

ANNOUNCEMENTS
GET SUPPORT

AUSTIN, TX - The *Austin American-Statesman* has received both praise and criticism for its decision to publish a wedding announcement for a Lesbian couple in its 7/12 issue.

According to Houston Gay weekly *The New Voice*, the *Statesman's* executives run wedding announcements as paid advertisements and therefore leave it up to the advertiser as to what will run. Last year, the executives decided not to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in the ads after Gays began to request such ads.

"The newspaper certainly has an editorial policy that supports strong family values," publisher Roger Kintzel told the *Voice*. "We have to understand that other people have different definitions of the word family."

And despite the religious opposition, Kintzel says that reaction from readers has been positive.

"By and large, there was more support than there was opposition," said Kintzel, who said that six of every 10 letters has been in favor of the same-sex ads. Kintzel said that the Gay marriage advertisements will continue.

SAD CHRISTIANS

LOS ANGELES, CA - On his 6/14 talk show on Christian radio station KBRT in Los Angeles, radio personality Greg Koukl "declared war" on gays and lesbians. From then on, he said, he would refer to homosexuals as "sad" because their lives are "anything but gay." During the three-hour show, every caller who used the word *gay* was told that *sad* was the correct terminology.

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Apex

A POINT OF DEPARTURE

VOL. 1, NO. 8

September 1992

VIOLENCE ON THE RISE...AGAIN

by P.O. Dyke

I never dreamed when my friend went off to live on the land - in a sleepy hamlet in Oregon - that she would be more on the front lines than I. At the time, I lived in San Francisco and the daily harassment on the streets was turning more and more into violence. My lover and I were assaulted several times. Though we discussed the danger of lesbians living in isolated areas, my basic feeling was that my friend was going off to a quieter, friendlier life with less intrusions and threat than we lived with.

Violence against us is more obvious to all of us these days. From the Michigan Women's Music Festival this year, there are early reports of two women being critically injured when a man in a Jeep ran over them. As the violence escalates, there are many who are using it to their own advantage.

Republican strategy this year is expected to turn its Willie Horton racism into homophobia, whipping up the fears of ordinary god-fearing bigots. The violence towards us is expected to rise accordingly, giving even more permission for acts of violence by homophobes. Anyone who doesn't believe the republicans, with their right-wing christian shock troops, are a serious danger, hasn't been following the neanderthal thinking of the right wing. In keeping with the tenor of the past 12 years, they have produced the most reactionary party platform yet, calling for a constitutional amendment to ban abortion and a plank opposing homosexual marriage. Yes, they

are painting themselves into a corner politically, but we continue to take the consequences of the phobia they spew.

Under the more hospitable atmosphere of the Reagan/Bush era, neo-nazis have

experienced a resurgence and now populate large areas of the west. Spreading out from Idaho, they are also very much in evidence in Oregon. Within the last few weeks we have received news from our friend in southern Oregon that she and her friends have been driven off their land.

Sometime in late July, they began to receive death threats from local neo-nazis. It began with notes found in their mailbox, directed to lesbians in general but singling out the woman of color and the Jewish lesbians living there. A number

of groups of lesbians live in proximity to this group but to their knowledge, those groups are composed only of white women and so are not immediate targets. After the notes were found in the mailbox, a swastika was painted on their door. The lesbians contacted the police and arranged a meeting with other lesbians. They received some support from other lesbians in the area, but their efforts were too little, too late and things continued to escalate quickly. Soon afterward, one of the group, a woman of color, was shot at and they decided to leave their land rather than continue to risk their lives.

They went to stay with a friend several hours drive from their land and woke up the next morning to find yet another death



photo by Madeleine Winter

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The Collective

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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) 282-8091

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LETTERS

Dear APEX;

In your last issue columnist Bee Bell posed some questions about Queer Nation's upcoming anti-violence project. Bell wondered why we were being so chummy with the Portland Police Department as we created this project. She also suggested we would be better off forming a queer patrol squad like the Pink Panthers in Boston, rather than rely on help from the police.

Let me begin by saying that QN has considered the idea of our own patrol squad but after examining all the facts we strongly believe this would be a bad and dangerous idea. Pink Panther groups have enjoyed success in large cities. Portland is not a large city, and unfortunately the queer power we have here is not very militant. Bell should know this by her own attempts to motivate the Portland community to do AIDS work. We even tried to gather support for such a patrol squad earlier this year, but not enough people were willing to give up their weekend nights to march the streets. Putting such a patrol squad to work, with the chance that it would be understaffed, is a chance QN is not willing to take.

As far as being chummy with the police, QN is always willing to take help where we can get it. The PPD, especially the Hate Crimes Div., has always been supportive of our actions and has made it safer for us to do whatever we've wanted to. Besides, part of our project will provide an opportunity to ask the police what they are doing to protect us. Hopefully, we'll be creating a dialogue in which we can ask questions, get information, and suggest some ideas. Not involving the police would be foolish. Their support would be needed with our own patrol squad anyway, probably even more so.

Edie Hoffman
Queer Nation Portland

To the Editor!

