How did New Year’s resolutions get such a bad rap?
Whether it’s a promise to stop compulsively surfi ng up and down the radio dial at the first hint of a commercial, or an honest effort to re-fit your Tupperware containers like those Russian dolls to save on cupboard space, people just don’t take to resolutions much anymore. No matter how small the change.

In fact, whenever I ask anyone what resolutions they’ve made (those resolutions that are fit for polite conversation) they usually look as if I’ve just sent them a chain letter—or volunteered them for an IRS audit. Why? The word “resolution” means: 1. The state or quality of being resolve, firm, determination 2. A course of action determined or decided upon 3. An explanation, as of a problem or puzzle; a solution 4. The act or process of reducing something into its constituent parts: the prismatic resolution of sunlight into its spectral colors.

Sounds pretty good when you put it that way. Yeah, but we all know that resolutions always mean giving up something we love—like chocolate or cigarettes. In the glow of a champagne-steeped New Year’s Eve we publicly announce to friends and family that we are going to eat more leafy-green vegetables, give up the hard stuff, and get to bed by 10.00 p.m. every day—starting next year. The morning—and year—after bring guilt, embarrassment, and the joy of knowing that for the next couple of weeks these present at your public proclamations call you on the carpet every time they see you leaving a bar at closing time or nibbling junk food.

Rule number one is realizing which resolutions warrant a public announcement and which should be kept private. For example:

A. A promise to cut back on your heroin habit
B. Learning how to ski
C. Changing religions from mainstream to cult
D. Telling friends that you are an extra-terrestrial from a distant galaxy
E. Learning how to cook seafood
F. Giving up a life of crime

Answers “B” and “E” are public resolutions. Answers “A”, “C”, and “F” are private resolutions. The trick question is “D”. If you find yourself at a Star Trek convention, have at it! At your therapist’s office it is a movie. It’s amazing how many people will keep a resolution to get out to the movies more often a guarded secret while telling everyone within earshot that they are seriously planning a sex-change. The success or failure of many resolutions begins and ends here.

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Give up television

Refine to anything that isn’t solar
Neither list is acceptable. Extremism, illegality, and practicality must be taken into consideration along with quality of life. A better mix might include:

List 3

- Eat less junk food
- Visit friends more often
- Take a crack at physics
- Improve parallel parking skills

Rule number three is to under-promise and over-deliver. A resolution to cut back to one pack a day is probably more successful than repeated attempts to go cold turkey. Remember, too, that everyone experiences malfunctioius resolutions. One year I made a private resolution to learn how to ski. Despite the fact that I was over 25, out of shape, and had no natural inclination toward anything more athletic than backgammon, I decided that skiing certainly looked easy, and, therefore, must be something that I could learn. I really wanted to learn, too. I was up for it! You know, a great winter sport in Maine! However, my one day guaranteed-learn-to-ski adventure at Sundays River quickly turned from being step one toward my dreams of becoming the next Thrill of Victory to a masonic ritualized form of humiliation and embarrassment that left me covered with dodge-ball sized bruises and cuffed up in the fetal position by 7:00 p.m. that evening under the covers of my bed. I’m not sure, but I may have even resorted to thumb-sucking. For weeks I would go ashore every time I saw that

the mostly unfabulous life of Ethan...
A man I thought I knew how to define what’s referred to as “Women’s Music” by subject matter and, maybe, performer. After talking with the women of Wild Iris Productions, I’ve learned that “Women’s Music” is a much more personal matter. It’s the listener that’s key to being a woman and/or lesbian is their definition and choice of artists. How a person perceives the music is the result of an individual’s experiences, aspirations and appreciations. In other words, to identify women’s music, it’s best to have experienced being a woman. (Male closet listeners will just have to try.)

One other accurate measure is to go to a Wild Iris Productions concert because they have it down. Music by women for women, empowering women, affirming being a woman and/or lesbian is their definition. It’s a definition that seems to work. Add the list of truly enjoyable performers and you have “Women’s Music” with broad appeal to men as well.

Rita and Beth are the heart and soul of Wild Iris. Rita is a force of both mainstream and alternative progressive music for women. Both live in southwestern Maine. Rita is an accountant. Beth has a degree in Forestry from UMO, but works for Rita in her practice. Once upon a time in 1982, now good friends, they no longer live together.

Wild Iris Productions is an outgrowth of the Women’s Community Project of the mid-80’s, a organization for women which, at one time, had planned to put together a women’s center in Portland among other Women’s services. One event the Women’s Project did with some frequency was “Women’s performance nights.” After the collapse of the Project, Pine Cone Productions took up the Project’s work with Women’s music. That went on for awhile until too many people dropped out, eventually Beth and Rita started up Wild Iris and assumed the producing.

