
Our Paper: *Serving the Alternative Community*

Periodicals

8-1988

Our Paper 08/1988

Our Paper

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OUR PAPER

A VOICE FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MEN IN MAINE

INSIDE:

York County Notebook

Global Gazette

Calendar

AIDS Lodging House: Getting Closer

by Eric Gordon

It's been a "long, rocky road," said Fred Rabidoux, President of AIDS Lodging House. However, he and others including Bob Cameron, House Manager, have been working hard to keep the project going.

In February of this year, plans to open a Portland residence for PWA's (People with AIDS) ran into major problems. Rockland developer Ted Stone withdrew his offer to donate a house on Portland's Hanover Street. Also, some Hanover Street residents were upset about the AIDS Lodging House coming to their neighborhood.

Since that time, a new location was found—this time on Brackett Street—and once again, opposition to the house surfaced. Many of these concerns were

aired at a well-attended July 13 neighborhood meeting (see accompanying article).

Although no official opening date has been set, and at press time, the purchase of the four-unit apartment building had not yet been finalized, plans seem to be progressing. Eight PWA's will be able to live in the house, and Cameron plans to interview applicants in August. Residents will be expected to pay rent, but Cameron will be able to coordinate rent subsidies for PWA's in need.

PWA's interested in applying to live in the AIDS Lodging House can contact Bob Cameron at the following address and phone number:

AIDS Lodging House, Inc.
233 Oxford St.
Portland, ME 04104
(207) 874-1000

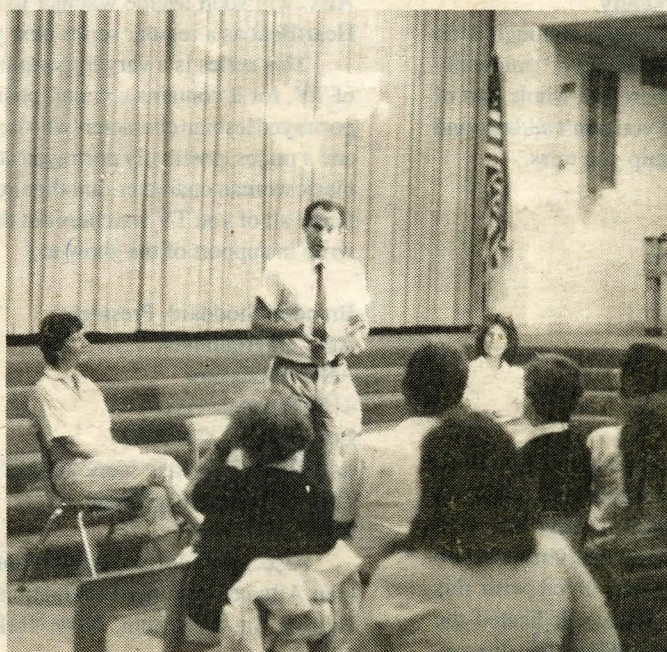


Photo: Diane Matthews

Update : Coors Boycott

by Eric Langer

The organized boycott against Coors beer may be coming to an end nationwide, but in some gay clubs in Maine and elsewhere negotiations continue.

The AFL-CIO, which initiated the boycott in 1977, made a tentative peace with the brewery a year ago this month, and the city of Boston called a truce in January of this year. But Coors is still unavailable in most of Maine's gay clubs, and in May, Coors' southern Maine Distributor, Cumberland & York Distributors, met with the owners of the Underground and Blackstones in Portland.

"We're holding off carrying Coors until we have some more answers to some questions which we have raised," says Underground owner Randy Scott. "What we want to know is, has Coors really changed? Are they just going to give us token contributions to AIDS projects or have they really changed their opinions of gays, blacks, Hispanics, women and other minorities?"

Scott said his counterparts on the West Coast are also taking a wait-and-see attitude while negotiations are going on. "They seem to feel that Coors needs a little more persuasion and want to see a few more positive things out of Coors. That's the line we're taking here, too. We want to see if Coors really means what they said in the meeting back in May."

Scott said he couldn't go into detail about what Coors offered in the May meeting because much of what was discussed was mainly preliminary and he wants to see what Coors has to offer in a meeting scheduled for this month.

The boycott in Maine is no more universal than it is organized. An employee

at the Sportsman Athletic Club in Lewiston said they are not selling Coors, partly in sympathy of the boycott but also because the distributor has not approached them.

And Dick, owner of Papa Joe's in Augusta, said he has been carrying Coors since it became available in Maine because customers were asking for it. While he declined to take a position on the boycott, he did say he thinks Coors is sincere about improving relations with the gay and lesbian community.

There is evidence to support that view. "Coors really wants to get into the gay market," says Scott. "The beer companies are well aware that ten percent of their sales is to the gay public nationwide."

Ten percent may not sound like a very big share, but the beer industry is becoming increasingly competitive. By the turn of the century, only three or four large breweries are expected to dominate the market. And analysts are predicting the market will not grow significantly in that time. In this fight-to-the-death atmosphere, Coors needs every percentage point it can get.

Scott says he came away from the May meeting impressed with the attitude of the distributor as well. "Cumberland & York has shown that they are very sympathetic. It should be known that they gave a very generous contribution to the Maine Health Foundation. I don't think they got enough credit for that."

Scott says he is looking forward to further negotiations with the brewery and the distributor. He says he feels he has no right to dictate politics to Coors, but if they would stop pouring funds into hate groups, that would be a start.

Meeting Gels West End Support

by Eric Gordon and Irene Haughey

With television cameras rolling, members of Portland's West End expressed a surprising degree of support for the proposed AIDS Lodging House.

A community meeting was held July 13 at Portland's Reiche School to address the concerns of neighbors.

The meeting, moderated by Portland City Councilor Pam Plumb, included infectious disease specialist Dr. Michael Bach and AIDS Lodging House Board President Fred Rabidoux.

After presentations by Bach and Rabidoux, neighbors expressed opinions which ranged from complete support to angry suspicion.

The fear which has consistently hindered progress of the AIDS Lodging House was succinctly expressed by a man who asked, "Am I, is my family, are my children in danger?" Bach's clear response that AIDS can only be spread through blood-to-blood contact or sexual intercourse countered any fears that it could be unsafe to live next door to people with AIDS.

By the end of the meeting the overall tone was one of compassion and neighborliness. Even Florence Jordan, who had initiated a petition against the lodging house, found herself standing up and expressing support. "I started the petition out of fear," she said somberly, "But I'm not afraid anymore. I'm sorry."

Free Sharon Kowalski Day— August 7

by Peter S. Karasopoulos

Demonstrators will gather in cities across the country on Sunday, August 7th, to demand the release of Sharon Kowalski from a nursing home in Hibbing, Minnesota, where she has been kept by her father for the past three years. Kowalski, victim of a drunk driver accident, has been denied access to quality rehabilitation and court-ordered competency tests, forbidden freedom of association with her friends, and separated from her partner of nine years, Karen Thompson.

National Free Sharon Kowalski Day,

which also commemorates her 32nd birthday, will take place in more than a dozen cities nationwide, including Washington, DC, Boston, New York, Colorado Springs, Tallahassee, Minneapolis and locally in Portland. Actions will include vigils, processions, rallies, street theater, and birthday cakes. National Free Sharon Kowalski Day actions are being coordinated by local chapters of the National Committee to Free Sharon Kowalski and the National Organization for Women. A celebration of Sharon Kowalski's birthday will take place August 7 at the Underground in Portland. If you would like to help or want more information contact Michael Twigg in Brunswick at 729-1288.

Dear Our Paper,

I haven't written you before but as a long-time summer resident I do want to say that I was alarmed to find that Our Paper might go under and relieved to see in the last issue that it looks as though it will continue. I know the problems involved in putting out a small paper and I don't want necessarily to write for it myself but I certainly want it to continue. I was more upset than I can tell you to find one summer on returning to the Portland area that Our Books has disappeared. Since I am not out it was one of the few links I had with the gay community.

I value Our Paper—although I do tend to feel that it is very "politically correct" and that there is a whole part of the gay experience you don't address and a potential readership you miss.

Sincerely,
R.

Dear Our Paper,

Being involved with the AIDS Project for only a short time has made an incredible difference in my life. I've known that I have had this virus for two years and have quietly lived with this information. Now I have dedicated the rest of my life to fighting this disease, which is affecting more people every day. Portland is no exception; hundreds of people in Maine are infected. What's that say? What is it going to take to make people **STOP DANCING AND START LISTENING?**

After reading the book And the Band Played On by Randy Shiltz I'm angry. All this time I thought our government was doing all that could be done, but the facts are they could care less! President Reagan has let this virus take hold of countless needless victims. If the government took immediate action thousands might have been warned of this epidemic.

The AIDS Project is helping people deal with this disease in many ways. Helping with AZT funding, client support funds, support groups, community education are only a few of TAP's many assistance programs. It will take an all-humanity effort to eradicate this disease, to insure the proper dissemination of information, and to overcome unfounded fears.

The AIDS Project is now getting together its fall fundraising programs. We could certainly use more volunteers. We are planning a Bike-A-Thon, to be held in early October, and All Singing, All Dancing, All Concerned '88, on September 16 & 17 at the Portland Performing Arts Center, with tickets available soon for \$15. Also we have Romanovsky & Phillips from San Francisco coming to the Performing Arts Center September 30. What a fantastic duo! Tickets for that concert will be available soon for \$17.50. A major state-wide Cut-A-Thon is also in the works for sometime in November. Brenda Broder from the Brass Shears is committee chairperson and is working hard putting that together. We would like everyone's support. **STOP AIDS NOW!** For more information, contact Ed Wimert at 774-6877 or 774-3072. Thank You!

Dear Our Paper,

Recently a reader wrote you about "HeartBeat", an ABC TV show about a mostly female obstetrics practice which includes a lesbian (Gail Strickland, playing Marilyn McGrath) as a major character. She is a warmhearted doctor, who lives with her wonderful lover, an artist named Patty. The show appeared several months ago and disappeared mysteriously after two episodes.

