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THE
(F)AMILY (A)FFAIRS (N)EWSLETTER

FORWARD THIS OR PASS IT AROUND
TO AS MANY GLBTI-FAMILY MEMBERS AS POSSIBLE.
THE MORE FOLKS WHO TAKE PART, THE BETTER.

15 AUGUST 2005

NEWSLETTER NEWS, NOTES & REMINDERS:

(NOTES #1:) The responses from the "Thinking Cap" Question #1 are in. The question was: **I have heard some people argue that the GLBTI population in Maine is really not a community. Define "community", and tell us why you think the GLBTI population in Maine is or is not a community.** To learn more, check "THE THINKING CAP" category.

(NOTES #2:) Trans readers of The FAN, check the ANNOUNCEMENTS category.

(REMINDERS #1:) You can help the newsletter by sending me notices of upcoming GLBTI-related activities that you hear about in your area. Trust me, I would rather receive the same notice from 8 people than have everyone assume that I know about it and miss the chance to tell other GLBTI family members. Email megress@tds.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

This category is for non-social notices about GLBTI community members that you think other GLBTI community members might like to know about...things like: births, deaths, adoptions, commitments, graduations, promotions, new jobs, awards, shows, ongoing classes, trying-to-start-a-group, etc.

Parents with young children gathering. Hello, I am a single lesbian parent with a 6 month old looking for other GLBTI parents with young children (possibly infant to age 3 or older) to get together, either with or without the children, in Bangor or other nearby places. The structure of the gatherings will depend on the needs/wishes of those folks who want to participate. If there is anyone willing to help me organize this and get some people together to try it out, I would be greatful. Some activities I was thinking about were possibly: a picnic/BBQ in a park, arts and crafts day, meeting at the Discovery Museum or finding a quiet place just to hang out. You can contact me via email at beth_stepone@hotmail.com Thanks!

Trans folks. I'm curious. I'm an out, post-op, MTF trans, lesbian. As the editor of The FAN, I thought I was aware of most/all of the trans readership....silly me!! Apparently not. Could I hear from all of you? All responses will remain confidential, even from the rest of the trans folks, unless you tell me otherwise. I'd like to weigh whether I need to be doing something specifically for the area trans folks, and I'd have a better idea about that if I know who's out there and what your needs/wishes are. You can email me at megress@tds.net or phone at 862-2063. Thanks.

EVENTS:

* **AUG 15 (Monday)** Rockland Area, **Coastal Outright** (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22), meets Mondays at the Coastal AIDS Network Warren office, 7 pm. FMI contact Carolyn at 273-3444

* **AUG 15 (Monday),** Bangor, **Bangor Outright** meets at Eastern Maine AIDS Network, 6-8 pm. (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22) FMI Jamie at 990-3626.

* **AUG 18 (Thursday),** Bangor, **Native American GLBTI support/friendship group**, 6-8 pm, at the Hammond Street Congregational Church, 28 High St. This group is open to all GLBTI native Americans AND their friends (whether Native American or not). Individuals are encouraged to bring a snack or drink. One of our goals is to create a circle of friends to share stories, snack, etc. within a Native American context. We meet every Wednesday to help one another explore our goals, fears or just to sit around the circle and make new friends. FMI contact Rob at 327-1009 OR email nativeglbti@wmconnect.com

* **AUG 18 (Thursday),** Bangor, **Man2Man**, 6-8 p.m., (for gay/bi/trans men) meets at Eastern Maine AIDS Network at 370 Harlow St. This is a chance to meet and socialize with other like-minded individuals from the area and guests from all over. Occasional discussions include dating issues, relationships, eroticizing sex, and other topics relevant to mens' health. Meetings, calls, etc are completely confidential. Names and other information are not kept or given out. FMI Jason at 990-3626.

