

---

# MLGPA News

---

P.O. Box 232, Hallowell, ME 04347

March 1996

---

POLITICS

EDUCATION

OUTREACH

---

## Anti-Gay Bill Withdrawn

With pressure from MLGPA, our coalition partners and her colleagues, Senator Georgette Berube (D-Lewiston) decided to withdraw her anti-gay bill from this legislative session.

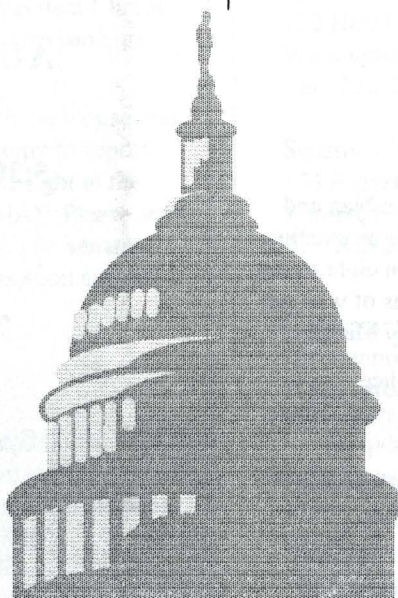
In her hometown paper, the Lewiston Sun-Journal, Berube said legislators lacked time in a short session to fully debate the measure which sought to ban same-sex marriage and to provide limited protection from discrimination for people who report hate crimes. It was widely reported that this was a "gay rights" bill, even though gay people were afforded absolutely no protections in this measure.

Sen. Berube also worried that the tone of the debate would have turned nasty. "We could not have assured that the tone of the debate would have remained rational," she said.

Berube reported that she was asked by some senators and representatives to withdraw the bill so they wouldn't have to vote on it in an election year. She said that those legislators favored her measure but would vote against it so as not to incur the wrath of the gay community and our liberal supporters.

She also stated that although she cannot run again because of term limits, a legislator who hopes to be re-elected is planning to introduce this measure next year.

*Thanks to all who wrote letters, made phone calls, sent e-mails, or renewed your MLGPA membership. Your help made this happen!*



**MLGPA: Since 1984**

## CLEAN THE HOUSE, and Senate

If we take seriously Sen. Berube's comment about another legislator submitting this same anti-gay bill next year, and we do, then the roadmap to next years defeat of this bill seems fairly clear. We have to get busy! Our goal as a community is to make sure that we elect people to the 118th Legislature that will sign on to support an anti-discrimination bill, and work very hard to defeat any and all anti-gay measures.

So who is running in your district, what is their stand on civil rights, do they need help with their campaign? You may know the answers to these questions. If not, plenty of help is available. Call the "CLEAN THE HOUSE, and Senate!" Campaign at 1-800-556-5472. This is a campaign sponsored by the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance. We have an up-to-date database that has this information and more. We can run lists by county, district, or party affiliation, etc. We can tell you how the candidates feel about civil rights and how they have voted in the past.

We can connect you with the people in your town who would like to represent you in Augusta. After meeting them, you be the judge of whether or not you get behind their candidacy and become their most treasured campaign volunteer.

It is vital for us to become involved in who we send to Augusta next year. Governor King has pledged his support for a civil rights bill. After eight years of



"jockeying" with McKernan, Gov. King's support is wonderful, but it will be for naught if we don't have elected officials who will vote for an anti-discrimination bill.

Please call 1-800-55-MLGPA today so that we can send you the information you need to "CLEAN THE HOUSE, and Senate!"

## Education Video Planned

**A**s part of our "Get to know your Lesbian and Gay Neighbor" Campaign we have an exciting idea for video. We are planning an eight to ten minute video that dispels the myths of who gay people are and introduces the viewer to 20 gay Mainers.

Our goal is to provide legislators, police personnel, educators, and civic groups with a clear picture of who we are, where we work, how we worship (or don't), who makes up our families, and how we take part in the communities where we live.