According to the NY-based Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, the episodes aired were a pilot series, and ABC will soon decide whether to renew HeartBeat as a regular series next year.

This series is a very important piece of TV, for it contains a major, positively portrayed lesbian character (who is white) and a major, positively portrayed straight black woman character (another doctor). I urge all of you TV watchers out there to write in support of the show to:

Brandon Stoddard, President
ABC entertainment
ABC-TV Center
4151 Prospect Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90027
or call ABC in New York at (212) 887-7777 or in Los Angeles at (213) 557-7777.

Also, the address of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation is 99 Hudson St., 14th floor, New York, NY 10013.

Best Wishes,
Jenny Wriggins
Brunswick

Dear Our Paper,

I just wonder what article J. Melanson read and commented on in his July letter to Our Paper? It certainly was not mine, and while I'd rather put to rest the work that was written in FEBRUARY and move on, I must respond to his unjustified, untrue comments.

Actually, Mr. Melanson, I have in the past contributed to Our Paper articles and poetry celebrating the gay community—perhaps if you can get an old stack of them you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Furthermore, I am not a separatist, pseudo or otherwise, being the mother of a 13 year old boy, having two brothers and a father who are loving and supportive of me, having many male friends both gay and straight, and owning land with 3 women and 2 men.

In my article, which represented an "attack" on NO ONE, I asked Our Paper to reassess their overwhelmingly heavy coverage concerning AIDS, suggested to lesbians that their energies might be better spent writing for and about women, and questioned the further validity of sexual intercourse—both hetero and homosexual—when it is a recognized cause of too much disease and too many children. No where did I sue the homophobic rhetoric that Mr. Melanson attributes to me. Sounds as if he listened to a fundamentalist Bible thumper then read my article with a chip on his shoulder. I suggest that he reread it with an open mind and take it for what it was—an honest statement of one woman's inner thoughts and feelings on some controversial questions.

Sincerely,
Gillian Gatto

OUR PAPER

P.O. Box 10744 Portland, Maine 04104
(207) 773-2294

Purpose

OUR PAPER is published monthly by the OUR PAPER collective, PO Box 10744, Portland, Maine 04104. The purpose of OUR PAPER is to serve as a voice for lesbians and gay men in Maine. We wish the newspaper to be a source of information, support and affirmation, and a vehicle for celebration, by and for members of the lesbian and gay men's communities. We want the paper to reflect our diversity as well.

Editorial Policy

We will consider for publication any material that broadens our understanding of our lifestyles and of each other. Views and opinions appearing in the paper are those of the authors only.

We request that all material submitted be signed and include an address and/or phone number.

We reserve the right to edit unsigned material as necessary. Within the pages of the newspaper, articles can appear anonymously, upon request, and strict confidentiality will be observed.

Even though our editorials are initialed, they represent the opinion of all collective members.

We welcome and encourage all our readers to submit material for publication and to share your comments, criticisms and positive feelings with us, Remember, OUR PAPER is Your Paper!!

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are \$12 for one year (12 issues), \$20 for two years, and \$25 for three years. Make checks payable to Our Paper.

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COMRADES

Andre Roberge
Rick Bouchard
Steve Barrett

CONTRIBUTORS

Ana Kissed
Bernice Harrington
Bill
Cathy Jessup
Christine Torraca
Eric Langer
H'Alan
Holly Valero
Irene Haughey
Jerry Banner
Judi
Ken LaFleur
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ADVERTISING SALESPERSON

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Our Paper Deadlines for September Issue:

- Articles, Announcement, Calendar August 16
- Advertising August 26

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 BARTENDERS, RANDY of the Underground
 TOM of Blackstones
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SAT. AUG. 20: Noon to 3 pm **AIDS BENEFIT FLEA MARKET**
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WED. AUG 31: DIRECT FROM CALIFORNIA **"RUDY DELAMORE"**
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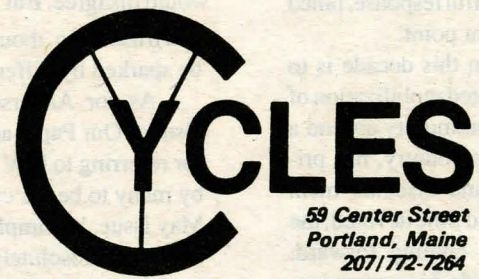
WEDNESDAYS: 13 oz. Frozen Margaritas \$1.95 or
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TUESDAYS: DOUBLES — White Well — 1 oz.

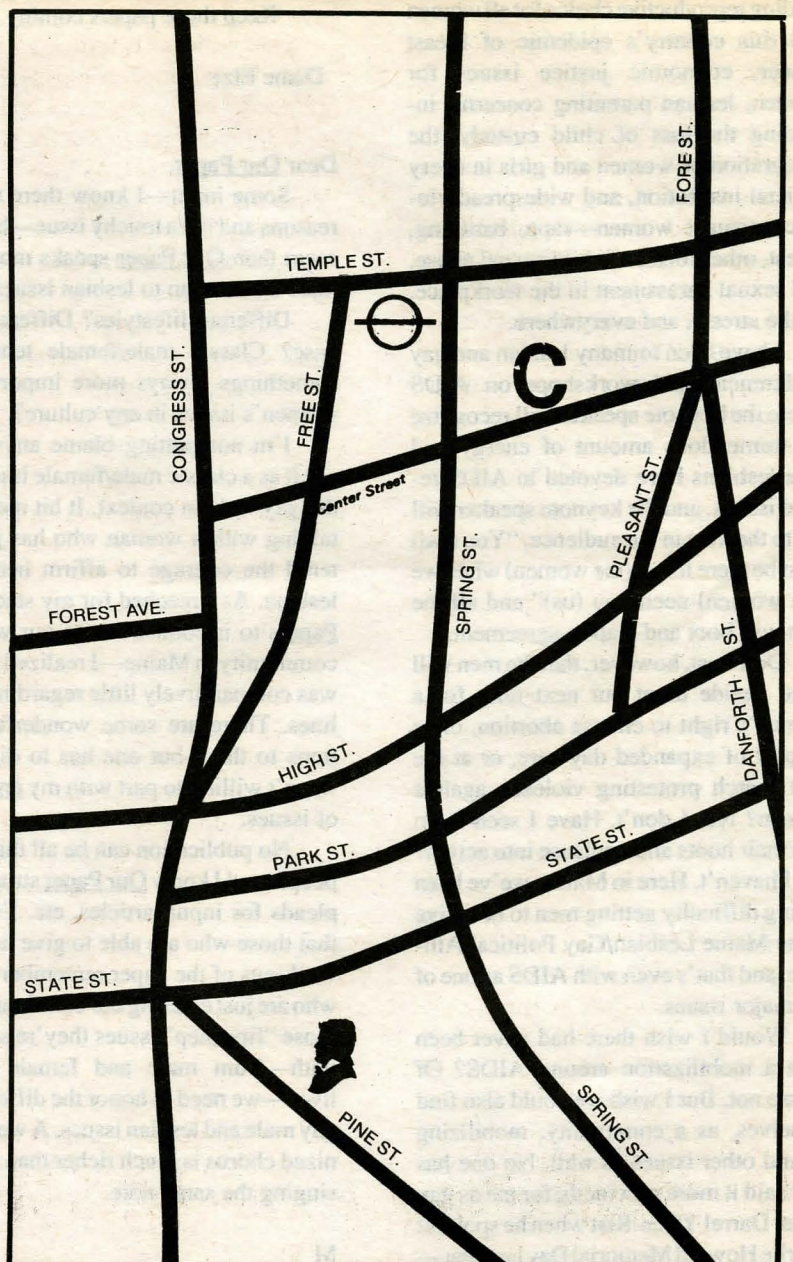
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Dear Our Paper,

While I vehemently disagree with most of Gillian Gatto's statements in her commentary, "Gay Community Obsessed with AIDS" (see Our Paper, May 1988) I believe both Gary Anderson, in his cheap personal attack on Gatto, and Jim Melanson, in his more thoughtful response, failed to address an important point.

To be a lesbian in this decade is to witness an unprecedented mobilization of the gay and lesbian community around a disease which, in this country, has primarily stricken gay and bisexual men. The money, energy, and time devoted, the legions of volunteers coming forward, and the tripling of gay/lesbian organizations in response to the AIDS crisis are unparalleled in the gay, lesbian and feminist communities.

To witness this as a lesbian is to experience profound sadness at the loss of my brothers' lives and rage at government inaction. To witness this is to also experience tremendous pain and anger at the inattention and trivialization of issues primarily affecting women. To witness this is to experience bitterness towards those who hold an expectation that lesbians should be involved in AIDS work.

I choose to do political work on AIDS. I choose to do safe sex education with gay and lesbian youth. I also choose to care for persons with AIDS.

But as I do this work, I am constantly disappointed at the lack of interest in and knowledge about lesbians and lesbian issues among many gay men. I am constantly disappointed at the failure of many gay men to learn valuable lessons from the feminist health care movement. I am constantly disappointed at the lack of interest in lesbian health concerns, including reproductive choice for all women and this country's epidemic of breast cancer, economic justice issues for women, lesbian parenting concerns, including the loss of child custody, the denigration of women and girls in every societal institution, and widespread violence against women—rape, battering, incest, other forms of child sexual abuse, and sexual harassment in the workplace, on the streets, and everywhere.

I have been to many lesbian and gay conferences and workshops on AIDS where the keynote speaker will recognize the tremendous amount of energy and time lesbians have devoted to AIDS-related issues, and the keynote speaker will say to the men in the audience, "You (we) must be there for us (the women) when we (the women) need you (us)" and all the men will hoot and clap in agreement.

Do I trust, however, that the men will stand beside us at our next rally for a woman's right to choose abortion, or in support of expanded day care, or at the next march protesting violence against women? No, I don't. Have I seen them turn their hoots and applause into action? No, I haven't. Here in Maine, we've been having difficulty getting men to be active in the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance, and that's even with AIDS as one of our major issues.

