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10%

Maine's monthly newspaper for lesbians & gay men

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 2
MARCH 1994

Gay rights, federally-approved?

Congress and the Department of Justice have been making small, yet important strides on the civil rights of lesbians and gays.

for complete details, turn to page 5

Blade senior editor keynotes MLGPA dinner

by Terri Jones
Editor

AUGUSTA—Lisa Keen, Senior Editor of *The Washington Blade* will be the keynote speaker at the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance's Annual Banquet and Award Dinner being held March 5 at the Atrium in Brunswick. Keen has worked for the *Blade* since 1979 and has been senior editor since 1983.

Keen's work has been on the forefront of the major issues confronting the lesbian and gay community. In 1983, she co-authored a series on the response to the AIDS epidemic. Keen's most recent work has focused on Congress and the courts as well as state referenda and initiatives. Each year, she has prepared comprehensive reports on all lesbian/gay-related and AIDS-related cases that have reached the Supreme Court. Since 1974, she has tracked more 50 initiatives like Colorado's Amendment 2.

continued on page 4

Civil suit turns into gay issue

by Laura Smith
Contributor

LEWISTON—How homophobic is Lewiston, Maine?

Homophobic enough that *Newsweek* spotlighted the city of Lewiston in a recent article in their Lifestyle section entitled "Homophobia" (February 14, 1994).

Homophobic enough that it took three attempts to find enough jurors who felt they could make an unbiased decision about a man's personal injury civil suit knowing that he was gay.

Richard E. Robichaud, 36, a native of Lewiston, filed suit against Robert Goddard and The Shelter Group, Inc, in August 1991 for injuries he claims he sustained when a snow plow operated by Goddard collided with his car in December 1989.

In November 1993, when jury selection was first attempted, not enough potential jurors could be seated because the majority of the jury pool had answered "no" on a questionnaire that asked:

"Could you be objective and impartial considering evidence in a case in which one party is homosexual?"

Only 21 out of a total of 43 potential jurors were left.

Again, in January of this year, only 25 out of 63 potential jurors were left after the questionnaire was completed. Because of other factors which can eliminate prospective jurors, this did not leave enough potential jurors to select a jury.

The questionnaire was subsequently thrown out by Justice Donald G. Alexander and the issue was instead addressed during jury examination when Alexander asked 72 prospective jurors the question directly. Only 4 men stood up and said they wouldn't be able to be objective.

"I was humiliated and upset", said Robichaud who couldn't believe there were not enough jurors.

What started as a civil lawsuit for Robichaud quickly became politicized as a "gay issue" when the February 8th *Lewiston Sun-Journal* "outed" him in his hometown just weeks before the trial was scheduled to begin.

"They [*Sun-Journal*] never once tried to talk to me before they printed the article", claims Robichaud.

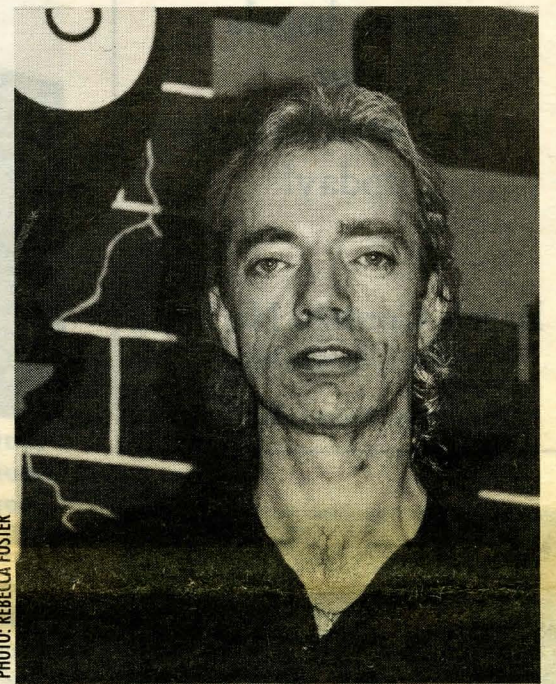


PHOTO: REBECCA FOSTER

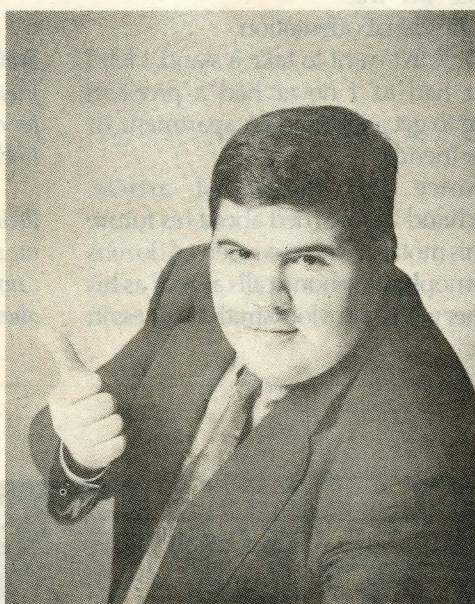
Outed by paper before trial started

Just like Andrew Beckett, Tom Hanks' character in *Philadelphia*, Robichaud doesn't understand why the fact that he is gay should have anything to do with his case.

"The case should be judged on the basis of the evidence", he stated. He also

continued on page 2

Comedian Chuck Roy to perform at benefit event for Maine Pride's Stonewall25 project



Once upon a time... a 310-pound comedian felt that after the Comedy Channel, Carolyn's Comedy Shop and better comedy spots, it was time to come out of the Comedy Closet, just for Pride! Chuck Roy will be performing on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, at DiMillo's, along with guitarist Kim Volk, poet Kevin McLellan, and guitarist Steve Gerlach. See calendar section on pages 6 and 7 for more information.

New Hampshire House passes gay rights bill, faces possible veto by governor

by Tyler White
Editor

CONCORD—New Hampshire is closer to being another New England state which would provide civil rights protection for lesbians and gays.

The largely Republican state House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a bill which would add sexual orientation to the list of groups protected in employment, public accommodation and housing. The bill is also expected to pass the state Senate.

Key to the passage of the bill may be the "disclaimer" attached to it which states adding civil rights protection for lesbians and gays is not necessarily an endorsement of their "lifestyle". Governor Stephen Merrill has voiced

The state of Washington is moving in the opposite direction of New Hampshire. See page 9 for details.

opposition to the bill both to lawmakers at a Republican caucus before the current session, as well as to reporters, to whom he told he would veto the bill. Some reports have Governor Merrill in favor of the bill because of the disclaimer.

