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10%

Maine's monthly newspaper for lesbians & gay men

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 8 [9]
OCTOBER 1994

In this issue...

Analysis of the Cincinnati decision

Maine Won't Discriminate

Diversity in Maine

NGLTF training to assist local groups

by Rebecca Foster
Editor

WASHINGTON, DC - In an effort to fight radical right anti-gay initiatives in several states, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has organized training in areas like fundraising, media relations, coalition-building. The effort, which includes a training in Maine (see page 3 for details), will also provide up-to-date information on the radical right's activities on a national, regional and local level.

The initiative will focus on Idaho and Oregon which face anti-gay ballot questions on next month's ballot. In Oregon, the Oregon Citizens' Alliance has managed to get Proposition 13, the Child Protection and Minority Status Act, on the ballot. The measure is viewed as a "cleaned-up" version of Measure 9, an anti-gay measure that was defeated in 1992.

continued on page 5

Andrews strong on gay issues

by Terri Jones
Editor

PORTLAND - Maine's gay and lesbian community can count on continued support if Democratic Congressman Tom Andrews defeats fellow Congressperson Olympia Snowe in the upcoming election. In a telephone interview with 10%, Andrews expressed optimism about his chances in next month's election and discussed a wide range of topics including the 1995 referendum question to limit Maine's Human Rights Act to his sponsorship of H.R. 431 which would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in housing, credit, public accommodations, employment and federal programs.

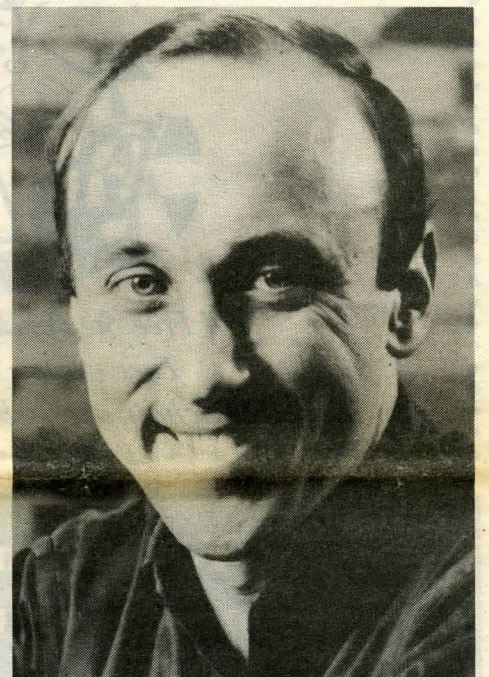
Andrews, who has earned a 100% rating from the Human Rights Campaign Fund, reiterated his support on several issues of concern to the gay and lesbian community. In the past, in his

days in the Maine House and Senate, he sponsored gay rights legislation for Maine. He has continued this support by sponsoring legislation like H.R. 431 and ENDA, the "Employment Non-Discrimination Act" as well as voting in favor of a domestic partnership measure for the District of Columbia.

In his capacity as member of the House Armed Services Committee, Andrews says he "tried to bring clarity to the debate" on gays in the military as he supported a non-discrimination policy for the armed forces. He likened the Joint Chiefs of Staff's opposition to a non-discrimination policy to the segregation of African-American soldiers during the 1940s and says he wasn't afraid to draw that connection during the hearings.

Andrews also favors continued and higher spending on programs for AIDS/HIV research, education and support.

continued on page 4



Democrat Tom Andrews faces Rep. Olympia Snowe for U.S. Senate in the November 8's election.

Jenkins promotes diversity commission

Lewiston mayor John Jenkins led a roundtable discussion on the work of The Commission to promote the Understanding of Diversity in Maine. Jenkins chairs the Commission. The discussion was presented by the Matlovich Society on Sept. 22. For more details of the discussion and the Commission's work, turn to page 4.

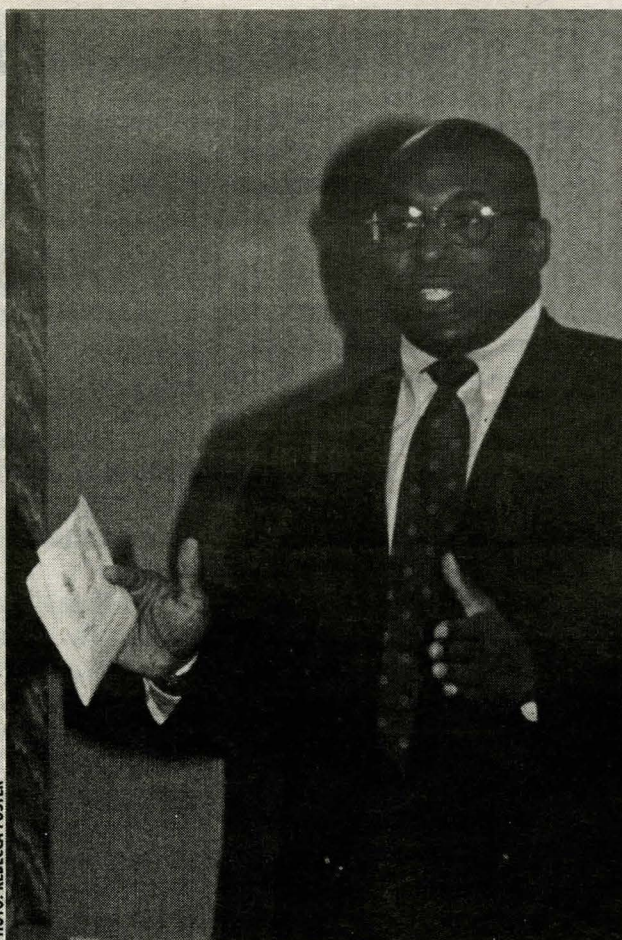


PHOTO: REBECCA FOSTER

Christian Coalition holds national conference in DC

by Terri Jones
Editor

WASHINGTON, DC - The Christian Coalition opened held its national conference at the Washington Hilton September 16-17 vowing to fight and defeat President Clinton in 1996 with an unprecedented turnout of religious conservative voters. The conference attracted approximately 1000 attendees, featured training on political organizing and was titled "The Road to Victory".

The conference was addressed by several speakers with connections to the 1996 Republican presidential race including former Vice President Dan Quayle, Senator Robert Dole's wife Elizabeth Dole, Texas Senator Phil Gramm, former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander and former Defense Secretary Dick Cheney.

Christian Coalition founder and president, Pat Robertson told the conference, "We are seeing the Christian

Coalition rise to where God intends it to be in this nation - as one of the most powerful forces that's ever been in the history of America...The polls are turning. The nation is saying we're right."

Other speakers, including Phyllis Schlafly, vowed to change the Republican Party platform to reflect absolute opposition to abortions.

