

CATHOLIC PRIEST DIES IN IRIS GAY SAUNA

(The Washington Blade) Ireland - A 68-year-old Catholic priest was found dead in a Gay Irish Club. United Press International reported Father Liam Cosgrave apparently died of a heart attack on Nov. 12 while watching pornographic movies at the Incognito Club, a Gay sauna club, in Dublin.

Cosgrave was a regular patron and had been drinking coffee with two other priests at the club shortly before he died, said club manager Liam Ledwige, according to UPI. One of the priests administered last rites over Cosgrave's naked body.

"We would normally not give out this information," said Ledwige according to UPI, "but as a Gay community we rebel against the Catholic church which refuses to recognize us."

Cosgrave was a member of the Monfront Fathers who served out of a north Dublin parish for over a decade.

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catholic teaching kills

Winter 1994-95

HOW THE WEST WAS WON: IDAHO VOTES FOR QUEER RIGHTS

by Bee Bell

Proposition 1 was brought to a vote in Idaho by homophobes who wanted Idaho law changed to 1. Prevent lesbian and gay people from keeping their jobs when faced with discrimination. 2. Censor all public libraries by putting any materials that even mention homosexuality in adults-only sections. 3. Censor school teachers, counselors, and administrators by forbidding any discussion of homosexuality in a positive or neutral manner.

But like all anti-gay initiatives, its underlying purpose was even more deadly. As one Idaho lesbian put it, "They want to tell people that we're some kind of alien life form, not human beings, and so it's OK to run us down in the street." This is a report on how Prop. 1 was defeated, how queer activists in Lewiston, Maine inspired what happened out west, and what it all means for Maine's upcoming battle against our own ballot initiative in November '95.

If you want to be a right-winger in Idaho, your only big problem will be choosing which group to belong to. You could join the Mormon church, which dominates southern Idaho, or veer right to get to its John Birch Society buddies. Or check out the "radical Constitutionalists" who believe we must go "back to" the days of Christian law--and have the guns to prove it. The Posse Comitatus, for example, aims to restore county sheriffs as the ultimate law of the land. Pigment permitting, you can choose from non-racist or white-supremacist groups of Constitutionalists to hang with. Remember Randy Weaver (the racist variety) in a shoot-out with the FBI? He has a big old following in northern Idaho. Then you've got your Neo-Nazis and your Aryan Nations, whose national compound was in Hayden Lake, Idaho until their recent move just 50 miles east to Montana. But don't worry--Bo Gritz, ex-Aryan National, has bought up 600 acres for a housing development in Kamiah so you'll still find a Nazi neighborhood in the area. And then there's the Idaho Citizens' Alliance (ICA), started by guys from Oregon's notorious OCA in order to pass an anti-queer initiative in Idaho.

Now, if you want to be both queer and alive in Idaho, you'll have problems. Because not only will you have to contend with the Aryans and the Poses and the ICA, but to fight back you'll have to find people who put their money where their mouth is when they say they're on your side. You won't find allies in the county Democratic parties who wouldn't take a stand on Prop. 1, or even in some of the local Human Rights Task Forces (anti-Nazi groups, some now infiltrated by homophobes). And you wouldn't find a true ally in the No On 1 campaign itself. No On 1 led a closeted, homophobic campaign, and where it led it lost--but a surprising combination of other people won back the vote and killed Prop. 1 on Nov. 8. All this in a right-wing state, under the national GOP deluge.

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But Wait, There's More...

- Aunt Jemima Gets a Makeover
- Harbor Masters Get a Facelift
- Elders Gets the Ax
- New Fiction by Jonathan Carr
- World AIDS Day

The Collective

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Phoenix Press is a collectively run organization whose purpose is to build and empower our community by providing positive lesbian/gay images. We will be a forum for the exchange of ideas through debate and discussion. The collective will work to reflect the political and social diversity of our community.

SUBMISSIONS

All submissions should be typed and double-spaced if at all possible. Please include your name and phone number in case we have any questions. Your name will be withheld at your request, but any material received without a contact name or number will not be published. 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.

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"DON'T WEAR YOUR RUBBERS," SAYS CATHOLIC LEAGUE

The Washington Blade - Along with their passengers, Metro buses in Washington, New York, and Boston are carrying what some AIDS service providers consider to be a deadly message.

"Facts About Condoms," trumpets the ad. "Some break. Some Leak. Some are Damaged. We put warning labels on cigarettes. We put warning labels on beer. So why not on CONDOMS?"

The paid advertisement, from the Manhattan-based, 30,000 member, Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, identifies itself as "some common sense and a public service message."

In a recent interview with the publication *Catholic New York*, Catholic League president William A. Donohue said that the purpose of the condom campaign is to "challenge the wisdom of those health officials and educators who recommend condoms to young people without sufficiently advising them about condom failure."

Though some studies, such as those often cited by the Catholic League, claim that the condom failure rate is one in three, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has found that "the large range of efficacy rates is related to incorrect or inconsistent use" of condoms, according to its July 30, 1993 *Condoms and STD/HIV Prevention* newsletter. CDC also asserted that "intact latex condoms provide a continuous barrier to microorganisms, including HIV, as well as sperm" and that condom breakage rates in the U.S. are less than two percent. This rate of condom breakage can be mostly attributed to incorrect usage, such as using oil-based lubricants or using condoms that are old or have been exposed to heat or sunlight, according to CDC.

Both the FDA and CDC maintain that when used consistently and correctly, latex condoms are highly effective in protecting against HIV infection.

Cornelius Baker of the National Association of People With AIDS said that the ads have no message of prevention, such as a plug for abstinence, but serve to question the efficacy of condoms. "Rather than sustaining and protecting life, [they] contribute to murder," he said. ▼

**BENETTON TO MARKET 'DESIGNER CONDOMS'**

(Outlines) Milan - Benetton, the Italian clothing maker, says it will introduce a new line of "designer condoms" that it will market in Japan. Benetton says the green-and-pink condoms will be manufactured under license by Okamoto Industries. The Japanese ad campaign will have as its slogan: "Benetton's smallest garment is a condom."

apex\ 'a-peks\ n. 1 a: the uppermost point: VERTEX (the ~ of a mountain)
b: the narrowed or pointed end: 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.

FACTS ABOUT CONDOMS

**Some Break. Some Leak.
Some are Damaged.**

We put warning labels on cigarettes.
We put warning labels on beer.
So why not on CONDOMS?

Some common sense and a public service message
from the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights
1011 First Avenue, New York, NY 10022
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BACK TO THE LAND

by Jonathan R. Carr

Mr. Wilmer Potter got out of the taxi and tried not to fidget as he waited for the driver to retrieve his luggage from the trunk. The heat was making the sweat run in maddening little rivulets down his neck, where it was blotted up by his once-stiff collar. The air was humid, heavy, and the plaid vest compressing his paunch was making breathing next to impossible. He was contemplating the very real possibility of fainting right there on the sidewalk when at last the driver pulled his head from the trunk and produced two suitcases. He set them on the walk and waited while Wilmer counted out the fare and what he hoped was a generous tip. The driver nodded and turned and Wilmer pulled a handkerchief from his vest pocket and wiped his face. When the excess sweat had been swabbed away he replaced the handkerchief and reached for his spectacles.

