8-1994

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VATICAN ATTACKS LESBIAN MOMS

(The Washington Blade) - The Vatican denounced Lesbian couples who have children by alternative insemination, Reuters reported.

"No child loves being known as the child of an unmarried mother, even less so of a Lesbian mother," wrote the Vatican's official newspaper.

"Every child has the right to be born into a regular family made up of a man and a woman."

The Vatican commented on a recent controversy in Catholic-dominated Italy over a gynecologist who had inseminated a Lesbian, so that she and her partner could have a child.

The gynecologist, Giuseppe Ambrassa, said he agreed to the alternative insemination after psychological and other tests showed that the Lesbian couple would make able parents. An Italian daily, La Stampa, wrote that their child would be raised in an "unnatural environment."

Pope John Paul II stressed the "danger of losing the value of matrimony... the stable union between a man and a woman."

He said heterosexual marriage is not just a Christian value, but an original value of creation and the "natural right" of all religions and cultures.

The pontiff recently blasted a European Parliament resolution that said Gay couples should be allowed to marry and adopt children.

GAY UNION PUBLISHED


"LEON," APEX COLUMNIST, REMEMBERED

Don Plourde, aka Leon (see page 6), died July 8, 1994 at the age of 43 from AIDS complications. An activist and educator, he was involved in the Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition, Equal Protection Lewiston, Literacy Volunteers of Maine, and the Governor's Task Force on Welfare Reform.

Don's life and achievements were celebrated with a packed service at the First Universalist Church of Auburn, Maine. Among the speakers were a close friend and his brother Normand Plourde. Excerpts from their testimonials are printed below.

THE BEER BARREL GOES TO COLLEGE

In the seventies the Beer Barrel was a corner bar on Danforth Street in Portland. It had a Pabst Blue Ribbon sign outside and inside were curls of smoke, pitchers of beer, pool tables, a jukebox and a whole lot of people who felt that life's opportunities had passed them by.

The Beer Barrel crowd by typical standards were not college material. Don was a man with atypical standards. A man of vision. Don had a vision of free, accessible, and universal education.

Don was director of the Educational Opportunity Center. He wanted to provide educational opportunities for every non-college material person in southern Maine and possibly the world.

There were three basic barriers that Don had to smash through.

#1. The university did not want to accept, or have programs for students with GED backgrounds.

#2. The Beer Barrel crowd had left or been kicked out of school. They had been hurt by the system and they were pretty sure they didn't want Maine. Among the speakers were a close friend and his brother Normand Plourde. Excerpts from their testimonials are printed below.

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Dear APEX:

On Saturday, June 18th, Portland’s lesbian and gay community experienced a high at Pride ‘94 very different and far better than previous Pride Days. It was no accident, but was well orchestrated and planned. It represented, for our community, crossing the threshold for our annual event to be regarded as a legitimate greater Portland community annual festival. For all of this I would like to submit the following roster of thank yous, knowing full well that not every one can be mentioned.

Firstly, thank you to both the Parade Coordinator, Richard Fried and to the Festival Producer, Brent Quint. Richard filled in also as press liaison, group contact assistant, speaker selection and graphic consultant. Brent surprised everyone with the quality of his performers and his amazing contacts (like getting Miss Maine for the festival). Both were instrumental to Friday’s rally on City Hall plaza and the event would not have been so advanced without their help.

Secondly, thank you to all the committee participants: Glen Richards, Laurie Fortman, Tara (for Dykes on Bikes), the folks of Blackstones, Dennis Ferrante, Rita Kissen, Mark MacDonald, Fred Wilson, “Mac” (aka Babs Bush), Scott Hansen, Paula Stockholm, and the staff of Sisters.

Thirdly, thanks to all the parade marshals, Sentinel Security, the vendors and the stage hands. Thanks to the bars for their floats: The Underground, Käos, and Blackstones. Thanks to all the special participants: Miss Maine, Frannie Peabody, Bee Bell, Roland Blais, the Names Project, Ann Rand, Outright, MLGPA, PFLAG, and to all the groups who marched.

Fourthly, thanks to Concerned Maine Families for not accepting our invitation for a table at Pride for civil and principled debate on restricting human rights. In a hysterical response to our invitation, CMF convinced Channel 13 to bring its cameras to the polls on June 14th. CMF failed to provide any video of militant gays harassing petition gatherers. The resultant press from her failure to show up at Pride on June 18th got her a chance to shoot herself in the foot twice in one week.

Thanks again to everyone - join us in working for "State Wide Pride ‘95."

Michael Rosetti

Red Ribbon Restaurant Night to Benefit the Peabody House:

At 14 Orchard Street, Portland, ME, the building which will this fall become Peabody House is being renovated. Peabody House will be a true home with a supportive, holistic environment for people in the advanced stages of HIV disease. The goal of Peabody House is to foster and maximize human dignity, respect the autonomy of each individual and enable self-determination. Clients may choose both the type and the level of care they receive, from assisted, independent living to total hospice care.

On Saturday, August 20 eat out at a participating restaurant between 12 noon and 10pm. Peabody House will receive 10% of the bill and you will receive a gorgeous red ribbon for your lapel. The list of restaurants has just been started so for further information, please call the Peabody House business office at (207) 774-6281.

