

## HOSPITAL MUST PAY

DENVER - In what is being called a landmark ruling, Denver General Hospital has been ordered to provide paid sick leave to a lesbian employee so that she could care for her injured lover.

The city Career Service Authority last month ruled that the hospital violated Department of Health and hospital regulations when it denied Mary Ross' request for three days leave to care for her "permanent life partner" Jeannie DiClementi, who had fractured her skull. The hearing officer said that Ross had demonstrated and DiClementi are a family unit and that the hospital's action was "discriminatory on the basis of appellant's sexual orientation" and violated the city's policy banning such discrimination.

City officials said they would appeal the hearing officer's application of the non-discrimination policy to the question of employee benefits.

## LESBIAN DORM BATTLE

WELLESLEY, MA - The hiring of an open lesbian to run a dormitory for first year students and her subsequent reassignment to a dorm for older students caused controversy at an exclusive women's college.

Michelle Porsche was hired along with her live-in partner, Stacy Homan, to run the Dower Dormitory at Wellesley College but then reassigned to Lake House, a dorm with no first year students.

Wellesley President Nan Keohane said that the school was concerned that some parents would not want a lesbian couple watching over their young daughters.

Wellesley Lesbians, Bisexuals and Friends spokeswomen Dorothee Harmon termed the reassignment "an acknowledgement that homophobia was ok".

The group is demanding appointment of a lesbian liaison with the administration and classes and education material on lesbian issues.

Mail from parents is running against school's move.

# LESBIAN CHALLENGES SCOUT POLICY

by Annette Dragon

All she wanted to do was enroll her son in the Boy Scouts and be a part of his life. It seemed like such a simple thing to Terry, long-time resident of Portland, Maine, and mother of nine-year-old Nicholas. But the unyielding homophobia that she encountered ensured that none of her plans would come to a simple conclusion. Now, instead of going on field trips and being a den mother, Terry spends her time fighting for gay rights and preparing for the talk-show circuit. She has become the subject of press releases, national newspaper articles and television news. And Terry is sure that some kind of Fate has brought her and the Boy Scouts of America together.



Nicholas and Terry

In September of 1991, Terry (her full legal name) and her son went to the First Free Methodist Church of Portland to officially enroll him in the Scouts. Nicholas had been participating in Scout activities for six weeks. They were both excited. At registration Terry was approached by a man in a Boy Scout uniform, who introduced himself as Paul Conley. Without preliminaries Conley began telling Terry about the California discrimination case pending with the BSA, involving a gay man who was not allowed to be a Scout leader because of his sexual orientation. Terry was amazed that these were his first remarks to her, and

checked her clothing for a large "L". After he finished, she said, "I am a lesbian; is that going to be a problem?" His answer was affirmative and Terry was dumbfounded. She was an upstanding citizen in her community, owned a business on Munjoy Hill and had been openly gay for years. And now the offer of her valuable time and considerable influence was being rejected *because she was gay*. Conley explained that the BSA teaches children about the socially-accepted family, the one with a mother and a father. He told her that the exclusion of gays was strictly Boy Scout policy, not his. Terry alleges that he then gave her his own unsolicited opinion on homosexuality. The idea of two men together was repulsive, but two women was erotic. The final insult was when he informed her that he and she would never see gay rights laws passed in their lifetime.

Terry next confronted the pastor of the First Free Methodist Church, the Rev. Dr. Harold Cooper, another Big Boy Scout. She was told that the policy of the BSA would allow Nicholas to become a Scout and her to be a participating parent, but would never allow her to be on a committee, or to be a den mother, or to hold any official position. Terry pointed out the undisguised discrimination of that policy. Having no doubt about where she stood with the Scouts, she decided to check out her personal status with the clergyman. She asked if she would be welcome at his church and was told that she'd be welcome to worship there.

"Would I be welcome to become a member?"

"No."

He added that this was the church's official policy, not his. He had many gay friends and was not homophobic.



## LETTERS

### The Collective

Annette Dragon  
Naomi Falcone  
Brittany Fortin  
Diane Matthews  
Madeleine Winter

### Contributors

Stan Clough  
Paula Peters  
Erica Rand

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Phoenix Press is a collectively run organization whose purpose is to build and empower our community by providing positive lesbian/gay images. We will be a forum for the exchange of ideas through debate and discussion. The collective will work to reflect the political and social diversity of our community.

### SUBMISSIONS

All submissions should be typed and double-spaced if at all possible. Please include your name and phone number in case we have any questions. Your name will be withheld at your request, but any material received without a contact name or number will not be published. Submissions *must* be received by the 20th of each month. Thank you for your contributions.

P.O. Box 4743  
Portland, ME 04112  
(207) 871-1677  
Office hours: 9-12, M-F

©1992 Phoenix Press

Dear Phoenix Press,

I recently stumbled upon your flyer announcing the creation of a new lesbian/gay paper and was ecstatic! It's about time the community recognized the need for a paper of substance. I wish you the best of luck and look forward to your first issue.

J.L. Fitzgerald

Dear Phoenix Press,

By now you must be aware of the controversy surrounding the creation of your new paper. Of course, one of the concerns is can this area support two papers? Well, the answer to that is a resounding YES! Almost every person I have spoken with recognizes the necessity for a more active and politically involved paper. As our community gears up to fight inevitable political battles for our basic human rights, we hope that your paper will prove indispensable to our community's success.