* **AUG 21 (Sunday),** Mt. Desert Island, join us for an afternoon of **cycling in Acadia National Park** followed by dinner at a restaurant in Bar Harbor for those folks who want to partake. Ride will start at noon. FMI contact Jean at 862-2063 or at megress@tds.net

* **AUG 21 (Sunday),** Bangor, **Club Detour presents the Starlight Performers in "The New and the Old".** Do you believe in equality and diversity for all Maine residents? Well we sure do! Come in and check out Club Detour for a show second to none. Proceeds going to benefit Equality Maine and Maine Won't Discriminate. Let's take a stand and help fight for the equal rights among all Maine residents. The doors will open at 8 pm, and the show will start at 9:30. Club Detour is located at 611 B Wilson Street in Brewer, across from Linnehan's Credit Now, on the corner of Sparks Avenue and Wilson Street. Everyone is invited and welcomed.

* **AUG 22 (Monday)** Rockland Area, **Coastal Outright** (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22), meets Mondays at the Coastal AIDS Network Warren office, 7 pm. FMI contact Carolyn at 273-3444

* **AUG 25 (Thursday),** Bangor, **Native American GLBTI support/friendship group**, 6-8 pm, at the Hammond Street Congregational Church, 28 High St. This group is open to all GLBTI native Americans AND their friends (whether Native American or not). Individuals are encouraged to bring a snack or drink. One of our goals is to create a circle of friends to share stories, snack, etc. within a Native American context. We meet every Wednesday to help one another explore our goals, fears or just to sit around the circle and make new friends. FMI contact Rob at 327-1009 OR email nativeglbti@wmconnect.com

* **AUG 26 (Friday),** Bangor, **Lesbians Over 40 Happy Hour**, 5-7 pm. Interested in meeting other lesbians over 40? Let's meet for happy hour at the Lounge in the Four Points Sheraton at the Bangor airport. Parking is free with validation at the lounge. Nice lounge, quiet atmosphere, not too many people, and there is a pool table. What do you have to lose? Meet new friends. Hope to see you there. FMI contact Linda at 827-0061 or email linjoy4joy@yahoo.com

* **AUG 26 (Friday)** Rockland, **Rainbow Family Potlucks**, 6 pm, at the First Universalist Church at 345 Broadway in Rockland. The Rainbow Family includes LGBTIQ people and their family, friends, and allies. These gatherings provide the opportunity for us to gather as a community, to enjoy each other's company over a great meal, and to share information. Please come and bring a friend. If you would like to be on our email list to be notified of future events, or if you have questions, email Annie and Lucie at lbak@att.net . See you there!

* **AUG 27 (Saturday),** Pretty Marsh (on MDI), **Summer Potluck Party** at Lin Gould's house, starting around 5:30 pm. There will be food, games on the lawn, and lots of good company and interesting conversation. FMI and/or directions contact ann at alfhildanda@mac.com or call Lin at 244-3837

* **AUG 28 (Sunday),** Bangor, **Gay Newgenex Dance**, 8-11 pm, Karma club, 123 Franklin St (under the Panda Garden Restaurant). This is a chemical-free dance (no smoking, alcohol, drugs) for GLBTIQA youth ages 16-21. It provides a safe and harassment-free environment, so come join us for a fun time. Refreshments and snacks will be for sale. Admission will be $2 at the door. FMI contact Rob at gaynewgenex@wmconnect.com or phone 207-327-1009.

* **AUG 29 (Monday)** Rockland Area, **Coastal Outright** (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22), meets Mondays at the Coastal AIDS Network Warren office, 7 pm. FMI contact Carolyn at 273-3444

* **SEP 1 (Thursday),** Bangor, **Native American GLBTI support/friendship group**, 6-8 pm, at the Hammond Street Congregational Church, 28 High St. This group is open to all GLBTI native Americans AND their friends (whether Native American or not). Individuals are encouraged to bring a snack or drink. One of our goals is to create a circle of friends to share stories, snack, etc. within a Native American context. We meet every Wednesday to help one another explore our goals, fears or just to sit around the circle and make new friends. FMI contact Rob at 327-1009 OR email nativeglbti@wmconnect.com

* **SEP 1 (Thursday),** Bangor, **Man2Man**, 6-8 p.m., (for gay/bi/trans men) meets at Eastern Maine AIDS Network at 370 Harlow St. This is a chance to meet and socialize with other like-minded individuals from the area and guests from all over. Occasional discussions include dating issues, relationships, eroticizing sex, and other topics relevant to mens' health. Meetings, calls, etc are completely confidential. Names and other information are not kept or given out. FMI Jason at 990-3626.

