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Periodicals

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In this issue...

Freedom Fest-Bangor

Equal Protection Maine Update

Giants' AIDS Benefit

10%

Maine's monthly newspaper for lesbians & gay men

Cosby claims 60,000

by Rebecca Foster
Editor

PORTLAND— The head of Concerned Maine Families' effort to place an anti-gay question on the November 1995 ballot claims to have collected 60,000 signatures.

Carolyn Cosby, leader of a radical right movement within Maine was quoted on a July 20 National Public Radio *Morning Edition* new program as saying the group has collected 60,000 signatures—8,000 more than needed. The petition signatures could force the inclusion of a ballot question that would limit the current Maine Human Rights Act to its current language and effectively repeal or prohibit efforts like Portland's anti-discrimination ordinance.

Cosby has said she will turn the signatures over to the Maine Secretary of State's office on August 15th. Equal Protection Maine plans to mount a signature challenge in response to any signature submission on CMF's part.

10% was unable to obtain a comment from Carolyn Cosby or Concerned Maine Families to confirm or elaborate on the report in time for this issue's deadline.

Radical right agenda leaked

by Terri Jones
Editor

COLORADO SPRINGS— Papers, recordings and strategy papers from a May 16-18 Colorado Springs meeting of representatives from 35 religious right-wing organizations are being distributed by several gay and lesbian groups in an effort to publicize a bizarre and calculated plan to fight pro-gay initiatives across the country. Participants in the meeting included representatives from some of the best-known anti-gay groups including the American Family Association, Focus on the Family, Colorado for Family Values, the National Legal Foundation and the Family Research Institute. The meeting's proceedings highlight a new era of radical right activity designed to pressure and intimate candidates and politicians into supporting the radical right's most focused attack to date - the defeat of all forms of gay and lesbian rights.

Addressing the group, John Eldredge of Focus on the Family, told meeting

attendees that "the gay agenda has all the elements of that which is truly evil. It is deceptive at every turn. It is destroying the souls and the lives of those who embrace it." Gay activists and observers believe that this signals an all-out effort on the part of radical right groups to fight a single cause - lesbian and gay rights.

Meeting documents now being distributed by Equal Protection Maine reveal a comprehensive and determined effort to undermine any pro-gay ordinance and prevent the passage of future initiatives. In a paper entitled "Project Spotlight: A Plan for the Nation" dated April 20, 1994 from the American Family Association PAC of Ohio, a detailed four-step plan and four-phase implementation is proposed. The "spotlight" in this case is to be directed at candidates and politicians that support equal rights for gays and lesbians. The four step plan is:

"1) First and most important, educate voters about the homosexual agenda

through a well-organized educational program that begins far in advance of the city council election (minimum one year).

2) Use every opportunity to register people to vote.

3) Through each educational meeting and other channels, start a petition drive to gather signatures of registered voters. Suggested petition language is: "I pledge I will not vote for any candidate who has accepted a political endorsement from homosexuals. I am opposed to elected officials promoting the homosexual agenda in government and schools. I am for equal rights for all. Therefore, I am opposed to special rights laws that promote homosexuality."

4) Two weeks before an election, mail to every person who signed the petition a list of candidates who have been endorsed by the homosexuals and a list of those who have not."

The stated objectives of this plan are

to hold candidates accountable for

continued on page 11

Bangor celebrates 2nd Pride Day at Freedom Fest



Bangor held its second annual Pride Day, Saturday July 9th. The date was the 10th anniversary of the murder of Charlie Howard. Over 200 people marched proudly. For more photos of the march, turn to page 10.

Sister Spirit owners testify for House subcommittee

by Terri Jones
Editor

JACKSON--Brenda and Wanda Henson, founders of an Overt, Mississippi retreat for women testified before a congressional panel investigating how local authorities responded to anti-lesbian harassment they experienced.

The investigation, launched by Representatives Barney Frank, D-Mass. and Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., heard testimony by the Hensons that showed little response from bodies ranging from the local police and courts to the FBI.

Frank believes that the U.S. Congress has a responsibility to ensure that local law enforcement does not act unconstitutionally, even if cannot change how local residents feel about the camp.

The House subcommittee oversight hearing was held in a courtroom in

Jackson, Miss. that was packed with residents. Some residents wore T-shirts reading "Mississippi for Family Values", the group that Hensons believe is behind the harassment which included leaving a dead dog draped over the Camp Sister Spirit mailbox.

James Hendry, who is president of Mississippi for Family Values, has denied that the group is involved in the incidents. He says that his group is "trying to seek a peaceful, legal solution to this problem. This is not a bigoted witch hunt."

The Hensons' battles with local residents gained national attention including action by Attorney General Janet Reno who sent in federal mediators to settle the dispute.