Workshops throughout the conference stressed grassroots efforts and fundraising to continue to provide legal assistance to those who "pursue religious freedom" through radical right legal group the American Center for Law and Justice.

Other workshops included media relations, strategy for victory in '96 and advantages and strategies of reaching out to minorities through their community churches. Speakers from the Family Research Council, a nother radical right anti-gay organization also conducted workshops.

The Christian Coalition claims a membership of 1 million people.



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Maine Won't Discriminate Update

At the September 18 statewide meeting of Equal Protection Maine that group agreed to formerly change its name to "Maine Won't Discriminate." Office space for the group will open next week at Williston West United Church of Christ, 32 Thomas St., Portland.

Next meetings for Maine Won't Discriminate (in Portland) are:

October 10, October 24 and a fundraising meeting will be held on October 4 at St. Luke's Cathedral, Portland.

Fundraising Events:

A fundraising dinner will take place at 7:30pm on October 15 at Jonathan's, 1 Orne Lane, Ogunquit. All proceeds will go to Maine Won't Discriminate. The dinner will also feature speakers, an auction (including stays and dinners at Ogunquit establishments) and entertainment. The cost is \$100 per ticket. Tickets are available at The Club, the Front Porch, the Village Market and Fancy That.

Fight the Right Training

Saturday, October 8, 9-5pm

Unitarian Universalist Church, Brunswick, Maine

learn about radical right activities nationally, regionally and in Maine

workshops and skills-building presentations on
-fundraising -lobbying -media relations

sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
and the Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance
\$5 materials charge (sliding scale)

For more information contact Alan Stearns at 761-2413 or
the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force at (617)-492-6393

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OCTOBER

29

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and most
creative**

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best overall
and scariest**

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Referendum Question Text

The legislative provision that will be voted on should the referendum question appear on the November 1995 ballot:

To the 116th Legislature of the State of Maine:

In accordance with Section 18 of Article IV, Part Third of the Constitution of the State of Maine, the undersigned electors of the State of Maine, qualified to vote for Governor, residing in said State, whose names have been certified, hereby respectfully propose to the Legislature for its consideration the following entitled bill: An Act to Limit Protected Classes Under the Maine Human Rights Act.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

5 M.R.S.A. Section 4552-A is enacted to read:

Section 4552-A.

An Act to Limit Protected Classes Under
Maine Law

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter or any other provision of law, protected classes or suspect classifications under state or local law human rights laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, charter provisions or policies are limited to race, color, sex, physical or mental disability, religion, age, ancestry, national origin, familial status, and marital status. Any provision of State or local law, rule regulation, ordinance, charter provision or policy inconsistent with this section is void and unenforceable.

This section being necessary for the welfare of the State and the inhabitants of Maine, shall be liberally construed to accomplish its purpose and is not to be interpreted or applied as a limitation or restriction on authority as enumerated in the Maine Constitution.

!?!

Editorial . . . Comment . . .

The means are the measure Dykes To Watch Out For

Last month's editorial suggested that it was time to start educating Maine citizens about the effects and ramifications of the referendum effort. It seems that at least one person was listening. In Friday, September 23's *Portland Press Herald*, Carolyn Cosby unleashed a lengthy diatribe against the "militant, wealthy homosexual lobby." The gist of the article was that gay rights equals special rights and anyway, the gay and lesbian community is too wealthy to deserve the civil rights protections afforded to other minority groups.

To read her polemic, you would think that we were already so powerful that it's hard to understand why gays and lesbians waste time lobbying the Maine Legislature or fighting the referendum effort.

Of course, like everything else Carolyn Cosby says, her "facts" don't fit the reality faced by Maine's, or the U.S.'s, gay and lesbian community. The National Commission on Employment Policy, charged with reporting to Congress during the ENDA hearings, told Congress that lesbians and gays make less than heterosexuals and that discrimination against gays, like other forms of employment discrimination, hurt our economy as a whole.

The FBI, the Department of Justice and Maine's own Attorney General's Office say that Maine is at least fourth highest in per capita hate crimes. Violence against gays exists in Maine at an alarming level.

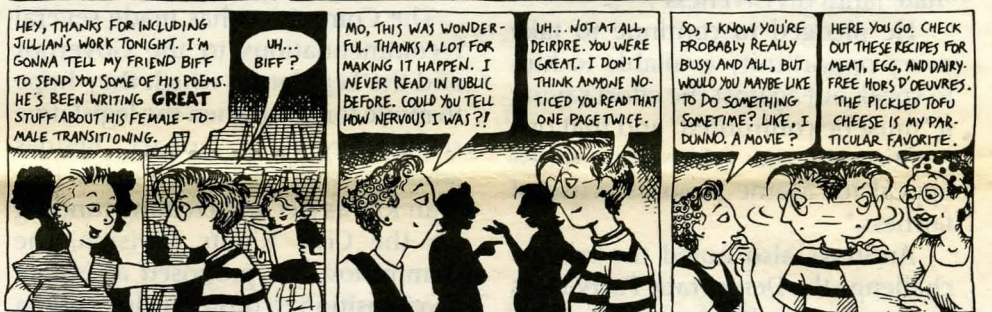
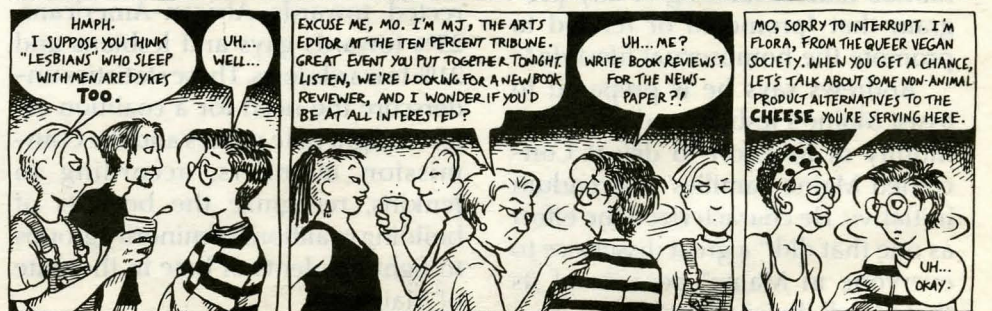
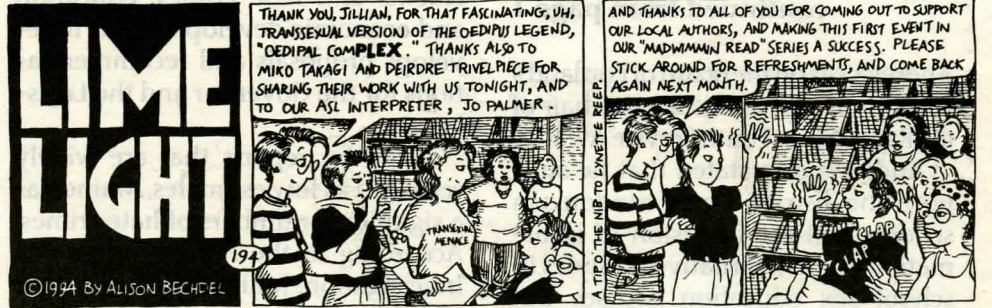
Representatives from Maine's business community, labor, management, law enforcement, churches and civic leaders have come forward to oppose her efforts. All gubernatorial candidates oppose the effort. Even Olympia Snowe opposes the effort.