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

—Michael Rosetti
don’t believe you can recruit 20 local low income, school anxiety ridden, poverty stricken, students that will succeed with a 30 minute commute to college. But if you do, we’ll let them in next semester.

Don moves on to problem #3. The money issue. The Beer Barrel crowd had no money and what they did have wasn’t earmarked for books or tuition. Don became the king of financial aid forms. Don didn’t expect people would come to him. He went to the Beer Barrel and stood there at the bar amongst those pitchers of beer and billows of smoke with the TV and juke box blaring and he made out a financial aid form for every person who bellied up to that neighborhood bar. There was the softball team, the taxi drivers, bartenders and card players, the quiet and the noisy.

Now Don’s relationship with people filling out financial aid forms was kind of like priest and confessor. All information was very privileged. Don would pose the questions and interpret the answers to insure the maximum educational opportunity.

Well, Don brought more money into the neighborhood than Bath Iron Works even ever promised to. Don’s financial aid expertise was the biggest economic development project that the West End had or probably will ever see. People got work study, they got money for child care and they got money for school.

Once people realized they would be rewarded financially not in the future but in the now they were a lot more interested in school. Don provided people with confidence and eternal advocacy.

Don made things fun for people. The Beer Barrel Crowd went to college, they went to USM and they went to SMVTI. They were successful; the university and vocational schools were opened up to regular people. Don with his spirit and sense of play proved that the university’s exclusive policies were a thing of the past. Don was always looking forward, paving the way, researching the future, making a personal statement about justice, about free and universal education.

Don had his own student loans and there were student loan people who were interested in contacting Mr. Plourde. Now everyone knew that 1) Don believed in free and universal education and 2) that if the student loan people called Don, he was not in, we didn’t know him personally and sure didn’t know where he lived or worked. I have to say I think Don enjoyed avoiding his student loans. He was role-modeling for the Educational Opportunity Center program. He may have started the tradition of avoiding student loan payments, I don’t know.

Don was a guy with an attitude, a guy from Lewiston, a guy who believed in justice. The Beer Barrel is gone, turned into a laundromat, but Don’s legacy continues in the lives and institutes he changed.

NORMAND PLOURDE’S TESTIMONIAL TO HIS BROTHER

I would like to begin by saying that giving an appropriate, fair and loving testimonial to the person my brother was in front of so many of his family, close friends and former associates is the heaviest and toughest single responsibility of my life. I am one year and twenty days older, but as it turned out we started school together, were in the same grades, up to the eighth grade and graduated from Lewiston High together in 1969. I am quiet, reserved, the introvert, he was the extrovert, outgoing and as most of you know, most outspoken. He was the spokesman for the two of us and the more responsible. If it had been up to me, it would be my remains there in that urn and him standing here with the responsibility.
STONEWALL NOTES
by Bee Bell
For Leonine Don

At Stonewall I saw drag kings and drag queens take over 7th Avenue for cat walks and butch struts all Friday night, while the rest of the Stonewall Was a Drag march carried pink foamcore rifles and chanted "We're here, we're queer, we'll take 5th Avenue" and "Arrest us, just try it, Stonewall was a riot!" I saw confrontations with cops all weekend, all successful, starting with the calm, truly Radical Faeries faggily warning off several policemen as they quietly chanted, "Go home. You have no power here." The cops retreated, as they did Sunday when the illegal ACT UP-led feeder march did take 5th Avenue - 9 miles of it - pushing the police barricades back block by block until they finally just got out of our way. I saw my first girlfriend, which was great. I saw a friend from college who helped me pass out Dyke Manifestos around the 30,000-woman Dyke March Saturday evening, which began by pushing right through a line of cops and ignoring threats of arrest. My friend, now living in New York (well, Hoboken), informed me that he was doing the NYC cop who was in charge of all the weekend police activities. I saw another friend from school who marched with ACT UP on Stonewall Sunday during a 12-hour layover on the way to Nairobi to meet his Cape Verdan father who he'd just found this June - "This year I was too busy being black and mixed-race and adopted. Next year I'll be gay," he told me. I saw the anti-Militarism Working Group go off to flyer fellow homos attending fundraisers held on U.S. battleships - especially the Intrepid, a big one from the fucking Persian Gulf War. Speaking of queers with

More NOTES ➤ page 8
COMING OUT, COMING HOME

Don Plourde, who wrote the APEX series Coming Out, Coming Home under the pseudonym "Leon," died in July. On the day he learned that his death was imminent, he told me that he would try to write down thoughts for one more column, in which he would reveal his identity and share some final words. We also agreed on an alternative if he didn’t feel up to writing: I would write a column describing some of the other columns he had planned to write when he first conceived the series. This was the column I intended to write here until I discovered an unfinished column in his apartment. So this month, I present that column, with its own title, followed by the other material on the topic I believe he would have wanted to add. Next month, I will present the column he and I agreed upon. It has been an honor to be Don’s informal editor for the series, and a much greater pleasure to be his friend. And while I could not hope to approximate the distinctive and eloquent style that fans of "Leon" have come to love, or to do justice to the topics as he would have done, I will try to convey some of what he had hoped to write about.