Carolyn Cosby and Concerned Maine Families spent two years traveling the State of Maine and telling lies about who we are. Well, now is the time to get back on track. It is time to talk about our lives, and define for our neighbors and coworkers who we are.

If you are interested in being involved with this project, please call our office at 1-800-556-5472 today.

## Wanted: Computer

**W**e are in dire need of a computer for our field office in Portland. If you got a new computer recently, or you are going to get one as soon as your income tax check comes in, then you are the "computer angel" we are looking for.

We are hoping our "computer angel" will deliver us a 386 or better IBM compatible. We run MS Word, Works, and Excel currently and are looking to add a few more things.

If you or anyone you know would like to donate, or loan, a computer to MLGPA - we are soon to have our tax deductible entity set up. This would be a great way to start out your giving this year. Please think about it, and give us a call. We'll put your donation to good use!

## MLGPA 11th ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET & DINNER DANCE

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1996**

**AUGUSTA CIVIC CENTER  
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

**5:30 P.M. Cocktail/mocktail hour**

**6:30 P.M. Dinner**

**7:30 P.M. Awards Program**

**9:00 Dance**

**Special Guest DJ: Lisa Vaccaro**

*Meet new people*

*See old friends*

*Celebrate our 1995 Victories*

*Meet the 1996 candidates*

*Promote G/L/B/T visibility*

**Tickets for Dinner Dance are \$25 per person**

**Tickets for the Dance only are \$5-\$10 sliding scale**

**(some scholarships available for reduced price)**

**Invitations will be mailed March 8**

**For more information:**

**Information Tables: 871-9940**

**To Place an ad in Program Booklet: 773-9547**

**MLGPA Toll free: 1-800-556-5472**



## Action Alert!

**P**lease help repeal discriminatory HIV provisions in the 1996 National Defense Authorization Act. This is a provision that was first introduced in the House by the infamous anti-gay zealot, Bob Dornan (R-CA). The provision mandates the immediate discharge of all service members infected with HIV. President Clinton signed the bill, but strongly objects to this provision, as does the Defense Department.

There is a move underway in both the House and Senate to repeal this provision. We are happy to report that **Senator Cohen (R-ME)** is leading the fight in the Senate, along with Senator Kennedy (D-MA). Please send the following sample letter (courtesy HRC) to Senator Snowe, and Reps. Longley and Baldacci as soon as you can.

Dear Representative or Senator,

I am urging you to support bipartisan legislation to repeal a provision in the FY 1996 Defense Authorization Act that mandates the immediate discharge of all service members infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. The effort in the Senate is being led by Sens. Cohen (R-ME) and Kennedy (D-MA). *[If writing to Representatives, the sentence would read - The effort in the House is being led by Reps. Peter Torkildsen (R-MA) and Jane Harman (D-CA).]*

The provision, written by Rep. Bob Dornan (R-CA) would discharge the 1,049 HIV-positive men and women within six months and cut off all health benefits to their dependents. Half of these service members are married, and on average have served in the military for a decade. The Pentagon did not seek and does not support this provision. Current Department of Defense policy - formulated by the Reagan Administration - allows military personnel with chronic illnesses to continue to serve their country until their medical condition prevents them from doing so. There is no valid reason for singling out HIV-positive service members for mandatory discharge.

Please support legislation that allows trained, experienced, and healthy service members to continue to serve their country.

Sincerely,

Please send a thank you letter to Senator Cohen.

## For Your Information

Governor Angus King, Jr.  
State House Station #1  
Augusta, ME 04330  
Tel: 207-287-3531

Senator William Cohen  
322 Hart Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-1901  
Tel: 202-224-2523, Fax 202-224-2693

Senator Olympia Snowe  
174 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-1902  
Tel: 202-224-5344, Fax 202-224-1946

Congressman James Longley  
226 Cannon Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Tel: 202-225-6116, Fax 202-225-3353

Congressman John Baldacci  
1740 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1901  
Tel: 202-225-6303, Fax 202-225-2943

## Just For Fun.....

Here is a collection of some of the best oxymoron's from the alt.atheism newsgroup on the Internet.