My name is Dianna Jablonski and I need lots of help. I love and miss my brother,

Ben, very much. Ben left home years ago searching for peace of mind and a chance to be himself. You see, Ben couldn't tell the rest of our family that he was gay, but he trusted me and told me. Because no one else understood him, he left. We kept in touch for a while by phone - he was still afraid to give his address or his phone number, though he called every 2 to 3 months. Then he and a friend were going to buy a townhouse and he said I wouldn't hear from him for a while. Then I had to move before he called again. That was 5-6 years ago. The last I knew, he was living in Portland, Maine.

Anyone who thinks they know Ben (he might be using a different name) please show him this letter and ask him to contact me through APEX. If nothing else, tell him his sister Dianna loves and misses him! Thank you!

Dianna Jablonski
El Paso, TX

Dear APEX,

I have absolutely no idea why "so many Lesbians love Christian Slater" as the letter writer, "Anti-Christian" declared in the August issue. But "A-C" is quite right: We APEX writers do know something about everything, even if it is totally irrelevant. That's never stopped ME before!

Anyway: their good looks - as in Rob Lowe - aside, the Hollywood Brat Pack seem to have little to offer but what I call the "sneer, grunt, leer and smirk," Bruce Willis school of non-acting. Cripes, the kid at the check-out counter at SHOP N CRUISE, fending off an unwelcome pat on the tush can do that! Is it perhaps that beardless youths of the Slater mold "appear" unthreatening? Do we secretly wish they'd never grow up? Mommie's Little Rapist?

I had dismissed Slater until by chance I watched the movie version of that tedious novel, "The Name of the Rose." Cast opposite an imperious Sean Connery and a monastery full of incredible horny Italian male

More LETTERS ➡ page 7

apex \ 'ā-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.

NO BUSINESS AS USUAL - this month in local activism

by Bee Bell

This is a free country, and all people are equally free to pursue their lifestyles. But we believe that some people's lifestyles are better than others'. Better because they bring so much more meaning to people's lives, as only marriage and parent-hood can, as only motherhood and fatherhood together can. --William "Animal Farm" Bennett, nominating Dan Quayle for Vice-Prez at the GOP convention.

Yo. What's with Bush and Quayle decreeing that women in *their* families can go ahead and have abortions, but the general public can't? Bush wants to have his cake and outlaw it, too. The Republican Party platform's call for a worship-the-fetus amendment is supposed to inspire devoted right-wing Bush peons to do his campaign work for him. Charming.

At least one local soldier of the right skipped out on the convention to dig into her Maine campaign. Linda Bean, GOP candidate for U.S. Congress, opposes both abortion rights for women and civil rights for queers. And now her phone bankers and campaign literature are calling progressive incumbent Tom Andrews a backer of "mandatory gay rights."

Only a Republican could come up with such a thing. What in hell is a "mandatory right?" Sorry, you'll have to pay a fine: I saw you lose that job just because you're queer.

Bean's campaign overlaps with our fight to keep the gay rights ordinance in Portland. She brings many inherited millions from grandpa L.L. Bean to the battle. And she wants to make this issue a centerpiece of her campaign, which only means more Stakhanovite labors to come for us queers.

EqualProtection/Portland, the group working to preserve this civil rights

ordinance in the November referendum, has all kinds of activities going on to affect the vote. You can practically organize your social life around all the events coming up (see box on page 7). For example, check out the 9/19 Cut-a-Thon for a good hair day from our hairdresser kin.

EPP is also creating and sending forth a bureau of speakers to address social clubs and community groups on the subject of discrimination and the need for legal protections. Bureaubrats, and anyone else interested, will go through two nights of spiffy, useful training on the issues (see box for dates). Likewise, a team of canvassers is now forming. After a "Homophobia 101" session and some practice answering tough questions, the canvassing posse will leap into the fray of door-to-door voter education.

Another noble new feature of the Portlandscape is the ever-expanding voter registration crew of EPP, who appear every Thursday noontime at Monument Square and every Sunday morning in front of Green Mountain Coffee, as well as weekends at the queerclubs. These registrators also plan fall drives at the university, the malls, and anywhere else Portland's proto-voters may lurk. Other working groups are busy collecting endorsements, notifying queer press everywhere, and generally getting the word

out. Feel free to join Homebase, get in on any working group, or attend a training.

The Monday night Homebase meetings of EPP have gotten more streamlined over the summer months. They're now structured into working group meetings and reports, with an optional bit of time set aside for discussion at

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GOOD COOKIN'

KATAHDIN

Rainbow Trout
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Norma Kraus Eule, MSW, LCSW
Licensed Clinical Social Worker

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GRAY / PORTLAND



WHERE WE'VE BEEN - an exploration of lesbian and gay history

by Stan Clough

The American Civil War seems to have had all the inevitability of a Greek Tragedy. Northern firebrands like William Lloyd Garrison and Harriet Beecher Stowe demanded the immediate abolition of slavery. Southerner John C. Calhoun, with all the stature of a Roman patrician, denounced the abolitionists, as well as those in the North who would seek to deprive the states of their rights. With the election of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency from a party that called for the freedom of the African-American, and the resulting secession of South Carolina and ten other slave-holding states, bloody conflict was just a matter of time. The bombardment of Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor in the Spring of 1861 was the opening act in a national tragedy that affects us even today.