Be assured that we support you and look forward to your first issue.

Edward M. Savanté

Dear Phoenix Press,

... I wish you luck and am hopeful that your new venture will add a needed dimension to the life of the lesbian and gay people in Maine.

Norma Kraus Eule



## Congratulations to . . .

Chris Newcomb!

His entry was selected as the winner of our "Name Us" contest. Chris will be receiving a one year subscription to APEX.

Thanks also to the many folks who sent in their ideas - we greatly appreciate your effort and support - this was no easy choice!!!



### To Our Readers,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have helped us produce this first issue. We hope we will be of service to the community as a clearinghouse to facilitate the exchange of ideas and provide a resource for the lesbian/gay community of the 1990's. Your contributions, subscriptions and advertising are NEEDED and will be greatly appreciated. We particularly want to thank the community for the response we've received as an "unknown entity". Your continued support and involvement are the keys to our survival.

We hope you like what we have to offer. Thanks!

The Phoenix Press Collective

**apex** \ˈā-peks\ *n.* 1 **a:** the uppermost point: VERTEX (the ~ of a mountain) **b:** the narrowed or pointed end: TIP (the ~ of the tongue) 2: the highest or culminating point (the ~ of her career) **syn** see SUMMIT.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of the collective.



# BETRAYED BY A NATION

by Brittany Fortin

As the nation's economic troubles worsen and the infrastructure decays, it is frightening to hear our leaders resort to the politics of blame as an excuse for the system's failure. During the last decade, our nation has wasted precious resources on developing and manufacturing the means of death rather than refining the means of life. Now the ruling elite feels the heat of their own oppression. Their "streets of gold" are no longer safe to walk and the growing chasm between the wealthy and the poor has created tangible hostility. What does King George say about this, "We have to return to the basic family values that have made this country great."

These words should send a cold chill up the continental divide! What does the often repeated phrase "family values" mean to dear George?

All of the ills of modern American society are being conveniently blamed on the breakdown of the American family. The drug problem, the decaying educational system, crime, and even the recession has been caused by Mom's "choice" to go to work. Although there may be an iota of truth somewhere in that haystack, it is what lurks in the shadows that should terrify us.

This new catch phrase has a far more sinister meaning. You see, in the book of George, everything was just hunky-dory in the "Ozzie and Harriet" days. Dad was the sole breadwinner, Mom knew her place was

in the kitchen and "Uncle Bob" was confident that he could molest us with impunity. Women were raped and remained silent. Racial segregation ensured the genetic purity of the WASPS and McCarthyism forced the robotic patriotism of the nation. Those were the good ole days according to King George and his faithful lapdog "Danny". The time when America was great and the white man ruled the land!

Then came those filthy liberals which are now referred to as "Commie libs". How ironic that liberals in America are synonymous with communists and Boris Yeltsin, a liberal, is considered a great reformer...Who'd figure?

The civil rights movement, the women's movement, the sexual revolution and gay rights have chipped away at the white man's house of stone. We have disturbed the status quo and like a child who has lost his toy - they want it back! Those of us that subscribe to the pendulum theory recognize that its upward motion ceased upon Reagan's inauguration and ever since it has been gaining momentum in the opposite direction.

The federal courts have been stacked with right wing zealots who believe the Judicial Branch should take a submissive role in the balance of power. Affirmative action and all civil rights movements have been stopped in their tracks. The Reagan/Bush apathy towards AIDS is nothing less than negligent genocide and gay bashing is second only to baseball as

the national pastime. An inexperienced federal court judge who allegedly enjoys pornography involving rape and bestiality has been anointed as a Supreme Court Justice and of course, Roe v. Wade is as good as DEAD! This, my friends, is the true state of the union...

King George now wants to preach constitutional law to the Supreme Court. They should "interpret the law, not legislate from the bench". There's a lot of psychobabble about our founding fathers, original intent, and of course, "God". The King's selective historical memory is either a sign of mental decay or an attempt to manipulate the society he has so poorly educated.

This nation we now call America began as a runaway shelter for oppressed minorities escaping the tyranny of their European masters. Their inherent and justified mistrust of political authority caused them to create a government in which a "check and balance" system prevented the simple majority from tyrannizing the minorities. It is this check that King George wants to control.

The Supreme Court justices, after passing the conservative litmus test, are now marching in lock step to the King's tune. They have used the war on drugs to loosen restrictions on illegal search and seizure and are systematically turning this country into a "police

*More BETRAYED on page 5*

GRAB THIS OPPORTUNITY to put

## YOUR AD HERE

Call our office for ad rates and deadlines

☎ (207) 871-1677 M-F 9:00am - Noon ☎



## INSURANCE



auto ♦ home ♦ renters ♦ life

RV ♦ boat ♦ commercial

"Meeting the needs of our community"

**Connie Valliere**

Call for a Quote

**657-3166**

13-15 Main Street  
Gray, Maine 04039

(20 minutes north of Portland)



# WHERE WE'VE BEEN - a monthly exploration of lesbian and gay history

by Stan Clough

In A.D. 1073, a great crime was committed. In that year, the ecclesiastical authorities in Latin Rome and Orthodox Constantinople both decided the poetry of a certain late 7th century B.C. Greek writer was too lewd. In their zeal to protect the masses from such pagan blasphemy, the ardent churchmen burned all of the known copies of the poems composed by that 7th century B.C. bard. The poetry was considered unacceptable because it was love poetry; what made matters worse for the church was the fact that the poems were composed by a woman for women. The woman was Sappho of Lesbos.