Would I wish there had never been such a mobilization around AIDS? Of course not. But I wish we could also find ourselves, as a community, mobilizing around other issues as well. No one has ever said it more succinctly for me as gay writer Darrel Yates-Rist when he spoke at Charlie Howard Memorial Day last year—

"We could have a cure for AIDS tomorrow, and a life that is miserable for gay men and lesbians," as he urged gay and lesbian activists to give attention and resources to other issues affecting our lives, in addition to AIDS.

Yes, I will continue to do work on AIDS-related issues and I know Gillian would disagree. But I understand the rage and frustration, though each of ours might be sparked by different things.

As for Anderson's knee-jerk criticism of Our Paper and Brenda Buchanan for referring to HIV as "the virus thought by many to be the cause of AIDS" in the May issue, by simply dismissing the reference as "absolutely ludicrous" as if that explains such an important and legitimate scientific question, Dr. Peter Duesberg, whom Anderson calls a "crackpot", is not the only person calling into questions the findings, focus and claims made by "renowned AIDS researchers."

I'm not a scientist. And Duesberg may be a crackpot. But I do read everything in the gay/feminist/and mainstream press with a critical eye. And when I read an account of the meeting Duesberg had with those "renowned AIDS researchers" (New York Native, May 9, 1988) to say that I was left with a very strong feeling that something is not right in Researchland would be an understatement.

It was also interesting, but not surprising, to read that William Haseltine, chief of the Laboratory of Biochemical Pharmacology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Center of Harvard Medical School, one of those "renowned AIDS researchers" has millions in stocks in Cambridge Bio-Science, a company selling HIV-antibody testing kits.

So much for objective scientific research.

Keep those papers coming.

Diane Elze

Dear Our Paper,

Some input—I know there are many reasons and it's a touchy issue—but it does seem that Our Paper speaks more to gay male issues than to lesbian issues.

Different lifestyles? Different power base? Classic male/female tensions re: somethings always more important than women's issues in any culture?

I'm not putting blame anywhere—I see it as a classic male/female issue within the gay/lesbian context. It hit me as I was talking with a woman who has just mustered the courage to affirm herself as a lesbian. As I reached for my stack of Our Papers to introduce her to our wonderful community in Maine—I realized that there was comparatively little regarding lesbian lines. There are some wonderful exceptions to this—but one has to dig—and I wasn't willing to part with my entire stack of issues.

No publication can be all things to all people and I know Our Paper struggles for/pleads for input, articles, etc. I'm asking that those who are able to give time to the workings of the paper remember the folks who are just entering our community—and those "first step" issues they're struggling with—from male and female perspectives—we need to honor the differences of gay male and lesbian issues. A well harmonized chorus is much richer than everyone singing the same note.

M

Dear Our Paper,

After I read Ana R. Kissed's letter calling for a girlcott of Woodford's Cafe and the reasons for it, I became very puzzled.

My confusion stems from my previous experiences with Stephen Gervais and the rest of the staff at Woodford's. They have always been supportive of lesbian and gay issues and activities in our community. Since its establishment, they have provided space, food, money and employment for us homosexuals.

So what happened? Why didn't Stephen support the anti-KKK demonstration and confrontation in June in South Portland?

After I made inquiries, I discovered that the problem arose from the fact that very few people are aware of Ana R. Kissed's name (read anarchist). The people at Woodford's thought that it was just another crank call that they so frequently get.

So the obvious problem is that a person who appendaged herself with a descriptive adjective personifying as a proper noun trying to make an important point and solicit support from people who were unfamiliar with her yet are truly supportive of her cause, but not receiving support.

I have to confess that I looked askance at Ana when I first heard her name. I also wear hearing aids which means everything audio is suspect. I turned to a friend and asked her if I heard Ana's name correctly. After she reassured me that I did indeed hear the name as articulated I said to myself, "What's in a name?"

A more subtle important issue is apparent here. This misunderstanding shows that once again the lesbian and gay community judge ourselves hypercritically and not without some loathing. Think about that!

There are far more inviting targets for our anger and wrath than to vent it upon an extremely supportive gay establishment.

Dear Our Paper,

Thanks to Randy Scott for his letter to Our Paper and his cautious approach in talking with Coors about selling its beer at his bar, The Underground.

Although Coors' past policies have been anti-gay, it is possible that they have "seen the light" and decided to become pro-gay or at least to forego previous attitudes because boycotts are bad for their image or to simply sell more beer.

But, talking with Coors representatives isn't enough, I believe, nor is their support for AIDS programs. AIDS research and services don't provide gay men or lesbians with their civil rights or help them to come proudly out of the closet.

I think it's important for Randy or Tom Robinson of Blackstones to contact national groups concerned about lesbians and gay men to get their view of whether Coors has changed its attitudes, its hiring practices, and whom its foundations and executives, especially the Coors family, are supporting with its profits.

In the past, Coors has not only been anti-gay but anti-labor as well. It has supported right-wing foundations and given money to contras trying to overthrow the Nicaraguan government. Coors has come to a settlement with the AFL-CIO at least, and organized labor's boycott of Coors has been called off. But their support for right-wing foundations and the contras may be continuing.

Lesbian and gay rights efforts may get more support if they can consider the concerns of labor supporters or those opposed to U.S. policy in Central America when they buy, or refuse to buy, Coors.

I recognize that Randy has enough things to worry about in running a business without having to worry about what brand of beer to sell, and I appreciate the fact that he's sensitive to the issue. I hope, however, that he does consider not only Coors' involvement with AIDS but also its attitudes toward lesbian/gay civil rights, labor, the contras, and financing of right-wing causes before making his decision.

I would also encourage Our Paper readers to contact Randy with their knowledge of Coors' behavior and to tell him of their preferences.

Sincerely,
Larry Dansinger
Stillwater, ME

Judith Lipa, MSW

Lic. Clinical Social Worker

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GLOBAL GAYZETTE



School Sex Ed Manual Upsets NH Right Wingers

A family planning clinic in New Hampshire has outraged many of the state's conservatives with its sympathetic treatment of gays in a federally financed sex education manual. The manual, which was developed for use by adults leading sex education programs for teenagers, deals with problems encountered by gay and lesbian teenagers in a homophobic society. It recommends telling students that "gay and lesbian adolescents are perfectly normal and...their sexual attraction to members of the same sex is healthy." About three pages of the 45 page manual, called *Mutual Caring—Mutual Sharing*, are devoted to problems faced by gay youth.

New Hampshire's conservative governor and its largest newspaper are among those who have criticized the manual. Republican Governor John Sununu attacked the manual for "an equating of alternative life-styles to traditional life-styles..." The right-wing *Manchester Union Leader* published the headline "Sex Ed Course OK's Sodomy, Not Parents" after state officials nominated the booklet's curriculum for the federal National Health Promotion Award.

The federal Department of Health and Human Services has asked state officials to stop distribution of the manual until it can be reviewed by department officials. The state has threatened to withhold funds for all the clinic's programs if distribution of the curriculum is not stopped. The American Civil Liberties Union has said that it will file a suit charging violations of free speech if the state follows through on its threat to penalize the clinic financially.

Source: The Advocate

Mass Senate Committee Approves Gay Rights Bill

The ways and means committee of the Massachusetts State Senate has approved a proposed gay rights bill. The bill will not be debated by the full senate, the house and its committees until the legislature returns from its summer break in September. Its prospects are said to be uncertain because this is an election year.

Last year, a gay rights bill passed both the state house and senate, but died when it reached a committee headed by one of the bill's major opponents. The bill, which would ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment, housing, credit and public accommodations, is supported by Massachusetts Governor and Democratic Presidential nominee Michael Dukakis.

Source: The Advocate

Two More Senators Sign Up For Gay & Lesbian Rights Bill

Washington, D.C., June 24—Senators Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) and John Chafee (R-R.I.) have become the ninth and tenth senators respectively to cosponsor the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill in the U.S. Senate.

The two senators agreed this week to cosponsor S. 464, which would add "affectional or sexual orientation" to the protected categories of race, color and religion to existing civil rights legislation.

The bill, introduced on February 4, 1987, by Senator Alan Cranston (D-Calif), would make it illegal to treat lesbians, gays and bisexuals differently from non-gay people in employment, housing, public accommodations or federally assisted programs.

"Equal opportunity must be guaranteed to all Americans," said Senator Chafee. "To discriminate against individuals because of race, sex, age or sexual orientation is to deny them their civil rights."

"Rebel With A Cause" Reaches Out

On February 10, 1988, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, in San Francisco, made a two to one ruling in favor of Perry Watkins in the case of SSG Perry K. Watkins vs. the United States Army. In this ruling, the Circuit Court states that homosexuals (gay men and lesbians) do constitute a suspect class, which means homosexuals are protected under the Equal Protection Doctrine. This, if upheld, would be the first time in the history of the U.S. judicial system that homosexuals were granted protection of their rights, just as Blacks, Jews or any other recognized minority.

The two judges in favor of this decision clearly outlined the Supreme Court's requirement of qualification of what is considered a suspect class. In detailed form, Judges Canby and Norris showed, in writing, how homosexuals do constitute a suspect class, thereby making them a minority protected under the Equal Protection Doctrine.

The Army filed an appeal and a request for a rehearing on June 6, 1988. The court released its decision to rehear the case, by sending it to a panel of eleven judges. The court also stated that the previous decision was nullified, not reversed. With the question of issues such as suspect classes, homosexual rights and equal protection under the law addressed in this case, it is definitely the most significant gay rights case to date. The February 10th ruling by these two judges will not only affect SSG Perry Watkins but could very well shape the future of civil rights for gay and lesbian men and women across the country. This case could become the foundation of assuring equal rights for all gays and lesbians.

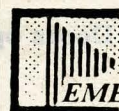
Evan Lozon, the Program Coordinator, invites all interested individuals and organizations wanting more information to write to: "Rebel With A Cause" Foundation, P.O. Box 860, Tacoma, WA 98401. Phone (206) 752-4551.

Gelpi Seeks Support

History was made in Columbus, Ohio on June 23 when Mike Gelpi announced his plans to run for the United States Congress. Mike, who is running as the Democratically endorsed candidate, will face closed-minded incumbent Republican Congressman John Kasich and Larouchite Mark Brown in the general election in November.

