



# Capitol Notebook

Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance

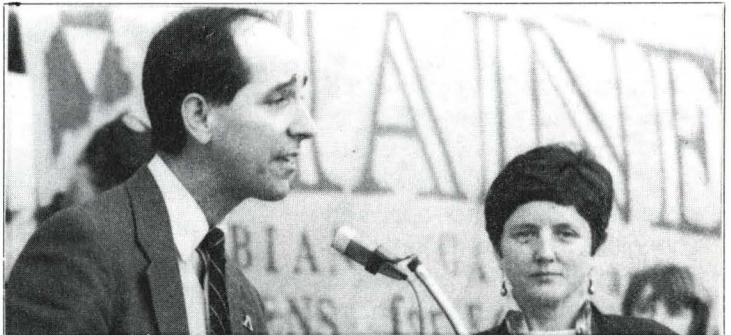
PO Box 232

Hallowell ME 04347

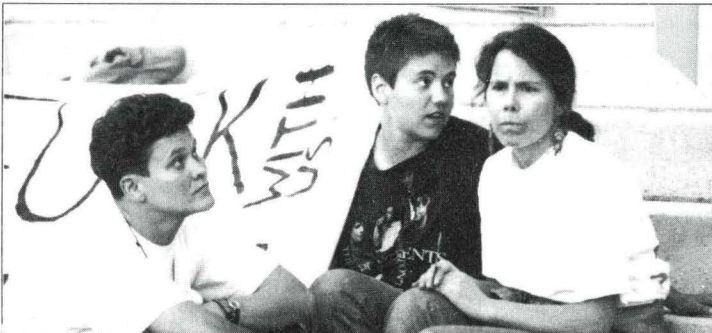
## Discrimination Survives Despite Support man who once promised not to hurls veto at gays

Hopes for civil rights for lesbians, gays and bisexuals in Maine this year were destroyed when Governor John McKernan vetoed LD 246, "An Act To Prevent Discrimination." The bill was passed by both houses of the legislature the first time since it was first introduced in the 108th Legislature in 1977. Activists had hoped that with passage in both houses, and ever broadening community support, McKernan might let the measure become law without his signature and avoid a veto.

In a move similar to the last legislative session, McKernan



A rally attracting more than 200 was held on the front steps of the Statehouse shortly after the veto. Leading off in the open-mike rally were (**top photo**) LD 246 prime sponsors Sen. Gerard Conley, Jr. (D-Portland) and Rep. Susan Farnsworth (D-Hallowell). Intensity is revealed in the faces of (**left photo**) Laurie Holt, archactivist Bee Bell, and MLGPA Director Karen Geraghty. Pictured **below** are a few of the dozens of home-made signs which showed up at the rally. More photos, page three. **Photographs courtesy of Dawn Fortune.**



grumbled about the presence of the bill, then, in his trademark fashion, he said he would let the bill become law if significant numbers from both parties voted in favor.

Next came another second-floor-fumble when the story was that he might be able to accept a Portland-style bill that would involve the courts. With knowledge of a nearly fiscally bankrupt court system and warnings from legal advisors it wouldn't work, activists dared hope for a reprieve. The story changed the next day when, chameleon-like, Governor

see **Discrimination**, page two



## Hate Crimes Bill Promising

What caused an uproar in 1987 appears to have promise this year as an important tool for law enforcement agencies in protecting the lives of minorities. The Attorney General's office has introduced LD 1334, An Act to Amend the Maine Civil Rights Act Regarding Violations of Constitutional Rights. The bill seeks to add specific protected categories to establish a right of a person to be free of violence or property damage

see **Hate Crimes**, page two

## Right Wing: Twin Threats

Just as hard as we work to gain small steps toward equality, the Religious Right Wing works to take them away from us. Lewiston's City Council voted 5 - 2 in January in support of protection for lesbians and gays in housing, jobs, credit and public accommodation. Extremists immediately submitted enough signatures that a referendum will now be held in November to attempt to reverse the city ordinance.

see **Right Wing**, page four



**Hate Crimes**, from page one  
motivated by bias. Race, color, religion, sex, ancestry, national origin or sexual orientation are plugged in as the protected categories. This mechanism allows intervention by the Attorney General's Department to seek injunctive relief.