Merrill feels the current anti-discrimination law already protects gays and lesbians, and thus the proposed legislation is unnecessary. Some members of the House were more pointed in their opposition, stating

continued on page 5



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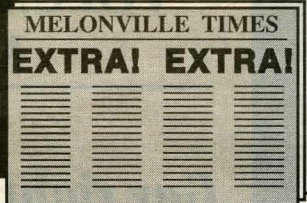
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Wednesdays are Country Dance Nights!
 Co-owner Anne teaches Country dancing every Wednesday night.
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 623-4041



Headliner

Lewiston man can't get fair trial after being "outed" by Lewiston Sun-Journal

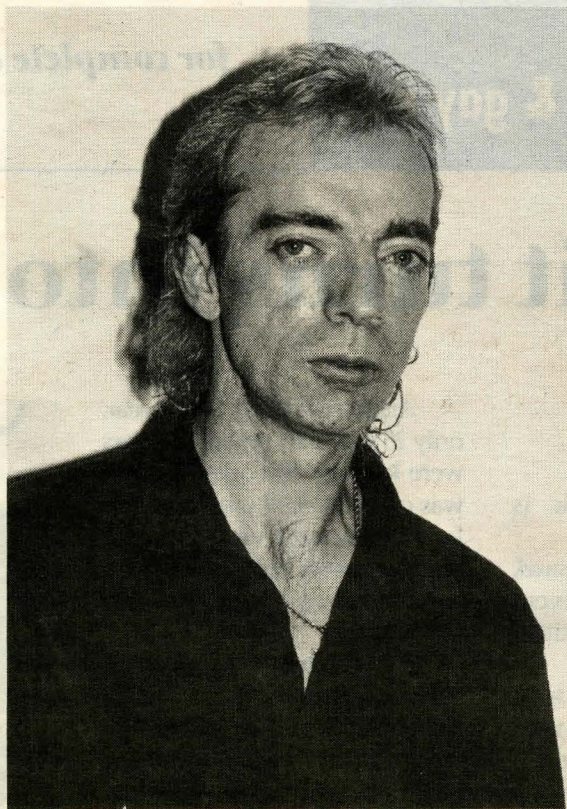


PHOTO: REBECCA FOSTER

"[but] they [the trial proceedings] made me sound like I am sick, depressed and queer...now I'm ready to stand up for myself and talk about my experiences."

expressed concern with what he felt to be a lack of sensitivity on the part of his lawyer, Julian Sweet of Bermon & Simons in Lewiston. Sweet was quoted in the *Sun-Journal* article saying that Robichaud's homosexuality was "better addressed as part of jury selection than to let it come out at trial."

The trial began on February 16th. Robichaud feels that the defense attorney, Stephen Grygel, during cross-examination has tried to use his sexual orientation, past therapy treatment and the fact that he was sexually abused as child to portray him as "the bad guy."

"He tried to portray me as someone with psychological problems... implying that gay people are sick."

Robichaud feels that the *Sun-Journal's* February 8th article was biased and unfair.

"They didn't print that I had major surgery on my neck as a result of the injuries I sustained [in the accident] but they did print that I'm a homosexual."

"They [*Sun-Journal*] are targeting me

because I'm gay...They're using me as a pawn to further their agenda against homosexuals."

Robichaud, the son of a former fabrics mill worker and a Franco-American, seems to be caught in the middle of an ongoing battle in a town confronted and torn apart by gay rights issues.

With the overturning of Lewiston's anti-discrimination bill by nearly 2-1, and the national attention the predominantly blue-collar mill town has received, it seems likely that any known or perceived gay or lesbian could face attack.

"There's been a lot of problems in this town. There is a lot of homophobia...broken windshields...slashed tires...people getting beat up", says Robichaud.

"I'm proud to be gay", he says, "but I'm not proud to be a resident of Lewiston, Maine right now."

"I feel like the EPL poster child", stated

Robichaud with little mirth, referring to the organization Equal Protection Lewiston, which struggled against right-wing conservatives to uphold Lewiston's ordinance banning discrimination against people on the basis of sexual orientation.

"I didn't want to take a stand, I felt I never had to. I never had a problem trying to get a job, find an apartment, or make friends."

Since the *Sun-Journal* article, Robichaud has worried about his future and his mother, who has received dozens of homophobic phone calls as well as his brother who owns a locksmith business in town.

"Friends who didn't know I am gay have expressed support", says Robichaud, "One guy who I've done work with at a music studio said he couldn't believe they [*Sun-Journal*] would print that I am gay...He said he would pray for me".

"My mom has been very supportive," says Robichaud. Mrs. Cecile Robichaud says "God is with her son and God knows the truth [about the case] and it's going to be okay." The 69-year old woman has spent each day in court with her son during the trial.

Robichaud would just like to be compensated for the pain and suffering he has gone through since the accident. Because of the accident, he has been disabled and was living just on social security until only recently when a federal judge awarded him disability dating back to time of the accident.

"What I'd really like is my health back the way it was before."

Haven't I suffered enough...Why did they have to make this a gay issue...?"

Richard Robichaud's case was decided on Friday, February 18th. The jury found in his favor and awarded him \$35,000 in damages. After he pays his medical bills and his attorney, he will be left with less than \$2,000.

"There's been a lot of problems in this town. There is a lot of homophobia... broken windshields, slashed tires, people getting beat up... I'm proud to be gay, but I'm not proud to be a resident of Lewiston, Maine right now." -Richard Robichaud

When contacted about the decision on Friday night, Robichaud seemed weary and frustrated. "The award contained no amounts for either pain and suffering or lost wages... it [the decision] makes no sense to me."

"I was never political," Robichaud reflected, "[but] they [the trial proceedings] made me sound like I am sick, depressed and queer...now I'm ready to stand up for myself and talk about my experiences."

Dykes To Watch Out For



!?!?

Editorial & Comment

Cosby is still fighting, are we fighting back?

Carolyn Cosby failed in her attempt to get her ordinance-busting, hate-mongering referendum question on the ballot for this fall.

Big deal.

Take off the party hats and stop gloating, because Cosby is hardly finished.

Even though many here in Maine perceive her to be yet another wing-nut from the Far Right—one who probably couldn't muster the support of even her family dog—people outside the state apparently think otherwise.

Concerned Maine Families (Cosby's vehicle) is telling its members in mailings that their group has received support from "nationally recognized leaders". These leaders of the Far Right believe "Maine could well be the state that **should** go all the way to the Supreme Court." CMF also claims "Maine's petition language was carefully drafted by some of our nation's best Constitutional lawyers."

Despite the Maine Bureau of Elections' uncertainty, Cosby and CMF also tell their members that the signatures they collected are good until late-August 1994, and getting the remaining signatures by then puts her question on the ballot in 1995.

What else? Cosby states in her mailings that local politicians: "Brennan, Andrews, and all the pro-gay politicians have been strangely silent since Lewiston... This is no time to back away from our campaign."

