

ETHERIDGE, IAN COME OUT

Washington, DC (Outlines) - At the inaugural festivities in January, singer Melissa Etheridge came out of the closet and singer Janis Ian acknowledged having had lesbian sexual experiences.

Etheridge made her statement at the gay inaugural ball just after lesbian singer k.d. lang stated, "The best thing I ever did in my life was come out."

Etheridge said, "My sister k.d. has been such an inspiration. She did the greatest thing I've ever seen this year. I'm very proud to say I've been a lesbian all my life."

Ian made her statement the night before at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force dinner.

Ian's appearance was introduced by the emcee as her "first gay and lesbian event." Ian said, "My first gay event was when my best friend Jeanie and I slept together when we were 15."

Another highlight of the festivities came at the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund's party when Sen. Edward Kennedy told the crowd, "Last fall, one in every seven votes cast for Bill Clinton - more than the margin of victory - was cast by a gay or a lesbian voter."

GLAAD AWARDS

New York (GayNet) - The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation announced recipients of its media awards this year. They include British actor Sir Ian McKellen and U.S. TV stars Roseanne and Tom Arnold, TV shows *Roseanne*, *Melrose Place*, *One Life to Live*, and *Doing Time on Maple Drive*, rock singer Elton John and Country singer Garth Brooks (a member of PFLAG). No motion picture was found to be worthy of honoring for its depictions of gays and lesbians.

LOVE FREE OR DIE



photo by Annette Dragon

On February 17, 1993, the newly-formed Open Door City Coalition issued a formal press release announcing its intention to create a legally protected status and safer environment for sexual minorities and their friends within the city of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The coalition noted two key concerns: (1) the continued occurrence of bias-motivated acts of violence, harassment, and discrimination; and (2) the absence of civil rights legislation protecting persons who experience unjust and unfair treatment due to their actual or "perceived" sexual orientation.

The Open Door City Coalition has been created to address these concerns through the adoption of an ordinance which will prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation. The coalition aims to add Portsmouth to the growing list of New England cities and states with civil rights protection for lesbian, gay, and bisexual people: Connecticut, Vermont, and Portland, ME have all passed anti-discrimination laws in recent years. Lewiston, a largely Catholic industrial town in central Maine, has passed a gay civil rights ordinance pending public referendum in November. The gay and lesbian populations of the Maine and New Hampshire seacoasts have long given life to the culture and economy of the region and seek the basic right to protection by its laws. Portsmouth is known as the "Open Door City." It is the hope of the coalition that Portsmouth will continue to be a leader in New Hampshire by keeping its hearts, minds, and doors open and supporting this long overdue ordinance.

Anyone interested in assisting this effort is encouraged to call (603) 431-4941 or to write PO Box 883, Portsmouth, NH 03802. ▼

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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This is in response to thighmasters reply to messy closet case. I am in agreement with thighmaster that it is imperative for women who do men to come out and admit it. When they pretend to be lesbians they take from me my right to choose how i will relate to bis and heteras. There is political work i do only with other lesbians. There are conversations i have only with other lesbians. This is not about purity this is about my right to choose.

This is also about language and words having meaning. It is also about identity politics. When a wombyn identifies herself as a lesbian or a dyke, inherent in that identity is that she doesn't do men. Being a lesbian or dyke and fucking men are mutually exclusive concepts. It is deceitful and oppressive for women who fuck men to identify as lesbian or dyke, just as it would be oppressive for me, a white xian-raised lesbian, to identify as a lesbian of african descent or as a jewish lesbian. It's not true.

For me, the fact that messy closet case is willing to betray her lesbian friends by lying to them about who she is illustrates why many lesbians don't trust women who do men.

My response to messy closet case is that you lost your credibility as a dyke activist when you chose to fuck a man. And in hiding this and lying about your acts you really lost credibility. This is not to say that you can't be a very credible queer activist. The concept of queer does not exclude women fucking men, the concept of dyke does.

This leads to another concern i have about the words "queer," "radical," and "dyke." It seems like these words and concepts are often used

interchangeably. I have a hard time with that. I identify as a radical dyke. I do not identify as queer or gay. So when the word "queer" is used, i and many other dykes are excluded. I question whether "queer" is really a dyke positive concept. I find it pretty homogenized. It doesn't recognize gender power and oppression. "Queer" implies that lesbian is the same as gay man is the same as bisexual is perhaps the same as kinky het. I think "queer" has the potential to convince lesbians that working for gay men's issues is the same as working for lesbian issues. I don't have much in common with gay men. After all, it is wombyn i want to share my life and body with. i question why the concept of "queer" is perceived as being so radical. There is nothing new or powerful or different about women working for men. It's the same old same old.