This is the first time than an openly gay candidate has announced his intentions to seek a Congressional seat. While others have announced their sexual orientations after their elections, Mike made the decision to announce his sexual orientation at the same time he opened his headquarters as he wanted to run an honest, forthright campaign. The reaction from both the media and the public has been positive and supportive.

Mike is actively seeking support from the Gay and Lesbian communities across the United States. "We are asking not only for financial contributions but also for volunteers." Individuals or groups who are willing to hold fundraisers or volunteer their efforts are asked to contact the Gelpi headquarters at 614-464-9300. "I believe that this is an effort not only for the Twelfth Congressional District, but for Gay men and Lesbians regardless of where they live."



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REGIONAL REPORTS

York County Notebook

by Pat

Went to the big city today, among other things to pay a parking ticket that I acquired in the Spring Street lot while having dinner with J. My own fault....tried sneaking into a space that wasn't a space (but gee whiz, everybody does it!). Well, folks, they caught me.

But, in keeping with my long-time theory that every cloud has silver lining (sometimes you have to look damned hard for them) I made a wonderful discovery—two, actually.

The first is the elevator in City Hall. Don't laugh. For all the building and renovating going on in Kennebunkport we still don't have a single elevator. And here I am at City Hall, going to the third floor and I push a button and it's like stepping in 1930! It looks like 1930; it even smells like 1930! Don't ask me how I know, I just do. Anyway, I've been reading the early books in the Judy Bolton girl detective series, c. 1930's and I'm a prime target for twilight zone-itis.

But back to reality....the second discovery is that Portland has restrooms. Kennebunkport doesn't. Down here in "the Port" knowing where to find a bathroom is right up there with knowing what next week's Megabucks numbers will be. Better, in fact. So I'm always on the alert for the whereabouts of any public bathrooms. So in case you don't know, they're on the third floor and in the basement. (And don't use the stairs, take the elevator!)

As near as I can tell, there's absolutely nothing happening in York County....which doesn't mean that there really is nothing going on, only that I haven't heard about it. Could have to do with the fact that I live in a winter rental house and my phone and I have been separated since mid-June. But that is soon to be remedied; we move back in August 1. On the other hand, my PO box has remained the same: 451, Kennebunkport, 04046. So if you know of any upcoming activities, or would like to initiate some, a postcard only costs two cents...oops! Sorry, another '30's flashback.

Hey, anybody (M or F) interested in getting together for an afternoon or evening of New Games? If enough people are into Prue or Rattlesnake or Zoom or are curious enough to want to find out just what is a New Game, drop me a line and we'll get together. Any number from a half dozen to a hundred will do. Kids, too!

Well, whether you're a local (Mainer) reading this or one of the "touri" (local slang for more than one tourist) from away, I hope your summer is/has been/will be fun/relaxing/profitable and/or bug-free. If you're at the beach, may you find the ultimate tan (your own or someone else's); if you're a surfer, the ultimate wave; and if you're waiting on tables (Goddess bless you!), the ultimate tip!

Enough said.

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Separatism

by Pia Chamberlain

The concept of separatism is widely misunderstood in the feminist movement of the eighties. To many women who do not call themselves separatists, the word conjures up a vision of angry man-haters, bundled together in a corner somewhere, expounding on the crimes of men against women. Women who self-identify as separatists, when met by the vehement hostility such a vision inspires, are confused and hurt. Real communication and searching about separatism does not take place, so the myth and misunderstanding persevere.

In her essay "On Separatism and Power," feminist theorist Marilyn Frye looks at separatism in a new way. Rather than defining separatism as one specific doctrine, Frye notes how the "theme of separation, in its multitude variations" is present in most aspects of feminism. This separation can be for our protection (battered women's shelters), mutual support for an establishment of women's publishers and women's studies departments, or for our enjoyment and comfort (women's bars and coffee houses). We may choose to separate ourselves from potentially damaging messages in the media (i.e. not watch TV or not listen to commercial radio). Independence, either financial or emotional, is a form of separation. Given Frye's definition, even "get your own coffee" could be said to have separatist undertones.

This new vision of separatism is important because it removes the either/or quality of the definition. To most feminists either you are a separatist or you are not. This sets up nice even lines to fight over, and convenient predefined boxes to contain anyone we don't understand. But if separatism is seen as a continuum which encompasses all of us to some degree, then the boundaries become hazy and many of the arguments lose their meaning.

But the continuum model, however useful it may be, is a dangerous path as well. If we say, "we are all separatists,"

we come perilously close to glossing over the very real differences found within our movement. This sugar-coated mentality, which I am sure Frye did not intend, is one which women cannot afford to embrace. To ignore the difference between us is not only to silence women and their experiences, but also to deny the necessity of the presence of various voices among us. I say "necessity" because without diversity, and the willingness of a few women to put themselves on the "cutting edge," the feminist movement would surely die.

Unfortunately, this fact escapes many feminists. Difference, especially when combined with radical behavior, is feared and discouraged. Separatists, as the embodiment of radical thinking and living, are often viewed as a menace to the movement, rather than the asset that they are. Although they are not the only members of the movement who suffer from lack of understanding and validation from their sisters, separatists are the most vulnerable to that absence of support. They have already forfeited their claim to any reinforcement or rewards from society at large simply by declaring their allegiance to women and women only. Therefore, separatists are completely dependent upon other women for confirmation and healing. When this support is withdrawn, the effects can be devastating.

In the face of this situation, the continuum model must give way to divisions and labels. The term "separatist" functions not only as a barrier between separatists and other feminists, but also as a shelter, a place to find other women with similar values. This is where most women who call themselves separatists must come for any confirmation of their ideas and life-styles.

This segregation feeds, and is fed by, the prevalence of myth and misunderstanding surrounding separatists. As more and more separatists are trashed for their views, fewer separatists are willing to "come out" as such. As fewer and fewer women speak publicly to their sisters about



Another Look

separatist beliefs and values, more and more lies and misconceptions about separatism are accepted as the truth. And so the cycle is renewed, and women are once again separated from each other.

The most pervasive and fundamental myth about separatism is that it stems from the hatred of men. This misconception is so widely circulated and believed that even some separatists have come to believe it. The label of "man-hater" leaves a woman open to any number of accusations, including being equated with the Ku Klux Klan or the Nazis. Separatists are told that they are perpetrating the same kind of injustices that they are protesting, upon innocent men who mean them no harm.

In reality, I have never met a separatist who wanted to treat men the way Nazis and KKK men would love to treat me. I have never heard plans for wide-scale harassment or extermination. When separatists fantasize about a world of women, the joy of that fantasy comes not from amassing ways to massacre all the men, but from the visualization of a world free from the patriarchy and what it has done, by men's hands, to women.

The guiding force behind separatism is not hatred, but anger. These two emotions are easily (and often) confused. But they are very different with different causes and goals. Andre Lorde, in her essay: "The Uses of Anger: Women Responding to Racism," speaks of the distinction: "Hatred is the fury of those who do not share our goals and its object is death and destruction. Anger is a grief of distortions between peers, and its object is change."²

When I lived in a separatist community, some of the strongest opposition we faced came, ironically, from other feminists and lesbians. I believe this reflected the effects of our socialization as females in a gynophobic world. From a very early age, women are taught to care for and care about men. As a result, women are the only oppressed group in the world who routinely share their lives, bodies, and

love with those who stand to benefit from their oppression. When separatists attempt to step away from the role of nurturer of men, they violate the foundation of female conditioning. To the extent that a woman identifies with that role, she can feel personally threatened by separatists and separatist ideology.

Ours is a patriarchal world, or in other words, a world created by and centered around men and male values. (We who live here are by definition, patriarchal creatures, unless we take specific steps to change our ingrained patterns.) In such a world, women are judged, not by what they do or who they are, but by what they do and who they are in relationship to men. Feminists and lesbians are accused of being "that way" because we are too ugly to catch a man, or because we want to be men. We are told that we are suffering from "penis envy". The lesbian "condition" is attributed to some horrible childhood experience such as rape or incest.

In the flurry of excitement over how

The thought that a woman might be a feminist, a lesbian, or a separatist simply because she loved women would be a totally new and revolutionary concept to most people.

women feel/act towards men our feelings for women are completely overlooked. The thought that a woman might be a feminist, a lesbian, or a separatist simply because she loved women would be a totally new and revolutionary concept to most people. In reality, there are as many paths to those ideologies as there are women who espouse them.

This is not the first time that the accusation of man-hating has been hurled at women who have stepped out of line. The same term has been used against feminists and lesbians for centuries. It is no coincidence that the same word is used to discredit separatists. Anti-feminism, anti-lesbianism, and anti-separatism all come from the same misogynist roots.

Another false accusation held against separatists is that they are didactic and intolerant of non-separatist beliefs. Non-separatist women have told me that they

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have a hard time with separatism because of bad experiences they have had with women who had either pressured them to live a separatist life-style or trashed them because of their non-separatist values.

I do not expect anyone to automatically approve of anything a separatist does or says. It is the use of these situations to discredit separatism, as a whole, that I object to. If someone were to say that they couldn't relate to lesbianism because she was a man trapped inside a woman's body, most people I know would be at least suspicious of the reasoning involved in such a statement. The fact that such women do exist leads no validity to the argument. But because separatism is currently out of political vogue among lesbian feminists, equivalent statements about separatism are accepted readily, as further proof of the shortcomings of such an ideology. The formulation of a negative expectation of belief about a group of people based upon contact with a few of its members is a form of prejudice, one which is easy to fall into, but which we must resist.

Perhaps the best way to define separatism is by looking at those who name themselves separatists. First and foremost, these women are lesbians. (This is not because straight women need not apply; however a heterosexual separatist would be a lonely woman indeed.) Separatists have looked around themselves with an eye sharpened by feminism and have not liked what they have seen. They have looked to women and found a home, a shelter, a cause, a way to carry on. They have made a conscious decision to lend their energies to women whenever they can, whether it be in the form of their love, their sexuality, their money, their time, their living space, or any part of their lives over which they have control. Separatists are aware of the impossibility of achieving this goal in every aspect of their lives, but appreciate that it is the act of pursuing the goal which is important. They are also aware of the magic created when women come together without men, and they often fight to create space for that magic whenever they can.

