

**LOW DIVORCE RATE
AMONG GAY DANES**

Denmark - Only a handful of the 1,301 Gay marriages in Denmark have ended in divorce, official Danish statistics show.

During the three years that marriage between Gays has been legal, only 17 couples - about half of one percent - have sought divorce. In 1989, 324 couples were married, while 628 couples were married in 1990, 262 in 1991 and 87 Gay couples were reported married in the first six months of this year. Of these, 809 (62 percent) were male couples and 492 (38 percent) were female couples.

Denmark remains the only country in the world where same-sex marriages are known to be legal. A number of European countries are considering domestic partnership legislation, including France, Norway, and the Netherlands. Recently, hundreds of Gay couples applied for marriage licenses in Germany to demand legalization of Gay marriage.

**DRIVE-THRU CONDOM
SHOP OPENS**

Santa Clarita, CA - After repeated delays because of vandalism, the Safe Sex Shop, which sells condoms to drive-through customers from a converted corner Fotomat booth, finally opened in this conservative Southern California community. The shop's first customer turned out to be a 17-year-old senior at a local high school who said he thought the drive-through condom store was a great idea. The Safe Sex Shop is believed to be the first of its kind in this country.

This month's **NEWS** comes from
Washington Blade and *IN*.

QUEER ACTIVISTS DO L.A.

by Bee Bell

*News from the NGLTF Conference,
November 13-15.*

In a rare display of radicalism, ethnic diversity, and democratic process, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force held its 5th Annual Creating Change conference on "gay and lesbian organizing and skills building" this month. Over 600 queer community organizers from all over North America turned up for three days of speeches, workshops, performances, and heavy flirting at the L.A. Hilton.

Portland's own John Preston gave the kickoff address. The plenary speeches each morning were framed by the remarks of the very live and passionate Urvashi Vaid, who is stepping down as NGLTF's executive director. L.A.'s Torie Osborn, the new e.d., was succinct in her acceptance of the new role: "I don't have much to say. Let's go out there and do it; let's change this fucking world!" Space-suited 'zine scenesters in mascara hobnobbed with other kinds of drag queens as Queer Nationals and ACTors Up livened up the Hilton's family atmosphere. "Fuck your gender" stickers and "Not tonight, honey, it's a felony" slogans dotted the hallways, and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence (drag nuns) substituted usefulness for eucharist in a Sunday a.m. Condom Mass.

But first and foremost came the issues workshops. NGLTF is one of few national organiza-

tions - queer and otherwise - to acknowledge grassroots organizing and direct action as the route to social change, and Creating Change is about activists teaching each other more expert organizing. Hence the 117 workshops (14 at a time!) and 20 networking sessions over the

three days of the conference. Activists learned fundraising, media tactics, lobbying, queer law, current events, and queer activist history. Sets of multiple workshop sessions were held on youth and campus organizing, people of color skills building, anti-violence work, international organizing, arts and culture, AIDS, direct action, and sex. S/M fans, drag activists, queer vets, and the '93 March on Wash-



photo by Annette Dragon

Queer Activists Do Maine

ington organizers each got to meet with their constituencies - and detractors. For one example, a Chicago ACT UP dykepunk earned the label of "fascist" because she sat on the '93 March steering committee, which hadn't included transgenderists in the march title. (This issue remains unresolved.)

Each workshop consisted of several panelists, a moderator, and an audience of 30 to 100 - all activists in their own right. The panelists spoke briefly about their own ideas and work, leaving most of the 90-120 minute session for audience participation. More famous panelists included Donna Minkowitz of the Village Voice, comic Lynn Lavner, Connecticut rep Joseph

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LETTERS

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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Dear *Apex*:

As a cat who cast her vote for Bill Clinton on November 3, I was very pleased to hear that there will be a new First Feline in the White House come next January. Socks will be accompanying her family to Washington to begin her 8 year (hopefully) residence in the Capitol. I want to thank all the Demacats and Demadogs, as well as the independent-minded felines and canines, who cast their votes for change. Goodbye Millie; welcome Socks!

I want to thank the Collective for publishing a great paper for the lesbian/gay community in Northern New England. I look forward to the first of every month when my housemate, Stan, brings home the latest *Apex*.

One request: how about some articles about, or written by, gay and lesbian cats and dogs? I'm pretty good on a word processor. Where do you think Stan learned his stuff? Keep up the good work!