So when the words "we," "our," and "us" are used i need to know if it refers to me. "Queer" doesn't. "Gay" doesn't either. How "gay" does not reference lesbian was well illustrated by the recent national debate over "gays in the military." That debate was not about "us," lesbians.

I would like to know what other dykes are thinking about these things.

Ana R Kissed

Naomi Falcone:

I've only been in Portland half a year now, and didn't know you were the authority on language for the queer women's community. Had I known, you could have explained to me why you think that a bisexual woman who loves women passionately and sexually just as other dykes do, and who receives the same harassment on the

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.

streets as other dykes, can't call herself one. Out of respect to you and others who agreed with you, I might have stopped calling myself a dyke. Now, however, it will take powerful arguments from most of Portland to convince me to stop calling myself a dyke. Thanks for inspiring me.

Before I debate with you further, I'd like to understand you better. I'd appreciate it if you would respond to the following questions. My bias is clear.

Is it the thought that queer women with boyfriends might decide to call themselves "dykes with boyfriends" or the thought that those women might still be active in queer politics that leads you to "the obliteration of lesbianism?" What is lesbianism? Is there only one definition for lesbianism, just like feminism? You made the distinction, what's the difference between a lesbian and a dyke? (Sounds like a bad queer joke to me.) Did you read all of Thighmaster's response to Messy Closet Case, especially: "Who benefits when queer activists reject the resources and energy of self naming queers?" You've heard the word bisexual, what about biphobia? (For a good example, read your viewpoint last month.) Have you heard that rape is about power through sexualized aggression, not about sex? If every pleasure I've ever experienced with a man has been socially constructed as you suggest, what about all those I've experienced with women? Lastly, what will be lost when bisexual women are included in

lesbian communities?

Naomi, I agree that we need to fight against queer hating bigots, against heterosexism, homophobia, and a whole lot more. I just want more from the gay and lesbian community than to be given permission to be bisexual. I want to be greeted with an embrace.

Dykely,
Johannah Burdin

Messy Closet Case: You sleep with this guy, you love this guy, out yourself as bisexual and continue engaging in queer activism. AND add to your agenda, educating lesbians and gays about biphobia. The more of us who proudly identify ourselves as bisexual, the less realistic fear of loss of respect and community will coerce younger bi-queers into internalized oppression.

Naomi Falcone: Queer visibility is a matter of life and death, for bisexuals as well as lesbians and gay men. There are privileges some bisexuals get - when they have opposite-gender partners, that is - and this privilege is a mixed blessing at best for those of us who despise "passing" as straight; there are also some oppressions particular to bisexual women, primarily (1) being defined by and (2) ostracized by a lesbian community we may have once been included in and depended on for our very survival. To be persecuted by one's own people is the most painful persecution possible. It is to be orphaned.

Naomi, the lesbian community must seriously consider what emerging bisexual politics means in relation to lesbian politics. I do not yet have the answers, but I know that to stop discourse with conclusions like "when the lines between lesbian and bisexual are blurred, then the whole meaning of lesbianism is lost" will get us nowhere fast - and hurts. How can a woman who has sex with and loves women and is bisexual NOT blur the lines between bisexual and lesbian?

Lastly, Naomi, I find your last sentence (as well as other sections of your "viewpoint") extremely insulting to non-lesbians. Women-hating, in fact. To assert that all women who aren't lesbians are "all just waiting for the right rapist to come along" insults my and most women's intelligence. Men are to be wary of, but I urge you to think about another silencing of the lesbian community, lesbian-battery, and how that along with bisexual politics affects your presently narrow and self-righteous views of lesbianism.

Thighmaster: Why do you refrain from using the word bisexual? I appreciate much of your response but am left with the distasteful impression that you feel "messy closet case's" experience is impure - that's okay with you, you are lenient and forgive much, nobody is perfect. Two hundred years ago there weren't homosexuals, there were people who committed unnatural (impure) acts. Thighmaster regressed

More LETTERS ➤ page 7



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

by Stan Clough

Pink and Black Triangles: Part III

Adolf Hitler came to power by pandering to the German people. Prussian militarists and rabid nationalists hated Jews and communists: Hitler promised a "solution" to these "problems" if these groups would support him. The German youth despised the elders who held political power in the Weimar government. Hitler, as the "big brother" to disaffected teens, promised to dispose of this geriatric tyranny. The Hitler Youth replaced their patriarchs with an even more malevolent father: the Nazi state.