Overt residents objected to the location of Camp Sister Spirit because of its focus as a woman-only space and because the founders are lesbians.

Where can I get my copy of 10%?

Underground
Portland

Orphan Annie's
Lewiston

Blackstones
Portland

Sportsman's
Lewiston

KaOS
Portland

UMaine-Orono
Orono

Drop Me A Line...
Portland

The Bar
Bangor

Videoport
Portland

Bad Habits
Portland

St. John Valley AIDS Task
Force, Ft. Kent

Downeast AIDS Network,
Ellsworth

Sisters
Portland

Gulf of Maine Books
Brunswick

Pro Libris Bookshop
Bangor

PJ's
Augusta

Northern Lambda Nord
Caribou

Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition
Belfast

Mabel Wadsworth Women's
Health Center, Bangor

Equal Protection Maine Update

In an effort to keep the gay and lesbian community abreast of Equal Protection Maine's anti-referendum activities, 10% will be reserving page 2 for the details of Equal Protection meetings, press releases and announcements.

Equal Protection Maine faces a serious, well-funded challenge from Concerned Maine Families and Carolyn Cosby. To meet this challenge, Equal Protection Maine needs volunteers with a variety of skills including fundraising, graphic design, computer and data entry knowledge, and media relations. EPM volunteers are also prepared to train interested individuals for fundraising activities.

Volunteers and money are desperately needed to finance a signature challenge and public education outreach in preparation for the November 1995 ballot question. For more information about Equal Protection Maine's activities and needs, call 761-3732 or the Maine Civil Liberties Union at 774-5444.

Equal Protection Maine is looking for a House Party Coordinator and individuals interested in hosting a house party. House parties are fundraising and educational events that provide information about EPM and its activities.

EPM August Events

Equal Protection Maine meets in Portland every other Monday at 7:30pm at St. Luke's Cathedral, State St. Meetings are scheduled for August 8 and 22.

Equal Protection Maine meets in Bangor on the first Sunday of the month at the Peace and Justice Center, 359 Main St., Bangor, 2-4pm. For more information, write EPM PO Box 963, Bangor ME 04402.

The next meeting of the fundraising committee will be held Thursday, August 4 at PROP, 510 Cumberland Ave. at 7pm.

EPM Phonebank Fundraiser

August 15

at the offices of PROP, 510 Cumberland Ave.
6pm

Volunteers and donations are needed.

For more information, call 761-3732 or 774-5444



Cool down with a bagel and cream cheese!



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 599 Forest Ave., Port. 775-0718
 18 Moulton St. Old Port 774-8704
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 Mill Creek Shopping Ctr. 767-4756
 204 US Rt. 1, Falmouth 781-7234
 8 Main St., Yarmouth 846-6909
 123 Main St., Westbrook 854-5209
 336 Center St., Auburn 777-7007
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**Safer Sex Tip #5
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 for Latex Care**

1. Keep latex out of direct sunlight
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Mon.-Wed. 10-7 Thurs. 10-9
 Fri.-Sat. 10-10 Sun. 11-6

Maine News

Peabody House plans restaurant benefit

PORTLAND—Peabody House, a Portland-based AIDS hospice and assisted living home has gathered area restaurants in a unique fundraiser for Saturday, August 20, 1994. On that day, between the hours of 12 noon and 10pm, restaurants will donate 10% of their proceeds to the Peabody House. Dubbed "Red Ribbon Restaurant Night to Benefit the Peabody House", organizers are still adding to the list of participating restaurants, currently Alberta's, Shalimar and Rosie's are just a few of the options.

The Peabody House, located at 14 Orchard St. in Portland is currently undergoing renovations and will offer a supportive, holistic environment for people in the advanced stages of HIV. Its mission is to foster and maximize human dignity, respect the autonomy of each individual and enable self-determination. Peabody House clients will be offered a choice of types and levels of care they receive.

For more information about the participating restaurants and about Peabody House, contact the business office at 774-6281.

MLGPA schedules Sept. 17 annual meeting

AUGUSTA—The Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance has scheduled its annual meeting for Saturday, September 17, 12 noon at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church, 69 Winthrop St., Augusta. The meeting is open to all members of the community and features elections for the organization's board and the formation of committees.

The event's organizers characterize this year's meeting as particularly crucial because of the anti-gay referendum, and because of the re-introduction of legislation to outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation in Maine. While Maine's gubernatorial races features 4 candidates promising to sign a civil rights bill, up to 40% of the Legislature could be first-time lawmakers. To meet this challenge, MLGPA is making preparations for a year of extensive work with newcomers, veterans, allies and the Governor's Office.

MLGPA is looking for individuals interested in fund-raising, legislation, media relations, membership development, volunteer coordination, grassroots organizing and education. For more information about MLGPA's needs or the annual meeting call 1-800-55-MLGPA.