The number on the gate read three-thirty-one. This was the right house, then; he'd asked her three times over the phone to make sure he had heard correctly. Just to be certain, he got out the scrap of paper he had written it on and double-checked. He sighed with relief and tucked the paper away.

The suitcases were heavy, but not too heavy, and he managed to make it half-way up the neat brick walk before he had to put them down to rest. He sat on the largest and re-wiped his face, grateful for the shade provided by a good-sized mock orange bush. The house sat about forty feet ahead, framed by shrubs of some sort. It seemed peaceful enough, but then you could never tell; there might be children in the neighborhood.

The front door was nearly hidden by lush vines, one on each side, that trailed up the lattice-work and met overhead, covering the tiny porch roof completely. He pushed several leaves aside and finally found the doorbell.

"Can I help you?"

The voice came from behind him and he spun around, bumped into his suitcase, lost his hat, and put a hand to the trellis to keep from falling. A thorn from the vine pricked his finger and a drop of blood welled up. He stuck it into his mouth to stop the bleeding.

"I'm sorry if I gave you a start. I didn't mean to sneak up on you; it's just that I was out back putting some mulch on Myra, and I heard a car drive up."

She was about sixty, Wilmer guessed, although she looked older. It was her voice which confirmed her youth; full and resonant, without crack or quaver. That; and her eyes - bright blue and glistening.

Wilmer bent down to get his hat, being careful not to back into the vines. He brushed it off and set it back on his balding head. When he was sufficiently composed he asked, "Mrs. Marritt?"

"Yes, Gladys Marritt. Are you a salesman? Pots and pans, maybe? Or...or encyclopedias? I just love encyclopedias..."

"No," he cut in, "no, I'm Wilmer Potter. I called you about the room."

"Mr. Potter... of course." The glistening eyes opened wider. "My new house guest. My, my, Mr. Potter, I imagined you'd be much younger. I can see why you think you need a vacation." She clucked her tongue and shook her head slowly. "You look all frazzled. Let's go in and I'll make some nice, cool Juleps. Do you like Juleps?"

"Juleps?..."

"Mint Juleps. Bit of the Old South. I grow the mint myself. Nothing like a home-made Julep to take the heat away."

Before he could protest she had sidled by him and was fiddling with the door knob. At last it opened and she pushed aside several dangling vines and went in. "Watch out for Milton and Harriet, there. They've

been known to give people some nasty scratches. Come in, come in."

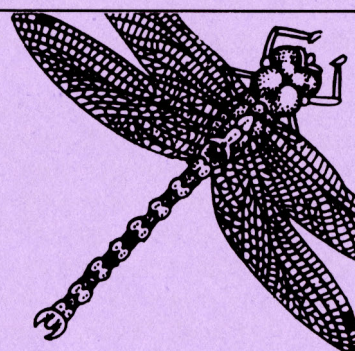
He picked up his suitcases and followed her into the cool, dim living room, which smelled faintly of potting soil and lavender. She directed him to a faded victorian loveseat and bustled off towards the kitchen, leaving him alone to take in his surroundings.

It was the usual summer cottage living room; clean, but just untidy enough to be hospitable. But what impressed him most was the abundance of plants; they were everywhere, occupying every nook and inch of table space. The three windows were crammed with them, which accounted for the dimness of the room.

He could hear glasses clinking in the kitchen and off-tune humming, and a moment later she reappeared with a tray of carrot sticks and celery, a dip, and the juleps.

"Here we are, Mr. Potter. Drink some of this and you'll feel like a new man, if you'll forgive the cliché."

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ANNETTE
DRAGON

PHOTOGRAPHER

207-773-7999

▽
WEDDINGS ■ UNIONS ■ PARTIES

TEEN ACTIVISTS "DIE IN" ON WORLD AIDS DAY

by Johannah Burdin

On December 1, World AIDS Day, Maine teen AIDS activist groups from Scarborough, South Portland, Portland, and Deering High Schools held "Die Ins" for the first six minutes of school to signify that a person dies from AIDS every six minutes. Members of KISS (Kennebec Individuals for Safer Sexuality) designed their own safe sex zine, and held a latex crusade at Monmouth High School for World AIDS Day. Each of the groups belongs to FATE (Fight AIDS, Transform Education), a project of ACT UP/ Portland and Maine teens funded by the Haymarket People's Fund. FATE is designed to help teens organize for latex availability, for better HIV/AIDS education, for the inclusion of homophobia in sexual harassment policies, and for the formation of diversity groups that include but are not limited to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender teens in their schools.

SAFE. At South Portland High School, over 75 students from SAFE (Students Against False Education) held a "die in" at the start of school, and then stayed outside for most of the school day demonstrating and talking about the lack of HIV/AIDS education at their school. They also encouraged cars passing by to honk with signs that said "Honk for Safe Sex." Others held signs that said, "Every nine hours, somebody under 25 dies from AIDS," and "Every 10 seconds, a teen becomes sexually active for the first time." (Those two statistics are from the Children's Defense Fund.)

By 9am, the students had been threatened with suspension, and locked out of the school. They decided to stay outside, and marched around the school several times, chanting chants like "2, 4, 6, 8, we want to win the AIDS war." They held several more "die ins" over the course of the five hours that they were outside the school. Around noontime, the whole group

encircled the flag pole, held hands, and began to discuss their goals and how to achieve them. After a heated discussion, they decided to meet again over the weekend to hammer out their goals, and an action plan.



photo by Annette Dragon

Gabe Hanson summed up many of the students' feelings with, "People are aware of AIDS, but aren't totally informed. The school should be teaching it. I think everybody should go to the school board."

SLAM. About 25 students belonging to SLAM (Scarborough for Latex Availability and Maturity) went to class six minutes late at Scarborough High School. "Ignoring it (HIV/AIDS) won't make it go away," said Amy, a SLAM activist. "We can't prevent the kids from having sex, so maybe we can prevent the transmission of STDs" said Sarah, another SLAM activist.

As a result of SLAM's work, Scarborough's principal agreed to allow students to "die" every six minutes of the school day. Each student who had "died" was called over the intercom and down to the office and could no longer speak to other students for the rest of the day. At the end of the day, there was a general student assembly, and all of the students who had "died" sat on the stage to signify how many people had died of AIDS during the course of their school day. Raising awareness about AIDS deaths was a good start

All of the teens at the action were dissatisfied with the HIV/AIDS education at South Portland High. Beth Waite, a sophomore, said, "In this school, sex ed is really scientific - it's not about people, but about chemicals." Angela Butterfield, a junior, said, "We should have classes dealing with AIDS, how we feel about it, and what it means to us."

AUNT JEMIMA GETS A MAKEOVER

by Brent Staples

The jovial black women who wear bandannas on their heads and grin at you from antique cookie jars are known to collectors and cultural historians as "mam-mies." Crockery lovers covet them. Rich collectors grab up as many as they can. Andy Warhol, as befits the priest of pop, owned a mammy made of silver; it fetched a pretty penny after he died.