As in all wars, it is the young that suffer for the passions of their elders. Farm boys from Indiana, city boys from Massachusetts and mountaineers from Tennessee all flocked to their respective flags to teach Johnny Reb or Billy Yank a thing or two. They marched off to war with the expectations of a quick and bloodless conflict. The Battle of Bull Run, or Manassas Junction, disabused both sides of that notion. As each year passed, the battle casualties mounted into the hundreds of thousands so that by war's end in 1865, 650,000 Americans had lost their lives.

Anyone with any compassion was hurt deeply by the war. Lincoln's most passionate dream was to liberate the African-American from chattel slavery in the South. But he was also a firm believer in union, and the destruction of the Republic's youth at places like Shiloh, Gettysburg and Chancellorsville was at times too much for him to endure. Another who wept bitterly at the daily slaughter was Walt Whitman (1819-1892), a man of deep feeling and compassion and an ardent lover of men.

In 1860, on the eve of conflict, he published a second edition of a collection of his poetry, *Leaves of Grass*. Contained within this collection is a section known as the "Calamus" poems. The Calamus is a plant phallic in form,

which became a metaphor for male homoeroticism. These poems celebrated comradeship in America, for Whitman believed that for the United States to be truly called a democracy, men must be free to love men. This harkens back to Elizabeth Cady Stanton's belief that for America to be just, women must be free and free to love whom they would.

Whitman expressed his love for men in the Calamus poems:

Not he whom I love, kissing me so long with
his daily kiss, has winded and twisted
around me that which holds me to him forever.

During the war, Whitman worked as a nurse in the hospital wards of Washington. Horribly wounded soldiers from both the Northern and Southern armies poured in daily. All too many would die painful deaths from gangrene and shock. Whitman went from bed to bed, making sure that these soldiers did not spend their final hours or moments alone and cut off from human contact. Many died more easily, because Whitman had held their hands and kissed their lips.

One Confederate P.O.W. who survived the butchery of the battlefields was Pete Doyle. He was paroled out as a streetcar conductor in Washington. One evening, Whitman met him and fell in love. Whitman, in his forties, sent the 18-year-old flowers, not expecting the love to be returned because of the age difference. He was mistaken. Doyle became a long-time companion of the poet. Lewy Brown from Maryland and Sergeant Tom Sawyer of the Massachusetts Volunteers, also formed deep bonds with Whitman, as their surviving letters attest.

Whitman would never actually acknowledge his love for men to correspondents like historian John Addington Symonds, and actually denied it. Many, like Edward Carpenter, felt that this was due to the homophobia that existed in 19th century America; Whitman had, after all, lost his civil service job for publishing an "indecent book." But most who were themselves lovers of men knew better. Thomas Eakins painted a portrait of the elderly Whitman with frills on his shirt lapels. This annoyed the poet, but perhaps not too much.

As gays, we celebrate Whitman's visionary poetry of same-sex love. But for all men, whether gay, straight or bi, he is a true male hero, because he was a man who was not afraid to show his compassion during a time when compassion was in such short supply.

AMADEUS MUSIC



332 Fore Street
Portland, Maine 04101
207-772-8416



uncommon records, tapes, & C.D.'s

Books to read:

Leaves of Grass, 2nd ed., Walt Whitman
Homosexuals in History, A.L. Rowse ▼

QUEER ON THE QUADS

edited by Erica Rand

by Robert Diamante
Portland School of Art

Last night I had a dream that I was occupying a space in a large office building on a hill. All the walls were filled with windows and it was very bright. I had colleagues and, although I am unsure what we were doing, I felt productive and jovial. Then my Dream-Self realized that there were other people moving into the building. I followed a trail of boxes down the hallway to an open door. I peered in and there I saw a man and a woman amid a stack of boxes. They were looking at papers and talking confidentially between themselves. I said hello. The man looked up but said nothing. The woman ignored me altogether. It was then that I recognized her as Anita Bryant. She was as young as I remember her from the orange juice commercials. I said hello again, still feeling friendly and warm. After all, it was my office building. The man, whom I did not recognize, was old and tanned, his face wrinkled by too many hours in the sun. His only response was a derisive sneer. Finally, Anita looked up donning a smile as sincere as the devil's. I felt despondent and angry, knowing full well that the enemy had moved into my sunny world. And, in spite of my friendly entreaties, they had already declared war.

The dream faded to a more ambiguous, surreal scenario where I was riding in a train with Hannibal the Cannibal from the movie *Silence of the Lambs*, watching blood-soaked Anthony Hopkins picking up women in the smoking coach. Luckily, I awoke soon after. But such have been the likes of my dreams for some time. I have been both Gilgamesh and Enkidu, watching the passion play between my wild nature and civility acted out entirely upon myself, by myself. Not a week ago I was shot in the head and then bludgeoned with an axe, all in the same night by two different people. Both were men and both were blonds. Maybe I hate oranges. Maybe I hate Hollywood and blonds. Or maybe these are mere symbols for the greater fears which pursue me daily. These nocturnal images are merely the superficial lacerations created by a social whip. The skin of my consciousness bleeds, but obviously, the pain is going deeper. By day I may project a calm and smooth assertion. I am confident and able and very in control. And I trust. Oftentimes I fail to realize the degree to which people can be cruel, cunning, unjust and imbued with fear. And hence, at night, the invisible yoke materializes. By day we all may think that we are free people but at night we are nothing more than slaves.