So what's her strategy?? It looks like a strategy perfected by the Nazi Party in their effort to dehumanize Jews. Hitler often said to his confidants that if you tell a big lie often enough people start to believe you. He also said that they (the Jews) were too wealthy and he pitted them against the supposedly "poorer" masses. Carolyn Cosby's article suggests that gay rights measures are akin to taking from the poor to give to the rich.

Unanswered, her rhetoric could take on a life of its own - despite evidence before Congress, testimony from gay men and lesbians, and opposition to the referendum from business, civic and elected officials.

We must not let her column stand unanswered. We must use the opinion page and letters to the editor to present the truth, we must use "National Coming Out Day" as an opportunity to tell more people about our hopes, our fears and our personal lives. Most of all, we can't let Carolyn Cosby's voice be the only one people read or hear. It doesn't take a large amount of time or money to answer her claims or present ideas through the editorial page.

For those who wondered what tactic Cosby would use - it seems obvious. The same old one... the "us - against - them" line, the "we're - morally - superior" mindset, the "we - believe - in - democracy - when - it - serves - our - purpose" hedge and when that fails, Hitler's "big lie" strategy. For those less familiar with Carolyn Cosby, a quick look at the means to her end will give true measure to the integrity behind her referendum effort.



10%

Maine's monthly newspaper for lesbians & gay men

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Maine News

Andrews continued from page 1

Andrews sits on the board of Portland's Peabody House and is the co-chair of the Ryan White Youth Service Awards.

Andrews also stated that he supports the distribution of condoms in schools and the inclusion of information about alternative lifestyles in school sex education courses but maintains that the proper level for the discussion of these issues is on the local level. To that end he supported an amendment to the recent educational funding bill that gave local district control over curriculum issues, an effort he says helped to diminish the impact of another amendment that would have prohibited federal funding of any program that "promoted or tended to promote the homosexual lifestyle."

Andrews says he is prepared to assist Maine's lesbian and gay community in its effort to defeat Concerned Maine Families' referendum initiative. He characterized the effort as one that did "a great disservice to everyone in Maine" because of its "hate [and] divisiveness".

He pledged to continue to take every opportunity available to him to speak out against the effort saying it "must be confronted" and that opposition to the referendum must appeal to "Maine people's sense of fairness."

Andrews also noted the serious challenge the Democratic Party faces in the election. While pundits have theorized that the Republican Party could win a majority in the U.S. Senate, Andrews put a more human face on it by noting that a shift in power could mean that Senator Orrin Hatch could become chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee and Senator Jesse Helms could become chair of the Foreign Relations Committee.

Andrews recently received the endorsement of the Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance at its annual meeting September 17.

Jenkins leads Matlovich discussion of Maine diversity commission

PORTLAND - Lewiston Mayor John Jenkins discussed the work of The Commission to Promote the Understanding of Diversity in Maine at a September 22 Matlovich Society program. The Commission has completed a preliminary report that recommends, among other things, the addition of "sexual orientation" to the Maine Human Rights Act and funding for the Civil Rights Division of the Attorney General's office which is charged with investigating bias incidents and hate crimes in Maine.

The Commission, created by an executive order of Governor John McKernan, is made of 14 individuals

and is currently focusing on bias incidents and hate crimes, education and economic development as it develops proposals and recommendations for the Governor and the Legislature.

Even by reports that are widely regarded as low estimates, Maine has a significant numbers of hate crimes. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Maine has a high rate of hate crimes per capita, a rate of 17.02 per 100,000 of population (32 reported incidents out of population of 188,068), or fourth highest in the country. Several national groups maintain that these numbers are grossly low. Jenkins noted that Maine's Civil Rights Division received 226 civil rights complaints last year. Of the 226 complaints, 39% were incidents directed towards African-Americans, 25% towards gays and lesbians and 21% towards Jews. These statistics underscore the need for a coalition effort to fight hate crimes and the Commission members, according to Jenkins, recognize the benefits of building coalitions of minority groups to fight incidents of hate in the state of Maine.

The Commission has made several recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature which they hope to move forward when the legislative session begins in January. Besides adding sexual orientation to the Human Rights Act and creating funding for the Civil Rights Division, the Commission has proposed a cabinet level position to promote diversity in Maine, increased funding to restore the staffing for the Maine Human Rights Commission, a statewide intervention team that could respond to community, school and other requests for assistance in promoting diversity or responding incidents of hate crimes or bias incidents and a peer mediation program that would operate in schools to resolve situations.

Jenkins' presentation generated several comments and discussion about the upcoming referendum initiative by Concerned Maine Families. Jenkins noted that the "no. 1 recommendation" in their report was to add sexual orientation to the Maine Human Rights Act. Several listeners commented that the Commission was uniquely positioned to comment publicly against the referendum. Jenkins expects that the Commission will be exploring ways to respond to the referendum.

Jenkins also commended Assistant Attorney General Stephen Wessler for his efforts to fight hate crimes in Maine. The Civil Rights Division receives no funding for its work but Wessler's determination has made the difference, according to Jenkins. Wessler has been an outspoken opponent of the referendum effort.

Jenkins noted that he was seizing every opportunity to discuss the Commission's work because funding from the Legislature would be necessary for the heightened enforcement

efforts and other proposals contained in their report. The funding could materialize if groups like Maine's gay and lesbian community contact their legislators and stress the importance of these efforts.

The Commission will be interviewing the four gubernatorial candidates on September 30 to evaluate their commitment to diversity in Maine.

Interested parties can receive a copy of the Commission's report by calling the Commission's staff person, Diana Scully at 626-0069.

MLGPA holds annual meeting

AUGUSTA - Between forty and fifty people attended the Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance's September 17 annual meeting in Augusta to plan strategy for 1994-95 and to elect a new Board of Directors.

As it has for the last several years, MLGPA will again be the principle group lobbying the Maine Legislature for an amendment to the Maine Human Rights Act that would add "sexual orientation" to its list of protected classes. MLGPA will also work closely with "Maine Won't Discriminate" (formerly Equal Protection Maine) on its effort to defeat the November 1995 ballot question that would prohibit gay rights in Maine.