Their primary guideline is accessibility. This means more than accommodating the hearing and physically challenged. Also, it means giving good local artists a chance to do opening gigs, and get some well deserved notice on the coat tails of more prominent performers. Accessibility also means that tickets are priced as low as possible, a sometimes devastating decision. One of the unprofitable performances was held in Biddleford, nothing to do with the performer, just a location that proved to be convenient for some, but too far for many for a profitable showing. Consequently, limited financial resources were severely hurt. On another instance, an attempt at presenting a drum workshop following the performance of Numbatina, a Women’s drummer, didn’t draw well and ate into resources. On the other hand, the accessibility factor worked well with several successes. Anne Clark, Wild Ginger, and Luna to drop a few names. Rita and Beth are not in the production business for profit, just as Pine Cone or the Women’s Project were not. As Beth describes, there’s motivation in peeking through the curtains during the performance and seeing the smiles of people thoroughly enjoying themselves, and feeling there’s a job well done.

The hardest thing about arranging Wild Iris performances is co-ordinating and getting it “to gel.” Some of that includes getting the sound people and equipment, getting the right hall for the type of performance, queuing up at the bar, getting the word word out effectively, praying for no sudden competition or severe storms. Volunteers, too, are a factor. They need to be personable and primarily aware, responding to needs as the set up gets underway. The reward is hearing a great concert, and that’s when you know when it’s been “right”.

Beth and Rita for all their effort have not become part of the music world’s jet set. Far from it, performers arrive a few hours before the concert. Some get dinner or accommodations at a hotel for themselves and their entourage. Some may be more personable, staying at someone’s home. Performers are in business, no matter how great they may sound. They require special arrangements that cost the production, the primary contention being liabilities. After the concert, they may want to go out, but usually it’s just a “peck on the cheek, maybe a hug, and they’re off.”

Wild Iris could use some assistance to keep the ball rolling. Primarily, getting the word out and posting. The mailing list includes some 750 names all going first class. You get on the list by going to a concert and signing, or if you send a check with your address on it. The list also includes most of the places you can find concert announcements: 57 radio stations and such papers as Our Paper, Apex, Casco Bay Weekly, and Marine Progressive, on occasion Somerset and Maine Times. More main stream publications like the Portland Press Herald, York County Star, or Journal Tribune don’t often have listings of Wild Iris concerts and seldom give them coverage.

Music soothes the savage breast, to be sure, but music can do a lot of other things. It can also motivate social change for one. It brings the alienated into movements, empowering, and defines actions and identities. It tells the stories we relate to, and sparks our energies and emotions. Both these women, as well as those whose work preceded them deserve our respect and support. Clearly the most beneficial way is to plan on hearing the a Wild Iris production in 93. ■

Washington DC
APRIL 25, 1993

DON'T MISS THIS ONE!

LESBIAN NEA DIRECTOR CUTS FUNDS FOR GAY FILM FESTS

Even as the Bush Administration is preparing to leave Washington, it is continuing its pronounced anti-gay and lesbian agenda. Anne-Imelda Radice, the head of the National Endowment for the Arts, has vetoed grants to three lesbians and gay film festivals. The festivals received NEA funding last year.

Radice, a lesbian Republican appointed by Bush, cut the funding for film festivals in New York, Los Angeles, and Pittsburgh, even though a NEA advisory panel recommended making grants available to them again this year. Radice would only say that the projects failed to demonstrate "artistic excellence."

Radice has said that she would leave her post before President-elect Bill Clinton takes office on January 20.

BELLEVILLE COUNSELING ASSOCIATES OF MAINE

We are a group of therapists who specialize in individual therapy, couples counseling, addictions, co-dependency, ACOA, and alcohol and drug issues.

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For further information: (207) 729-8727

8 Stanwood Street, P.O. Box 186, Brunswick, ME 04011-0186 (207) 729-8727

continued page 13
December 31
THURSDAY
THEATRE: LADY BE GOOD, Original Broadway Cast Album, of George & Ira Gershwin's Musical Comedy: 7:00 p.m. on WPKM 106.3 FM.

January (Ongoing)
WEDNESDAYS
Do you have a problem with food? An anonymous peer support group meets every Wednesday night from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Bellamy Conference Room at Wentworth Douglass Hospital, Central Ave., Dover, N.H. The group is free (donations encouraged) and is not affiliated with any national organization. For more information, call The Center For Eating Disorders Management at 603-742-0047.

January (Ongoing)
THURSDAYS
Out for Good, a gay and lesbian discussion/support group, meets each Thursday 7:00-9:00 p.m. in SAGF. Topics relevant to Lesbians are discussed weekly. Meetings are non-smoking. A weekly donation of $1 per person is asked to defray the cost of the room. For directions and more information, call 247-3461 or write P.O. Box 153, E. Waterboro, ME 04031. Holiday meeting schedule will be Tuesday, December 22nd, 7:00-9:00 p.m., and Tuesday, December 27th, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

January
MUSEUM: ANSEL ADAMS: The Early Years: 27 rare photographs by Ansel Adams, at The Portland Museum of Art, 7 Centre Square, Portland. Call 773-ARTS.