There is no one separatist life-style. Every separatist finds her own path. Some have male friends, or have close relationships with male relatives while others maintain no social connection with men at all. Some function within an urban, sexually mixed community, others retreat to rural settings, with as little contact with men as possible.

Separatists are angry, yes. (Who, in their right mind, could escape such anger if they truly looked at the state of this world?) But they are loving, too. They love women. And they have chosen to live by their anger and their love in the best way they know how—with women.

Notes: 1) Marilyn Frye, *The Politics of Reality: Essays in Feminist Theory* Trumansburg, NY. The Crossing Press, 1983. P. 96

2) Andre Lorde, "The Uses of Anger: Women Responding to Racism" in *Sister Outsider*, New York, The Crossing Press, 1984. P. 129.

There is no one separatist life-style. Every separatist finds her own path.

Pia Chamberlain: I am a twenty-six year old white lesbian living in San Francisco finding out that I can indeed write. Although I do not currently identify myself as a separatist, I believe passionately in the concept of separatism, and the current wave of anti-separatist sentiment sweep our community disturbs, hurts me a great deal. I am a student at SF State University in computer science and women's studies (this piece was originally a final paper for a class). This is my first attempt at publication but hopefully not my last.

Maine Act Out, Act Up, Act Now, Just Act!

MAINE ACT OUT, ACT UP, ACT NOW, JUST ACT was created at the Maine Lesbian/Gay Symposium XV over Memorial Day weekend.

At the Symposium, about thirty people gathered for a workshop conducted by MASS ACT OUT, a grass roots activist group which has locally demonstrated in recent months over the death of the gay/lesbian civil rights bill in the Massachusetts Legislature, the lack of quality care for persons with AIDS, and other issues of concern to the gay/lesbian community.

Those present decided that Maine needed such an organization that would conduct a variety of actions, from vigils to street theatre to civil disobedience, around issues such as AIDS education/treatment/quality of care, gay and lesbian civil rights, homophobia in the media, and anti-gay/lesbian violence. The group may sometimes work in conjunction with the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance, drawing attention to issues in creative, rambunctious, and unruly ways while MLGPA lobbies the legislature.

Chapters have formed and met in Southern Maine, Hancock County (Downeast), and the Midcoast area. Midcoast and Downeast ACT OUT, ACT UP, ACT NOW, JUST ACT dedicated the Kenduskeag River bridge in Bangor to the memory of Charlie Howard during Charlie Howard Memorial Weekend in July.

All the regional groups are planning a legal action in Augusta on Thursday, August 11, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The more, the merrier. For further information, contact the regional coordinators:

Downeast

Tracy Sampson
RRI Box 242A
Penobscot, Maine 04476
326-8546

Midcoast

Mitzi Lichtman
RRI Box 584
Union, Maine 04862
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No Apologies

James Melanson

In cultures other than our own, gayness was often celebrated as something blessed and beautiful. The ancient Greeks practiced it as a form of prayer, and Native Americans viewed it as a precious gift of the gods. How sad it is then, that in our own society, lesbians and gays are made to feel guilty because of our distinctiveness. I've often overheard gay people apologize for our love. "If I'd been given a choice, I would not have chosen to be gay," they've said. However, what more beautiful a choice could there possibly be?

We are all indoctrinated from a very young age to believe that a heterosexual act is a superior form of behavior. But heterosexuality is nothing more than socialization through which gender roles and distinctions are maintained, and through which women are oppressed. Although it is extolled and romanticized in the media as a heavenly construct through which one may find redemption, in truth, heterosexuality is a lie. It is the product of collective imagination, a purposeful longing created to blind us to the truth of our lives and experiences.

Please, let us not deceive ourselves that hetero sex practitioners fall in love in the way that gay people fall in love. They possess and are possessed. In a society ruled by consumerism, heterosexuality reduces us all to a grocery list of superficial attributes, commodities to be acquired on the basis of how suitably we're packaged.

As lesbians and gays we have all in some way been assaulted by hetero sex practitioners. We have learned to remain silent and suffer their indignities upon us. We've felt love we were not permitted to express because non-gays are frightened by something they cannot experience. We have been made to apologize for our very existence.

Why, therefore, should we choose to live as they do, trudging through their comfortably expedient lives while assaulting the world with their conspicuous presence?

Through providence we have been given a gift which is as rare as it is beautiful. Perhaps one day we will realize the lie of heterosexuality and see that our love is a truth all to itself and something for which we have no need to apologize.

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San Francisco At Its Gayest

by Marilyn Kirby and Christine Torraca

We had seen pictures of what it looks like and heard stories from people who had been there but Oh! What a parade!

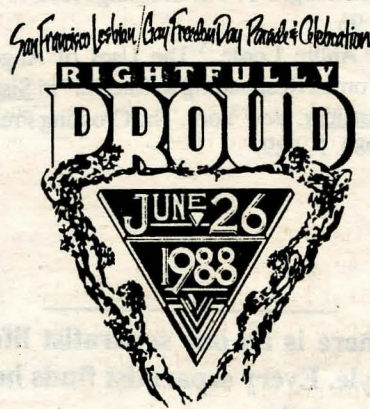
The Castro/Market Street area was abuzz by 8:00 on the morning of Sunday, June 26. This was to be the annual San Francisco Gay/Lesbian Freedom Day Parade and Celebration, to mark the 19th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising. The sun was shining brightly and the air was cool and crisp. The parade route was to be down Market Street beginning at the corner of Sanchez all the way to the Civic Center.

We had spent the night before the big day at Beck's Motor Lodge on Market Street. We woke up early Sunday morning to an already fast pace of activity outside our window. On looking out, we saw an arc of rainbow colored balloons that had magically appeared across Market Street overnight. The Motor Lodge was a little short on amenities, but long on location.

It's now 9 a.m. The number of people on the street is increasing exponentially. And the variety of their costumes is increasing at the same rate. There are men in gold lame' shorts with bells and pom-poms, some on roller skates, others wearing lots of leather, still more covered with sequins and one dressed as a rodeo clown, not to mention all the men dressed in dresses. Christine still looks twice at those men in gowns sporting their full beards and mustaches. And then there were the parade volunteers in their official pink t-shirts and generally colors, colors everywhere. Some people are walking around with huge bouquets of brightly colored balloons, others are decorating their floats. Rainbow colors are clearly the order of the day with rainbow flags hung all along Market Street and flying from supportive homes and businesses. (See related article) Marilyn regretted leaving her rainbow colored painters pants and suspenders back home in Portland. It's still two hours before the parade will get under-

way. It's early on a Sunday morning yet it feels like we're at a huge party.

It's 9:30 and bundles of ON PARADE have appeared all along the sidewalks. It is a newsprint listing with the details of today's events. After a quick review, Christine exclaims that we're in for one helluva fun-filled day: over 175 parade entries and 6 hours of speeches, music, food, politics, comedy, crafts and more.



At 10 a.m. the streets and sidewalks are packed with people. As I look around again at 10:45 it's even more packed. Anticipation is in the air for the parade to begin at 11 a.m. People are settling in to watch, perching on rooftops, lightposts, hanging out their apartment or office windows, at the curbside, on the median strip—literally everywhere. And the parade begins...

Dykes on Bikes (or the Women's Motorcycle Contingent as the conservative SF newspaper referred to them) start the parade—nearly 200 strong—proudly roaring down Market Street...VROOM VROOM....(Watch for a somewhat smaller contingent in Portland's Pride March next year!!)

Next was Art Agnos, Mayor of San Francisco, and his family. The crowd gives him a standing ovation as he rides by—the first SF mayor to ever be in the parade.

And then continued a four hour parade, group after group representing gay and lesbian services, social clubs, AIDS related organizations, church related groups, political groups, feminist groups. You name it, they were there—from the serious to the frivolous. The San Francisco AIDS Foundation, the NAMES Project, SF General Hospital AIDS Ward, Gay Asian Pacific Alliance, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Rainbow Deaf Society, Living Sober, Radical Women, DIGNITY, and the less serious: High Tech Gays, Debutants in Recovery Today, Dykes and Their Dogs, and Gays Against Golf (GAG) carrying signs reading "I'm Teed Off" and "Free the Trapped Sand." One of Christine's favorites was the Gay Italian Americans who threw rotini to the crowd, a departure from the customary condoms or candy.

As we walked with the parade down to Civic Center Plaza, Marilyn noted that there were probably more people here today than come to the Deering Oaks Family Festival all week. (That small town mentality is hard to leave home.) Newspaper estimates were that there were 270,000 people in attendance. The Plaza was like one huge party. We went from stage to stage, from craft table to information table to food line and then waited in the longest line of all—for the port-potty, while listening to Holly Near (one of the Parade's Grand Marshals) and Kate Clinton (who had travelled with the Dykes on Bikes contingent.)

What a powerhouse of energy we were all creating! So many queers and friends—all in celebration of ourselves and our lives. Our individual differences were bridged by the rainbows and the ASL (American Sign Language) love sign that seemed to serve as the universal language of the day. The good feelings we have from the day and our participation in it are still close to the surface. What fun we had and Oh! What a parade!

The Rainbow Flag

Strangers arriving in San Francisco during the month of June are greeted by a panoply of Rainbow flags whipping in the wind along Market Street. Red, orange, yellow, blue, green and purple, our brilliant six-stripe flag represents the diversity of the lesbian/gay community and the hope for unification encompassing all diversity. It marks the idealism of our community, a symbol that can be owned by none and controlled by none. It is ten years old today.