Snickers Clough

Dear *Apex*:

Having read several letters to *Apex* decrying so-called "man hating", I felt compelled to write. There is a serious problem in the queer community here in Portland, and it's not man hating, it's woman hating. I have, in various social settings, overheard the most despicable homophobic and sexist remarks made about lesbian women by gay men. I've overheard slurs, derogatory references to the female anatomy, and even questions about why lesbian women are present in so-called gay establishments. "Jokes" about rape, derisive references to so-called masculine behavior and dress, and cruel homophobic and

sexist comments are only occasionally met with confrontation, and are most often greeted with laughter and approval in the gay male community. I even remember some years ago, when a gay male group (that bars admittance to women) planned a social event they called "New Bedford Night." The title of the event was a reference to the brutal gang rape of a woman in New Bedford, Massachusetts. I've heard frequent homophobic remarks about lesbian women not appearing to be "feminine" and not kowtowing to men in a deferential and/or nurturing way. Whenever and wherever this misogyny has been challenged within our community, there are gay men who respond by yelling "man-hater". (Which is precisely what sexist and homophobic bigots have always yelled at lesbian and feminist activists in an attempt to silence them and undermine their credibility.) Why do gay men, who are constantly challenging non-gays to acknowledge and resist their homophobic prejudice, refuse to challenge their own misogynous prejudice when it is pointed out to them? Gay men are so often predictably and ridiculously hypocritical in our unwillingness to see how sexism infects our community and poisons it from within. Sexism and homophobia are intrinsically linked, decrying behavior they jointly deem "unnatural" and "abnormal". As long as one flourishes, the other will healthily prosper.

Many gay men pay lip service to feminism, but never attend demonstrations for choice, and against rape. Large numbers of lesbian women have worked to promote AIDS awareness and to provide health care services for the gay male community. Few gay

More LETTERS ➤ page 7

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

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

TOO MUCH BUSINESS AS USUAL - this month in local assimilationism

by Bee Bell, 23-year-old kike queerdyke ruling-class-educated-middle-class-living radfem socialist ACT UP/Portland rep on the Equal Protection Portland steering and executive committees.

Here it is: the real dish on EPP's "human" rights victory in Portland.

COPS, CHRISTIANS, AND CAPITALISTS were, of course, the darlings of the campaign. For instance, you may have noticed various EPP honchos wetting themselves with delight when the Chamber of Commerce finally knuckled under and gave us their endorsement in October. (How generous.) Chief Chitwood and various reverends were also big spokespeople for us - as if! Since when does bossing around the cop workers who protect bourgeois property rights constitute belonging in a real struggle for people's rights? And we only consolidated the legitimacy of Christian top-down dissent-silencing Queer-quelling qrap by counterposing basher-Baptists with Christians of our very own.

So how about at least balancing the three big C's with queer representatives of EPP? no! No! NO! Of four official spokespersons, three were het. On the "Vote No" tabloids hundreds of you took door-to-door in the city-wide lit drop, eight people were depicted and quoted. NOT ONE WAS QUEER. In general, the ever-more-closeted look and feel of the campaign

came to fall under the scarcely challenged influence of Al Caron, our het consultant. Consensus speedily gave way to more and more top-down hierarchy. Boo! Worst of all, EPP's Homebase (the general group) actually ratified the premise of the

Slosberg argued that "discrimination" happens routinely as a human cognitive activity, and much of it is good (e.g. discriminating between rat poison and granola for breakfast). He was right. In the abstract it means nothing. That's how we won: by meaning nothing. Revolution? Not.

CLASS ACTS were another big campaign fave. The 13-member all-white mostly-male steering committee had only a couple of working-class members. How did this powerful steercomm arise? The founding EPP clique of managers and professionals, after pressure from Homebase, declared, "OK, anybody can join in, but it's a VERY big responsibility." This was wholly bogus and anti-democratic and most of those cliquers knew it. The steercomm should have had representa-

tion from all organizations and segments of the Portland queer community: at least queers of color, old, young, disabled, HIV+, and working-class queers; at best also foreigners, transgenderists, bisexuals, poor queers, and leatherfolk. And people from the militant groups (like ACT UP, Queer Nation, WHAM!), the liberals (MLGPA,

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photo by Annette Dragon

Election Night in Portland

assimilationist strategy beforehand: "we just want to win, no matter what," said person after person when the question was posed. So that's what we got: a homophobic campaign that mentioned the G and L words as little as possible, and aimed to trick people into voting for us out of fealty to abstract concepts - you didn't have to be for queerness, just against "discrimination." Our opponent R.

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

by Stan Clough

Pink and Black Triangles: Part I

For lesbians and gays living in America in the 1990s, the pink triangle is a symbol of pride and self-love. But half a century ago, in Nazi Germany, the pink triangle was a symbol of shame and hate. During the 1930s and 1940s, tens of thousands of "sexual deviants" were shipped off to concentration camps by the Nazis. How did this come to pass? The story begins in the early 19th Century.

Napoleon Bonaparte, in bringing the French Enlightenment to the rest of Europe, promulgated his famous *Code Napoléone*. This was a codified collection of French jurisprudence written in part by Napoleon. In the *Code*, homosexuality was decriminalized in France and the lands controlled by Napoleon's imperial government. But with the final defeat of Napoleon in 1815, a reaction against enlightened social jurisprudence prevailed.

Germany had been a collection of petty nation-states and principalities since the late Middle Ages. Napoleon, after the conquest of large parts of Germany in the first decade of the 19th century, reorganized this overwhelming farago of competing states. He introduced his *Code*, but also unleashed the latent forces of nationalism.

When Napoleon was defeated, the German states reacted against many things French. Prussia, the most powerful state in Germany, passed an anti-sodomy law in 1851, as a part of their own "enlightened" criminal code.

