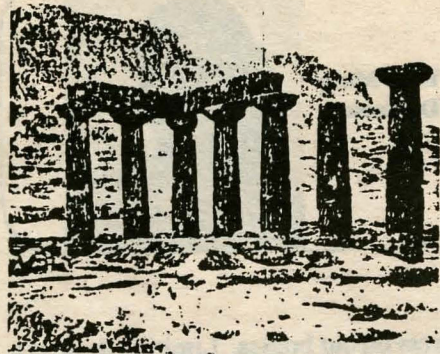


## Rape Crisis Center offers training

PORTLAND: The Rape Crisis Center will be offering a Sexual Assault Advocacy Training program beginning on Tuesday, October 4, from 6:00-9:00 PM. The 40 hour training, two evenings a week for six weeks, will cover issues of sexual assault and child sexual abuse; medical, police, and legal protocols and a variety of related topics.

Upon completion of the training, you will be prepared to volunteer on the Rape Crisis Hotline, the Board of Directors or to provide administrative assistance. Continuing Education Credits are available, and no previous experience is necessary. For more information, please call Anne Marie at 799-9020.



### From the Oracle . . .

A reader writes: "I got a divorce from my husband recently. It wasn't contested or anything. I told him the usual about how it wasn't him, it was me; I just needed my freedom, felt stifled, there wasn't anybody else, and so on. I said a lot of stuff, but really I left him for a woman. I couldn't handle living with him when I was in love with someone else. Besides, no matter how guilty I felt, I couldn't handle having sex with him anymore. The problem is, he seems to know the truth and is depressed. He doesn't even call me that much. I call him because I'm worried. He's always been good to me, even about the divorce, and I still care. I feel guilty and horrible about myself. It is my fault, but I can't do anything about it. What should I tell him? Is there anything I can do?"

Signed: Happier than I was, but feeling guilty

Dear Happier,

Things can't always be as clean as we'd like them to be. I'm sure you find yourself wishing he would act like a total jerk so it would be easier for you. The best thing you can do is be straight (so to speak) with your ex-husband about why you left him. Be prepared to listen to him groan about his feelings, which he probably will want to do. You did the right thing for yourself and both you and your ex have to live with the reality of it. As long as you maintain your honesty and personal integrity, you're doing everything you possibly can. It's a sad thing, but it certainly isn't your fault. Try to go on with your new life, and don't be so hard on yourself.

Pythia

In a dilemma? Have a question about relationships? Ask Pythia by writing to: The Oracle, c/o CPR, 142 High Street, Suite #634, Portland, ME 04101.



## Transsexual protesters allowed to enter Michigan Womyn's Music Festival

Janice Walworth and Davina Anne Gabriel

(HART, MI.) — Six openly transsexual women were allowed to enter the 19th annual Michigan Womyn's Music Festival near Hart, Michigan, Saturday, August 13, 1994, following a week-long protest of that event's "womyn born womyn" only policy. The six transsexual women were: Zythyra Anne Austen of Winchester, VA.; April Fredericks and Riki Anne Wilchins of New York City; Rica Ashby Fredrickson of Philadelphia; Davina Anne Gabriel of Kansas City, MO.; and Jessica Meredith Xavier of Silver Springs, MD. Accompanying the transsexual women were several nontranssexual supporters who were also taking part in the protest, including authors and activists Leslie Feinberg and Minnie Bruce Pratt, both of Jersey City, N.J., and one intersex individual, Kodi Hendrix of Kokomo, IN.

The protest of the festival's policy of excluding transsexual women from attendance was the third consecutive and largest action staged against the policy since Nancy Jean Burkholder was expelled from the 16th annual festival in 1991.

Thirteen transsexual women—with their friends and supporters, including 12 nontranssexual women, one transsexual man, one nontranssexual man, and one intersex person—camped out during the week of the festival at "Camp Trans" on national forest land across the road from the main gate of the festival and took part in a variety of activities designed to inform festival participants about gender issues and to protest the festival's exclusionary policy.

The transsexual women at Camp Trans who did not enter the festival were: Hannah Blackwell of Kansas City, MO.; Nancy Jean Burkholder of Weare, NH.; Nancy Anne Forrest of Philadelphia; Wendi Lynn Kaiser of North Berwick, ME.; Lynn Walker and Krissy Withers, both of New York City; and Arlene Wolves of Ashland, NH.

