

BAGLSC Newsletter

Bangor Area Gay-Lesbian-Straight Coalition

Vol. 1, No. 2

October 1984

ABOUT THE COALITION

The Bangor Area Gay-Lesbian-Straight Coalition formed in July, 1984 in response to the violent death of Charles Howard, a 23-year old man murdered in downtown Bangor, because he was gay. As its name implies, a diversity of individuals comprises the Coalition. Our common concern is promoting Human Rights.

The Coalition has formed task forces in order to pursue specific projects. These task forces include the following: Legal, Political, Public Education, Social/Support Groups, Clergy and Laity, Media, Speakers Bureau, and Funding. (Contact people and phone numbers for each are listed elsewhere in the newsletter.) Representatives from each of these task forces meet together weekly as a Steering Committee. The Coalition as a whole meets bi-weekly. All interested individuals are welcome to work with us.

UP-COMING BAGLSC MEETINGS

Steering Committee: Each Tuesday, 5:15-7 pm, Unitarian Church, 126 Union St., Bangor. To suggest agenda items, call either Ginny Holmes, 469-2917 or JoAnne Dauphinee, 989-3306.

Entire Coalition: Alternate Mondays, 7:30-9:30 pm, Unitarian Church, Bangor.
Dates: Oct. 8, 22, Nov. 5 - Oct. 22 mtg. will include workshop on process and structure. Nov. 5 mtg. will include a vote on BAGLSC decision-making process. To suggest agenda items, call JoAnne Dauphinee, 989-3306.

ACTION ALERTS

Vote: Tuesday, October 9, Bangor City Elections - for School Committee and City Council Members.

Tuesday, November 6, State and National Elections - ERA Referendum

Bangor School Committee Meetings: Mondays, Oct. 15 and 29, 7 pm at Abraham Lincoln School, Forest Ave., Bangor. Also, write or call School Committee Members. (See School Committee Update article for names and addresses and further information.)

LETTERS

Dear Members of the Coalition,

I was deeply moved by the day I spent with you monitoring the Probable Cause hearing of Ness, Maybry and Baines on the murder of Charlie Howard. Afterwards I drove to Augusta for a Maine Freeze Voter steering committee meeting. I got out of the car, walked to the Kennebec and sobbed for 20 minutes. It was as if I had just enough glue to get me there. I don't even know all of why I was crying. There was so much emotion in that day: The polarization between us and the accused's friends and relatives in the courtroom; Charlie reduced to a list of contusions and lacerations; the nervous strength of the two young women who are testifying against their friends and peers; the quiet courage of Roy Ogden, and the bravery of those of you who have come out because of this case.

I keep thinking of Martin Luther King Jr. Back in the 60's he was asked by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to head the Civil Rights Movement. At first he resisted. He had a comfortable life and he knew the job would be filled with stress and danger. He had little more training than you do. Martin Luther King Jr. didn't know how to talk to the press when he started, but he learned. He didn't know how to put a movement together, but with a lot of faith and love he did it. And so are you. You have to grow where you're planted. And you are planted in Bangor, Maine at a very important juncture in our country's history.

The bravado of the accused's friends and relatives is a defense. Hostility and confusion always precede change. What's going on in Bangor is at the heart of the matter. Because you are standing up for us, attitudes are changing. You are doing wonderful work. My heart is with you in strength and love.

My Best,

Dale McCormick
Brunswick

Dear Friends:

Words cannot express our heartfelt sorrow in learning of the shocking and tragic circumstances surrounding the recent death of Charlie Howard.

In behalf of all parents, families and friends of gay persons throughout the country, we express our deepest sympathy to the Howard Family as well as the Bangor Community at large.

We pray that Charlie's life and tragic death will serve to exemplify and remind the world of the disastrous effects and results that ignorance, hate and intolerance of human differences has upon each of our lives.

Most sincerely,

Emily H. Osmon
President, The National Federation
of Parents and Friends of Gays
Washington, D.C.

Copy of a mailgram sent to Attorney General James Tierney and Assistant Attorney General Thomas L. Goodwin:

"With reference to the murder of Charles O. Howard, we support the position of the Attorney General of the State of Maine that the perpetrators of this heinous crime be tried as adults. As parents of gay persons we are outraged by this intentional and unprovoked attack and we are fearful that a 'light' sentence will encourage other vicious attacks against our gay children."

Federation of Parents and Friends of
Lesbians and Gays
Adele Starr, President
Los Angeles, CA

Dear Friends,

Charlie Howard, may he rest in peace, was my friend. A very special space in my heart will always hold him. There also will always be a space in my heart that will never allow me to forget that his life was taken by prejudice, bigotry and ignorance manifested in the form of three juveniles with no respect for human life, let alone law and order.