PHOTO: REBECCA FOSTER

Members of Act-UP greeted President Clinton during his recent trip to Maine to raise money for the Brennan and Andrews' campaigns. Act-UP sought to persuade the President to propose a single-payer health care system.

Boy Scouts receive \$80,000 in donations through United Way

PORTLAND—The Pine Tree Council of the Boy Scouts will receive over \$80,000 in donations through the Greater Portland United Way's donor choice program. The total collected effectively restores funding levels that were in place prior to a 1992 Council vote that refused to allow a lesbian mother to become a den mother for a Cub Scout pack.

Funding for the Boy Scouts was cut off when the local United Way voted to exclude groups that discriminated on the basis of sexual orientation after the Council's actions. This year was the first that offered United Way donors a choice of earmarking their pledges for groups that were not among the United Way's charities.

Kim Laramy, of the United Way, has said that when "a donor makes a decision.. we honor that.."

The \$80,366 allotted to the Boy Scouts represents a lion's share of the total \$166,885 that was earmarked for non-United Way member organizations. The effort was aided by a letter sent to parents, friends and supporters of the Boy Scouts explaining the new donor choice option and suggesting that donors use the option to support the Boy Scouts. The letter

New lesbian support group in Bangor

BANGOR—The Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center is now offering a lesbian support group through its Lesbian Health Project. The support group is for any woman who self-identifies as a lesbian. Its mission is to provide a woman-only, lesbian-only space for the exploration of issues and to encourage an affirmation environment for participants. The group practices confiden-

tiality, open-mindedness and respect.

The group will be meeting the first and third Wednesdays of the month at the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, 334 Harlow St. (Intown Plaza), Bangor. Formore information call 947-5337.

Equal Protection Lewiston seeks donations to retire debt

LEWISTON—Equal Protection Lewiston is seeking donations to retire a \$1200 debt incurred in defending the city's anti-discrimination ordinance during last year's election. Donations are desperately needed to keep the EPL group viable particularly in the face of dual Madore candidacies (Paul and Susan Madore led the successful effort to recall Lewiston's anti-discrimination ordinance and are running for the Maine Legislature in November's election.

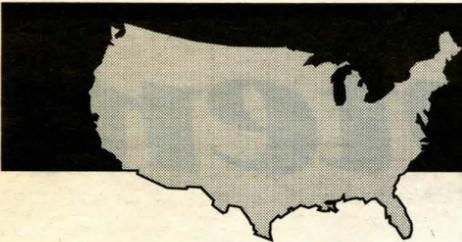
To help raise money, Equal Protection Lewiston is having a benefit variety show at the Sportman's Athletic Club, Maine's oldest gay and lesbian bar, Saturday, July 30 at 10pm. Sportman's is located at 2 Bates St. in Lewiston. Admission for the show is \$3. Sportman's is looking for volunteers to help staff the show.

Donations can be sent to Equal Protection Lewiston, c/o Janet Welch, 8 Royal Oaks Drive, Auburn, ME 04210.

MLGPA sponsors July 31 beach party

OGUNQUIT—The Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance is sponsoring a beach party with body surfing, games and volleyball on Sunday, July 31 at the rainbow flag at Ogunquit Beach. The event will take place from 11-3pm and the rain date will be August 7th at the same time and location.

Concessions are available at the beach. For more information, call 1-800-55-MLGPA.



National News

Northeastern to recruit lesbian and gay faculty

BOSTON—Northeastern University trustees have approved a new policy giving gay men and lesbians preferential treatment in hiring along with veterans and people with disabilities. The policy, according to gay faculty will allow them to serve as role models for their gay and lesbian students.

Some faculty have expressed concern about the policy because sexual orientation is not based in academic achievement nor is it a qualification, they say. The school should, in their words, promote tolerance and non-discrimination, but not preach morality by expecting all members of the university community to "celebrate diversity".

Framers of the policy say that it was intended to "ensure that Northeastern was hospitable to all kinds of people."

Boston School Committee backs Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth goals

BOSTON—In a June 16 vote, the Boston School Committee voted unanimously to endorse four recommendations made by the the Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth. The recommendations have been released as part of a larger report by the Commission that has been endorsed by the Massachusetts Board of Education.

The recommendations suggest several strategies for protecting gay and lesbians students from harassment and flowed from a teacher's letter to the editor of Boston Latin School's *The Argo* in which homosexuality was characterized as a "great weakness and sickness". The piece had been approved by the school's headmaster.

The recommendations call for the development of policies to combat harassment and the institution of support groups for gay and straight students to work together and the training of teachers, guidance counselors and staff in suicide and violence intervention as well as counseling for families of gay children.