We aren't dealing with Miss Cosby and her minor league scrubs anymore. Gays and lesbians in Maine are now battling against big league pitching. People like Lon Mabon, architect of Oregon's many statewide and local initiatives condemning homosexuality, have packaged their successful techniques and promote them around the country to groups like Concerned Maine Families.

Cosby and CMF appears to know about election laws, too. And she's making rumblings of lobbying politicians.

It sounds to us like she's picked up more than a few clues, and even worse, she knows what to do with them.

The message for Maine's lesbian and gay community is this: Concerned Maine Families is a determined group that may be receiving help from national groups to defeat any gay rights initiatives in Maine. After Lewiston, they feel they can beat us at the ballot box. They are organized into chapters and are in our towns and schools, targeting everything from condom distribution and sex education efforts in our schools to gay rights ordinances.

Are you content with **their** portrayal of **your** life? If the answer is no, it's time for **all of us** to do something about it. The light is at the end of the tunnel—we need to make sure it's ours and not hers.

Strategizing for 1995

Guest Commentary by Karen Geraghty, Patricia Peard, Jessica Maurer

From February 4-6, we attended a conference in Washington, D.C. sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund. The Victory Fund was established in 1991 to support openly gay and lesbian candidates running for public office. The "support" comes in the form of a Political Resource Directory, a Candidate Training Institute and financial aid. Because of their experience in electoral politics, the Victory Fund invited representatives from each of the 11 states facing anti-gay ballot measures in 1994 to come to their first Training Institute for Initiative/Referendum Campaigns. (Initiative means initiating from the voters, referendum means referred from legislature.) The other states sending representatives were Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon and Washington.

We found out four days before we left for the campaign training that Concerned Maine Families was unable to gather enough signatures for a 1994 ballot measure. In that respect, Maine was at an advantage over other states. The deadline for signature gathering in one state was May, and in another it was August. That leaves them little time to prepare for a November vote. They operate at all times as though they are having an initiative or referendum. The campaigns for the other states are in full progress.

The Extreme Right

Have you ever asked yourself who is the extreme right and what do they want? Well, if you looked at Oregon, where the extreme right has been organized since 1987 under the name of the Oregon Citizens' Alliance (OCA), you can find some of the answers. In 1988, the OCA sponsored Ballot Measure 8, which successfully moved voters to rescind a governor's order that banned discrimination based on sexual orientation in public employment. In 1990, the OCA sponsored an anti-choice ballot measure which would have outlawed abortion in Oregon. It was defeated. By the 1990, the OCA co-chair ran for governor as a "spoiler" candidate to take votes away from the Republican candidate, who was pro-choice.

The OCA has also used city charter amendments to pursue their agenda. In 1992, it sponsored a ballot measure to amend the Corvallis city charter to legalize discrimination against homosexuals. That measure went down to defeat. The same year, another OCA-backed ballot measure successfully persuaded voters in Springfield to amend their charter to legalize discrimination against homosexuals.

Ballot Measure 9, another 1992 OCA activity, would have mandated statewide discrimination against lesbians, gays and bisexuals but was defeated. This defeat has not discouraged the OCA, which is currently sponsoring similar anti-gay ballot measures in 30 of 46 Oregon counties.

There is an OCA-type organization in each of the states facing anti-gay ballot measures this year. In fact, in Nevada, the initiative is referred to as the "Oregon Initiative" because the person who signed out the petitions from the Secretary of State has only been a citizen of Nevada for nine months. Their former place of residence was ... you guessed it - Oregon. These ballot measures have little to do with gay rights or sexual orientation. They have much more to do with the ability of the extreme right to feel politically powerful and to use that power to gather support for a voucher system, the "English only" curriculum, opposing sex education and condom distribution in the schools, the teaching of creationism, and advocating prayer in public schools. The extreme right supports many "stealth" candidates such as Oliver North in Virginia or a local school board seat. In the area of economic justice, the extreme right is anti-welfare, anti-immigration and anti-multiculturalism. They oppose the environmental movement. They advocate censorship of books, television, and records. The extreme right opposes abortion and funding for AIDS research and treatment. This year in Oregon voters will be deciding on more than a dozen ballot measures from anti-gay initiatives to anti-tax initiatives and everything in between.

The Extreme Right in Maine

As Maine citizens, we would like to believe that we've been given a reprieve of some sort. The truth is we are under attack whether we know it or not. We have already identified one "stealth" candidate. Paul Madore, who led the opposition in Lewiston to overturn the Human Rights Ordinance, is now seeking a seat in the Maine Senate. The Christian Civic League is hard at work identifying and supporting candidates who will not vote for the lesbian/gay civil rights bill next year. The two legislators who worked hardest to pass the bill this year, Susan Farnsworth (an openly lesbian representative) and Gerry Conley, will not be seeking re-election. Carolyn Cosby of Concerned Maine Families is still busy collecting signatures and vows to put the anti-gay referendum on the ballot in 1995. In a recent letter to her supporters, she stated that she is receiving advice and support from nationally-recognized leaders in the extreme right.

continued on page 10

10%

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National News



continued from page 1

Gay rights bill passed by wide margin in New Hampshire House

that adding lesbians and gays to the state civil rights laws violates the rights of those who oppose homosexuality on moral and religious grounds.

James Rivers, Merrill's spokesman, said the governor hasn't made a decision to veto yet, and that the Merrill would like to work out a compromise with the Senate.

Federal government breaks new ground in gay rights

WASHINGTON—Two recent actions by the federal government show progress in the area of gay rights on a national level.

The earthquake assistance package, signed into law by President Clinton after passage in Congress, bans discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in distribution of emergency aid. It was the first time Congress added sexual orientation to the list of protected groups.

Most agree the wording is a slight yet important change in civil rights law, but Rep. Julian Dixon (D-Calif.) suggested that "it sets a precedence for any other disaster of this type... this was general non-discrimination language." Constitutional scholars feel the mention of sexual orientation is significant ground gained.

There has been another 'first' for the federal government in the area of civil rights protections. U.S. Department of Justice civil rights mediators have been sent to Overt, Mississippi, to attempt to quell a dispute between two lesbians and the citizens of the town in which they live. This is the first time the DOJ has sought to mediate a dispute involving harassment on the basis of sexual orientation.

Camp Sister Spirit, a feminist retreat offering weekend courses on human rights, has come under fire since last July from town residents. Among the threats to the women's safety have been bomb threats, gunshots, and explosions. Harassment in the form of crank calls and a dead female dog hung from their mailbox has also been prevalent.

Gay/lesbian topics removed from NYC's Rainbow curriculum

NEW YORK—New York City Board of Education's *Children of the Rainbow* teaching guide has been revised to omit virtually all references to gay and lesbian parents.