Much energy has been exuded by all concerned, with regards to the bindover hearing in the Howard murder case. For the rest of their lives, Shaun Mabry, Daniel Ness and James Baines will feel the effects of their actions of July 7, 1984.

Incarcerating these mentally infantile adolescents in an adult correctional institution would only add to the number of prison rapes and assaults, if not death. We would be acting as barbaric as those Romans that sent Christians into the lion dens. Prison terms, no matter how long or short, will not bring Charlie back to us. Nor will they, as we sitness on a daily basis, deter sick peiple from taking the life of another human being.

It is time to address and arrest the real killers of Charlie Howard, the SEXUAL PREJUDICE, BIGOTRY, and IGNORANCE our society fosters.

We are all aware that attacks and oppression continue in many ways. From queer bashing in our streets, to legal muggings in our courts and in the legislature. But we have the power to affect change.

Gay activism has succeeded in making us a political force to be reckoned with, and we have won many significant victories. Today in the U.S.A. we have some forty-two municipalities and ten counties with anti-gay discrimination ordinances or other forms of legal protection. Is it not time to add Bangor and the State of Maine to the roster?

Yours in the struggle for human rights,

Duncan H. Langille III
Bangor

TWO LETTERS TO THE MEN OF BAGLSC

Dear Brothers,

I'd like to take a few moments of your time to share some thoughts and feelings.

For the past few weeks I have been deeply troubled by the fact that very few men are now involved with the Bangor Area Gay Lesbian Straight Coalition. The Coalition came about because a man, Charlie Howard, was murdered for being gay. It is my hope that men both gay and straight will join or rejoin the struggle.

As you know, a coalition is a group or groups of people with diverse agendas working together for a common cause. And BAGLS Coalition is diverse. The members have different interpretations of events, political structures, words, and meanings. In the first few months of the coalition, there was much stress and disagreement over a wide variety of issues, from structure and consensus, to feminism and strategy. Those early meetings were alienating and frustrating because of the lack of process and structure.

Many men felt their issues and needs were not being addressed. There seemed to be particular disagreement around the issue of "feminism."

If we are to confront the attitudes and institutions that caused the murder of Charlie Howard, we, gay and straight men and women, must work together, to communicate, to be tolerant of each other.

In order to start a dialogue, the Men's Education Network will be hosting a pot luck dinner and discussion evening for men. We would like to share ideas and thoughts on feminism and coalition goals. The range of topics is open to suggestion. The dinner will be held Saturday, Oct. 27th, 5 pm at the Unitarian Church at Union and Main in Bangor.

Please contact Bob or John 884-8857 or Richard 945-9680 so we can get an idea of how many to expect.

Please give this your consideration: Your ideas and support are needed for a united struggle.

In Solidarity,

John O'Keefe
Levant

Dear Brothers,

In the past few months, the Coalition has made progress in becoming a force in the community, gaining us dignity and confidence in being ourselves, helping to overcome the bigotry that once kept us down. We now have a voting process for the general meetings that is working efficiently while allowing differing views to be effectively heard. Energy that was earlier spent in evolving this process is now helping each of the task forces achieve their goals.

During the last month or two, noticeably fewer men than women have remained active in the Coalition. We are concerned because we need both men and women to represent a voice that advocates rights for the gay and lesbian community. Therefore, we invite you to a pot luck on Saturday, October 27 to get in touch with each other and to have a discussion on understanding feminism. This will be for men only, to encourage an open discussion, expressing our concerns and needs for working in the Coalition. I feel the momentum that has been gained in the past few months has been important to my personal growth and many others. I want to share, celebrate and strengthen that growth with you. I look forward to seeing you there.

Bob Garrecht
Levant

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Coalition Address: BAGLSC, P.O. Box 1805, Bangor, Me., 04401, tel: 989-3306

Newsletter Address: Lee Nicoloff, 314 Main Rd. No., Hampden, Me., 04444,
tel: 862-2078

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BANGOR SCHOOL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Kay Wilkins

At the first Bangor School Committee meeting following Charlie Howard's murder, Ann Schonberger expressed her concern that since Charlie's assailants were Bangor students the school needed to address homophobia. The School Committee's immediate response was to appoint Judy Guay, Chairperson, William Baker, School Committee member, and Superintendent Dr. Arthur Pierce, as a Tolerance Subcommittee. Ann Schonberger came directly to the Coalition meeting that same night and told us what had happened. The Coalition immediately began to monitor the work of the Tolerance Subcommittee and to support their efforts to address homophobia in the schools.