Ten years ago, San Francisco was grieving the loss of Harvey Milk and George Moscone. The organizing committee for "Speak Out for Justice" called for the development of a symbol which could be used every year by gays and

lesbians celebrating and saluting their community. Local artist Gilbert Baker, inspired by the five-striped "Flag of the Race" (red, black, brown, yellow and white) designed a Rainbow flag. A crew of artists handmade and dyed the first eight-striped rainbow flags. They made their debut at the 1978 Gay and Lesbian Parade. Affectionately called "New Glory", the eight colored flag was enthusiastically cheered by the thousands of people who lined the streets. The original eight colors were: pink for sexuality, red for light, orange for healing, yellow for the sun, green for serenity with nature, turquoise blue for art, indigo for harmony and violet for spirit. In 1979, Paramount Flag Company introduced the six-striped

flag through its outlet, The Flag Store. It continues to be one of their most successful and beloved designs.

Over the last ten years, the Rainbow Flag has gone through many permutations. Betsy Ross and modern vexilologists (flag scholars) could write volumes! Popular sentiment, however, has kept the current six color flag in prominence. Other parade committees throughout the country have adopted this version of the flag and it is now recognized all over the world. A recent traveler spotted it at a country fair in Thailand! We will continue to carry this unique and beautiful banner, RIGHTFULLY PROUD of its heritage and its legacy in our community.

Jerry's Banter

Dr. Condom . . . Or Is It Colonel Cundum And I

Folklore attributes the invention of the condom to either a Dr. Condom, said to have been alarmed at the number of illegitimate children of Charles II, or a Colonel Cundum who introduced them into England around 1665, probably from France.

In England, rubbers are usually known as French letters, probably because the English believe anything potentially erotic has to be French. The first condoms, made from animal intestines, were expensive. But in 1839 Charles Goodyear discovered the vulcanization of rubber and initiated a revolution in contraception and disease prevention.

Dr. Condom (or is it Colonel Cundum) and I have had a long affair. I was first introduced to this life-saving device during WWII when I was in the 5th grade, going to school in the shadow of the Brooklyn Navy Yard. One night, some local factories burned, including one making condoms. The next day every kid in school had a fist full. For a long week, people going to and from the Navy Yard were bombarded by water filled rubbers dropped from upper story windows.

After the war, my family moved out to Long Island. My best friend in high school was a hunky guy named Harold, who in the summer of '51 got a job at Schmitt's Pharmacy delivering telephone orders and stocking shelves for the legal minimum wage of 75 cents an hour. In the fall, Harold got me a job there. The drug store did quite a business in Louis Sherry, the prestige ice cream of that time and place. Some weeks we made as much as 18 bucks in tips delivering ice cream and sundries on our bicycles.

Harold, bright lad, also figured out that we could increase our income by purloining condoms, kept in those dim days under the cash drawer, for resale in our high school gym locker room. Of course, Harold was right. Most high school boys wanted one to decorate their wallets. Whether they used them for purposes intended we had no idea, and cared less, we were Gay and using them ourselves for what we called a sanitary J.O. But we enjoyed the vicarious thrill of selling them to our classmates and the money helped finance our first expeditions into The City—foreign flicks, exotic restaurants and secondhand book stores. The Good Life.

Unfortunately, the pattern of using condoms did not extend into my 20's. In the late '50's and early '60's, no Gay man I knew was using a rubber and a lot of us got a shock. VD had almost been wiped out during WWII but by the mid '50's it was once again on the rise. Of course, penicillin was there but the shock of knowing you had been infected is an experience to be missed.

I was reminded of all of this a couple of months ago when I had lunch with a friend with whom I discuss the intimate details of our lives (what in the old days we called a sob sister). My friend tells me that at the sight of a condom he loses all interest in sex. These are not his exact words, but that's the idea. I know this is fairly common. Lots of Gay and straight men that I talk to tell me that they find rubbers intolerable. I guess taking responsibility for one's life can be intolerable but one of my goals is to be an experiencing old man, what some friends call a "dirty old man". What the hell! I want to live to be old and continue to enjoy sex and if rubbers are going to help make this possible I'm going to use and enjoy rubbers (and viricidal lubricant too, honey).

Memorial Day weekend on the way home from Bar Harbor we stopped at a book store and I bought a copy of STRATEGIES FOR SURVIVAL: A GAY MEN'S HEALTH MANUAL FOR THE AGE OF AIDS by Delaney and Goldblum. A friend tells me there are a number of other books like it, this one seems to be commonly available here. It is simply written, stresses a healthy lifestyle and emphasizes behavior modification and has lots of work forms which I hate but are useful if I'm determined to change something.

This spring I started to buy condoms in the larger economy packages (in the past I never bought more than three, at the time of need) and now keep some in the glove compartment of my car. I kept one in my wallet for a while to see what it would feel like to be 17 again. Dr. Condom, or is it Colonel Cundum, most likely never existed. The Britannica tells me the word probably derives from the Latin "condus" -receptacle- but I'm real, Harold is real, AIDS is real and neither penicillin nor anything else cures AIDS.

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WANNA' GO PLACES?

Our Paper needs Portlanders to distribute papers once a month. Also needed: Envelope Stuffers. Good times, good folks to meet. Call 773-2294 and leave a message, or write to: Our Paper, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, ME 04104.



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We specialize in books by and about women, alternative health care and spirituality.
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**Writers, Aspiring Writers and Closet Writers,
lend us your pens.**

We need people to write about lesbian/gay events and happenings all over the state. We're interested in articles on just about everything, including sports, music, community building, and political activism. If you have any ideas, we'd like to hear them. Please call Fred at 773-5540 or write Our Paper, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, Maine 04104.

ORGANIZATIONS

PFLAG "Welcome"

by Sally DeBor

We send greetings to everyone who has attended our meetings. We hope you are all doing well. To others who may not know of us, we wish you welcome.

We are the only P/FLAG chapter in Maine, one of over 200 similar chapters not only in the USA, but in other countries as well.

Our objectives and purposes are:

1. To provide a support system for families and friends of gays and lesbians in their effort to understand, accept, and support their children with love and pride.
2. To provide education for individuals and the community on the nature of homosexuality.
3. To support the full human rights and civil rights of gays and lesbians.
4. To speak out and act whenever necessary to defend and enhance those human and civil rights.

Our meetings are open to the public, but confidentiality is a top priority. Discussions focus on family issues and feelings regarding "coming out", or ongoing issues regarding the homosexuality of a family member. On occasion we discuss legislative issues of a state and national nature which are of concern to us.

P/FLAG is a non-profit, volunteer, community-based organization of parents, other relatives and friends of gay and lesbian persons, not affiliated with any political, religious, ethnic or economic group. Membership is open to all.

NGLTF Announces National Conference For Gay & Lesbian Organizations

The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) announced plans to host a national conference for gay and lesbian organizations on November 18-20, 1988 in Washington, D.C. The conference, entitled **CREATING CHANGE; A NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR GAY & LESBIAN ORGANIZATIONS** is open to all gay and lesbian organizations.

The **CREATING CHANGE** Conference has three goals 1) to foster skill, resource and information sharing; 2) to support and develop gay/lesbian leadership at the local, state and national level; and 3) to strengthen our political movement by supporting the organizations and institutions that serve our community.

Workshops led by activists will cover many issues that concern lesbian and gay political and social organizations.

The conference will be held at the Hotel Washington, Pennsylvania Avenue and 15th Street NW, Washington. Registration fees will range from \$50-\$100 depending on the size of an organization's annual budget.

For more, write: **NGLTF CREATING CHANGE** 1517 U St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009.

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My Beautiful Laundrette

Film Review by Etienne B. Goode

"My Beautiful Laundrette"

Written by Hanif Kureishi

Directed by Stephen Frears

Starring:

Saeed Jaffrey, Roshen Seth, Daniel Day Lewis, Gordon Warnecke, Derrick Branche and Shirley Ann Field

This film is available for rental from many video stores.

Several years ago a film was released which frankly showed the developing intimate relationship between two young homosexual men, Johnny (Daniel Day Lewis) and Omar (Gordon Warnecke). The story is set in the Pakistani community of South London, England.

The two friends from school days are

both outcasts from society: Johnny because of his radical lifestyle and Omar because of his Pakistani nationality. In spite of their alienation they are still able to convert a rundown laundrette into quite a ritzy creative environment to do one's laundry.

It is during this transformation of the laundrette that the two men share intimate moments where they show, despite pressure by Omar's family to find a wife, that they are still able to maintain a warm, stable relationship.

This film is highly recommended. It emphasizes on the one hand the positive outcomes from a homosexual relationship namely where Johnny develops a sense of self-respect while Omar finds himself on the way to becoming a successful businessman. On the other hand, it doesn't forget the reality of it's inherent difficulties.

Torch Song Trilogy

Harvey Fierstein's Tony Award winning drama Torch Song Trilogy wrapped filming on July 15 in New York City. The impressive cast is headed by Fierstein and includes Matthew Broderick and Anne Bancroft.

Fierstein, who adapted the screenplay from his play, is extremely enthusiastic about the film, saying, "It's so gay! It's like a hundred times gayer than the

play. Finally, something that can be called a real gay movie!"

Directed by Paul Bogart, Torch Song Trilogy will be released in December. Fierstein wants the opening-night benefits to go to people with AIDS, the Anti-gay Violence Project and the Institute for the Protection of Lesbian and Gay Youth.

Source: The Advocate

How Long?

By M.A. Define

How long before we realize that "she's nothing but a stinking lesbian" is only a few steps away from "let's kill the God-dam faggot"?

How long before we realize that youth is no excuse for homophobia; and age no excuse for staying in the closet?

How long before we realize that "I can't be bothered to vote" is merely a way to vote for homophobic political candidates?

How long before we stop excusing ignorant comments from our relatives and friends because "They don't really mean it"?

How long before we realize that we can't say yes to verbal insults without also saying yes to 'being less'?

How long before we realize that knocking another gay for choosing to be different from the way we are is only a few steps from a heterosexual's "I can spot one a mile away"?

How long before we realize that "that's just the way things are and we can't change it" is easily translated into "this is the way things SHOULD be because we aren't as good as heterosexuals"?

How long before we realize that heterosexuals are merely gay persons with a different orientation?

How long before we realize that being a minority is being different from the general run of ordinary people—NOT less than?