The 1987 attempt to amend the harassment statutes in the 113th Maine Legislature (LD 1331) was attacked as a "back door attempt at a gay rights law." It really sought to give victims of hate bias better access to the legal system and increased protection. This, despite being backed by a large coalition of groups formed from the protected categories list. To gain passage, the "shopping list" was removed.

In an ironic twist of fortune, some of those who opposed recognition of sexual minorities in 1987 are among its supporters this year. Indeed, Jack Wyman, Executive Director of the Christian Civic League of Maine testified in favor of the proposal, noting that: "Racism, anti-semitism, religious bigotry and homophobia all represent the forces of hate and they fuel the fires of social divisions and of violence in our state and in our nation."

LD 1334 was reported out of committee with an unanimous ought-to-pass vote, with one abstention. An amendment attached could not be identified at press time, but was thought to be a non-threatening fiscal note.

## Report Crime!

**Help Stop Hate Crime**  
**Report all cases of**  
**violence, intimidation**  
**and harassment to**  
**The Attorney General's**  
**Hate-Bias Crime Log**

**626-8844**

## Discrimination, from page 1

McKernan changed his line again, telling us he might be able to support protection to someone who first had been bashed. End of April meetings in both Portland and Augusta found activists telling the sponsors: We don't need more bashings. All or Nothing!

McKernan, in a letter to Sen. Conley, said of his opposition: In the sensitive area of civil rights, we should not extend statutory rights to a class of persons who have not yet established a constitutionally protected status in our courts."

Before the legislature for the ninth time, the bill would have amended Maine's Human Rights Act to add sexual orientation to the protected categories. Lesbians, gays, and bisexuals would then be protected against discrimination in the areas of housing, employment, public accommodation, and credit. Complaints are resolved through an administrative process of the Maine Human Rights Commission. That remedy failing, court proceedings are available to the aggrieved.

Significant among the more than 60 supporting organizations (complete list on page five) were the Maine Bankers Association and the Maine Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The hoped-for influence of the business community on the governor failed, ending in veto. Also lost on McKernan was the solidarity of union support, weighing in with backing from Maine AFL-CIO, the Maine State Employees Association, and the Maine Teachers Association.

Several activities are seen as effective this year. Decentralization of the workload worked well, with committees carrying out their functions in Portland, Augusta, Bangor, and Aroostook county. The writing and phoning process was helped this year by greater participation. Press was generally good-our releases were great, what became of them was sometimes lacking. Editorially, the Portland papers were strongly in support. Lewiston was weak, and while not declaring support, the "Bangor Daily News" didn't look like the right-wing mirror of old. The "News" did get suckered by the Governor's compromise shuffle, finding fresh air where

there was clearly foul. Coming out of conservative (and Republican) territory, the "Lincoln News" bravely editorialized for civil rights! Was that why Senator Michael Pearson, after years of denial, finally relented that we didn't need the rancor of a referendum process, and surprisingly voted to override the veto?

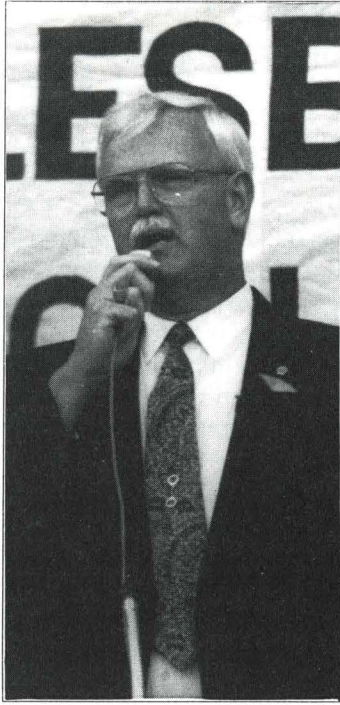
One clear measure of cohesiveness of the campaign was that candle-light vigils were maintained in front of the Governor's (in need of paint) mansion for two hours every night for three weeks. That, when many had projects to complete, and took a break to march on Washington, D.C. Vigil walkers were greatly encouraged by ever-increasing numbers of thumbs-up and horn honkings from passers-by. Governor McKernan recognized the "Well organized supporters of this bill who are in front of my house every night," during a press session.