The vote by the Boston School Committee is seen as encouragement for other school boards across Massachusetts to take similar steps to develop policies to help gay and lesbian students.

McFeeley to leave HRCF

WASHINGTON—Human Rights Campaign Fund director, Tim McFeeley has announced that he will leave his

post as director after the November elections. McFeeley has held the post for five years and had promised to leave the post after serving five years but his announcement was still a surprise to his coworkers.

Under McFeeley's direction, HRCF has grown from a 15-person staff with an annual budget of \$1.5 million to a staff of 45 with an \$8 million dollar budget and a membership that has surged to 85,000 from 12,000.

For his part, McFeeley is extremely proud of the impact of the organization on the 1992 presidential election. He believes that HRCF played a major role in mobilizing gay support for Bill Clinton.

No successor has been named. The organization's board of directors has formed a search committee and hired a professional search team to find McFeeley's replacement.

Justice Department denied delay in Cammermeyer reinstatement

SEATTLE—A District Court Judge that ruled in favor of a lesbian's right to continue her service in the National Guard has rejected the Justice Department's request to place that reinstatement on hold. Citing "immediate and irreparable adverse impact", the Justice Department asked U.S. District Court Judge Thomas Zilly to place National Guard Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer's reinstatement on hold while it appeals his order to reinstate Cammermeyer.

On June 24, Judge Zilly rejected the Justice Department's characterization of the impact, and refused to stay the reinstatement.

The Justice Department has appealed Zilly's rejection of the stay request to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

Cammermeyer sued when she was discharged by the Washington National Guard in 1992 after acknowledging that she was a lesbian.

No link between gays and sexual abuse

CHICAGO—According to a study published in the July issue of *Pediatrics*, openly gay and lesbian parents are no more likely than heterosexual parents to sexually abuse children. The study was undertaken in Colorado after an anti-gay group there claimed that openly gay people accounted for 50% of all child sexual abuse. The group had cited the erroneous figure as part of their campaign against gay rights initiatives in Colorado.

Authors of the study say that "no evidence is available from this data that children are at greater risk to be molested by identifiable homosexuals than by other adults."

Other studies of sexual abuse have suggested that 90-97% of all sexual abuse is perpetrated by heterosexual males.

Activists in Maine have faced similar erroneous claims from Concerned Maine Families' spokesperson Carolyn Cosby, who has cited figures claiming that gays perpetrate 97% of child abuse despite information provided by local child welfare service providers that indicate 85% of child abuse in Maine is perpetrated by heterosexual males.

Fla. Citrus Commission dumps Rush

TALLAHASSEE—Denying that criticism influenced its decision, the Florida Citrus Commission has decided not to renew its 6-month, \$1 million contract with right-wing radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh when it expires in mid-August.

The choice of Limbaugh as spokesperson had draw criticism from several arenas including the National Organization for Women, and a recent vote by the National Education Association to boycott if Limbaugh's contract was renewed. The NEA cited Limbaugh's "denigration of women, teachers and minorities" as unacceptable.

NOW Executive Vice President Kim Grandy said that NOW's boycott of Florida orange juice and a letter-writing campaign, "sent a message that hate and intolerance will not be tolerated by thinking consumers."

San Francisco Giants designate game AIDS benefit

SAN FRANCISCO—In the first such gesture by a professional sports team, the San Francisco Giants will donate \$1 from every ticket sold to its July 31 game against the Colorado Rockies to AIDS education and research. The money raised will be distributed among various Bay Area groups. The Until There's a Cure Foundation will also be on hand to raise money through the sale of their bracelets and other items.

The day has been dubbed "Until There's a Cure Day" and the Giants' players will wear an iron-on red ribbon on their uniforms. The first 30,000 attendees will receive a commemorative pin with the AIDS red ribbon encircling the Giants' logo.

Giants' owner Peter Magowan feels that the day is "progressive" and says, "a baseball team is something like a public utility. But to feel like a part of the community it has to reflect and respond to community concerns. AIDS is probably the greatest local concern."

CA appeals court upholds landlord's refusal to rent

SACRAMENTO—In an important case regarding rights of cohabitants, both those able to marry and those unable to do so, a California appeals court recently favored a landlord's right to freely practice her religion over tenants' rights not to be discriminated against in obtaining housing based on their marital status.

The landlord, Evelyn Smith, who held a religious belief that fornication is a sin, refused to rent an apartment to an unmarried straight couple. Smith appealed an administrative agency finding for the couple.

The appeals court found that the California anti-discrimination statute barring discrimination against unmarried persons interfered with Smith's right to freely exercise her religion. The court was highly deferential to Smith's claim that the law burdened her practice of her religion, by making her complicit in the fornication, even though the court made no mention of why Smith believed that the apartment was going to be used for fornication.