With the mammy trade flourishing among both blacks and whites, some find it surprising that Quaker Oats Company is taking heat for its new ad campaign with the pop singer Gladys Knight pitching that most famous mammy of all, Aunt Jemima, the woman whose grinning countenance has appeared on pancake boxes for a century. The drama points up a lesson: that racially charged imagery never fully loses its historical taint. A black millionaire driving home in a Mercedes full of mammy antiques might well see himself as having a joke on the past. Confronted by mammy faces on packages in the supermarket, the same millionaire might well get angry.

The Oxford English Dictionary describes "mammy" as a Southern term that evolved during slavery, designating "a colored woman having care of white children."

As portrayed in early American fiction and film, mam-mies were cheery, asexual women, ferociously devoted to master and mistress. They were often called "Aunt," their male counterparts "Uncle," peculiar appellations given that they were chattel.

The best-known cinematic "Aunty" was Hattie McDaniel, who won the first Academy Award given to an African-American for her portrayal of a character named, well, Mammy in the Civil War epic, "Gone With The Wind." She attacks black soldiers when they seem a threat to the mistress. At emancipation time she refuses freedom, preferring to stay on and care for Miss Scarlett instead. When the civil rights establishment criticized her, Ms. McDaniel replied, "I'd rather play a maid that be one." That's a good summary of black women's prospects during the 1930s.

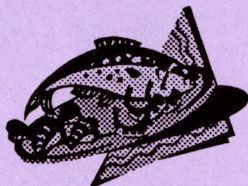
Mammy trademarks were hot. Luziane coffee, Fun to Wash soap, Aunt Dinah molasses: grinning girthy black women were everywhere, selling everything. As the cultural historian Patricia Turner writes in "Ceramic Uncles & Celluloid Mammies": "Implicit in each

More AUNT JEMIMA ◀ page 8

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More LAND from page 3

He took a sip. She was leaning forward waiting for his reaction, and he smiled weakly. "It's delicious."

"I knew you'd like it! I haven't met anyone yet who didn't like my juleps. Mr. Senner couldn't get enough of them."

"Mr. Senner?"

"He was my houseguest last Summer. Wonderful man. He played the violin. He used to play every evening on the patio, and I would sit and listen for hours and hours. That's his violin over there in the corner. He didn't take it with him when he left. Every time I see it, it reminds me of the lovely times we had together. Carrot stick?"

"Excuse me?"

"Would you like a carrot stick? Some dip?"

"No. No, thank you. The julep will be fine."

"A-ha! I knew it. When I saw that pasty skin of yours I said to myself, I said: 'Gladys, there's a man who doesn't eat his vegetables.' That's what I said." She held the tray to his face. "Here - try just one. You'll be amazed at how much better you'll feel."

"Well, just one," he acquiesced, selecting the smallest chunk available. He decided against the dip and put the carrot in his mouth, chewing carefully so his top plate wouldn't come loose.

"So, Mr. Potter, will you be staying long?"

"I'm not sure," he hedged, "I have a three week vacation, but I might go home early if they need me at the library."

"Three weeks - how marvelous! In three weeks maybe we can get some of that smog and city pollution out of your system."

"Now, Mrs. Marritt, about the matter of the rent. I have a check here..."

"Never you mind about that now, Mr. Potter. There will be plenty of time to worry about details later. I just want to sit here and enjoy your company. I get so few visitors you know, even with renting out my spare room to guests now and then."

He murmured politely, and his gaze fell on her hands. He hadn't noticed it before, but she was still wearing gardening gloves. She saw where he was looking and giggled.

"Oh, silly me! I forgot to take my gloves off. I wear them so much they feel like they're part of me." She put them on the coffee table and pushed a stray wisp of yellow-grey hair behind her ear.

Wilmer watched as she popped a carrot stick into her mouth and chewed it with quick tiny bites, her nose crinkling in syncopation. The resemblance to a rabbit was uncanny. Another carrot stick disappeared and she leaned forward in her chair and fixed him with her glistening blue eyes.

"So, Mr. Potter, however did you decide to take your vacation at my little cottage? I don't advertise, you know."

"You see, Mrs. Marritt..."

"Oh, please; call me Gladys," she interrupted. "Mrs. Marritt sounds so formal. After all, we are going to be spending the next three weeks together and I'm sure we're going to get along famously."

"Yes..." He coughed nervously and took another sip of his julep. "You see, I don't really like the big hotels on the beach; all those people bumping you and being rude... I like my privacy. A friend of mine recommended you highly. Beatrice Rambley - perhaps you remember her?"

She considered for a moment, tapping a finger on the rim of her julep glass. "Beatrice Rambley... tall, with a head like a parsnip?"

He couldn't help but smile; the description fit her perfectly. "Yes."

"Perfectly nasty woman." She reached down and tugged a knee-high nylon up from her ankle, where it lay like a wrinkled brown donut. "Nothing I did pleased her. She wouldn't drink tea, she didn't like my juleps. She wasn't worth the effort. And that cat of hers... it ate my marigolds; every last one. Where is Mrs. Potter?"

"Pardon?"

"Aren't you married?"

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More AUNT JEMIMA from page 6

rendition was the notion that these thick-waisted black women were happy with their lot, honored to spend their days and nights caring for white benefactors."

Ask someone to name a mammy, and they'll probably name Aunt Jemima. That's partly because Jemima predates them all, having made her debut at Chicago's Columbian Exposition in 1893, in the person of Nancy Green, a black cook who told folksy stories and flipped pancakes made up from the new, self-rising flour. Aunt Jemima remained her girthy self until 1968, when Quaker traded her bandanna for a more stylish headband and let her lose perhaps 100 pounds. Five years ago, the headband disappeared and Aunt Jemima got a perm.

When Quaker Oats hired Gladys Knight to pitch the products this year, Aunt Jemima had been lying low for decades. Ken Smikle, the publisher of *Target Market News*, a Chicago-based trade newsletter, is the logo's severest critic, arguing that even a slimmed-down Jemima is mammy redux. He thinks it's time for Aunt Jemima to depart the pancake box. "Remember Betty Crocker?" Mr. Smikle asked. "Her picture no longer appears on Betty Crocker products. She's been set

free to pursue a career; Aunt Jemima and Uncle Ben are still on duty in the kitchen. It gets at the root of corporate perceptions of African-Americans."

Quaker Oats says the public has warm and positive feelings for Jemima. She has also brought in more than \$200 million this year. With numbers like that, she will be with us for a long time. So will the historical baggage that has trailed her for a century. ▼

From the New York Times



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Gulf of Maine Books

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THE BACKGROUND

The No On 1 coalition formed out of local groups fighting the ICA initiative, and based itself in Boise--the city in the heel of this large, sparsely populated, boot-shaped state. When No On 1 wanted to centralize all money and decision-making in Boise, many local groups agreed but some got ornery and began to pull away. One or two kept their own PACs to remain independent of orders sent from the distant capital.

