Gay & Lesbian Times of Maine (Our Paper) 02/1993

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DON'T MISS ACT-UP'S RENT RAISING PARTY 7:00 P.M., FRIDAY, FEB. 21 AT THE LIMELIGHT!
THE COLORADO BOYCOTT
ONE READER'S VIEWPOINT...

Editor,

I have become convinced that the Boycott Colorado movement is a hasty and self-defeating response to a very real threat. As everyone must know by now, three of the communities most affected by this boycott—Denver, Boulder, and Aspen—have gay rights ordinances. "They'll just have to sacrifice" is the usual response of boycott supporters, often with the implied accusation that members of these cities (which voted overwhelmingly against Amendment 2) are at fault for not having done even more to stop it.

This is great hindsight, but lousy politics. The fact is, we're hurting our supporters in hopes that a little of the economic pain will trickle down to our opponents. Sound familiar? Trick- down punishment is even goofier than trickle-down economics.

Amendment 2 came about, in large part, as a backlash against the gay rights ordinances of these three cities. A blanket boycott of Colorado sends out a dangerous message: your support of gay and lesbian rights is now going to cost you. In a perfect world, voters might flock to vote their conscience, and to support in businesses and cities that supported our supporters in hopes that a little of the trickle-down economics would fall with their wallet. In the real world, we invite disaster if we start rewarding businesses and cities that supported Amendment 2, would be a far smarter approach. The boycott movement has quickly taken on an aura of political orthodoxy. On this (as on so many other issues), debate should be encouraged, not stymied. Perhaps the time will come when a blanket boycott of Colorado seems like our only option. But it should be a last resort, not a knee-jerk first response.

Sasha Alyson

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FEBRUARY 1993
GLT

READERS HAVE THEIR SAY...

GLT - EDITOR
P.O. BOX 737
PORTLAND, ME 04104

GLIT - RIGHT TO DIVERSITY

GLIT: My Thanks to the fellow who wrote you last month to decry the all too frequent­ly high levels of bloodletting and back-stab­bing which often fills the editorials and columns of your publication. He expressed the same views which I and my friends have held for some time. Your response, while consistent with your tradition of ridiculing and belittling any who differ with you, total­ly missed the point! He did not say, as you asserted, that there is no divisions in the GAY community. Rather he said that you are intolerant of any dimension; intolerant of anyone who disagrees with your own per­sonally held beliefs.

You complain in your editorial about the lack of volunteers and the lack of finan­cial support. Yet, as long as you mock the opinions of others in the GAY community, you will only have the support of those few who think like you! Perhaps the new name will mark a new beginning. I did not the lack of blood dripping from the last issue, which was a breath of fresh air.

Perhaps the editorial board could also use a breath of fresh air with a change in people, bringing in new faces, new ideas, and support.

Sincerely yours,
Christopher Gallen

Mr. Gallen,

I am somewhat confused about the blood letting stuff. Features over the last several months have included: Diane Elze’s interview, theatrical debut of BENT, An Out-of-Towner’s look for gay and friendly and gay owned and classifieds aren’t especially violent.

Perhaps your editorial board could also use a breath of fresh air with a change in people, bringing in new faces, new ideas, and support.

Sincerely yours,
Christopher Gallen

The GAY AND LESBIAN communi­ty, thank you, is diverse. Diversity is a form of diversity, unless you live in a police state. And our writers and contrib­utors say what’s on their minds—something you have here. Considering how passionately you feel, I assume we can count on your volunteer efforts to help produce our monthly paper.

Bring your new face, new ideas, and support any time.

I.V.

GLIT

I look forward to “Our Paper” monthly. I was quite refreshed by the changes. But reading along, turning the page, I read this 3 letters at the top of the page: (GUILT) GLIT. I have problems with this and wonder if you had noticed it at any point? I don’t like the word GUILT being associated with my/our lifestyle or orientation. The mainstream public does this enough already and we don’t need to and can’t reinforce these ideas.

A.M. Winkiel

We did notice the GLIT associations when we came up with the name. We’ve also had readers indicate that it sounds like some kind of sandwich—a GLT.

The guilt association, as you say, is made by the mainstream public. It does not have to be made by us. If someone mentions that GLIT sounds like guilt, it’s quite appropriate to simply state that it is the Gay and Lesbian Times of Maine.

Remember TAKE BACK THE NIGHT? Think of this as TAKE BACK THE NAME.

GLIT

This is a plea to all the gay friendly businesses: ADVERTISE! No, I don’t work for the paper. I’m from out of town! I rely on local papers for information. I look for gay and friendly and gay owned restaurants, shops, B&Bs.

Help those of us who want to patron­ize these businesses.

An Out-of-Towner

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Lisa Bussey

Legal Services
for Our Community

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appointment necessary before state

FEBRUARY 1993
discrimination in the workplace and housing?"
Of the 61 percent that favor the passage of such a law, 34 percent said they strongly favor the law and 27 percent somewhat favor it. Of those who opposed the law, 21 percent strongly opposed it and 12 percent were somewhat opposed. The undecideds amounted to 7 percent. Support for the law was stronger among women at 69 percent, while 54 percent of the men polled favored the law.
The poll comes at a time when the Maine legislature will be considering a state-wide gay and lesbian civil rights bill in the next two months. The bill was first introduced in 1977 and this will be the ninth time it has been in front of the legislature. The bill almost passed in 1991, but a last minute threat from Gov. John McKernan to veto the bill squelched the bill’s chance to pass the Senate.
According to the Portland Press Herald, Jaspar Wyman, executive director of the religious right-wing group, the Christian Civic League, criticized the poll by saying that the question was posed in such a manner that a positive response was to be expected. He said he didn’t think the poll would have much influence with the legislature.
Al Caron, who was the campaign consultant for Equal Protection/Portland, contradicted Wyman, saying that the poll results were valid.
Favoring the law.
Of the 61 percent that favor the passage of such a law, 34 percent said they strongly favor the law and 27 percent somewhat favor it. Of those who opposed the law, 21 percent strongly opposed it and 12 percent were somewhat opposed. The undecideds amounted to 7 percent. Support for the law was stronger among women at 69 percent, while 54 percent of the men polled favored the law.

MEMBERS OF ANTI-GAY GROUP SIGN CONSENT DECREE
The four members of the anti-gay hate gang known as FSU Posse, Gabriel Holmes, 15, William Holmes, 17, brothers, and Andrew Fontaine, 16, all from Portland, and William Marquis, 18, of Freeport, stay away from Zoots and Abraham's House of Coffee in Portland and banning them from discriminatory behavior.
The suit stems from a Christmas
A CONVERSATION WITH JOHN PRESTON CONTINUES...

write about each other, and a work of non-fiction titled The Art of Being a Hustler.

Is your motivation for writing your recent anthologies political or personal? Are you still an activist through being a writer?

"I began the anthologies with Personal Dispatches: Writers Confront AIDS. I did that because I had to find a way through my writing to deal with my HIV infection, and the experience of working with a community of writers excited me. The book really served its purpose. The experience had been so exciting, that I then wondered, what are my other issues? Being from New England is a major one. I have a whole sense of place, and I hadn't heard enough other writers deal with it. And families is the same thing. And naturally the series continued. The next book will be an anthology titled Friends and Lovers: The Families That Gay Men Create.

No, I didn't really set out to do a political thing in that sense.

"I find myself constantly ripped apart by the split between activist and author. It is very clear that, at this point in my life, "author" is the defining term. Yet I just got so involved or so angry that I always end up doing activist stuff. It's a constant struggle to find a way in which I can meet my own ethical mandates. It is what one acts in one's community and at the same time meet my goals as a writer. At the tail end of my tenure as the President of the Board of The AIDS Project it just became more and more clear that writing was something I really wanted to do. It was something I was good at, I finally had to get to the place where I understood that many of us could work on committees but no one else could write my books. I would prefer and intend to continue being a writer."

