

JUST SAY NO TO HELMS

(IN) Chapel Hill, NC - Only days after the US Senate approved an amendment by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) prohibiting school districts that offer gay-positive materials or counseling from receiving federal education funds, a school board in his own back yard defiantly adopted a policy doing exactly that. The Chapel Hill school trustees unanimously gave the thumbs up to a policy that would create "safe schools" where all are respected regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, political persuasion or religious affiliation. Chapel Hill trustee Mary Busnell said, "This plan grew out of a need to have students be more respectful and have a greater understanding of each other regardless of their diversity. Here we have to do what is right and hope the Congress . . . will do the same."

LESBIAN MOMS REVIEWED

(The Washington Blade) - The British government on July 8 said it may ban the National Health Service (NHS) from providing alternative insemination to lesbians.

"We are considering...limiting treatment to families with a mother and father, and we would expect them to get married," said a government spokesperson.

Current legislation does not prohibit any group of women from receiving fertility treatment through the NHS. Any policy change would require the parliament to amend the Human Fertilization and Embriology Act. A 1990 attempt by lawmakers to restrict treatment was unsuccessful.

"We deplore any implication that sexual orientation should

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VOL. 3, NO. 7

it's a minefield out there...

September 1994

HERE WE GO AGAIN

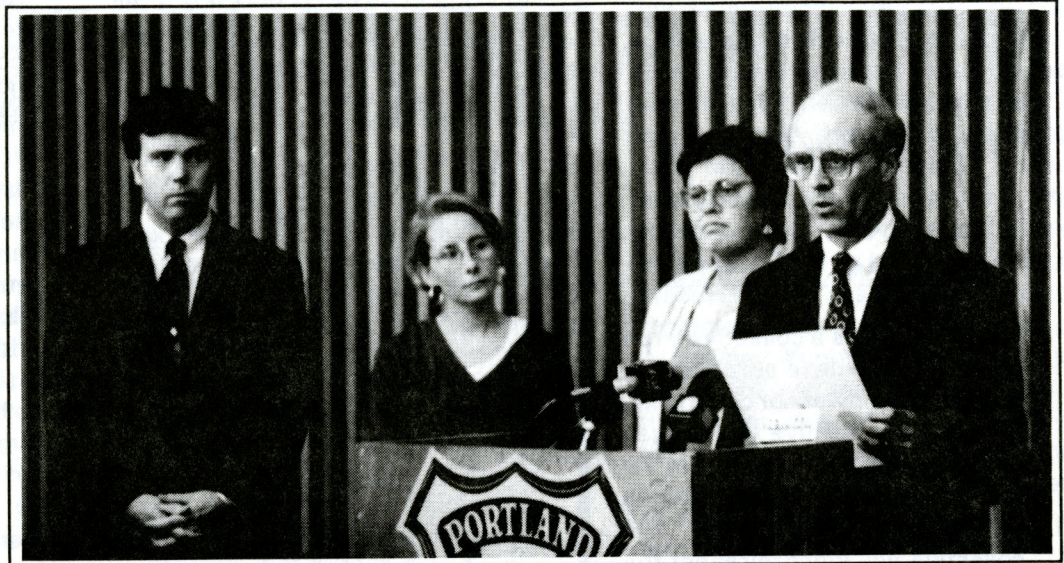


photo by Annette Dragon

Peter O'Donnell, Outright's Cathy Kidman, Barb Wood, Chamber of Commerce President Joel Russ

In August conservative activist Carolyn Cosby announced that her phobic group, Concerned Maine Families, has collected more than 68,000 signatures, enough to put their anti-gay referendum on the Maine state ballot in November 1995. The referendum would rescind Portland's gay rights ordinance and prevent any other Maine communities from passing gay rights laws.

In response to these efforts a new coalition composed of queers, civil rights activists, and church and business groups has formed. The coalition, calling itself "Maine Won't Discriminate," plans to use legal action and public awareness campaigns to squelch the chances of the referendum. Maine Won't Discriminate includes representatives from MLGPA, the Maine Council of Churches, the Maine Women's Lobby, Bath Iron Works, the Jewish Federation of Southern Maine, small businesses, the Maine AFL-CIO, and others. Legal services will be provided by the Maine Civil Liberties Union.

Cosby took exception to the State

Attorney General's support of the coalition. Attorney General Michael Carpenter said passage of the referendum would make the enforcement of Maine's hate crimes law more difficult. The head of the hate crimes division, Stephen Wessler, said, "The passage of this referendum is going to permit known and identified haters to commit crimes without fear of the victim coming forward. Cosby said the Attorney General is "totally out of line.... We don't need the Attorney General to tell us what to do all the time."

An August 18 press conference announced the pro-gay support of Portland Chief of Police Michael Chitwood, the gay youth group Outright, Portland Mayor Paulson, all nine city councilors, former councilor Peter O'Donnell, and Joel Russ, President of the Portland Chamber of Commerce.

Former councilor Barb Wood said, "The current city council - all the members - have signed a statement in support of protecting gays and lesbians against discrimination....

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The Collective

Annette Dragon
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Contributors

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Logo Design by Grapheteria

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. If your submission has appeared or will appear in any other publication, we must be notified. Submissions *must* be received by the 20th of each month. Thank you for your contributions.

P.O. Box 4743
Portland, ME 04112
(207) 282-8091

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LETTERS...

Dear APEX Readers:

We need your help. Maine women and girls need your help.

Maine statistics show that while 62% of female-headed households with children under the age of five are living in poverty, only 5% of all major U.S. foundation dollars are given specifically to fund programs for women and girls. By supporting the Maine Women's Fund you will directly affect the economic, social, physical, and creative well being of women and girls in Maine.

Founded in 1988, the Maine Women's Fund is a public non-profit grant-making foundation which opens doors for Maine's women and girls.

Because of increased support last year we were able to double our grants this year from \$30,000 to \$60,000. Much of this increase came from people who were supporting us for the first time. They were individuals who learned more about our exciting work and the women and girls we can support. Our grants this year mean that:

- High school girls will be encouraged to expand their horizons because of a women's studies curriculum being developed at Oak

Hill High School in Sabattus.