But there was opposition. In 1863, Karl Ulrichs published two pamphlets - *Vindex* and *Inclusa* - that explained the origins of same-sex love. Four years later, he called for legal protection for same-sex love. This was at a Congress of German jurists, where he was booed off the stage.

In 1869, an Hungarian national named Kerbeny coined

the term "homosexual" in a pamphlet calling for the end of anti-sodomy laws in Prussia. But in 1871, after its victory over France, Prussia united all of Germany under the Prussian monarch. The Second Reich was born. A new set of laws was written, including Paragraph 175, which made homosexuality a crime punishable by long prison terms.

Magnus Hirschfeld created the Scientific-Humanitarian Committee in the 1890s to repeal P.175. A petition was presented to the Reichstag in 1898, calling for an end to the law. Signers of the petition included Albert Einstein and Leo Tolstoy. Emma Goldman, herself a lesbian, helped recruit her fellow Socialists in calling for an end to P.175. In 1908, the Women's Movement tried to lift the ban against lesbian love in Germany. These efforts failed.

The atmosphere in Germany prior to 1914 was extremely paranoid concerning homosexuality. In 1906, Maximilian Harden, an enemy of Kaiser Wilhelm I and his pacifist friend Prinz Eulenburg, leaked information on homosexual activity in the German High Command in *The Future*. The Kaiser insisted that Count von Moltke sue Harden for libel. Harden's trap was sprung: at the trial the following year, Harden introduced evidence that Moltke and Eulenburg had surrounded the Kaiser with "pacifistic perverts" that would sell Germany out to France and Russia. Sound familiar? In the end, dozens of officers suspected of homosexuality were purged from the German army.

The cataclysm Hirschfeld and others feared erupted on July 25, 1914. The war quickly spread as Austria and Serbia's allies joined the fray. For the next four years, Europe's youth was massacred in an endless orgy of death.

Next month, lesbian and gay Berlin and the shadow of Hitler. ▼



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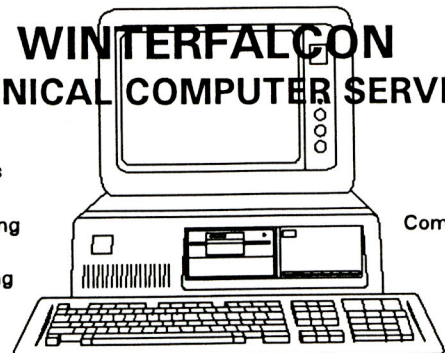
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QUEER ON THE QUADS

edited by Erica Rand

by Ned Brown

co-coordinator, *The Bridge*, Colby College

Coalition Proposition

It is obvious that life for Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals has changed at Colby College. Our organization, *The Bridge* (Colby's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Straight Alliance) has increased its membership, which had around a half-dozen only a few years ago, to over two hundred members. The administration is also looking at ways to improve the often difficult life for sexual minorities and to establish equalities for everyone within the Colby community. Things are on the upswing.

However, the harsh reality still exists. Homophobia and general ignorance are rampant among the student body. As great as it is that we have educated and benefited over 10% of the students, we are still faced with the other 90% who remain unaware of the oppression that they inflict upon themselves and others.

When looking at issues of homophobia and ignorance, it is important to go to the root of the problem. Since it is a heterosexual world that we live in, the heterosexual is the empowered body. Making heterosexuals realize their privilege and empowerment is the key to making change. And making that change is the key to making life easier for those who are not heterosexual. Although we can create an atmosphere on our campuses in clubs such as *The Bridge*, where non-heterosexual students can surround themselves with educated and accepting people, they eventually have to return to a reality that is defined in strictly heterosexual terms.

I, along with the other coordinators of *The Bridge*, have struggled with this dilemma all semester and are still looking for a way to effectively induce change. I feel that

the administration is unwilling and/or unable to take an adamant stand on changing the homophobia so prevalent on campus. And frankly, I am tired of asking them, of receiving an assurance of their dedication to the cause that is designed merely to appease us and of seeing no result. If effective change is going to happen on college and university campuses, it is going to happen from the students.

So what do we do? To be honest, I am not sure. I know what needs to happen, as do you, but I am not sure how to make that happen. I am putting out a proposition to other interested students to collaborate with me on seeing our mission take a stronger turn. With the proper organization, our resources and ideas could have a strong input in the shaping of our campus communities.

I would like to see a network created, starting with local schools and then possibly expanding to the rest of New England, and maybe eventually to the rest of the country and even the world. Our power is in numbers. Organizing and collaborating with each other, working in coalition, could give us the strength and resources to accomplish our goals.

With an established network, a productive exchange of ideas and information could benefit everyone involved. I know that it would definitely be a help for us at Colby, and I feel that others could similarly benefit. This network could meet annually for a conference, where this education and exchange could occur. Those who are trying to bring about change at a college or university campus face a painful struggle, and often feel as isolated and alone in our struggle as we felt in the closet. I don't think that we are alone and I think that many people out there are struggling in the same way we are.

I am asking for your support in return for our own. I will be contacting schools in the area. If I have left you out and you are interested in collaborating, please let me know. Let's get together!