Here's what action has already been taken:

1. The School Committee adopted a statement saying in essence that homophobia and harassment would be reprimanded and that, "our public schools should foster differing ideas and reflect various values and lifestyles." The statement also explicitly stated, "We are especially concerned about the rights of gays and lesbians..." This was sent to all school staff members.
2. The School Committee also approved Dr. Pierce's plan to organize a series of in-service programs for school staff during the year to address prejudice, especially homophobia.
3. At its last meeting, the School Committee approved unanimously a policy statement adopted from the above communique, but more generally worded.

Here's the pending action:

The School Committee has taken a preliminary vote to add language regarding sexual orientation to both its equal employment and equal educational opportunity policies. This action is the most substantive of the subcommittee's proposals. It is in essence a school system gay rights bill. It was referred to the school department's attorney who has recommended how they should word these policies. A decision will be made by the School Committee in Executive Session (privately) at the Oct. 1 meeting about when and how they wish to pursue this. My best guess, having talked with Supt. Pierce, is that the Oct. 15 meeting will be the first reading (discussion and vote). As with the last issue, it will take two separate votes to become policy.

Here's what we can do:

1. Plan to attend the Oct. 15 and Oct. 29 School Committee meetings and be prepared to speak on the issue. Those meetings are on Mondays at 7 pm at the Abraham Lincoln School. You know if you read the Bangor Daily News that Rev. Buddy Frankland and Co. were at the last meeting. They'll all be at the next one to save the schools from "immorality." We must be there too. The School Committee has been taking courageous stands and needs support.
2. Please call or write School Committee members. Their names, addresses and phone numbers are as follows:

William Baker, 42 Grant St.,	947-8564
Judy Guay, 8 Fort Knox Ave.,	947-4371
Janice Clark, 185 Norfolk,	942-8611

Martha Newman, 64 Royal Road,	947-6468
Michael Alpert, 336 Center St.,	947-7410
Martha Dane, 128 Maple St.,	947-8043
Charles Sullivan, 81 Grant St.,	947-4112

* * * * *

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged in this state because of the sex of the individual."

ERA for Maine on Nov. 6 !

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DEFENDANTS IN CHARLIE HOWARD MURDER

TO BE TRIED AS JUVENILES

Scott Hamilton

Deciding that he " didn't find it necessary to try them as adults", Judge David Cox ruled at the September 14th hearing that defendants Dan Ness 17, Shaun Mabry 16, and James Baines 15, should be tried as juveniles. Cox stated that the State Attorney General's Assistant Thomas Goodwin presented no evidence that the defendant's records, emotional attitudes, or patterns of living would threaten the protection of the community. He added that he did not feel longer incarceration in a more secure facility would deter future criminal conduct. A final hearing date will be set the week of October 17.

Having discussed evidentiary matters with defense and prosecution attorneys prior to court, Cox opened the hearing by consolidating the three defendants' cases.

Goodwin submitted as evidence records of juvenile offenses committed by Dan Ness in 1981 and 1982.

Cox excluded such records citing the juvenile rights code.

Goodwin then presented Cox with Ness' school records, which Cox admitted.

Mike McClary, a friend of the defendants', was called by Goodwin to the stand. McClary was asked to relate the events of July 7th and 8th, saying that the defendants admitted beating and throwing a person over the bridge "because they knew he was queer." McClary said the next morning at his apartment defendants Ness and Mabry appeared upset and nervous about rumors that their victim was dead. Mabry had suggested fleeing to Virginia Beach. Said McClary, "They didn't know what to do."

McClary then told of having been called to break up a fight between Mabry and another youth at a dance two or three weeks later saying Mabry appeared "abnormal and hyper."

Deputy Larry Hersey was then called to the stand and told of the fight saying he smelled alcohol when he tried to break up the fight and that Mabry was "babbling, rambling, and didn't make sense."

Goodwin then asked if the diagnostic order for psychological and psychiatric evaluations could be made available to counsel.

Defense attorneys all objected and Cox ruled that the order would only be admitted to tip the balance of such a serious crime, and would not allow the findings to be seen at the time.

Defense attorneys then requested motions for their clients to be treated as juveniles.

Only then did Cox admit as evidence the psychological evaluations, saying the the court would not rule the seriousness of the crime alone enough to bindover the defendants as adults.

After arguing that the seriousness of the crime may be considered enough for bindover, Goodwin did not wish to hear testimony from the makers of the reports, nor did defense. After a short period for preparation, Cox made his decision known.