Thanks to papyri excavated in Egypt in the 19th century, we now have a sample of Sappho's poetry, though it is a sad fact that we possess only one-twentieth of her canon. Further, many of the poems we possess are fragmentary. What is clear from these surviving fragments, though, is the literary genius of Sappho. Her poetic skills earned her being named "the Tenth Muse" by Plato two centuries after her death. Later scholars, mostly men, would minimize her work and her experience. Others would either mask or totally deny the homoerotic content

of her poems. Yet the Greek poets who wrote in the centuries after her death accepted her work as being both important and female erotically exclusive: Sappho's love poems were addressed only to women. Who was this woman who captivated the Aegean culture nearly six centuries before the birth of Christ? Little is known for certain about Sappho's life, though we can say some tentative things about her. She was born ca. 612 B.C. on Lesbos, an island off the coast of Turkey. Her family was aristocratic and growing up, she seems not to have led a sheltered life, as women in Athens would two centuries later. We know she was out and about in Mytilene, the capital of Lesbos, because of the political nature of some of her poems. Women in many Greek societies ca. 600 B.C. were highly valued and had roles to play in the public life of their states and Sappho was no exception. This does not mean that these Greek states were totally egalitarian; war was the occupation of males and frequently it was the females who were the spoils of war. Nevertheless, many of these cultures were matrilineal, meaning wealth and inheritance of property and titles passed down through the mother's side of the family. Sappho belonged to an aristocratic family where all of this would have been important.

Of Sappho's physical appearance we are uncertain. Writers in late antiquity would describe her as being swarthy in her complexion, and extremely short of stature. It seems these descriptions were used to describe her in order to explain her sexual tastes: these writers felt an ordinary male would not find her attractive, so she would be forced to seek the companionship of women. This reasoning is frightfully reminiscent of present day homophobic and misogynistic attitudes many hold toward lesbians.

The real clues to Sappho's sexuality reside in her poetry. Her love poems were addressed to women. In these fragments, translated by Josephine Balmer, we can see the lyrical beauty of her verses:

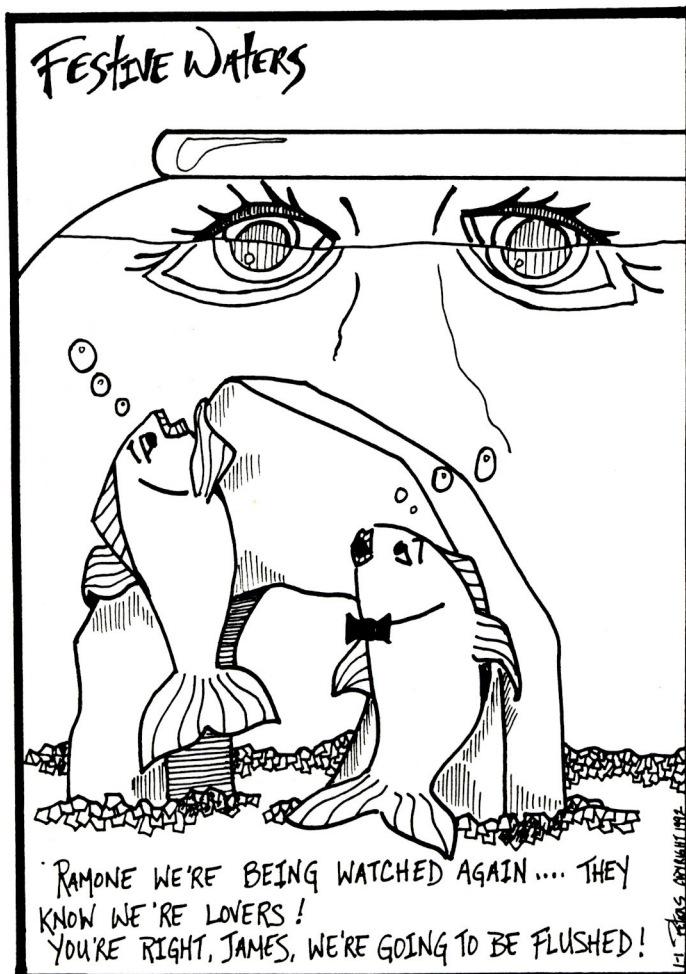
Stand up and look at me face to face,  
friend to friend;  
unfurl the loveliness in your eyes  
Beautiful women,  
my feelings for you  
will never falter

[Her voice was] far sweeter than any flute . . .  
[Her hair,] more golden than gold . . .  
[and her skin,] far whiter than an egg . . .

Sappho wrote a number of poems praising motherhood and the bonds that exist between a mother and daughter:

I have a beautiful daughter, golden  
like a flower, my beloved Cleis,  
for her, in her place, I would not accept  
the whole of Lydia, nor lovely . . .

More Sappho  page 10



by Paula Peters



# QUEER ON THE QUADS

by Erica Rand

Welcome to *Queer on the Quads*, a monthly forum for lesbian, gay and bisexual students in Northern New England. While this column will be written by students in the future, I use this inaugural space to introduce myself, the column editor, and to invite your participation.