The new version of the curriculum no longer recommends that

Community mourns passing of AIDS awareness pioneers

Randy Shilts,
journalist, author

SAN FRANCISCO—Randy Shilts, journalist and author of several books, died of AIDS on February 16 or 17 at his Sonoma County home.

Shilts is probably best known for his 1987 best-seller *And the Band Played On: People, Politics and the AIDS Epidemic*, a comprehensive history of AIDS/HIV and the negligence of the government and medical community early on. In the book he pulled no punches, as some parts of the gay community were criticized as much as the Reagan Administration. HBO recently adapted the book for television.

Other works by Shilts include *Mayor of Castro Street: The Life and Times of Harvey Milk*, and *Conduct Unbecoming: Gays and Lesbians in the U.S. Military*.

Hired by the *San Francisco Chronicle* in 1981, Shilts covered the outbreak of AIDS full-time for the paper, long before most others had even heard of the disease. He was most respected for the impartiality he brought to his work—many felt he couldn't give fair coverage to the AIDS issue because he was gay.

The memorial service on Tuesday, February 22, was well-attended, with over 1,200 people filling the aisles and 1,500 more outside the church listening to the service on

loudspeakers.

Outside the church, followers of Rev. Fred Phelps, minister of a Baptist church in Topeka, Kan., protested with signs reading "Shilts in Hell", but quickly dispersed after being pelted with eggs and fruit by people in the crowd of mourners outside the church.

Dr. Bruce Voeller,
activist, researcher

LOS ANGELES—Dr. Bruce Voeller, 59, founder of the National Gay Task Force, died on February 13 at his home in California of AIDS. He had a long history of working on gay civil rights, and most recently on research aimed at preventing the spread of HIV.

Voeller was the man credited with creation of the acronym 'AIDS'. He felt that AIDS was more fitting than its predecessor, 'GRID' (gay-related immune disorder), for the disease was not something exclusive to gays.

His research with the Center for Disease Control substantiated the claims that nonoxynol-9 was effective in killing HIV before it could infect somebody. These findings were part of a groundbreaking study which tested spermicides' ability to stop the spread of sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV and gonorrhea.

same-sex parents should be mentioned in the discussion of alternative families. The original release suggested that children should read books such as *Heather Has Two Mommies* and *Gloria Goes To Gay Pride*.

When the curriculum was proposed two years ago, the controversy surrounding the issue of lesbian/gay parents in the curriculum brought about the dismissal of the chancellor of the Board of Education. He was a strong supporter of the original curriculum.

The review copies of *Children of the Rainbow* will be distributed soon.

Study shows AZT protects babies from mothers' HIV

WASHINGTON—AZT has been shown in a recent study to protect unborn babies from their mother's HIV infection. The chance of contracting the virus from the mother has been reduced by two-thirds.

Officials at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases said that a "long-term follow-up of all the children born to mothers in this study is essential to learn more about the risks and benefits of the treatment beyond these encouraging early results." The study was con-

ducted in conjunction with a French medical research institute.

Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services was also optimistic about the study's results.

Virginia lesbian mother's custody case appealed

RICHMOND, Va.—The lawyer for a Sharon Bottoms, the lesbian mother who lost custody of her young son in September, appealed the county circuit court's ruling. Donald Butler's basis for appeal lies in the belief that the legal precedent used by the judge is outdated.

"What it comes down to is... whether the new evidence about sociological impact would be enough to persuade the court to overrule," Butler stated, in reference to recent studies showing no adverse affects for children living with openly gay parents.

Custody of Sharon Bottoms' two-year-old son, Tyler Doustou, was awarded to Sharon's mother, Kay. Tyler's mother has visitation rights, but only away from her own home and without her partner's presence.

The appeals court is expected to make a ruling in no more than six months, yet Kay Bottoms' attorney

believes it will go the state Supreme Court.

Virginia, along with Missouri, is the only other state that has stated homosexuality is grounds for labeling a parent unfit.

Scientist seeks to avoid abuse of 'gay gene' knowledge

SAN FRANCISCO—The government scientist who discovered a possible genetic pattern that points to homosexuality stated he would do everything in his power to prevent abuses of this information.

At the national meeting for the American Association for the Advancement of Science, on Monday, February 21, Dr. Dean Hamer of the National Cancer Institute broadened the scope of his findings to include other human attributes.

"There will be genes found for other characteristics. I'm worried about the possibilities," Hamer said. Those possibilities include aborting babies with characteristics undesirable to its parents, or the attempt to eliminate gays through genetic engineering. Throughout history there have been similar efforts, such as trying to eradicate mental illness or criminal behavior through prohibiting certain individuals from reproducing.

Hamer stressed that a genetic test for the pattern he discovered wouldn't necessarily indicate homosexuality, for his research has indicated that genes comprise only half of sexual orientation. Regardless, Hamer said if his research yields more concrete conclusions, he may patent the information to prevent it from being used for social purposes.

NGLTF pressures Clinton for health plan changes

WASHINGTON—The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has cited inequities in President Clinton's proposed health plan and thus has asked for changes.

The Task Force takes issue with the plan's definition of family as a married couple or a single parent with children. In an example, the NGLTF said a gay parents of a child could potentially pay \$1,500 more in deductibles than a similar family with different-sex parents.

The White House has said that the family definition would follow state laws, and discrimination against a patient based on health status is illegal, and consequently it would also be illegal to refuse to cover gays and lesbians.

March/April

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Equal Protection
Maine/Portland
meeting

28

1

2

3

4

Bangor Pride
meeting

6

7

8

9

Matlovich Society:
Rita Kissen

10

Night at the races

11

NLN Monthly
Meeting

13

Military ban & courts
Stonewall 25/Pride '94

14

15

16

Chuck Roy

17

18

ME Gay Men's
Chorus:
Farmington

20

Time Out
Spring Planning

21

Legal needs of gay &
lesbian couples

22

23

24

25

27

28

29

30

Great Chef
Auction

31

APRIL 1

3

4

5

6

7

8

An Illustrated Lecture on Transgender History



PHOTO: REBECCA FOSTER

Leslie Feinberg, author of *Stone Butch Blues*, gave a lecture at the February 10th meeting of the Matlovich Society. Feinberg used a slide show and her personal experiences to detail the history of transgenderism.