The work is done and done well. The anger and disappointment will turn to energy for another season. The stage is now set for increased involvement by lesbians and gays in the electoral process to insure not only a supportive governor, but larger margins of support in both houses of the 117th Maine Legislature.

## The Veto of LD 246

Our governor the other day  
Dashed hopes of lesbian and gay  
To leave in peace without the fear  
Of getting fired for being "queer,"  
Or waking to the bigot's rock  
Tossed through their windows: Thus has Jock  
Surrendered to the "Christian" Right.  
You've him to thank next time a fight  
Erupts outside your local bar  
Whose patrons, vexed by who you are,  
Attempt to rearrange your face;  
Nobody's safe. Lame ducks disgrace  
Themselves as if there's no tomorrow,  
And veto Justice, to Maine's sorrow.  
But equal rights are not yet dead;  
If Jock won't lead, let him be led.  
Two-thirds can make an override:  
If swayed by thruth to Virtue's side,  
A few votes switch, Reason has won.  
The People's will, not Jock's, be done.

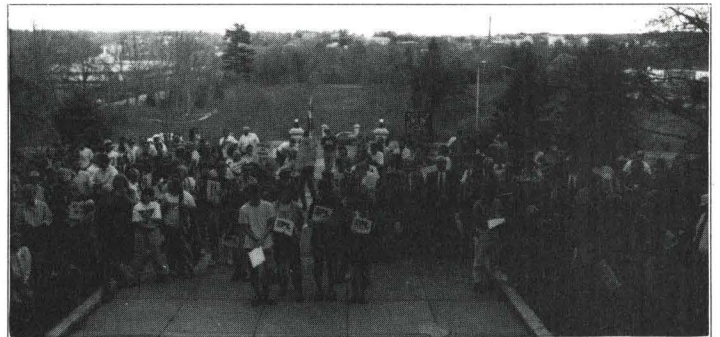




Lewiston Police Chief Laurent Gilbert (**left photo**) brings a message of encouragement to the statehouse rally. Neither Gilbert nor Lewiston Mayor James Howanietz joined a demonstration following the rally as reported in a Lewiston newspaper. Senator Dale McCormick (**center photo**) congratulates activists on their accomplishments. Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Steve Wessler (**right photo**) offers words of encouragement.



MLGPA President Paula Aboud (**left**) addresses the gathering of more than 200 from the Statehouse steps, some of whom can be seen in the photo below.



Following the rally, about a hundred marched across the street to the front of the Blaine House for an hour-and-a-half demonstration. Shouting slogans and blowing whistles, the crowd vented their anger at Governor McKernan's slight. A lone Augusta Police officer surveys the accumulating traffic back up as protesters do civil disobedience. Before reinforcements arrived, traffic had been disrupted for nearly 45 minutes. State troopers joined Augusta Police in attempting to convince demonstrators to keep to the sidewalk. Noisy, but peaceful, individuals would comply, only to be replaced by others. Police arrested one demonstrator, and finally succeeded in restoring traffic flow. **Dawn Fortune Photos**





**Right Wing**, from page one

All lesbians and gays and friends of civil liberties are asked to offer time and money to help defeat the radical right. Throw a fundraiser in your town for Equal Protection Lewiston (EPL) and send the check to EPL at PO Box 7804, Lewiston ME 04243. We must all come together to help Lewiston win in '93.

Another dreaded referendum campaign is rearing its ugly right wing face in the state of Maine. Language identical to Colorado's hated referendum language was submitted recently in 12 other states for a November '94 vote. Maine is one of those targeted states. Carolyn Cosby, of Portland, is the front for the national religious war that Pat Robertson and Pat Buchanan called for at the Republican National Convention last year. That war targets lesbians and gays across America! This state is in the battle for our lives in the next 18 months-if Cosby can get 53 thousand signatures in the next nine months. WE MUST STOP HER!