What is your interaction with the straight community, and what are your thoughts about separation, isolation, and assimilation?

"My politics originated in the sixties. My politics and world view are very much the conceptions of intertwined communities. It should be supported that we each go into our own communities to shore up those identities, and then move across all kinds of boundaries. Three of the major defining things for me are: I'm gay, I'm a man, and I'm from New England. These are the most fascinating things for me right now. So that's what I explore. And to do that I move across different boundaries."

"I wrote in my introduction to A Member of the Family that I had to leave my family to be gay. But now I am reconciled with my family. It's not a life-long choice. You have the right to withdraw at certain times into a certain part of yourself and your community to explore that totally. One of the problems with the American mind is that we present these options as life-long choices."

If we could just cherish and nurture good fucking like we do eating, then Pat Califia's name would be as well known as Betty Crocker's."


"No. My story is much more about becoming a bachelor. I'm becoming quite happy about it. The theme of my story is really I don't want a lover. One of the things I really had to realize is that is all of the men I've had relationships with live at least 200 miles away. The thing that is much more powerful to me is finding a generational stance to gay life. I think gay life is trivial if it's not generational in some form. I've had that most of my life. I've had a mentor, Samuel Steward, a writer in his eighties who lives in Berkeley now. And I've always had non-genital relationships with young men here in Portland. That's very much based on generational good uncle stuff. And now recently I'm taking on a very explicit mentoring relationship with three gay male writers, working with all of them on their books, long distance: Michael Lowenthal in New Hampshire, Michael Rowe in Toronto, and Owen Keeshin in Chicago. It's more important to find my place in a community that's generational than it is to worry about a one on one relationship."

"Talking about generations and activism a little later...

"A lot of my life has been very conflicted about being the first. I did a lot of first things. I joined the seminary in Minneapolis when I was about twenty five. I actually went to three seminaries as a part time student, and I was the first openly gay student at each of them and for each of the denominations. And it was a huge struggle and I got burnt out and thought, "God, I don't want to do this again." I founded the first gay community center in the country. I DID all of that stuff. It's a lot of
Brunswick. See the Calendar for complete details. However, one detail that may not be in the Calendar is that the Maine Gay Mens Chorus will be performing at the dinner. The Chorus’ debut performance in December established it as a new institution of gay and lesbian culture in Maine.

VERMONT SEES RISE IN BIAS COMPLAINTS UNDER RIGHTS LAW
The attorney general’s office in Vermont is investigating at least six complaints of discrimination against gay men and lesbians since Vermont passed a law protecting the civil rights of gay and lesbian people.

Robert Appel, an assistant attorney general in the civil rights division, said, “I definitely am convinced of it need. Prior to the effective date of the law, there was no reason for a person who was a victim to contact us because there was no remedy. Now there are remedies, the word is out and we are receiving complaints.”

Appel said that most of the complaints involve gay men being harassed in the workplace. “People get picked on because of who they are, making the worker feel uncomfortable in the workplace, he said. “Sexual orientation is just not a consideration that should be used in employment decisions.”

Susan Sussman, executive director of the Vermont Human Rights Commission, said her office has three complaints charging discrimination based on sexual orientation under investigation, all concerning alleged insurance company practices.

“The number of charges that have been formally filed in the attorney general’s office and the Human Rights Commission in a relatively short period of time since the passage of the law is significant, she said.

CAMBRIDGE MAYOR COMES OUT
Kenneth Reeves, mayor of Cambridge, announced last month that he is gay, though he said it shouldn’t be a surprise to anyone. Reeves was at an award ceremony of the Greater Boston Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance to accept an award designated for

continued next page
THE CRYING GAME
It's a Must See Film!
by Shawn Toth

First I would like to get the preliminaries out of the way. "The Crying Game" is the new film by Neil Jordan, director of the "Miracle" and "Mona Lisa." It takes place in rural Ireland and downtown London. Jody (Forest Whitaker), a soldier from London, is taken hostage by Ireland's IRA. The group demands that the government release a recently imprisoned IRA member or they will kill Jody. The government refuses the demands. In the meantime Jody has befriended Fergus (Stephen Rea), the most sympathetic of the people who have taken him hostage. Jody, knowing that he will probably be killed, makes Fergus promise that he will seek out Dil (Roy Davidson), Jody's girlfriend, and take care of her. Fergus moves to London to escape his IRA background. He is haunted by his promise to Jody and seeks out Dil, a beautiful and sensitive hairdresser. As Fergus slowly falls in love with Dil he is found by the surviving members of the IRA. It has adventure, romance, love, and mystery for those of you that haven't been told the scene in question). There are even some surprising cameos in the soundtrack. Boy George sings "The Crying Game" and Lyle Lovett sings "Stand By Your Man. The Crying Game" is a fantastic film with a script that flows naturally and the theme of human nature ringing strongly. All of this is explained by Jody's telling of Aesop's fable of the frog and the scorpion. * People I have talked to would like to expose it into the categories of transvestism or latent homosexuality, but in truth the Crying Game is all about how we can't escape the people we are. Fergus is constantly the man with the heart. He cannot bring himself not to feel sympathy for Jody nor can he stop himself from loving her. Dil (even after he learns her secret) Dil is another example of someone who will never change who she is. She needs only her hair endeavours to become loyal and devoted. She knows that Fergus will never love her the way she needs, but the devotion she sees from him is enough to keep her waiting for Fergus forever. Jody is the insightful catalyst that recognizes the good in Fergus and knows he can trust Fergus to carry through on his promises. The undercurrent in the film could be that we are players in a game of nature. Each of us has our role to play in the giant cricket game of life. Some of us are the bowlers in life, some are the catchers, and some of us are the choosing crowds, but all of us are stuck with the positions that we are given. In dream sequences Fergus is haunted by Jody as the star cricket champion on testing Fergus the ball. Just before Jody's death as he runs to escape Fergus, Jody cries out that Fergus isn't fast enough to play cricket. Jordan shows us the dream sequences, Jody's uniform still hanging in Dil's apartment, and how Fergus cuts Dil's hair and makes her trees up in Jody's cricket uniform could all be attempts by Jordan to finish the relationship. Fergus and Jody were never able to finish, maybe to finish the game that the two of them started. Fergus also said once "Be everything for which I stand." By becoming involved in Jody and Dil game, Fergus now has a position and a purpose for his life. The cricket theme could even even over to make the IRA members. They are the opposing team out to defeat Jody's team. Maybe it's a big stretch of an analogy, but it is there.

One of the most impressive aspects of the film is the relationship between Fergus and Jody. Fergus cannot help but care about Jody. There are some people in this world who are generally just loving people. Even when Fergus learns of Dil's secret he cannot prevent himself from feeling the need to guard and insure Dil's safety. As a gay male I sometimes feel something similar. There are straight women friends of my that I love with all my heart but can never be the person I wish I could be for them. I am often my best to be their most trusted companion. That's one of the final points in the film. It is possible to be a companion to someone, to satisfy and support someone in a nonsexual basis. If you are a loving person you can just enjoy being with someone. At the end the glass that separetes Fergus and Dil is very symbolic of two who can care each other while this almost invisible thing stops them from loving each other in the way they both with they could.

BEST FILMS FOR 1992
(not necessarily gay)

1. Zentropa
2. The Crying Game
3. The Double Life of Veronique.
4. L.A. "Stand By Your Man.
5. Swoon
6. Raise The Red Lantern
7. My Father Is Coming
8. Vanishing Point
9. The Living End
10. My Father Is Coming

I have this reoccurring dream. It's always in the same place. There is this city that sits on almost an island, but it's connected to the mainland at one point. The sidewalks are brick and some of the streets are made of cobblestone. In the center of the city stands a huge statue of a woman with armor and a sword. Somewhere in this city is a building. This isn't any ordinary building, this is a building that represents liberation, power, diversity, and community. I could go to this building to find the history of the gays and lesbians from the island of Lesbos to the city ordinance that protects these same kind of people. I could go there to find counseling or support groups. I could go there to view art, hear poetry readings, or see films by gays and lesbians. My dream would be for Portland to finally create a Gay and Lesbian Community Center.