Erica Rand

FROM THE COMFORTS OF PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE AND SECURITY TO THE PITS OF MEDICAID AND SPEND-DOWN

When people ask, as they often do, "When did you get AIDS?" increasingly I tend to respond with the question, "Just what do you want to know?" Do they want to know when HIV first entered my body? Do they want to know when I first knew I had HIV, because a blood test said I did? Do they want to know when I first became ill? Do they want to know when a doctor first said to me, "you have AIDS?" Do they want to know when, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) or the Social Security Administration [standards] for determining disability? Do they want to know when I came to the conclusion, "I have AIDS?" Do they want to know when it became debilitating (and even devastating) to my life as I had come to know and enjoy it?

For the people who want an answer to the first question (when did HIV enter my body?), I honestly don’t know, no idea. These people sometimes also want to know: from whom? To that question also, I honestly don’t know and I honestly don’t care. To the other questions above, I have answers. They are often not simple answers. Ever changing medical terminology, bureaucratic protocols and people’s perceptions, often based on a lack of information, impact on the lives of people with AIDS in varying degrees.

Don’s manuscript stops here. I’m not sure what Don wanted to write about bureaucratic protocols. He talked sometimes about the impact on people with AIDS of government indifference and of the CDC’s horrible classification system - which fails to include many known AIDS-related illnesses, thus preventing, in numerous ways, diagnosis, treatment,

In Pain?
The Family Acupuncture Center can help...

ADULT : back pain, headaches, gyn problems, depression, HBP, stress, eating
GERIATRIC : arthritis, prostatitis, bladder control, memory loss, insomnia
PEDIATRIC : allergies, colic, bed-wetting, attention disorders, asthma

sterile disposable needles oo no-needle technique available oo sliding scale fee

STOP SMOKING!
3-week evening program begins August 26
197 Rt. 1, Scarboro 885-0724 Diana Sainte, Acupuncturist

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and research. He also talked about the pharmaceuticals' crimes: profit-directed research, drugs priced beyond reach of people who need them. He expressed admiration for activist groups that took on pharmaceutical companies; no one who actually had AIDS, he said, could fail to appreciate ACT UP.

But I think that Don especially wanted to write here about Medicaid. He wanted everyone to learn what he learned after he lost his health insurance coverage about what it is really like to be poor and sick. He wanted everyone to know about the Medicaid "spend-down," which works as follows. Medicaid will only help you pay for medical costs after you have spent all but approximately $390 of your income per month on health care yourself. This would be bad enough, but you also have to meet your whole "spend-down" for a six-month period before you can get covered for that period. For Don, who lived on a disability check of $660 per month, this meant racking up bills of over $1600. Ironically, this was easiest to do by being hospitalized: you could use bills for proof without having paid them first. But if you needed medicine instead, which you have to pay for when you get it, this means spending money you can't possibly have in order to get help because you don't have the money. Why can't the government do simple math? If you can drop $1600 on meds, you don't need Medicaid; if you can't afford to wait for reimbursement (which also means you probably don't have a credit card), you need Medicaid but you can't get it. Besides being virtually impossible, this situation was, Don said, degrading, especially because you were required to go through reapplication every six months to be even eligible for Medicaid - even if it was clear that your expenses were going to remain constant.

Thus, like many people with AIDS and other expensive-to-treat illnesses, Don was forced to forego many meds that would have helped him - usually those that would "only" provide relief from pain or nausea, and sometimes even necessary meds. For instance, when he had shingles, a week's supply of the drug he absolutely needed cost $150; ointment to relieve the intense pain was $40 per tiny tube on top of this - and on top of the other meds he was already taking. Every week, he'd have to decide what he could pay for, what he could live without (which I mean literally), and what he couldn't pay for but needed enough to try to tap into other sources - sources with insufficient funds given the number of people who need them. Were his glasses inadequate enough to justify requesting money from the Ryan White Fund? Was his pain enough, or the consequence of foregoing a certain drug enough, to ask his friends for help in procuring medication?

Those readers who, like many people, prefer to keep their finances private may wonder whether Don would have wanted me to disclose his own so baldly. But I know that he would. He talked openly about them himself because he wanted everyone to know, dollar-for-dollar, what the cliche "skyrocketing medical costs" actually means. An activist for social justice to the end, Don used his own situation to teach people about why we so desperately need a single-payer universal health care system that takes access to health care out of the hands of insurance and pharmaceutical companies.

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"WET, WARM AND WONDERFUL"

HOT TUBS AND JACUZZI BATHS

OPEN HOUSE AUGUST 7TH SUNDAY 4:00 - 6:30

The Gay and Lesbian Community is invited to an open house seminar on installation, maintenance, and benefits.

SPA & TUB DEPOT

348 U.S. Rte. 1, Scarborough, ME (207) 883-6320

M-F 10:30 - 7:30
Sat. 10:30 - 5:00
Sun. 1:00 - 5:00

579 Congress Str. Portland, Maine
crummy politics, I also heard that Stonewall speaker and former CBS broadcast journalist Ann Northrop bitched out (1) conservative gay men for trying to stomp on the rest of us and ruin our movement, and (2) Sandra Bernhardt, who in her speech apparently said lesbians should learn to dress more demurely and use more make-up. Thanks, Ann. And Sandra, you know what you can do with your lipstick. I saw my own blood going by when the Latvian and Lithuanian queers marched with the other internationals into Central Park. I thought about Don Plourde, fighting off AIDS back in the hospital in Lewiston, and about other friends there who had planned early on not to come to Stonewall because we badly need to spend our money and organize back here in Maine. $200, or whatever the weekend cost you, gets a lot more done here than it does in New York. Stonewall's unruliness felt good. It especially felt good compared with the one year younger, less political, military-loving March on Washington. And our big numbers mean big, scary, memorable power. Now we need to see everyone who got down to Stonewall put that power together to campaign, march, and riot where you get more bang for your buck: back in Maine.
CALENDAR . . .