MLGPA is mobilizing the l/g community state-wide to prepare for the vicious campaign that is expected. All of us are asked to get our lives into a stable and secure place, save your money, and begin to free yourselves up to work together, side-by-side with us to defeat the dreaded enemy to our civil rights - perhaps to our well-being.

Here is what you can do: Make community contacts with other lesbians, gays, and friends. Come to the August 7th referendum training in Augusta. Connect at every possibility with others from across Maine. Bond with your community and friends now in order to get their alliance in the long run.

Finally, send money to help us organize this state-wide effort against the right. This is a fight for our lives. Only you can make a difference. Join the cause today!

**5000 cards and letters  
went to legislators and the  
governor.**

**Outstanding!**

**Paula**

## **Yes on Support No on Military**

The U.S. Military found no supporters among members of the MLGPA Board of Directors during their May 9 meeting. In the face of referenda in Lewiston and statewide, working for lifting the ban on lesbians and gays in the military was not considered a priority of the organization. Members are encouraged to pursue their individual interests surrounding the ban through other organizations.

In Maine, the campaign on lifting the ban is being led by the Maine Civil Liberties Union. MCLU is organizing on behalf of a large national coalition formed around this issue. The civil libertarians point out Maine's prominence in Congress, citing Congressman Tom Andrews and Senator Bill Cohen who sit on their house's Armed Service Committees.

The Human Rights Campaign Fund has a new campaign underway. Members interested in holding letter writing parties for groups of any size may call for a how-to video. Contact Timothy Cavanaugh of HRCF at 202-628-4160. Action is advised soon, as recommendations will be forwarded from the Pentagon to the President in a very short time. Support your brothers and sisters and lobby, write and phone.

Of Maine's four congress persons, only Rep. Andrews supports lifting the ban. Sen. Cohen is cadging his position, claiming "open mindedness." Sen. George Mitchell, who is standing for reelection next year, is not committed to supporting our community's issues. Rep. Olympia Snowe is suspected of homophobia.

If you have interest in lifting the ban on lesbians and gays in the military, you should let your leaders know. Our failure to provide feedback and support only fortifies ignorance of the issues in the city where we need well-informed people who are willing to listen. Write Rep. Andrews and thank him for his unqualified support. Sen. Cohen needs to hear that he is not supporting his lesbian and gay constituents. Sen. Mitchell is asking for money and votes. He should be reminded that they will come only after he makes an unequivocal statement on issues of

interest to us. Olympia Snowe is a disappointment.

Compromises to lifting the ban are being suggested from a number of places, including early opponent Sen Sam Nunn, and out Congressman Barney Frank. Activists have rejected compromises which would require homosexuals to serve, but remain silent about their sexual orientation. HRCF executive director Tim McFeeley said: "People should not have to lie in order to serve our country. Any proposal that requires men and women to lie about their status in order to keep their careers is unacceptable."

Questions and answers about homosexuals in the military and some arguments against the most regressive positions are available. If you didn't pick up the handout at Symposium XX, we'll be happy to mail you one. Call 942-3901.

### **The Maine Delegation**

Rep Thomas H Andrews  
1724 Longworth House Ofc. Bldg.  
Washington DC 20515-1901  
1-800-445-4092

Rep Olympia J Snowe  
2464 Rayburn Bldg.  
Washington DC 20515-1902  
1-800-432-1599

Sen George J Mitchell  
176 Russell Senate Ofc. Bldg.  
Washington DC 20510-1902  
202-874-0833

Sen William S Cohen  
322 Hart Senate Ofc. Bldg.  
Washington DC 20510-1901  
202-622-8414