Gay men prefer romance, 3 to 1

SAN FRANCISCO—According to a new survey by the Advocate, gay men prefer romance and long-term commitment to sex by a 3-to-1 margin.

In other findings, 71% of gay men believe they can detect other gay men, but only 29% believe that heterosexual men can spot gay men.

Bravo draws fire for "My Private Idaho" edit

NEW YORK—GLAAD has condemned the Bravo cable channel's editing of the film "My Private Idaho" during its recent run. The editing removed all scenes of a gay nature, intimate and otherwise, between a gay character played by the late River Phoenix and a sexually-confused character played by Keanu Reeves.

The editing was even more puzzling because Reeve's character's sexual confusion is a major aspect of the film's plot.

Previously, Bravo has aired "Desert Hearts" a film adaptation of Jane Rule's novel but had substantially cut the lesbian love scene between the two main characters.

The editing follows well-publicized flaps about the missing kiss between two gay men in the season finale of Fox's "Melrose Place" and ABC's unsuccessful attempt to remove a kiss between women from an episode of "Roseanne".

August/September

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

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2

3

4

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EPM Bangor
Mtg.

8
EPM Portland
Mtg.

9

10

11
Matlovich Lawn
Party

14
Mothers and
Kids Group

15
Partners of Parents
EPM Portland
Fundraiser

16

17

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21

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EPM Portland
Mtg.

23

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"Out in Suburbia"

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Portland
Round-Up

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6

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8
Getting the
Story Out

Casino Royale Benefit at PJ's



PHOTO: REBECCA FOSTER

On July 15th, PJ's in Augusta held a casino benefit for Day Spring, an AIDS support group. Event attendees survived hot temperatures to raise over \$200 for the group.

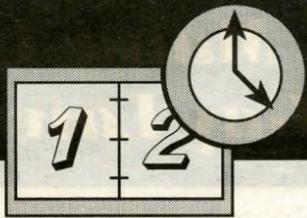
Boogie 2 Shooz



PHOTO: REBECCA FOSTER

The performing group Boogie 2 Shooz made an July appearance at Sisters.

er



Listing of Events

Saturday

6

13

20
MLGPA Mtg.

27

3
Portland
Round-Up

10

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

Equal Protection Lewiston Benefit, Saturday, July 30, 10pm at the Sportsman's Athletic Club, 2 Bates St. Lewiston. Proceeds to retire EPL's debt and for new activities.

Equal Protection Maine meets in Bangor on the first Sunday of every month at the Peace and Justice Center, 359 Main St., Bangor, 2-4pm. For more information write to EPM, PO Box 963, Bangor, ME 04402.

Equal Protection Maine meets in Portland every other Monday at 7:30pm at St. Luke's Cathedral, State St., Portland. This month's meetings are on August 8 and 22. Fundraising Comm. meets August 4 at PROP.

Equal Protection Maine holds a phonebank fundraiser on August 15, 6pm at the PROP offices, 510 Cumberland Ave. For more information call 761-3732 or 774-5444.

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

"Getting the Story Out: The Queer Press in Maine", panel discussion with the editors of *Community Pride*

Reporter, Apex and *10%-Maine's* monthly newspaper for lesbians and gay men on the challenges of serving Maine's lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender community. 7:30pm, September 8 at the Holiday-Inn-by-the-Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Wheelchair accessible and free parking available. Sponsored by the Matlovich Society..

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

Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance meets on the third Saturday of the month in Augusta, call 1-800-55-MLGPA for meeting time and place.

Matlovich Lawn Party at 38 Myrtle St., South Portland, August 11, 7pm. Watch the sunset over Portland Harbor. Grill and games provided, bring something tasty to share. If lost, call 799-8744.

Mothers and Kids Group meets the second Sunday of the month. On August 14 meet from 12:30-3pm at the Maze Craze at the Lunt School, Middle and Lunt Rd., Falmouth. Bring a bag lunch, drinks and cake will be provided. For information, contact Linda Parker, P.O. Box 2255, So. Portland, ME 04116.

"Out in Suburbia: Stories of

Eleven Lesbians", film and discussion, August 25, 7:30pm, Holiday-Inn-by-the-Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Wheelchair accessible and free parking.

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. The group is self-led and meets for discussion. For more information, call 774-5032.

Portland Round-Up 10th Anniversary Celebration, Sept. 2-4 at the Holiday Inn-by-the-Bay, 88 Spring St. Sponsored by Sober Gay and Lesbian Members. For more information write to The Portland Round-Up, P.O. Box 5245, Station A, Portland, ME 04101

Upcoming...
"What's the Status of Diversity in Maine?" The Honorable John Jenkins, Mayor of Lewiston and Chair of the Governor's Commission to Promote the Understanding of Diversity in Maine, discusses the Commission's recommendations. 7:30pm, September 22 at the Holiday Inn-by-the-Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Wheelchair accessible and free parking.