Ernst Röhm and his stormtroopers (S.A.) terrorized the Nazi's communist opponents in the late 20s and early 30s. The S.A. took sadistic pleasure in murdering Jews and communists who dared to speak out against the Nazi *führer*, Hitler. Röhm himself, along with many members of the S.A., was homosexual. Hitler tolerated Röhm's sexual activities as long as Röhm was butchering his enemies.

President Hindenburg's advisors thought it wise to allow Hitler a post in the government: they wanted to keep an eye on him. In January, 1933, Hitler was appointed Hindenburg's Chancellor. On February 23, homosexual groups were proscribed. Four days later, the Reichstag burned, and a Dutchman was blamed. Accused of homosexuality, he was executed. Thus began the Nazi pogrom against "sexual deviants." Because of the Reichstag fire, which the Nazis probably set, Hitler was given emergency powers. The Weimar constitution was eliminated, and in November, with only the Nazi party legal, Hitler became ruler of Germany.

Heinrich Himmler, leader of the dreaded S.S. and Gestapo, hated Röhm. Himmler told Hitler that Röhm was plotting an overthrow. From June 28-30, 1934, 300 of Röhm's followers, along with Röhm himself, were massacred. Hitler announced all homosexuals would be purged from the Nazi party.

Himmler saw homosexuals, along with Jews, as enemies of the Third Reich. Gays were treasonous - they did not father boys who would grow up to annihilate Germany's foes. With this mentality, Paragraph 175 was revised in June, 1935, so as to punish homosexuality with ten years imprisonment. Magnus Hirschfeld and Thomas Mann fled the witch-hunt: others would not be as lucky.

While the Nazis spread terror at home, their armies were intimidating Europe. Disregarding the Versailles Treaty, Hitler's armies occupied the Rhineland in March, 1936. In October, Mussolini and Hitler signed an alliance pact. They sent troops, tanks and planes to assist Franco's fascist rebels when civil war broke out in Spain. Hitler's warplanes bombed the undefended town of Guernica to test the new theories of *blitzkrieg* warfare. In March, 1938, Hitler annexed Austria, and in September, Britain and France fearfully allowed the Nazis to occupy the German-speaking Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia. Hitler was clearly planning a new war, and manpower would be needed. Anyone who did not supply strong German boys to the state was an enemy, and should die.

The Nazi blueprint for Germany and Europe called for the elimination of "misfits." Blue-eyed Germans were the "master race": they must be allowed to breed for their survival. All else were considered scum. Jews, deprived of their citizenship, were unable to emigrate from the Nazi nightmare. Hitler fantasized their eventual extermination. The Slavic peoples would be allowed to live - as slaves. Germany would be purged of "human trash": the mentally and physically "defective", the elderly, and gays. Then there were the "asocials" and political enemies: communists, Jehovah's Witnesses, gypsies, Catholics and lesbians. Lesbians were enemies because they would not provide their wombs as factories for producing future soldiers of the Third Reich. Himmler's war against gays and lesbians was entering a deadly phase.

Next month: the concentration camps. ▼



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QUEER ON THE QUADS

Edited by Erica Rand

*High School (Non)confidential by Chester Munro
Former queer on the high school quad
and aspiring future queer on the college quad*

This month's column, which addresses the problems of high school queers, contains testimony presented at the Lewiston City Council Hearing on the ordinance to prevent discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the areas of housing, credit, employment and public accommodation, an ordinance passed on the night of the hearing, 6 January 1993, and now to be decided by referendum on 2 November.

* * * * *

Mr. Mayor, Members of the Council, my name is Chester Munro; I'm a citizen of Lewiston. I would like to speak to the council tonight about discrimination.

In 1988 I worked for a company that managed to discover I was gay. Within two weeks, although it was known that I was living on my own, and that this job was my only source of income, my hours were cut to eight hours a week, while other employees who were known to be heterosexual continued to receive regular hours and even got more hours after mine were cut. I had no legal recourse to challenge this.

Currently, I have found another job and have moved back to Lewiston, the town that I grew up in. By speaking here tonight and announcing that I am homosexual, I could be evicted from my home and lose my job if you the council do not pass this ordinance, by as early as tomorrow morning.

In closing, I would like to speak to the issue of protecting children. When I was 16 years of age, I was evicted from my mother's home by her. I was not doing drugs; I was not a horrible student. I was evicted from my home because I was gay. I think it should be clearly examined what the term "protecting the children" means. Only God knows what could have happened to me out on the streets. Please remember and keep in mind, I could be your child. How secure would you want me to be? ▽

NO BUSINESS AS USUAL - this month in local activism

by Bee Bell

So check this shit out: Maine doctors want to take your blood, test it for HIV without your knowledge or permission, and charge you money for it.