- Women with psychiatric disabilities will receive job training, placement and support through a pilot employer education project led by The Together Place in Bangor.
- Teenage girls will learn how to develop healthy relationships and locate resources for assistance with abusive relationships through an Information Guide developed by New Hope for Women in Rockland.
- Afghan women from the Refugee Resettlement Program in the Portland area will expand their sewing group to help them take their first steps toward entering the economic life of a new culture.

These programs accomplish much on bare bone budgets. They help women and girls work toward personal and economic self-sufficiency. You can help fund change. Please give as generously as you can to the Maine Women's Fund.

Sincerely,
Ellen Wells, President
Maine Women's Fund
565 Congress St., Rm. 306
POB 5135
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 774-5513

MEET THE PRESS

Panel discussion with APEX, CPR, 10%

Here's your chance to meet the APEX collective in the flesh... pay homage... give us all your worldly goods... let's duke it out... whatever... at Matlovich Society, Thursday, Sept. 8, 7:30pm, Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland, ME.

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.

LESSONS FROM THE PREQUELS TO THE COSBY SHOW IN MAINE

by Erica Rand

Editors' Note: Now that we have to spend the next 15 months fighting another anti-queer referendum, it's time to reflect on what we learned during the first two before we make the same mistakes again: mistakes we won in spite of in Portland and lost because of in Lewiston. Below is one entry into this necessary dialogue. APEX welcomes others.

In Maine, ACT UP people and other out activists have spent two years fighting against political "experts" who argued that direct action and out activism are strategies of the politically inexperienced. These "experts" were trying to hide two facts: (1) direct action by groups like ACT UP/Portland actually laid most of the groundwork to pass and uphold Portland's anti-discrimination ordinance; (2) we actually had a far greater amount of relevant political experience than those "experts" did. We proved them wrong in Portland and especially in Lewiston, where voter stats show that we improved the projected vote count in areas where we: distributed literature that dealt with gay rights explicitly, talked about the issues directly, presented ourselves out and honestly. And when we abandoned the mainstream campaign's one-message focus - one closeted, meaningless message,

"no discrimination" - to address a broad range of concerns. After the ordinance went down in Lewiston, campaign leaders from the mainstream organization, Equal Protection Lewiston, admitted that we had been right all along: the campaign, they said, "should have put a human face on gay rights." Translation: do out activism.

Nonetheless, political "experts" in Maine and around the U.S. keep pushing the closet, one-message, no-discrimination approach. [Please note that although some MLGPA honchos did some preaching during the last eight months about being "inclusive" and about "healing the wounds," they have made no real move to heal any wounds or to apologize for the crap they pulled on us earlier: like participating in the notorious "stealth coalition" designed to get a power bloc in place before anyone who objected to "29 famous straight people make up the steering committee" got a say; like sending out covert letters trashing us on false grounds for impeding the process; like circumventing coali-

tion/compromise agreements behind our backs, etc.] Don't listen to people who push one message, "no discrimination," straight-acting spokespeople, and the like. These strategies trash our dignity and hurt our struggle, both short-term and long-term. And don't listen to anyone who tells you they want to combine a one-message media campaign with "grass-roots organizing" or a "broad-based coalition." All this means is that they have learned to utter these phrases in bogus and sleazy attempts to keep us in line. Grass-roots organizing and coalition activism, by definition, preclude a one-message campaign. You can't spend most of your money on commercials and still fund organizers. You can't print up thousands of bumper stickers before you find out what people want them to say (if they want them at all) or whether people can risk having their cars vandalized (if they have cars at all). You can't plan anything until you know about people's work, money,

More LESSONS ➡ page 11

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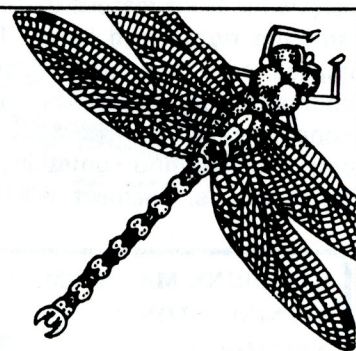
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COMING OUT, COMING HOME

Column ideas by Don Plourde
Written by Erica Rand

As I wrote last month, Don Plourde, who wrote the series *Coming Out, Coming Home* under the name "Leon," had hoped to write a last column with what he termed "some final thoughts." It's hard for me to write the term "final" for all the reasons that "final" is the right word to use here, and hard to write this column that I told him I would write for him if needed - a column describing what he had planned to write when he first conceived the series. A month later, enough time has passed for grief to start to seem manageable, less day-to-day. Yet nothing is really as settled as I sometimes have let myself think. I understand now why I avoided writing this until deadline. Conjuring Don's presence in order to record his ideas is still fresh pain, and even though I know why I'm the one who is writing this column, I find myself repeatedly reaching for the phone to call him when there are things I want to doublecheck, having to remind myself midreach that I can't. Fresh pain, yet also relief. I'd had a secret fear: what if I can't remember? So it's some comfort to be able to conjure for all the reasons that "final" isn't the right word here. Final implies over and gone; Don, of course, is impossible to forget. I hope that readers who are doing their own grieving and conjuring will find something of Don's presence here; if so, all readers, I suspect, will find something to think about.

Don wanted to write about the insights of Paul Monette. Don found a kindred history in Monette's *Becoming a Man* - where Monette described his own working-class childhood

in a small industrial town in New England that was not unlike Lewiston - and in *Borrowed Time*, in which Monette chronicles his lover's death from AIDS in the latter half of the 1980s. Don said often that Monette was right to say that we are at war: at war in large-scale battles to fight government inaction, corporate greed, CDC crimes, homophobia; at war in individual battles with AIDS and HIV.

Don planned to write about both the big and small battles. Two columns about his own medical struggles already had titles. "Shingles: Second Verse, Same as the First?" was conceived while Don came to suspect, correctly, that he was getting shingles again. Don agonized over the possibility of getting the one thing he never wanted to live through again. But he got it, and he did. "The T-Cell Shuffle" was about obsessing over numbers. "I've always had little use," Don said, "for T-cell counting." He didn't think it helped one's health or told much truth. Besides, he had another count to focus on: platelets.