I am a lesbian teacher at Bates College, and a faculty advisor to its Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Alliance. My time at Bates has been quite eye-opening. When I accepted the job in 1990, I expected to find a relatively open atmosphere. Bates cultivates a liberal reputation, and I had been assured that "nobody would care" about my sexual orientation. My experience has been somewhat different. I discovered upon arrival that I was the only out female faculty member, although there were several out men, and that queer students did not consider Bates a supportive environment. To be sure, Bates is better than many places I've been. I taught at one school where it was so unsafe to be out that it took four years to discover that a woman down the hall from me was also a dyke, and at another one where even being out as a feminist threatened to, and did, cost me my job; Bates at least enables me to speak out without immediate threat of dismissal. But all is not rosy. The campus has witnessed many incidents of homophobia, including the harassment of queer and pro-queer students and the suppression by our museum director of the gay content of exhibited artworks.

My experience at Bates and elsewhere has taught me that being queer on the quads has many facets, both good and bad, which deserve public attention. These issues vary from campus to campus: for instance, students at a small college may have more access to courses in lesbian and gay studies than students at large state-regulated institutions, but more difficulty finding privacy for sex than students at larger campuses who may have more access to off-campus housing and anonymity. Yet there are also shared concerns: about curricular and extracurricular programming; about sexual identity and labeling; about sex and relationships (how to get them and deal with them in a campus setting); about coming out (to oneself, to family,

to others); about interactions with lesbian/gay/bisexual faculty and staff; about interactions with "straights" on and off campus; and about networking, health and safety issues, and ethnic and economic issues. I have also learned, as both a student and a teacher, that students often have trouble finding a public voice for their concerns.

For these reasons, I have chosen to create *Queer on the Quads*. Each month, the column will be written by student representatives from a different campus. I have sent letters to various campuses and to Outright, but I cannot hope to reach everyone in this way. If you are a high school, college, or graduate student who does not belong to a group and would like to write a column, please contact me (Art Dept., Bates College, Lewiston, ME 04240). I would like to receive suggestions for alternative titles; I like *Queer on the Quads*, but as a student-written column, its name should be approved by students.

I hope to hear from you soon. ▼




---

*More BETRAYED from page 3*

state". The death row conveyor belt has been greased and accelerated into high gear. Discrimination against lesbians and gays is still legal and the subsequent violence is silently condoned. (Come on Judge Souter, come out of the closet!) Any way you slice it, the Judicial Branch is no longer serving its constitutional role within the check and balance system.

This country was once considered the great "melting pot" and to this day our leaders use the term "rugged individualism" to describe our society. Yet, if we are black instead of white, gay instead of straight, or female instead of male, we are not added to the American formula. We are not considered to be a necessary component of American society. Surely, we decorate it, but in this nation of disposable diapers, we too are considered throw away items.

The time has come when poverty, oppression and economic exploitation can no longer be accepted as part of the inevitable scheme of things. As members of the oppressed, we do not "ask" for equality - WE DEMAND IT! Save the promises and the token gifts of power - we want it all - equal pay, protection, education, justice and opportunity. We have worked far too long and hard toward advancement. HEED OUR WARNING: WE WILL NOT GO BACK!! ▼

**Norma Kraus Eule, MSW, LCSW**  
Licensed Clinical Social Worker

**PSYCHOTHERAPY**  
Individual & Group

10 Minot Avenue  
Auburn, Maine 04210 (207) 784-8747



# CALENDAR

## Sunday 2/2

**CUT-A-THON** benefit for the Maine Gay/Lesbian Film Festival at Amoré Hair Salon at One City Center, Portland. There will be free food and drink so come out on Ground Hog's Day and get your hair cut for a good cause. Call ahead for an appointment at 774-1774 or just drop in.

## Thursday 2/13

**MATLOVICH SOCIETY** - Rev. Dr. Carter Hayward, feminist theologian and professor, Harvard Divinity School: (Many of you may remember her delightful and poignant response to Jasper Wyman's attack on Marvin Ellison in the Bangor paper.) "Feminist Perspectives on Psychological Healing". Rines Auditorium, Portland Public Library, 7:30 p.m. Free, seating is limited, ASL, wheelchair accessible.

## Sunday 2/16

**CASINO NIGHT** - A benefit for people with AIDS sponsored by Day Spring at Papa Joe's in Augusta, 4-11 p.m. FMI ☎ 623-4041.

**BECKY BIRTHA** - African-American, radical feminist, lesbian, quaker poet; recipient of awards from the Philadelphia Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts, will address confronting racism and homophobia through readings from her book of poetry "The Forbidden Poems". Rines Auditorium, Portland Public Library, 7:30 p.m. Free, seating is limited, ASL, wheelchair accessible.

**ARTISTS!** If you are interested in displaying your work during the Maine Gay/Lesbian Film Festival on June 5, 6 and 7 at the Portland Performing Arts Center, let us know as soon as possible. Please contact Wendy Graham at 774-5242 or Kim Volk at 871-1817 and leave your name, phone number, address and the type of media you wish to display.

**COMING THIS SUMMER!!** A lakeside campground reserved for women only during 4 weekends. 5/26-31; 6/11-14; 8/20-23; & 9/10-13. \$45 per person. FMI☎Rita (207)782-2275 (early a.m. or late eve.)

## SYMPOSIUM XIX UPDATE -

The Maine Lesbian and Gaymen's Symposium XIX organizing committee is pleased to announce the annual statewide conference, scheduled for May 22-25, 1992 at the University of Maine at Presque Isle.