PETER BALDACCI ADDRESSES SEPT. 24TH COALITION MEETING

Scott Hamilton

Bangor attorney, Peter Baldacci, brought a wealth of knowledge and answered many questions concerning the Charlie Howard murder case, as well as other issues.

Baldacci first told us that Judge Cox had denied the state's motion for bindover, and that the defendants will be tried as juveniles. Impact of any new evidence is possible, but the judge would have to reconsider the motion within a reasonable length of time.

There are only three or four bindovers held in Bangor District Court a year. Generally, these motions are granted unless little evidence is shown concerning background and character. In this case, the state did not meet the burden. The state may appeal Cox's decision, but the lack of evidence may hurt an appeal. While it was mentioned that witnesses were prepared to testify that they had also been assaulted by the defendants in this case, conferences with Cox and Goodwin may have left Cox unimpressed with the evidence from possible witnesses. Cox denied admission of certain evidence in the bindover which would be inadmissible in a trial hearing. There are different rules, however, in a bindover, and juvenile law gives broad language for evidence presented with emphasis on character and history. Cox may not have been aware of this difference as this was his first bindover hearing on the bench.

Baldacci also differentiated juvenile and adult trials and sentencing. Juvenile cases focus on rehabilitation while adult cases focus on protecting society and rehabilitation. Adult murder convictions require minimum sentencing of 25 years to a maximum life sentence. In juvenile cases the dispositional alternatives are not great. Youth center is the end of the spectrum, and they can only be held there until they reach the age of 21. But the state corrections decides how long they will stay, and it may be less than 21.

It is likely the defendants will be tried for murder, although the conviction may be reduced to a lesser included offense (manslaughter). In murder cases, premeditation and a willful disregard for life must be proven. Charlie's inability to swim would be a building block for a murder conviction.

There was some concern over where the trial would be held and who would preside. Baldacci said the state would have to file for a change of venue to move the case and that a good judge would allow such a motion. There is some concern that Judge Cox may want to try the case himself; it is most unusual for a judge to preside over a bindover and a trial. There should be some contact with the Attorney General's office to request a different judge for the trial.

As to whether the trial would be open, Baldacci informed us that the state would have to make a motion and that due to public interest, it may be.

There is a very slim possibility of no sentencing (probation) and there should be input from the community to the Probation Department should this happen.

He also told us there is no bail in the juvenile system without a detention hearing prior to trial. Any persons seeing the defendants unattended should contact the Bangor Police Department.

In terms of orders against harassment, Baldacci said they are generally only done within a household (peace bond). One must convince the district attorney of such harassment. Maximum sentencing would be a \$500 fine and six months in jail.

Moving? Send us your change of address. Newsletters are not forwarded.

NEWS FROM THE BAGLSC TASK FORCES

NEW CLERGY/LAITY TASK FORCE FORMED

The newly organized Task Force met on Friday, September 21, and agreed to the following goals and purposes:

Our purpose is to facilitate the development of greater understanding of the reality of homophobia, and its roots in our common religious heritage. We have the following goals: 1. To make personal contact with the various religious groups in the Bangor area, and put them on our mailing list, thus keeping them informed about our activities; 2. To develop individual and joint educational programs; 3. To foster mutual understanding between gay and straight religious people; 4. To counter homophobic conclusions drawn from traditional religious and theological writings; 5. To educate ourselves around the issue of homophobia.

The Task Force is open to all people interested in pursuing these goals, and we welcome others to join us at our next meeting, which will be on October 5, Friday, at 1:00 pm in the Bangor Theological Seminary Commons.

Members of the Task Force are researching the positions taken by various major denominations on the issue of homosexuality and homophobia; have agreed to provide a subscription to the Gay Community News for the Seminary Library; and have taken upon themselves responsibility to be in touch with various members of the clergy in the Bangor area with regard to support for the School Committee's proposed Affirmative Action proposals.

For contact names and numbers for this task force, see the contact list elsewhere in the newsletter.

NOTES FROM THE POLITICAL TASK FORCE

Freeze Walk - Sat., 10/13/84 Members of the task force agree that we would like to take part in the Bangor Freeze Walk. This is a fundraising effort to benefit the Nuclear Freeze Movement. People volunteer to walk the 10K course and get financial pledges by the kilometer. 1/3 of the money raised by each individual goes to the National Freeze Campaign, 1/3 to the Maine Freeze group, and 1/3 goes to any local group the participant chooses.

Task force members will make a BAGLS banner to carry in the walk.