(One of Don's great gifts, I think, was to teach his friends about the medical details of his illness. A few days before

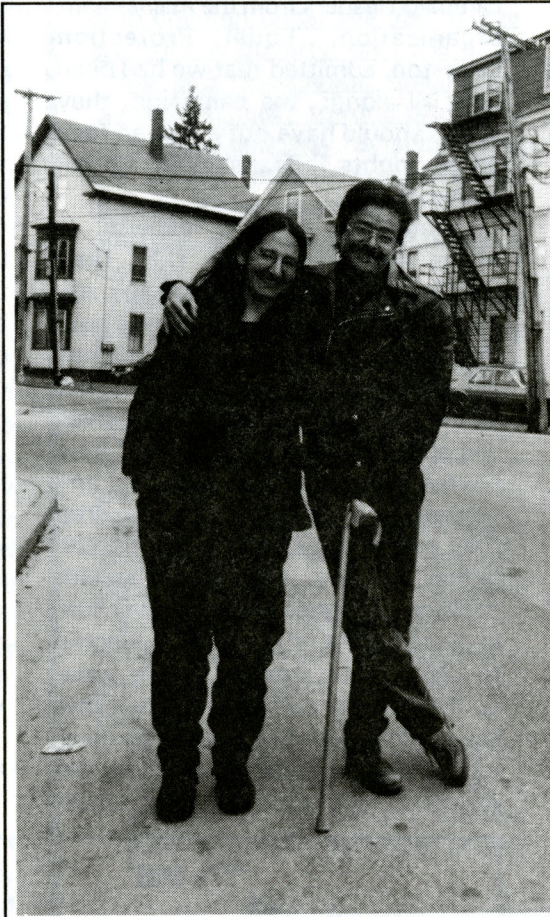


photo by Annette Dragon

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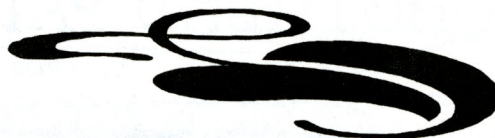
he died, the nurse came in to say that his platelets had gone from 22 to 50. Everyone in the room cheered: we all knew what that meant - still too few, but room for hope.)

Don also wanted to write, as the series title indicates, about what happened when he came home to Lewiston, and about the continuing process of coming out that happened here. Don said that his involvement with Equal Protection Lewiston was a crucial part of his coming-out process, although to many of us involved in EPL it was clear that much of that process had happened beforehand. While Don recognized the need to be realistic about voter concerns, he spoke out always, and from the beginning, against any attempt to keep gays and lesbians in the closet during the campaign. "I will hide no more," he said often. He also came out as a speaker about living with AIDS. One of his favorite coming-out/coming-home memories was of speaking at Lewiston High School, and of being invited back by the students to a Christmas party. The gifts he received showed that he had really taught them about what living with AIDS was like economically - gifts like lined gloves and a new shirt, necessities that he could no longer afford.

These are just a few of his experiences of coming out and coming home. Some were good, some were bad. Don wrote earlier of his trepidation about coming home, leaving the thriving and supportive gay community he had found in D.C. What he found in Maine, was, of course, mixed, but I think he would have wanted me to focus here on the good. He spent many hours in his last few months speaking about the support and community he found here. I won't use names because I don't want to leave anyone out, and Don had too many friends, family, allies to name anyway. He also found great doctors who shared their expertise while always recognizing the patient's ultimate authority over health care. "They know I'm my own

primary care physician," he would say - the highest compliment, I think, that one can pay to a doctor these days. As importantly, nonphobic hospital staff. A few bad experiences, sure, but only a few, and nothing like what happened in D.C. hospitals, where people refused to clean his room and food got left outside on paper plates. At CMMC, most nurses, CNAs, and other workers approached AIDS and Don without fear or dramatics - and often, indeed usually, with generous care. It wasn't a matter of "one special person": many contributed to making Don's stays there as good as they could have been under the circumstances.

Don ended his first column with the words "I am Leon, and this is my story." It is fitting, perhaps, to end his last column by going back to those words. Don took the pseudonym "Leon" in tribute to his Franco-American heritage. He was as "out and proud" about being Franco-American as he was out and proud about being gay, and more so when he came home and discovered that he could be at home in the community and the family he came from. Of course, no home, no community, no society will really be a safe place to thrive until the changes that Don fought for are won: access for all to healthcare and education, gay rights, social and economic justice overall. And Lewiston, as we know, has far to go in these areas. As important, however, is what, and who, is already here. Don wrote earlier about sensing that in order to die at peace, he needed to make his peace both with and in the place he called home. He'd want readers to know that he did. ▼



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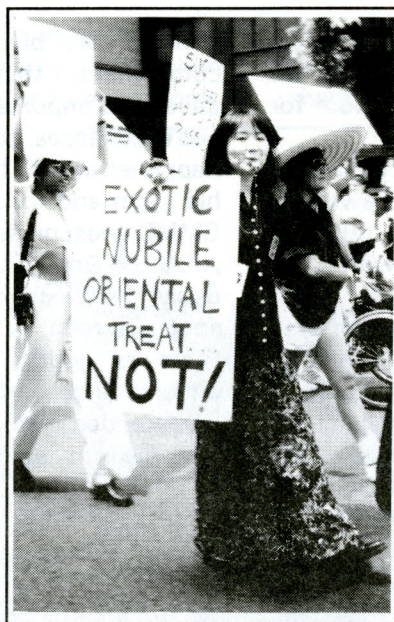


photo by Diane Matthews

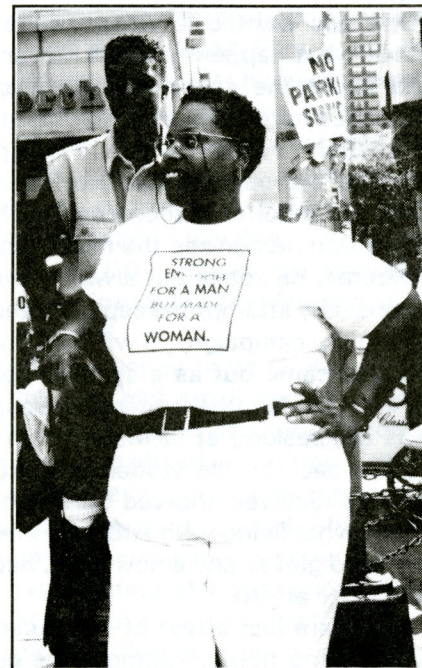


photo by Annette Dragon

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HOMOGENEOUS HOMOSEXUALS - Study Shows Gays Mostly 'Average'

(Outlines) - About 6% of Americans identify themselves as gay or lesbian, according to a new market report from Yankelovich Partners. The firm's Yankelovich Monitor: Gay/Lesbian Report tracks consumer attitudes, values and demographics for companies that want to market to the community.