"There are many people in this state who will vote against Carolyn Cosby's referendum even though they won't vote for a gay rights bill. Maine Won't Discriminate will appeal to a broader base than MLGPA and we can't afford to lose even those who come halfway on board," said MLGPA President Karen Geraghty at the meeting.

Geraghty also pointed out that MLGPA and Maine Won't Discriminate will work very closely together, even though their primary tasks are somewhat separate. "The press coverage of gay rights in 1995 is going to be enormous, and the press might not want to address the differences between Maine Won't Discriminate and MLGPA. Our press campaigns, grassroots campaigns and coalition-building will see a lot of overlap and coordination," said Geraghty.

In addition to strategy, attendees elected a new Board of Directors and officers for 1994-95. Karen Geraghty was re-elected as President with B.J. Broder, Treasurer, Alan Stearns, Recording Secretary, Lauraine Bernier, Membership Secretary and Celeste Gosselin, Vice President.

Officers for the year are Jody Brinser, Presque Isle, David Cadigan, Hancock, Bliss Gifford, Rockland, Brian Kaufman, Gardiner, Jayson Hunt, Portland, Kate Perkins, Kennebunk, Rita Clifford, Windham, Sturgis Haskins, Sorrento, Paula Stockholm, Cumberland, Jan Welch,

Auburn, Barb Wood, Portland, Del Wilson, Portland and Tracy Goodridge, Augusta.

Jim Martin and Pat Peard were also appointed as ex officio directors.

In other business, MLGPA voted to endorse Tom Andrews for U.S. Senate, and Joseph Balducci and Dennis Dutremble for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Cosby lashes out in Press Herald column

PORTLAND - In a September 23 Portland Press Herald op-ed piece, Concerned Maine Families' spokesperson Carolyn Cosby attacked Maine's gay and lesbian community and its efforts to secure civil rights legislation. Repeating the same theme of "special rights" and citing a discredited marketing study that portrayed the gay community as more affluent than the average American, Cosby asserted that the gay community did not need to be protected.

The column, titled "Disadvantaged? Not at all", claims that the "powerful, wealthy, gay lobby" is bankrolling one of the most expensive political campaigns the nation has ever seen - all to gain the status and benefits of America's poorest minorities. Citing the Human Rights Campaign Fund's \$1 million "war chest" as an example, she attributes support for gay rights legislation as an attempt by politicians to access a huge source of campaign contributions.

The relative affluence of the lesbian and gay community has been disputed by several observers including a report released by the National Commission on Employment Policy, an advisory body to the Congress and the President, that found gay and bisexual men earning between 11 and 27% less than heterosexual men and lesbian and bisexual women earning 5 to 14% less than heterosexual women.

Significant play was also given to the "special rights" characterization. Cosby maintains that gay rights are "special rights" because they require no proof of being a homosexual to claim the rights and would give "anyone willing to claim to be homosexual a distinct job advantage" because employers would be unwilling to risk a lawsuit to challenge someone's claim of being a homosexual.

Writing about who deserves civil rights, she maintains that "[o]nly groups able to measure up to long-established civil rights standards of socio-economic deprivation should receive minority status."

She concludes by saying, "[t]o grant special protected-class-status to the homosexual community is to legalize a radically unfair plan that would dismantle civil rights practice as we know it and rob from the poor and give to the rich."



National News

NGLTF continued from page 1

The Idaho Citizens' Alliance has placed Proposition 1 on the ballot. If passed, the measure would prohibit the state from passing laws that give civil rights protections to lesbians and gays.

The NGLTF Fight the Right Project has sent staff to assist local gay organizations in these states. The staff will work with local activists to produce and execute media plans, refine campaign "messages" and assist with rural organizing, campaign operations, coalition building and fundraising.

Efforts are also being made to build long-term momentum by providing training in Hawaii, New Mexico, Nebraska, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Maine. These efforts will focus on skills-building to produce effective grassroots organizations.

Training will also be available at the 1994 NGLTF Creating Change conference in Dallas Texas, November 10-13. For more information about NGLTF activities, contact Fight the Right's Robert Bray, (415) 552-6448.

Radecic to step down as NGLTF Executive Director

WASHINGTON, DC - On August 24, the board of directors of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force announced the Executive Director Peri Jude Radecic will step down at the end of her contract in November. Radecic, who for the past year as Executive Director oversaw several successful grassroots campaigns, will move over to become NGLTF Director of Public Policy.

The NGLTF board will begin an immediate search for Radecic's replacement and will utilize Board co-chair Chris Collins to assist with fundraising and other organizational duties.

Radecic served as executive director during a period of transition at NGLTF and the movement.

During her tenure, NGLTF established and built the highly recognized Fight the Right Project, which has organized and trained scores of activists in more than 25 cities and 20 states. The project has assisted activists and campaigns around the country battle proposed anti-gay initiatives and has seen the number of threatened ballot measures drop from 10 to 2 this year.

Radecic also oversaw NGLTF's involvement in helping Georgia activists get the Olympic Volleyball competition pulled from Cobb County; has personally advocated to the U.S. Department of Justice on behalf of Brenda and Wanda Henson of Camp Sister Spirit in Ovett, Mississippi; and directed NGLTF's efforts around Apple Computer staying in Williamson County, Texas, following that

community's anti-gay attack on Apple's support of gay rights.

Meinhold reinstatement upheld

SAN FRANCISCO - The 9th U.S. Circuit Appeals Court in San Francisco has upheld a U.S. District Court ruling reinstating naval petty officer Keith Meinhold. Meinhold gained national attention in 1992 when he was discharged from the U.S. Navy three months after admitting he was gay on a television news report.

The 9th Circuit affirmed the lower court's reinstatement saying that a service member cannot be discharged from the armed forces "solely because of a statement of sexual orientation devoid of a concrete, expressed desire or intent to act on his homosexual propensity contrary to military policy."

The Court also agreed with the lower court's conclusion that the Navy had gone beyond the aims of the Department of Defense policy by discharging Meinhold simply for saying he was gay without an expressed intent to engage in homosexual conduct. It stopped short, however, of affirming the lower court's ban on discrimination against gays in the military saying that the Meinhold case was only one individual and did not represent a class action suit.

"Beyond reinstatement, and not separating Meinhold on that basis, the Department of Defense should not be constrained from applying its regulations to Meinhold on that basis, the Department of Defense should not be constrained from applying its regulations to Meinhold and all other military personnel," the court said.

Meinhold's discharge was based on regulations that pre-dated President Clinton's "Don't ask, don't tell" reforms, but observers view the decision as important because it is expected that legal challenges under the new policy will look to case law concerning the earlier regulations for guidance.

First PWA granted asylum dies

SAN FRANCISCO - The first individual granted asylum because he was facing persecution for being gay has died. 36-year-old Ariel Da Silva, a native of Los Angeles, died in Los Angeles from complications due to AIDS.