January
Gay & Lesbian Ballotin Board has a new service and new number: 871-0432.

January
SATURDAY
Shared Times is sponsoring a Dance at the VFW Hall, 190 Plain Street, Lowell, MA. Tickets are $7.50 and must be purchased in advance by sending a check and SASE to Shared Times, P.O. Box 8822, Lowell, MA 01853.

January 5-12
THEATRE: HEDDA GABBLER, by Henrik Ibsen. Performed by the Portland Stage Company. Call 774-0465 for more information.

January 6-30
WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY
THEATRE: ADAM AND THE EXPERTS by Victor Bumbalo, performed by the Triangle Theatre at the Paramount Penthouse theatre, 58 Berkeley Street, in Boston's South End. For more information please call 617-426-3550.

January 7
THURSDAY
THEATRE: MARRY ME A LITTLE, Original Broadway Cast Album of Stephen Sondheim's Musical, 7:00 p.m. on WPKM 106.3 FM.

January 9
SATURDAY
THEATRE: Devoin Square in concert at the Biddeford City Theatre. Call 1-282-0849 for more information.

January 10
SUNDAY
Auditions for the Maine Gay Men's Chorus will be held at The First Unitarian Universalist Society, 4 Congress Street in Portland, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. For more information, please call 637-4606.

January 11
MONDAY
Equal Protection Portland will have a Potluck Supper at the Williston West Church, Portland at 6:30 p.m. A meeting will follow. The discussion will center on "Where do we go from here?" For more information call, John 275-2813.

January 12
TUESDAY

January 14
THURSDAY
SCHOONER FARE in concert, Biddeford City Theatre. Call 1-282-0849.

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Mon.-Thurs. 9:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 9:30 a.m.-11:00 p.m. Sunday & Holidays 12 noon-9:00 p.m.

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10 JANUARY
January 14
THURSDAY
The Matlovich Society presents; John Greenberg, Director of Treatment Alternative Project New York City, who will speak on "AIDS, An Open System Approach," a radical new understanding of AIDS, its content, and treatment. Rines Auditorium, Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square, Portland, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Wheel chair accessible.

January 14
THURSDAY
THEATRE: OLIVER! Original Broadway Cast Album of Lionel Bart's Musical Comedy, 7:00 p.m. on WPXM 106.3FM.

January 15
SUNDAY
March on Washington Meeting! There will be a brief meeting on how to organize and get the word out to people about this March. We hope to have at least 10 buses from Maine and to do that we need your help! The meeting will be held at the Matlovich Society's offices at 72 Pine Street, Portland, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Remember, Portland may have passed the ordinance, but there is still so much to be done on the State and Country level!!! For more information call John at 775-1931.

January 17
SUNDAY
There will be an exploratory meeting to consider forming a chapter of Integrity, a National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Episcopalians and their friends at St. Luke's Parish Hall, the Chapter Room, Park Street (entrance,) Portland. Call 773-0191 for time and information.

January 18
THURSDAY
DON'T MISS THIS ONE!
Washington DC
APRIL 25, 1993
I LOVE GAY Jdn

January 21
THURSDAY
THEATRE: WEST SIDE STORY, Original Broadway Cast Album of Leonard Bernstein's Musical Comedy, 7:00 p.m. on WPXM 106.3FM.

January 22
FRIDAY
THEATRE: NIGHT MUST FALL, a Drama, by Emlyn Williams opens at The Portland Players. Call 799-4393 for more information.

January 23
SATURDAY
THEATRE: NORTHEASTERN WINDS, in concert at the Biddeford City Theatre. Call 282-0849 for more information.

January 24
SATURDAY
THEATRE: NORTH AMERICAN WINDS, in concert at the Biddeford City Theatre. Call 282-0849 for more information.

January 28
THURSDAY
QUNAM LEAP!

March 27
SATURDAY
Sweet Honey in the Rock will be performing at the Maine Center for the Arts in Orono, Maine. The concert, sponsored by Spruce Run is in celebration of their 20th Anniversary. Tickets are available from the Maine Center for the Arts and are $18 plus a $3 per ticket processing fee. The concert is at 8:00 p.m. and will be sign language interpreted.

March 27
SATURDAY
The East Coast premieres of Roger Boulard's new cantata, Hidden Legacies will be performed by The Boston Gay Men's Chorus at Jordan Hall at the New England Conservatory. The composer will present a pre-concert discussion of the work and will play bass in the performance. Concert starts at 8:00 p.m. For more information call 617-247-8696.

April 3 & 4
FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY
OUT & OUT Productions brings back The Lesbian & Gay Film Festival! This year the films will be viewed at The Portland Museum of Art. Celebrate being Lesbian & Gay through film and Art!