The results of the survey will be published in a book by business consultant Grant Lukenbill, *Untold Millions: The Gay and Lesbian Consumer Revolution in America*.

The survey, conducted as a confidential questionnaire of some 2,503 respondents, yields what is believed to be the first nationally representative demographic assessment of consumer habits and marketing demographics among gays and lesbians.

The survey confirmed a number of long-held beliefs about the gay and lesbian community and its buying habits, but it contradicted others. Notably, it found gay couples had about the same household incomes as straight couples. Among the gay men, the mean household income was \$37,400, compared with \$39,300 among the heterosexual men. Among lesbians, it was \$34,800, compared with \$34,400 among the heterosexual women.

According to the report, the gay/lesbian 5.7 percent of the population

mirrors the rest of America in gender, ethnicity and age - meaning there are roughly the same number of gay men as lesbians. Personal income is also the same as straights'. Other stats:

- Gays are twice as likely to go to graduate school as heterosexuals (14% of gays; 7% of straights).
- 18% of gays are self-employed versus 11% of straights.
- Gays are more likely to hold liberal political views (28% versus 17% of straights), but political affiliations mirror society's.
- Gays are less likely to be Protestant (46% versus 56% of the rest of the population). Other religions have comparable figures.
- 42% consider themselves "married," versus 54% of heterosexuals.
- Lesbians are nearly as likely as straight women to have kids.
- Half of gays and lesbians are parents, compared with 66% of heterosexuals. A quarter of gays have children under 18 in the house, compared with 32% of heterosexuals.
- Gays are more likely to live in metropolitan areas (56%, compared with 38% of straights) and appear less in the South (25% versus 35%

of straights) and more frequently in the North Central region (32% versus 23% of straights).

- Heterosexuals' negative attitudes toward gays and lesbians have decreased significantly in the past 10 years.
- Gays feel much more stress over employment, financial, personal and family issues than do heterosexuals.

The survey results "confirm that numerous presumptions and stereotypes about gay and lesbian Americans are incorrect, particularly those regarding values, income, education and political affiliations," Lukenbill said.

But it is also likely that many gays and lesbians did not feel secure enough to answer truthfully about their sexual orientation.

(Outlines) - A *Newsweek* poll of gays and lesbians shows that 62% don't think Bill Clinton is taking our issues seriously enough, and 64% disapprove of the way he handled the gays in the military issue. The poll, using contacts from the Strubco gay direct-mail company, also found 72% approve of the way Clinton is handling his job (compared to 88% in March 1993). The poll reveals lesbians are more open about their sexuality than gay men. ▼



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REVIEW - SEX IS...

by Annette Dragon



Sex /s... is everything (and more than) you ever wanted to know about men who do men and just what they do. It's 80 minutes of raunch and responsibility, tenderness and recklessness. Director Mark Huestis and producer Lawrence Helman have created a film in which 15 San Francisco men aged 19 to 73 talk about gay male sexuality. The guys are a mixed lot of races, experiences and professions. There is a minister, three African Americans, a porn star, an AIDS worker, an Asian, a writer, a happily married middle class monogamous couple, a college administrator, a Latino, and a cross-dressing sex worker. Several are HIV positive; one has AIDS. What they all do with equal skill is talk oh-so-frankly about sex in their lives. And you don't see just 15 talking heads. Their accounts are visually punctuated with sweaty clips from gay porn movies (commercial and homemade), documentary footage from a half-century of gay culture, and hilarious scenes from 1950s 'health education' films with titles like "Flaming Curiosity of Immature Young Love," "Back Seat Dating," and "Uncontrolled Emotion."

The variety and richness of experience in Huestis' film give it many dimensions. It could have subtitles like "Love Is...", "Loneliness Is...", "Awareness Is...", "Pain Is..." Some of the themes it addresses are coming out, masturbation, censorship, death, grieving, and survival.

* * *

Sex /s... chronicles the evolution of gay sex from the '50s through the '90s. It is a panorama that starts in the middle of the closet and spreads to the middle of the street. A 53 year old film exhibitor remembers coming of age 35 years ago, when slow dancing with a stranger was the ultimate in eroticism.

"One of my main bar memories was being in a hot underground bar with a dance floor, having wool pants on that itched, and a white starched collar cutting into your neck, and dancing with a stranger... And it was a slow dance and you were rubbing up against them, and you were hot, and you were uncomfortable, and you had a hard-on, and it was so-o-o delicious."

One guy's dad wanted him to 'butch out' so he bought him a steady supply of Muscle Mags "full of half-naked men with gorgeous bodies." He would take the magazines downstairs, masturbate, and think, "It must be OK - my father's buying them!"

* * *

The closets of the '50s and '60s gave way to the

indulgence of the '70s. "It was Babylon. There was sex behind every tree, every bush." Sex was often a numbers game - how many men and how many positions. The popularity of the discos and bathhouses soared. Of his bathhouse experience one man said, "It was the closest thing to bliss I've ever experienced."