Registrants will be offered a choice of five plans as outlined below:

- A) registration; 3 nights; 5 meals - \$89
- B) registration; 2 nights; 5 meals - \$75
- C) registration; 1 night; 4 meals - \$60
- D) registration; 5 meals - \$50

E) registration only - \$18

A preliminary weekend schedule has been set, beginning with registration at the UMPI campus from 6pm until midnight Friday and continuing Saturday morning from 8-9am. Symposium will continue until the closing plenary session on Monday morning.

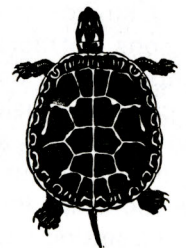
Ongoing throughout the weekend will be a series of films as well as the First Symposium Mixed Doubles Tennis Tournament. Panels from the Names Quilt will be on display throughout the

conference.

Highlights of the weekend include keynote speakers, the Hon. David Scondras (Boston City Councilor) and Ms. Anne Bishop (Halifax activist); entertainers Tom Wilson Weinberg and Lisa Joy Bernstein and the second annual Symposium lip-sync and voguing contest.

The Symposium XIX organizing committee meets the third Sunday of each month in central Aroostook County. All interested persons are encouraged to attend. Organizers are in need of both suggestions for workshop topics as well as persons to volunteer to facilitate workshops.

For information: Symposium XIX, P.O. Box 990, Caribou, ME 04736 (207) 498-2088 (Wed., 7-9pm or leave a message).



## CALENDAR LISTING(S)

Event: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

FMI ☎: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

*Remember: Deadline is the 20th!*

## DISPLAY ADVERTISING RATES

**BUSINESS CARD • \$30**

**1/4 PAGE • \$50**

**1/2 PAGE • \$85**

**FULL PAGE • \$150**

☎ Call during office hours • M-F, 9-noon ☎

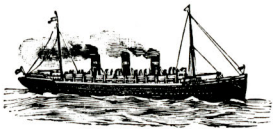


## More NEWS from page 1

### CANADA DROPS BAN ON GAYS IN MILITARY

OTTAWA - Gays and lesbian will no longer be barred from serving in the Canadian military, top officials announced recently. The Canadian armed forces stopped discharging gay and lesbian soldiers approximately two years ago. The recent announcement ends the military policy of refusing to "knowingly" enlist or retain gay men and lesbians.

"The Canadian armed forces of today believe an individual's sexual orientation is irrelevant to whether or not that individual can perform his or her job," said A.J.G.D. de Chastelain, chief of the Defense Staff.



### GAY REFUGEES WELCOMED

NETHERLANDS - Justice Minister Aad Kosto says homosexual refugees may receive permanent residency.

He urged gay refugees to be honest about their reason for seeking asylum.

"I understand people keep silent about it because of their experiences in their home countries," Kosto said. "But there is no need to do so in our country."

Five gay refugees have completed the process to date.



### ITALIAN LESBIANS ANSWER SURVEY

ITALY - The mainstream news magazine *PANORAMA* devoted the cover, five pages and 15 photos to lesbians last month.

Among the revelations:

- ▼ Italian lesbians think the Martina Navratilova case was positive for lesbians.
- ▼ The 13,000-member national gay group Arci Gay now has 4,000 lesbian members.
- ▼ Italian lesbians are not impressed with "the American model of lesbianism" because it was overly influenced by puritanism.
- ▼ A new poll found that 27 percent of Italians consider male homosexuality "normal" but only 17 percent think lesbianism is ok.
- ▼ 53 percent of Italian lesbians have a lover and do not sleep around. 56 percent are happy that they figured out that they are gay.



### LESBIAN WINS CUSTODY

DUXBURY, VT - A Lesbian has won a long battle for custody of the three-year-old son of her deceased partner.

Susan Bellemare recently settled out of court with Philip and Elsa Hamilton, the boy's biological grandparents, ending more than two years of legal wrangling. The settlement gives full custody of Colin Hamilton to Bellemare, as well as visitation rights to the grandparents.

According to the Vermont Gay monthly *Out In the Mountains*, Bellemare's partner of 13 years, Susan Hamilton, gave birth to the boy after the couple decided to raise a family. But in May 1989, Susan Hamilton was killed in a car accident that seriously injured Bellemare and broke one of the boy's ribs. Susan Hamilton had stipulated in her will that Bellemare was to be the boy's guardian and

executor of her estate for him. But Hamilton's parents contested the will in Probate and Superior Courts, raising the issue of Bellemare's sexual orientation by stating that she was "unfit" and that the boy's "best interest" was not served with Bellemare as guardian. But as the case was being readied for a hearing in Superior Court, both parties announced a settlement in October.



### TOYOTA WOOS GAYS

AUSTRALIA - In what appears to be a car industry first, two Australian Toyota dealers are targeting Gays through ads that feature Gay male couples, the *New York Times* reported Dec. 24. The ads are appearing in Gay magazine *OutRage* and programs for a Gay Pride festival. Under the headline "The Family Car," one ad displays a male couple in their thirties with a pair of Dalmations, a picnic basket, and a Toyota Seca Ultima. Response to the \$50,000 campaign has been positive, the dealers say. According to a spokesperson for one of the dealerships, located in a Sydney neighborhood with a large Gay population, "The only criticism

is why we aren't showing two women."