April 25, 26 & 28
Friday, Saturday & Sunday
The 1993 MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR LESBIAN, GAY & BISexual RIGHTS and LIBERATION will take place on Sunday, April 25th in Washington, D.C. On Friday night there will be conferences, banquets and a drag show extravaganza. On Saturday there will be a Wedding/Ceremony of Commitment. Historical exhibits the Harvey Milk Memorial unveiling, a motorcycle run, concerts conferences and receptions. On Monday a Direct Action/Civil Disobedience is planned. In 1987, over 650,000 Lesbians, Gays, their friends and relatives went to Washington, D.C. for the largest civil rights demonstration in the history of this Country. The discrimination and violence continues and it's time to March again. Make your reservations now! For more information, please contact: March On Washington, P.O. Box 34607, Washington, D.C. 20013-34607. The telephone number is 202-628-0493.
When I was growing up, I vowed to go to bed on time, finish my homework before dinner, and lay out my clothes every night so I wouldn't drive my mother crazy nothing to get ready for school the next morning. Later, I remember resolving to eat right, exercise regularly, read more serious literature, and answer all correspondence with a week of receipt.

This year we have so many new beginnings that it's almost impossible not to feel as though all our New Year's resolutions, not to mention our fondest wishes for a fresh start.

In the early 1980's I was living in a small town in rural northeast Nebraska and teaching at the local state college. My son was routinely taunted at school because he didn't play (or like) football, my daughter was coming out in a place where the only two lesbians we knew were a 90-year-old couple so closeted that no one had ever been inside their home. Within the space of two years, my most beloved friend died in an auto accident, my son decided to spend his last two years of high school with his dad in Massachusetts, and my daughter left for the first legal test to prove that things have happened to me in the past I might never recover. And the resolution to go on celebrating is the only one I know I can keep.

Marvelous things have happened to me in the past few years, but I know they did not begin at the unlikely moment when I met my life-partner, or the rainy day we discovered Peaks Island and decided we wanted to live here. The real beginnings of my new life lie somewhere in three years in Nebraska, when to my surprise, I didn't disappear after all. No matter how homesick I felt, or how much I cried, there I still was, teaching my classes and working with my peace group and dreaming of something coming back east for good.

So as January fades into February and the snow turns into dust, I'd like to remind us that our strength lies not in any list of resolutions, but in the hard, lonely times when we thought we might disappear, and didn't. I'm thinking of the parents who struggled to affirm their love for their gay and lesbian children at holiday dinners with homophobic relatives, and to respond to smug Christmas letters announcing the latest wedding or the latest grandchild.

We're all here. Not only that, but most of us work, play, laugh, argue, and enjoy our friends and lovers. That's the best reason to celebrate the New Year. And the resolution to go on celebrating is the only one I know I can keep.
Lesbians Make Better Babies

Children raised by lesbians are psychologically healthy, according to a study of 37 San Francisco Bay area families.

The study, by a University of Virginia psychologist, is unusual because it focused on families in which the parents were openly lesbian when their children were born or adopted.

Earlier studies dealing with children of parents who came out of the closet also indicated they had normal personal development.

The study, which will appear in a book on issues in gay and lesbian psychology, may be helpful for lesbians and gay men in custody, and foster care proceedings.

An estimated 5,000 to 10,000 children have been born in recent years to lesbian mothers, according to one researcher. No solid figures are available on the total number of lesbian- or gay-parented households.

The study showed that children raised in lesbian households were more likely to report feelings of stress and of well-being than other children, according to the study's author, Professor Charlotte Patterson.

Patterson, who is a lesbian, suggested the difference could result from the families' having developed coping skills to deal with prejudice and from encouraging parents who actively encourage their children to share their feelings.

Audre Lord, Lesbian Poet, Dead From Breast Cancer

Audre Lord, one of the lesbian and feminist community's most fervent spokeswomen and poets, died on 17 November at the age of 58, after a 14-year struggle with breast cancer.

Lorde often called herself "a black lesbian feminist writer poet." Her first poems were published in 1968 in a volume titled The First Cities, followed by Cables to Rage (1970), Coal (1976) and The Black Unicorn (1978).

In 1986, Lorde published an account of her struggle with breast cancer in The Cancer Journals. And she described a fictionalized memoir of her lesbian awakening in Zami: A New Spelling of My Name (1982). Lorde also published numerous volumes of essays, including A Burst of Light, which won the American Book Award in 1991.