Meanwhile, seven New York Lesbian Avengers and yours truly from ACT UP/Portland, ME had formed LACROP (Lesbian Avengers Civil Rights Organizing Project), inspired by some of the work done here by Lewiston queer activists in '93. Four of us had participated in the out, grassroots alternatives--e.g. the door-to-door canvass, the day-after protest--to the Equal Protection Lewiston campaign. We knew that these strategies worked, both in winning votes in those precincts targeted in Lewiston, and in strengthening local lesbian and gay people's efforts to organize for the long term. So we decided to try to take the act on the road, raised funds while we kept an eye on the ten states with initiatives potentially on the ballot, and met with activists in the western states in the hopes

of finding people who agreed with our strategies and wanted our help. The Moscow, Idaho Lesbian Avengers were the first to extend us an invitation so there we went at the end of the summer.

FACE TO FACE IN THE NAZI NORTH

Headquartered in Moscow in the north of the state, we explored the 10 counties that make up the shin of the boot. Northern Idaho, with its timber towns and wheat and lentil fields, is far more rural even than the south of the state, and differs from the south in its economy, religion, politics, and even its time zone. The north was also the least touched by the No On 1 campaign. We each took a county or two and called up local librarians, teachers, politicians, activists, or just queer friends of friends and went to meet them. We also went to community meetings, bars, health food stores, women's shelters and other likely spots to meet people and get a sense of local activities against Prop. 1. After a couple of weeks, we decided to focus on 3 counties where people found enough common ground with us to want our help.

In all 3 places - working out of the county seats of Moscow, Lewiston, and Sandpoint - we found local people who housed us while we helped put on rallies, put up yard signs, and organized door-to-door canvasses and/or literature drops.

The lit drops all included openly pro-queer literature produced in the county or town where it was used - so in Genesee (pop. 780), for example, the lesbian librarian came out to her neighbors in a flyer, asking for their no votes (and getting them). The canvassers worked in pairs, always endeavoring to include at least one local person and at least one out gay, bisexual, or lesbian person. The canvass alone was a glorious success even before we won the vote: gay farmers, lesbian fire ecologists, bisexual cowboys and all kinds of straight Idahoans pounded the pavement together 7 days a week.

We also helped local people put on Prop. 1 forums where they could come out publicly and discuss the initiative - a first in tough, ultra-closeted Lewiston, Idaho - and street theatre to dramatize what it would do. In tiny Sandpoint, pop. 4000, 40 people turned out in a blizzard to see a street action in which high school students dressed up as books (the Bible, Alice Walker, the biography of J. Edgar Hoover, etc.) that mentioned homosexuality. Little kids went up to check out the books and were turned away by a librarian who demanded ID. This piece of theatre embodied all the goals of our project: openness about queer issues (the books), sensitivity to local themes (kid-centered concerns), and, best of all, the formation of a new group after the rally: STARE (Students Take Action for Rights

More IDAHO ◀ page 18

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THE MAINE GAY VISUAL ARTISTS' LEAGUE - 3rd Wed. each month. Non-profit, creative, supportive networking for Gay & Lesbian artists in Maine. FMI and meeting place ☎ (207) 775-3420.

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.

THE PRISCILLA PANEL - discussion group for the lesbian, gay & bisexual community and others meets 2nd week of the month at Stroudwater Books, Rt. 1, Lafayette Rd., Portsmouth, NH, 7pm. FMI ☎ Al Santerre (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.

"LET'S DO BRUNCH" POTLUCK social gathering 11-2pm, 3rd Sun. of the month; York County locations. Meet new people, see old friends, exchange news & info. FMI ☎ (207) 985-2784.

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 groups & 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 5077, Portland, ME 04101. (207) 774-HELP.

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.

PWA COALITION OF MAINE

696 Congress St.
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 773-8500

RUMFORD/MEXICO AREA AIDS SUPPORT GROUP - Mondays at Mexico Congregational 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 SUPORT SERVICES - POB 57, Brunswick, ME 04011. Support services for AIDS/HIV. FMI ☎ (207)725-4955.

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

WOMEN'S INCEST AND SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS' GROUP - Open support and 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. Involves lesbian & gay community in the political process. Mtgs in Augusta 3rd Sat. of month. FMI ☎ 1-800-55-MLGPA for 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).

F.A.T.E. Fight AIDS - Transform Education. A project by ACT UP/Portland to fight HIV, AIDS, and homophobia in all Maine public schools; to form empowering groups for teens and queers and to create a context in which pro-teen, pro-queer groups are able to exist and proliferate in Maine. Straight or queer, boy or girl, HIV positive or negative, black, brown, or white. All welcome. Meets the first and third Fridays of each month at 5:30pm at the YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland, ME. Wheelchair accessible. FMI ☎ (207) 828-0566 or write ACT UP/Portland, POB 1931, Portland, ME 04104.

APOLLO SOCIETY - Gay/lesbian atheists, free-thinkers, ethical humanists & Hellenists. 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.

CIRCLE OF HOPE - an inclusive Christian community based on Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. FMI MCC, POB 1671, Portland, ME 04104. Meetings 4pm, 156 High St., Portland, ME every Saturday.

MUSIC

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

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QUEERS R US

QUEERS R US is putting together an anthology of all that radical, queer anti-assimilationist material that deserves a bigger audience than it got the first time around. Send us your broadsides, 'zinework, newsletter pieces, articles, demo fliers, transitory agitprop (wheatpasting posters, stickers, spray paint documentation, etc.), along with some info: why you did it, what you did with it, responses. Send material (multiple copies if possible) or inquiries to D. Gould, 4646 N. Winchester Ave., #2, Chicago, IL 60640. E-mail to E. Rand: erand@bates.edu. New material welcome. Deadline: May 1, 1995.▼

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The Square Cafe, Waterville
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NH Feminist Health Center, Concord
The Highland's Inn, Bethlehem
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ALSO, Plymouth State College, Plymouth
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ASK THIGHMASTER - advice with holes

Dear Thighmaster,

Why is there no good lesbian porn? When I'm in the mood to read something hot and sweaty and dirty, the pickins are slim. I can only do so much Pat Califia.

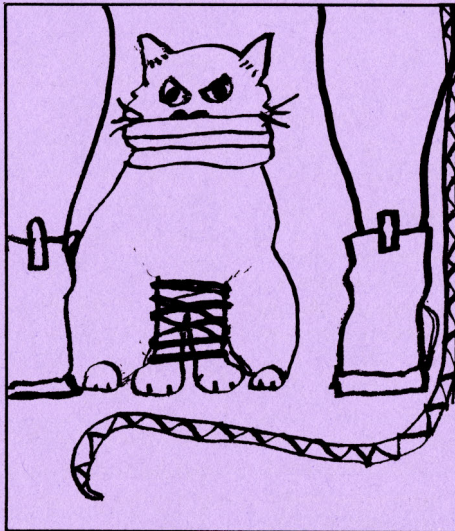
Are all lesbian writers gooey and gentle, or am I just looking in the wrong places?