We awaken from our sleep and store away the surfaced fears like jars of honey into a cold, dark cellar. We unruffle our tousled hair and wipe away the horrors of the night

on the apron of the morning. And at once we go on living. Daylight becomes an act. It is a time to keep our nightmares from happening. Perhaps we need to bring our sleep-world into day. Like in our dreams, when moments run together like ice-cream into candle wax, perhaps our waking worlds should be as amorphous and discombobulating. Unsafe. Because to be in a sunny place when the enemy moves in is no less disconcerting in the daylight than in our nightmares.

When I wrote my first column for *Queer on the Quads* [APEX, vol. 1, #3, April 1992], I did not believe that Portland School of Art needed a Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual resource center for its students. Now I do. The heat of my midnight anxiety has begun to melt the veil of wax through which I once viewed the situation. Reality is creeping into me like fucking fire and I am ablaze with knowledge I did not before possess, or failed to realize I possessed. Things that I denied. I am spurred on not only by my awakened anxieties, but also by memories. The same ones that have haunted me for years. Memories encapsulated by dreams, released slowly into my consciousness like a drug. They are like silicone which imbeds itself into your lungs forever.

Memories of a lover who was murdered.

Memories of a love which was denied.

Memories of a date that never happened.

The same bell is tolling; it is like a cat's claws scratching at a door which will not open. It says "Let me OUT! Let me the hell out of here!" which in waking world language translates into "Never again! Never the hell again!"

I often wonder why I wake up screaming, then realize it's because the same dream has never ended. But what do you do when the anger and the fear, hidden for so long behind crusty lids, surfaces, thrusting up all those ineffable fears. Hurlled forward by the inertia of repression, there is no comfort but to watch what the day will do. What will be my strength, I wonder? My crutch? My salvation?

Some people join clubs. Some wave banners. Some take pills to make the night-time go away. And some become lawyers to pass laws against lies and others become, simply said, artists to show the horrors in our heads. And sadly, some never wake up at all. ▼



CALENDAR

TUESDAY 9/1

Afterwork Bike & Picnic, Gilsland Farm Nature Ctr. with Time Out. Easy 10 mi. round trip from the Oaks to Falmouth. Bring picnic item to share. FMI/RSVP ☎(207)883-6934.

MONDAY 9/7

Equal Protection/Portland One City Ctr, Portland, ME, 7pm at old "Impressions" store above the food cts. Fight the referendum! Info line (207) 780-5656.

Labor Day Cookout at New-castle Commons, NH with Out and About 2-6pm. FMI☎(603) 659-2139.

TUESDAY 9/8

Feminists Against Rape (FAR) meets every Tues. 7pm, Portland, ME for discussion and planning. If you are a feminist determined to help make Portland a city free of sexual violence, ☎ (207) 772-0935 or (207) 772-5941 for location.

THURS.-SUN. 9/10-13

Intl. Gay/Lesbian Outdoor Org. annual Jamboree hosted by Baltimore Adventurers in NE Maryland near the Susquehanna River. FMI ☎ Kevin (617) 789-5879.

THURSDAY 9/10

B.J. Broder discusses "Inti-macy, Ultimacy and Immediacy: Meaningmaking Amidst AIDS." Matlovich Society, Rines Aud., Portland Lib., 5 Monument Sq., Wheelchair accessible. 7:30-9pm. FMI ☎ (207) 657-2850.

Torch Song Trilogy performances to benefit Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services begin tonight at the Theater Project, School St., Brunswick & continue Th., Fr. & Sat. through 9/27. \$10. FMI☎(207) 729-8584.

SAT.-SUN. 9/12-13

Women's Mtn. Bike Race, Concert & Camping. Sat. concert 8pm: Getty Payson, Becky Albert, Janet Harvey & open mike. Range Pond campground, Poland, ME. FMI ☎ Lisa (207) 871-8965.

SATURDAY 9/12

Amelia's potluck at Kathryn's 6:30pm FMI ☎ (603) 646-3268.

Queer Nation Visibility Action. Leafletting and public displays of affection. 6pm, Riverfront Park, Manchester, NH. FMI ☎ Mandy (803) 632-7146.

SUNDAY 9/13

Monadnock Area Women (MAW) reading group meets for brunch at Linda's in Keene, NH at 11am. Topic: Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own*. FMI ☎ (603) 357-5757.

Great Bay Bike tour for beginners with Time Out. North along Dover Pt., south through Eliot, ME. 30 miles of flat terrain. Free lunch. FMI ☎ Mike (603) 749-1449.

MONDAY 9/14

Equal Protection/Portland meeting (see 8/7).

The Los Altos Story will be presented by Seacoast Gay Men, 7pm, Portsmouth, NH. FMI ☎ Albert (603) 898-1115. Free & refreshments.

TUESDAY 9/15

FAR meeting (see 9/8).

WEDNESDAY 9/16

1993 March on Washington New England organizing meeting at Worcester Public Lib., Salem Square, Worcester, MA. Noon-4pm. FMI ☎ Celenia Toledo (617) 566-4296.

THURS. 9/17

Bowling Night with Time Out at Yankee Lanes, Portland, ME. FMI ☎ (207) 883-6934.