Lorde was born in 1934 in New York City and was educated there, receiving a bachelor's degree from...
found in ALL of Andrew Lloyd Webber's droll, sentimentally, pretentious, intellectually vapid, humorless crap, ASSASSINS is anything but! But it was a Broadway flop, too: down like THE BISMARCK! Presenting a typical, liberal, New York City Opening Night audience with a musical that glorifies the assassins of Lincoln, Kennedy and The Great God Roosevelt recalls the effrontery of "Springtime for Hitler" and New York didn't like it! ASSASSINS is told from the assassin's point of view and the listener is guided through the history of American presidential murders by an argosy, archly attractive John Wilkes Booth, who, in the final scene, "inspires" Lee Harvey Oswald to kill Kennedy. It's a JFK Assassination Theory I found curiously convincing. ASSASSINS is, however, really a musical about outsiders - like us - it takes listening to and succeeds for that reason better on CD than it did on Broadway. ASSASSINS makes an important, minor point. As a paper, it did America; it's witty, biting, funny, a musical masterpiece! ASSASSINS is right up there with Sondheim's INTO THE WOODS and FOLLIES on my list of The All-Time Top Ten American Musicals.  

All of the above Cast CDs are available at Amerleau Music in Portland. And if you have anything for the column, please send it to me, Alexander Wallace, Box 5001, Portland, Maine 04101 or call me at 773-5726.

Dear OP Staff

I congratulate your paper on its part in the success in the recent victory over bigotry... as a potential Maine resident (at some point next year) I supported the coalition financially and urged my friends in Maine to do the same. It doesn't take a Ph.D. in Political Science to figure out by looking at the statistics on the front page of the December issue that some precincts were more friendly to Vote No than others... and from those figures I'd say I would rather live in Pct. 1 or 3 of District 2 rather than Pct. 3 of District 3. You do out-of-state's as myself a favor with an article on the demographics of the vote. Some districts just don't randomly vote one way or another. Are there liberal areas and/or areas that show a concentration of Gay/Lesbian votes? W'd be a real service to folks like my long-time companion and myself in helping to choose areas in which to look for housing. Thank you.

T. Myers

The areas in which we did not get the support were pockets of predominantly older voters, religious neighborhoods, etc. Without the backing of the Christian Civic League, Concerned Portland Citizens would have probably run out of steam much faster. The liberal vote was a reflection of what will eventually become the norm. Twenty years from now it will be a profound footnote that Portland led the way.

Washington DC

April 25, 1993

Don't Miss this One!
GAY & LESBIAN TIMES OF MAINE

Personal Injury and Labor Law
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by Alan Stearns

Our Customers' Comments

"This is my sixth visit. The consistently excellent food and service will keep me coming back!"
"The potatoes were tasty and tender."
"Nothing fits well with your overall image. It's nice to see a cut in prices that were already a good value."
"Your lamb is as good a little better than mom's."
"Service was excellent. We filled restaurant to capacity within 15 minutes and received excellent food and service."
"Melt-in-mouth delicious lamb shank!"
"Your chicken pot pie is as good as a little better than mom's."
"We love love love the food but can never finish what is so consistently delicious --ie, the portions are huge!"
"The service doesn't get any better. Thanks!"
"We are guests from Inn at Park Spring and we could not have found a more perfect meal."
"My friend rose told me about Katahdin. It made me like her even more!"
"Best soups in town!"
"Our waitress was excellent and honest with personal suggestions."
"Loved the funky atmosphere and the good music!"
"We will definitely come back - especially for dessert."
"We don't get out much, but when we do it's nice to come to a comfortable place with great home cooking."
"We were looking for Cremo's but found Katahdin instead!"

SUPREME COURT ALLOWS EMPLOYERS TO CUT HEALTH BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE WITH AIDS

The Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling that a Houston company had the right to limit medical coverage for an employee once it was discovered that he was infected with HIV.

John McGann, a warehouse employee for H and H Music of Houston, Texas, learned in 1987 that he was infected with HIV. When he told his employer, the company changed its health insurance policy's coverage for AIDS-related illnesses. It did not change the limit for other catastrophic illnesses. McGann quickly reached the maximum. He died in 1991.

"It is a real tragedy that workers are now vulnerable to losing coverage at the very time that they need it," said Suzanne Goldberg, a lawyer with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

The American Medical Association, also denounced the high court's decision. "It opens the door for health plans to pick the healthiest of the population and leave those with serious illnesses to fend for themselves," said chairperson Dr. Raymond Scalettar.

The Supreme Court did however note that the Americans with Disabilities Act may forbid such practices in the future. In this case, the employer had limited the health insurance policy before the Act became effective.
12 MISCELLANEOUS

WEST SIDE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER is a warm, gentle, and homelike childcare center, with a loving, professional and diverse staff. We're child-centered and developmentally appropriate for children ages 3-6. We have low child/caregiver ratios, and never more than eighteen children. We presently have full, part-time and drop-in openings. We are located in Portland's West End. Call 772-9817 for information.

Pet Shop in Central Maine interested in assistance from a gay male over 40. Must be interested in small animals, fish, birds, dogs & cats. Also looking for someone who is interested in the outdoors, nature and camping & outdoor sex. Looking for younger GWM with the same interests. P.O. Box 2102, Bangor, Maine 04402. Enjoy your Holidays.