* **SEP 2 (Friday),** Rockport, Greater Belfast/Camden/Rockland Area **social/support group for lesbians over 40**. From 6:30-8:30 pm FMI and meeting place contact Pat at 763-3115 or at patput@midcoast.com

* **SEP 3 (Saturday),** Acadia National Park, **day hike up Day Mountain**. (This is an easy hike.) Dogs are welcome. Those folks who want to can gather afterwards for dinner somewhere in Bar Harbor. FMI contact Jean at 862-2063 or at megress@tds.net

* **SEP 4 (Sunday),** Belfast, 9:00 - 11:00 am, group **planning meeting for the lesbian retirement home.** Group will meet at Viginia's place in downtown Belfast. FMI/location/directions etc. contact Gabrielle at gabrielle@prexar.com or call Virginia at 338-1729

* **SEP 4 (Sunday)** Augusta, 4 - 6 p.m., Transcare2000 **Social Support Group, for transgendered individuals**, their families, friends, partners and interested professionals age 18 or older. This is a moderated group to provide non-sexual social time to explore gender in a safe environment. Donations asked to help defray the cost of room rental. FMI contact Marty at 582-8779 or at martyrnc@earthlink.net

* **SEP 8 (Thursday),** Bangor, **Native American GLBTI support/friendship group**, 6-8 pm, at the Hammond Street Congregational Church, 28 High St. This group is open to all GLBTI native Americans AND their friends (whether Native American or not). Individuals are encouraged to bring a snack or drink. One of our goals is to create a circle of friends to share stories, snack, etc. within a Native American context. We meet every Wednesday to help one another explore our goals, fears or just to sit around the circle and make new friends. FMI contact Rob at 327-1009 OR email nativeglbti@wmconnect.com

* **SEP 7 (Wednesday)** Belfast, **Belfast Outright** meets from 4 - 6 pm. (For GLBTQI youths and allies ages 15-22). FMI call Carolyn at 273-3444.

* **SEP 9 (Friday),** Bangor, **Lesbians Over 40 Happy Hour**, 5-7 pm. Interested in meeting other lesbians over 40? Let's meet for happy hour at the Lounge in the Four Points Sheraton at the Bangor airport. Parking is free with validation at the lounge. Nice lounge, quiet atmosphere, not too many people, and there is a pool table. What do you have to lose? Meet new friends. Hope to see you there. FMI contact Linda at 827-0061 or email linjoy4joy@yahoo.com

* **SEP 10 (Saturday),** Belfast, 6:00-ish to 8:30-ish, **lesbian potluck**. Join us for the Second Saturday Supper Gatherings at Virginia's place, a third floor walkup in downtown Belfast. FMI and/or directions call Virginia at 338-1729 or email atbay@midmaine.com

* **SEP 11 (Sunday),** Bangor, **Club Detour presents the Starlight Performers in "Rememberance".** As we all know the day of September 11, 2001 will remains in the minds are hearts of all Americans through all of time. There were thousands of organizations and individuals assisted in the disaster and one such organization is still working with families and children of those who were lost. Proceeds from this show will go to benefit the American Red Cross. Let's all come together and remember those who were lost, and celebrate what we still have. Let's join together on September 11 for "Rememberance". The doors will open at 8 pm, and the show will start at 9:30. Club Detour is located at 611 B Wilson Street in Brewer, across from Linnehan's Credit Now, on the corner of Sparks Avenue and Wilson Street. Everyone is invited and welcomed.