Known by the pseudonym Jose Garcia, Da Silva was granted asylum in March after telling U.S. immigration authorities that he would be in danger if he returned to Mexico. He told authorities that he had been subjected to severe persecution, detention, beatings and rape by the Mexican police because he was gay.

Da Silva was the first gay person granted asylum under the Refugee

Act of 1980 which grants such status to individuals who can show that they are part of a persecuted social group. The case moved immigration officials to reconsider its position on persecution due to sexual orientation and led to a ruling by Attorney General Janet Reno that people persecuted for sexual orientation are eligible for asylum.

Gay candidates win primaries in three states

WASHINGTON, DC - The Victory Fund is reporting that two gay men and one lesbian won their respective primaries on September 13.

Openly gay Rhode Island State Senator Will Fitzpatrick beat two challengers in that state's primary. At this point, Fitzpatrick faces only write-in opposition in the Nov. 8 general election. He received 55% of the vote in his three-way primary.

Democratic candidate and lesbian Karen Burstein beat out two challengers in the New York State Attorney General's race.

In Arizona, a Phoenix businessman, Ken Chevront won the Democratic primary for the state House of Representative with 44% of the vote.

The Victory Fund reports that a total of 14 gay or lesbian candidates are running for office in the Nov. 8 election.

Couples in Seattle celebrate first day of domestic partnership registration

SEATTLE - Approximately 90 couples registered as domestic partners during the first day of Seattle's new domestic partnership register. The ordinance, which went into effect on Sept. 6, allows same-sex and unmarried couples to register with the city clerk as domestic partners.

Mayor Norm Rice signed the ordinance into effect after Seattle's City Council unanimously approved the measure.

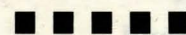
Registrants must show that they are 18 years or older, are not related by blood, are in a relationship of mutual support, caring and commitment and are each other's sole domestic partner. The cost to register is \$25 and couples receive a certificate to note the relationship.

Supporters of the ordinance say that it provides at least symbolic recognition of the union although it awards no legal benefits and that over time, it will become the foundation for further legal recognition of gay and lesbian couples.

Seattle joins approximately 12 other cities with domestic partnership ordinances.



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"Candles Around the Country" October 7, 1994

On October 7, 1994 at 9pm EST "Candles Around the Country" will form a human chain linking 31 states. Participants will lock arms and light candles in honor of those living with HIV/AIDS and those who have died from the disease.

A \$10 donation will secure your place in the chain and will benefit local AIDS organizations and a museum to honor those who have died.

For information about
participating or making a
donation contact:

The AIDS Foundation of
America

P.O. Box 322

Augusta, ME 04332

623-1566 or

1-800-440-1566

October/November

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Fr

2
EPM Bangor
Mtg.
AIDS Walk

3

4
Womyn and
AIDS

5

6

9
Mothers and
Kids Group

10

11
Election Guide
National Coming
Out Day

12

13
Men and Race

16
Let's Do
Brunch

17
Partners of Parents

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Artificial
Insemination

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Witches, Warlocks
and Pagans

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20 years of
Gay Press

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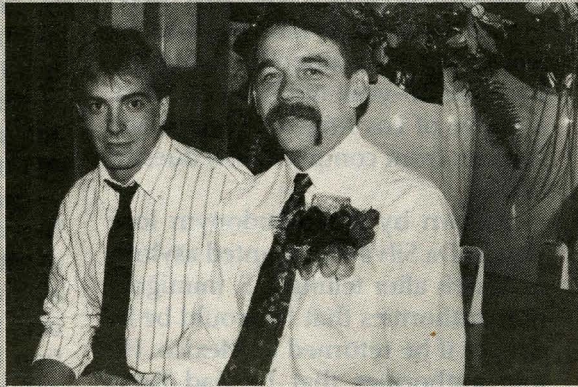
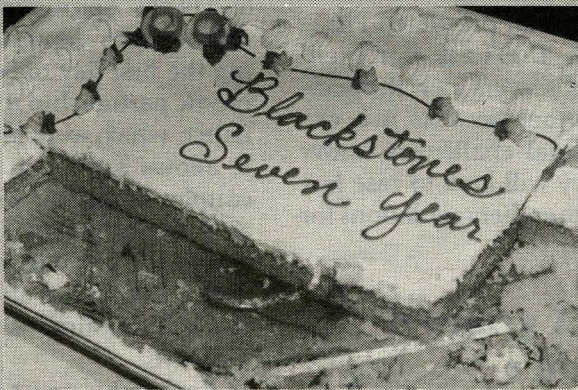
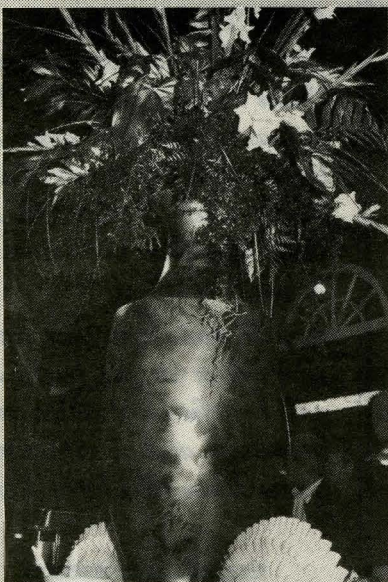
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NOV.

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Substance
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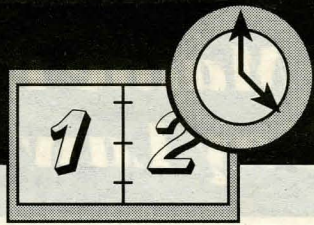
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Celebrating Blackstones' 7th Anniversary

Blackstones' owner
Ralph Cusack and his
staff invited patrons to
help celebrate the bar's
7th anniversary
on September 3. Throngs
of hungry and apprecia-
tive individuals marked
the occasion.

Listing of Events



Saturday

Circle of Hope

Reducing
Prejudice

8

Fall Harvest
Dance
MLGPA Mtg.
ME Won't Discriminate
Fundraiser
Kay Gardner

22

29

5

Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition meets every Tuesday from 7:30-9pm at Lafayette St., Lewiston. Drop in any Tuesday or call 786-4697.

"An Election Guide", MLGPA officers Karen Geraghty and BJ Broder, Oct. 11, 7-9pm Student Ctr., USM. FMI 774-4919.

"Artificial Insemination: A Personal Story Laced with the Facts" Oct. 18th, Student Ctr., USM, 7-9pm. FMI, 774-4919.

"Candidates, Bills, Referendums: The Politics of Diversity" a Building Inclusive Community program with MLGPA President Karen Geraghty at the Lewiston Multi-Purpose Ctr., 145 Birch St., Friday, October 21, at 7:30pm.