* * *

The '80s brought an awareness of AIDS and a variety of reactions to it, ranging from panic to denial to

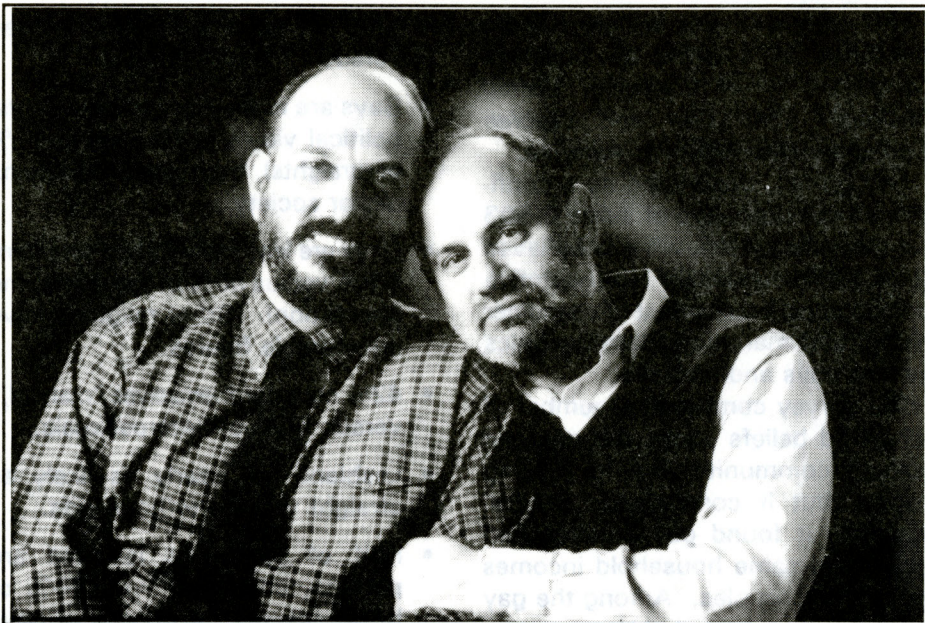


photo by Daniel Nicoletta

Larry Brinkin and R. Wood Massi, *Domestic Partners*

withdrawal. Huestis, the film's director and one of the 15 interviewees, says,

"I closed off for two years. I didn't let a guy come into my apartment. Blinds were closed. I didn't want anyone to touch me. And I became obsessed with this new disease..."

An AIDS activist describes the early concept of safer sex:

"A group of people in 1984 began to develop the concept of eroticizing safer sex, of presenting condoms, dental dams, water based lubes, the various apparatus of safer sex, not as hygienic devices that smelled of alcohol and gave off the sound of squeaking nurses' shoes on clean linoleum, but rather that they were sex toys, implements of perversion."

Stories of lovers who have died from AIDS complications go straight to the heart. The most powerful comes from a performance artist/poet:

"I had sex and love in the same person and I was just beginning to discover that. And the evil thing to me about

More REVIEW ➤ page 15

CHANNELING YOUR PARENTS

by Lisa Geduldig

Do you ever find yourself actually channeling your parents? Well, I do. I channel Arl & Irv all the time. No, no, they're still alive. But you know what I mean. You know, you find yourself doing or saying something, and suddenly you feel like ... you're possessed ... like, that wasn't me saying that ... but, I do recognize that voice. I think that was my mother.

I don't even know why I do half the things I do; some things I just do because Arl did it that way, including the way I smell the melons in the produce section at the market, or the way I prepare my Matzoh Brie.

I call it "channeling Arline." You may call it something else, like "channeling Sadie or Gertrude" ... or "just plain frightening."

There were so many of my parents' idiosyncrasies that I abhorred while growing up. All those annoying little things that I said I'd never do. And now, as an adult, I find myself actually doing most of them. They range from the way the towel must be hung up after taking a shower - that's Arl; one lover really loved that - to the way I'm obsessive about turning off the lights when someone leaves the room - that comes from Irv.

My father was completely obsessed about that when I was a kid - as you can imagine it drove me crazy. I can actually hear his voice in my head: "Lisa! Don't leave the lights on! Don't be such a big sport with my money."

He used to tell me that it cost 6 cents every time I turned the light on and off. Where he got that figure, I'll never know, but I sort of took it as gospel. Sometimes, after we'd had a fight, just to get back at him, I'd go up to my room and flip the light switch on and off: 6, 12, 18, 24, 30, 36 cents!

I spent a whole week visiting my parents this past spring in preparation for this talk you and I are having - just so I could remind myself of the little details in case I forgot anything. I'll try and write the trip off as a business expense on last year's taxes. ▼



GIVE ME CHOCOLATE. PERIOD.

by Sheryl Kayne

Visions of little yellow, red and orange chocolate candies dance on my brain. Green coating streaks my tongue. Chocolate bits color my fingernails. Once my monthly M&M frenzy begins, I know the onset of menstruation cannot be far behind.

The philosopher Cicero said: "Thou shouldst eat to live, not live to eat." He obviously never experienced coffee ice cream with Heath Bar crunch.

When I crave chocolate, I'm going to eat chocolate. That's not eating to live, that's living to eat, regardless of whether thou shouldst or shouldn't, I havest to, my period maketh me do it.

It is all part of that great monthly cycle, as it is written from up above: Once a month, you will overdose on chocolate. Nothing satisfies me like M&M's.

Maybe it's because they are so poppable. When I was a teenager, one bag of plain M&M's, 1.69 ounces, containing 54 bite size candies, was enough to quench my desire. However, with age, my appetite has increased.

Today, at forty-something, I need a one pound bag to get me through. There are 400 M&M's in the pounder bag, Hallelujah. What a bargain. By counting out my supply and putting 50 candies in each of eight little baggies and placing each little baggie in a necessary place- coat pocket, slacks pocket, pocket book, refrigerator top shelf, desk top, glove compartment, reading chair and under my pillow - I consume one M&M at a time, creating a time-released effect.

I used to feel guilty, ashamed, lustful, sinful, obsessed and embarrassed by my M&M frenzy. Even abnormal. I tried to hide it from my loved ones.

But I've been redeemed. New research on food cravings says this is my body's way of filling a physiological need. See? I knew I needed those M&M's.

Chocolate contains caffeine, theobromine, fat and calories, all in a delicious combination, I might add. When I eat chocolate, endorphins are released in my brain, making me feel just as good as if I ran a mile. This way I save on stress to my knees and sweat on my socks.

And, anyway, I have no choice. If I don't eat my M&M's, my period might not come. ▼

CALENDAR . . .