SATURDAY 9/19

Fourth Annual Lesbian Fall Conference (for lesbians only). 1st Baptist Church of Keene, 105 Maple Ave., Keene, NH. Wrkshps/spkrs. FMI ☎ (603)352-6741.

Cut-a-Thon Benefit for Equal Protection Portland. 8am-8pm at Amore, One City Center. 3rd Floor, Portland, ME.

SUNDAY 9/20

Diana's Bath's Day Hike with Time Out in NH. FMI ☎ (603) 749-1449.

MONDAY 9/21

Equal Protection/Portland meeting (see 8/7).

TUESDAY 9/22

FAR meeting (see 9/8).

THURSDAY 9/24

Rita Kissen & P-Flag members discuss "Keeping Families Together: Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays." Matlovich Society, Rines Aud., Portland Lib., 5 Monument Sq., Wheelchair accessible. 7:30-9pm. FMI ☎ (207) 657-2850.

FRIDAY 9/25

MAW meeting at Sue & Marty's. 7:30pm Keene, NH. FMI ☎ (603) 357-5757.

SUNDAY 9/27

Castle in the Clouds. All day easy hike with Time Out in NH. \$10. FMI ☎ (603) 749-1449 or (207) 883-6934.

MON.-WED. 9/28-30

STD/HIV Class Concord, NH. FMI ☎ (603) 271-4502.

MONDAY 9/28

Equal Protection/Portland meeting (see 9/7).

TUESDAY 9/29

FAR meeting (see 9/8).

MEDIA

WMPG'S Women's Music Fest on 90.9 FM 3-5pm Sundays.

FESTIVALS

Sisterspace Pocono Weekend. 9/11-13. FMI ☎ (215) 476-2424.

RhythmFest '92

9/3-7. Lookout Mt., GA. FMI write to 2009 Chapel Hill Rd., Box LC, Durham, NC 27707. (919) 419-1923.

Ohio Lesbian Fest

9/12. FMI write to POB 02086, Columbus, OH 43202.

Women in Paradise

9/14-20. Annual women's week in Key West, FL includes women's theater, the prom you always wanted, Kate Clinton show, sailing, snorkeling, etc. FMI ☎ 1-800-535-7797.

CONFERENCES

Fourth Annual Fall Lesbian Conference, Keene, NH, Sat. 9/19, 9am-5pm. \$10-15 sldg fee in adv., \$15/door. Workshops. FMI, send SASE to: Monadnock Area Womyn, POB 6345, Keene, NH 03431 or ☎ (603) 352-6741. Lesbians only.

NOTICES

Portland NOW Opens Action Center as a coordination network around many women's issues at 175 Lancaster St., Room 216C, Portland, ME. FMI ☎ (207) 828-0704.

UPCOMING

Take the bus to D.C.
to view the entire AIDS Quilt. Leave Keene, NH 10/9 at 10pm, spend Sat. viewing the quilt & attending the candlelight march to the Lincoln Memorial & return to Keene that night. \$75/ person. FMI ☎ Frank Kellom (603) 357-0979 or POB 348, Keene, NH 03431.

Drumming Workshop
Nurudafina will be conducting a drumming workshop Sunday, 10/18, 12 noon to 3pm, West Buxton, ME. \$25 (\$20 if you attend concert). Space limited to 25, so sign up now! FMI ☎ (207) 929-3866 (Rita) or (207) 247-3461 (Beth)

MORE REASONS TO DUMP BUSH:

Reasons No. 738-740: He forced Koop out because Koop failed to find evidence that abortions caused irreparable damage to the women who received them and refused to lie about the findings.

The ACT UP Portland's Pissed Off Dykes' Cell (PODC) and Portland Womyn's Health Action Crew (WHAC) are putting together a survey about lesbian sex and wants to know what you want to know. Send the questions you'd like to see on the survey to:

PODC/WHAC
c/o APEX
P O Box 4743
Portland, ME 04112
Confidential
Deadline 9/20/92

More VIOLENCE from page 1

threat in the door left there by their assailants.

The police in Oregon have minimized the situation by implying that the women only thought they had been fired at. Worst of all, at a critical juncture, the response of the lesbians in the area has been divided. Some lesbians offered time, money and their presence on the land but others have said that these events didn't really happen. Many of the women who are in denial about the severity of the situation are the next potential targets of the neo-nazis and have the most to lose by giving them the message that there will be no response to their violence.

It's hard enough to deal with the denial and downright distortion one often gets from the police but it's chilling when other lesbians are unwilling to support lesbians who are under attack. Even if they can't comprehend that our friends were shot at, the obvious stress and fear under which our friends were living should have indicated to them that something was wrong. The fact that this situation does *not* alarm local lesbians, I find extremely alarming. What are they waiting for? To be the next targets and for the guns to be pointed at them?

If you would like to help support the Oregon lesbians in their struggle to survive, please send a donation of any amount c/o: Susan Thielle, P.O. Box 1585, Eugene, Oregon 97440 and specify that it is for the displaced lesbians, and she will forward it to the appropriate women.

More LETTERS from page 2

character actors playing incredibly horny Italian monks, 14-year-old Slater quite held his own as an illiterate, Dark Ages novitiate, blindly following the faith and letting a slutish scullery maid named Rose deflower him without precluding a permanent sexual ambiguity. Slater was suitably androgynous, stupid, superstitious, lusty and quite good. He even looked Medieval! It was his only performance.