"Love Without Limits" presentation by Dr. Debra Anapol, author of *Love Without Limits: Responsible Non-Monogamy and the Quest for Sustainable Intimate Relationships*. 7-9pm, September 27 at the Gathering, USM Campus Ctr., Bedford St., Portland.

Are you listed?
Send your non-profit
calendar listings to:

10% Enterprises
P.O. Box 11265
Portland, ME
04104

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

Joining Together for Justice

The Third Annual Maine Party

GLAD

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders

in collaboration with

Maine Civil Liberties Union

Sunday, September 11, 1994

Katahdin Restaurant, 106 High St. at Spring St., Portland

\$25.00 minimum donation

For more information, call (207) 774-5444 or (617) 426-1350

August 19th **conga reggae**
HOT! HOT! HOT!
A Night in the Caribbean
 featuring Ms. PJ's
Ileana
salsa
Door Prizes
PJ's Tues - Sat 7pm - 1am, 80 Water St., Augusta 623-4041

Maine Lesbian and Gay Law Association

National legal trends

by Lise Wagner, Esq.
 Contributor

Domestic Partnerships

The State of Vermont has become the first in the nation to extend domestic partnership health and dental benefits to its public employees, through an agreement with the union that represents state workers. To qualify, employees must file affidavits swearing that they are in an "exclusive, enduring domestic relationship of at least six months." New York Governor Mario Cuomo has also announced his intention to extend benefits to same-sex domestic partners of state employees (including employees of the state university system).

In California, the state's Assembly has passed a state-wide domestic partnership bill, becoming the first state legislature to do so. Registration would be accomplished through the Secretary of State's Office. The bill's "benefits" would include requiring health facilities to provide hospital visitation by partners, providing for participation by a partner in conservatorship proceedings, and revising the statutory will form to provide a box that may be checked indicating the testator's desire to leave her/his principle residence or residuary estate to a domestic partner.

The bill has passed the Senate Judiciary Committee and is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee, scheduled for a vote in early August. On the down side, a Minnesota District Court Judge has invalidated Minneapolis' Domestic Partnership Ordinance, asserting that the City Council's actions in enacting the ordinance amounted to an improper attempt to create a new domestic relations status in an area traditionally within the exclusive province of the state legislature. The city has announced that it will appeal the ruling.

Second-Parent Adoption

Wisconsin's Supreme Court has denied a second-parent adoption by a lesbian co-parent, despite a social worker's testimony that it would be in the best interests of the child and the trial court's finding of the same. The court decided that the state's adoption statute does not explicitly allow for second parent adoptions, even where it is clearly in the child's best interests. The court took an unusual step in this case by making it a contested case when there was no one originally in opposition to the adoption. When the state's Attorney General and the U.S. Dept. of Justice refused to weigh in against the women seeking the adoption, it ordered the largest law firm in the state to file a brief in opposition to the mothers' request. Without an actual client, the firm's only job was to give the court reasons not to permit the adoption. Interest of Angel Lace M., 1994 WL 248253 (June 8).

Criminal Law

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, the state's highest criminal court, ruled that a "homosexual advance" does not justify deadly force in "self-defense." Defendant Granville Riddle claims he went to the victim's house to see if he wanted to go out drinking. He found the door unlocked, entered the house, and found the victim "drunk, passed out" in the bedroom. Riddle woke him up, and the victim, Riddle claimed, told him he wanted to have a homosexual relationship with him.

As Riddle got up to leave, the victim grabbed him by the arm, pulled him on top of him, put his lips on Riddle's ear, and put one hand on Riddle's buttocks. Riddle then beat the victim to death with a tire iron, testifying at trial that "the more he hit him the madder he got." The victim was struck in the head at least fifteen times. Riddle was convicted of capital murder and given the death penalty; the trial court refused his request to instruct the jury on self-defense.

The high court agreed with the trial court, stating that the defendant provided no evidence that the victim ever attempted to sexually assault him or harm him. He also did not testify that he could not retreat or tried to but was prevented from doing so. A reasonable person, the court stated, would have retreated without using deadly force. Riddle v. State, 1994 WL 242673 (June 8).

HIV- Discrimination

In one of the first AIDS-related employment claims scheduled for trial, U.S. District Judge Ruben Castillo approved a \$160,000 settlement agreement that was reached after he had refused to dismiss the claim brought by Shawn Smith against his employer, Dovenmuehle Mortgage Co. The settlement also provides for the reinstatement of Smith in the same or an equivalent job to the one he had when he was fired in 1992.