I think that the community is at a mature point where we could make a claim on a building of our own. Consolidating all the gay and lesbian groups, to include gay sensitive organizations, could have many benefits. Similar groups could help share reference information or information about upcoming media events. The chance of everyone having fundraising benefits on the same night would be all but be eliminated. It would be easier to gather such information as which organizations to write to for sponsorships or grants. It would be the chance to network and share your experiences with other gay and lesbian organizations.

A community center might also have its monetary values. There are special loans and funds available for groups that renovate the second or higher floors of a building in Portland. I am sure if we added all the rent for the MLCGA, Outright, JWAA Coalition, The AIDS Project, Woman's Space, The GLT, Out & Out Productions, Gay AA, or all the other groups the rent for Portland the cost would definitely work out to be at least equal to the rent of a building. I know I would feel much more about the groups I am involved with it they were located in a community center. It would do a lot to send a strong message to fellow gays and lesbians while giving us something to physically be proud of. Can you imagine a whole building that we could walk through and be proud of. Knowing the creativity that exists here in Maine, I am positive it would become a building of stunning beauty. A little some-
Warning: Brand New Woman!

Good Morning America fills the bedroom shortly after 7:00 a.m. Cut to commercial. A gorgeous woman takes me on the TV and purrs, "I have a delicious chocolate shake for breakfast, another for lunch, and a sensible dinner." It just rolls off her tongue. No biggie. Toes back a couple of shakers, grab that sensible stuff at night and presto! You've got a high paid fashion model.

Now, I'm not so nutritionally-challenged that I roll out of bed every morning and grab a Camel unfiltered and a swig of tequila, but the last thing I could face on a chilly Maine morning is a chocolate milk shake. A chocolate milkshake? Is that a healthy mental association for me to start making? Diet? Chocolate milk shake? Diet! Chocolate milk shake! That's like Alcoholics Anonymous serving coffee in small shot glasses or all beer bottles. And I don't know about you, but if I have to survive from 6:30 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on chocolate milk shakes alone, the choice I make for dinner is going to be anything but sensible. Psychotic is more like it...

Jenny Craig, on the other hand, wants to change my relationship with food. Now, anyone who's been married can tell you that the most dangerous thing you can do is get involved in someone else's relationship. Still, I find it hard to see a relationship in a scenario where one of the partners is digested. It's very 90s.

Weight Watchers touts something even more incredible: A Brand New Woman inside! You even get a BRAND NEW WOMAN T-shirt to prove to the world that you are no longer the former you. Weight Watchers offers the usual dieter's voodoo toys, gauges, when-to-eat hand-outs, etc. Plus, everybody gives you a standing ovation when you lose a pound or two.

They feature young, slim, attractive, well dressed, white collar, sophisticated women who probably think a stretch mark is a defect in a pair of panty hose. Thimbles, maybe. Knitting needles, baby socks, and clothing for your pet. Not close enough.

There is something wicked going on out there.

Over 90% of diet ads feature women only. They feature young, slim, attractive, well dressed, white collar, sophisticated women who probably think a stretch mark is a defect in a pair of panty hose. The only women of size appear as blurry black and white photos blown up like life-size police mug shots. Usually the commercial reinforces the success theme of their diet plan by destroying said photos with a wrecking ball or ten ton weight.

And men? The MTVesque Beverly-Hills-90210 ogling-hunks-in-the-parking-lot-shot sometimes appears to reassure the women that once they are beautiful they will again be seen as hunks of meat by the male of the species. Meat with the fat trimmed off. I've even seen ads where whole levee leave the diet group only to become pin-up models in front of the camera: bikinis, legs, etc. when they run across men.

I wonder who directed that commercial? Penny Marshall? Probably not...

Overweight women are unacceptable but, slim women keep downstems themselves out of existence. They herd together to get a little positive reinforcement and pay millions of dollars to diet farms that keep buying air time to attack them.

There's something wrong with that equation. There are some basic facts about weight loss and gain. First, it takes about 3.10th the time to gain weight as it does to lose it.

Second, there are only three sure-fire ways to lose ten pounds quickly: move to a country where the food is so different (see, India) that you are afraid to eat, fall in love, or become a vegetarian. Falling in love with an Indian vegetarian and following her back

continued next page
Maine Public TV Still Says NO to Gay/Lesbian Show

The first national variety-talk show on broadcast TV by and for lesbians and gay men debuted with a special, hour-long Pride Week preview last June. After years of lesbian and gay efforts to get a PBS program, we finally just did it ourselves. Mind you, this show is meant to be entertaining, and has already attracted big names: Joel Grey, Liza Minnelli, Judith Light, Bonnie Franklin, Shari Belafonte, Lily Tomlin, and Dick Sargent (out-actor who played Darrin on " Bewitched") have already appeared. The cast of Broadway's "Fascinating" sang "Unholy Love" from their Tony award-winning musical, and David Drake performed a piece from his hit play, "The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me.

Hosted by comedienne Kate Clinton, "In The Life" kicked off its near-monthly schedule in October. Three programs have already aired and two or three more are planned this season. Associate Producer Kathleen Brady is excited about its future. "We have brought the program up to the professional standards we wanted in its first year. From this position we hope we can go weekly next fall."

"In The Life" has been developed by its own independent production company and is co-sponsored by the city of New York's municipal station, WNYC-TV. Rather than risk a Jesse Helms/NEA type funding fight, they rely on a unique method of financing. They appeal to us directly to make tax-deductible contributions and make "members" of their new program, just as we might be members of any PBS station. This provides another distinct advantage: PBS sends the program out free of charge to all public stations.

The program has been picked up by nearly fifty PBS stations to date and is growing daily. All four public stations in Vermont have signed on and three stations carry it across Massachusetts, North Carolina, the home of Helms and homophobia, has been won. Yet Maine Public Television won't even make a decision, let alone actually broadcast the show.

Maine Public Television:
Round 1.

I first spoke with Harry West, Maine Public Television's programming manager, early last summer when the pilot of "In The Life" was first airing on PBS stations around the country. Mr. West was already aware of our new program and seemed genuinely interested in it. He explained that the merger of Maine's two public stations, which took place July 1st within days of the debut, was taking all of his time. He wanted to know more about the show and possibly add it to their schedule when the show went full-time in the Fall. I also called the production offices of "In The Life," and relayed my conversation with Mr. West. They offered to send him another information packet and follow it up with a personal call to Mr. West themselves. I thought for sure we'd all be glued to our screens come Fall.

Round 2.

I didn't speak with Mr. West again until early October when the first regular episode of "In The Life" was supposed to air. He was a bit less forthcoming this time. At first, he tried to say he hadn't received notice of the show. I reminded him of our earlier conversation and upon questioning he recalled that the producer of "In The Life" had contacted him, too. Mr. West then argued that this is not an official PBS-sponsored production. I checked on this with PBS in Washington for this story and learned that PBS doesn't create any programming itself. All of its programs, just as this one, are created or sponsored by member stations and/or independent producers.

I asked why that should preclude its airing, especially over Maine's "Alternate" second station. Mr. West did not reply. He then offered to view a tape of the June pilot episode and consider airing the regular episodes sometime in the future.

Round 3.

After reading a January IN NEWS piece on the growing number of stations carrying "In The Life," I decided to try again. I contacted GLT and received permission to interview Mr. West and report on this matter in these pages. This time Mr. West had a new set of explanations and programming problems. He suggested that he couldn't easily program a monthly half-hour in a regular time slot without inconveniencing viewers of whatever aired in its place the other three weeks. He also said that special programming obligations in future months leave no time available for this half-hour show. Maine high-school basketball will take over at least 40 hours in February; another pledge drive is planned for March; and, April is the annual Auction. When I suggested that "In The Life" could air in between these breaks, Mr. West did not respond.