SPERM DONOR NEEDED. Lesbian couple seeking healthy donor. Have tried unsuccessfully with sperm banks and now would like to try alternative methods. Will be professionally and privately handled. Only serious donors need to contact us. Write: to: P & S, Rt #2, Box 1280, Doverfoxcroft, ME 04426.

16 APARTMENT TO SHARE OR RENT

Roommate sought to share house w/fireplace, located in wooded area of Orono/Oldtown. $250 + electric & water, heat furnished. Call 827-2879.

Room for rent or apartment to share in Saco. Non-smoking woman only. $240-3325 includes all utilities. Call 284-9547 between 6-9:00 p.m.

20 FEMALE PERSONALS

I want someone who is going to love me. Someone that's mine. I am feminine. I'm 34. I love to dance! There must be a special lady just for me. Write to Advertiser #407-1, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 737, Portland, ME 04104


LESBIAN, 39, of York County, 30 miles West of Portland. 5'11", 128lbs, green eyes and reddish brown hair. Likes music, the outdoors, nature and exercise. I'm looking for a lesbian who lives life sober and is searching for a faithful and loving friend and lover. Will answer all. Write to Advertiser #406-1, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 737, Portland, ME 04104.


LESBIAN, 39, of York County, 30 miles West of Portland. 5'11", 128lbs, green eyes and reddish brown hair. Likes music, the outdoors, nature and exercise. I'm looking for a lesbian who lives life sober and is searching for a faithful and loving friend and lover. Will answer all. Write to Advertiser #406-1, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 737, Portland, ME 04104.


I Know you're out there! GWM, 5'9", 145, bl/br, looking for fun-loving, anything goes friends. Let's make each other happy. Write to: Advertiser #517-1, c/o Our Paper, Box 737, Portland, ME 04104.

GWM, 40, expert alpine skier, seeks trim, GM, good to expert alpine skier, to ski major Maine ski resorts! Write to: Advertiser #518-1, c/o Our Paper, Box 737, Portland, ME 04104.

SEEK INFO ON MR. GAY MAINE CONTESTS. PAGEANTS OUT OF PORTLAND. Limelight! Underground? If you have any info, pix, video, memorabilia, etc. would like to hear from you. Especially interested in years 1985-1990. Will pay for pix, video. Write to advertiser #409-5, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 737, Portland, ME 04104.

Sore Muscles from working out? Call for a massage from a GWM to help you feel like yourself again. Call 795-0984, ask for Alan. Hours 7-30 am - 6:00 pm.

Mature Christian GWM 26, seeks sincere others for companionship-social/emotional. Easygoing, caring, many interests, romantic, simple things, etc... No Drugs! Augusta-Waterville area. Write: D. Warren, Rt.3, Box 525, Augusta, ME 04330.

MORE CLASSIFIEDS>
More Classifieds

FUZZY n HOT - Good Looking, exciting, muscular GWM young 40+, 5'8", 135lbs, dark trim beard, attractive body hair, financially stable, MBA, seeks monogamous GWM Lover with good body & mind to enjoy life's great offerings. Cubs encouraged- Grrrr. Please Cal I 207-646-5933 with description or write P.O. Box 1820, Ogunquit, ME 03907-1820.

Lonely Mid-Coast Male seeks, GWM for fun, perhaps relationship. I like both classical & folk music, theatre, antiques, eating out, working out. Age is not important. Let's get together and explore our feelings. Write Advertiser # 519-3, c/o Our Paper, Box 737, Portland, ME 04104.

22 BI PERSONALS

Attractive Male, 38, 6'2", 175lbs. Very clean, discrete, honest, sincere, - you be the same. Ellsworth area. Limited travel. No evenings or weekends. Novice bi, novice submissive. Seeking attractive female(s) or couple for exploration/encounter. All discreetly answered. Photo/Phone appreciated. Write to: Advertiser # 406-2, c/o Our Paper, box 737, Portland, ME 04104.

Classified Ad Form

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17 JANUARY
ARMY MUST JUSTIFY ITS REASON FOR DISCHARGING LESBIAN

It's not all bad news from the Supreme Court. The high court, in a ruling in December, refused to undo a lower court decision in favor of a lesbian's challenge of the Army's ban on lesbians and gay men in the armed forces.

The Supreme Court’s ruling means that the case will go back to the federal district court in California where the Army will be obligated to either justify its policy or reinstate Capt. Carolyn “Dusty” Pruitt to the Army.

The twist in this case is that the Army must justify its policy of banning gays and lesbians by showing that it is “rationally related” to the Army’s goals, but the army cannot merely rely on general societal prejudice against gays and lesbians, it must show how theory is specific to its operation.

Mary Newcombe, a lawyer with Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, who represented Pruitt, said the Supreme Court’s action says more about the anticipation that President-elect Clinton will follow through with his promise to repeal the ban than it suggests a new temperament by the court.