* **SEP 12 (Monday)** Rockland Area, **Coastal Outright** (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22), meets Mondays at the Coastal AIDS Network Warren office, 7 pm. FMI contact Carolyn at 273-3444

* **SEP 12 (Monday),** Bangor, **Bangor Outright** meets at Eastern Maine AIDS Network, 6-8 pm. (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22) FMI Jamie at 990-3626.

* **SEP 14 (Wednesday)** Ellsworth Area, **Gay Guyz Group (GGG) Potluck Dinner**, 6-9 pm-ish at various locations in the greater Ellsworth Area. FMI and to get directions and time contact Wayne at wayne@mrlanguage.com

* **SEP 14 (Wednesday)** Bangor, **Maine Eat-Out Project**, 6:30 pm. Join our group every other month for dinner at different area restaurants. The September MEOP will be held at The Pizza Hut on Broadway (near the Salvation Army and McDonalds restaurant). Reservations are needed. FMI or to reserve contact Jean at 862-2063 or email megress@tds.net no later than Tuesday, September 13.

* **SEP 15 (Thursday),** Bangor, **Native American GLBTI support/friendship group**, 6-8 pm, at the Hammond Street Congregational Church, 28 High St. This group is open to all GLBTI native Americans AND their friends (whether Native American or not). Individuals are encouraged to bring a snack or drink. One of our goals is to create a circle of friends to share stories, snack, etc. within a Native American context. We meet every Wednesday to help one another explore our goals, fears or just to sit around the circle and make new friends. FMI contact Rob at 327-1009 OR email nativeglbti@wmconnect.com

* **SEP 15 (Thursday),** Bangor, **Man2Man**, 6-8 p.m., (for gay/bi/trans men) meets at Eastern Maine AIDS Network at 370 Harlow St. This is a chance to meet and socialize with other like-minded individuals from the area and guests from all over. Occasional discussions include dating issues, relationships, eroticizing sex, and other topics relevant to mens' health. Meetings, calls, etc are completely confidential. Names and other information are not kept or given out. FMI Jason at 990-3626.

BUSINESSES
(NEW LISTINGS OF GLBTI-OWNED BUSINESS and GLBTI BUSINESS INDIVIDUALS):

The complete directory-to-date of folks who have asked to be listed is available on request. Also, it will be emailed to everyone next on September 15. If you are a GLBTI business owner or an "out" GLBTI business person associating with a non-GLBTI-owned business (within a 50 mile radius of Bangor) who wants a free listing, then contact me. I'm Jean at megress@tds.net or at 862-2063.

GLBTI COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS:

The Charles O. Howard Foundation promotes education about diversity, acceptance, and tolerance. The foundation organizes a number of social events throughout the year to help raise funds for its work. Friendly volunteers are always needed. FMI check the web sites at www.charlesohoward.org or at www.mainevoices.org

Equality Maine, has been providing education and legislative advocacy for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1984. It sponsors a variety of social and legislative educational events each year and is always looking for volunteers and new members. If you're not a member, you should be. FMI contact Equality Maine at 207-761-3732 or toll free at 1-800-556-5472. Their email address is info@equalitymaine.org and the web site is www.equalitymaine.org

Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN). To promote the safety and well-being of all students and teachers in our schools, without regard to sexual orientation. We undertake to educate and train school personnel, and to reach out to students who may be questioning their sexual orientation or who know that they are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. We are teachers, parents, school administrators, counselors, and other interested citizens; men and women, gay and straight, working together. FMI contact the Downeast Maine Chapter at PO Box 373, Ellsworth, ME 04605. OR phone 244-3837 or 667-2358. OR check the local web site at www.bridgesofrespect.net . OR check the national web site at www.glsen.org

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD). Based in Boston, GLAD is New England's leading legal rights organization dedicated to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation, HIV status and gender identity and expression. GLAD's legal victories in Maine have addressed HIV discrimination, harassment of gay students, co-guardianship rights for same-sex parents, domestic partner benefits and more. Mainers can call GLAD's free, confidential hotline from 1:30 - 4:30 pm, Monday-Friday, at 1-800-455-4523 to receive legal information, resources, and referrals to lawyers in Maine. Mainers can also visit GLAD's website to read more about the law in Maine and to download

publications about your rights at http://me.glad.org FMI contact GLAD's Maine Outreach Coordinator, Stephen Farrand, at sfarrand@glad.org or at 899-9488.