Hot and Sweaty and Dirty

Dear Dirt Devil,

It's a good thing you've been hanging with Pat - maybe now you're ready for the big time. You probably think Pat's the master of scaring you shitless and fucking over your mind. Shame on you: that master is Thighmaster. OK, so Thighmaster isn't going to tell you one of those exquisitely Pat stories, where someone posing as your parent, a gay cop, or just some vicious anti-consensual bitch makes you change genders 28 times while administering enough pain to render you unconscious for long enough to tattoo Barry Manilow lyrics on your forehead. But Thighmaster doesn't need to. Why? Well, Pat can only fry your mind. Thighmaster, however, can read it too. Need proof? Here we go. Thighmaster not only sees through your jeans to your dry dry underpants (they're striped, right?), but also knows exactly what line of porn you were reading when you decided that only four quarters in the Maytag would ever get them wet again. It's from one of the stories in *Hog Heaven* by Caressa French, who uses the word "gently" more often than Holly Near. It's not in the story about rocking on "gentle waves" in, ugh, the "gleaming white cavity of [the] beast's cast-iron womb" i.e., a bathtub. It's not even in "My Dinner with Andrea," from the sadly misnamed xx-rated section, where the story ends before sex after some measly (and, of course, gentle) foot-

on-clit-under-table-in-restaurant action. No, it's in "Sister Mary Clitoris," from the even more mislabeled xxx-rated section, and it goes like this: "And then her soft tongue, ever so gently, like fine brush strokes, painted a sunset, bursting with red, orange and blue fire, on the taut living canvas stretched between



drawing by Naomi Falcone

my legs." Thighmaster can see your exact mental-erotic path as you went through this story: your small surge of hope when you saw that a safe word was involved, even though it was "cabbage;" your gradual disappointment when you saw the featured ruler would never land on any ass for textual miles around; your ultimate deflation when the big punchline was gentle licking, combined with righteous anger at what everyone really needs a safe word for - protection against metaphorical nightmares that combine gentle paintbrushes with bursting fire. Then, disbelieving that anyone could so butcher either art or flames without reason, you reread to see if maybe the total stupidity of "taut living canvas" might be redeemable as a reference to latex barriers. No barriers around. Then you cried.

So, now that you're freaked out and properly subdued by the penetrating and accurate gaze of the all-knowing

Thighmaster, drop to your knees for three blows of chastisement. First, don't condemn porn products just because they don't turn you on personally. This book obviously turned on at least one writer and her editorial board, and there's too much anti-sex crap around to contribute to it by condemning anyone's pleasure. Second, why haven't you taken Book Cover Decoding 101? Thighmaster understands why you might have been fooled by the reference to "pedal-to-the-metal xxx" stories that are not for "sensitive P.C. detectors." But didn't the author blurb about living with "two cats and her lover" clue you in? Maybe the cats alone aren't an absolute giveaway, but, really, that cutesy implication that the cats are her most important housemates should have sent you running. Third, stop being such a book snob. Now don't panic. Thighmaster isn't getting ready to floor you with more of those viewmaster skills - the first display of see-and-tell has obviously been about as much as you can handle in one day. This is just simple deduction: you wouldn't even be asking this question about whether Pat is the only thing going if you were paying proper attention to mags and 'zines, which not only have everything you could possibly want but also need your bucks. Self-publishers, besides small presses, need your support now more than ever. For one thing, Newt and Jesse are poised to send even Ms. Bursting Gentle Paintbrush underground. Add to this the increasing takeover of publishing by multinational slimeballs, and it's clear that virtually all hot polit crit as well as clit lit is going to come from low-budget self-publishers. You need to support them. (While we're on the subject, don't forget that an APEX subscription makes a great gift.) Besides, here's where to find the nongoosey sex you are looking for. If you're rich, check out *Quim*,