"Celebrate the Anniversary of 20 Years of Gay Press in Maine", stories from the founders of *Mainly Gay*, Maine's first gay and lesbian publication, Oct. 27, 7:30pm, Holiday-Inn-by-the-Bay. Accessible.

Circle of Hope, Christian community following a model developed by the Metropolitan Community Churches, Saturdays at 4pm Oct. 1 meeting at the Underground, 3 Spring St., Portland. Thereafter, meetings at Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland.

"Constructing Our Visibility", 1st of 3 forums on creating community support for being "out" in Maine, Sat., Oct. 22, 10-5pm, AVAC, 4 Lafayette St., Lewiston. For Registration call 772-7325 or 871-9940. Sponsored by the Pride Committee '95.

Equal Protection Maine meets in Portland every other Monday at 7:30pm at St. Luke's Cathedral, State St., Portland. For more information, call 1-800-MLGPA.

Fall Harvest Dance, Oct. 15, 8pm-midnight, Temple Beth-El, 400 Deering Ave., Portland. DJ, refreshments and chem-free, \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door.

Friday Night Church meets every Friday at 7pm, State St. Church, 159 State St., Portland. All-inclusive and affirming service offering a guide to Christian spiritual journey. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call 774-6396.

Lesbian Support Group meets every first and third Wed. at the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center. Woman-only, lesbian-only space. 6:30-8pm, 334 Harlow St., Bangor. For more information, call 947-5337.

"Let's Do Brunch" Potluck social gathering, 11am-2pm, third Sunday of the month at York County locations, Call 985-2784 for more information.

Maine AIDS Walk, Portland and Augusta, Oct. 2, FMI call 774-6877.

Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance meets on October 15 at 12noon at the Winthrop St. Unitarian Church in Augusta.

Maine Won't Discriminate Fundraiser at Jonathan's, 1 Orne Lane, Ogunquit, Sat. Oct. 15, 7:30pm. Dinner, entertainment, speakers and auction, \$100. Proceeds benefit Maine Won't Discriminate.

"Men and Race: The Color of Fear", film and discussion, Matlovich Society, Oct. 13, 7:30pm, Holiday-Inn-by-the-Bay, 88 Spring St., Port. Free parking and wheelchair accessible.

Mothers and Kids Group meets the

2nd Sunday of the month. On Sept. 11 meet from 12:30-3pm at the Lunt School, Middle and Lunt Rd., Falmouth. For information, contact Linda Parker at 767-4368.

Partners of Parents meets every 3rd Monday, 7-9pm at Woodfords' Congregational Church, Woodfords St., Portland. Support to lesbian and gay men whose partners have children. For more information, call 774-5032.

"Reducing Prejudice and Building Community" a 1-day workshop, Saturday, Oct. 1, 1994 presented by the National Coalition-Building Institute, 8:30am-4pm, St. Luke's Cathedral, State St., Portland. Fee is \$65. For information, call Diane Gilman at (207)-882-8022.

Substance Abuse in the Gay Community, an interactive discussion with Frank Brooks, LCSW and Betsey Hood, LSAC, 7-9pm, Nov. 1, USM Student Ctr., FMI 774-4919.

Witches, Warlocks and Pagans, discussion, 7-9pm, Oct. 25, Student Ctr., USM, FMI, call 774-4919.

"Women, Music and Power" a workshop with Kay Gardner, Sat., Oct. 15, 2-4pm, Belfast Free Library, Abbott Auditorium, 46 High St., Belfast. Sliding scale fee \$15-\$25, Info. and registration, 338-5889. Also Kay Gardner in concert, that evening at 8pm, same location, \$5-\$10. Events benefit the Women's Ctr.

"Womyn and the AIDS Epidemic", Oct. 4th, 7-9pm, Student Ctr., USM, FMI, 774-4919.

Are you listed?
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Include location, contact no., date and time. Submissions are due by the 20th of the month.

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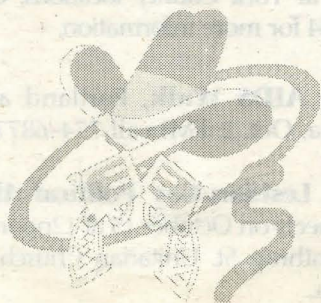
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Maine Lesbian and Gay Law Association

Ruling overturns anti-gay referendum

by Will Sandstead, Esq.
Contributor

A recent U.S. District Court decision could have far-reaching implications for the developing case law on anti-gay referenda. In *Equality Foundation v. City of Cincinnati*, Judge S. Arthur Spiegel threw out an anti-gay referendum that was passed by Cincinnati voters.

The referendum, called "Issue 3", prohibited the city from enacting, adopting or administering "any ordinance, regulation, rule or policy which provides that homosexual, lesbian or bisexual orientation, status, conduct, or relationship constitutes, entitles, or otherwise provides a person with the basis to have any claim of minority or protected status, quota, preference or other preferential treatment." The referendum was a reaction to two gay rights ordinances passed by the Cincinnati City Council. Gay activists and the city brought the legal challenge after Cincinnati voters approved the referendum last November.

The decision in *Equality* is groundbreaking for several reasons. First it permanently enjoined Issue 3 from taking effect thereby rendering the law null and void.

Second, the judge made several factual conclusions that numerous other federal judges have refused to make. Specifically, the judge found that "homosexuals comprise between 5 and 13% of the population," that "sexual orientation is a characteristic which exists separately and independently from sexual conduct or behavior," and that it is "a deeply rooted, complex combination of factors including a predisposition towards affiliation, affection or bonding with members of the opposite and/or the same gender." Further, the Court concluded that sexual orientation is set at an early age and "bears no relation to an individual's ability to perform, contribute to, or participate in society," that homosexuality is not a mental illness, and that gays and lesbians have "suffered a history of pervasive, irrational and invidious discrimination in government and private employment, in political organization and in all facets of society in general."

Judge Spiegel found that sexual orientation is a "quasi-suspect classification." If a court finds such a classification (for example, allowing African-Americans to obtain marriage licenses but not Asian-Americans), then the government must justify the law with an extremely good reason. Otherwise, the law can be found to be in violation of the 14th Amendment and therefore unconstitutional (as in the example stated). Generally, a quasi-suspect classification is doomed because it is almost impossible for the government to show a sufficiently good reason for the classification.

Thus, when Judge Spiegel ruled that sexual orientation was a "quasi-suspect classification", he placed a monumental burden upon the referendum's supporters which they failed to satisfy. Essentially, the judge made it nearly impossible for Issue 3 to survive constitutional scrutiny.

The judge also held that Issue 3 violated the 14th Amendment because it infringed on the fundamental right of equal participation in the political process. As in suspect classifications, a law infringes on a group's right to participate in the political process, it must be supported by a compelling state interest. Absent such a showing, the law can be ruled unconstitutional.