Perhaps because he can't act, he's impotent and really not a threat? Is it the androgynous quality? Does he still have it? Is it the Peter Pan Syndrome? I don't think he looks like Mary Lou Retton. Is he Mary Lou Retton in male drag?

Alexander Wallace
Also "Anti-Christian"

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO FIGHT FOR THE PORTLAND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE

- Join Equal Protection/Portland
- Volunteer your time on the campaign
- Contribute money - all donations help
- Write letters to newspapers
- Talk to neighbors/friends/relatives about why they should VOTE NO on the November referendum
- Encourage friends/family to give \$\$
- Make sure you register and VOTE NO!

Equal Protection Portland
P.O. Box 1894
Portland, Maine 04104
(207) 879-5360

UPCOMING EVENTS

BENEFITS:

- Sat. 9/12, 3pm** Casco Bay Lines Cruise.
Tickets \$10 at Drop Me A Line, Amadeus Music & Condom Sense
- Sat. 9/19, 8am-8pm.** Cut-a-Thon at Amore, One City Center. Call Brenda Broder at Amore for appointment as soon as possible.
- Sat. 9/26, 7:30pm.** Early music concert Williston West church. \$7. Portland Early Music Ensemble & original music by Olivera-Najara.
- Wed. 10/7.** Human Rights Benefit Concert/Dance at T-Birds, \$5. Lime Rockets, Jenny Woodman, Pluck Theatre.

TRAININGS: (At 1 City Ctr, 7-9pm, 2nd fl.)
8/26 Homophobia 101 - canvasser training
8/27 Speakers Bureau - night 1
9/3 Speakers Bureau - night 2 (both required)

All are welcome!

ASK THIGHMASTER

Dear Thighmaster,

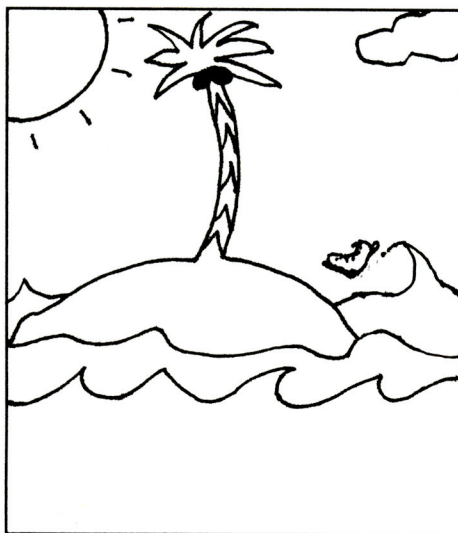
Um, remember *Gilligan's Island*? Well, I like Mrs. Howell. Um, actually, I *really* "like" Mrs. Howell. I always have, ever since I was a young boy. And, Thighmaster, it's her lorgnettes. Ahhhh! I LOVE HER LORGNETTES! I have, uh, "thought" about her standing there in a tropical thicket amid coconut trees with her lorgnettes. And do you know what?? She is LOOKING through them. Yes! Yes! And she is SEEING things! Big things and little things and all kinds of colors and shapes! But, Thighmaster, do you know what she does NOT see? Ginger. Yes, that's right; she does NOT see Ginger. Why? Because Ginger is slithering up to her on her belly. Now she is slithering up her legs. Yes! Yes! YES! Coiling around her thighs like a bushmaster! Moving up, up, up, up, until, at last, ahhhh, her lips part, her tongue stretches out, out, out, and, at last, touches lightly, delicately, the tip, like a small node of firm rigidity, of those marvelous lorgnettes! Do it babe do it babe do it babe do it babe.

PERPLEXED LITTLE BUDDY

Dear Little Buddy,

Thighmaster wishes that everybody who thinks watching TV stunts your imagination and limits your attention span to 3.5 minutes could read your letter. Wouldn't all those professors and parents be relieved to discover that turning on the so-called electronic babysitter totally beats out the force-them-to-read routine as a strategy for

expanding the mind to envision countless possibilities? Thighmaster, an adult child of anti-TVaholics, was not so fortunate as you in escaping the media-deprivation abuse that so many survivors are still too ashamed to



drawing by Naomi Falcone

acknowledge. Thighmaster only got to watch half an hour of TV a day. So, instead of watching TV, Thighmaster read *Little Women* about 250 times. And what was the big pay-off, really? Thighmaster could have learned that only the good die young from top-40 radio; Thighmaster could have learned that "birds in their little nests agree" (20th-century translation: don't dis your siblings) from the Brady Bunch episode where Marcia dates Greg's basketball rival Warren Melany just to show Greg he can't boss her around and then Greg gets even by dating the

girl who beat Marcia out for the cheer-leading squad. And, meanwhile, Thighmaster could have been fantasizing about exactly how "a man named Brady ... was busy with three boys of his own," instead of trying to swallow some 19th-century morality pill about how bad it is to get off on satin.