After what J. Thomas Cochran, executive director of the conference, called an emotional closed door meeting, the organization's executive committee rejected the Colorado city as the site of next year's meeting. Earlier, the mayors of New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Seattle, and Atlanta said they would not attend the conference because of the amendment.

Eight years ago, the conference adopted an anti-discrimination policy which "recognizes the right of all citizens, regardless of sexual orientation, to full participation in American society and recommends that all levels of government adopt legal protections for the rights of gay and lesbian Americans."

Barbara Streisand has backed off from earlier strong support for the boycott by the entertainment industry. She said she would personally support the boycott and find some other state to vacation in.

Among the growing number of voices supporting the boycott is the "New York Times. In an editorial on December 21, the Times said, "The Colorado law amounts to an aggressive statewide policy to allow discriminatory block attempts to mitigate it."

Meanwhile in Tampa, Florida, civic leaders are worried that a boycott against that city may soon develop in light of the vote to repeal Tampa's anti-discrimination law. Already the national Catholic Campus Ministers Association has canceled its 1994 regional meeting even though the bishop of St. Petersburg support the repeal of the law. Sister Joanne Sullivan who helped organized the meeting said her group is opposed to discrimination in any form. The 1996 GALA Festival, the gathering of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses, is also in doubt, along with its expected $3.5 million in revenue for the city.

GAY LEGISLATOR ELECTED PRESIDENT OF MINN. SENATE

Without any controversy, the Minnesota Senate has elected an openly gay legislator as its president.

On Jan. 5, Sen. Allan Spear became the highest-ranking openly gay state lawmaker. The reaction of his colleagues was "So what?" "It's a non-issue," said Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe. "Senator...
February Calendar

February (Ongoing)
The Unitarian Universalist Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Fellowship of Maine will hold monthly discussion/speaker pot-luck suppers at the First Parish, 425 Congress Street, Portland. The purposes of the Fellowship are to encourage individuals to explore their own personal theologies, heighten the awareness of gay, lesbian and bisexual issues, foster friendships, and offer support, information and assistance. For more information and to be placed on the mailing list call the First Parish office at 773-5747. See our calendar listings below for the February - April programs.

February (Ongoing)
Gay & Lesbian Bulletin Board has a new service and new number: 871-0432.

February (Ongoing)
AIDS Network will be at The Riverfront or call the Eastern Maine AIDS Program at 603-438-2400 for more information.

February 1
MUSEUM: ANSEL ADAMS: The Early Years; 77 rare photographs by Ansel Adams, at The Portland Museum of Art, 7 Congress Square, Portland. Call 773-ARTS.

February 2
THEATRE: SEXUAL PERVERSITY IN CHICAGO, A Dark Sex Comedy by David Mamet. Performed by the Vintage Repertory Theatre, 955 Forest Ave., Portland. Call 797-3338 for more information.

February 2-21
THEATRE: THE BALTMore WALTZ, An AIDS play by Paola Vogel. Performed by the Portland Stage Company. For more information call 774-0465.

February 3
WEDNESDAY
Bangor/Brewer PLAG meets at 7:00 p.m. in Brewer. Call 989-5180 for the location.

February 4-28
THURSDAY-SUNDAY: A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC, Original Cast Album of the musical by Stephen Sondheim, 7:00 p.m., WPKN FM 106.3.

February 5
FRIDAY
Christine Lavin and the Babes will appear at 8:00 p.m. at the Music Hall in Portsmouth, NH. Call 603-436-2400 for more information.

February 6
THURSDAY
Out & About Two Step Dance, First United Methodist Church, Miller Ave., Portsmouth, NH 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. There is a $6 cover.

February 7
SUNDAY
A Variety Show to benefit the Eastern Maine AIDS Network will be at The Riverfront Lounge, 123 Franklin Street, Bangor. There will be cash prizes for winning performances in four categories. The show starts at 9:00 p.m. and there will be a $2 cover charge. Anyone interested in performing sign up at The Riverfront or call the Eastern Maine AIDS Network at 990-3626.

February 11
THURSDAY
THEATRE: A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC, Original Cast Album of the musical by Stephen Sondheim, 7:00 p.m., WPKN FM 106.3.

February 11
THURSDAY
The Matlovich Society presents: JOHN PRESTON, speaking on his new book, "Fresh and the Word," arguing that there's no difference between pornography and erotica. Portland Public Library, Rines Auditorium, 5 Monument Square, Portland, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Wheel chair accessible.

February 12-28
THEATRE: BLithe SPIRIT, by Sir Noel Coward, a ghostly Comedy, City Theater of Biddeford, Call 281-0849 for more information.

February 13
SATURDAY
Lucy Blue T breadcrumbs perfoms at Saunders Theatre, Cambridge, MA 8:00 p.m. Tickets are $15 & $17.

February 14
SATURDAY
THEATRE: SHIRLEY VALENTINE, a screwy love comedy at The Theater Project, Brunswick. Call 729-8584 for more information.

February 14
SUNDAY
Chillons Mountain Club winter day hike in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Call GLT 617-547-0053 or Carol 508-392-9474.

February 14-21
NATIONAL CONDOM WEEK!!!!!!!!!!!!!

February 16
TUESDAY
The Unitarian Universalist Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Fellowship of Maine is sponsoring a speaker/pot-luck supper. Tonight's speaker is Howard Siddman, Gay/lesbian historian and professor at Tufts University who's topic will be "The History of Silence." Social time begins at 6:30 p.m.; dinner starts at 7:00 p.m.; and speaker and/or discussion will begin at 7:30 p.m. First Parish, 425 Congress Street, Portland. For more information call 773-5747.

February 19
FRIDAY

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February 20
SATURDAY
DIGNITY is presenting: JOHN MCNEILL, former Jesuit priest and author of Taking a Chance on God: Liberating Theology for Gays, Lesbians and Their Lovers, Families and Friends and The Church and the Homosexual, who will speak on "Freedom, Glorious Gays, Lesbians and Their Lovers, Families and DIGNITY is presenting: JOHN McNEILL, former Jesuit priest and author of Taking a Lesbian/Gay Person." At the First Parish Church, Congress Street, Portland at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 422-3140.

February 21
SUNDAY
"Hearts of Fire" Valentine Ball sponsored by N.H. Pride at a SASE to N.H. Pride, P.O. Box 396, Danville, NH 03819. SATURDAY
February 22
MONDAY
Alexander Wallace will speak on: Homosexuality and The Religious Right, Seacoast Gay Men, Portsmouth, NH, 7:00 p.m. Call 603-898-1115 for more information.

February 24
WEDNESDAY
Chiltem Mountain Club attends the 9th Annual Gay and Lesbian Ski Week in Stowe, Vermont. Call the Chiltem Trip-line 617-853-2843.

February 25
THURSDAY
The Matlovich Society presents: Dr. DIANA LONG, Historian and Director of Women's Studies at USM, speaking on: "Don't Have We Seen This Before? An Historian Looks at Scientific 'Explanations' for Homosexuality." Portland Public Library, Rines Auditorium, 5 Monument Square, Portland, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Wheel chair accessible.

February 25
THURSDAY
THEATRE: LISTENERS' FAVORITES, WITH ALEXANDER WALLACE and HOST JOHN SPRITZ, 7:00 p.m., WPKM 106.3 FM.

February 27
SATURDAY
The 7th ANNUAL MLGPA DINNER, moves to Brunswick at the ATRIUM INN at Cooks Corner. This year will honor all the people who have contributed to the civil rights movement in Maine. The evening starts at 5:00 p.m. with cocktails, followed by a sit-down dinner at 6:30 p.m. There will be a brief award ceremony and new this year, a silent auction. Dancing will begin at 10:00 p.m. Reservations must be made. Seating is limited. For more information write or phone: Judy Edgerly, P.O. Box 136, Hallowell, ME 04347, call 626-9309. Also, for those traveling long distances room reservations may be made at the Atrium Inn at reasonable rates-call729-5555.