Ms. Lesbian Underground 1994

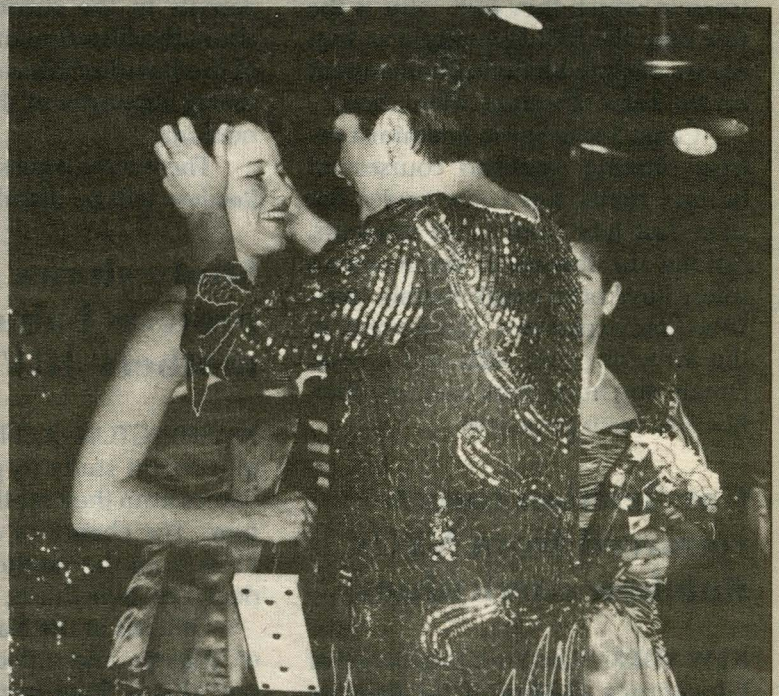
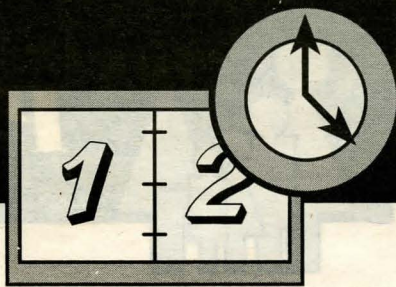


PHOTO: REBECCA FOSTER

Wendy Richards is crowned Ms. Lesbian Underground 1994. The February 6th competition included talent, sportswear and evening dress.



Listing of Events

Saturday

5
MLGPA
Annual Dinner

12

19
St. Patrick's Day party

MLGPA monthly
meeting

Spring for Life

26
Night out playing pool

ME Gay Men's Chorus:
Portland

2
Easter Party/
Midnight Breakfast

9
Lesbian health
conference

Bangor Pride will have an organizational meeting on Sunday, March 6 at 2:00 p.m., to plan the Bangor Pride parade and rally. The events are scheduled for Saturday, July 9. For more information, contact Malcolm Smith at PO Box 624, Orono ME, 04473, or call 866-4320.

Chuck Roy, a comedian who has appeared on the Comedy Channel, Carolyn's Comedy Shop, and other places, will be at DiMillo's in Portland. The performance benefits Maine Pride's Stonewall 25 project. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 17. Special menu, cash bar, and cabaret seating will be available. Also appearing will be guitarist Kim Volk, poet Kevin McLellan, and guitarist Steve Gerlach. Tickets are \$10 in advance from Drop Me A Line or Condom Sense, or \$12 at the door. Call 871-9940 for more information.

Easter Party & Midnight Breakfast with Northern Lambda Nord. Saturday, April 2. Call the Phonenumber for more information: 498-2088 (voice/TTY).

Equal Protection Maine/Portland will hold a meeting on Monday, February 28 at 7:00 p.m., at which Pat Peard, Karen Geraghty and Jessica Maurer will report on the Victory Fund's 'how to Fight the Right' conference recently held in Washington, DC. According to the conference, Maine is the targeted state in the Northeast for the organizing of The Right. The meeting will be at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 143 State Street, Portland. For more information, call 879-1342 between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Snow date for meeting is Monday, March 7.

Great Chef Auction takes place on Thursday, March 31 at the Holiday Inn By the Bay at 88 Spring Street in Portland. Sample your favorite restaurant's cuisine and be the highest bidder for a meal served to you and three of your friends. As the highest bidder, you and your friends will be provided with a delectable culinary delight prepared and served in your home by the restaurant's very own chef. All proceeds will benefit the AIDS Lodging House of Portland. Auctioneers will be Portland Police Chief Michael Chitwood and NewsCenter 6Alive anchor Diane Atwood. The auction will take place from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. There will be hor'derves and a silent auction featuring gift certificates from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Call 874-1000 for more information.

Legal needs of gay and lesbian couples will be presented in a panel discussion. Every-day legal issues which should be of concern to same-

sex and unmarried couples, including public housing, mortgages, leases, wills, and powers of attorney. Panelists will include William Sandstead, Esq., of Farnsworth & Associates of Hallowell, and Alyson Cummings, Esq., of the Maine State Housing Authority. Tuesday, March 22, 7:00 p.m., at UMaine School of Law, 246 Deering Avenue, Portland. Sponsored by UMaine School of Law Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Law Caucus. For more information, call 761-2413.

Lesbian Health Conference to be put on by Mabel Wadsworth Womens' Health Center at the Airport Marriott Hotel in Bangor. Saturday, April 9, all day long. The conference will provide information about lesbians' health and health care from a variety of perspectives. For more information, call 947-5337.

Maine Gay Men's Chorus is pleased to announce that it will be performing two shows for its Spring Concert Season. Sunday, March 20 at 3:00 p.m., at UMaine/Farmington's Nordica Hall. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$8 students, both available at the door. Saturday, March 26 at 8:00 p.m., at the First Parish Church in Portland. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Available at Drop Me A Line, chorus members, or by Visa/MasterCard at 774-1112. For more information, call 774-1112.

Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance's eighth annual dinner will be held on Saturday, March 5. Cocktails at 5:00 p.m., buffet dinner at 6:00 p.m., followed by Lisa Keen, senior editor of *The Washington Blade*. Dancing at 9:30 p.m. Information for non-members is available from Ms. Judy Edgerly at 626-9509.

Military ban on homosexuality and the courts will be the topic of a panel discussion sponsored by the UMaine School of Law Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Law Caucus. Topics to be covered include old and new military policies on sexual orientation, with a focus on recent court cases and anticipated future constitutional challenges. Panelists will include Mary Bonauto, Esq., of Boston's Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAAD), and Professor Merle Loper of the UM School of Law. Monday, March 14, 7:00 p.m., at UMaine School of Law, 246 Deering Avenue, Portland, Middle Classroom. For more information, call 761-2413.

Monthly meeting for MLGPA is held in Augusta on the third Saturday of every month (March 19) from noon to 3:00 p.m. MLGPA is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the general public, politicians, and the media concerning les-

bian and gay issues. Your participation is welcomed. Call (800) 55-MLGPA for meeting place.