**Can you spare a dime?  
Do you have some time?  
Community support for**

**EPL**  
**Equal Protection  
LEWISTON**

**PO Box 7804  
Lewiston 04243  
784-5818**



## Fine Print

Fine Print - Fine Organizations which supported An Act to end Discrimination  
ACT UP, Portland Chapter  
Adolescent Services Network  
Advocates for Equality and Family Benefits for the University of Maine System  
Am Chofshi  
American Association of University Women  
Associated Faculty of the University of Maine  
Coalition for Maine's Children  
Committee for a Safe Energy Future  
Committee to Advise the DHS on AIDS  
Cumberland County Child Abuse & Neglect Council  
Dirigo Alliance  
Eastern Maine AIDS network  
Equal Protection Lewiston  
Equal Protection Portland  
Family Planning Association of Maine  
Feminist Spiritual Community  
Gay/Lesbian Community News of Bangor  
Holocaust Human Rights Center  
Jewish Labor Committee  
League of Women Voters of Maine  
Maine AFL-CIO  
Maine AIDS Alliance  
Maine Bankers Association  
Maine Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Maine Civil Liberties Union  
Maine Coalition for Family Crisis Services  
Maine Council of Churches  
Maine Democratic Party  
Maine Displaced Homemakers Program  
Maine Green Party  
Maine Home Economics Association  
Maine Lesbian Gay Political Alliance  
Maine Medical Association  
Maine Peace Campaign  
Maine People's Alliance  
Maine Psychiatric Association  
Maine Psychological Association  
Maine State Employees Association  
Maine Teachers Association  
Maine Women's Lobby  
NAACP, Maine Chapter  
National Coalition Building Institute  
National Council of Jewish Women, Southern Maine Section  
National Lawyer's Guild, Maine Chapter  
National Organization for Women, Maine Chapter  
Neighborhood Action Coalition of Greater Portland  
Outright, Too: Bangor Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth  
Outright: Portland Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth  
Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays  
Parkside Neighborhood Association  
Portland Friends Meeting  
Portland Interfaith Council  
Portland West Neighborhood Planning Council  
The Matlovich Society  
Time Out: Maine/New Hampshire Outdoors  
University of Maine Professional Staff Association  
University of Maine School of Law, Lesbian Gay Bisexual Law Students Caucus  
Veterans for Peace, Maine State Council  
We Who Care  
Women's Legislative Action Coalition  
YWCA of Portland

## GLAD Files Case

The spring newsletter from the Boston-based Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) outlines a case involving a Bangor dentist.

GLAD AIDS Law Project Director William Garza has filed a complaint of denial of access to a place of public accommodations against the dentist who refused to provide treatment to a gay man who was HIV+. Filed in Superior Court in Bangor, the complaint, on behalf of the now deceased client, alleges that Dr. Randon Bragdon's receptionist told the man seeking treatment that the doctor would not accept anyone "with diseases like strep throat, HIV or anything else." In fact, the Maine Human Rights Commission ruled early this year that Dr. Bragdon's thirteen-year-old written policy violated the complainant's civil rights under the Maine Civil Rights Act.

Garza commented, "It's about time that this dentist, and all other dentists in Maine and throughout the country, realized they are subject to the anti-discrimination laws of the states they practice in and to applicable federal law."

Upon filing the case, Garza added, "Thirteen years of open, institutionalized and invidious discrimination will come to an end. No one should have to put up with the embarrassment and humiliation of being refused even the most basic dental services on the basis of their HIV status. This case may signal the beginning of the end to this kind of unacceptable behavior."

## MLGPA Annual Meeting

The election of officers and directors of the organization will be taking place this fall. The annual meeting of the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance has been scheduled for 2 p.m. September 17, at the Winthrop St. Unitarian Church in Augusta.

Any member whose dues are paid may vote. To become a candidate for office, contact Rita Clifford of the nominating committee at 892-6136. Four officers and 14 directors will be elected at this meeting.

## City Councilor Clarifies Record

Portland City Councilor Cheryl Leeman has gone on record as supporting the outcome of the Portland civil rights referendum. She had been absent during the ordinance's adoption.