FRI.-SUN. 8/5-8/7
Women’s Camping Weekend. Potluck dinner and dance, at Field & Forest Campground near Greenfield (NH) State Park, $23. FMI • Sandie (602) 885-5241.

SAT.-SUN. 8/6-8/7
Camping Weekend with lakes and Mountains Women. Camp on Private Land in Ryegate, VT. FMI • (603) 286-8664.

SATURDAY 8/6
Naked Brunch, Boston’s hilariously gay improv comedians, returns to Portsmouth’s Seacoast Gay Men with an all new summer show. Seacoast Gay Men, UU Church, Portsmouth, NH, 8:30pm, $8. FMI • Al Santerre (603) 898-1115.

Pool party and barbecue at Marty & Sue’s in Keene, NH, 1pm. Bring something to grill. FMI • (603) 357-5757.

SUNDAY 8/7
Open House Seminar for the Lesbian/Gay Community explaining installation, maintenance & benefits of hot tubs & Jacuzzi baths. 4-6:30pm at the Spa & Tub Depot, 348 U.S. Rte. 1, Scarborough, ME. FMI • (207) 883-6320.

SUNDAY 8/8
Dreamwork, Unity, and You. 3 part “dreamshop” 9am - 12 noon (8/13, 8/27, 9/10), Unity Church, 54 River Rd., Windham. Regist. ltd. $75/series; sliding scale available. FMI • Unity (207) 774-3535 to register or Rick Bouchard at (207) 828-2031.

Deep Sea Fishing, out of Boothbay for ½ day. Ltd. space. Women Only! FMI • (207) 495-2510.

FRI.-SAT. 8/12-8/13
Introduction to Canoe Camping, Ascutney, VT., $125, Women’s Outdoor Challenges (603) 763-5400.

FRI.-SUN. 8/12-8/14
Watch the sunset over Portland Harbor as Matovich Throws a Lawn Party! We’ll provide the grill & games: you bring something tasty to share. 7pm, 38 Myrtle St., So. Portland (One block from Southern Maine Technical College: if lost, call (207) 799-8744).

FRI.-SUN. 8/18-8/22
Women’s Summer Retreat at Walnut Hill, Raymond, NH. FMI • (603) 659-2139, or Drienge/Bernard, 20 Bay Rd., Lot 19, Newmarket, NH 03857.

SATURDAY 8/20
Eat Out! Fight AIDS! Eat at a favorite restaurant and help Peabody House at the same time. 12 noon - 10pm at participating restaurants in the greater Portland, ME area (see page 2 for more information).

FRI.-SAT. 8/26-8/27
Northern Lambda Nord Barbecue, Presque Isle, 2pm. Bring something to grill, cold dish to share, beverage. FMI • (207) 498-2088.

SATURDAY 8/27
Boston Quality Woman Harborfest Woman’s Cruise, Hor d’Oeuvres, dancing & DJ. Cash bar. $25. FMI BOW, POB 1050, Watertown, MA 02272 or •(617) 522-9878 or (617) 283-2298.

MONDAY 8/29
Seacoast Gay Men celebrate cheap/eats at Chauncy Creek, Kittery Point, Maine near Portsmouth, NH, 6pm. FMI • Al Santerre (603) 898-1115.

Camping Weekend with lakes and Mountains Women. Camp on Private Land in Ryegate, VT. FMI • (603) 286-8664.

SUNDAY 8/10
Northern Lambda Nord Library Day, New Sweden, 3pm, completing the organization of the NLN library by putting card pockets in the nearly 1000 volumes. FMI • (207) 498-2088.

THURSDAY 8/11
Watch the sunset over Portland Harbor as Matovich Throws a Lawn Party! We’ll provide the grill & games: you bring something tasty to share. 7pm, 38 Myrtle St., So. Portland (One block from Southern Maine Technical College: if lost, call (207) 799-8744).

THURSDAY 8/18
Feminist Film Series, Building Community, Finding Love. At the Belfast Library, Abbott room. (This is all info available).

THURSDAY 8/25
Screening and Discussion of the Film Out in Suburbia: Stories of Eleven Lesbians. 7:30-9pm, Matovich Society, Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland, ME. Accessible to the mobility-impaired; free hotel parking. FMI • (207) 773-1209.

TUES.-SUN. 8/9-8/14
Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival. FMI write POB 7430, Berkeley, CA 94797, or • (510) 652-5401.

WEDNESDAY 8/12
Northern Lambda Nord Barbecue, Eagle Lake, 5pm. Bring something to grill, cold dish to share, beverage. FMI • (207) 498-2088.

WEDNESDAY 8/19
Clothing Optional Potluck Picnic, Deerfield, NH, 1pm. Seacoast Gay Men, FMI • Al Santerre (603) 898-1115.

Northern Lambda Nord Barbecue, Eagle Lake, 5pm. Bring something to grill, cold dish to share, beverage. FMI • (207) 498-2088.