February 28
SUNDAY
National Day of Remembrance. Sponsored by the National Coalition for Black Lesbian and Gays, February 28 at 12:00 p.m. at the Unitarian-Universalist Church on Winthrop Street. Call Paula Aboud for information.

March 3
WEDNESDAY
Baseball Hall of Fame meets at 7:00 p.m. in Brewer. Call 989-5180 for the location.

March 5 & 6
FRIDAY & SATURDAY
Kate Clinton at the Tasi Performance Center, 685 Corinthians Ave., Boston, MA. The show on the 5th is at 8:00 p.m. and there are two shows on the 6th at 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Tickets are $16.50. Call 617-496-2222.

March 9
TUESDAY
The Unitarian Universalist Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Fellowship of Maine is sponsoring a speaking/jot-luck supper. Tonight's speaker is Nightwalker who will speak on "Native American Spirituality." Social time begins at 6:30 p.m.; dinner starts at 7:00 p.m. and speaker and/or discussion will begin at 7:00 p.m. First Parish, 425 Congress Street, Portland. For more information call 773-5747.

March 11
THURSDAY
The Matlovich Society and The Names Project/Chailme presents: "How the Quilts Speaks To Us: An Evening of Storytelling, Music and Poetry" accompanying the display of a 12 x 12" panel of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. This is a kick-off of a three-month visit of the AIDS Memorial Quilt to Maine. Portland Public Library, Rines Auditorium, 5 Monument Square, Portland, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Wheel chair accessible.

March 13
SATURDAY
The 7th Annual VISUAL AIDS ART AUCTION to benefit the AIDS Project will be held at the Holiday Inn Downtown, Portland and this year's auction had over 140 artists and over 600 people attended. Rob Elowitch will be the Auctioneer and contributing artists this year include: Dozier Bell, Brett Bigbeg, Alford Chadbourne, Judy Ellis Ciklman, Pat & DeWils Hardy, Paul Hemon, Charles Hewitt, Eric Hopkins, Fred Lynch, Alan Magee, Celeste Roberge, Margreete Robichaud and Tom Wolf. The preview begins at noon and the Auction begins at 8:00 p.m. Admission is $5. For more information contact the AIDS Project 774-6877. The SNOW date is March 14th.

March 21
SATURDAY
The MLGPA will meet to discuss most especially the bill before this session's legislation guaranteeing civil rights/equal rights to Lesbian and Gays, August 24, 2000 p.m. at the Unitarian-Universalist Church on Winthrop Street. Call Paula Aboud for information.

March 25
THURSDAY
The Matlovich Society presents: Dr. GARY LEPP, professor of Japanese history at Tufts University, presenting an illustrated lecture on "Nanshoku: Homosexuality in Japanese Culture." Portland Public Library, Rines Auditorium, 5 Monument Square, Portland, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Wheel chair accessible.

March 27
SATURDAY
Sweet Honey in the Rock will perform 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 order processing fee. The concert is at 8:00 p.m. and will be sign language interpreted.

March 27
SATURDAY
The East Coast premiere of Roger Bourland's new cantata, Hidden Legacies will be performed by The Boston Gay Men's Chorale 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 617-247-2805.

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. Celebration being Lesbian & Gay through film and Art!!

April 12-17
MONDAY-FRIDAY
GAY & LESBIAN/BISEXUAL awareness week at University of Maine-Orono. The Theme for this year is Religion and Homosexuality/Bisexuality.

April 19
TUESDAY
The Unitarian Universalist Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Fellowship of Maine is sponsoring a discussion/jot-luck supper. Tonight's topic will be "Year two of civil rights legislation: are we winning?" and there will present a slide show and lead a discussion. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m.; dinner starts at 7:00 p.m., and the discussion will begin at 7:30 p.m. First Parish, 425 Congress Street, Portland. For more information call 773-2747.

April 23, 24, 25 & 26
FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY & MONDAY
The 1993 MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR LESBIAN GAY & BISEXUAL RIGHTS & LIBERATION will take place on Sunday, April 25th in Washington, D.C.. On Friday night the 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 65,000 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. 20043-4607. The telephone number is 202-628-0493.

June 16-27
FRIDAY-SUNDAY
The 7th Annual Golden Threads Celebration will take place at the Provincetown Inn in Provincetown, MA. Golden Threads is a worldwide social net-work of Lesbian Women over 50, and women who are interested in older women—no lesbian women is excluded. Lesbian women from all over the U.S., many from Canada and some from other countries will converge in Provincetown to celebrate a new way of living. Whatever it is. Entertainment will be provided by Julie Woods. A banquet will be followed by a drag show, with DJ mixing in the pre-rock oldies. Sing-a-longs and rap sessions will be offered, as well as feminist videos. Attendance is limited to 250 women. For more information please contact: Golden Threads, P.O. Box 3177, Burlington, VT 05401-0031.

ZEBRAHEAD
GLEN GERY GLENN ROSS RESERVOIR DOGS THE EYE ABOVE THE WELL MALCOLM X THE LOVER FLIRTING THE MAN WITH THREE COFFINS

January 22 - 28
January 29 - Feb. 4
January 30 - Feb. 4
February 1
February 5 - 18
February 19 - Mar. 4
February 26 - Mar. 4
March 1
Nachu

Nachi

a Yiddish word meaning "pride," pronounced with the accent on the first syllable, which rhymes with "Bach."

By Rita M. Kissen

A CONVERSATION WITH JOHN PRESTON...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

work to be the first. And you almost never can win. You almost have to be content with the good. No one when I was that first that perfect. And that's what I meant about generational, you have to be willing to be the step in a process as opposed to the end in the process."

DO YOU THINK OF FANTASY AND FICITION RELATE TO YOUR REALITY?

"The whole thing about the fiction and my reality is bizarre, because it happens on so many different levels. I usually when they talk about all fiction being autobiographical, which gives the author no creativity. Actually, I once Had a Master is explicitly autobiographical and I owned it in the epilogue. The rest of my fiction is not there in outer space. It is simply my escape. It's not meant to be anything more than that. But there's also Franny the Queen of Provincetown, my first book, which fascinated me. I could easily deny that Franny was autobiographical. What I found out was that in it was anticipatory. By writing that book I was trying to live in a middle-aged person. I have become Franny. I have become this good uncle with these nephews, and that didn't happen in my life when I wrote that book. I was mapping a landscape that I would later on become.

Preston's anthologies are filled with essays by gay male writers confronting some of the most personal aspects of gay life. His editing, contributions, and introductions are full of introspection, emotion, and careful analysis of social and personal patterns. His earlier, however, is fantasy with a principle purpose of entertainment and exploration. His protagonists, sometimes called pornography, and sometimes referred to by Preston and others as sleaze, but also been referred to by USA Today as part of a new literary flowering. An examination of the actual content of Preston's sexual fiction will allow readers to attach their own labels free of the contradictory connotations of the labels of "sleaze" or "flourishing," his novels and short stories deal with norms and madness. S&M & 'La Preston includes most controversially the use of a variety of devices to inflict pain and create bruises and welts. It includes the ingestion of urine and the exposure of bodily wounds to the same. And it includes the use of branding irons and feet. And it involves mock slavery and men who refer to each other as Daddy and Son.

In his writings and interviews, John Preston has explained his view of the experience of pornography in the life experience of gay men. "Pornographic writings were how we learned the parameters of our sexual life. Pornography was how we developed our fantasies, both sexual and emotional. It's incredible how, you know, how the first significant connection with the gay world through a porn magazine."

I'M FINDING IN MY MIDDLE AGE THAT MY MOTHER IS THE FRONT OF ALL OF ENGLAND's wisdom. And I adore her very much, much more now than I probably ever have before. She came to a reading in a group in Boston a couple years ago, and some of the people read some very nasty stuff. And it had been my mother and a couple of my sisters, and my room full of seventy-five gay men. And afterward everyone went, "Oh my god, what did you say mother thing?" So she sat there with her hand and said, "Ma, what do you think?"