That's right, boys and girls, the Maine Medical Association (a branch of the AMA) is proposing "An Act to Amend State Law Regarding HIV Testing," which will do four things to change the decent 1987 law that now holds:

- Remove *written* informed consent from testing requirements.
- End special-permission handling of HIV records, so that a simple medical release would give away your status.
- Do away with the requirement for pre-and post-test counseling.
- Allow anyone exposed to blood or body fluids to test the source person for HIV without obtaining consent - and without even obtaining a court order to waive the need for consent.

And this *will* affect boys and girls, since at least one confused backer at the MMA seems to think AIDS already has a high incidence among "gay people" of any gender. So, as usual, a throng of "respectable" people wants to pass a law that robs people of their rights, to be applied mostly in those special cases where you're queer, of color, or don't have any money.

Now, pro-queer legislators had coined the term "Dracula Bill" to describe the MMA's proposal because it involves the nonconsensual taking of blood. ACT UP/Portland, naturally, drove the point home to the MMA's Manchester, Maine legislative offices in a zap the night of 2/2. ACT UP vampires in fangs, capes, and doctors' scrubs urged medicos to rescind the bill; in a way-lame orgy of panic, the MMA shut off all outdoor lighting, locked its doors, and drew its little ol' curtains when the first handful of activists arrived. Recognizing the holes in the docs' rationale - the MMA claims that consent, counseling, and confidentiality guarantees

More BUSINESS ➡ page 9

★ COMING SOON ★

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PRESENT COUPON AT DOOR ★ EXPIRES 3/31/93

CALENDAR . . .

MONDAY 3/1

St. Patrick Potluck Party. Seacoast Gay Men, Unitarian Church, Portsmouth, NH, 7pm. FMI ☎ AI (603) 898-1115.

WEDNESDAY 3/3

Lesbian Discussion Grp at Concord Feminist Health Ctr, 38 S. Main St., Concord, NH. Topic: Gays & lesbians in the media. FMI ☎ (603) 225-2739.

FRI. & SAT. 3/5-6

Kate Clinton performs at Tsai Performance Center, 685 Commonwealth Ave. opposite BU East T stop, Boston. 3/5 - 8pm; 3/6 - 7 & 9pm. \$16.50. FMI ☎ (617) 496-2222.

FRIDAY 3/5

Amelia's Singles Group Location to be determined. Bring games & snacks to share. FMI ☎ (603) 523-4593 or (603) 763-4112.

SATURDAY 3/6

Couples Communication Workshop for lesbians sponsored by Out & About and led by Carol Van Landingham. \$49/couple. FMI ☎ (603) 431-7757.

Cross country ski with Time Out in Oxford. \$8, boots/ski rentals available. Group supper at local diner. FMI ☎ the Bulletin Board (207) 871-0432.

A Conference to create a safer, more tolerant environment for

gay and lesbian youth for educators (K-12), clergy, counselors, physicians, and all others who work with young people. At U of NH; \$35 (includes lunch). FMI ☎ (603) 772-6221. Co-sponsored by P-FLAG: NH Seacoast and Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, UNH.

MONDAY 3/8

Happy International Women's Day!

Jim Splaine, Assistant Mayor, Portsmouth, NH speaks on a proposed gay rights ordinance. Seacoast Gay Men, Unitarian Church, Portsmouth, NH, 7pm. FMI ☎ AI (603) 898-1115.

Equal Protection Lewiston (EPL) desperately needs your support in time and money. Please send donations to POB 7804, Lewiston, ME 04243-7804. FMI ☎ (207) 784-5818 (fax (207) 777-3299). And please come to a meeting to find out what you can do. EPL meets every other Monday in the Lewiston Multipurpose Center.

THURSDAY 3/11

How the Quilt Speaks to Us: An Evening of Storytelling, Music, Poetry with the display of a 12'x12' panel of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Kick-off of a 3-month visit of the Quilt to Maine. Matlovich, Rines Aud., Portland Library, Portland, ME, 7:30-9pm, wheel chair access.

SATURDAY 3/13

New date for men's potluck and events planning for spring and summer outdoor events with Time Out. FMI☎(207)871-9940. Portland location.

SUNDAY 3/14

Seacoast Gay Men Theatre Party: *The Mystery of Irma Vep* at Portland Stage Company, 2pm. Meet the cast following performance. FMI ☎ AI (603) 898-1115.

MONDAY 3/15

Toga Spaghetti Dinner Dance to benefit Out & About's trip to the March on Washington. 5:30-9:30pm at 1st United Methodist Church, 129 Miller Ave., Portsmouth, NH. \$8 plus beverages, FMI/RSVP (by 3/5) ☎ Keryn (603) 659-2139.