Local Elections - Tues., 10/9/84 Jill and Diana will poll candidates in Bangor's City Council and School Board Elections for their attitudes about Gay and Lesbian issues. School Board candidates will be asked about the Tolerance of Difference and hiring policies considered by the Board in recent weeks. City Council candidates will be polled on attitudes about an anti-harassment ordinance, amendment of the city's hiring policy to protect Lesbians and Gays, and a policy which states that the city will contract only with firms which agree not to discriminate against Gays and Lesbians. Diana and Jill will present the results of their telephone poll to the coalition.

Meeting Times Some people have a problem with meeting every other Thursday, so our next meeting will be Tuesday, 10/2/84, 7:30 PM, at Jana and Ada's house, at 59 Fern St., Bangor.

Statewide Political Alliance Jana, Ada, and Marty went to Augusta Sat., 9/22 to meet with organizers from around the state and form the Maine Gay and Lesbian Political Alliance (MGLPA). This organization will work on Gay Rights issues on state and local levels, work with the media to educate people, network with local groups as well as state and national groups.

MGLPA is a non-partisan organization with local chapters throughout Maine. Our next meeting will be in Bangor on Sun., 10/14/84 at 1 pm tentatively at the Unitarian Church on Union St.

NOTES FROM THE MEDIA TASK FORCE

Anne Phibbs

The Media Task Force is becoming increasingly active with meetings every Monday evening, either at 7:00 on the nights of the general BAGLS Coalition meeting or from 5:30 to 6:45 on the other Mondays. All our meetings are at the Unitarian Church and every interested activist is welcome to join. Our latest projects include:

Media Update

We're finally getting out our Media Update, a one to two page summary of the events of the BAGLS Coalition for the last month or so. We'll be compiling a list of most all lesbian, gay, feminist, and progressive groups and newspapers/journals, and are planning to send them our update in hopes they will spread our news and print some of our own words - not just the views from the mainstream wire services. We feel it very important to promote the happenings in Bangor to groups and papers all across the country - as Charlie's murder has an impact that reaches beyond Bangor and Maine and to more people than our own community. We'll keep you posted on the exact status of the Update at each general Coalition meeting. Suffice it to say it is "in the works."

Public Service Announcements

Thanks to Duncan, we've now sent out our second batch of PSAs to 9 radio and television stations. They have been updated with the new dates for the bi-weekly BAGLS Coalition general meetings. We are hoping more stations will run these PSAs than ran the last ones. If the response is again negative we will work on a letter writing and phone-calling campaign to get our PSAs on the air. You can help by letting us know anytime you see or hear a BAGLS Coalition PSA.

Archives

We have two projects going which are concerned with keeping a record of the BAGLS Coalition. One is Kathy's beautiful back wall at the Unitarian Church, poster board after poster board of articles from day 1 to the present. It's a great, easy-to-read history of the past 2 1/2 months. Check it out if you haven't already.

Our second archives project is the collection of newspaper clippings, letters, newsletters, etc. that have dealt with Charlie's murder and the BAGLS Coalition. Already one folder of 40 pages has been put together, but that is but the tip of the iceberg. There is so much to go through, cut out, and put together so we can have a different kind of written, readable history of these months of organizing. Anyone with letters (either written or received), newspaper articles from outside Maine (or from smaller, more obscure Maine papers), or other written material you think relevant we would appreciate a copy of what you have so we can be as complete as possible. Anyone wishing to help with the compiling can contact Anne Phibbs, 866-4534.

FUNDING TASK FORCE REPORT

Ginny Holmes

The Funding Task Force has been working on three aspects of funding for the Coalition--budgeting, or figuring out how much money the Coalition is going to need to do what it wants to do for the next year; funding, or figuring out where that money is going to come from; and fiscal policies, or setting out some ground rules for the spending and acquiring of money.

Budgeting--We have begun a tentative budget which includes only general costs of the Coalition and the printing and mailing of the newsletter. We are in the process of gathering information from the task forces about their money needs for the projects that they project for the next year. Even without the money for projects included, we need more than \$3200. Once we have added in the budgets for the task forces, our needs could be as much as \$10,000.

Funding--Needless to say, we need to locate some sources of money to fund the projects that we want to do. The funding task force has begun a sponsorship campaign (see last page of newsletter), which will enable each of us to sponsor the Coalition to the extent that we wish. This will be an ongoing source of funds, and will make it possible for us to support the Coalition's work in a consistent way. We are also looking into some grant sources which might be interested in funding some specific task force projects. Other possibilities of funding that we are tossing around are advertising in the newsletter and a business sponsorship. If anyone has some good ideas, we'd love to hear them!