And she looked at me and thought for a moment and said, "I could have left the room." That was the end of the conversation.

You must remember it is another generational thing. I grew up in a time when there were no images, when there was only the word. The only people who were ever identified as gay were those who were going in and out of the mental institutions or were so stereotypically that they couldn't be a role model for a young New England boy like myself thirty years ago.

"I am not inclined to tell anybody what they ought to do. I am more inclined to present them with as many options as they want. And just as I do when writing erotica, they can explore something and decide they don't want to do it. A lot of stuff that I've written I don't want to do. That's not the point. It's in my fantasies. We shy away from very taboos topics. I want all of those things out on the table. When I came out I was told not to be a sexual person who wasn't nice. And I feel that I and other people have suffered from that. It is important to speak the unspoken. Especially when I was perceived as only being a pornographer, or perceive as being filthy it was much more important for me to not bear the burden of these secret thoughts than anything else, than the way that it might offend somebody."

WHEN EDITING YOUR EROTIC ANTHOLOGIES, DO YOU EVER READ GREEDY STORIES WHICH YOU FIND TOO OFFENSIVE TO PUBLISH?

There are some issues which are very important to me. I'm not willing to take the role of the censor, but having been a young boy who was sexually active, I am acutely and painfully aware of the power discrepancies and I think that the whole argument about boy love is not meaning-
The Straight Narrow by Holly Varela
from page 3

home, however, may not result in a weight loss of 30 pounds.

Picture a young girl in grade school about to take a test. As she enters the classroom the teacher says, "I don't think you've prepared. You'll probably fail." The girl sits down at her desk. The teacher says, "The boys will do well. If you get a passing grade it will be a miracle." The girl takes the test, finishes before the boys, and puts the paper face down on the desk. The teacher says, "You finished early. You must have left several blank or made several mistakes because this was a hard test. The boys are still working hard on their papers. It's a shame you couldn't do better. This will probably lower your overall grade." Class is dismissed and the children leave. The next day they return. The little girl walks in and picks up her paper from her desk. She has received an 'A' on the test. The teacher says, "The boys put their papers face down on the desk. The teacher says, "Next time you may not be so lucky." The teacher says to the little boy at the next desk, "You did very well. You got a 'C'. You're performing as well as your classmates. Very good."

First thing in the morning. Last thing at night. The message to women is that you must work twice as hard on your papers. It's a shame you couldn't do better. This is what I'm trying to say.

"We have the endurance of Olympic gymnasts. However, unless I install a set of uneven bars in my office and hurdles behind my door..."

BY ALEXANDER WALLACE

Continued on page 14

GAY & LESBIAN TIMES OF MAINE

PUBLIC TV SAYS "NO"... He did offer that the station had recorded the first shows for possible future broadcast. And he has finally viewed the pilot show. I argued strenuously that it was time for Maine Public Television to recognize that Maine has a large gay and lesbian constituency, as evidenced by the success of Portland's and Lewiston's new human rights ordinances.

I asked him when his failure to decide should be considered a decision in itself—after a month, two months, six months, a year? I asked if he even had a timeline for deciding. To all of these, Mr. Wiest had no direct response other than to imply that the show would not be airing before May. Although I reminded him of my earlier call and that he was first offered this show last May, Mr. Wiest could give me no indication of when, or if, a decision would ever be made.

Mr. Wiest further suggested that I contact Bernie Roscetti, his immediate supervisor and director of both public radio and TV, as well as Robert Gardiner, president and general manager of the whole Maine system. I think I even got a chuckle out of him when I mentioned Mr. Roscetti's very pointed, on-the-air references to "family" programming during December's pledge drive. I explained that I didn't hold much hope for anyone who was still using such anti-gay buzzwords, especially after last year's local and national electoral campaigns.

At one point Mr. Wiest suggested that he was trying to find a good time slot for our program. He said that he didn't want to release it to Sundays at 11:00 pm as other public stations do. I hope I spoke correctly when I said that we would be happy to have it broadcast then—we have VCRs—rather than not see it at all. This seemed to be an opinion that Mr. Wiest regarded as of further consideration. But, as ever, he would not say.

"I finished the interview by asking Mr. Wiest how he recommends that we let our feelings be known. He first replied that he has already heard from a number of viewers."

JOHN PRESTON

"As writers are both reporting what's happening in the bar and the men in the bar are finding in our writing ways to fulfill their needs. The first thing I ever wrote of any note was My Matlovich Society on February 11, 1993, which concerns itself with the complex relationships of gay men. It just does not deal with the complexities of that situation and the exploitation that sexually active boys go through because of adult men. Any story that would glorify gay love would automatically be suspect. I can't imagine it being complex enough as writing."

"But in your own writing there is a lot of vocabulary of daddy and son?"

"But that's psycho-play between consenting adults and it's very clear that it's not about that. And I think that's very powerful stuff. That's what a lot of our lives are about right now in terms of our culture. We're all clinging to Jungian archetypes and looking at things in that way and acting out various aspects of our lives. I think it's all part of the creativity of gay sex that we don't put it in context when we get into playing into societal exploitations."

"There are also certain things about gay sex and gay porn which separate them from other categories. Heterosexual porn almost always involves the degradation of a woman and thus reinforces the societal standard of a woman's degradation. Gay porn is strikingly different in that the reader, a gay male, can take either role. The common woman reader can not take either role in heterosexual porn as it's usually constructed. But the gay male reader can. My TV story is either the master or the slave depending on his moment."

"I am more and more convinced that gay male porn, especially S&M is about a rite of initiation. There is a ritual being performed in an under-ritualized world. I am very intrigued by the elements of costume, how much in M&M literature, for instance, the "boy," who is not necessarily younger by any means, earns his leather, endures an ordeal, is taught by a master. 'What is the consequence of this?' is the core of the question."

"In Flesh and the Word 2, the word was so ..."
Maine says NO...

I reminded him that this story might be the first notice many Maine gays and lesbians have that this show even exists. I explained again that I felt he was underestimating the size of the potential audience in Maine for "In The Life." I guess he took my questions as threatening. He would only suggest that we do whatever we like. He again strongly refused to give any timeline for even making a decision, let alone putting our program on the air.

On one hand, Mr. West has given every impression that he is an open and reasonable man, as I am sure he believes himself to be. On the other hand, he has relegated our show to the shelf without considering the homophobic nature of the fact. People like Mr. West find validation for their dismissal of our concerns in the social and professional acceptance of potential overt treatment for lesbians and gay men. This kind of internalized and institutionalized discrimination is even harder to fight than the Jasper Wymans of the world.

Who freely admit they are fighting us. This is an important issue. Visibility in mainstream media is the number one way to maintain the impression that he is a potential audience for even making. He would not suggest that we do whatever we like. He again strongly refused to give any timeline for even making a decision, let alone putting our program on the air.

It is clear they need a push.

WHAT YOU CAN DO
1. Become an "In The Life" member. Dues are high ($35 or $65) but consider joining if only for this startup year. They hope to receive grants and PBS or corporate underwriting for their second season. Call Kevin McDonough for more info at 1-800/578-4534.

2. Tell Maine Public Television that you want to see "In The Life." It is obvious that we have a great deal of inertia to overcome at MPTV. Every one of us - this means you - must send a postcard, make a phone call or write a letter or two. Just ask to have our program broadcast. If you are a subscriber, please say so in any communication you have.

3. Contact your gay-friendly Maine state legislators. Let them know that you are a public citizen whose needs are not being met by Maine Public Television, a major recipient of your tax dollars. Let them know that "In The Life" has been available for free since last June.