THURSDAY 8/25
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Topsham, ME.

FRI.-SUN. 8/18-8/22
Women’s Summer Retreat at Walnut Hill, Raymond, NH. FMI • (603) 659-2139, or Drienge/Bernard, 20 Bay Rd., Lot 19, Newmarket, NH 03857.

FRI.-MON. 8/19-8/22
Womens Summer Retreat at Walnut Hill, Raymond, NH. FMI • (603) 659-2139, or Drienge/Bernard, 20 Bay Rd., Lot 19, Newmarket, NH 03857.

SUNDAY 8/10
Northern Lambda Nord Barbecue, Presque Isle, 2pm. Bring something to grill, cold dish to share, beverage. FMI • (207) 498-2088.

SUNDAY 8/17
Northern Lambda Nord Barbecue, Eagle Lake, 5pm. Bring something to grill, cold dish to share, beverage. FMI • (207) 498-2088.

SUNDAY 8/20
Eat Out! Fight AIDS! Eat at a favorite restaurant and help Peabody House at the same time. 12 noon - 10pm at participating restaurants in the greater Portland, ME area (see page 2 for more information).

SUNDAY 8/27
Boston Quality Woman Harborfest Woman’s Cruise, Hor d’Oeuvres, dancing & DJ. Cash bar. $25. FMI BOW, POB 1050, Watertown, MA 02272 or (617) 522-9878 or (617) 283-2298.

Dreamwork, Unity, and You. Second part of 3 part “dreamshop.” (see 8/13). Late regist. may be considered, tuition adjusted accordingly. FMI • Rick Bouchard (207) 828-2031.

MONDAY 8/29
Seacoast Gay Men celebrate cheap/eats at Chauncy Creek, Kittery Point, Maine near Portsmouth, NH, 6pm. FMI • Al Santerre (603) 898-1115.
Dancing in the Heart of Won­
Johnson. Weekend workshops
Nobleboro, ME. $265/per
person (includes lodging and
meals). FMI: (207) 442-7061
or write Gloria Krellman, RR1,
Box 1145, Woolwich, Maine
04579.

Out of this World with Sonia
Johnson. Weekend workshops
9/23-25, 1994, Camp Kieve,
Nobleboro, ME. $265/per
person (includes lodging and
meals). FMI: (207) 442-7061
or write Gloria Krellman, RR1,
Box 1145, Woolwich, Maine
04579.

Equal Protection Maine/Bangor
meets 1st Sun. each month.
FMI contact EPM, POB 963,
Bangor, ME 04402.

Planning for Symposium '95
has begun. Please send ideas
and suggestions to Symposium
'95, POB 990, Caribou, ME
04736 or call the Gay-Lesbian
Phoneline Wednesdays between
7-9pm (207) 498-2088.

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

Essays, poems, stories sought
about violence in the home for
an anthology. FMI SASE to
Queen of Swords Press,
POB 3646, Eugene, OR 97403.

Dancing in the Heart of Won­
der: Women Exploring the Mind/
Body Relationship; an anthology
seeking personal stories. FMI:
SASE to Stevens, 50 Pleasant
St., 9E, Brookline, MA 02146.

Poster for 1995 National Lesbi­
ian/Gay Book Month. Poster will
hang in 500 national libraries/
bookstores. FMI Michele Karls­
er, c/o The Publishing Triangle,
POB 114, Prince Street Station,
NY, NY 10012 (718)351-9599.

More LEON from page 3

Donald earned my lifelong
love, admiration, respect and
envy during our teen years. He
took me, his older brother,
under his wing. He was
my social director. He
dragged me, kicking, to the
PAL hops, school functions,
and when he went off with
some of his many friends,
he made sure I was not left
out.

Donald, myself and our
brothers Raymond, Roland
and Richard are fortunate
to have been raised and
nurtured by two special
loving and caring parents.
He got his love for life, his
wit and his sharp tongue
from his mother. His hand­
some looks, strong sense
of responsibility, inner
strength and pride in being
the man he was came from
his father. His uncondi­
tional and great love and respect
for these two people sitting
in the front row here today
is beyond my ability to
adequately put into words.
Donald grew up in a
large family of good aunts and
uncles, lots of cousins,
paternal and maternal. A
family with a strong French
Canadian cultural heritage
on both sides. My father's
family were St. John River
Valley farmers who came
to Lewiston for jobs at the
time of the second world
war. My mother's mother,
at a young age, was among
the early immigrants from
Canada who came to work
in the mills of Lewiston.
Don was proud of his heri­
tage, proud of the family he
grew up in. He was there
for many of us when we
needed his support, profes­
sional expertise and his love.
There, that's the easy part­
now for the hard stuff.
Donald was a proud gay
man. There! I've said it.
Regrettably, it's not easy
to say. Communication,
amongst ourselves, is not
one of my immediate family
strong points. Don was a
big advocate in the gay
community for being open
about their sexuality. "Com­
ing out of the closet" as
they call it. Don created his
closet out of necessity at
a young age, of sturdy
material, and it served him
well; for a time he flourished
in it. But as closets do, it
became cramped, full of
stuff, more and more of it
unpleasant nasty baggage.
He eventually moved to
Washington DC and left the
closet behind but he never
totally dismantled that
closet. When he came back
home, with a life-threatening
and disabling disease, the
closet was still there to use
as he needed it. And boy
did he need it. It was so
ingrained, so much a part
of the first 30 years of his
life, and I believe the foun­
dation of that closet came
with him at birth, that, in
the family setting it was just
too easy to settle back into
it and close the door. The
cultural heritage he was so
proud to be part of, the
2,000 years of religious doc­
trine that was a large part
of the first 17 years of his
life, and the society he grew
up in created a sturdy wall
between him and his family,
particularly his beloved
mother and father. A wall
through which things were
felt and understood but not
talked about - not that they
wouldn't talk, they just plain
couldn't say the words.