### PREVENTION CAMPAIGN INEFFECTUAL

FRANCE - A newspaper poll published in the Dec. 1 daily *Le Parisien* indicated only one in ten people in France have adopted safer sex habits in response to the AIDS crisis. The newspaper described the results as "alarming" and said French people are ignoring the threat of HIV/AIDS. After the U.S. and Brazil, France is the country with the largest number of people with HIV infection.

Over 20,000 people have been diagnosed with AIDS, representing some 40 percent of all AIDS cases in Europe, according to Sophie Russel of ACT UP. The French government's AIDS prevention campaign is largely ineffective, Russel said. For one, "they haven't once associated AIDS prevention with condoms in their advertising."

This month's News comes from *The Advocate*, *Philadelphia Gay News*, *Chicago Outlines*, *Washington Blade*, *Bay Area Reporter*, *New York Times*, and *Out in the Mountains*. ▼

We are looking for:

SUBSCRIBERS, DISTRIBUTION POINTS, writers, an astrologer, reviewers, poets...

We need this stuff:

File cabinet or any other office supplies you have hanging around; a computer; office space...

Please, call us! ☎ (207) 871-1677



## GRABARZ ADDRESSES MATLOVICH SOCIETY

by Brittany Fortin

On January 9, the Matlovich Society presented the Hon. Joseph Grabarz, a Connecticut State Representative who is largely credited with the successful passage of his state's Gay Rights bill. Since that time, he has traveled extensively and continues to speak out on "Civil Rights Strategies for Lesbian and Gay People" or what he comically referred to as the "homo promo" tour.

Ironically, the history of Connecticut's Gay Rights legislation is quite similar to other states, of course with the exception that theirs has passed. Like many states, Connecticut's Gay Rights

bill would often pass in the Senate and fail in the House or *vice versa*. In 1987, the Connecticut governor actively worked against the bill, a



Grabarz Comes Out in Print

tactic Governor McKernan of Maine mimicked last year.

1991 proved to be the lucky year for Connecticut. They worked hard after the 1989 defeat and spent two years building coalitions and organizing. The "coming out" of Rep. Grabarz on the House floor and a lot of hard work by many dedicated people made the difference.

Rep. Grabarz proved to the audience that it can be done. It wasn't easy for Connecticut, nor will it be easy for anyone else. Gay Rights legislation is a reality only if we are willing to work for it.



### STUFF OUR MAIL BAG!!

**WE NEED YOUR ADVERTISING,  
SUBSCRIPTIONS, SUBMISSIONS,  
LETTERS, IDEAS, CRITIQUES,  
SUGGESTIONS. . .**

**Phoenix Press  
P.O. Box 4743  
Portland, ME 04112  
(207) 871-1677**

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**



Terry decided to put things on hold for a few days while she investigated her options. She said nothing to her son.

Four nights later Nick came home from a Scout meeting. He told his mother that he had been stared at during the meeting and blamed for everything and that he didn't want to go back. Terry then told him what had happened earlier that week at registration; how the Scouts didn't like gay people. Nick said, "What's so bad about being gay? It's your life; you should be able to live it the way you want to."

Terry deals with things. She contacted GLAD (Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders) and they agreed to represent her in the capacity of a legal resource to publicize the matter. Mary L. Bonauto, Terry's lawyer and staff attorney with GLAD, says, "The BSA idea of family is not the average family in the 1990's. In fact, their policy is anti-family -- especially when 1990 U.S. Census Data shows that less than a quarter of families surveyed fit the so-called traditional model prescribed by the BSA." She adds that Maine has no anti-discrimination law and that Terry's case is a perfect example of "open season on gays."

Terry has been contacted once by Robert Denlinger, local director of the BSA. He wanted to meet with her and settle this thing without lawyers. Terry declined. When asked for a statement, "Jeff" from the Pine Tree Council of

the BSA acknowledged that the policy is exclusionary and discriminatory, but legal. No single group of heterosexuals is categorically denied leadership status. Theoretically, a person could be a drug-addicted alcoholic with a record of child molestation (BSA does not check for criminal backgrounds), and still be awarded a full membership - as long as that person is straight.

Terry suggests that people who do not want their children to learn the discriminatory values promoted by the BSA can do the following:

1) Enroll their children in 4-H which acknowledges the diversity of family relationships;

2) Ask the Portland United Way to stop spending \$82,000 per year on the Boy Scouts; and

3) Ask their local public schools not to offer meeting space or other services funded with public tax dollars to the Scouts.

She urges people to write their senators and representatives and demand that they co-sponsor the Federal Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Bill. The content of personal letters is heavily weighed. Callers and letter writers should ask for a written response. The appropriate addresses are:

ME: Senator William Cohen  
Senator George Mitchell  
VT: Senator Patrick Leahy  
Senator James Jeffords

NH: Senator Warren Rudman  
Senator Bob Smith

U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

ME: Rep. Olympia Snowe  
Rep. Tom Andrews  
VT: Rep. Bernard Sanders  
NH: Rep. William Zeliff, Jr.  
Rep. Dick Swett

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Terry thinks back on the last couple of months. She looks very serious. "The hardest thing I've had to do through this whole mess," she says, "is keep a straight face while dealing with grown men in little-boy uniforms." Then she bursts into laughter. ▼