Night at the races! Join Northern Lambda Nord for a night at the off-track-betting parlor at CHAMPS Grill and Bar on State Street in Presque Isle. Starts at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 11. Call 498-2088 (voice/TTY) for more information.

Night Out Playing Pool with Northern Lambda Nord, at Wizard's Pool Hall, Main Street, Presque Isle, next to the Northeastland Hotel. Saturday, March 26. Call the Phonenumber for more information: 498-2088 (voice/TTY).

Northern Lambda Nord's monthly meeting will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 13. Join NLN at the Lions Community Center on High Street in Caribou, across from Shop & Save.

Rita Kissen, Professor of Education at USM, will discuss her interviews with classroom teachers from all over the country. **Voices from the Glass Closet: Lesbians and Gay Teachers Talk About Their Lives.** Matlovich Society, Thursday, March 10, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland. Free hotel parking, fully accessible.

Spring For Life Art Auction, to benefit The AIDS Project, will be held at the State Theatre in Portland on Saturday, March 19th. Public preview of art from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., free of charge. Doors re-open at 5:00 p.m., \$5 general admission (includes bidder number), tickets may be purchased at the door. An artists' reception will be held from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Portland Museum of Art, tickets are \$20 (includes admission to auction). Auction begins at 8:00 p.m.

St. Patrick's/First-Day-of-Spring Party & BBQ put on by Northern Lambda Nord, Saturday, March 19. Location needed! Call the Phonenumber for more information: 498-2088 (voice/TTY).

Stonewall 25/Pride '94 Portland committee meets at Ferrante's, 30 Exchange Street (second floor), Portland, on Monday, March 14, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Call 871-9940 for more information.

Time Out Spring Planning and Events meeting will be held on Monday, March 21, in the Board Room at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland. The Ogunquit International Bike Ride in July will be discussed. All are welcome—call 871-9940 for more information.

Do you have
any events you
would like to list
on this page?

If you would like your non-profit event or activity listed, send us the time, date, place, phone number and a brief description of the event or activity by the 20th of the month.

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Maine Lesbian & Gay Law Association

National legal trends

by Will Sandstead, Esq.
Contributor

State Referenda on Gay Rights

In Washington State, two citizen groups are seeking signatures to get anti-gay measures on this November's ballot. First, the "Washington Committee for Equal Rights, Not Special Rights" is soliciting signatures for their "Equal Rights, Not Special Rights Act." Their proposed measure would prevent the enforcement of laws which protect lesbians and gays from discrimination, ban the extension of benefits to gay and lesbian domestic partners, and forbid schools from "presenting homosexuality as positive behavior." Second, the "Citizens' Alliance of Washington," an offshoot of the Oregon group, is pushing for the "Minority Status and Child Protection Act," which would do everything covered by the "Equal Rights" Act. In addition, it would prohibit same-sex marriages and prevent gays and lesbians from having custody of children, including their own biological children.

The City Council of Springfield, Missouri, has placed a question on its November ballot regarding whether to retain a bias crime law that was enacted in October. The law includes a provision providing protection from anti-gay violence.

Domestic Partnership

The Boston City Council passed the Family Registration Act, which allows same-sex couples to register as domestic partners. Registered domestic partners will be recognized as family members and will be entitled to a variety of non-economic benefits (but no economic benefits).

In Minneapolis, a city taxpayer named James A. Lilly has filed suit against the City asserting that the City exceeded its authority by granting health care benefits to domestic partners of gay and lesbian city employees.

The Chicago City Council has voted to pass a law that extends the City's three-day funeral leave benefit to cover domestic partners of city employees.

Georgia Attorney General Michael Bowers issued an opinion on December 10, which asserts that the City of Atlanta overstepped its authority when it adopted a domestic partnership plan. The plan is currently being attacked in a taxpayer's suit, and the A.G.'s opinion places the validity of the plan into question.

AIDS-Related Issues

In New York, a law firm, Baker & McKenzie, was ordered to pay \$500,000 to the Estate of Geoffrey Bowers in damages for terminating his employment as a staff attorney because of his HIV+ status. The New York State Division of Human Rights rejected the law firm's claims that Bowers was fired due to his poor performance and that it was not aware of Bowers' HIV status. The firm announced that it would appeal the order to the NY state court system. See *BNA Daily Labor Report* No. 7, 1/11/94, p. A-10.

The Illinois Supreme Court unani-

mously rejected a constitutional challenge to the state's statute making it a crime to knowingly transmit HIV through sexual contact. The Court held that the law does not infringe on the rights of free speech or free association. Further, it rejected claims that the law was unconstitutional vague. (The law does not explicitly state whether it is enough to knowingly engage in unsafe sexual contact while HIV+ or whether actual transmission of HIV is necessary in order for a crime to be committed.) *People v. Russell*, 1994 WL 12502 (Jan. 20).

In Louisiana, a criminal defendant was convicted twice for intentionally exposing his girlfriend to HIV. He was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment at hard labor. The girlfriend tested positive for HIV. *State v. Gamberella*, 1993 WL 539590 (Dec. 29).

Miscellaneous Topics

The U.S. Supreme Court is considering a suit brought by a transsexual federal prisoner. The prisoner is asserting the 8th Amendment was violated when prison officials placed her in the general male section of the prison, where she was allegedly assaulted and raped. The 8th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits the infliction of "cruel and unusual punishments." The prisoner argued that prison officials should have known that she would have been in danger due to her appearance, and therefore, should have taken steps to protect her. The name of the case is *Farmerv. Brennan*, No. 92-7247.

A settlement has received preliminary approval in the discrimination suit brought by Frank Buittino against the FBI. Buittino claims that he was discharged from the FBI after being an agent for twenty years because he is gay. The Agency has agreed to pay \$205,000 in damages to Buittino and will let him redeposit \$53,000 in the federal retirement plan. In December, U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno announced that the FBI would be ending its anti-gay policies.

The Iowa Supreme Court has upheld the constitutionality of the state's hate crime law, which covers sexual orientation. *State v. McKnight*, 1994 WL 14395 (Jan. 19).

A school board in Huntington Beach, California, has rejected an attempt by conservative parents to prevent a gay and lesbian youth support group from meeting on the high school campus. The board voted to maintain an open-access policy. Under federal law, because the school receives federal funds, it is obligated to maintain an open-access policy that does not exclude particular groups because of their subject matter interest. A similar dispute is currently ranging in Austin, Texas.

U.S. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt omitted sexual orientation in the department's anti-discrimination policy. The omission was supposedly made to allow the Department to continue running joint programs with the Boy Scouts of America in the national park system.