Finally, the judge found that there was absolutely no rational basis to support Issue 3. He noted that laws treating people unequally without a rational basis for the different treatment violate the 14th Amendment. Therefore, even if sexual orientation was not a quasi-suspect classification and even if Issue 3 did not violate the fundamental right to equal participation in the political process, Issue 3 was still unconstitutional.

Supporters of the referendum argued that adding sexual orientation to civil rights would strain enforcement resources and deflect protection from racial, ethnic and other important classes. They also argued for the deregulation of private conduct by employers and landlords, and they maintained that the state should refrain from imposing "a uniform, doctrinaire view concerning the moral relevance of homosexual behavior on all segments of the community." Finally they asserted that Issue 3 was a legitimate articulation of the community morality that was within the electoral competence of the general public.

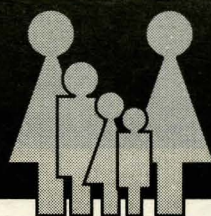
These arguments were rejected by the court and it also held that Issue 3 violated the 1st Amendment rights to free speech and association and to petition the government for redress of grievances.

In his written decision, the judge denied that his ruling was giving anyone "special rights." He wrote, "In voiding the Issue 3 Amendment, the Court is in no way giving any group any rights above and beyond those enjoyed by all citizens. To the contrary, we are simply, but crucially, preventing one group of citizens from being deprived of the very rights we all share...And despite the fact that a majority of voters may support a given law, rights protected by the Constitution can never be subordinated to the vote of the majority. While at times this may seem unfair, especially when deeply emotional issues are involved, indeed it is the fairest, and most deeply rooted, of all of this Nation's rich traditions."

The importance of this case to Maine is significant. As the gay and lesbian community faces a differently worded, but similar, referendum challenge, *Equality* may provide an important precedent if the referendum is passed and then challenged in court.

Source: *Lesbian/Gay Law Notes*, September 1994.

Will Sandstead is a board member of the Maine Lesbian and Gay Law Association (MeLeGal) and is an associate at Farnsworth & Associates in Hallowell.



Mothers & Child

Navigational tools

by Maggie Fournier
Contributor

Helping our children find their way and their own voice in this world is a tall order for any parent. Kids of lesbians, like most children, are pretty much of the garden variety. They are diverse in their accomplishments, talents, and skills. They come in various shapes and sizes and have needs and desires, hopes and dreams. Like other children, they want to be valued and accepted, encouraged and loved. They wish to fit in. They want to be happy, play a great deal and snuggle, particularly when they are little tots.

Our kids are special in that they have moms who are lesbian. How can we help our daughters and sons navigate through life without incurring a few squalls along the way? Well, the truth is that we can't. It's simply a part of growing up. What we can do, however, is instill in them a sense of pride in who they are and in who we are.

This is a process which begins at birth and will continue for a lifetime. It's a process of actions and words. From the earliest moments of life, our children need to trust that we will be there for them and be strong role models. This need will persist to a greater or lesser degree throughout their lives.

From the time that they are newborns, we set the stage for healthy self esteem. I offer a few navigational tools to use along the way:

*During your pregnancy, seek out a lawyer to assist you in developing your will(s) and power of attorney. If you live in a state such as Maine which does not yet allow for adoption by the non-biological co-mother, this is a particularly important thing to do. Be clear about who you wish to be your child's guardian in the event that the legal parent(s) die. Some people just hate to think about wills and other legal agreements. Remember, though, that homosexual parents are not usually protected by laws which govern legally married heterosexuals. You'll feel much better knowing that you've done all that you can to secure your family. GLAD (Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders in Boston, 617-4261350) and MCLU (Maine Civil Liberties Union, 207-7745444) can be helpful in referring you to a knowledgeable attorney.

*From the start, clearly share with all significant people with whom you associate, that you are lesbians who are raising your child together. This is an ongoing educational process and it gets easier each time you do it. Tell people that you both are the parents and provide care givers such as doctors, nurses, day care providers and schools with any pertinent legal documentation. Every form that requires parental signatures should be signed by both of you as a matter of record.

(We often cross out the word father and write above it, mother.)

We do this for clarity's sake and, more importantly, as a statement that the three of us (our daughter and her two moms) are family. It's affirming for us and our child. We've always felt that if we were clear about our lives, then our child would less likely be put in awkward or hurtful situations. So far it's working. And even more importantly, she is proud of herself and of us. Secrets are devastating and often, underlying them, is a sense of shame. It's simply not fair to your child to remain closeted. It's not fair to yourself, either. Allow your child to see that you are not afraid to be true to yourself.

*Join mothers' groups and gay/lesbian parents groups for support, information and fun activities for your family. (Check out the listings in lesbian/gay papers.)

*Read everything you can get your hands on about parenting and use your good common sense about the wide range of opinions out there (including mine).

*Check out lesbian and gay bookstores for age appropriate books for kids about growing up with lesbian moms. Heather Has Two Mommies is quite nice. (Bookland and Lambda Rising are good sources and they will order anything in print.)

*Father's Day can be a hurdle for some kids. Talk openly as a family about how you can assist your child if day care or school activities will take place. (Our daughter would often make projects for her godfather if other kids were doing the same for their dads.)

*As they get older, know when to back off and take your cues from your child as to how and when they tell their friends about having two moms. Chances are they won't have too much of a problem with this if they have grown up in an open environment. Our kids will develop their own style about many things and we need to gradually let go.

*Lastly, lighten up about being lesbian and enjoy being moms. It is the best of times and it goes too quickly!

Maggie Fournier is an associate professor of nursing at the University of Southern Maine. She is currently conducting research on the topic of co-mothering and is writing a book on lesbian parenting with her partner, Cheryl Ciechomski. Maggie and Cheryl live in Portland, Maine, with their eight year-old daughter, Emily.

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Sundays

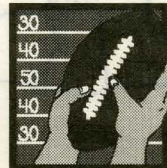
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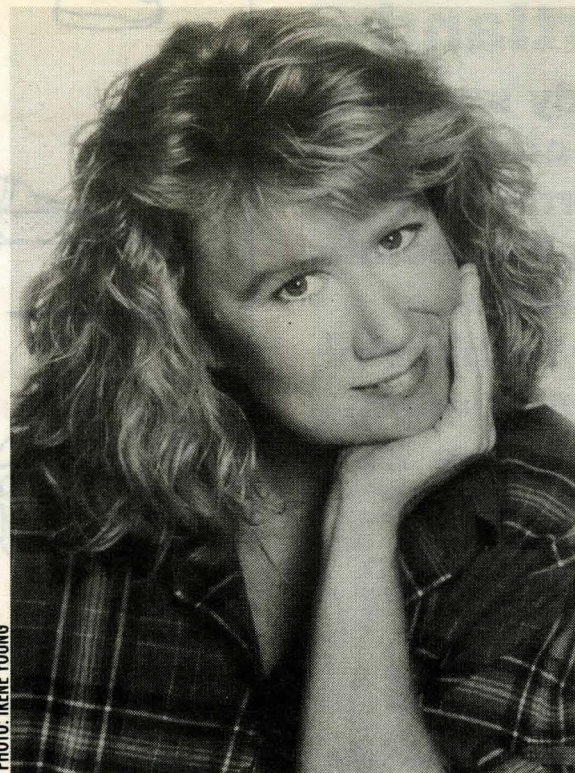