For further information, please contact: Ned Brown, *The Bridge*, c/o Student Activities Office, Colby College, Waterville, ME 04901 (207) 872-3635. ▼



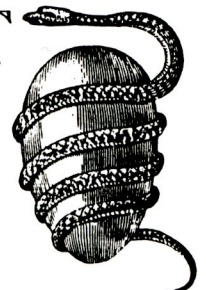
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CALENDAR

TUESDAY 12/1

Annual World AIDS Day and candlelight vigil sponsored by Monadnock AIDS Project. Keene Library. Keene, NH. 7pm. Guest speaker, vigil walk, refreshments, free admission, all welcome, BYO candle. FMI☎ (603) 357-0979 (Frank Kellom).

World AIDS Day - A Service of Remembrance and Caring. 7:30pm, The Theater Project, 14 School St., Brunswick. FMI☎ (207) 725-4955. Sponsored by Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services.

Gay and Lesbian Bulletin Board starts new service and new number. FMI☎(207) 871-0432.

FRIDAY 12/4

MAW Christmas Party in Keene at Marty & Sue's. Dessert and coffee. Bring a gift (\$5 or less) for a gift exchange. 7:30pm. FMI☎ (603) 357-5757.

Fun and Games with Mert. 7pm. FMI☎ (603) 763-4112.

SATURDAY 12/5

March for universal healthcare and a single payor health plan to provide coverage for everyone living in Maine. Sponsored by ACT UP Portland, along with a broad based coalition of consumer groups, health care workers, unions and others. March starts at Augusta Mental Health Institute in Augusta, ME. at 1pm, and ends with a massive rally at the State House.

Shared Times Holiday Dance VFW Hall, 190 Plain St., Lowell, MA. Free, but you must have a ticket to get in. Send SASE to Shared Times, POB 8822, Lowell, MA 01853.

1993 March on Washington regional meeting, 12 Noon, Matlovich office, 72 Pine St., Portland, ME. FMI☎ (617) 566-4296. Celenia Toledo.

MONDAY 12/7

Get debriefed. Find out what went on at this year's National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Conference, as queer activists "did L.A." 7:30pm, 72 Pine St., Portland, ME.

THURSDAY 12/10

Rachel Sager, M.A., a counselor in private practice in Portland and Brunswick, talks about psychodrama and addictions as she leads a discussion on "Substance Abuse, Recovery, and Gay Life." Matlovich Society, Rines Aud., Portland Library, 5 Monument Sq., Portland, ME 7:30-9pm. Wheel chair accessible.

SATURDAY 12/12

Holiday Dance hosted by Wild Iris Productions, 8pm-12am, Temple Beth El, 400 Deering Ave., Portland, ME. Chem-Free, DJ, refreshments. \$5/adv. or \$6/door. FMI☎ (207)247-3461 or (207)929-3866.

Christmas Potluck and Yankee Swap with Lake-Mountains Connection. 6pm. FMI☎ (603) 726-3667.

SUNDAY 12/13

The newly formed Maine Gay Men's Chorus will present its premiere performance at First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland, ME at 3pm. \$10/gen. adm.; \$8/students and seniors at the door or in advance at Amadeus Music, Drop Me a Line, and Raffles, all in Portland.

MONDAY 12/14

Seacoast Gay Men host a talk, Homosexuality and the Religious Right: Why History Hates Us, by Alexander Wallace, historian and chairman of the Apollo Society. 7pm, Unitarian Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH. FMI☎ (603) 898-1115.

WEDNESDAY 12/16

Time Out goes bowling. FMI☎ (207) 871-9940.

SATURDAY 12/19

Fore River Sanctuary "lunch" hike with Time Out. FMI☎ (207) 871-9940.

Amelia's Potluck at Laurie and Judy's. 6:30pm. FMI☎ (603) 542-2690.

MONDAY 12/28

Acadia day hike on Mt. Desert Island. Time Out. FMI☎ (207) 871-9940.

MEDIA

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

PASSAGES

On November 6, 7 and 8 the Harbor Masters and dreizehn, leather groups from Portland, ME and Boston, MA, came together in Portland for their 10th Anniversary Run. The host groups were joined by leathersmen and leatherwomen from all over for a weekend



Outgoing Harbor Masters' President Ralph Cusack

of games, awards and celebrations. Some of the clubs represented were the Pocono Warriors, Ambassadors of Boston, Hartford Colts, Stars M.C. of New York, T-Bears of Boston, Society of Two from Rhode Island, Seacoast Gay Men, the American Uniform Association, Wasatch of Utah, Iron Cross of Montreal, Leather Knights of Boston, Stud 30 of Detroit, New England Ursamen, Chicago Hellfire Club, Boston Ducks, Tightrope of Nova Scotia, and The Goddam Independents.

The Saturday night banquet, held at a Portland hotel-restaurant, was enlivened by a comedian, a chanteuse, and an opening announcement which generated wild applause. Earlier in the day, a waiter who had been assigned to the banquet reacted with extreme displeasure. He was fired.▼

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More L.A. from page 1

Grabarz and Lynn Cothren, special assistant to Coretta Scott King and co-chair of Queer Nation/Atlanta.