**ANNETTE DRAGON**

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

**(207) 773-7999**

**DON'T LET ALL THE  
ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES  
PASS YOU BY . . .**

**📞 THIS SPACE IS FOR YOU! 📞**

*Call during office hours M-F, 9am - noon*



## RESOURCE GUIDE

**LIST YOUR GROUP! PLEASE SEND INFORMATION (AND/OR UPDATES) TO PHOENIX PRESS, P.O. BOX 4743, PORTLAND, ME 04112**

### HOT-LINES

Gay-Lesbian Phonenumber, Caribou area: (207)498-2088

### SUPPORT GROUPS

**ACOA** - Lesbian meeting Thurs. eves., 6-7:30 pm, YWCA, Ptd. ME.

**L-ACOA/AL-ANON** - Lesbian mtg. 1st Tues. of month, 7-8:30pm, 7 Middle St., Brunswick, ME (behind U.U. Church on Pleasant St. in dntwn Brunswick, opp. public library) FMI ☐ Gail (207)833-6004

**INTEGRITY** - St. Matthew's Church, 18 Union St., Hallowell, ME. Meets 1st Fri. of the month, 7pm. FMI ☐ (207)622-6631

**MONADNOCK AREA WOMYN (MAW)**

P.O. Box 6345  
Keene, NH 03431  
(603) 357-5757

**NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD**

P.O. Box 990  
Caribou, Maine 04736-0990  
(207) 498-2088  
Maine's oldest org. for lesbian-gay-bisexual people, NLN (founded 1980) serves Aroostook Co. and neighboring New Brunswick towns; sponsors social activities, discussion grps and a speakers bureau; publishes a monthly newsletter and activities calendar; has a 1000-vol. lending library for members; Maine's only phone service, the Gay-Lesbian Phonenumber.

**GREATER PORTLAND CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN**

c/o YWCA, 87 Spring St., Ptd. ME 04101, (207)879-0877 (Catherine) or (207)871-0618 (Jennifer). Mail: P.O.Box 4012, Ptd. ME 04101. An action-oriented group. Our primary goals are three-fold: (1) to foster Equal Rights for women; (2) to insure unrestricted choice around reproductive rights; (3) to support Lesbian and Gay rights. Speakers and events for the public on the 4th Tues. of every month.

**PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS (PFLAG)**

23 Winthrop Street  
Hallowell, ME 04347  
(207)729-0519 (Sally and Gene)  
(207)623-2347 (Effie)  
Meets on the 4th Tues. of the month at 7:30pm at Pilgrim House, 1st Parish Church UCC, Brunswick, ME. We are available as speakers to your group. Wide range of lit. available on request.

**PWA COALITION OF MAINE**

377 Cumberland Avenue  
Portland, ME 04101  
(207) 773-8500

**RUMFORD/MEXICO AREA AIDS SUPPORT GROUP**

Main Street, Mexico, ME  
(207)369-0259  
Group meets Mon. eves. at Mexico Congregational Church (the "Green Church") 7:00-8:30pm.

**LIFESTYLES ALLIANCE** - meets weekly on Fri. at Noon at the UNE campus. U. of New England, 11 Hills Beach Rd., Biddeford, ME 04005 FMI ☐ (207)283-0171 x372.

*More WHERE WE'VE BEEN from page 4*

She also wrote poems concerning marriage. If her poems are indeed autobiographical, then it is reasonable to say, as many scholars have, that Sappho was a wife and mother. In modern terms, she would be bisexual. If this is true, then it is altogether clear that her romantic attachment was to women exclusively. Said another way, she fulfilled her gender role by marrying and having children, the norm in the Greek world, but found love and true erotic attachment with other women.

One legend denies this interpretation, though. The story goes that Sappho committed suicide by casting herself off the Leucadian Rock because the love she showed a handsome young man was unrequited. What makes this story suspicious is the fact it was circulated many centuries after her death, and was usually told in conjunction with descriptions of her physical attributes. Further, the exclusive nature of her homoerotic love poetry puts her suicide over a male in serious doubt. Annoyingly, some modern scholars, who have a problem dealing with same sex love, have latched on to this story to either minimize the homoerotic content of Sappho's poetry, or to deny it altogether.

It has been said that Sappho conducted a school for women with budding poetic skills. Unfortunately, her surviving poetry does not support this claim.

However, we do know that there were other women who wrote lyrical poetry, and apparently held their own with their misogynistic male counterparts. Corinna defeated the male poet Pindar, the darling of modern classicists, five times in competition. Pindar, in the true spirit of competition, called her a sow. Equally small minded was Pausanias, who said the only reason Corinna won was because of her looks. One wonders what Pindar's teacher Myrtis, another female poet, would have thought of her pupil's gracelessness.

During the time of the ancient Greeks, the word "Lesbian" meant "one who resides on the island of Lesbos." When the ancient Greeks or Romans used the word to describe women, they were not being kind. A "lesbian woman" to ancient Greek males meant a woman who was sexually aggressive and shameless, two things not venerated by Athen's patriarchal society. In short, the word "lesbian" was a hate word of extreme derogatory fashion used in connection with heterosexual activity. Today however, women who love women have taken the word for their own to celebrate their love for each other, and use it with rightful pride. In doing so, it can be said that they pay great honor to Sappho of Lesbos.