Now the real tough part.
I am a heterosexual male,
a "straight" man. I suffer
from homophobia. The
greatest gift Don gave to me
was to gently and with
much understanding guide
me through the process of
overcoming my phobia.

More LEON = page 15
ASK THIGHMASTER - advice with holes

Dear Thighmaster,

Do girls just wanna have fun? I was recently picked up by a roguish, toughish little babydyke. She smiled a big smile, blinked her big brown eyes, and hypnotized me with flirtations of cheap sweaty sex at her place - but only if, as she herself coolly shrugged, there were completely no strings attached. She wanted to preserve her bad reputation. To make a long story short, Thighmaster, this girl did me like I've only been done in my dreams. But now I am in a bit of a quandary. I thought it would be just easy and fun, but this person, despite her own warnings to me, is thinking of much more. Hours, an inevitable U-Haul, get the picture? My question is: am I just old fashioned - or at least old-fashioned, or is it not possible for two dykes to carry on an extremely casual sexual relationship? Or are we all doomed to eventual monogamy, the inevitable U-Haul, etc., etc.?

Sincerely,
Old-Fashioned Girl

Dear Fashioned,

Yes it's possible and yes you're old-fashioned - or at least your info on the dating game certainly is. Are you still getting your sex etiquette by stealing books from your mom or what? Toss Sex and the Single Girl, How to Pick Up Girls, or whatever trash you've been reading, and go get your sex education reading, and go get your sex education - (fill in color) in Sappho's grove - (fill in nature item) in Thighmas!er, that is. Are you still wondering? 1. If we start right now. 2. Obviously, it works. Yes you're thinking, "I'm politically opposed to "body ownership." The punchline, however, is always the same: now she/he calls me every two hours. But take heart, o wronged one. Here's one of those crimes for which the villain always eventually gets punished by the forces of justice. Why? Because nine out of ten times, the chyck who's beating it into you that she's not the marrying kind is, to quote the sonnet guy, protesting too much. There's no surer sign that someone wants to get married than if she tells you she doesn't 6 times before push comes to shove. In fact, she's so deafened by fantasized wedding bells that she doesn't even think about one kind of person who will really buy her line: Someone like you who likes what she's hearing, and who will dump her when she tells you she's changed her mind. Need proof that revenge is inevitable? Thighmaster reminds you of that Love Boat where Pamela Sue Martin from Dynasty pretended to be married to avoid complications, met a guy, warned him to stay casual, did him, fell in love, and then told him that she was really single so they could "get involved." Guess what? He was married himself. Now why did Love Boat depart from its happy-ending format - violated only one other time when Julie Your Cruise Director got left at the altar by an Australian animal doctor who had just discovered during a routine check-up that he had 30 days to live - in order to tell this story? Because this goodwill TV truth teller was trying to prevent people like you and your obsessed ex (Thighmaster presumes that the phone calls were enough to clue you in here) from playing either role in that too common script. Alas, Captain Stubing, it seems, was like John the Baptist, crying out in the wilderness before anyone was ready to hear him. Now's the time to get on the boat. You're bound to find someone exciting and new.

Thighmaster eagerly awaits your submissions. No problem too complicated or twisted! Thighmaster, c/o Phoenix Press, PO Box 4743, Portland, ME 04112.
it hard to miss the photograph of a male couple.

That photograph was published as part of the first Gay union announcement ever published by the daily newspaper. Months earlier, Alejandro A. Herrara and Robert Louis Knight had submitted a standard wedding announcement form, a Travis County, Texas domestic partnership certificate, and a photograph for publication.

*El Paso Times* publisher Don Flores said his paper’s editorial staff debated and discussed at length whether to publish Herrara and Knight’s submission. A few staff members expressed disapproval, Flores said.

"As we produce the *Times*, we strive to be inclusive to people regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, physical disability, age, or economic standing," wrote Flores in an editorial which ran the same day as the union announcement. "On most days, we succeed. I strongly believe the *Times* succeeds today."

The announcement was strongly worded, saying the couple "married" rather than the more common wording of 'celebrated their commitment' or 'joined in a holy union.' Flores declined to comment on readers’ reaction, saying he would not comment on a heterosexual wedding announcement and wished to treat the Gay wedding announcement the same way.

Two *El Paso Times* staffers said the paper has been deluged with phone calls about the announcement.
RESOURCE GUIDE

LIST YOUR GROUP! PLEASE SEND INFORMATION AND/OR UPDATES TO PHOENIX PRESS, POB 4743, PORTLAND, ME 04112

HOT-LINES


DIAL KIDS, 774-TALK - for lesbian/gay/bisexual/questioning youth under 19.

GAY-LESBIAN PHONELINE, Caribou area: (207)498-2088.