Newcombe said that if the ban is lifted, she expects the military to move quickly to settle Pruitt's case, and others like it.

NAVY IMPOSES NEW ANTI-GAY REGULA-TION

Navy officials admit the timing is bad, nevertheless the are going forward with requiring R.O.T.C. midshipmen to sign an affidavit saying they can be discharged and forced to pay back their scholarships if they are found to be gay.

"consider this iniquitous affidavit a totally unwarranted intrusion in the private lives of American citizens," Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-Colo.) wrote to Defense Secretary Dick Cheney.

But Navy officials said the new policy is similar to those in place for other students at the Naval

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GLT

Miss Saigon Sandwich
by Brian L. Crabtree

I et me begin by saying that I’m partial to a certain kind of restaurant. One serving cheap food and lots of it. Spicy food, preferably with some ethnic kink in its make-up. I left home early, and still maintain that it was in part to escape a regimen of potatoes for dinner six days a week, broken by briskets and beans on Saturday. You get the picture. Not only was it much easier to smoke, pile up dories, and meet boys on my own, my food horizons expanded considerably.

In cities from the East coast to the West, I’d seek out the places. In San Francisco, it was a tiny Mexican taqueria in the Mission district where the Christmas decorations stayed up year round and heaven came wrapped in a tortilla. In New York, it was Veselka Coffee Shop. The memory of its poppy seed cake and mushroom barley soup still brings a tear to my eye.

I like hot stuff. The first date I had with my old boyfriend, F., was in a Chinese restaurant on Congress St. called Four, Five, Six. He ordered egg rolls and proceeded to gargle sections of these through the peanut-laced hoisin sauce. And a new item, steamed dumplings, as appetizers. These are larger here that the usual little wrinkled numbers that hold a tiny pink wedge of mystery meat, and the filling itself is spacier and substantial. Our conversation threaded through bits of these and large slits of our brought-in beers. But when the enormous bowls of soup arrived, quiet was in order.

One needs to bow one’s head over the face-sized bowl and smile into the steam. To inhale this rich mix of fresh herbs, soft noodles, and strips of beef or chicken to be transported, and you need not even click your heels three times or chant. Don’t say anything. Just slurp away. Noise is fine here... you are not in Tavern On The Green. Sometimes Mrs. Bogolawski, with a devilish wink, will suggest a dollop of some fiery condiment to give the bowl an edge.

•

Sometimes Mrs. Bogolawski, with a devilish wink, will suggest a dollop of some fiery condiment to give the bowl an edge.

Finishing your plate, however, can be a challenge at Saigon. S., and I ordered the spring rolls (A pre-determined thing, really. I can’t imagine being there without dredging sections of these through the peanut-laced hoisin sauce.) and a new item, steamed dumplings, as appetizers. These are larger here that the usual little wrinkled numbers that hold a tiny pink wedge of mystery meat, and the filling itself is spacier and substantial. Our conversation threaded through bits of these and large slits of our brought-in beers. But when the enormous bowls of soup arrived, quiet was in order. One needs to bow one’s head over the face-sized bowl and smile into the steam. To inhale this rich mix of fresh herbs, soft noodles, and strips of beef or chicken to be transported, and you need not even click your heels three times or chant. Don’t say anything. Just slurp away. Noise is fine here... you are not in Tavern On The Green. Sometimes Mrs. Bogolawski, with a devilish wink, will suggest a dollop of some fiery condiment to give the bowl an edge.

I generally prefer mine straight, and I can barely ask up until the bottom of my bowl shines out from under the spoon. Yes, for around $20, you and a friend can eat until it hurts. For that price, you can wax expansive if you’re with someone you’d like to impress, and leave a bit tip. What are the drawbacks? None, none. None. You may wait for a bit if there are two parties or more. (Mrs. B. does everything.) But bring a doo-dle pad and play tic tac toe. Believe me, the eventual meal is worth whatever ego deflation you may feel at not being looked after as if the owners of the place want to have your child. Oh, and vegetarians will have tough going. The Saigon sandwich itself, a unique concoction, could be placed on a museum pedestal with a placard reading “Vegetarian Nightmare.” It has pork, liverwurst, and, I believe, beef, amongst its other highly spiced ingredients.

I have a glass of water in one hand if you order this. When asked nicely, Mrs. B. will make you things with shrimp only, but in general, the place, with the smell and sounds of meat being cooked and devoured.

On these cold winter nights, when all light’s been drained from the sky by 5 p.m., and your refrigerator holds on cat-sup and diced potato with a thousand eyes, go to Saigon Sandwich. Mrs. Bogolawski likes everybody, and she proves this with her food. Be nice to her. Bring your lover. You can share bowls of soup or curried beef stew. Maybe you’ll reach new heights of tande noodle soup-sipping. But please! Don’t bring too many friends, and if you require take-out, give the lady plenty of time.