THURSDAY 9/8

Getting the Story Out: The Queer Press in Maine. Panel discussion with the editors of *APEX*, *CPR*, 10% on the challenges of producing newspapers for Maine's lesbian/bi/gay/transgender community. Matlovich Society, 7:30-9pm, Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland, ME. Accessible to the mobility-impaired; free hotel parking. FMI ☎ (207) 773-1209.

FRI.-SUN 9/9-11

Sisterspace Pocono Weekend. FMI: Send SASE to Sisterspace, 351 S. 47th St., B-101, Philadelphia, PA 19143, (215)476-2424.

SATURDAY 9/10

Amelia's Meeting Potluck and video at Beth & Claudia's. 6pm. FMI ☎ (802) 649-5297.

Dreamwork, Unity and You. Third session of 3-part "dreamshop." 9am-noon, Unity Church, 54 River Rd., Windham, ME. FMI ☎ Rick Bouchard (207) 828-2031.

7th Annual Provincetown Harbor Swim for Life & Mermaid Brunch AIDS Benefit. For swimmer regist., pledge sheets & info: POB 819, Provincetown, MA 02657 or ☎(508)487-3684.

SUNDAY 9/11

Open Auditions for Maine Gay Men's Chorus. 3-6pm, First Parish Church, Portland, ME. New member orientation at 7pm. FMI ☎ Bruce (207) 839-4506.

WEDNESDAY 9/14

Women in Harmony first rehearsal and get acquainted meeting for the '94-95 season, 7-9pm at Immanuel Baptist Church, corner of High and Deering Sts., Portland, ME. FMI ☎ (207) 774-4940.

SATURDAY 9/17

Sixth Annual Lesbian Fall Conference: Exploring New Dimensions, presented by Monadnock Area Womyn, 1st Baptist Church of Keene, 105 Maple Ave., Keene, NH, 9:30am - 5:00pm. \$10-25 sliding scale before 9/8 or \$15-25 after 9/8. FMI ☎ (603) 352-6741.

SUN.-WED. 9/18-21

Intreat Me Not to Leave Thee, A comedy about two women living together in New York. Oak St. Theatre, 92 Oak St., Portland, ME. FMI ☎ (207) 773-4698.

THURSDAY 9/22

What is the Status of Diversity in Maine? Hear Honorable John Jenkins, Mayor of Lewiston and Chair of the Governor's Commission to

Promote the Understanding of Diversity in Maine, discuss the Commission's recommendations. Matlovich Society, 7:30-9pm, Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland, ME. Accessible to the mobility-impaired; free hotel parking. FMI ☎ (207) 773-1209.

FRI.- SUN. 9/23-25

Out of this World with Sonia Johnson. Weekend workshops 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.

SATURDAY 9/24

CAGLR (Citizen's Alliance for Gay & Lesbian Rights) Dance at Pat's Peak, Henniker, NH. \$6.

Reclaiming My Past, Building a Foundation for My Future. Workshop sponsored by Safe Space Women's Center of ME, 1-4pm. FMI ☎ (207) 725-7632.

WEDNESDAY 9/26

Lesbian Film Night at Sisters, 45 Danforth St., Portland, ME. 8-9:30pm, \$5. *Nice Girls* (90 min.) Award winning short films by and about women. Popcorn and ice water gladly provided.

TUESDAY 9/27

Love Without Limits with Deborah Anapol, at The Gathering, USM Campus Center, Bedford St., Portland, ME. 7-9pm.

MEDIA

WMPG'S Women's Music Fest, 90.9 FM 3-5pm Sun.

NOTICES

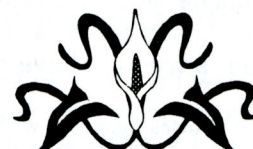
5th Annual Maine AIDS Walk Sunday, 10/2/94, Brunswick, ME. Reg. 11:30am, walk begins at 1pm rain or shine. Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services. FMI ☎ (207) 725-4955.

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.

The National Organization for Women Maine Conference, "Fight the Right NOW!", Sat., 10/1, 10am-4:30pm, Bangor HS, 885 Broadway, Bangor, ME. Accessible and childcare provided. FMI ☎ Joyce (207) 825-3962 or JoAnne (207) 989-3308.

Atlantic Lesbian/Gay/Bi Conference 10/7-9 at Dalhousie University Student Union Bldg., Halifax, Canada. Cost: \$25/unwaged; \$35/for the waged; \$50/very waged. Limited housing available. FMI ☎ (902)429-7922 or write Atlantic L/G/B Conference, 5280 Green St., POB 27043, Halifax NS Canada B3H 4M8.



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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.

Poster for 1995 National Lesbian/Gay Book Month. FMI Michele Karlsber, c/o The Publishing Triangle, POB 114, Prince Street Station, NY, NY 10012 (718) 351-9599.

More AGAIN from page 1

Carolyn Cosby says that the many people who support protection against discrimination are out of touch with the citizens of the state. She says that not only are the citizens of Portland who upheld the ordinance out of touch, but also the Attorney General of the state is out of touch, all four candidates for governor are out of touch, Tom Andrews and Olympia Snowe running for the Senate are out of touch, and so is the religious community and the business community out of touch. What it sounds like to me is that there's a small group of radical extremists led by

Carolyn Cosby who are totally out of touch with the people of Maine."

Joel Russ added, "The Concerned Maine Families referendum is a message of intolerance which we find unacceptable. It is inconsistent with the value that we place on our community's rich diversity. It is said that 'as Maine goes, so goes the nation.' We have been moving toward tolerance and away from discrimination. It is our hope that we continue to do so."▼

More NEWS from page 1

be a free and full barrier to all the services of the National Health Service," said Rev. Richard Kirker, general secretary of the Gay and Lesbian Christian Movement. "What children need is good parenting, which can be provided by a mother, father, two men, or two women. Heterosexuality is no guarantee of good parenting skills." On June 24, a Manchester judge granted a Lesbian couple joint custody of a 22-month-old boy. The women are believed to be the first Gay couple in Britain to win joint custody of a child.

SPEAKING OF RUBBERS

(Bay Windows) New York - The Board of Governors of the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL), with virtually no controversy, adopted an anti-bias resolution stating that it will not schedule any North American Bridge Championships in any jurisdiction "that affirmatively denies gays and lesbians the protection of anti-discrimination legislation."