Some highlights:

DIRECT ACTION - Steven Corbin, author and founder of ACT UP/L.A.'s People of Color Caucus, spoke about ACT UP's Clean Needles Now project in wartorn South Central L.A. Corbin advocated a "don't mourn, organize" approach for people of color excluded from "pale" organizations: get in there and give them some color, he said. Also discussing his own role as a black gay activist entering the South Central minority community, Corbin explained that it took months of listening - and giving over resources and decisions to local people - to work against his own and other activists' potential to become colonizers.

COALITION-BUILDING - Joel Tan of Sticky Rice Productions and Colors United Action Coalition suggested not attempting mass, inflexible, permanent coalitions but "gypsy alliances" among autonomous groups on compatible issues.

YOUTH ISSUES - After listening to adult service

providers talk about their troubles with minor technicalities in age ethics laws, and angry gay teen erupted, "I'm sick of hearing about adults' problems with restrictions on their activities. What about the fact that you adults are raping us every day and we have to put up with it to get food and somewhere to live?" Echoed a young black drag queen, "America hates its children. I'm homeless and without Medicaid because of my father's interference. Gay kids have to dance on tables, sell sex and sell drugs just to survive."

DYKES AND THE MEDIA: Donna Minkowitz recommended that lesbian activists follow her lead and get on Geraldo-type talk shows, while Vicki Torres of the L.A. Times advocated lipsticking it to job interviews to infiltrate the media mainstream. Lucia Chappelle, program director of the west coast public radio show Pacifica had other advice: use the alternative and public media. The media-owning conglomerates are already starting to break up because of cable and other developments; contrary to popular belief, alternative media often have huge audiences and routine-

ly influence mainstream media. And they do excellent work without bogus corporate constraints. "You can't ask for more than that!" she growled. "Do it. Do it!"

Tapes of all the workshops are available for a small fee through ACT UP/Portland. Call (207) 828-0566 for a complete list.

More LETTERS from pg. 2

men have reciprocated. If you're a man, and consider yourself a feminist, then prove it. Get off your ass and start working for causes that affect women's lives.

What gay men really find disturbing, is not that lesbian women hate men, but that to lesbian women, men are simply irrelevant. Men in this culture are raised to believe that they are entitled to be coddled by women, to be nurtured, cajoled, and doted upon. If a woman chooses not to hold a man's hand, prop up his fragile ego, and wipe his snotty nose, she is treated with hostility, as though some-

thing he's entitled to is not forthcoming. When a woman puts her needs first, and refuses to play nurturer, she is referred to as a man hater. How much easier it is for a man to believe that, than it is to confront his own oppressive expectations of others, his prejudices that demand subservience and deference, and his own inability to be nurturing and supportive. In a world where women, daily, are beaten and raped and judged and tortured and belittled by men, it seems to be perfectly logical that men should be made to prove their intent not to do harm.

It's also time that gay men start providing nurturance, support and compassion for each other. The gay male community in Portland isn't exactly a bastion of love and acceptance. Rather, gay men often treat each other with cruelty, derision and rejection, judging one another on the basis of physical appearance, economic status, sexual accessibility, and ability to pass for straight. I've often heard gay men say cruel things about one another, and treat each other in despicable ways. It's time that gay men in this community learn to treat one another with dignity and respect. Gay men, often the true "man-haters," need to learn to provide nurturance and support to each other, and to our lesbian sisters. We may have a civil rights ordinance in Portland, but as long as our community is rife with sexism and internalized homophobia, we have nothing.

James Melanson
Portland

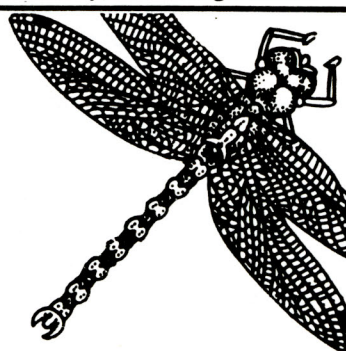
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ASK THIGHMASTER

Dear Thighmaster:

It's insidious what the passage of time will do. When I met my honey, I was an authoritative butch top with no (or few) problems with sex or my sexual identity.

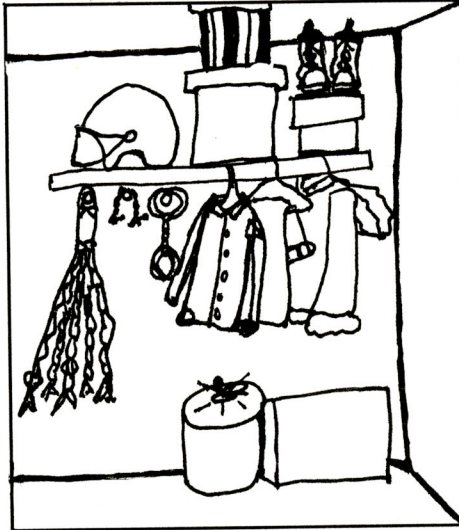
Needless to say, we had a pretty exciting time at first, but as time wore on the doubts set in and I changed. I couldn't live with her as one kind of dyke and then change into another when it came to sex. I just wasn't capable of that degree of schizophrenia. Add to that my decreasing energy level and my need, at times, to revert to being a 6 year old, and I just couldn't convince myself that I was a heartless sadist anymore (the best sadism I could muster was to refuse to beat her); the six or so times my sweetie prostrated herself at my feet didn't bring it back either. So my dilemma is what happens now? She hasn't made the headlong rush at vanilla sex the way I have. I have been able to rent her out to another top without great trepidation. What do I do short of asking other dykes to submit their vanilla resumes?