How long before we realize that we are the best educated, wealthiest and most diverse group in the world?

How long before we learn to say no to everyone and everything which wants to deny us full and equal status?

How long before we say no to a half of the loaf and yes to 'we want it all'?

How long before we realize that 'the only thing we have to fear is fear itself'?

How long before we realize that the bashing, baiting and violence will only stop when we stand up and say "that's it, we've had enough and THIS time we're mad as hell and we're not going to take it"?

How long before we realize that the change has to start at the grass roots level; we can't stop the homophobia in others until we see the homophobia in us?

How long before we realize that every time a gay person is abused because of sexual orientation it is we who are also killed, beaten up or denied our lawful rights?

How many more hate motivated crimes will have to be committed against us before we say "no more!"?

It has to stop: for the sake of our lives, for the sake of our self-respect, for the sake of our future and the future of those who will come after us.

It has to stop—and we have to be the ones who stop it.

Maine State Music Theatre: 42nd Street

On July 31st, the regular 2 p.m. Sunday matinee of the Maine state Music Theatre's production of Forty-Second Street will feature an interpreter of American Sign Language who will sign the performance for those members of the audience who are hearing impaired.

Polly Bell, who signed one of last season's performances of Camelot, will lend her expertise in interpreting this award winning musical.

In keeping with the Maine State Music Theater's goal of introducing musical theatre to as many people as possible, the theatre is pleased to have the opportunity to extend the enjoyment of musical theatre to the hearing impaired community.

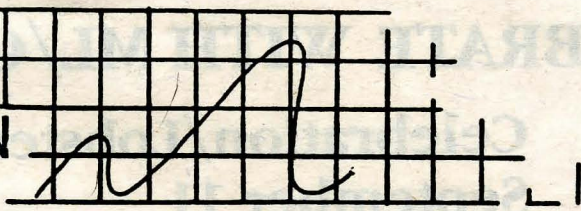
For information and reservations to Forty-Second Street, which is partially funded by a generous grant from Central Maine Power, call the Maine State Music Theatre at 725-8769.

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 and viet nam
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 when panty-raids,
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 and homecoming queens
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 of our universe
 and locked door sex
 was the only way
 we could love.

jo-ellen yale

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AUCTION

Wednesday, August 17th

8 pm at The Club, Village Square, Ogunquit

A \$5.00 cover charge and all auction proceeds will benefit the PWA ASSISTANCE FUND.

CRUISE FOR LIFE

Sunday, August 28th

7:30-9:30 pm, Leaving Longfellow Wharf, Portland

Cash Bar. Tickets \$12.00 on sale at:

- Blackstones • Cycles • The Club • Front Porch
- Entre Nous • Underground

GM, 25, Starting over and coming out for the second time. Interested in meeting others for friendship and support. Interests include movies, shopping and biking. Let's get together. Write to advertiser #58, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, ME 04104.

HOUSEMATES NEEDED to share 3 bedroom house in Portland. Country setting. \$350 includes heat and utilities. Pets ok. Gerry 761-4670.

GM, 32, neat, clean, responsible cat lover (I have 2) seeks same to share house in Raymond. \$275 plus utilities. Available August 1st. Call 655-4478 evenings or leave message.

ROOMMATE WANTED—GM or open-minded straight, to share all-new luxury apartment in West End, Portland. Only \$250/month includes heat/hot water. Must see. Please respond to advertiser #59, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, ME 04104.

LESBIAN, 27, looking for lesbian who likes ice cream, walks, trucks, early mornings, farming, animals and life in general. Good spirit and good humor. Write advertiser #60, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, ME 04104.

GM, professional, 29, seeks responsible, honest person, 25+ to share newly-constructed home in quiet area one mile from Scarborough and Ferry beaches. Good sense of humor a must. \$350/mo. plus 1/2 utilities. Non-smoker Call 883-8454.

FOR SALE --O'Brien windsurfer. Only used a few times. Been trying to unload this for months with no luck. Superb beginners package includes wet suit and BIC roof rack. At this point, will entertain any reasonable offer. Call 883-8454.

HAIRY MEN! National adlists for bears and smooth or hairy trappers! If you love fur, this is the list! Information? Send \$3.00 to: Man-Hair, 59 West 10th St. NY, NY 10011.

GWM, 21, 5'6", slender, blond, shy, gentle, romantic, fashionable, love to dance, seeks same for friendship/possible relationship. New to Augusta area and don't like going out alone. Write advertiser #57, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, ME 04104.

SEEKING TWO LESBIAN ROOMMATES for September 1. Nice apartment in Portland, right next to USM. One small bedroom \$140 plus 1/3, one large bedroom \$192 plus 1/3. Gas heat and electric. Chem-free preferred. Non-smokers. 761-4730. Stacey.

GWM, 25, trim, well educated bottom seeks creative top into SM lifestyle. I have no "grocery list" of requirements, except that you understand and enjoy the sensuality of pain, discipline and control. Boxholder, P.O. Box 7726, Lewiston, ME 04243.

"THE HERITAGE"—Walk to Maine's best beach from a new Victorian bed and breakfast—reasonable rates, continental breakfast, full bath, woodsy location—non-smoking. P.O. Box 1295, Ogunquit, ME 03907.

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The rate for classifieds is \$4 for 30 words, 10¢ for each additional word. For personals add \$2 for handling. All ads must be prepaid. Mail ads to *Our Paper*, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, ME 04104. We ask that you not use sexually explicit language in your personals. Responses to personals will not be opened by *Our Paper* and will be forwarded to you twice monthly.

883-6934
 24 HOUR INFORMATION ON EVENTS, GROUP MEETINGS, AND PERSONALS FOR GAY MEN AND LESBIANS IN SOUTHWESTERN MAINE. ALL LISTINGS ARE FREE.

Saturday, August 6
 Brazilian percussion workshop with Gary Muszynski, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 155 Brackett St. in Portland (third floor). Sponsored by the Casco Bay Movers.

Sunday, August 7
 Panning for gold on the Swift River, sponsored by the Lewiston-Auburn Athletic Club, call 784-2251 after 7 p.m. for details.

Sunday, August 21
 Horseback riding sponsored by the Lewiston-Auburn Athletic Club, call 784-2251 after 7 p.m. for details.

Saturday, August 6/Sunday, August 7
 Chiltern Mountain Club hike to Gale Head, NH. Call Michael at 617-787-0428 or 207-883-6934.

Sunday, August 7
 Seacoast Gay Men present Michael Viens, concert pianist, 3 p.m. to benefit Maine AIDS organizations. Call Eugene Levy at 207-646-3534.

Saturday, August 13
 Chiltern Mountain Club hike to Mt. Tripyramid, NH. Call John or Bob at 617-484-7192.

Sunday, August 14
 WPML and Trust regular monthly meeting, open to all women. 1 p.m. in Waterville, for directions send SASE to WOMLAND Trust, PO Box 55, Troy, ME 04987. womn.

Saturday, August 27
 Full moon gathering/potluck/energy healing circle in Surry, 6 p.m., woman only and chemical free, camping space and access to water. For directions send SASE to Chris of Coventree, Troy, ME 04987.

CHILTERN MOUNTAIN CLUB
 An outdoor recreational club sponsored by New England area lesbians and gay men.
 For further information please write:
P.O. Box 407-O Boston, MA 02117
 Call Micheal (207) 883-6934
All replies are confidential.

STATEWIDE DEBUT OF MAINE ACT OUT, ACT UP, ACT NOW, JUST ACT
 Thursday, August 11, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in Augusta
 Please be there.
 For further information, listen to the grapevine or contact your regional coordinator.

RETREAT AND CELEBRATE WITH ML/GPA

**Retreat
 August 19-21**

ML/GPA Annual Retreat will be held the weekend of August 19-21 in New Sweden. Bring camping gear. Sorry, no pets. Call Northern Lambda Nord at 498-2088 for more information.

**Celebration/Lobster Feed
 September 11**

1st Annual ML/GPA Celebration will be held on Sunday, Sept. 11 at 1 PM at Blueberry Cove Campground. Lobster feed includes lobster and all the fixings. Our cost is \$15.00, more will be appreciated. Write ML/GPA, P.O. Box 232, Hallowell, ME 04347 for info. RSVP by Sept. 3

LESBIGAY NETWORK

The AIDS Project
48 Deering St.
Portland, ME 04101

AIDS Line
775-1267 and 1-800-851-AIDS
Daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Mon. & Wed. 6-9 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

AIDS Action of Central Maine
P.O. Box 3113
Lewiston, ME 04240
AIDS Hotline 782-6113

Bangor Area Gay/Lesbian/Straight Coalition (BAGLSC)
c/o 87 Sunset Strip
Brewer, ME 04412

Bates Gay/Lesbian/Straight Alliance
Box 569
Bates College
Lewiston, ME 04240

Bowdoin Gay Lesbian/Straight Alliance
Bowdoin College
Brunswick, ME 04011

Chiltern Mountain Club
PO Box 407
Boston, MA 02117
207-883-6934

Colby College Bisexual, Lesbian and Gay Community
c/o Student Activities Office
Student Center, Colby College
Waterville, ME 04901

DEAN (Down East AIDS Network)
PO Box 779
Blue Hill, ME 04614

DELGO
Unitarian Church
126 Union St.
Bangor, ME 04401
942-6503

Dignity/Maine
PO Box 8113
Portland, ME 04104

Feminist Spiritual Community
9 Deering St.
PO Box 3771
Portland, ME 04104
773-2294

Fredericton Lesbians and Gays
Box 1556 Station A
Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada

GLM (Gais et Lesbienne de Moncton)
CP 7102
Riverview, N.B., Canada

Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous
c/o First Parish Unitarian Church
425 Congress St.
Portland, ME 04101

Gay/Lesbian Alliance
92 Bedford St.
Portland, ME 04102
780-4085

Gay/Lesbian Contra Dancers
69 Mountain View Ave.
Bangor, ME 04401
947-2329

Gay/Lesbian Parents Support Group
780-4085 or 772-4741
Portland

GMSA (Gay Men's Social Association)
PO Box 294
Conway, NH 03818-0294
(603) 367-8304 (Alan or Paul)