District IV council candidate Teresa Bachelder had noted Leeman's absence in an MLGPA mailing. More than 200 MLGPA members in Portland were sent candidate position statements prior to the May city council elections. Candidates had been asked to make statements on any issues they felt relevant. No response had been received from Cheryl Leeman.

Leeman phoned to rectify misunderstandings immediately after the mailing had been distributed. She explained that she had sent her statement to an incorrect address. A work conflict prevented her from attending the council meeting which voted in the civil rights ordinance last year. Leeman, who directs the state office of the Head Start program, was involved in meetings in Washington, D.C.

The councilor told MLGPA: "Although I did not have the benefit of the public hearing on both sides of the issue, my position is unquestionably to support the majority decision of the voters of Portland in saying 'no' to discrimination. And I will continue to do volunteer work for the AIDS Project."

## Fight The Right

MLGPA has the perfect idea for the political activist who is between legislative sessions or the individual who is concerned about the right wing drive to steal your rights. We will be conducting a training session on how to defeat the anti-gay referenda being forced upon us by right wing extremists.

The session will be offered Saturday, August 7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Winthrop St. Unitarian Church in Augusta.

Review the lessons learned from last year's disastrous hate-filled campaigns in Oregon and Colorado. Among the topics to be covered in this session are:

△ How to expose the rhetoric of the right.

△ Rural, grass roots organizing.

△ Forming coalitions with non-gay groups.

△ Press/Media 101 and 201

△ How to mold the right message for your campaign.

**Save Saturday, August 7, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**



## Scholarship Challenge

Members and friends are being challenged to match \$500 offered for the annual scholarship program. For the second year MLGPA has awarded two high school seniors \$500 scholarships to attend post-secondary schools of their choice.

Scholarship chair Allen LaPan reports that more than two dozen entries were received following announcement of the offer at high schools statewide. Among application requirements are an essay on the topic: "in a society that routinely discriminates, what can I do to protect others from discrimination?"

Winners of this year's scholarships were Gretchen Schaefer from Woodland High School, and Noel Sanders of Windham High School.

Those interested in helping deserving young people and in helping meet the challenge may send donations in any amount to MLGPA Scholarship Committee, 18 Summer St., Augusta, ME 04330.

## Silent Auction

Remember the Silent Auction from the Annual Dinner? It is still going on. There are a few leftover items or late offers available. Sooo, send your bids on the following to Paula at PO Box 34, S China ME 04358 by July 4.

1. 1 Reiki Session by Vicki Walsh. Value \$75 Min. Bid \$50
2. 1 Therapeutic Massage by Deb Swanson. Value \$40 Min. Bid \$30
3. 1 Shampoo, cut & Styling by J Hairs. Value \$50 Min. Bid \$35
4. Hair services only by Hair Cut 100. Value \$50 Min. Bid \$35
5. 4 Hot tub & Sauna sessions. Richmond. Value \$50 Min. Bid \$35
6. 1 hr Polarity Session Sandy Hanson. Value \$35 Min. Bid \$25
7. Income Tax Preparation Yvonne Carey. Value \$40 Min. Bid \$25
8. Personal Last Will Sue Longley. Value \$150 Min. Bid \$100
9. 1hr pre-filing Human Rights consultation. Value \$100 Min. Bid \$60

Include your name, address, phone, item you are bidding on, and your bid price. Winners notified by July 10.

## Recognition Needed

Out there somewhere in your communities there are one or two people who you need to take a minute and recognize. In the past month these folks have gone the extra step on your behalf. This year for the first time ever a majority of Maine's Legislators voted in favor of civil rights. The organization has sent a thank you note, but a friendly note from a constituent would reinforce a legislator's bond with those they represent. Legislators work hard and deserve our thanks when they support us. Some made a big step when they supported our bill and that effort needs reinforcement.

Thanks to the governor's veto of civil rights, we'll be going around again. While you're writing that note to your legislator think about the future. Make a promise—at least to yourself—to join the campaign a year from November and help that person get reelected. Our success in winning both houses is proof enough that our participation is working. Here is a list of those who voted in support of civil rights. The list is in geographic order, from north to south, and back.