PAINFULLY PERPLEXED

Dear Pain(less):

You may not be inflicting pain on your lover, but you have certainly hit a nerve in Thighmaster, who has experienced a lot of grief at the hands of people with the affliction from which you seem to be suffering: role-play-perception-disorder (RPPD). For gender play and top/bottom sex play to succeed, each party involved needs to maintain a kind of double consciousness. You need to be able to get into your chosen role while remembering in some deep recess of your mind that you are, in fact, playing - that you are operating from some costume or consciousness that does not necessarily reflect some general sense-of-self or determine your actions in other con-

texts. RPPD occurs when you can't maintain that double consciousness, or when you don't trust your partner(s) to maintain it. RPPD can afflict anyone. But, as any fem and/or bottom can tell you, RPPD is a particularly common phenomenon among butches



drawing by Naomi Falcone

and tops, in whom it usually manifests itself, not in the form you describe, but in partner distrust. Butches who might be totally confident that their masculine attire represents gender drag may forget that the fem decked out in traditional female garb is also masquerading. They may consequently attribute to fems (hetero)traditional desires. Butches with RPPD are constantly accusing fems of wanting to marry them, even if the fem in question has three lovers and won't turn over her housekeys even to facilitate a 5-minute trip to 7-Eleven. Same with tops: tops sometimes forget that bottoms only want to give it up in bed - suddenly some stud is ordering for you in a restaurant, and she doesn't even think it's foreplay. You seem to have a different version of RPPD: you can't comfortably sustain that double consciousness in yourself. You experience hurting your lover in sex play as hurting your lover, period, and the sustaining of double consciousness now seems a sign of illness, "schizophrenia."

Can this sadist be saved? If you want to be saved, Thighmaster

suggests the following path to salvation: get topped. You don't say whether you are/were a switch, but if you weren't before, now is the time. Taking a role to which you aren't "naturally" drawn may remind you that S/M role-playing entails stepping into and then out of roles. You may thereby regain trust that beating your lover in sex is not about spousal abuse, and that taking it, sometimes even more than giving it, requires the marshalling of mental, emotional, and physical strength, which we all need to be reminded we possess. If you leave the scene feeling strengthened rather than victimized, you may also be able to view topping your lover as compatible with other things you do as a supportive partner to abet her self-empowerment. If this doesn't work, you need to accept the fact that your sexual desires have changed, which is not so surprising - who does the same thing in bed that they did ten years ago? This doesn't mean that renting out your lover to tops and soliciting "vanilla resumes" for yourself is the only solution, although it is a reasonable one. You can also work together on eroticizing other sexual practices. This may take time, but when the goal seems unreachable, remember that people have managed to eroticize latex, vegetables, and, as Thighmaster has recently learned, Al Gore. It's worth trying. Besides, Thighmaster is not so sure that you will get a more compatible sex partner by soliciting vanilla resumes. These days, they are more likely to have been typed in handcuffs than in a Holly Near t-shirt. ▼

Thighmaster eagerly awaits your submissions. No problem is too complicated or twisted! Thighmaster, c/o Phoenix Press, PO Box 4743, Portland, ME 04112.

Universal healthcare is a right. Make your voice heard in Augusta, Maine on December 5. (See Calendar for more details).

More BUSINESS from page 3

PFLAG) and the moderates (Matlovich). The steercomm "invitation" was unwelcoming and intimidating to people not of the Matlovich professional ilk, so only a few of us got up the nerve to join.

Once formed, the committee blissfully perpetuated class oppression. At a cocktail party fundraiser held by the steercomm and hosted by a het ally, only half of the committee itself were invited to attend! Not a matter of space - plenty of other EPPeople were considered suitable (professors, landlords, etc.). Nope - it was sheer unforgivable bullshit: working-class, butch, young, and radical steercommies were not welcome. Now, reportedly, our heterohostess hadn't wanted radicals at her party. First of all, that fails to explain why non-rad working-class people and others got dissed out. Plus it was the job of the EPP liaison to stand up for all queers and tell the host to get over her "it's my party, I'll oppress if I want to" thang. But he didn't, so she didn't, and who has apologized to the uninvited for this crass elitism? Nonono one. Queer National Edie Hoffman understandably quit the steercomm soon after this degrading episode.

Likewise the 11/1 auction. A young queer worker resigned from EPP after seeing what he termed "discrimination at the auction planning meeting. I saw working-class people get assigned working-class tasks, certain 'beautiful people' getting runner jobs," and once again well-heeled sweaterfags and

dressydykes getting the more prestigious, upfront work.