Howard Foundation. This is a foundation dedicated to building a permanent scholarship endowment for high school seniors and post secondary students. The foundation focuses on students who are entering any profession that promotes diversity and a better understanding of differences in people within our communities. Guidelines for allotting the scholarships are presently being formulated. A second goal for the foundation is to establish a 3-day festival called "Multi-Cultural Days - Bangor" which will be open to every ethnic/cultural group in Maine with a focus on education, food, music/entertainment, dancing, and inspriational speakers. People interested in being on the Planning Committee, or being involved in any way, can contact Dan Williams at 942-9319 or at knead2@netscape.com

Mainely Bears is a social group in Maine for gay bears and their admirers. Most of our events are held in the Mid-Coast and Downeast areas from Brunswick to Camden, Belfast, Waterville, Bangor, Ellsworth, Bar Harbor, to Machias. FMI regarding Mainely Bears, contact bgrbear@hotmail.com OR write to us at Mainely Bears, PO Box 8318, Bangor, ME 04402-8318 OR check the web site at www.mainelybears.com for upcoming activities.

Northern Maine Pride works to promote pride within our community and diversity and acceptance outside our community. They sponsor a variety of social and pride events during the year and are always looking for new members and volunteers to help with planning and organizing. Meetings are held every Monday at 7 pm. FMI call Rob at 327-1009 OR www.northernmainepride.com OR email robnmp@wmconnect.com

Transcare 2000 provides transsexual education, professional educational seminars, group moderation, counseling, and referrals for the trans community. Private duty nursing care and consultations by a registered nurse for post-operative transsexuals. Presentations on "Post Operative Transsexuals, a Study of Integration." FMI contact Marty at martyrnc@earthlink.net OR at 582-8779 OR check the web site at http://www.transcare2000.com

LIVING SPACE RENTALS:

If you are a GLBTI family member who has a living space (room, apartment, house/apartment sharing) that you would like to rent to another GLBTI family member, OR if you are a GLBTI family member looking for a living space to rent from another GLBTI family member, then this is the category to post to. Send your listings to me, Jean, at megress@tds.net

Augusta, rooms for rent in private home. Private 2nd floor bedroom & living room (furnished) in a quiet West End neighborhood. Rent includes heat, hot water, electricity, TV, cable, high speed internet, semi-shared bathroom, full use of kitchen, use of porch and fenced yard, off street parking, easy access to highway. No pets, no smoking. We are a lesbian couple looking to rent to one quiet, clean lesbian. Rent is $550/month with a $550 deposit and a negotiable 12-month lease. Space is available on 08/15/05. FMI contact Connie at conniep@adelphia.net

Augusta, housing or housemates wanted. Housing needed for lesbian with two dogs -- sweet, clean, and well-behaved (the dogs are, too!) I'm looking for a place in the Augusta area for the beginning of September. Please cell Eileen at 441-2785 or email hearme@natisp.com

Augusta, apartments for rent. Great location, gay manager, pet friendly, 2 or 3 bedroom apartments in very quiet building. Get a $100 discount on your first month's rent. FMI call Natty at 207-623-5090 or cell at 441-7701.