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

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UMaine-Orono Orono	The AIDS Project Portland	Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, Bangor
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Fitness

Exercise and HIV: A step in the right direction

by Martha Atherholt II
Contributor

You've seen the late-night infomercials, magazines, newspapers and celebrity video workouts... yes, we are bombarded with information on exercise. Dozens of times a day the media exposes us to information that tells us we should be exercising to lose body fat, strengthen our heart and lungs, and become stronger. All of these are valid, but what about exercising to build up the immune system?

Never have I seen Cher's video raving about her increased antibody production, or Fabio his more efficient T-Cells. But in reality this is, in fact, exactly what happens. Recent studies are just now beginning to realize the extent to which exercise is increasing the efficiency of the body's immune system and consequently, the remarkable role it plays in the treatment of HIV.

In his recently published book, *Immune Power*, Dr. John Kaiser explains how he is successfully using exercise in his HIV treatment program. Here are a few simple guidelines which he has found effective in his exercise programs.

Exercise at least 30 minutes, 3-5 times per week.

It is important that you maintain an elevated heart rate level for at least 30 minutes in order to increase circulation in the deeper tissues of the body. This will bring a fresh flow of oxygen and nutrients to such organs as the kidneys, liver, spleen, lymph nodes and bone marrow.

Continue deep breathing during exercise sessions.

While exercising, deep breathing will

help cleanse the lungs and increase the flow of lymph fluid throughout the body. Lymph is a fluid that contains the white blood cells and antibodies. This fluid flows through the lymph nodes and cleans out the various bacteria and virus particles that have been stored there. In other words, lymph fluid is the life blood of your immune system. Regular exercise will help maintain the proper flow of this fluid.

Exercise to the point at which sweating occurs.

While exercising, it is necessary to heat the body up to the point at which sweating occurs. Vital replication is inhibited when the body is at higher temperatures and thus decreases viral activity. Sweating also serves as a filter to remove toxins and waste products. It is important to shower directly after exercise so that these toxins do not remain on the surface of the skin.

Once you have decided to begin a regular exercise program, it is important that you choose exercises that you enjoy. You are most likely to continue with a consistent program if you look forward to what you are doing. Regular exercise is a wonderful outlet for stress, a source of personal satisfaction and an invigorating physical release.

So what are you waiting for? Go enjoy a brisk walk!

Martha Atherholt is the Director of Fitness at the Bay Club in Portland. She holds a degree in Exercise Science from the University of Maine and has experience working with various exercise treatment programs.

continued from page 3 What Can You Do?

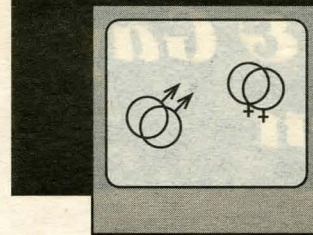
Clearly the attack we are facing is multifaceted. We must plan for and react to the impending referendum attack. We must be ever vigilant in watching who is seeking election to local and state offices and we must ensure that they are supportive, not just of gay rights, but of all issues affecting civil rights. In addition, we must be proactive in gaining our civil rights through the legislative process and we must be prepared for a second referendum challenge when the bill passes.

To face these ongoing attacks, we are going to need lots and lots of volunteers. We need volunteers from the gay community and from the straight community. Not only will we need people who want to make phone calls, check signatures, have house parties and seal envelopes, but also, we will need leaders. There will be

endless leadership positions required for a campaign of this magnitude.

In order to mount an effective statewide response to Carolyn Cosby, we must spend the time right now to build lasting progressive coalitions with various supportive organizations throughout the state. We won't be ready to do the actual development of a campaign plan and budget until this coalition is in place. We estimate, however, that by July 1, 1994, we will begin development of the campaign plan. Until this time, there is still plenty that can be done.

We can start educating people about discrimination and about the reality of our lives. You can do this by talking to your neighbors, family and co-workers about your life. Seek out the people in other organizations you belong to and discuss with them the possibility of entering into a coalition with our community to build a better Maine. Also, get your friends involved.



Video Reviews

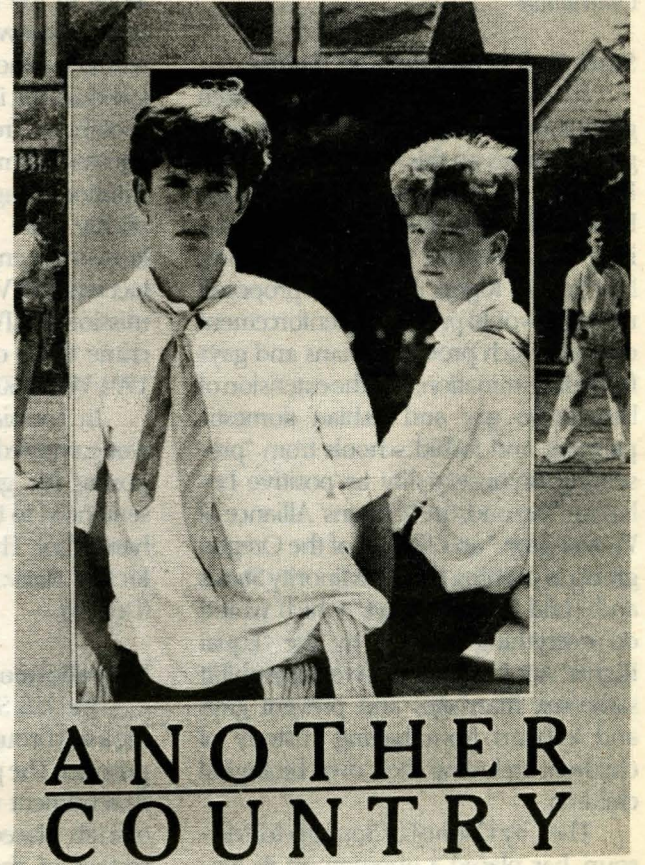
'Another Country' worth the effort

by Douglas Packard
Contributor

Another Country is a must-see film. This film stars Rupert Everett as Guy Bennett, a young and beautiful student at an English boarding school who is desperate to work his way up through the social status established by its students. His dream is to become a pre-emptive, one of the socially elite, in one of the houses at this school. Bennett's life is complicated by his not-so-discrete behavior and that he appears to have slept with several members of his house. He uses this as blackmail to keep himself out of trouble.

Cary Ewes plays James Harcourt, a student from another house with whom Guy falls madly in love. This love soon proves to be the downfall of Bennett as he can no longer use his nocturnal homosexual encounters as protection, for if he exposes those who he has been with, he must also expose Harcourt, and he could never harm the reputation of "the man he loves".

Add to the mix another student who is a Communist, reads only Karl Marx and happens to be Bennett's best friend, and you'll



soon realize that the writer of the screenplay, Julian Mitchell, has woven quite an intricate story.