GAY INFO LINE, Concord, NH (603)224-1686. Social, legal, therapeutic & educational referrals.

INGRAHAM VOLUNTEERS (207) 774-HELP.

PUBLICATIONS

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

THE FRUITS OF OUR LABORS
POB 125, Belfast, ME 04915
(207) 338-2913. Calendar of events for central coastal Maine.

EDUCATIONAL/CULTURAL

THE MATLOVICH SOCIETY - Lesbians/bisexuals/gaymen/friends committed to sharing our history & providing affirming presentations/discussions. 2nd/4th Thurs. each month, 7:30-9pm, Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland, ME. FMI (207) 773-1209.

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/ NH. Potlucks/activities. FMI (207) 925-1034 (Paul).

OUT AND ABOUT - Lesbians over 18 in Seacoast NH area. Nonprofit lesbian support and educational group. Meets Mon., 7pm. Newsletter & calendar of local, current monthly events. FMI POB 332, Portsmouth, NH 03802 or (603) 659-2139.

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

TIME OUT - Outdoor recreation/environment club for lesbians, gay men & friends. Free newsletter lists events for NH/ME area. FMI (207) 871-9940 or SASE: POB 11502, Portland, ME 04104.

SUPPORT GROUPS

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP - Mabel Wadsworth Women’s Health Ctr, 334 Harlow St., Bangor, ME, 1st/3rd Wed. monthly, 6:30-9pm. FMI (207) 947-5337. For any woman self-identified as a lesbian. Woman-only, lesbian-positive space to explore issues & affirm our lesbianism. Confidentiality, openness required.

LEADERS WOMEN - Lesbian/Bisexual Women’s discussion group. Tues. 6:30-8:30pm. First Universalist Church, Pleasant St., So. Auburn, ME 04210. FMI (207) 783-0461.

PET S ARE WONDERFUL SUPPORT (PAWS/MAINE) - 22 Monument Square, 5th Fl., Portland, ME 04101, (207) 871-9109; FAX (207) 879-0761.

SAF E SPACE WOMEN’S CENTER OF MAINE - 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. Self-help recovery group Mon. 7:9:30pm; open house Fri. 7-9:30pm. FMI (207) 725-7632.

LA VENDER WOMYN - Lesbian/Bisexual Women’s discussion group. Tues. 6:30-8:30pm. First Universalist Church, Pleasant St., So. Auburn, ME 04210. FMI (207) 783-0461.

FOR LOVE AND FOR LIFE - No cost, educ./rap group for gay/bisexual men in this time of HIV/AIDS. 7pm, at AIDS Response of the Seacoast, 147 Congress St., Portsmouth, NH. FMI (603) 433-5377.

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

ANDROSCOGGIN VALLEY AIDS COALITION (AVAC) - 4 Lafayette St., Lewiston, ME. Support for HIV+ people/loved ones. Tues. 7:30-9pm. FMI (207) 786-4697.

THE BRIDGE AT COLBY - Student support/discussion group. FMI Steven (207) 872-3635 (leave msg).

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

GAY/LESBIAN/BISEXUAL PARENTS GROUP OF MAINE - FMI POB 13, Augusta, ME 04330.

GAY/LESBIAN/BISEXUAL PARENTS’ GROUP, monthly support/info. FMI POB 13, Augusta, ME 04332.

MONADNOCK AREA WOMYN - POB 6345, Keene, NH 03431 (603) 357-5757.

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD - POB 990, Caribou, ME 04736; (207) 498-2088. Serves Aroostook Co. & New Brunswick towns; social activities, discussion gps/spokes bureau; monthly newsletter/activities calendar.

LEWISTON-AUBURN GAY/LESBIAN/ BISEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP. Weekly open group. Mon. 7pm, UU Church, Spring St., Auburn, ME.

OUTRIGHT/PORTLAND - Wkly support mtg. info., fun/special events for gay/lesbian/bi/questioning youth under 22 yrs of age, Williston West Church, upstairs chapel, 32 Thomas St., Portland, ME, Fri. 7:30pm. FMI: Outright, Portland Alliance of Gay & Lesbian Youth, POB 5378, Portland, ME 04101.

SEACOAST OUTRIGHT - group for lesbian/gay/bi/questioning youth 21 & under. Mtgs Fri., 7-9pm, Unitarian Church annex adjacent to fire station, 206 Court St., Portsmouth, NH. FMI tee line 1-800-639-6095 or write: Seacoast Outright, POB 842, Portsmouth, NH 03801.

OUTRIGHT/ CENTRAL MAINE - For lesbian and gay youth 22 & under. Meets Fri. 7:30 pm, 1st Unitarian Church, Pleasant St., Auburn, ME. POB 802, Auburn, ME 04212 • 1-800-339-4042.