Bangor, apartment for rent. 1 bedroom, living room, dining room, kitchen, small office, bath. Mid-town, first floor, near bus route. No smoking, no dogs. References and lease needed. Rent is $550/month plus utilities. Available September 1st. FMI contact Jean at 862-2063 or at megress@tds.net

Bangor, house rental wanted. I am looking to rent a house somewhere in Bangor. I have 2 cats who are housebroken and very clean. Minimum requirements: two bedroom, price range $550.00 - $750.00. Contact Gary at gm1956@adelphia.net

Belfast, a variety of downtown offerings to rent. Contact Virginia at atbay@midmaine.com OR at 338-1729.

Bridgton, apartment for rent. One bedroom, kitchen, bath, living room (with fieldstone fireplace), off-street parking, close to town. 45 minutes to Portland, 25 minutes to Windham. No pets, no smokers. Rent $800/month includes heat, hot water, electricity. FMI contact Merle at wailmerle@verizon.net

Eddington, housemates wanted. Looking for gay, bi, gay-friendly professional and/or graduate students only to share large, furnished home in Eddington. Wide pine floors, living room, dining room, large kitchen, fireplaces, storage, and enough other rooms for each of 3 tenants to have two private rooms each. Very comfortable. No pets, drugs, or heavy drinking. Smokers OK if you smoke outside. Free use of hot tub, ping pong table, washer and dryer, 36 inch cable TV, Only 20-25 minutes to the UMaine campus. The rent for each person would be $425/month plus utilities. Security deposit, lease, and references from the last place you lived. Available June 15th, 2005. FMI contact Scott at chefguy@adelphia.net

Fairfield, house sharing available. Professional male seeks same to help me with expenses by sharing my home in Fairfield. Must love my 3 small dogs! Call Steve at 453-7401 for details or interviews.

Lincolnville, house for rent. On Levenseller Pond. One bedroom downstairs. Open loft. Wood stove and gas monitor heater. Large porch. Screen house down by the pond. New dock. Plenty of space to garden. Twelve minutes to Camden or Belfast. $600/month plus utilities. FMI contact Pat at 763-3115.

Portland, room for rent. Bedroom in large 3-bedroom Victorian apartment in USM neighborhood. Share apartment with lesbian-feminist author. Quiet house, great neighbors, fab landlord. $400 includes heat and hot water. Basement, two porches. No pets, no drugs, no smoking. References. Available in August. FMI contact Carolyn at 774-4231.

PERSONALS:

No Personals This Issue

SELL/BUY/TRADE/GIVE:

If you're trying to sell/buy something, want to trade for something else, or have something to give away, this is the category to post to. The FAN makes no guarantees about anything listed here, we simply provide the free listing as a service.

SOCIAL GROUPS (MORE THAN 50-MILES FROM BANGOR):

COASTAL WOMEN'S CONNECTION. A women's social group that covers the coastal area from about Brunswick to Portland. Dances, BBQs, softball, camping, potlucks, etc. FMI and to get on mailing list contact Betsy at giftedhanz@hotmail.com

LAVENDER LETTERS. A snail mail newsletter for lesbian-identified women in the Washington County (Machias) area. FMI and to get on the mailing list contact Gillyin at Lavender Letters, 9 Bobcat Path, Machias, ME 04654

SEACOAST SAPPHOS. A women's social group that covers the area from about Portland to Portsmouth. Dances, BBQs, potlucks, concerts, etc. FMI and to get on the mailing list contact Cherie at seacoastsapphos@yahoo.com or check the web site at www.seacoastsapphos.org

SINGLE OLDER LESBIAN ORGANIZATION (SOLO). A group for single, older (45 years and up), lesbian-identified women, in the general midcoast Maine area (Bath to Damariscotta). FMI and to get on the mailing list contact Kathy at naturalpet@suscom-maine.net or check the web site at http://www.geocities.com/sololesbians/

SOLO-N-FRIENDS. A loosely organized women's group which often meets for restaurant meals and social conversation. We also do a variety of different activities that are of interest to those who attend. Solo-N-Friends is made up of the members of SOLO and women-loving-women (lesbian, bi, trans) of any age, whether single or partnered. We serve the general midcoast Maine area (Bath to Damariscotta). FMI and to get on the mailing list contact Janet at janet@4footloose.com or check the web site at http://www.geocities.com/lesbians04/