Saigon Sandwich is now located at 921 Congress St. (772-6419).

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18 JANUARY 1993

AMADEUS MUSIC
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uncommon records, tapes, & C.D.’s
Even though the timing of all this, admittedly, is absolutely horrible," said Capt. Gerald Corcoran, who heads the Navy ROTC program at Cornell University.

REPUBLICAN
TRANSSEXUAL WINS
MASS. ELECTION
A transsexual Republican was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in the November election. It is believed to be a first for the state legislature.

The Boston Herald reports that Althea Garrison, a 52 year-old Republican, was elected to the legislature from Dorchester.

According to records at the Suffolk County Probate Court, Garrison was formerly a male known as A.C. Garnson but changed his name in May 1976.

Court papers say the name change "is consistent with petitioner's appearance and medical condition and is the name by which he will be known in the future."

FRANK VISITS RUSSIA
SEEKING RELEASE OF
SODOMY PRISONERS
A delegation led by U.S. Representative Barney Frank (D-Mass.) met with Russian government officials to push for the repeal of that country's harsh sodomy law, and for the release of men imprisoned under the law. Frank said he met with representatives of the Russian ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Justice. He said they agreed that the law should be repealed, but said it is up to the Russian Parliament to do so.

President Boris Yeltsin has proposed a new criminal code that omits a ban on homosexual activity between consulting adults. However, this proposal is unlikely to pass, according to the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, the San Francisco-based group which organized the visit.

Ten men were convicted and sentenced to prison or labor camps under the sodomy law during the first six months of 1992, Justice Ministry officials told Frank. There are no laws banning homosexual activity between women.
IRELAND STALLS ITS REPEAL OF LAW AGAINST GAYS AND LESBIANS

The Council of Europe gave the Irish government another six months to repeal the law criminalizing acts of homosexuality between consenting adults.

The Irish Times said the 27-nation Council acted on a plea by Liam Rigney, the Irish ambassador to the Council. According to Rigney, more pressing issues, like divorce and abortion, have prevented the government from implementing the European Court of Human Rights' order four years ago to repeal the sodomy law.

The Human Rights Court, administered by the European Court of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. This international treaty, signed by Ireland, says "every citizen has the right to respect for his private life." According to the Times, the Council is known to be greatly disturbed by Ireland's "flagrant breach of the Convention." However, there is little the Council can do, except take the radical step of expelling Ireland from membership.

AUSTRALIA ENDS MILITARY BAN ON GAYS AND LESBIANS

The Australian cabinet has ended its ban on lesbians and gay men in the military. The lifting of the ban was opposed by Australian Defense Force chiefs and the Armed Forces Federation, which represents rank-and-file soldiers.

Top military officials had convinced Defense Minister Robert Ray to continue the ban, citing a potential threat to unit cohesion and morale. However, a Labor Party committee recommended that the ban be lifted.

Attorney General Michael Duffy, who pushed for the end of the ban, was bolstered by the commitment of President-elect Clinton to end the U.S. ban and by a similar move by Canada in 1992.

GAY&LESBIANTIMESOFMAINE

ACT UP NEEDS YOUR HELP

WHAT WE'VE DONE IN 1992

- Protected George Bush and his HIV/AIDS policies whenever he set foot in Maine.
- With our action, we publicized discrimination against veterans, health care workers, prisoners and others with HIV infection.
- Coordinated the Portland vigil and march after the brutal bashing of a gay man with AIDS, and organized a huge New England march for universal health care.
- Brought condoms and latex gloves to nine Maine high schools, from Kennebunkport to Bangor.
- Demonstrated against Pat Buchanan in Kittery, back/Quinte "family values" in Portland, Linda Bean everywhere.
- Worked in coalition with other groups for women's right to choose, for civil rights for lesbians and gay men, and in protest of the Rodney King verdict in L.A.
- Helped teen organizations demand comprehensive HIV education in their own schools. ACT UP/Portland members addressed school boards, educated parents, and testified before legislative committees about AIDS.
- Monitored state government, and met regularly with legislators and officials to voice concerns and change state policy (e.g., proposed HIV + names reporting).

WHAT WE'LL DO IN 1993:

- Created a proud and visible presence for our community in Maine. Our office in downtown Portland affirms the presence of lesbians, gay men, and straight allies who will not stand by silently in the face of injustice.

THE QUICK PICK-ME-UP

GET YOUR GLT

On Campus
University of Maine-Orono
University of Maine-Farmington
University of Southern Maine
UNH - Durham
Bates College-Lewiston
Bowdoin College-Inbrowick
Colby College

Statewide
Every Bookland
Portland
Drop Me A Line Card Shop
Videopert

On The Shelf
Pep Luins Books-Bangor
Lippincott Books-Bangor

On The Road
The Left Bank & Arts Hill

Out a-stståhs
Giovanni Room-Philadelphia

1993

20 JANUARY