### The Maine Senate

Paradis, Judy  
Vose, Harry  
Cianchette, Alton  
Baldacci, John  
O'Dea, John  
Berube, Georgette  
Carey, Richard  
McCormick, Dale  
Bustin, Beverly  
Pingree, Rochelle  
Cleveland, John  
Handy, James  
Titcomb, Bonnie L  
Harriman, Philip  
Butland, Jeffrey  
Esty Jr, Donald  
Brannigan, Joseph  
Conley, Gerard  
Amero, Jane  
Dutremble, Dennis  
Lawrence, Mark

Madawaska  
Meddybemps  
Palmyra  
Bangor  
Orono  
Lewiston  
Belgrade  
Monmouth  
Augusta  
N Haven  
Auburn  
Lewiston  
Casco  
Yarmouth  
Cumberland  
Westbrook  
Portland  
Portland  
Cape Elizabeth  
Biddeford  
Kittery

Heeschen, Conrad  
Tracy, Richard  
Michael, John  
Cote, Constance  
Dore, Susan  
Beam, Joline  
Fitzpatrick, Michael  
Chonko, Lorraine  
Holt, Maria  
Small, Mary  
Coles, James  
Kilkelly, Marjorie  
Melendy, Rita  
Bowers, James  
Chase, Gail  
Mitchell, Elizabeth  
Daggett, Beverly  
Paradis, Patrick  
Farnsworth, Susan  
Treat, Sharon  
Ault, Wendy  
Norton, Omar  
Joseph, Ruth  
Gwadosky, Daniel  
Hatch, Pamela  
Ketterer, Andrew  
Rotondi, Dorothy  
Clement, Arthur  
Lindhal, David  
Winn, Julie  
Saxl, Jane  
Sullivan, Mary  
Faircloth, Sean  
Morrison, Hugh  
Ruhlin, Richard  
Swazey, Michael  
Gray, Glenith  
Constantine, Virginia  
Walker, Ellen  
Stevens, Kathleen  
Cashman, David  
Townsend, George  
Martin, Hilda  
Pinette, Elizabeth  
Martin, John

Dryden  
Rome  
Auburn  
Auburn  
Auburn  
Lewiston  
Durham  
Pejepscot  
Bath  
Bath  
South Harpswell  
Wiscasset  
Rockland  
Washington  
China  
Vassalboro  
Augusta  
Augusta  
Hallowell  
Gardiner  
Wayne  
Winthrop  
Waterville  
Fairfield  
Skowhegan  
Norridgewock  
Athens  
Clinton  
Northport  
Glenburn  
Bangor  
Sabattus  
Bangor  
Bangor  
Brewer  
Bucksport  
Sargentville  
Bar Harbor  
Blue Hill  
Orono  
Old Town  
Eastport  
Van Buren  
Fort Kent  
Eagle Lake

### The Maine House of Representatives

Wentworth, Jason  
Gean, Donald  
Hale, Mona  
Caron, Edward  
Kerr, George  
Nadeau, Guy  
Pendleton, Peggy  
Pendexter, Joan  
Simonds, Stephen  
Cloutier, Peter  
Johnson, Birger  
Rand, Anne  
Oliver, James  
Adams, Herbert  
Richardson, Fred  
Brennan, Michael  
Rowe, G Steven  
Townsend, Elizabeth  
Hoglund, Annette  
O'Gara, William  
Lemke, William  
Kontos, Carol  
Reed, Gary  
Mitchell, James  
Rydell, Charlene  
Pfeiffer, Sophia  
Carroll, Donnell

Kennebunkport  
Alfred  
Sanford  
Biddeford  
Old Orchard  
Saco  
Scarborough  
Scarborough  
Cape Elizabeth  
South Portland  
South Portland  
Portland  
Portland  
Portland  
Portland  
Portland  
Portland  
Portland  
Portland  
Westbrook  
Westbrook  
Windham  
Falmouth  
Freeport  
Brunswick  
Brunswick  
Gray

Will whomever has it please return my copy of the gay agenda?

Harry Gordon