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
Sportsman Athletic Club, Lewiston
Homestead Bed & Breakfast, Bar Harbor
Bookland, Mall Plaza, So. Portland
Mike's Place, Lewiston
Fin Back Restaurant, Bar Harbor

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

New Hampshire
Women's Information Service, Lebanon
NH Feminist Health Center, Concord
The Highland's Inn, Bethlehem
Campos GLBA Alliance, UNH, Durham
ALSO, Plymouth State College, Plymouth
Blue Strawberry, Portsmouth
Members, Portsmouth
Lady Iris, Portsmouth

Vermont
Everyone's Books, Brattleboro
LUNA, St. Johnsbury
Rainbow Coalition, Montpelier

Or delivered to your door by subscription (see form on page 13!)
PWA COALITION OF MAINE
377 Cumberland Avenue
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 773-8500

RUMFORD/MEXICO AREA AIDS SUPPORT GROUP - Mon. at Mexico Congr. Church (the "Green Church") 7-8:30pm. Main St., Mexico, ME. FM (207)874-3613.


MERRYMETTING AIDS SUPPORT SERVICES - POB 57, Brunswick, ME 04011. Support services for AIDS/HIV. FM (207)725-4955.

OUT AMONG FRIENDS - Discussion/support grp. Thurs. 7:30-9:30pm, YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland, ME. FM (207) 799-0297.

WOMEN'S INCEST AND SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS' GROUP - Open support/discussion for women only. Weds. 1-3:30pm. FM (207) 874-6593 or (207)774-3613.

MAINE Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance - Statewide, non-partisan org. promotes civil rights in ME and involves lesbians/gay community in political process. Mtgs. in Augusta 3rd Sat. of month. FM (207) 1-800-55-MLGPA for meeting time/place.

FREDERICTON Lesbians/Gays PO Box 1556, Station A Fredericton, NB E3B 5G2 Canada (506) 457-2156

AIDS COALITION TO UNLEASH POWER (ACT UP/Portland) (207)828-0566 (phone & fax); Sun. 7pm YWCA (87 Spring St., Portland, ME).

APOLLO SOCIETY - Gay/lesbian atheists, free-thinkers, ethical humanists & Hellenists. Free speech/civil rights advocacy, free dom-from-religion support/fun! FM (207) 773-5726 or SASE to POB 5301, Portland, ME 04101.

GREATERTOR HORTLAND NOW o/o YWCA, 87 Spring St., Ptd., ME 04101, (207)879-8677/(207)871-0618, POB 4012, Portland, ME 04101. Speakers/events for the public 4th Tues. of every month.

SPIRITUAL

DELTA PHYRE - Worship the Goddess at monthly Full Moon Circles. 10 pm. Potluck after service. (207) 676-7914.

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

INTENSITY/DIGNITY - 3rd Sun. St. Luke's Cathedral (Emmanuel Chapel), 5:15pm. All welcome. Fellowship and potluck follows each service. Ministering to the lesbian/gay community. FM write POB 8113, Portland, ME 04104.

INTEGRITY/DIGNITY - St. Matthew's Church, 18 Union St., Hallowell, ME. 1st Fri. each month, 7pm. FM (207) 622-6631.

FRIDAY NIGHT CHURCH SERVICES State Street Church (United Church of Christ), 159 State St., Portland, ME. Inclusion, love and transformation in contemporary language. Accessible and child care. FM (207) 774-6396.

MUSIC

MAINE Lesbian Men's Chorus - Community chorus. FM write M.G.M.C., POB 10391, Portland, ME 04104.

CLASSIFIED

TRAVEL/VACATION

Lesbian Paradise! 20 charming rooms, 100 mountain acres, pool, hot tub, hiking/skiing trails, spacious fireplaced common areas, peace and privacy. HIGHLANDS INN, Box 118PP, Bethlehem, NH 03574. (603) 869-3978.

PERSONALS

Travel partner, male, museum and tourist trap maven, wanted by old GM retired intellectual, monogamously committed, cuddler, for sharing cheap weekend/longer trips, hither and yon. Suggest destinations, dates, costs. Boxholder 160, Phoenix Press, POB 4743, Portland, ME 04112.

PERSONAL GROWTH

Ongoing Dream Group. This closed, experiential group will explore members' dreams through many approaches: Jungian, Gestalt, and Sculpting; attention also paid to Lucid Dreaming, Dream Incubation, Active Imagination, and Spirituality. Thursday evenings, 7-9pm, 14 weeks with the option to continue in subsequent "dreamcycles." Portland-based. Begins 9/15/94. $20-40 per session. Call Rick Bouchard at (207) 828-2031 for interview.

More LEON from page 11

It was a long and difficult process and I'm sorry to say not yet complete. It started over 20 years ago when Don brought me to a gay bar, his way of coming out to me. I believe I'm well along in the process and have faith that someday it will be complete. Because of Don's efforts and understanding I have been able to develop friendships and acquaintances with wonderful people from within the gay community that otherwise would not have happened.

Don's last years were spent helping and guiding others, like my parents, my brothers and especially important to him, young high school age gay men and women, too many of which are finding suicide to be the only solution. When he could hardly walk and the knowledge that every step could be his last, he went to the high school to talk to them. In a telephone conversation with one of his newest and dearest friends who was informing me that he had once again been admitted to the hospital, I realized this was going to be his last battle, I said "he's always been so strong." I would like to close with her response, "Yeah, he's one tough guy." ▼
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04093.

Upcoming Events

Lesbian Lounge Lizards &
Monica Grant
Oct. 1, 1994

Dance
Oct. 15, 1994

Holly Near
Nov. 5, 1994

Holiday Dance
Dec. 10, 1994

Valentine's Dance
Feb. 4, 1995

Ann Reed
March 18, 1995

Heather Bishop
May 6, 1995