More LAND from page 7

pricy at twelve bucks but hot hot hot. If you've only got \$5 right now, or maybe even if you've got the \$12, spend it on *Brat Attack* (POB 40754, SF, CA 94140-0754), which has some sex narratives and many other great articles (#3 and #4 have a superb two-parter on working class SM dykes talking about class issues). It also comes with a guide to other hot 'zines: dyke, bi, TV/TS, pansexual. Finally, a special memo to you, Dirt Devil, since Thighmaster knows where you live (no, not that viewmaster thing again, but a merely mortal ability to read postmarks): *Brat* gives a well deserved rave ("a '10' on the wet test") to the pansexual *Frighten the Horses* and the 'zine index *FactSheet Five*, both stocked by Gulf of Maine Books in Brunswick - the store, as far as Thighmaster can tell, with the best stock of queer porn in the central-southern Maine region. So, girls and boys, get with the seasonal mainstream, go shopping, and have yourself a merry little clit mass, or whatever it is you worship.

~~~~~

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

Wilmer's drink stuck in his throat, and it took several hard swallows before he could answer.

"There... isn't any Mrs. Potter. I'm a bachelor."

"Do you mean to tell me that a nice, charming man like you never found himself a woman?" Her eyes were still glistening. Actually, Wilmer thought, it was more of a twinkle. His hand automatically felt for his handkerchief; he could feel the sweat beading up on his neck again.

"Do you have any other family? Cousins? Nieces? Nephews?"

"Not really. I'm basically alone. I've come to prefer it that way."

"Well, Mr. Potter, after three weeks with me, maybe you'll change your mind."

"You have such nice plants," he ventured, hoping to change the subject.

"You must spend a lot of time with them."

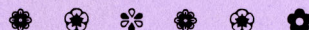
"All day, every day. Gardening is my one and only hobby." She leaned forward in her chair again, pointing a carrot stick at him for emphasis. "Actually, Wilmer, it's more than a hobby; it's a way of life. Gardening IS life, don't you think?"

"I... I guess you could say that." He shifted uneasily in his chair.

She turned her gaze to a philodendron hanging beside her and caressed its leaves idly as she spoke. "Plants are like people. They're born, they grow and flower, and then they die. Actually, they're better than people. People spend their lives taking from the land. They take and take and take, and then when they die they put themselves in fancy caskets and put those inside cement vaults, and there they lay, forever and ever. It just isn't right.

"Plants, on the other hand, give themselves back to the soil they came from. They put back everything they took. They complete Nature's cycle." She got up, walked to the windowsill, and picked up a pot. "Take this little begonia here, for example. Last year he might have been a marigold, or an aster, or even a piece of banana peel. And this Fall when he dies, I won't throw him out; I'll just put him on the compost pile. And next year... who knows? Maybe he'll be a dahlia or a fern. It's so uplifting - life from death."

Wilmer ran a finger under his collar and sucked in some air. A vacation at a large hotel was beginning to sound like not such a bad idea.



*End of Part 1 - Continued in next issue*

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# CALENDAR

CALENDAR LISTINGS ARE FREE TO GROUPS SPONSORING COMMUNITY EVENTS. THOSE WHO CHARGE FOR PRODUCTS/SERVICES ARE INVITED TO CONTACT PHOENIX PRESS REGARDING DISPLAY ADVERTISING.

## FRIDAY 12/16

**The Maine Gay Men's Chorus: Light up the Night: A Holiday Celebration**, 143 State St., Portland, ME. \$10/adv., \$12/door, 8pm. FMI ☎ (207) 839-3511.

**Women's Night 7pm at the Gay-Lesbian Community Center of Northern Maine**, 398 S. Main St., Caribou, ME. FMI ☎ (207) 498-2088.

**Queer Holidays: planning alternative celebrations**, developing holiday traditions drawing from Pagan, Jewish, Christian, and other rituals. 7:30 pm, UU Church, 169 Pleasant St., Auburn, ME. Free. Sponsored by Building Inclusive Community.

## SATURDAY 12/17

**Harbor Masters monthly meeting and Xmas party at Blackstones**, 1-3pm. Bring potluck dish and wrapped gift (under \$5) for gift exchange. FMI ☎ (207) 854-5007.

**Northern Lambda Nord Christmas Party and Yankee Swap**, 8pm in Caribou, ME. Bring a gift, get a gift (maximum \$10 value). FMI ☎ (207) 498-2088.

**Amelia's Meeting, holiday party and potluck at Gwen's**. 5pm. FMI ☎ (603) 448-0573. An Amelia's event.

**Circle Studios Solstice Potluck**, 6pm, Troy, NH. FMI ☎ (603) 242-3274.

## MONDAY 12/19

**Eric Peterson, Counselor & facilitator of "Positively Gay" workshops** speaks at Seacoast Gay Man, UU Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH, 7:30pm. FMI ☎ AI (603) 898-1115.

## TUESDAY 12/20

**Coffee House - Featured Performers - Cathy Poole & Heartstrings**. Refreshments. The Gathering, 7-9pm, Student Center, USM, Portland Campus. FMI ☎ (207) 774-4919.

## THURSDAY 12/22

**Matlovich Open House**. A respite from the seasonal madness - the Matlovich Society throws a house party for our friends! Bring something tasty to share. 7-10pm, 28 Colonial Rd., Portland, ME. FMI ☎ (207) 773-1209.

## SATURDAY 12/31

**BAGAL New Year's Eve Dance**, West House, Village Meeting Brattleboro, Vt. FMI ☎ (802) 254-5947.

**First Annual Un-Crystal Lake New Years Eve Black and White Party** at Kit and Holly's, 8:30pm. FMI ☎ (603) 632-5690. An Amelia's event.

**Northern Lambda Nord New Year's Eve Party**, 8pm in New Sweden, ME. NLN members are free; \$2 cover for non-NLN members. FMI ☎ (207) 498-2088.

## MONDAY 1/9

**New Year Potluck at Seacoast Gay Man**, UU Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH, 7:30 pm. FMI ☎ AI (603) 898-1115.

## THURSDAY 1/12

**Matlovich Society - program TBA**. FMI ☎ (207) 773-1209.

## SATURDAY 1/21

**Harbor Masters monthly meeting and bar night**. Location to be announced. FMI ☎ (207) 854-5007.

## THURSDAY 1/26

**Matlovich Society - program TBA**. FMI ☎ (207) 773-1209.



Photo by Annette Dragon

*THE FURIES, Maine's first feminist theatre ensemble, will present a modern adaptation of "A Christmas Carol" Dec. 13-18 at Sisters, 45 Danforth, St., Portland, ME. (see ad on p. 8).*

*THE FURIES are, from left to right: Joanna Amato, Michelle Gagnon, Nicole Lee Goodwin, Jane Martin, Edie Hoffman, Marilee Ryan (writer/director), and Vickie Robey.*



**SATURDAY 1/28**

**Women in Harmony Concert, "Let There Be Music."** Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St, Portland, ME FMI ☎ Sharon (207) 774-4940. Accessible & signed. Tickets \$10/advance and \$12/door; \$6/Seniors & Students.

**NOTICES**

**Are you a psychiatric patient/survivor** who is lesbian, gay, bisexual? I am looking for people to fill out a survey about their experiences in the mental health care system so that together we can educate mental health workers and self-help organizations about the views and opinions of Lesbian/Gay/Bi consumers. PLEASE HELP! FMI or a survey, ☎ or write Alicia Lucksted, POB 210 UMCP, College Park, MD 20742-3999 (301) 277-8420.

**PASSAGES**

**Fired: Joycelyn Elders, US Surgeon General**, for advocating that a discussion of masturbation be included in a comprehensive education curriculum. It's ironic that the mention of masturbation, which naturally goes hand-in-hand with abstinence, should raise such a cry from the right. Bowing to pressure, Clinton axed Elders on December 9, reminding many critics of his earlier treatment of Lani Guinier, another outspoken black woman.

Elders had been in hot water with Christians and conservatives during her whole 15 month tenure because of her uncompromising support of abortion rights, sex education and condom distribution in schools, homosexual adoptions rights, and her suggestion that Roman Catholics and other anti-abortion activists should "get over their love affair with the fetus."

Elders' enemies in the new Republican majority were delighted at the news. Incoming House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who recently recommended creating orphanages for children of parents on welfare, called her removal "good for the country and good for the president."

The Planned Parenthood Federation said Elders "brought to Washington a welcome dose of real-world wisdom." Kate Michelman of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League described her a "forceful and courageous advocate for preventing unplanned pregnancies and making abortion less necessary." And Steve Michaels, a spokesman for the Washington branch of ACT/UP, said, "She was the only person in the administration that wasn't afraid to talk about sex and AIDS issues."

By demanding her resignation, Clinton has shot out one of the few bright lights in his cabinet. ▼