The only caution I can suggest in this review does not directly deal with the story line, but rather the production of the film. Watch it in a quiet room with no distractions—the humor is dry, the wit is quick, the dialogue contemplative, the British accents thick and the sound quality poor. If you can deal with the volume being a few notches louder than normal, I'm sure you'll enjoy this film.

Invite them over for a house party and let them know what's going on with their civil rights and enlist their help in our fight.

The deadline for declaring candidacy for the 1994 election is April 1, 1994. Find out who is running for office in your town. Find out what they stand for, how they feel about the state civil rights bill, their position on referendum, censorship, the environment, AIDS funding, AIDS education, and all other things on extreme right agenda. Contact the Dirigo Alliance at 621-2838 if you are thinking about running for office. If you identify an extreme right candidate, contact Dirigo and find out how to keep that person out of office. It is critical that we elect legislators who will vote favorably on the civil rights bill which will next be introduced in January or February of 1995.

We anticipate that by November 1994, it will be necessary to develop a

field plan for passing the civil rights bill. We will need volunteers to develop and implement the plan. If you want to work for passage of the bill, plan on volunteering your time between January and April of 1995 to this effort. At the same time, between February and April of 1995, we will also be developing a field plan for the referendum. This plan will be implemented in July 1995 and from that time until election day, we will need every hand available.

Regardless of how little or how much you can help, there is a place for everyone in this campaign. **There is enough room for everyone.** Let us not limit the room in this campaign the way the extreme right is trying to limit civil rights. Why not make the decision to get involved today and to stay involved until life really is the way it should be in Maine—equal for all. Please call us at (800) 556-5472 to get involved now!

Gambit

fiction by Tara K. Luce

I'm not sure how she did it. The bed's awfully small for her to have drawn her knee up to the small of my back. I didn't wake up until I hit the floor, pulling myself up and shaking myself off in the same twisted motion. She turned the light on as I sat up. I stayed on the floor hugging my legs to cover my nakedness. She stayed in bed under the covers. If the light hadn't come on I might have talked myself into believing the hilly coverlet clothed a sleeping body. She was watching me to see how I would react. I sat stock still and stark naked letting the cold air chase out the edge of sleepiness. I wondered what time it was, but from my sitting position I couldn't see the clock. She closed her eyes, pretending to go back to sleep. In this I knew that I could win. She might have the edge of surprise. But it was just those instinctual impulses that left her unguarded. She had that core of impatience that would let me prevail.

The goose bumps had raised on my arms when she said, "I'm mad." She opened her eyes to see me staring at her. She turned away. "I said, I'm pissed off." I still said nothing. She twisted up and towards me in one clean violent motion. "You'd better answer me." I looked at her uncovered torso wondering how long it would take for the cold to wrap itself around there. Blonde hair fell down in front of her shoulder reaching to her breast. I knew there was more falling down her back. She reached for her glasses on the stand. I wondered if she would get mine instead, but she didn't fling them at me so I assumed she could see me clearly. "I said say something," she said in an audible whisper.

"I'm bored." I unfurled myself with deliberate motions. Not just standing up but making sure my mind understood what each muscle was doing when I did it. I had to make sure there were no mistakes. I walked out of the room without touching the door. I found a pair of damp jeans in the drier and slid into them. On my way out through the kitchen I took my keys. I heard the first crash come from the bedroom. I walked toward the front door, took down my coat, and put it on. I heard her feet and knew that she had stopped behind me in the doorway. Knew it without turning around. I slid one foot into my boots and then my other. I knew that in moments I would pay, the cold biting right through the leather as if it weren't even there. I turned around to face her, letting the laces droop down. "I'm tired of playing this game where the pawns are sacrificed to you. You can have the castle. You can be the only queen on the board. I actually don't care. And the moments I have to pretend that I care are exhausting. I need my sleep."

I didn't flinch when she threw the helmet at me. I drew a little away just before it hit me. It struck me in the stomach and rolled a little to the left. I walked towards it without taking my eyes off her. Then I deliberately took my eyes off of her to reach down and pick it up. I turned my back and walked out through the door without closing it.

I was a little disappointed that she was not brash enough to yell obscenities standing naked in an open, lit foyer. Just once I would have liked to have seen it. I poised my weight and dropped it down

over the throttle. Took a deep breath and tried it again. On the third try it roared into life. I backed it down the slope of the driveway and drove off toward the corner and the light. It was about six miles to the nearest motel. I pulled in and ran into the front office with only enough time to throw down the kickstand. I didn't try to push the keys into my pocket—I fumbled getting my hand around the handle of the door. A drowsy teenage boy with chin length brown hair raised his head from a book. I smiled in my head and straightened my shoulders out, making sure I didn't shiver. "Hi, how you doing? Must get tired sitting here all by yourself." He nodded and started to drop his chin to reply but I pushed my advantage. "So I'm tired and cold," knowing I looked neither. "I need a single, non-smoking, four towels and a six a.m. wake-up." He stood up.

"We have rooms with double beds but..."

"Whatever is fine. I just need a bed, a blanket and a very hot shower before I freeze to death while I'm too tired to care." He started to smile then stopped. I was playing but not that much. He turned his back on me and came up with a key from one of the many cubbies. I took the key from his hand. "Thank you. I guess I'll talk to you again at six."

"Uh, ma'am, I won't be in then."

"Whatever," as I pushed out through the glass door.

I took a hot shower before I dialed Carol's number.

It rang three times and then she picked up. "Yeah." It was more a syllable than a word.

"Carol, it's Angie."

She woke up quickly, "Ok honey. Stay put—I'll be right over to get you. Just try to stay out of whatever room she's in."

"Don't get up. I'm already out."

I heard the bed creak as she dropped back on to the bed. "You walked out?"

"I left."

"Well come on over. Frank is not here and you can climb into bed with me. When you wake up I'll have oatmeal and hot chocolate ready."

"Thanks, but I think I'm going to go up to grandpa's fishing camp."

"Angie, it's not winterized. You'll freeze to death. Besides, what are you going to do for food and money?"

I realized I was fiddling with the phone cord and quickly dropped it. I almost said that being pragmatic was what kept me in a relationship I didn't belong in. Almost said if I could come and really stay with you I wouldn't have to escape to a freezing cabin. But they weren't the real reasons.

"I need to be by myself. So what that it's cold. I'd go even if I knew it meant that I would never work again."

"What are you going to do?"

"Play solitaire, sleep to excess, and walk by the lake, on it if it's frozen."

"Don't you dare!"

"Just kidding."

"You win. Go to bed and call me in the morning."

"Thanks Carol."

"Good job Ang," and then she hung up.

I let the towel fall away from me, switched out the light, pulled the covers over me and started to shake.


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