Greater Portland N.O.W.
P.O. Box 4012 Station A
Portland, ME 04101

Harbor Masters Inc.
PO Box 4044
Portland, ME 04101

Lesbian/Gay Committee
Maine Chapter
Nat'l Assoc. of Social Workers
PO Box 51112 Station A
Portland, ME 04101

Maine Bisexual People's Network
PO Box 1792
Portland, ME 04104
780-4085 (messages)

Maine Connection
AA Round Up
PO Box 5245
Station A
Portland, ME 04102

Maine Health Foundation Inc.
PO Box 7329 DTS
Portland, ME 04112

Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance
PO Box 232
Hallowell, ME 04347

Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services
PO Box 57
Brunswick, ME 04011-0057
833-5016 or 725-8541

New Hampshire Citizens Alliance for
Gay and Lesbian Rights
PO Box 756
Contoocook, NH 03329
(603) 228-9009

Northern Lambda Nord
PO Box 990
Caribou, ME 04736
NLN Gay Phonenumber, 498-2088

Our Paper
PO Box 10744
Portland, ME 04104

OUTRIGHT
Portland Alliance of Gay & Lesbian Youth
PO Box 5028 Station A
Portland, ME 04101

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
Midcoast Chapter-Brunswick area
725-4769, 623-2349, 729-0519

Portland Pride
PO Box 681
Scarborough, ME 04074

Seacoast Gay Men
PO Box 1394
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Transupport (TS/TV support group)
PO Box 17622
Portland, ME 04101

USM Women's Forum
University of Southern Maine
92 Bedford St.
Portland, ME 04103

Vermonters for Lesbian and Gay Rights (VLGR)
Box 281
Hinesburg, VT 05461

Waldo County AIDS Education Committee
PO Box 772
Belfast, ME 04915

Wilde-Stein Club
Memorial Union
University of Maine-Orono
Orono, ME 04469

WOMLAND (Womn Owing Maine land)
Trust
PO Box 55
Troy, ME 04987

MEETINGS

SUNDAYS

Bangor Area Gay/Lesbian/Straight Coalition (BAGLSC) meets the first Sundays and third Thursdays of every month at 87 Sunset Strip in Brewer at 7:00 p.m.

Bates Gay/Lesbian/Straight Alliance — for discussion, support and planning — every Sunday, 8:30 p.m. in Hirasawa Lounge, Chase Hall, Bates College, Lewiston.

Dignity/Maine, every Sunday, doors open at 5:30 p.m., worship at 6 p.m., First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland (please use rear entrance).

Northern Lambda Nord — last Sunday of the month — business meeting, 1 p.m. followed by potluck.

Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA) — every third Sunday of the month. Meetings rotated throughout state. See Calendar listing for location and time.

Gays in Sobriety, AA, 6:30-8 p.m. speakers meeting, Williston West Church, 32 Thomas St., Portland.

Lesbian/Gay Alcoholics Anonymous — every Sunday. Discussion meeting at 4 pm, Unitarian Church, Main Street, Bangor.

Sunday Liturgy, every week, 11 a.m., Holy Apostles American Orthodox Monastery, Rt. 194, South Whitefield, ME. Call 549-7325 for more information.

MONDAYS

Greater Bangor NOW, fourth Monday of every month, 7-9 p.m. Call 989-3306 for info.

Feminist Spiritual Community — every Monday at 7 p.m., Friends Meeting House, Forest Ave., Portland, 773-2294 (come early).

Seacoast Gay Men — every Monday, 7-9 p.m. (except first Monday and holidays). Unitarian-Universal Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH (side door near basement). Call Daryl (603) 335-4294.

TUESDAYS

Gays in Sobriety, AA, 6-7 p.m., beginners meeting, First Parish UU Church, 425 Congress St., Portland 7:30-9 p.m. Speaker/discussion meeting.

Families of Gays Support Group, second Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Ingraham Volunteers, 774-HELP.

Bowdoin College Gay-Lesbian-Straight Alliance, 7:30 p.m., Chase Barn Chamber, Bowdoin College, Brunswick.

Free To Be Group of AA — meets Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Jewett Hall, UMA, room 114.

Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) — open discussion with focus of gay/lesbian issues, 7:30-9 p.m. YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland.

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - fourth Tuesday of the month, 7:30, First Parish Pilgrim House, 9 Cleaveland St., Brunswick. Call 725-4769 for information.

Greater Portland N.O.W. — fourth Tuesday of the month, YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland, 7:30 p.m.

Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon — every Tuesday, 7:30-8:30 pm, Williston West Church, 32 Thomas St., Portland.

Our Paper staff meeting — every Tuesday, 7:00, 9 Deering St., Portland. 773-2294. New members always welcome.

THURSDAYS

Colby College Bisexual, Lesbian and Gay Community, 7:30 p.m. Mary Low Coffeehouse, Colby College, Waterville.

Gays in Sobriety, AA, 8-9 p.m., big book/step meeting, Williston West Church, 32 Thomas St., Portland.

Lesbian/Gay Alcoholics Anonymous — every Thursday, discussion meeting at 7:30 pm, Unitarian Church, Main Street, Bangor.

VLGR (Vermonters for Lesbian and Gay Rights) meets first and third Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Peace and Justice Center, 186 College St., Burlington, VT.

Wilde-Stein Club — Thursday evening 6-9 p.m., Sutton Lounge, Memorial Union, UMO.

FRIDAYS

Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Friday, 8-9:30 p.m. — Gays Together in Sobriety (open discussion), Christ Episcopal Church, 80 Lafayette Rd., Portsmouth, NH.

OUTRIGHT — Portland Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Youth (22 years old and younger), 7:30 p.m., Preble Street Chapel, 331 Cumberland Avenue, Portland.

SATURDAYS

Bangor Area Gay/Lesbian/Straight Coalition (BAGLSC) dances meet the first and third Saturdays of each month from 8:00 to 1:00 at the old Bangor Community College Student Union.

Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services

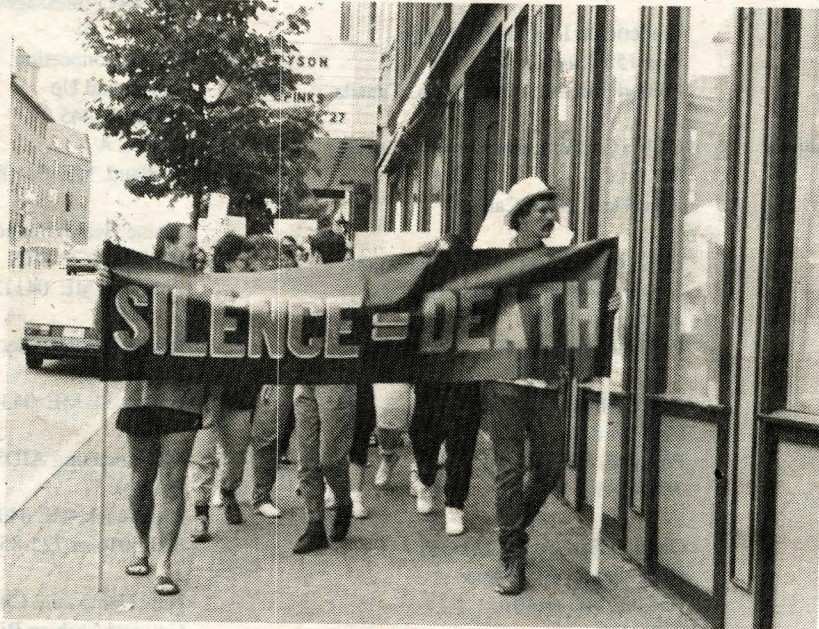
Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services announces the start of a support group for people whose lives have been personally affected by AIDS. Family members, friends, lovers of PWA's and those with HIV diseases are welcome. The group will meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month, beginning July 12 at 7 p.m. at the Parkview Hospital library on Maine Street in Brunswick. Cecelia Leland, MSW, will serve as the group's facilitator. For questions call MASS at 725-4955.

Maine's Gay Men & Lesbians Remember Charles Howard

by Peter S. Karasopoulos

More than 100 persons attended the 4th Annual Charlie Howard Memorial Service at the Bangor Unitarian Church on July 10. Lois Reed led the service for Howard, a gay man who was killed when he was thrown from the State Street bridge by three Bangor men on July 7, 1984.

The service was followed by a Lesbian/Gay Pride March through downtown Bangor and a rally in Davenport Park. The pride march stopped briefly at the bridge where Charlie was killed, flowers were thrown to the water below and a sign declaring the bridge as the "Charlie Howard Memorial Bridge" was placed. At the rally, Jonathan D. Katz, a Chicago-based gay activist and community organizer, spoke and Maine folk artist Katherine Rhoda entertained the crowd.



Bangor Pride March



Bangor Pride!



Katz Urges Gays To Be Visible

by Eric Gordon

Jonathan Katz has invested his last seven years convincing Chicago of the need for a gay rights ordinance...but with little success. But during those seven years of dedication to gay rights, Katz has developed a keen understanding of gay issues. He shared stories of tragedy while urging gay pride and visibility to over 100 Mainers who gathered in Bangor on July 10 to remember the life and brutal death of Charlie Howard.

Katz reminded the listeners that the deplorable killing of Charlie Howard by three teenage boys on July 7, 1984 is just one example of hatred and violence against gays. George Smoot in San Francisco was

recently killed by teenage boys who said Smoot had propositioned them. Also, in Kalamazoo, teenage boys killed Harry Wayne Watson by kicking him with steel-toed boots and finishing him off with a sledgehammer. "They keep trying to deny us, to silence us, to kill us," said Katz.

Katz urged us to fight for civil rights yet pointed out that we don't exercise many of the rights we now have. "Let us remember to hold our lovers' hands, to play footsies under the table, and to kiss our lovers at the airports." Katz said, "We have the right to hold and be held, to be gay and to tell everyone about it." He further urged, "Be visible in your lives. That is where battles are to be fought and won."



Photos by
Peter S. Karasopoulos