Policies--The funding task force made a proposal to the steering committee, and then to the larger Coalition, of some guidelines for spending money. These guidelines were approved and consist of the following:

- All income must go to money manager (Ginny Holmes) and be entered in books.
- All expenses must be paid by the money manager, be entered in the books, and be backed up by some documentation (phone bill, sales slip, etc.).
- All expenses must be okayed prior to being incurred.
 - a. Under \$5.00 - okayed by money manager or other member of fiscal committee
 - b. Over \$5.00 - okayed by steering committee through fiscal committee (F.C. brings to S.C.)
- Once something has been approved as a regular expense, it need only to be re-approved by fiscal committee (e.g., newsletter printing expense).
- Money manager will report to Steering Committee on Income & Expenses at least once a month--every two weeks if possible.
- Reports to large group as necessary by steering committee (could be delegated by steering committee back to money manager or fiscal committee).

These policies will make it possible for us to know what we have spent, to plan reasonably for the future, and to maintain accountability to the membership of the Coalition.

Besides these main tasks, the funding task force has been looking into bulk mailing and applying for a permit, investigating our tax status, and drawing up the pros and cons of applying for non-profit status.

We generally meet on Wednesdays in the middle of the day. If anyone is interested in becoming a new member of the funding committee, please call Ginny Holmes-469-2917 or Lee Nicoloff-862-2078.

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HELP OTHERS FIND OUT ABOUT BAGLSC. PASS THE NEWSLETTER ON TO A FRIEND!

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PUBLIC EDUCATION TASK FORCE

The Public Education Task Force is compiling a bibliography of gay and lesbian material and we are interested in contributions from coalition members. So if you've a book you enjoyed or think is important, please forward publishing information (author, title, publisher, date), and your personal response/comments if you wish, to a task force member.

SELF DEFENSE

information obtained by the Legal Task Force, from the National Gay Task Force.

Although anti-gay violence is nothing new, it seems to be especially prevalent in areas where gay people have a high profile. But returning to the closet or becoming invisible to avoid attacks is the surest way to make our communities and our own self-respect disintegrate. The alternative is to take steps to minimize the risk of attacks and to protect ourselves if they occur.

Following are some suggestions as to how lesbians and gay men can protect themselves better from street violence. They are based on safety information published by various local groups including the Madison All-Gays Crisis and Counseling Violence Project, and San Francisco's Community United Against Violence. Remember that not all attacks can be prevented or escaped from; these self-defense guidelines should not be construed as an attempt to shift responsibility from the assailant to the victim. All too often gay victims of violence are blamed for attacks they neither invited nor deserved. The notion that we are responsible for violence against us is as antiquated and destructive as similar notions used to justify rape.

HOW TO MINIMIZE THE RISK OF ATTACK

Know your local "danger zones," areas where lesbians and gay men have been frequently attacked. Try to avoid these areas if you are alone. Pick routes where there is life in the streets: other pedestrians, open stores, traffic. If it is late and you are able to take a cab or bus to your destination, do so.

If you must walk alone, walk assertively and be alert. If you are intoxicated, drugged, tired, or upset, try not to show it. Assailants have a nose for vulnerability and are looking for easy targets.

Make brief eye contact with people who walk toward you to determine whether they are a threat and to let them know you are aware of their approach. If you hear someone behind you, don't be afraid or embarrassed to turn around and see who it is. If you feel threatened, you very well may be, and you should act accordingly. Analyze later. Every second of denial reduces the time you might need to escape.

If you think someone is following you, widen the distance between the two of you. Walk closer to the street or cross the street. Walk into a store. Run if you need to.

Avoid close-up verbal exchanges with people you are not comfortable with. If people in cars or on the street ask you a question or request directions, yell back a response rather than approach them.

Prolonged or aggravated verbal exchanges often result in violence. If someone taunts or harasses you, do not respond unless you are prepared for a fight.

Learn some basic self-defense techniques. Many gay people grow up believing they are weak and can't defend themselves; they underestimate the power they really have. Although some types of self-defense are sophisticated and take years to master, others are simple, easy to learn and often quite effective. Their purpose is not to overpower and subdue an attacker but to injure a vulnerable area so that you can escape.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE ATTACKED

If you carry a whistle--and you should--use it. Or yell. Your voice is a powerful instrument, and yelling may deter an attacker as well as getting your own adrenalin going and alerting others in the vicinity to what is happening.

On the other hand, if your assailant is armed with a gun, stay quiet and still. And never rush at someone who has a knife. If the motive is robbery rather than assault, do not resist.

Once violence has begun, however, defend yourself. Homophobic assailants are no less vicious if you are passive, and they often don't expect much resistance from their gay victims. Surprise them. Aim blows at vulnerable areas: the face, throat, solar plexus, groin, kidneys. Stomp their feet. Kick their shins. Knee them in the crotch. Scream bloody murder. And as soon as you can, run like hell.