David Mauriello, playwright with Players' Ring, NH's new theatre company, talks about their all year schedule. Seacoast Gay Men, Unitarian Church, Portsmouth, NH, 7pm. FMI ☎ AI (603) 898-1115.

TUESDAY 3/16

Sexual Assault Advocacy Training. 6-9pm for 10 wks. Covers: sexual assault & child sexual abuse; crisis intervention & advocacy skills; medical, police, & legal protocols; & related topics. Completion of training qualifies people to volunteer on the Rape Crisis Hotline, Com-

munity Education Speaker's Bureau, or the Board of Directors. Cont. Ed./Teacher Recert. credits available. No exp. nec. FMI ☎ (207) 879-1821 (Beth).

THURSDAY 3/18

Are you suffering from Dyke deprivation? Lesbian discussion group forming for womyn born womyn who are sexual exclusively with womyn (lesbians). Monthly potluck/meeting with regular time to be determined. Suggested topics: passing; Dyke identity - what it does/does not have in common with queer/gay identity; lesbian health issues; lesbian invisibility; national, state & local gay rights agendas - what do they do for lesbians? FMI/location ☎ (207) 775-1487.

SATURDAY 3/20

Suede performs at 1st Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland, ME. 8pm. \$10.50 in adv.; \$12/day of show. FMI ☎ (207) 247-3461 or (207) 929-6344.

Amelia's Monthly Potluck at Ann & Lynn's, 5:30pm. FMI ☎ (802) 685-2146.

SUNDAY 3/21

Welcome the Goddess - Time Out holds a "first of spring" picnic at Crescent Beach. FMI ☎ the Bulletin Board (207) 871-0432.

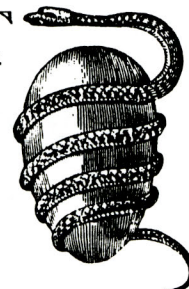


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MONDAY 3/22

Equal Protection Lewiston (EPL) meeting. (See 3/8)

Paul Boynton, publisher and editor of *Journeymen* talks on gays and the men's movement. Seacoast Gay Men, Unitarian Church, downtown Portsmouth, NH, 7pm. FMI ☐ Al Santerre (603) 898-1115.

THURSDAY 3/25

Gary Leupp, professor of Japanese history at Tufts University, presents an illustrated lecture on *Nanshoku: Homo-sexuality in Japanese Culture*. Matlovich, Rines Aud., Portland Library, Portland, ME, 7:30-9pm, wheel chair accessible.

SATURDAY 3/27

Sweet Honey in the Rock at Maine Center for the Arts, U. of ME, Orono. \$18/reserved seating only. Tix: (207) 581-1755; TDD-TTY (207) 581-1888 or write: U. of ME, 5746 Maine Center for the Arts, Orono, ME 04469. Financial assistance avail. - Maureen Flagg (207) 945-5102. FMI ☐ (207) 945-5102. Sign language interpreted, wheel chair accessible.

Time Out Popham Beach party. Beachcombing & picnic. FMI ☐ (207) 871-9940.

MONDAY 3/29

John Townsend of Integrity/ New Hampshire talks about the

Episcopal Church lesbian and gay ministry. Seacoast Gay Men, Unitarian Church, Portsmouth, NH, 7pm. FMI ☐ Al Santerre (603) 898-1115.

MEDIA

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

KGAY is on the air! This gay-owned radio station is now broadcasting via satellite. Pick them up on Galaxy 5, transponder 6, at 6.3 & 6.46 mhz, or on Spacenet 3, transponder 22, at 6.2 & 7.4 mhz. FMI ☐ KGAY studio - 1-800-733-5429; office - 1-800-758-6642.

NOTICES

Equal Protection Lewiston (EPL) desperately needs your support in time and money. Please send donations to POB 7804, Lewiston, ME 04243-7804. FMI ☐ (207) 784-5818 (fax (207) 777-3299). And please come to a meeting to find out what you can do. EPL meets every other Monday in the Lewiston Multipurpose Center (see 3/8 and 3/22).

Are you going to the March on Washington 4/23-25? The Maine delegation wants to know & help. Two buses (\$55-\$70 per person), car pools & a train from Boston are planned. FMI ☐ (207) 871-0432. National travelinfo.: 1-800-800-9009. Housing: 1-800-554-2220.

Club EX Network, an international home exchange & hospitality club with 120 members worldwide, has established a toll free number for info in the US. This service helps vacationers by providing free housing and encourages cultural exchange between gays/lesbians of different countries. Yearly membership fee. Confidential. FMI ☐ 1 (800) 787-0010 or write Doug Rattray, Club EX Network, POB 101, London SW12 OPR, UK (Tel/Fax +44/81 675 6195).