Smith claimed that he told his immediate supervisor that he had AIDS in July 1992 and that she then became distant and hostile to him. Despite the fact that he had been promoted several times, Smith was fired in October, accused by his employer of failing to advise his supervisors of delays on a particular project which resulted in a financial loss for the company. In agreeing to settle on Smith's terms just days short of the scheduled trial, the employer insisted that it was not conceding the correctness of Smith's allegations, characterizing settlement as a "pragmatic business decision" based on the "high costs and inherent risks of protracted litigation." The employer also insisted that it had no knowledge of Smith's disability prior to termination. Smith v. Dovenmuehle Mortgage Co., 1994 WL 270302 (N.D. Ill., June 13).

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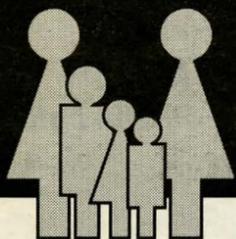
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Mothers & Child

The second trimester and baby makes three

by Maggie Fournier
Contributor

It's probably a wise cosmic plan that we wait months for babies to arrive. There is a great deal of arranging and adjusting that needs to happen before the main event. And let's be clear about it....for all the talk and anxiety about labor and delivery, the baby is the main event.

The months leading up to the birth provide us with an opportunity to accomplish many important tasks. Use this time wisely. After your child's arrival, your lives will change in ways you cannot even contemplate. And you'll be very busy!

In your second trimester, you'll probably be feeling pretty well. The morning sickness will have subsided and people around you will have calmed down regarding the news of your pregnancy. You will have more energy than in any other period of your pregnancy. So, perhaps now is as best a time as any to make some decisions and get on with the work and play of everyday life.

First, consult your health care provider about childbirth education classes. Check to see if you and your partner might observe a class or, at the very least, meet the instructor. This will give you a sense if this is the right class for you. Read about giving birth and discuss your questions and concerns. Remember that your body knows precisely what to do. If you've never really trusted yourself before, you're about to learn a very big lesson. You will give birth regardless of your fears. And even if you never attend a class, you will instinctively know how to give birth because all women do. There is no standard to achieve, no A to earn, no one right way to breathe.

While natural childbirth, i.e., vaginal birth without the intervention of drugs, is safest for the baby, many moms need the comfort of some

Remember that your body knows precisely what to do.

analgesia or may even require a C-Section. Childbirth classes provide a good overview of information and often tend to lessen anxieties. They are a helpful tool, but not a definitive prescription.

Now is a good time to start a search for a pediatrician. Talk to other parents, make a short list, and set up interviews. You need to do this before the baby is born if you plan to deliver in a hospital so that the baby can be examined immediately after

birth. By all means, discuss your lesbianism with the doctor and nurses and only settle for a provider who is non-homophobic, a solid clinician, and someone with whom you both feel comfortable.

Consider plans for childcare. Will one or both of you be taking some time off? How about months later? Daycare, homecare, sitters.....a lot of options to think about and plan for. Begin doing your homework.

Another necessary and fun chore is the making of basic decisions about the nursery and clothes and bathtubs and strollers and car seats and

The months leading up to the birth provide us with an opportunity to accomplish many important tasks. Use this time wisely.

baby monitors and high chairs and backpacks and diapers and port-a-cribs, etc, etc, etc. See, your lives are really going to change. And this stuff is very expensive. Look for sales, yard sales, too! Be creative and frugal and don't get too carried away because this is just the beginning of a major glitch in your budget for years to come.

If you are able, take a vacation. Go somewhere very romantic that doesn't accept kids under twelve. Sleep late and have breakfast in bed. Make love. Spend the whole day in bed for that matter. Read a good novel. Dine with candle light and soft music. Buy something for yourselves.

And try not to talk about the baby.....at least for a few minutes.

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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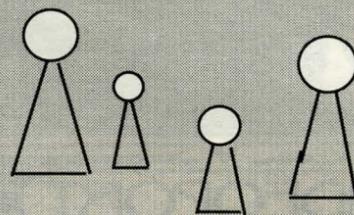
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GWM, 33, graduate student, would like to correspond with others involved in creating their futures. I am looking for friendship, and intelligent conversation. My interests are varied including music, computers, and animal companionship. BOX #7-02

GWM, 25, 5'10", 150 lbs. seeks man in the mid-coast region with sailboat. If you provide the boat, I'll bring the picnic basket. BOX #7-03.

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Radical right

continued from page 1

promoting the homosexual agenda through public policy" and "to elect a majority of...candidates who oppose the homosexual agenda." Once this is accomplished, pro-right lawmakers can work to repeal any pro-gay legislation in existence.