Forgive Thighmaster's digression here, which is not really addressing what Thighmaster imagines to be, as they say, the "issue" you are "processing": Why is a gay boy fantasizing about two women doing it, or, more precisely, about one woman doing another woman's eyewear? Freud would simply discount, in his usual clitoral blindness, the "small node of firm rigidity," and reassure you that it's really a gay male fantasy. He would say that Mrs. Howell's lorgnette, with its two round lenses and long shaft, is a obvious phallic symbol; ditto for Ginger's snake-like form. But Thighmaster has a different answer, which is: Face it, babe, you're fantasizing about two women, but, so what? Thighmaster's feminist side is obligated to burst your little originality bubble by pointing out that more men than you could ever hope to be stranded with have had this fantasy about watching two women doing it in an island paradise. (Thighmaster will refrain from snobbishly quoting Baudelaire here, and merely refer you to a certain ad in the *Casco Bay Weekly* personals a few months ago written by a self-identified sensitive

More THIGHMASTER ➤ page 10

BOOKS ETC

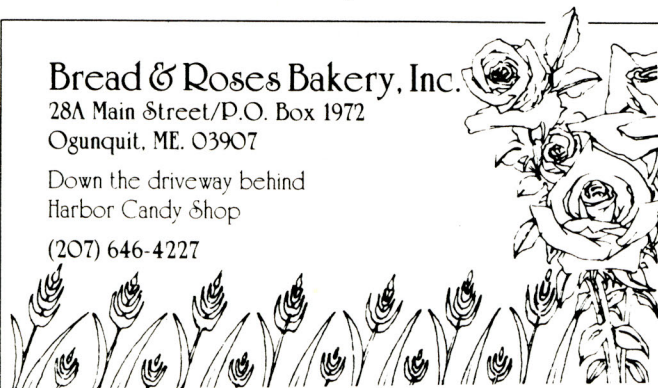
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More NEWS from page 1

After hearing Koukl's antigay diatribe, Robin Drew, a Los Angeles activist who monitors the station, called the show and told Koukl that "as long as you call gay people 'sad,' I'm going to call Christians 'demons'" because antigay comments are un-Christian.

Another witty caller told the host that if gay people are sad, then straights must actually be gay - one instance of wordplay that was lost on Koukl. Perhaps he would find *narrow* a more applicable term.

TOM PETTY SUPPORTS GAY RIGHTS

GAINESVILLE, FL - When Gainesville's Gay community held a Gay Pride picnic, the KKK showed up to protest as expected - but so did some unexpected supporters.

Rock star Tom Petty and his wife Jane, both natives of Gainesville, said they made a spur-of-the-moment decision to visit the picnic and rally on 6/28. "I support all human rights," Petty said, "That's why I'm here." The picnic attracted about 200 people.

In another area of Westside Park, less than two dozen Klan members gathered in a taped-off area, with 45 police officers assigned to avert any violence.

But the only confrontations between the two groups were verbal and many people who drove through the park shouted derogatory comments at the white-robed Klan. ▼

This month's **NEWS** comes from *Washington Blade* and *The Advocate*

More BUSINESS from page 3

the end. Up until now, Homebase has been hashing out the campaign's vision and its message, hotly debating questions of terminology, community purpose, image and the urgency of winning in November. While a few EPpeople say that votes change little and a strong, demanding lesbian-gay movement will achieve the most in the long term, most contend that this vote is crucial to Portland and to Maine - some say a loss would set us back five or ten years. Sound bytes from the last discussion: "Yes on compromises, no on closets;" "It's not exactly blood-letting for me to have to change my T-shirt before I go door-to-door." Well, whether it's the working together or the win itself, this campaign gets a bunch of us under one roof, makes us find some common purpose. Different parts of the pro-queer community cohere. It don't have to be a mere short-term gain, dude.

On the AIDS front, Maine has suffered a dubious development this summer. In a slew of 28 nominations in one month - far too may to allow in-depth investigations by the legislature - Gov. McKernan picked Kennebunk superintendent Leo Martin for his new state education commissioner. On 7/28, Martin, known to ACT UP/Portland as Mr. "Condoms undermine the family," underwent several unexpected hours of intense grilling by the education committee before winning their recommendation. ACT UP members were there at the state house to testify against Martin on the grounds that he took a dangerously passive and uninformed stance on health and sexuality education. ACT UP also accused Martin of acting secretly to thwart the progress of TASL (Teens' Actions Save Lives), the Kennebunk student group pressing for condoms in the

high school. In highlights of the day's testimony, Martin told the committee that a model sex ed curriculum "would be found offensive by none" (as if), and lesbian senator Dale McCormick told Martin to "go home and practice the words 'gay' and 'lesbian' in front of a mirror" if that's what it will take to make him more useful to the many queer teens at risk of dropout and suicide. "We don't have that problem in Kennebunk," replied Martin fatuously. McCormick also told Martin he was questionable on school funding issues and "timid" on AIDS, and as she said so cast the only vote against recommending him. The full senate confirmed Leo Martin on 8/19. We'll have our eye on him, and our latex on school grounds. ▼

Reason No. 1002: Piracy. Bush ordered the commandeering of boats in international waters that were not U.S. vessels, returning them to Haiti.