More LETTERS from pg. 3

into pre-1890's thinking, reinforcing the lie that lesbians who have sex with and/or fall in love with men aren't bisexual, but are lesbians who transgress, committing impure (but forgivable) acts of "major sex and/or the heavy emotion thing" with men. Your omission and other bisexual silencing contributes to this nasty weight I feel attached to my every word.

Goddess of Semantics: Does Dyke mean no more than not sleeping with men?

Queerly yours,
Kristin Wright

PASSAGES

Thurgood Marshall, 84, former U.S. Supreme Court justice who was regarded as a staunch ally of the Gay civil rights movement, died on January 24, at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, of heart failure.

Like Justice William Brennan, who retired from the court in 1990, Marshall gathered a near-perfect voting record on cases involving constitutional rights for Gay people during his 24-year high court tenure. Marshall retired in June 1991. During the 1980s, as the Supreme Court turned steadily more conservative and opposed to equal rights for Gays, Marshall provided a strong voice of dissent that championed equal rights for all minorities, including Gays.

Most notably, Marshall in 1986 joined three other justices in dissenting from the landmark 1986 *Bowers v. Hardwick* decision, which upheld Georgia's sodomy law. The majority decision had stated that private homosexual activity between consenting adults is not protected by the U.S. Constitution.

More PASSAGES ☐ page 11

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ASK THIGHMASTER

Dear Thighmaster:

I've always been honest about having no professional training relevant to the advice biz, and, frankly, I think my lack of training is pretty obvious in my columns. A lot of my advice sucks - and besides, why else would I keep printing those dorky but space-filling poems from Hallmark hell about cherishing loved ones? But readers keep dissing me for being unprofessional. How can I get them to remember I'm a quack?

Your Biggest Fan,
Ann Landers

Dear Ann,

Get ready for the shock of your life. Your parents lied to you: your twin is not Abby, but Thighmaster, another advice-giving superstud with the very same Revolutionary prisonbreak birthday (no shit), and with, more importantly, that special psychic connection that Thighmaster learned about from *Guiding Light* - when Nick dropped his camera at the very moment that Lujack, the twin he didn't even know he had, was dying in a fiery hospital blaze - yet never really believed until reading your letter. For Ann, o lost sister, your letter could actually have been written by Thighmaster (which, for the record, would be the first time that Thighmaster has penned a query). Yes, even as you were writing this tale of woe, Thighmaster was struggling with the very same problem. Only one thing could explain this uncanny coincidence (and the unknown force that impelled you to send this cry for help to some queer heartbreak hack in Northern New England): Ann and Thighmaster are twins!

If you don't believe this yet, you will when you read Thighmaster's story. Thighmaster started this column about six months ago, claiming no fitness for the job other than having "been around the block a few times." Like you, Thighmaster thought it would be enough simply to be out about degreelessness. "Thighmaster," the column stated, "has no professional training in advice giving, but so what?" Like you, Thighmaster thought the columns practically screamed "amateur status."

(Really, when would a columnist who can quote 3 decades of TV plots have had time to get advanced degrees?) So Thighmaster kept happily fielding letters, blithely confident as the months went on that readers were keeping Thighmaster's amateur status in mind.



drawing by Naomi Falcone

But now it appears that Thighmaster has been overblithe. Last month, Thighmaster was berated for not giving enough medical advice in a column on menopausal vaginal dryness. Thighmaster was majorly de-blithed. It wasn't because Thighmaster - who last month printed the consensus-killer "dyke with a boyfriend" - is critico-phobic. And it wasn't just because Thighmaster had been woefully misread in parts. [Thighmaster will grant that "Get over it, get lube, and get a lover who can deal" was not an effective way to convey "Get over expecting to gush, supplement your juices with lube, and use a variety of sexual and herbal strategies to preserve vaginal moisture." But Thighmaster certainly did not say that vaginal lubrication resulting from sexual arousal is a youth-oriented ageist myth. Thighmaster said that dyke pornography is youthocentric (no apologies, by the way, for not viewing Webster as god) in that there are few tales of lust in which a huge amount of natural lube - running down legs, soaking jeans, making lake-sized puddles - does not

figure as the primary proof of sexual arousal, a necessary component of hot sex, and the supreme, if not the sole, source of female-generated wetness. Face it, hot-flash sweat is never what's drenching the ubiquitous soaked sheets of dyke porn, and dykedom is all the poorer for it.] No, what de-blithed Thighmaster the most was the angry reader's failure to see that actually humility rather than irresponsibility had prevented Thighmaster from providing more medical advice. Having countless supplicants on their knees before Thighmaster has not made Thighmaster top-stuck, and after reading up on the subject, Thighmaster knew it was time to submit. Thighmaster, thus thighmastered, referred the inquirer to health-care experts - which Thighmaster will continue to do when medical problems are at issue - and stuck to doing the one thing that institutions of so-called higher learning have certified Thighmaster to do: dish out wildly subjective cultural criticism as if it were objective truth.