A single heavy blow to your face or head could be fatal. If you fall or are forced to the ground, tuck your head into your arms.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE AN ATTACK

Call the police immediately from the nearest phone. In many communities, dialing 911 will connect you directly with the police switchboard.

Blow a whistle. Yell "Fire!" or "Police!" Bang garbage cans. Try to get help.

If your community has a lesbian/gay anti-violence project, call and make a report. Call Richard Forcier, 947-1253. Or call the NGTF Crisisline at 800-221-7044 between 3-9 pm. Or dial HELP.

WHAT TO DO AFTER AN ATTACK

Get medical attention if you need it from the nearest hospital emergency room. Many states compensate victims for injuries sustained during a crime. Find out what benefits you are entitled to; do not let any personal financial constraints prevent your getting the medical care you need.

Report the attack to the police; you can call from the hospital if necessary. Don't let anyone discourage you from filing a report or pressing charges. Write down the number of the report form and the names and badge numbers of any police officers you talk with. Ask to see mug shots in case your assailant has a record.

Don't try to deal with the incident all by yourself. Often after street attacks victims are disoriented and may have difficulty attending even to simple tasks. This is normal. Ask your friends for help in dealing with the police, doctors, and the criminal-justice system.

Even when a victim is not physically hurt, the fear and emotional trauma of an attack can linger for a long time afterward. Many are reluctant even to think about the incident, let alone talk about it, so they suffer in silence. Others, in contrast, may want to rehash it endlessly. Friends should be supportive and patient. If you have been victimized, talk with someone about it. Get mad about it. Get it out of your system. If you are having trouble coping, don't hesitate to seek short-term counseling to help you work through it. Get in touch with local support services for gay crime victims by calling your local gay switchboard or the NGTF Crisisline (800) 221-7044.

Let the gay and non-gay community know what happened to you. If anti-gay assaults are chronic in your area, channel your rage by working to organize a project to combat them. NGTF will help by putting you in touch with existing local groups, furnishing standard violence-report forms, and providing information about approaches that have been effective elsewhere.

Remember the BAGLC effort to document harassment and violence against gay men and lesbians. Call Richard Forcier, 947-1253.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF GAYS AND LESBIANS GROUP FORMINGWANTED:

Parents and friends of gays and lesbians to form the nucleus of a support group in the Orono-Bangor area. We hope to have an initial meeting in October so we need to know now if anyone out here is interested. Call Stan Freeman at 581-2487 for information and/or to express interest. You may leave first name and a phone number with the secretary who covers when Stan is out of the office. He will return your call.

WILDE-STEIN REPORT - UMO

Cindy Dean

Wilde-Stein, UMO's support group for lesbians and gay men, has gotten off to a fabulous start. With three meetings and one potluck supper behind us, we're pleased with all the new energy this semester.

Our speakers bureau is quickly getting underway. We're sending flyers to both the faculty and the R.A.'s of the dorms to let them know that we are available to speak. We're hoping for a good response. In the past we've spoken in dorms, in classes, and to some student groups.

Lastly, and most importantly, our weekly meetings/support groups have been going well. Last Sunday was a scrumptious potluck that attracted more than one new face. We've made it a priority to keep our business to a minimum and to spend more time on getting to know each other and providing support.

Our group has had a ten year herstory/history of being a support group for the whole community-all lesbians, gay men and their friends-whether connected to UMO or not. We extend an open invitation to all our meetings-Sundays at 7 pm in the South Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union, UMO.

LISTING OF CONTACT PEOPLE FOR BAGLSC TASK FORCES

Legal	942-3379	Scott Hamilton Fred Hodge
Media	866-4534 384-8857	Anne Phibbs John O'Keefe
Education	843-5483	Kay Wilkins
Social/Support Groups	884-8857	Bob
Political	947-2003	Diana
Funding	469-2917	Ginny Holmes
Speakers Bureau	942-3476	Jennifer Noyes
Clergy/Laity	945-5231 942-9369	Debbie Sue

REGULAR MEETINGS--TIMES AND PLACES

BAGLSC Large Group--Every other Monday, 7:30 pm, Unitarian Church, Bangor.

BAGLSC Steering Committee--Every Tuesday, 5:15-7 pm, Unitarian Church, Bangor. Except Oct. 9, meeting at Sandy Gardner's house, 8 Somerset St., Bangor, for potluck supper.