**Some of Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders' positions and quotations:**

**Sept. 27, 1993** - Urges drug and alcohol education in kindergarten.

**Dec. 7** - Says the government should consider legalizing drugs as a means of reducing the crime rate.

**Feb. 25, 1994** - Says the Medicaid system "had to be developed by a white male slave owner" because it supports "healthy, uneducated people which can only be slaves."

**March 18** - Endorses gay and lesbian adoptions, says an irrational fear of sexuality is behind anti-gay behavior and denounces certain sexual attitudes of conservative religious groups.

**April 22** - Says lesbians should be able to join the Girl Scouts, as she defends earlier statements saying the Boy Scouts should admit homosexuals.

**June 22** - Refers to conservative Christian critics as the "un-Christian religious right, which she accuses of "selling our our children in the name of religion."

**Dec. 1** - Tells World AIDS Day Audience that masturbation is "a part of human sexuality" and "a part of something that perhaps should be taught."

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# THE NEW FACE OF HARBOR MASTERS

by John Struble

Last November the Harbor Masters celebrated its 12th anniversary with a three-day party at the Comfort Inn attended by more than 60 people from the northeastern United States and Canada. Moving into its 13th year, the Harbor Masters is becoming one of the oldest continuously functioning gay/lesbian/bisexual organizations in Maine.

Harbor Masters was formed in November 1982 when the late John Preston and a group of his fellow levi/leathermen came together to create an organization designed to promote brotherhood, mutual respect and outreach to the northern New England leather community. In the early days, Harbor Masters acquired the reputation of being primarily a sex club and, unfortunately, having lost a number of its most visible members to AIDS during the past decade, the remnants of that reputation still persist.

But the truth of the matter is that Harbor Masters has been on the leading edge in recent years in promoting safe-sex practices and in developing the kinds of group activities that build strong bonds of friendship and support among its

members, while providing means for people to enjoy themselves in both "kinky" and "vanilla" eroticism and at the same time to preserve the life-affirming, joyous aspects of Gayness - even in the midst of the plague.

In recent years our membership and activities have expanded dramatically to include people as far away as Boston, Philadelphia and central New Hampshire. Events range from our periodic bar nights at Blackstones to our annual Blackhearts Party in February, participation in the annual Pride Day parades in Portland, Boston and New York, various fundraising events (both for the club itself and the PWA Coalition), and, of course, our Anniversary Run in Portland each November.

As the incoming President of Harbor Masters, I hope to encourage an even broader expansion of our activities and visibility in Portland and the northern New England region. Among other things, we are changing our monthly meeting format to minimize the emphasis on dry business matters and to promote a series of events more interesting to members and guests.

These will hopefully include guest speakers, SM and safe sex demos, and other special presentations created by club members.

In 1990 the Harbor Masters opened its doors to women for the first time in its history. This posed a difficult choice for some of the "old guard" leathermen in the group. But they rose to the occasion, acknowledging that times have changed no less in the leather community than in the rest of society. Since then, the club has admitted seven women members whose contributions, energy and creativity has often exceeded that of some of their male counterparts. What was originally conceived as an all-male leather club has become a gay/lesbian/bisexual organization whose members run the gamut from those still into the old-style, hard-core SM, to those who are exploring new modes of intimate relationships, to those who merely want to belong to a social group of energetic, caring, intelligent people.

In the future, we hope to capitalize on this momentum by increasing the number and range of



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our public activities, by improving our fundraising efforts (both for ourselves and for the organizations we support), and by reaching out to new segments of the Gay community. A particular concern is the growing "generation gap" between gay men and lesbians in their 20s and those in their 40s or older. Because AIDS has so decimated that portion of our population who would now be in their mid-to-late 30s, the natural link between the "baby boomers" and "generation X" has been severely weakened. This hurts both groups because the aging "boomers" are in danger of losing touch with the attitudes and ideas of younger minds, while many of the "X-ers" are floundering in a sea of social and sexual confusion, unable to benefit from the experience and insights of older gay men and lesbians.

If I accomplish nothing else during my tenure as the Harbor Masters' president, I at least want to move the club toward greater efforts to address this problem by sponsoring "intergenerational" activities, events and/or discussion groups where new relationships can be built. I deeply believe that we all have a great deal to gain from this.

The Harbor Masters meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Interested guests are always welcome, but meeting locations vary from month to month, so it's a good idea to find a member to bring you as a guest, or call (207) 854-5007 for further information or write the Harbor Masters at POB 4044, Portland 04101-0244 and our informational brochures are available at most of the bars in Portland.

We encourage anyone interested in the club to contact us.

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Composer/music historian John Struble is the President of Harbor Masters, Inc. of Portland, ME. His latest book, The History of American Classical Music, which deals extensively with the lives of several prominent Gay American composers, will be available in bookstores after the first of the year.▼

## BOOK REVIEW

by Scott T. Hanson

*A Few Tricks Along the Way: Daily Reflections for Gay Men, Queer Boys, Magnificent Queens & the People Who Love Them*, Gary J. Stern, The Crossing Press, 1994, \$12.95.

This new book of daily reflections follows the format of popular 12 Step recovery books of daily meditation such as the Hazelden Meditation Series. Each page is dated and opens with a subject title for the day's reflection, followed by a quote on the subject, then several paragraphs of thoughts/commentary on the topic and a closing affirmation or quip. An example: November 1; DINNER; "They asked me the other day my definition of the perfect lover. And I had it for them, too. A man who can make love to you until four o'clock in the morning - and then turn into a pizza." - Charles Pierce. The thoughts/commentary section begins: "They way to a man's heart is through his stomach. Then again, some people start a little lower . . . ." It continues for three paragraphs on the roles food can play in our relationships. The closing quip is "Let's discuss it over dinner."

A random sampling of daily topics includes: Falling in Love, Counter Culture, Coming Out, Morality, Sexual Freedom, Asses, AIDS, and, of course, *The Wizard of Oz*.

As the overlong title indicates, there is an attempt here to be inclusive of the many diverse "types" of men who have sex with men. While this is admirable in concept, it in fact results in a book highlighting our differences rather than our commonalities. Few men will find themselves identifying with the daily subject consistently. The book also suffers occasionally from strained attempts to keep the tone campy and light hearted. It just doesn't work with topics in our lives which rightfully trigger feelings of grief, rage, etc.

Its flaws noted, this is a book to keep on the nightstand or near the coffeemaker. Although it won't hit the mark every day, it will serve a bit of positive perspective in our time of conservative homophobic politics well worth a few minutes reading and thought each morning. Caroline Cosby would hate it.▼

## INTERNATIONAL PEN PALS

**HONG KONG GAY MALE**, would like to meet or correspond with friends from all over the world. Enjoys bodybuilding, swimming, music, and traveling. Any race or age. Please write in English, French or Chinese to: John Chan, G.P.O. Box 3914, HONGKONG.

**MAINLAND CHINA GAY GUY**, 38, PhD., very open-minded, looking for gay man under 35 worldwide for a long & lasting relationship. Hobbies include stamp & postcard collecting, swimming, classical & lightmusic, letter writing, gay mags & videos. Photo a must. Write: Tim Lee, 344 Panmen Rd., Suzhou 215002, P.R. China.

**COLOMBIAN**, 28, 5'11", attractive, homeloving, faithful, sincere, romantic, very sexual, wants to find penfriends (25-55 y.o.) in English, Spanish or Portuguese. Likes sports, arts, gay magazines. Will answer all. Please write with photo to: Jairo; Apartado Aéreo 5192; Buga, Valle; COLOMBIA.

**YOUNG RUSSIAN**, 24, wants to find gay friends in the USA. Write in English, French, German or Russian to Yury, PO Box 15602, Cheliabinsk-91 454091 RUSSIA.



*More IDAHO from page 9*