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More THIGHMASTER from page 8

guy who wanted two women to move with him to Hawaii to help him explore his sensuality or something - dream on, scuzzball!) But right now Thighmaster is less interested in asking you to think about the politics of this lesbians-exist-to-turn-men-on fantasy - assuming it's not going to lead you to pull the sicko patriarchal move of trying to crash women-only events - than in suggesting that your big problem lies not in your habit of fantasizing about women but in your fear of offending the crucial-to-resist Fantasy Police. The FP consists of individuals who spend all their time worrying about other people's fantasies. They need to realize, and you need to rest assured, that many people fantasize about things they don't actually want in real life - Thighmaster's mother doesn't really want to eat her way out of a room full of barbecued potato chips, and all those dykes, bemoaned in last month's *APEX*, who are turned on to Christian Slater don't really want to see his volume pumped up in their beds. So make that three-hour tour last a lifetime; you have nothing to lose but some potential lover who struts around saying "I only watch PBS." And you don't want him anyway - for one thing, he's a liar. ▽

Letters can be sent to Thighmaster c/o Phoenix Press, PO Box 4743, Portland, ME 04112. ▽

RESOURCE GUIDE WILL RETURN NEXT MONTH

MAINE AIDS ALLIANCE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Maine AIDS Alliance announces the availability of small grants (\$2,500-5,000) to provide HIV Prevention Services to men who have sex with men. The funds are provided under Bureau of Health contract BH-91-37. Awards will be announced in mid-December 1992, for projects up to 12 months in duration. These funds may be used for training and evaluation, development and evaluation of educational materials and programs, primary prevention services, and surveys and studies. These funds may be used to initiate new programs, pilot projects, and the expansion of existing programs not currently addressing men who have sex with men. The target population is limited to men who have sex with men, including youth, rural men, men with multiple HIV risk factors, minority populations, low literacy populations, men with disabilities, etc.

For a proposal application kit or more info, contact:

Maine AIDS Alliance
283 Water Street, 3rd Floor
Augusta, ME 04330
(207) 621-2924



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Papa Joe's, Augusta
Downeast AIDS Network, Ellsworth
Brewster Inn, Dexter
Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition, Lewiston
LGBA, Bates College, Lewiston
Sportaman Athletic Club, Lewiston

Massachusetts

Glad Day Bookshop, Boston
New Words Books, Cambridge
Radzukina's, Haverhill

New Hampshire

Women's Information Service, Lebanon
NH Feminist Health Center, Concord
The Highland's Inn, Bethlehem
Campus G/L/B Alliance, UNH, Durham
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Members, Portsmouth

Vermont

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Portland

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CLASSIFIED

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TRAVEL/VACATIONS

A Lesbian Paradise! - 20 charming rooms, 100 mountain acres, pool, hot tub, hiking/skiing trails, yummy breakfasts, peace & privacy. HIGHLANDS INN, Box 118 PP, Bethlehem, NH 03574. (603) 869-3978. 10/92

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PASSAGES

MOVING ON

Long-time Maine lesbian activist Diane Elze was the

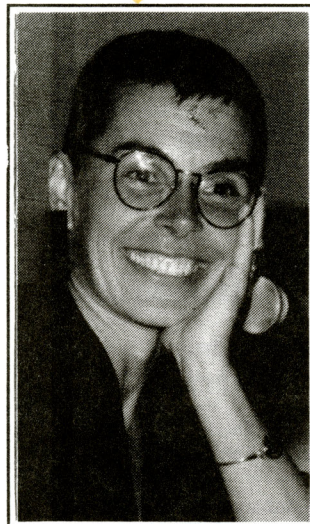


photo by Annette Dragon

guest of honor at a going away "roast" on Saturday, August 8 in Portland, Maine. Among her many accomplishments, Diane is a past president of the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance and a major force behind the growth of Outright, an organization for lesbian and gay youth. Her contributions to the Maine community have been extensive. Diane has moved to Cleve-

land, Ohio to pursue graduate studies at Case Western Reserve.

COMMITMENT CEREMONY

Friends of Suzy and Gail will gather together on September 7, 1992 to celebrate their commitment to one another. Congratulations!

SO LONG, OLD FRIEND

StirFry, my feline companion for the last six years, recently died of complications from feline leukemia. She is sadly missed by all who knew her. Please have your cat tested and vaccinated to help prevent the spread of this killer disease.

Reason No. 748: At the request of his vice president, whose family owns a paper mill, he had a recycling provision removed from the Clean Air Act.

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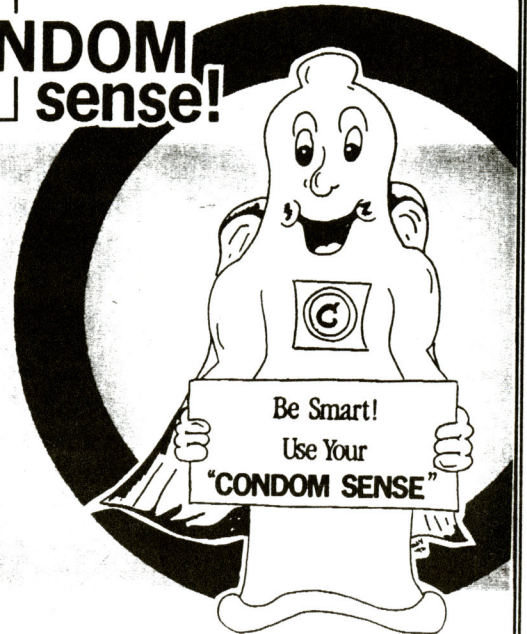
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