*(Oxymoron's are phrases which contradict themselves.)*

**Military Intelligence**

**Christian Right**

**Civil War**

**Honest Politician**

**Radical Conservative**

**Papal Infallibility**

**Environmentally safe plastics**

**Justice Rehnquist**

**Senate Ethics Committee**



## Coalition News/Events

Take Our Daughters to Work Day - sponsored by the **Maine Women's Lobby** - will be held on April 25th and is a statewide event. All girls between 9 and 15 are encouraged to go to work with their Mom, or any other adult woman.

Special outreach is being done to include lesbian girls in this program. If you know a lesbian girl between the ages of 9 and 15, or if you are a lesbian and would like to volunteer to take a young lesbian to work with you for a day, please call the MLGPA office. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve as a positive role model

▽ ▽ ▽

"Can We Talk.....(about AIDS)?" is a COMMUNITY FORUM sponsored by the **AIDS Coalition of Lewiston-Auburn** and co-sponsored by MLGPA. This event will take place on Friday, March 29th from 7 - 9 PM at the Multi-Purpose Center on Birch Street in Lewiston.

The discussion will include: "Why is it so hard to talk about HIV/AIDS in our community" and "How can we stop the spread of AIDS in Lewiston-Auburn?" For more information, please call Nancy at 786-4697.

▽ ▽ ▽

The HOPE Festival (HOPE stands for Help Organize Peace Earthwide), sponsored by the **Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine**, will be held on Earth Day, Saturday, April 20, at Brewer Auditorium, from 10 AM to 5 PM. FREE ADMISSION.

Live music, theater, dance, children's activities, outdoor events, and an organizational fair with over 50 groups represented. This is sure to be a great day! Please call the Peace and Justice Center at 942-9343 for information.

▽ ▽ ▽

**Waterville Amnesty Int'l Group** is sponsoring an evening of Video, Letterwriting, and Dessert on March 10, 7 PM at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Waterville. This event is to celebrate International Woman's Day.

Events include the video "The Sky: Silent Witness" and letter writing for Chinese women who are political prisoners. Refreshments will be served after the video. For more information, please call Maria at 872-2285.

## MLGPA CALENDAR

Executive Cmte. Meeting: Weds., March 6th, 7 - 9 PM

CLEAN THE HOUSE, and Senate! Campaign Committee Meeting: Sat., March 16, 12-2 PM, Augusta UU Church. Agenda: Primary Race Targeting

Get to Know Your Lesbian and Gay Neighbor Campaign Committee Meeting: Sat., March 16, 12-2 PM, Augusta UU Church. Agenda: Video Project

General Meeting: Sat., March 16th, 2-3 PM, Augusta UU Church.

Celebrity Bartending with Candace Gingrich, lesbian sister of House Speaker Newt Gingrich, State Senator Anne Rand and lots more of our favorite elected officials. Blackstone's, 6 Pine Street, Portland, will be the scene of this great event. Details: Sunday, March 24, 3-6 PM, \$5-\$10 sliding scale.

MLGPA 11th Annual Awards Banquet: Sat., April 13, 5:30 PM, Augusta Civic Center

Committee Meetings and General Meeting: Sat., April 20, 12-3 PM, Augusta UU Church

STRIKE OUT INTOLERANCE! Benefit for Human Rights Campaign (HRC). Sunday, April 21, 1:30-4:00 PM, Yankee Lanes, Portland. Register your team of ten to participate in an afternoon of bowling (!) and contribute to stopping the politics of fear, division and intolerance in the 1996 political campaigns. For \$20 per person you will receive two hours of bowling, food and beverages, fun and excitement as you compete for prizes.

Each team member will be able to register to vote and will automatically become members of the Human Rights Campaign. Do your part to "strike out intolerance." Event co-sponsored by MLGPA.

For more information on any of the events listed above, please call our office at 1-800-556-5472, or 761-3732 in the Greater Portland area.

If you have any ideas for events (social, educational, political, fundraising, etc...) in your area and would like MLGPA to help you organize - please call us! We would be glad to help.