THE THINKING CAP

In each issue of The FAN the editor questions the readership about a particular GLBTI "issue", asks them to consider their beliefs and perceptions about that issue, and allows them to respond in an essay format. The responses can be of any length. In each subsequent issue of The FAN the responses to the previous question will be summarized (so folks will know what the general concensus is). I will also provide a link so that anyone who wants to can read all of the responses in their entirety (I will only give authors' initials for privacy reasons, but responses will otherwise be unedited is any way). Finally, the next question will be posed. This category of The FAN will continue only as long as readers respond to the questions. You will have two weeks to respond to each question. Send all responses via email to megress@tds.net

RESULTS OF QUESTION #1: The feeling among the respondents seems to be that "yes" we have a GLBTI community, but that it is splintered and has difficulty rallying around any particular concept (or goal) sufficiently to give it strength. To read the responses in their entirety go to http://personalpages.tds.net/~megress (BTW, if anyone reads all the responses and feels that my summation of them is incorrect, I'd be happy to print your alternative-summation if you send it to me.)

QUESTION #2: Let us assume that a GLBTI community exists in Maine (as most of the respondents suggest), but is weaker than it should be because all the little sub-communities are more interested in themselves than in "the whole". Let us assume further that each of those little sub-communities is actually quite strong for its size because each is an intentional community of like-minded people (there's nothing like genuine "focus" to give strength). The question for this issue of The FAN is: **What creative ways can you think of to harness the strengths of all those individual focuses in a way that will allow them to remain individual (people don't want to be forced to focus in a direction they're not interested in) and yet turn them into assets for the GLBTI community rather than liabilities?**

THE WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, AND HOW OF THE FAMILY AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER.

All communications to FAMILY AFFAIRS should be sent to megress@tds.net (Be sure to include the words "family affairs" in the subject line).

WHAT IS "FAMILY AFFAIRS" ?

FAMILY AFFAIRS is a free, twice-a-month, social activities newsletter for the GLBTI (gay/les/bi/trans/intersexed) community. It is sent out on the 1st and 15th of each month. It is centered in Bangor and covers a 50 mile radius around the city.

WHO CAN SUBMIT NOTICES TO "FAMILY AFFAIRS" ?

Anyone! This is your chance to organize your own activities and get some GLBTI-family company for those fun and interesting things you'd like to do. Do you want to host a potluck, attend a concert, or have someone to join you on that bus tour to Boston? Are you looking for someone to join you at the hockey or baseball games, for hiking, or to go to that special art exhibit? Are you looking for canoeing, golfing, camping, or fishing partners? This is the best place to look. Think up something fun to do, organize it, and let us know about it....it's easy!

CAN I ORGANIZE AN ACTIVITY THAT DOESN'T INCLUDE "EVERYONE" ?

Yes. People who want to organize an activity for the GLBT and/or I community are free to set whatever requirements or restrictions they want to on the activity they're organizing. If you want to organize a "women only" camping trip, a "men only" drumming night, a "youth from age 18-24 only" dance, or a day trip to a water park for GLBTI "couples with children", that would be fine.

CAN I POST A SOCIAL ITEM THAT'S NOT GLBTI FOCUSED?

But of course! Not everyone who watches women's basketball is a lesbian! If you want to organize an activity around something that is "mostly-straight-but-GLBTI-friendly", then do it!

HOW DO I GET ONTO OR OFF THE MAILING LIST ?

Just email me and ask to be put on (or taken off) the list: megress@tds.net

CAVEATS:

All newsletters are emailed BCC, and the email list is not given out to anyone. Still, keep in mind that while this newsletter is for the GLBTI community, not everyone on the mailing list may be a "family" member. People ask to be put on the list and I put them on. There is no interview process or attempt to verify "queer" status. It's up to you to behave appropriately for whatever level of anonymity/security you feel you need.