The Project Spotlight documents also lays out a four-phase implementation plan stressing research of candidates' positions and a concerted media effort. The media effort includes the distribution and screening of the radical right film "Gay Rights/Special Rights". In the plan, written for the Cincinnati area, the AFA discusses the sale of 10,000 copies of the video to raise money to purchase air time on local TV stations for the video. In addition, the plan's architects suggest the distribution of "the 62 Homosexual Demands" from the 1993 March on Washington as an education piece.

The conclusion of the plan stresses its inexpensive nature (an estimate of \$5,000 is suggested) and asserts "you control the press and the timing of the project. The homosexuals are powerless to attack or prevent this plan from working."

Other strategies discussed at the May meeting illustrate a more chilling mindset. Tapes of the meeting, secretly obtained by the Institute for First Amendment Studies, reveal several initiatives. The use of electronic bulletin board service was proposed to keep track of "gay activists and officeholders" and to monitor "gay crimes", the media, national and state candidates and corporations. The network could also be used to keep members of the radical right informed of all anti-gay activity.

Another proposal discussed targeting Kinsey's child abuse data and called for an "investigation and cessation of all tax funding sexuality programs until Kinsey's scientific fraud is proven." This fight is being led by Dr. Judith Reisman, a former independent researcher for the American Family Association and relentless critic of Kinsey's sexual research.

In an effort to increase the favored status of the heterosexual marriage and family, the participants discussed legislative and tax changes that would financially reward the heterosexual marriage and the heterosexual family. The stated goal is to pass resolutions in the 50 states "to affirm that the traditional mom and dad family is the superior or ideal model."

Under the heading "legislative and legal ideas", over 50 suggestions for influencing politics and public policy were proposed. The suggestions ranged from promoting grassroots activities, to electing radical right individuals to local school boards, providing a "resource base" to conservative lawyers who will advise and litigate, reintroducing the Hancock Amendment, educating school board members about the "causes" of homosexuality, supporting legislation establishing reporting requirements for people with AIDS, "documenting their spending - document the results of the homosexual lifestyle", maintaining criminal status for homosexual behavior, identifying and recalling judges, surveying current elected officials to "create a friend/enemy list", "developing a legal brief showing the superiority of heterosexual parents and heterosexual behavior for use in child custody cases", and exposing "that homo-

sexuality/prostitution are all criminal [sic]. Homosexuals are the largest consumers of pornography. Hound-Hound-Hound...Drive it home!!![sic]."

The techniques and strategies proposed appeared to be calculated to create and determine the coverage and character of any fight for gay rights. Statements expressed at the meeting hammer on the message of "special rights" vs. equal rights, promiscuous behavior vs. loving gay and lesbian relationships and even discuss the use of the word "heterophobic" to combat any characterization of the radical right as bigoted or homophobic. The effectiveness of repetitive and uniform characterizations of "the gay agenda" are emphasized by repeated references to educating in all sectors of society and the phrase "hound! hound! hound! Drive it home!"

The organizers of this effort have substantial resources to draw on. Focus on the Family is considered to be the best-funded national radical right group with 1,200 workers and an annual budget of \$150 million. Another participant, the Christian Coalition is headed by 700 Club and Family Channel head, Pat Robertson whose national empire has been credited with the recent victory of Republican candidate for Senate Oliver North and the takeover of the Texas Republican party by radical right factions.

Attendance lists for the May meeting obtained by Equal Protection Maine did reveal any Maine-based radical right members. (See table below for some of the most famous attendees.)

Meeting Participants

Among those representing the 35 radical right organizations at the meeting were the following individuals:

Will Perkins - Colorado for Family Values.

Robert Skolrood - Executive Director of the National Legal Foundation, a group that headed the legal defense for Colorado's Amendment 2.

John Eldredge - Focus on the Family, the best funded radical right group.

Dr. Paul Cameron - Head of the Family Research Institute, a Washington D.C.-based organization. His proposals include stamping the foreheads of individuals with HIV and having gays castrated. He was expelled from the American Psy-

chological Association for violations of its code of ethics.

Peter LaBarbera - formerly of the Washington Times, now edits the deceptively-named "Lambda Report" which has featured an interview with Carolyn Cosby. The report is published by the producers of "The Gay Agenda" reportedly distributed to 80,000 individuals.

Col. Ronald Ray - served as First Deputy Assistant Secretary of State under Ronald Reagan.

Gene Burress - president of the Brevard County American Family Association.

Patricia Huston - a member of Warriors not Wimps for Jesus, an Albuquerque, New Mexico group.

Loretta Neet - Communications director for the Oregon's Citizen's Alliance, the primary sponsor of several anti-gay local initiatives in Oregon.

Mike Gabbard - President of Stop Promoting Homosexuality Hawaii, a group opposing same-sex marriage initiatives.

Darlene Cornfield - A Kansas Legislator who has said that God put her into office. Author of an anti-gay bill in Kansas.

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