Books to read:

*Sappho: Poems and Fragments*, translated by Josephine Balmer  
*Greek Homosexuality*, K.J. Dover  
*Goddesses, Whores, Wives and Slaves: Women in Classical Antiquity*, Sarah B. Pomeroy ▼

BE THE FIRST ON YOUR BLOCK  
to appear in print in APEX

**PLACE YOUR  
AD HERE**

Call our office for ad rates and deadlines  
☎ (207) 871-1677 M-F 9:00am - Noon ☎



# CLASSIFIEDS

## LOOKING FOR . . .

Looking - for a Lesbian/Gay silversmith to do repair work on fine jewelry; for Honda Rebel 250 motorcycle. ☛ (207) 871-1817

LF w/dog/two cats looking for 1 or 2 others (women only) to find & share a reasonably priced, comfortable living space. ☛ Kathy (207)865-6465 (lv. msg)

## RENTALS

Lesbians wanted! - 2 bdrm ranch, Gray, ME 2 mi. from turnpike, ski trails, tennis courts & track behind house. Lg. backyard, W/D, appl., FP, fin. basment, oil heat. We are 2 lesbians living in att. but sep. garage apt., looking for lesbian tenants. Cats ok. \$600 + util., sec. dep. Avail. 3/1. ☛ & lv. msg. 657-2634.

## SUPPORT GROUPS

Peer facil. Lesbian Survivors group, free for lesbians who are survivors of incest. We want to create a safe place

to talk about all the issues in our lives that surround incest. FMI ☛(207)775-3380 Ptlid, ME.

## SOCIAL GROUPS

Looking for Lesbians into leather, S/M, B/D, exhibitionism, voyeurism, fantasy scenarios, role-playing, costumes, etc. If any of this sounds tantalizing, we should talk. A new group is forming in the Portland area for women who like to walk on the wild side. Reply to Box 105, c/o Phoenix Press.

## PERSONALS

Happy Birthday to my sweet woman! Congratulations on reaching your 29th year. May all the dreams you hold in your heart come true & may all your nightmares fade away. I love you now & forever. DJM

Diamonique - Happy V-Day. In my mind I give you precious gems & Graceland soil; in real life I give you nights that rock the walls of my building. Your Thighmaster

Wild woman looking for anything that casts a shadow & has a pulse. Ability to part hair with tongue a must. Weirdos need not apply. Photo a plus!! Box 101, c/o Phoenix Press

## Baby You Send Me !!!

Are you qualified to do just that? I am prof., educated, GF 26 seeking love of life-time with whom to share countless experiences of intimate & unbridled passion. You are honest, captivating & cultured, 25-26, tall & goodlooking. You must be interested in taking chances & not settling for less than the best. Prefer outdoorsy athletic woman with capabilities for intellectual stimulation. All replies considered carefully. Thanks. Box 102, c/o Phoenix Press

Naughty nymph from Nashua needs nookie now! Looking for fun - not romance. Let's meet & have sex in an elevator, parking lot, or McDonald's restaurant! Box 103, Phoenix Press

Lesbian wanted for walks on beach in sub-zero temperatures, hot summer nights in front of the fire, eating too much, boring conversation, mildly erotic sex, & then we'll live happily ever after. Must like parakeets, gerbils & cats. Box 104, c/o Phoenix Press.

"How do I love thee? Let me count the ways. I love thee to the depth, breadth & height my soul can reach..." Emily Dickenson has said it all -- Happy Anniversary to the woman I love. Diane

My Only Love - Baby you send me tool The miles between us have only made us stronger. It just keeps getting better. Happy Valentine's, Baby. C.A.P.

On 1/19, seven years ago, Naomi & Madeleine met in a bar in SF, proving that good things are sometimes found in unlikely places.



## CLASSIFIED AND PERSONAL AD ORDER FORM

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 AD CATEGORY \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF MONTHS \_\_\_\_\_



Maine Lesbian & Gaymen's  
**SYMPOSIUM**

XIX ▼ Presque Isle ▼ 1992

Friday-Monday, May 22-25, 1992, University of Maine at Presque Isle  
sponsored by the women and men of Northern Lambda Nord

featuring keynote speakers

**Hon. David Scondras, Boston City Councilmember**

**Ms. Anne Bishop, Nova Scotia activist**

Entertainment provided by

**Tom Wilson Weinberg & Lisa Joy Bernstein**

Special activities include

**First Symposium Mixed Doubles Tennis Tournament**

**Second Annual Symposium Lip-Sync & Vogueing Contest**

Panels from the Names Quilt will be on display

Films, Workshops, Discussion groups, Dancing, Games, Friends and Fun

Housing available on the UMPL campus; Meals provided in the dining hall

Pre-registration forms will be mailed in March

GET ON THE MAILING LIST! Send your name and address to:

Symposium XIX, POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736

QUESTIONS? Call the Gay-Lesbian Phonenumber, 498-2088, Wednesdays, 7-9pm

GRAB THIS OPPORTUNITY to put

**YOUR AD HERE**

Call our office for ad rates and deadlines

☎ (207) 871-1677 M-F 9:00am - Noon ☎

**WINTERFALCON**  
**TECHNICAL COMPUTER SERVICES**

- Legal
- Statistical
- Engineering
- Resumes

No job too  
small or too  
complicated



Competitive Rates

(207) 775-3380

**DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE - SUBSCRIBE NOW!!!**

\_\_\_\_\_ 12 issues for \$15

\_\_\_\_\_ 24 issues for \$25

\_\_\_\_\_ Supporting Donation

\_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Send Check or Money Order to:

Phoenix Press, P.O. Box 4743, Portland, ME 04112