PHOTO: IRENE YOUNG

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Due to space limitations, 10% will no longer be accepting personal ads. We regret that we cannot provide this community service, however several other personal ad columns are available in other publications for those desiring this service. Personals received for this month will be returned to sender. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

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Fitness

A stretch a day keeps aging away

by **Martha Atherholt II**
Contributor

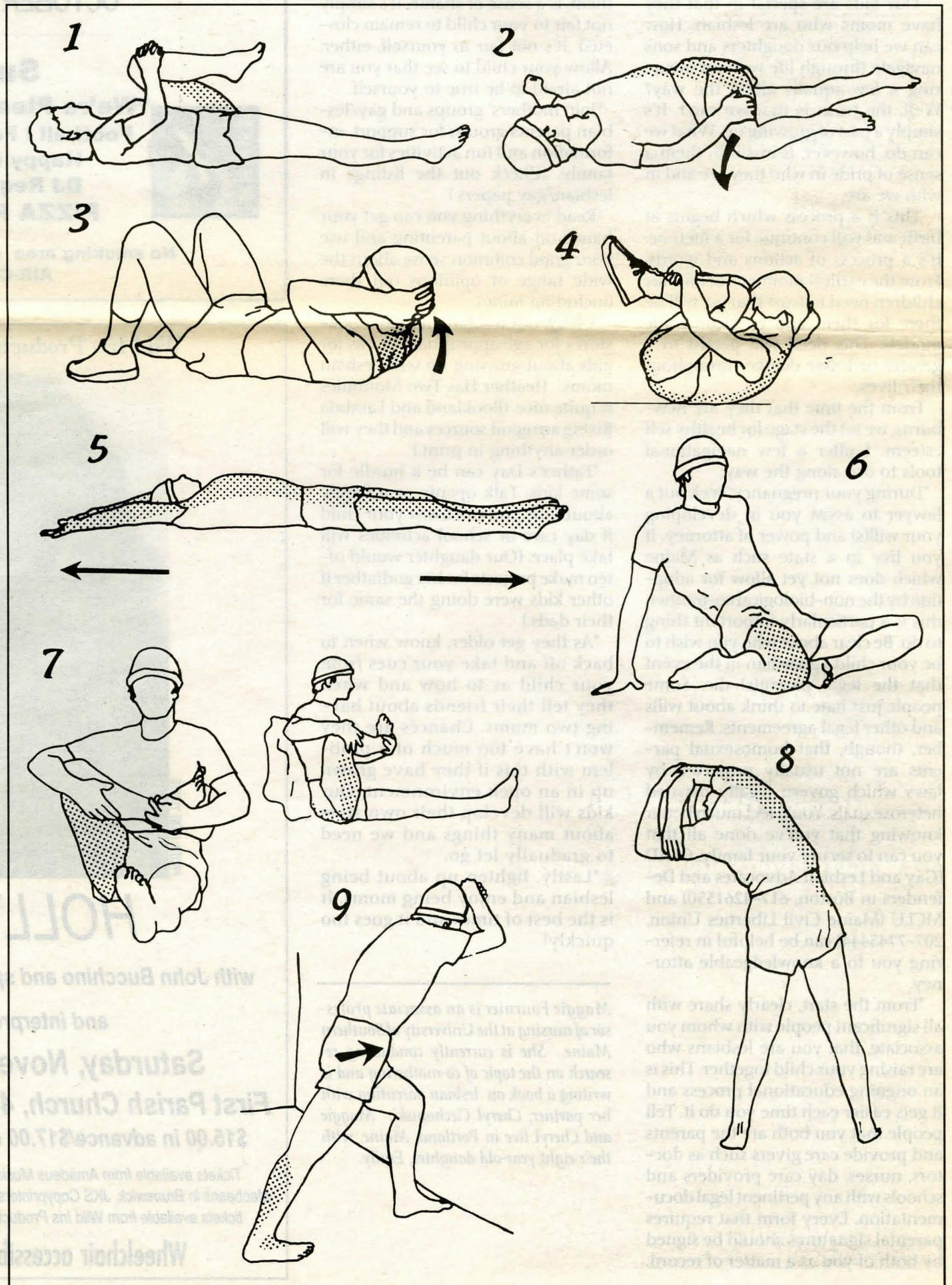
Are you one of those people that thinks stretching is for wimps? Well, it's time for an attitude adjustment! Aerobic exercise and strength training are not the only part of a healthy fitness program. For years, researchers have been proving the anti-aging benefits of regular exercise and now they are beginning to look at flexibility.

No matter how strong your heart and muscles are, time will eventually bring on tightness in the muscles and connective tissue. This leads to poor posture, backaches and stiffness in the hips and legs. A good stretching routine will not only improve flexibility, but enhance muscle tone, body awareness and appearance. Stretching can also give you better circulation, more energy, better posture and the ability to move more gracefully.

Recently a new approach to stretching, called "Active Isolated Stretching", has surfaced. This method is based on how the "stretch reflex" works in our muscles. Instead of using the traditional method of holding stretches for a long period of time (which is uncomfortable for less flexible people), Active Isolated Stretching uses more motion.

The stretch reflex makes muscles want to contract after being stretched for only two seconds. If you continue stretching them beyond this point, you are essentially working against yourself, trying to stretch muscles that are contracting. Active Isolated Stretching is designed to work with the stretch reflex, by holding stretches for only 1 1/2 - 2 seconds, relaxing and repeating.

The following is a thirty-minute routine designed to focus on areas of the body which are prone to stiffness with aging. Prior to any stretching, make sure that you do some sort of warm-up activity. Walking, light jogging or cycling for 5-10 minutes is an adequate warm-up. As you begin your program, start with one set of each exercise for 8-12 repetitions, three times per week. Over a three to four week period, gradually build your program up to 2 sets of 8-12 repetitions. Hold each stretch for 2 seconds and return to the resting point. Remember to exhale as you stretch and inhale as you relax the muscles.




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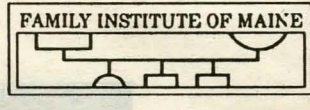
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Those views are fundamental beliefs of mine and I think they are shared by the majority of Maine people, she says. The government ought to stay out of personal decisions. I view the gay rights issue as one of discrimination. I belong to the party of Lincoln, and that ought to mean something."

The Maine Times, September 16, 1994

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