So, Ann, to return to what ails us, how can we keep our quackity in view? Obviously, you've already accumulated years of evidence that preposterous advice is too subtle a hint. So Thighmaster suggests that we go with the ACT UP/Queer Nation in-your-face etiquette for the '90s. Let's give our columns a subtitle indicating that our textual sexwork is only semi-pro, and let's celebrate our newfound twin-ties by using the same one. Thighmaster, who had originally planned to use "I'm here, I'm queer, and I've got no credentials," has been working the twinvibes around the clock to come up with something we'd both love, something securely planted in that special Ann/Thighmaster twinplace where Ann's euphemism and Thighmaster's raunch merge into one. And Thighmaster found it: "advice with holes." So we're on! See you at the next reunion.

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

More BUSINESS from page 5

are "barriers" that discourage people from getting tested for HIV - ACT UP pointed out that the bill was instead a thinly disguised move to take away 100% of a patient's control in the doctor-patient relationship. The activists demanded that doctors use universal health precautions (latex gloves, etc.), rather than fear and discrimination, to protect themselves from HIV.

The bill, now in its earliest stages, will next go to the Human Resources committee of the legislature for a vote. While the Maine AIDS Advisory Committee has already come out publicly against the Dracula Bill, it does have sponsors in the State House: among them a Rep. Bruno and Rep. "Buster" Townsend. If you are a doc or a health care worker, call the MMA and let lobbyist Gordon Smith know how you feel. If you aren't, call him up anyhow; you're a potential patient and this affects you. Don't let this slip into law without raising a peep. Help kill this backward bill.

Backward Pete, on the other hand - City Councilor Peter "vulgar and disgusting lifestyle" Grenier of Lewiston - seems to come with a built-in self-defeating mechanism. When

Pete's not out spitting upwind, he likes to spend his time trying to annihilate civil rights for queer people in his city. But the poor dude has lost even the support of his fellow phobe on the 5-2 pro-gay Council in his latest bid to quash queendom.

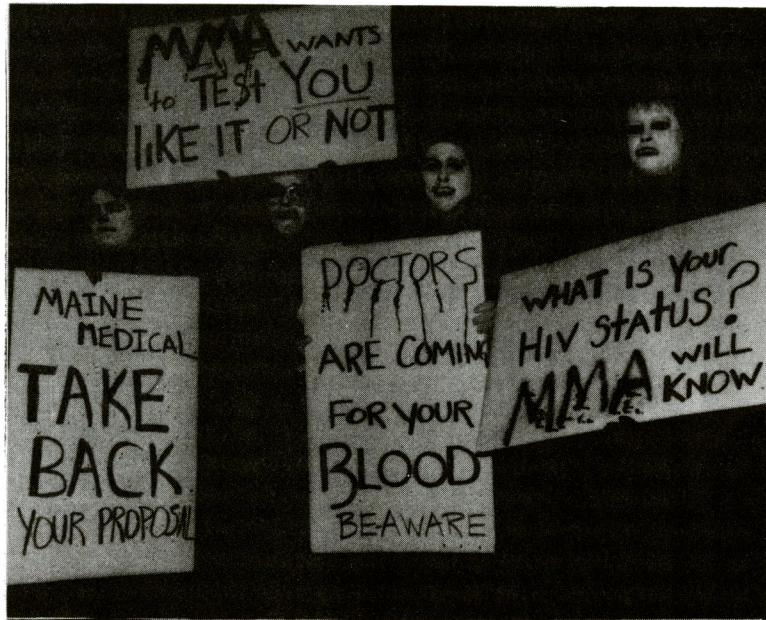


photo by Annette Dragon

Yes, Peter Grenier claimed he and his cronies would give up their campaign against gay rights in town, if only they could amend Lewiston's new anti-discrimination ordinance in two ways. First, he hoped to redefine sexual orientation so that some uncontrollable "condition of being homosexual" would be protected but not the gay lifestyle, which is "clearly subject to a person's control and

should not be forced on others." Only in your dreams, Pete. Anyhow, he also wanted to add some nebulous language about "otherwise lawful" activity claimed to be discriminatory "solely because it has a disparate impact on persons of a particular sexual orientation" - excuse me, but isn't that the point of civil rights protections? Rumor has it that Grenier's amendment was the vestige of an original amendment to explicitly disallow gay marriage in Lewiston; I guess somebody finally told Pete that cities can't make marriage laws. In general, Grenier wanted to condone *feeling* gay but not acting on it, and to keep our movement from consolidating its gains and going further.