The resolution effectively prohibits the ACBL from holding any of its North American championship games anywhere that has enacted measures excluding lesbians and gay men from its anti-bias protections.▼

More LESSONS from pg. 3

and safety, about the risks they want to take, the issues they want to advance, the skills they want to share or learn: these vary from neighborhood to neighborhood, block to block, person to person. And you can't plan for, but with. You can't design a campaign plan and then say "Come

work with us as part of a broad-based coalition." (Shocking but true, this actually has happened in Maine, over and over.) What you wind up with, of course, is not a broad-based coalition, but a top-down hierarchy, run by social elites, with a broad-based labor force made up, no surprise, of everyone else: queer, transgender, young, old, poor, rural, of color. Coalition activism requires that the coalition come first. It requires not one plan/one message, but plans and messages - designed to advance mutually agreed-upon goals that look beyond one ballot and one source of oppression. Coalition activism requires a multiple agenda and our struggle requires coalition activism - because no oppressed group can win civil rights by itself, because a solo focus on "gay rights" at best gets you rights that only white, moneyed, mainstream men can fully exercise, and because there will be no justice until there is social and economic justice for all oppressed people.▼

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ASK THIGHMASTER - advice with holes

Dear Thighmaster,

I recently ended a relationship with a woman who is of a much higher economic status than myself. (That was one of the reasons for ending the relationship actually - her attitudes about money and class issues.) During the course of our brief (5-month) relationship, she purchased a very expensive (\$250) gift for me. At the time, I told her I was uncomfortable with it, but we were taking a trip together and she insisted I "needed" this gift.

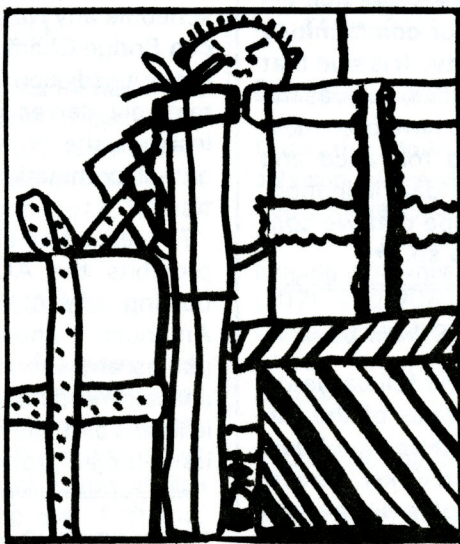
Soon I will be returning a number of her possessions to her - the little things one leaves at a lover's house, and some items I had agreed to store until she moved, etc. My dilemma then is this: do I include the "gift"? She will not ask for it back, and my friends say to keep it, but it doesn't feel right. How do I decide what is ethical?

Unsatisfied Consumer

Dear Unsatisfied,

Shockingly enough, your answer resides in that weird cultural moment when Dionne Warwick and Elton John decided that they could benefit AIDS research by plucking the term "for sure" out of Valleyspeak. Thighmaster hesitates to say this because, in case you're a member of the Poetry Police, you're probably poised right now to walk on by and out of this column before you have to see "that's what friends are for" displayed as if "sure" and "for" actually rhymed. But stay planted, stay tuned, keep smiling, and listen to your friends, girl. You *can* always count on them, for sure, at least if these good times and bad times are any indication. On the gift issue, they're absolutely right. Thighmaster can say this with confidence, even if you haven't stated what this \$250 gift is, which Thighmaster has lost a lot of sex time trying to guess. What could you "need" for a vacation that costs \$250 and that is still left over after the vacation ends, thus omitting, for instance, a tubload of massage oil? Thighmaster can only conclude that it's something that you need to wear or use

so that you will look as classy as she thinks she looks. Some snazzy evening wear, perhaps, or some gortex outdoor-wear in this year's status-denoting color clash? What else could it be? It can't be sex toys - your selfish pig ex would



drawing by Naomi Falcon

have bought those for herself, not for you. And no matter what the gift, she obviously is a pig and a sadist of the non-consent-getting kind. Why? Because she made you take a gift that you didn't want to take, and forced you to wallow in the slop of her own standards. Consent, no. Pig, yes.

So if you didn't want it then, why should you keep it now? For one thing, this gift was not "free." Gifts never are. Although the classic "I bought you dinner so spread your legs" line is usually viewed as the gift-giving concept gone wrong, it really only deviates from the gift-giving tradition in the failure to camouflage with pseudo-selflessness what gift giving is usually all about. Rare is the gift offered with no expectation of payback: in a gift that the giver expects to get later, or, at the very least, in gratitude. In fact, as your tale shows, gift giving can be one of the least consensual acts around. Too often, the giver initiates the give-and-take game without asking first if the givee wants to play, without asking about the givee's limits, and without making it comfortable for the givee to say "No." It's not safe, it's not sane, it's not consensual, and

if this were sex, you'd be clear about whether you owed her anything besides contempt and some well-placed graffiti warning others to stay away.

Besides, you paid for this gift already - in discomfort, in your temporary surrender on the "money and class issues" that divided you, in the amount of time you must have spent dealing with the very bad feeling that comes when someone implies that she's ashamed of being seen with you unless you have accessories that signal money to burn. In fact, you've paid so much that she actually owes you compensation, reparation money for her crimes in the class war. Granted, she didn't invent this war or this situation. Lots of lovers (and friends) have to contend with the problems caused by unequal resources because this is the totally fucked-up hellhole we live in: some people get to drop \$250 on luxury items while others are scrounging for rent money. This isn't fair from any viewpoint, and no single duo composed of a dropper and a scrounger can fix it, either for the nation or even merely for themselves. Every "solution" grates; none are ever quite OK. But there are better ways to deal with the money mismatch - some of which even involve the dropper spending more money. In fact, from one angle, having the lover with the bucks spring for the extras might be viewed as the fairest thing around, a small-scale good move to redistribute the resources: both the rich and the poor get the vacation, the break from rice and beans, whatever. But this only works if you both get to decide what gets spent and where. Nothing has changed for the better if the moneygirl gets to call the shots, the looks, the buys, the action. That's just the same old story: money buys power and privilege (and, these days, "pollution credits"). So keep the mystery item. That's ethical, it's yours, and she's lucky you haven't run her Porsche keys through her pasta maker.