At the auction and elsewhere, young EPPeople did a lot of hard, shitty work for little thanks. The anti-youth strain of EPP was a variant of the classism: professional-class bias assumes you have to be middle-aged and possess at least one or two postsecondary degrees before you can do anything important. The resulting boot-licking brought much suffering to EPP campaign workers as "professional" media and business people threw tantrums, manipulated us, and threatened to resign when they didn't have their way - all over tasks that younger people and others had been doing competently before the professionals deigned to arrive.

NOT WAVING, DROWNING. So dudes, I heartily apologize for every fucked aspect of this campaign I collaborated in, but I needed help. WHERE WERE YOU PEOPLE? There I was, surrounded by a committee of people who didn't see what there was to complain about. Like William Shatner in that Twilight Zone where he alone can see the monster on the wing of the airplane and no one believes him. You need allies to keep you from going *insane* in these things. Next time, let's forge a mutually acceptable radical strategy so we neither become stupid purists nor let fellow queers drown in assimilationism.

FUCK U-NITY. Which brings me to my next point. I repent writing all those nicey nicey articles about EPP during the campaign - that was letting them, and me, off way too easy. I

wanted to preserve queer unity to win this fight, but fuck that. "Unity" is what they call it when assimilation serves the interests of the already-dominant moneyed white boys (e.g., Demo Convention); "divisiveness" is when women or people of color or youth or somebody else speaks truth to power. A lesson of the DropMeA-Line debacle: you can't have unity right away between two peoples, one of whom is currently standing on the other's throat. It's not time for a smile and a handshake yet.

DICKS TO WATCH OUT FOR...As my friend Thighmaster says, it's always a bad sign when a so-called coalition is dominated by rich white guys whose views - no matter how much debate - somehow prevail as the most reasonable, practical, doable. EPP, true? But I also want to say that the Homebase group did *not* always function this way. Homebase people did a lot of hard, good work, and many found their awesome queer courage in the phone canvass, the rally, the lit drop, the business-sign handout, voter registration, and other people-driven activities. You are all glorious hot shits.

KEEP PUTTING YOUR POLITICS WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS. March for universal health care in Maine on Saturday, Dec. 5 in Augusta (starting 1pm at AMHI). Tell Santa all you want for Christmas is a single-payor plan; all are welcome, Call ACT UP/Portland for details at (207) 828-0566. See you there. ♡



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RESOURCE GUIDE

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

HOT-LINES

The AIDS Line: 1-800-851-AIDS or 775-1267. Questions or concerns re: HIV/AIDS? Call Mon.-Sat. 9am-5pm, Mon. & Wed. eve. until 7:30pm. Always anonymous.

Dial Kids, 774-TALK - for lesbian, gay, bisexual & questioning youth under 19 yrs of age.

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

Gay Info Line, Concord, NH (603) 224-1686.

Ingraham Volunteers (207) 774-HELP.

PUBLICATIONS

OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS
P.O. Box 177
Burlington, VT 05402

R.A.G.
Box 3293
N. Conway, NH 03860
Quarterly newsletter for women living or vacationing in western ME and Mt. Washington Valley of NH.

SOCIAL GROUPS

MOUNTAIN VALLEY MEN - Box 36, Center Conway, NH 03813. Social group for gay men from western ME & eastern NH. Potlucks & activities. FMI ☎ (207) 925-1034 (Paul).

OUT AND ABOUT - lesbian social & support group. Meets Mon, 7pm, Portsmouth, NH. For sample newsletter and FMI write OAA, POB 332, Portsmouth, NH 03802-0332 or ☎ (603) 659-2139.

SEACOAST GAY MEN meets Mon. 7pm, Unitarian-Universalist Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH PO Box 1394, Portsmouth, NH 03802. FMI ☎ (603) 898-1115.

TIME OUT - Outdoor recreation and environmental club for lesbians, gay men & friends. Free newsletter lists outdoor sports, instructional and environmentally related events for the NH and ME area. FMI ☎ (603) 749-1449 or SASE to Time Out,

c/o 17 First St., Suite 6, Dover, NH 03820.

SUPPORT GROUPS

ACOA - Lesbian and gay mtg. Thurs. 6-7:30 pm, Mon. 7-8:30 pm. YWCA, Portland, ME.

THE AIDS PROJECT - 22 Monument Square, 5th Fl., Portland, ME 04101 FMI ☎ (207)774-6877 about various support groups in Portland, Auburn/Lewiston & Brunswick, ME areas.

ANDROSCOGGIN VALLEY AIDS COALITION (AVAC) - 70 Court St., 2nd Fl., Auburn, ME. Support grp for people with HIV & their loved ones. Thurs. 7pm. FMI ☎ (207) 786-4697.

GAY/LESBIAN/BISEXUAL PARENTS GROUP OF MAINE - FMI ☎ (207) 772-4741 (Frank).

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

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

MIDCOAST MAINE PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS (PFLAG) - 18 Douglas St., Brunswick, ME 04011. Info. & HELPLINE (207) 729-0519 (Sally & Gene). Lit. for & about parents, coming out materials, speakers, contacts with over 300 PFLAG chapters.