Here are the major players:
Robert H. Gardner
President and General Manager
Director of Broadcasting
Maine Public Broadcasting Corp.
1450 Lisbon Street
Lewiston, ME 04240
(207) 783-9101
phone: 1-783-9101
fax: 1-783-9110

Bernard F. Roscetti
Director of Television Programming
Maine Public Broadcasting Corp.
1450 Lisbon Street
Lewiston, ME 04240
(207) 783-9101
phone: 1-783-9101
fax: 1-783-9110

Harry J. West
Manager of Television Programming
Maine Public Broadcasting Corp.
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(207) 783-9101
phone: 1-783-9101

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Continued page 18
**PERSONAL OF THE MONTH:**

**Sensuous, Single figurative painter seeking:**
1. a lean model &/or
2. a challenging comrade, &/or
3. a legitimate or 1st time collector, &/or
4. a best friend of unique quality.

Write to advertiser #800-1, c/o Our Paper, Box 737, Portland, ME 04104.

"GM Roommate sought to share house in Camden. Wooded area but close to town. Private bath. Non-smoker, please. $200.00/ mo. + 1/2 utilities. Call 236-8935. Portland-LSM Area: To share lovely 2 bedroom, fully applianced duplex with oil heat. Private, quiet, chem-free environment. Includes w/d hookup, off-street parking and more. GWM preferred. $312.50 + 1/2 utilities. Available 1/15/93. Pets negotiable. Call 780-1415 and leave a message and I'll get back to you."

"Serious Top Seeks Bottoms. GWM 49, seeks younger, masculine men sincerely interested in consensual, no nonsense S & M & D sessions. Roger, P.O. Box 2954, Acton, MA 01720-6954. Personality profiles done by a certified analyst. Write to advertiser # 201-1, c/o Our Paper, Box 737, Portland, ME 04104."

"16 APARTMENT TO SHARE OR RENT

Lesbian, 37, looking for one or two lesbians interested in renting a house on or near salt water near Portland/Freestport-Higgins Beach? Prefer non-smokers, pets (I have one dog), and people with a sense of humor. Please call 772-3757, leave a message and I'll get back to you."

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16 APARTMENT TO SHARE OR RENT

Lesbian, 37, looking for one or two lesbians interested in renting a house on or near salt water near Portland/Freestport-Higgins Beach? Prefer non-smokers, pets (I have one dog), and people with a sense of humor. Please call 772-3757, leave a message and I'll get back to you.

"12 MISCELLANEOUS

Handwriting Analy­sis. Personality profiles done by a certified analyst. Send page long writing sample and $3.50 to: Bernard Leclerc P.O. Box 2954 Acton, MA 01720-6954.

"16 APARTMENT TO SHARE OR RENT

Lesbian, 37, looking for one or two lesbians interested in renting a house on or near salt water near Portland/Freestport-Higgins Beach? Prefer non-smokers, pets (I have one dog), and people with a sense of humor. Please call 772-3757, leave a message and I'll get back to you.

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Handwriting Analy­sis. Personality profiles done by a certified analyst. Send page long writing sample and $3.50 to: Bernard Leclerc P.O. Box 2954 Acton, MA 01720-6954."
**Mo'Classifieds**

**22 BI PERSONALS**

BIWM, 25, seeks young aggressive trim Bi or straight-acting CWM for friendship. I'm honest, friendly, trim, outgoing and enjoy outdoor activities, music. Discretion is assured. Write to DCL, P.O. Box 1305-#161, Brunswick, ME 04011.

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 #513-2, c/o Our Paper, box 737, Portland, ME 04104.

**66 COUNSELING**

Support Group and Counseling Sessions for Gay Men and Women, 61 Main Street, Bangor, Maine. Men meet Mondays at 7:00 p.m. and Women meet Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. Cost is $20 per person per 1 1/2 hour session. Sessions are led by J. Bunker, M. Ed. Counselor. Call 947-1022 or 990-2944.

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Sponsored by
Date & Time
Location
For more info call
Register/RSPV

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FEBRUARY 1993

17
the Colorado initiative. Only 35 percent said they would vote for it and 6 percent were undecided.

GAY SAILOR MURDERED IN JAPAN

The U.S. Navy is investigating whether a sailor based in southern Japan was murdered six weeks ago because he was a homosexual. Seaman Allen Richard Schindler, 22, was beaten to death at midnight on Oct. 27 in a public restroom in a park near Sasebo Naval Base in Japan. A newspaper report said two of Schindler's friends were taken into custody. The report also said that Schindler, who had been in the Navy for four years, had told his superiors that he was gay, and at the time of his death the Navy was preparing to discharge him. Friends and relatives of Schindler say that the sailor had received threats and had been harassed by other sailors because he was gay.

ENGLAND'S HOUSE OF LORDS TO DECIDE IF S/M IS LEGAL

The House of Lords heard an appeal by a group of gay men in England in a case that is expected to settle whether sadomasochistic sex, both heterosexual and homosexual, will be legal in Britain. The men were arrested five years ago during a nationwide police campaign that resulted in 42 arrests of alleged members of a gay male S/M group. Sixteen were convicted and eight received prison sentences.

According to the London weekly "Capital Gay," the appeal centered on whether the law should draw the line between sadomasochistic sex and other forms of sexual activity, and whether such sex, whether heterosexual or homosexual, will be legal in Britain.

The plaintiffs in the case argued that sadomasochistic sex is a consensual activity that should be protected by the law, while the government argued that such sex is morally unethical and therefore should be illegal.

The case is expected to be decided in the coming months, with the final decision being made by the House of Lords.

HIV/AIDS INFORMATION & EDUCATION

THE FACTS ABOUT HIV & AIDS

WHAT IS IT?

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). HIV attacks the immune system and weakens it over time. AIDS is a diagnosis that a person infected with HIV receives after the virus has severely damaged the immune system.

HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

HIV is transmitted through certain body fluids: blood, semen, vaginal secretions (includes menstrual blood, cervical discharge, and fluids of sexual lubrication), and breast milk. There is no evidence that the virus is transmitted through saliva, tears or sweat. HIV may be present in urine and feces if blood is present in either of these substances. HIV is spread from person to person in the following ways:

SEXUAL INTERCOURSE

- anal intercourse (penis in anus/rectum)
- vaginal intercourse (penis in vagina)
- oral sex (mouth to vagina, mouth to penis, mouth to anus).

BLOOD TO BLOOD CONTACT

- sharing needles for intravenous drugs, self-piercing or tattooing
- through open cuts or sores (including blood brother/blood sister rituals)

BLOOD TRANFUSIONS prior to 1985 when no antibody test existed (According to the American Red Cross, there is a 1 in 40,000 chance of contracting the virus through a transfusion today).

BIRTH

A mother can transmit the virus to a child before or during birth, and after birth through breast feeding.

PROTECT YOURSELF!

- Use a latex condom every time for anal or vaginal intercourse (fucking).
- Be sure to use a good lubricant in order to reduce friction and make the condom less likely to break. Lubrication for latex condoms must always be water based like KY or Wet. Lubricants that contain petroleum or oils (vaseline, crisco, baby oil, etc.) will quickly dissolve the condom and cause it to break. Note: water soluble lubricant is not the same as water based, and may contain silkRead labels carefully.

- Use a non-lubricated condom for oral sex on a penis (blow job). For best results, use a wet cloth to gently wipe the powder off the condom before putting it in your mouth. Some people choose to avoid condoms by licking the shaft and balls of the penis without putting the tip of the penis in their mouth.

- Use a latex or plastic wrap barrier for oral-vaginal sex (going down) or oral-anal sex (rimming). Barriers you can use include common plastic wraps like Saran or glad wrap (some come tinted in fun colors), a condom cut lengthwise to form a square, or a dental dam piece of latex used during dental procedures, often flavored. For added pleasure, you might try putting lubricant on the side of the barrier facing the vagina or anus always use a water based lubricant for latex barriers.

- Don't share sex toys. If you must share, make sure to wash them in hot, soapy water between users. When sharing dildos, one partner can use it with a condom, then remove the condom before passing the dildo to the next person.