BAGLSC Media Task Force--Monday evenings at 7 pm on nights of BAGLSC large group mtgs. Mondays 5:30-6:45 pm on other Mondays. All mtgs. are at the Unitarian Church, Bangor.

Interweave Bangor--Third Saturday of the month, 6 pm potluck and meeting, Unitarian Church, Bangor.

Wilde-Stein--Sundays at 7 pm, South Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union, UMO.

Lesbian/Gay Alcoholics Anonymous--Thursdays 7:30 pm and Sundays 4 pm, both meetings at the Unitarian Church, Bangor

CALENDAR OF EVENTS--OCTOBER 1984

Tues. Oct 2--BAGLSC Political Task Force Mtg., 59 Fern St., Bangor, 7:30 pm

Thurs. Oct 4--Greater Bangor NOW Mtg., Lois Galgay Reckitt, Vice President of National Organization for Women, speaking. Fundraiser for ERA for Maine, \$5 donation requested, but not required. Bangor Public Library, 2nd fl., 7 pm

--1st. Anniversary celebration for the Bangor Lesbian/Gay A.A. mtg. Potluck at 5:30, followed by mtg. at 7:30, Unitarian Church, Bangor

Mon. Oct. 8--BAGLSC Large Group Mtg., 7:30 pm, Unitarian Church, Bangor.

Tues. Oct. 9--Bangor City Elections--VOTE!

Sat. Oct. 13--Freeze Walk, Bangor

Sun. Oct. 14--Maine Gay and Lesbian Political Alliance Mtg., Bangor, 1 pm, tentatively at the Unitarian Church.

Mon. Oct. 15--Bangor School Committee Mtg., 8 pm, Abraham Lincoln School, Bangor.

Sat. Oct. 20--Women's Dance, SBA on Main St. above Grasshopper Shop, 8 pm, Belfast.

Mon. Oct. 22--BAGLSC Large Group Mtg., Workshop on Process/Structure, 7:30 pm, Unitarian Church, Bangor.

Thurs. Oct. 25--Greater Bangor NOW Mtg., Sharon Barker speaker, Bangor Public Library, 2nd floor, 7 pm.

Sat. Oct. 27--Men's Educational Network Potluck and Discussion, 5 pm, Unitarian Church Bangor.

Mon. Oct. 29--Bangor School Committee Mtg., 7 pm, Abraham Lincoln School, Bangor.

CALENDAR Cont.

Mon. Nov. 5--BAGLSC large Group Meeting, Vote on Decision-making Process, 7:30 pm,
Unitarian Church, Bangor.

Tues. Nov. 6--State and National Elections--ERA Referendum--VOTE!

THE NEWSLETTER

Editing: Lee K. Nicoloff

Publishing: Richard Forcier

Mailing: Joan Levinson, Cindy Dean, Valerie Martier

Contributions of articles, essays, letters, and announcements are welcomed.
Submission deadline is the 20th of the month. Mail to Lee K. Nicoloff, 314 Main Rd.,
Hampden, Maine 04444, 862-2078

SUPPORTING THE COALITION:THE IDEA OF SPONSORSHIP

The Coalition has gratefully received contributions during the past couple of months which have made a number of our activities possible, including the production and mailing of this newsletter. On an on-going basis, however, steady sources of income will be necessary in order to cover our regular operating expenses (postage, printing, phone calls, rent, etc.), as well as the cost of projects of the various task forces.

The idea of sponsorship involves supporting the work of the Coalition through regular contributions from as many concerned members of the community as possible. Funding our work in such a way will hopefully contribute to a feeling of community, of commitment, and of strength in our numbers.

Please offer whatever you can as a sponsor. Regular, small donations from a large number of people will do much toward keeping the Coalition solvent and furthering our common goals. In order to become a sponsor, clip and mail in the coupon at the end of this newsletter.

----- CLIP HERE -----

BANGOR AREA GAY-LESBIAN-STRAIGHT COALITION ADDRESS:

BAGLSC
P.O. Box 1805
Bangor, Maine 04401

Name: _____

Address: _____ (Zip) _____ Phone: _____

_____ Count me as a sponsor of the Coalition. (Sponsors automatically receive newsletters and notices of events).

I'd like to contribute: _____ \$1 per month to its support.

_____ \$3

_____ \$5

_____ \$10

_____ (fill in)

_____ I am enclosing a contribution of _____ to help the Coalition in its work.

_____ Please place me on the Coalition mailing list so that I can receive newsletters and announcements. (Contributions are welcomed, but not required in order to receive newsletter and other mailings.)

_____ I am enclosing a contribution of _____, but please DO NOT send me any mailings.

Make checks payable to BAGLSC.