MONADNOCK AREA WOMYN (MAW)
P.O. Box 6345
Keene, NH 03431
(603) 357-5757

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD
POB 990, Caribou, ME 04736; (207) 498-2088. NLN (founded 1980) serves Aroostook Co. & New Brunswick towns; sponsors social activities, discussion grps and speakers bureau; publishes monthly newsletter & activities calendar.

OUTRIGHT/PORTLAND - Weekly meeting for support, information,

fun & special events for gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning youth under 22 yrs of age, 72 Pine St., Portland, ME, Fri. 7:30-9:30pm. FMI: Outright, Portland Alliance of Gay & Lesbian Youth, POB 5028, Station A, Portland, ME 04101.

OUTRIGHT/CENTRAL MAINE - Group for lesbian and gay youth 22 & under, meets Fri. 7:30 pm, 1st Unitarian Church, Pleasant St., Auburn, ME. PO Box 802, Auburn, ME 04212 ☎ 1-800-339-4042.

PWA COALITION OF MAINE
377 Cumberland Avenue
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 773-8500

RUMFORD/MEXICO AREA AIDS SUPPORT GROUP - Mon. at Mexico Congregational Church (the "Green Church") 7-8:30pm. Main St., Mexico, ME. FMI ☎ (207)369-0259.

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

MERRYMEETING AIDS SUPPORT SERVICES - P.O. Box 57, Brunswick, ME 04011-0057. Provides support group services regarding AIDS & HIV. FMI ☎ (207)725-4955.

OUT FOR GOOD - Lesbian discussion/support grp. Thurs. 7-9pm, 1st Parish Church, 15 Beach St., Saco, ME. Issues relevant to lesbianlifestyle. Free/\$1 donation requested for room rental. Confidential, non-smoking meeting. FMI ☎ Bobbi after 5:30pm (207) 247-3461.

WOMEN'S INCEST AND SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS' GROUP
Open support/discussion for women only. At Women's Forum on USM campus (86 Winslow St.) Weds. 12:30-2:00pm. FMI ☎ (207) 874-6593.

POLITICAL

APOLLO SOCIETY - For New England's gay/lesbian atheists, free-thinkers, ethical humanists & Hellenists. Free speech & civil rights advocacy, freedom-from-religion support and guilt free fun! FMI ☎ (207) 773-5626 or SASE to POB 5301, Portland, ME 04101.

FREDERICTON LESBIANS & GAYS
P.O. Box 1556, Station A
Fredericton, NB E3B 5G2 Canada

AIDS COALITION TO UNLEASH POWER (ACT UP/Portland)
142 High St., Suite 222 Portland, ME 04101; (207) 828-0566; FAX: (207) 828-0566 3*. Meets Sun. 7pm at YWCA (87 Spring St., Portland, ME).

APEX DISTRIBUTION POINTS:

Maine

Gulf of Maine Books, Brunswick
The Square Cafe, Waterville
Papa Joe's, Augusta
Downeast AIDS Network, Ellsworth
Brewster Inn, Dexter
Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition, Lewiston
GLBA, Bates College, Lewiston
Sportmen Athletic Club, Lewiston
Mike's Place, 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
ALSO, Plymouth State College, Plymouth
Blue Strawberry, Portsmouth
Members, Portsmouth

Vermont

Everyone's Books, Brattleboro
LUNA, St. Johnsbury
Rainbow Coalition, Montpelier
The Orion River Co-op, Burlington
GLB Alliance, UVM, Burlington

Portland

Portland Public Library
Living Room North
The AIDS Project
Woodford's Cafe
Raffles Cafe
Bagel Works
Books, Etc.
Zootz
YWCA
Limelight
Chartroom
Videoport
Blackstones
Good Day Market
Women's Forum, USM
Maine College of Art

CLASSIFIED

F.A.R. (FEMINISTS AGAINST RAPE).

A feminist/activist group seeking to stop sexism in the media, courts and streets. One in three women is sexually assaulted in America. These are the hate crime times. Meets weekly. FMI☐ (207) 772-5941 or (207) 772-0935.

GREATER PORTLAND N.O.W. -

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

Maine Bisexual People's Network, POB 10772, Portland, ME 04104, meets third Sunday, 1-4pm, Powers House, USM, 96 Bedford St. (actually Winslow St.), Portland, ME.



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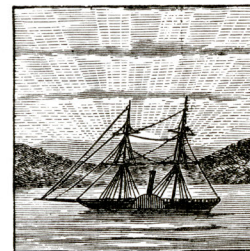
NOTICES

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Mission Statement - As a diverse group of feminists, we are united by our anger, frustration, and determination to make Portland a city free of sexual violence. We use creative means of activism to highlight the seriousness of rape in our culture. In connection with this, we believe it is important to analyze rape in the context of political, economic, cultural, and social structures which oppress and victimize. As feminists, we want to shatter the power structure that prescribes rigid gender roles and creates both rapists and rape victims. We are a gender-inclusive group. We also believe in coalition building with other groups with a similar focus, but we will not compromise our radicalism.

Feminists sharing these goals are invited to join us.

We meet Tuesdays at 7pm at the Women's Center, Room 40, Payson Smith Hall, USM.



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