and Equality), a Sandpoint High School human rights organization.

## PLAYING ON RACISM

Back on the bigots' side, the ICA was doing the usual: getting massive donations of printed matter from Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs, telling people we want sex with children, talking about "reverse discrimination." In a new twist, the ICA actually claimed Prop. 1 did *not* permit employment discrimination against queer people (which was in fact the whole point of the initiative). They also promoted homo-bashing in a more direct way. "It's all in the Bible. Need I say more?" said Greg Dickerson of the ICA at a Moscow forum, in answer to an audience question about whether homosexuals should be put to death.

More subtly, the ICA played on widespread misunderstandings and outright racism in this very white state. "Stop minority status" for homosexuals and "no special rights" were their rallying cries--many "yes" voters we spoke to door-to-door were opposed to

minority status for *anyone*. Often they did not realize that minority status simply means civil rights protections, as in you can't fire somebody for the sole reason that she's black or disabled or Jewish. Often they were opposed to civil rights protections, period. And queer people fighting Prop. 1 got caught up in the same confusion--"I don't want minority status, I just want equality." People forgot that for us, and for a good chunk of everybody else, minority status means civil rights means the only way to GET equality. Missing this point undermines people of color big-time, and plays into the right wing's new darling: anti-immigrant laws like Prop. 187.

## THEY THROW BOMBS, WE READ BOOKS

In October, a north Idaho lesbian couple's house was bombed by Nazi skinheads. Their 9-year-old daughter was home alone but wasn't injured. The couple were active against Prop. 1, and received two death threats prior to being bombed.

Instead of coming back at the right wing with a show of strength and pride, the No On 1 campaign stayed closeted. Throughout the campaign No On 1 produced literature, TV ads, and phone calls so intent on not mentioning the "g" or "l" words that many queers actually thought they were seeing or hearing from the anti-gay side! The campaign wanted one message only, which would appeal to mainstream Idahoans, and spent a great deal of time trying to control queer activists and keep everyone "on message." This meant, for instance, no door-to-door canvassing ("too threatening and hard to control," they cautioned). No On 1 went so far as to give all the local groups the same scripts for phone calls to voters--a script which required them to say "are

you for or against special rights for homosexuals?"

No On 1's message dwelt on how Prop. 1 would raise taxes and limit local control of schools and libraries. "Too much government. Not enough Idaho" was the No On 1 slogan, I kid you not. While No On 1 actively interfered with LACROP's efforts with local groups - trying to stop a Hershey's kiss-in at the Latah County Fair put on by the Moscow Avengers, tearing down "No to Bigotry-No On 1" signs put up by young queers around Coeur d'Alene, spreading lies about us to dykes in Sandpoint--they refused to send bumper stickers, yard signs, and other vital materials to the same groups in the north that had put all their money into the No On 1 PAC. "Postage costs too much," said No On 1 - activists had to drive 300 or more miles to Boise to get yard signs they'd put up their own money for. Meanwhile, No On 1 used all their money to put out TV ads that said things like "Books are important for children. But shouldn't we have local control over our libraries, and not let the state decide what books our children read?..So remember, read to your children. And vote no on 1."

## SAVING GRACE

What actually ended up mattering more than any of this, as far as the vote went, were the Mormons. The Latter Day Saints were an unknown quantity until the last week or so of the campaign because the church does not take official stands, and the very conservative tendencies of the Mormons were mitigated by some sensitivity to persecution: Idaho outlawed the church and denied Mormons voting rights until this half of the century. Ten days before the vote, Mormons in Pocatello discovered - and informed the press - that the same people who

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who had supplied the OCA and ICA with "The Gay Agenda" and other vicious anti-gay films had also given the world "St. Joseph's Temple of Doom," an anti-Mormon propaganda piece. The tide turned in the polls from this day on, and the heavily LDS southeast counties (the toe of the boot) voted no in droves. It was Mormons that made a queer victory at all possible.

## EVERYDAY PEOPLE

And regular queers and straights were the ones who made it happen. At locals' and LACROP's behest, the Lewiston Labor Council put out a letter to the very union-based town strongly condemning Prop. 1. The 93 Sisters of St. Gertrude in Cottonwood took the first political stance in their century-spanning history--against Prop. 1. Kate and Buzz Arndt, Sandpoint grandparents, ran the local canvass out of their insurance office in town; three generations of Arndt's formed the backbone of the canvass. Kate, the county's biggest queer rights organizer, often ended recruitment phone calls with "OK, see you in church!" -Catholic church, no less--and Buzz would come back from a school board meeting, put his hat on the desk, and make fun of the swastika-wearing Aryan Nationals who had been there. It was as American as you could get.

An eighty-year-old farmer across the highway from Bonner County's biggest Mormon temple helped us put up a Vote No sign on his property when we came knocking on his door. Lewiston men came out to their parents for the first time by inviting them to a city meeting where they spoke out against Prop. 1. The Lewiston Lesbian and Gay Society was formed the same night and will soon be holding its first cotillion. When gritty Lewiston voted no, some Society gay boys sewed a 100-foot pink triangle

and helped dykes sneak out and mount it on the city hill, next to the giant L, as their "flag" of victory.

In summary, No On 1 lost everywhere except where there were Mormons or out local efforts; and except Boise's Ada County, in which the no's won by a scanty 51 to 49. It lost all the other counties in the boot's heel. In the north, No On 1 actually lost Kootenai County (its northern headquarters), yet the surrounding counties where LACROP worked all voted no by 54% in 2 cases and 61% in one. Our three targeted counties alone--Latah, Bonner and Nez Perce--provided a 4700-vote margin of victory. The state as a whole only gave us a 3000-vote margin. So Prop. 1 would have passed without the effort in the north.

## WHAT ABOUT MAINE? TOO MUCH "PROTECTION," NOT ENOUGH EQUALITY

We went to Idaho with the philosophy that pro-queer direct actions (theatre, kiss-ins, etc.) are a necessary part of fighting anti-gay initiatives. They afford the atmosphere of pride and integrity that makes victory possible, bringing new people into activism and telling isolated queers everywhere that queerness can mean creative resistance, not tortured existence. Along with the direct action groups like the Moscow Lesbian Avengers, the other grassroots groups we worked with are the muscle of the long-term fight for lesbian and gay survival. In our case these groups were the Voices for Human Rights of Latah and Nez Perce Counties, and the Bonner County Human Rights Task Force; many members of all these organizations were straight, but they proved to be our allies more than No On 1 ever did. Win or lose the referenda, people have to stick around and keep these community groups going if

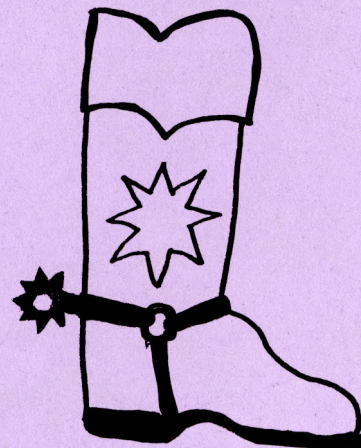
they are going to keep beating back the impulse that puts our lives up for a public vote to begin with.

I believe that a group like Equal Protection Maine/Maine Won't Discriminate is not in a position to beat back the homophobia. Any group that goes PAC-first into a fight; that hires consultants before meeting with the community it's hiring them for; that holds secret meetings on public issues and tells direct action groups they can't "sit at the same table" with straight allies - any group that does any of these things is giving off major signals that it may not win the battle and it will not win the war.

EPM/MWD has done all of these things. It looks a lot like another No On 1. Come on: we know enough not to believe in one-message, top-down campaigns any more. Why wait around for more proof? Maine has to form its own alternative organization or organizations to fight the Cosby initiative.

★★★★

*Bee Bell will speak about the Idaho campaign at the Coolwater Cafe, 1 Forest Ave., Portland at 7 pm on Friday, 12/16.*





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