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

SHERRIE DOES NORTHAMPTON

by Sherrie Michael Bast

When I decided to go to the Northampton Lesbian Festival I wasn't really thinking of writing an article about it for *APEX*, but I was thinking about all of the festival stories I've heard from my more experienced wimmin friends.

Ticket prices were running from \$32 per day if paid in advance, to \$110 for three days paid at the gate. A single day was going for \$44 for those of us who planned poorly. We decided to make the most of our one day, with the timing of Toshi Reagon's performance as a deciding factor.

Despite Rachel Pepper's admonishment that "Taking your lover to a women's music festival is like bringing a sandwich to a banquet" (On Our Backs, May/June 1994 p. 23) my girlfriend and I were making the trip together, and excited about doing it. We planned to leave very early Saturday morning, leaving us the day and most of the night in Northampton. Maybe it was the heavy rain that made the drive take more than twice as long as we'd expected. Maybe it was the lousy directions. Maybe it was just meant to be that way.

The very kind womyn at the ticket gate let us in for half price, because the day was better than half over when we finally arrived. The sun came out just as we got there, and the vendors

decided to stay open an extra hour in its honor. The field was full of mud, the line at the porta potty was long, and being in the presence of hundreds of other wimmin loving wimmin was like nothing I'd ever experienced before.

The first thing that struck me was the incredible feeling of safety. We didn't worry about how far from the gate we parked even knowing it would likely be after midnight when we walked back to the car. We didn't worry about the car being vandalized, and we felt safe changing our clothes, as the weather required, standing outside. We found out later that clothes were optional on the property, but between the mosquitos and the mud the weather was not conducive to opting for nudity.

Many of the vendors had "sliding

scales" for prices, which was a nice consideration after the relatively high priced admission. The food which was rumored to have been terrible in the past years, was affordable and good.

The performance of Toshi Reagon alone was worth the drive, the mud, the mosquitos and the money. The Billy Tipton Memorial Saxophone Quartet with the Pat Graney Dance Company was wonderful, and the drumming of Edwina Lee Tyler was one of the many highlights of the festival.

Unfortunately, attendance was less than 50% of projections, resulting in a deficit of more than \$40,000 for WOW. It is hoped the weather and the attendance will both be better next year, though I will gladly make the drive in the rain again if need be. I'll just need to leave a little earlier. ▼



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RESOURCE GUIDE

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

HOT-LINES

THE AIDS LINE: 1-800-851-AIDS or 775-1267. Questions re: HIV/AIDS? Call Mon.-Sat. 9am-5pm, Mon./Wed. eve. to 7:30pm. Always anonymous.

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/east. 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/environmental 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, 6:30-8pm. FMI ☐ (207) 947-5337. For any woman self-identified as a lesbian. Woman-only, lesbian-positive space to explore issues & affirm our lesbianism. Confidentiality, openmindedness, respect required.

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

SAFE 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.

LAVENDER 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.

AIDS RESPONSE - 147 Congress St., Portsmouth, NH 03801. (603) 433-5377; fax (603) 431-8520.

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. 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 grps/speakers 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 ☐ teenline 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
Radzukine'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
Lady Iris, Portsmouth

Vermont

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

Portland

Tabitha Jean's Restaurant
Portland Public Library
The AIDS Project
Woodford's Cafe
Raffles Cafe
Books, Etc.
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Sisters
Videoport
Chartroom
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Good Day Market
Sister Creations
Women's Forum, USM
Maine College of Art
Green Mountain Coffee
Counseling Center, USM

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. FMI (207) 369-0259.

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

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

OUT AMONG FRIENDS - Discussion/support grp. Thurs. 7-8:30pm, YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland, ME. FMI (207) 799-0297.

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

MAINE LESBIAN/GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE - Statewide, non-partisan org. promotes civil rights in ME and involves lesbian/gay community in political process. Mtgs in Augusta 3rd Sat. of month. FMI 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! FMI (207) 773-5726 or SASE to POB 5301, Portland, ME 04101.

GREATER PORTLAND NOW c/o YWCA, 87 Spring St., Ptd, ME 04101, (207) 879-0877/(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. Open to wimmin (no transsexuals, please). Bring musical instruments. FMI Lady Alaina (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. FMI Jim Bretz (603) 536-4011.

INTEGRITY/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. FMI write POB 8113, Portland, ME 04104.

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

FRIDAY NIGHT CHURCH SERVICES
State Street Church, 159 State St., Portland, ME. Interdenominational service. Inclusion, love and transformation in contemporary language. 7pm, accessible and child care. FMI (207) 774-6396.

MUSIC

MAINE GAY MEN'S CHORUS - Community chorus. FMI write M.G.M.C., POB 10391, Portland, ME 04104.

More REVIEW from page 8

HIV disease is that it robbed me. It robbed me of something really rich and really pure and really wonderful. It robbed me of a next cycle, a next level of sexuality."

* * *

Sex Is... addresses sexual fantasies ("...my sexual fantasies revolve around Mexican baseball players"); sex workers ("I consider myself a social worker who brings joy to the lonely and depressed...for a small fee"). It addresses ageism and racism in the gay community. Using a typical juxtaposition of two disparate points of view, it talks about sadomasochism:

"S/M is not about a hard-on. There's a spirituality that ignores these conventions of 'get it up and get it off.'"

This is followed by 'Madame X,' a gorgeous professional illusionist, who says, "I'm sorry, but if I'm having sex with you and I'm enjoying it and you reach out and smack me - you gonna get smacked back - it just doesn't work that way!"

Sex Is... is not *Philadelphia*; it's not *Longtime Companion*. It is not a sanitized version of straight-acting gay men. It's not self-censoring. It is for adults. It's jubilant and pro-lust. And it's wickedly dedicated "to the memory of Jesse Helms." ▼

CLASSIFIED

PERSONAL GROWTH

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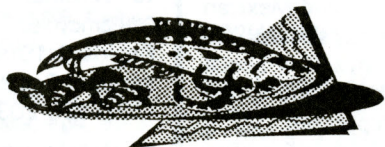
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