- If you're an I.V. drug user, avoid sharing needles. If you must share needles, be sure to clean them properly with bleach between users. To do this, fill the chamber of the needle with bleach and squirt it out, then fill the chamber with water and squirt that out. Repeat the process one more time. This will kill any HIV that may have entered the needle from the last person using it.

- Remember, this point here is to always avoid receiving blood, semen or vaginal secretions in your mouth, rectum, vagina, the tip your penis, or on any open cuts or sores.

- There are lots of activities that pose virtually no risk for HIV transmission. Some include kissing, massage, masturbation, phone sex, bathing, etc. Be creative!

- Use of alcohol and other drugs can cloud your judgement and cause you to put yourself at risk. Substance use/alcohol lowers the body's immune system, making transmission even more likely.

ANY QUESTIONS?

The AIDS Line is Maine's state-wide source for HIV/AIDS information and referrals. Call us at 1-800-851-AIDS or 775-1267 if you have questions about safer sex, transmission, or HIV antibody testing. Always strictly anonymous.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE
AIDS ACTIVIST VINCENT BOULANGER DIES

By Kathy Mills

Vincent Boulanger of Gray, one of the longest living people with AIDS in Maine, died in his home on Tuesday, January 5. Boulanger was widely known in the community as an AIDS education activist. Since his diagnosis in 1986, he worked with The AIDS Project and the State Department of Education, giving talks to numerous high schools and community groups across the state. He spoke frankly about his own fears about people with AIDS. He was a strong advocate of clear, explicit information about safer sex for youth.

Boulanger was one of the first in Maine to go public with his HIV status. Over the years, he was the subject of numerous newspaper and television stories on AIDS, and was perhaps the most interviewed PWA in the state. He felt strongly that more people needed to come out about their HIV status. He thought that only by keeping the face of AIDS in the public eye could ignorance, fear, and discrimination be overcome.

In 1988, he appeared in Newsweek with another Portland AIDS activist, Frannie Peabody, when she was honored as one of the 50 unsung heroes in each of the states who have made a difference in their communities. In 1991, Vincent appeared with Peabody on the television show “Good Morning, America.”

“Vincent had a kind of tenacity, determination and will that was truly remarkable,” said Frannie Peabody. “He was very courageous through many battles with his illnesses. And he was blessed with parents who supported him completely. I have worked with many families struck by AIDS. That kind of family support is rare, and makes all the difference in a person’s struggle with AIDS.”

Boulanger served on the board of directors of The AIDS Project from 1987 to 1989, and was a regular donor to their annual AIDS benefit art auction. In addition to his work with AIDS, he was a vocal advocate for community safety and civil rights for persons with AIDS. He was the victim of a vicious attack because he was gay, but did not win the case against his assailants. He spoke openly about his gay identity whenever he gave talks about AIDS.


Boulanger remained active throughout his last year of life. He turned 30 in July, marking seven years of living with HIV. Boulanger was an artist who worked in several different media. He was a naturalist and artist in everything he did. He would allow gay men and lesbians to marry in much the same manner as heterosexuals do.

The government of Norway proposed a law in December that would allow gay men and lesbians to marry in much the same manner as heterosexuals do.

The Minister of Children and Families, Grete Berget, said she hoped Parliament would adopt the law this year.

It would allow gay men and lesbians to register their partnership with a notary public the same way a marriage couple does in a civil ceremony. The gay and lesbian couples would have the rights and obligations of a married couple, except for adopting children and being married in a church.

NEW ZEALAND'S ARMED FORCES SUPPORT LIFTING OF BAN

In a letter leaked to New Zealand’s gay press, Defense Minister Warren Cooper said the country’s armed forces are willing to end the ban on gay men and lesbians in the military.

The letter said that the armed forces will agree to comply with proposed legislation to outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation. The legislation is expected to be adopted by New Zealand’s parliament in the near future.
MLGPA NEWS

On Sunday, January 17, 1993, the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA) held a special election to fill vacancies on the Board. Elected to the Board at the January meeting were: President-Paula Aboud, Vice President-Judy Edgerton, Treasurer-Larry Bliss.

Harry Gordon who has filled the role of acting President over the past two months will remain as Secretary of the organization. Newly elected District Directors include: Ellie Goldberg, Anke Siem, Pat Pearl, and Alan Stearns.

Members elected At-Large are: Mary Maclean and Karen Garrett.

For a complete list of MLGPA Directors and the Districts they represent, please write to: MLGPA, P.O. BOX 232, HALLOWELL, ME 04347.

MLGPA'S ANNUAL DINNER MOVES TO BRUNSWICK

For the seventh time, members and friends of MLGPA will gather to honor those who have contributed to the civil rights movement in Maine. It is also a celebration of the community and is considered by many to be one of the state's most prominent evenings.

MLGPA's dinner and dancing is scheduled for Saturday, February 27, 1993 at the Atrium Inn at 100 Water Street, Brunswick, just off route 1. Cocktails begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by a sit-down dinner at 6:30 p.m. A brief awards ceremony will follow the speakers. Dancing at 10:00 p.m.

A silent auction will also highlight the evening and organizers are looking for items to auction. Donations could be an item that you no longer have use for, body work sessions, volunteer housecleaning, a date with a starlet, a week at a B&B, or anything! Send your information to: Paula Aboud, P.O. Box 54, S. China, ME 04358, or phone 445-2863. Please list the item and description, including a picture, if possible, along with a minimum acceptable bid and your name/address/phone number. Please include permission to print your name with your item (or your desire to remain anonymous).

Businesses wishing to advertise in the Annual Dinner Program booklet please phone Herb at 622-3346. Deadline is 2/23/93.

MLGPA NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The CIVIL RIGHTS BILL for Lesbians and Gay men in Maine is the legislative focus for MLGPA this session. Prime sponsor for the Bill this year is Senator Gerry Conley of Portland. This is the 6th session in which the Bill will be submitted, the first one being submitted in 1987. In the last two sessions the Bill has passed in either the House or Senate, but not in both at the same time. However, the prognosis is very good this year for the Bill to pass both houses. PLS we are encouraged that the Governor will move away from his position of last year, making this year our best opportunity to pass the Bill.

We need your help in the progress. Some ways to help include:

1. attending at the public hearing.
2. working with the Legislative committee.
3. contacting your own legislator regarding this bill.

Our work has already begun. A constituent for each of the 35 Senators and 151 Representatives has been contacted by his/her legislator to help us identify where each one stands on this bill. Committees for fundraising, media, lobbying, education, phone banking, etc. have been formed in Augusta and now in Portland. A Bangor committee is urgently needed. Call Harry Gordon if interested at 942-3901.

URGENT: IN PREPARATION FOR THE COMMITTEE HEARING AT THE STATE HOUSE IN LATE FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH, MLGPA URGENTLY REQUESTS THAT ANY PERSON WHO HAS EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION, HARRASSMENT, OR VIOLENCE ON THE BASIS OF HER/HIS SEXUAL ORIENTATION WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO TESTIFY AT A PUBLIC HEARING OR SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY FOR THE HEARING, PLEASE CONTACT: MARY MCHIERSON AT 59 MECHANIC ST. IN CAMDEN, ME. 04843 OR CALL 207-236-8941.

We are also in need of people willing to work with us legislatively, i.e. willing to call your legislator, write a letter to the editor, stuff envelopes, fundraise, or lend moral support. Call one of the following for meeting locations in your area or for more details.

AUGUSTA: Monday • 6:30 p.m., Paula Aboud, 445-2863
PORTLAND: Wednesday • 7:00 p.m., Larry Bliss, 767-4466
BANGOR: No meetings yet. Call Harry Gordon, 942-3901
AROOSTOOK CTY.: No meetings yet. Call Dick Dickinson, 448-2294

A total community effort is needed to pass this civil rights bill on a Statewide basis. 1993 is the year to take positive action for ourselves and future generations. We look forward to linking arms with each and every one of our community members and our supporters in this legislative effort for our equal rights.

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February 1993