The amendment attempt was defeated 6-1, and city attorney Lebel must have had to choke back laughter as he pointed out that the ordinance was up for referendum vote, and "it is unclear whether you can amend a suspended ordinance"! Peter Grenier, meaning it as a compliment, says he now understands that the Councilors supporting the ordinance "do not have a secret agenda. They do not support the radical gay political agenda." Well, I guess we don't have everything in common, after all. ▼

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

GAY-LESBIAN PHONELINE, 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

AM CHOFSHI - Maine Lesbian/Gay Jewish group, meets monthly. FMI ☐ (207) 874-2970 (Rheatha).

MOUNTAIN VALLEY MEN - Box 36, Center Conway, NH 03813. Social group for gay men from west. ME & east. 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 ☐ (207) 871-9940 or SASE to Time Out, POB 11502, Portland, ME 04104.

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.

CHRONOLOGICALLY ADVANTAGED LESBIANS - Meetings for lesbians over 60 in Vermont. FMI ☐ (802) 658-5510.

CRONES - for women over 40. POB 242, Winooski, VT 05404.

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

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.

MAINEBISexualPEOPLE'SNET-WORK, POB 10818, Portland, ME 04104. Our purpose is to affirm in ourselves and others the positive nature of bisexuality and to work toward greater acceptance in the bisexual, gay, lesbian, and straight communities. Support and referral services available.

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
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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
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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, 445 Main St., Biddeford, ME. Issues relevant to lesbian lifestyle. Free/\$1 donation requested for room rental. Conf., non-smoking. FMI☐ Bobbi (207)247-3461.

WOMEN'S INCEST AND SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS' GROUP
Open support/discussion for women only. Weds. 12:30-2:00pm. FMI ☐ (207) 874-6593 or (207) 774-3613.

POLITICAL

PORTLAND MLGPA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE at law offices, 5th floor, 100 Middle St., Portland, ME FMI ☐ (207) 871-0432.

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.

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GLBA, Bates College, Lewiston
Sportsman Athletic Club, Lewiston
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Glad Day Bookshop, Boston
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Women's Information Service, Lebanon
NH Feminist Health Center, Concord
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AIDS COALITION TO UNLEASH POWER (ACT UP/Portland)

142 High St., #222, Portland, ME 04101; (207) 828-0566; FAX: (207) 828-0566 3*. Meets Sun. 7pm at YWCA (87 Spring St., Portland, ME).

FAR (FEMINISTS AGAINST RAPE)

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

GREATER PORTLAND NOW c/o

YWCA, 87 Spring St., Ptd, ME 04101, (207) 879-0877 (Catherine) or (207) 871-0618 (Jennifer). POB 4012, Portland, ME 04101. Action-oriented group. Goals are: (1) foster Equal Rights for women; (2) insure unrestricted choice around reproductive rights; (3) support Lesbian/Gay rights. Speakers/events for the public 4th Tues. of every month.

SPIRITUAL

SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAINS - gay/straight, justice-seeking community meets for worship 2nd & 4th Sundays 5pm, 1st Congregational Church, N. Main St. & Washington St., Concord, NH. Potluck after service. FMI ☐ Jim Bretz (603) 536-4011.

DIGNITY/MAINE - Masses at 1st Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland. Entrance in rear of church. Sundays 5:30pm.

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

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More PASSAGES from pg 7

One year later, Marshall again joined the dissenting minority when the high court allowed the U.S. Olympic committee to ban organizers of the Gay Games from referring to the event as the "Gay Olympics." The decision underscored activists' belief that taking their case to the Supreme Court was not the best way to win civil rights for Gay people.

Also that year, Marshall voted with the majority to rule unconstitutional a Hous-

ton, Texas ordinance that police reportedly used to harass Gays.

"What he did for racial minorities is the cornerstone of what we're using in the fight for Lesbian and Gay rights," said Abby Rubenfield, a Nashville, Tenn. attorney and former legal director of the Lambda legal Defense and Education Fund. "He was a leader in most of the cases that related to the Lesbian and Gay community."

Born and raised in Baltimore, MD., Marshall studied law at Howard University in Washington, DC, after finding himself excluded from the University of Maryland's all-white law school.

He served as director of the NAACP until President Kennedy appointed him U.S. Court of Appeals judge in 1961. President Johnson named him Solicitor General in 1965, and in 1967 appointed him associate justice of the Supreme Court.

Survivors include his wife and two sons. ▼

Passages courtesy of Washington Blade

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