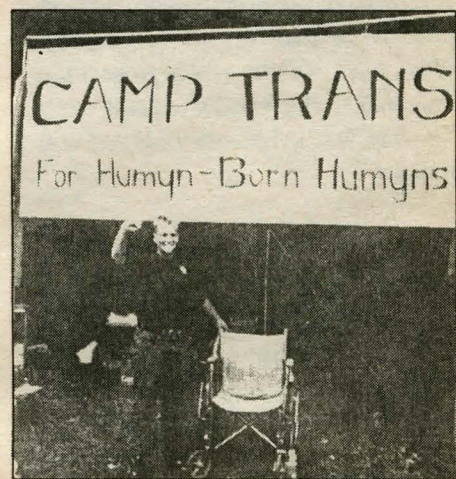
The protesters began setting up their camp, including a large, bright green banner proclaiming, "Camp Trans: For Humyn-Born Humyns," before festival participants began arriving on Sunday, August 7. The following day, protesters began distributing a schedule of 29 activities to women in their cars waiting to enter the festival. The schedule included workshops, speeches, meetings, readings, concerts, religious services, games, and meals, taking place at Camp Trans over a four-day period.

Also distributed to festival participants was a joint statement addressing the need for respectful and constructive dialogue on the issue of transsexuals in the women's and lesbian communities, which was issued by one of the transsexual protesters, Riki Anne Wilchins, and lesbian musician Alix Dobkin, a supporter of the festival's exclusionary policy, who has been actively involved in the festival since its inception.

Protesters received an overwhelm-

ingly positive response, and only very slight negative reaction, to their presence and their flyers. They continued to distribute their literature to women arriving for the festival throughout the week, as well as to the many women who came out from the festival to visit them. At the same time, festival workers at the gate engaged in a variety of tactics apparently designed to harass protesters and prevent them from distributing their literature to arriving participants.

The first activity, scheduled to take place on Wednesday, August 10, was a community meeting on the issue of



Leslie Feinberg stands in solidarity outside Camp Trans in Michigan

transsexual inclusion, which Alix Dobkin had agreed to attend. However, Ms. Dobkin sent a message to Camp Trans on Tuesday, August 9, stating that she had changed her mind and that she would not be attending because it might appear that she was in support of the protesters' position. The community meeting, which was attended by approximately 20 festival participants, was held without Ms. Dobkin and sparked a thought-provoking discussion. Workshops were also conducted on self-defense, androgyny, transsexual sexuality, disability rights, transsexuals and the military, sadomasochism, female-to-male identity, gender bending, and other topics.

Protesters were joined on Wednesday by lesbian comedian Mimi = Freed of San Francisco, who performed stand-up comedy and conducted a workshop entitled "The Joys of Marginalization" the following day. A good-humored weenie roast was held Thursday evening, which drew about 25 festival participants out to enjoy relaxed conversation and indulge in meat and chocolate, comestibles not served by the festival kitchen.

Also on Thursday, Charlotte Manheimer of Cincinnati, Ohio, a 68-year-old nontranssexual lesbian, attempted to enter the festival in order to visit a friend but was not immediately allowed to enter because she refused to disclose whether or not she was a transsexual and refused to agree to the festival staff's condition that she "respect" the exclusionary policy. Because she is over 65 years of age, Ms. Manheimer is eligible to attend the festival free of

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charge. Staff offered to escort Ms. Manheimer to find her friend but were reluctant to issue her a festival wristband. After a two-hour period of deliberation among festival staff, Ms. Manheimer, who traveled to the festival for the express purpose of demonstrating support for the transsexual women taking part in the protest, was given a wristband and allowed to enter the festival un-escorted and without disclosing whether or not she is a transsexual.

Acclaimed authors and activists Leslie Feinberg, Minnie Bruce Pratt, and James Green joined protesters on Friday, August 12. Ms. Feinberg is well-known for her popular novel *Stone Butch Blues*, and Ms. Pratt for her poetry. Mr. Green is a postoperative female-to-male transsexual and the publisher and editor of the *FTM Newsletter*, which is the most widely circulated publication in the world specifically addressing female-to-male transsexual issues, as well as the director of the FTM Support Group in San Francisco. Mr. Green conducted two workshops on female-to-male experience and identity at Camp Trans. Each was attended by 20 to 30 festival participants.

The highlight of the scheduled activities was a speech entitled "Sisterhood: Make it Real!" delivered by Leslie Feinberg in which she discussed the necessity for the women's movement in general, and the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival in particular, to adopt an "all women welcome" policy. Approximately 150 festival participants came outside to hear Ms. Feinberg's address, making it the most well attended event at Camp Trans during the course of the protest.

This was followed by a concert by the Celtic Transsexual Modal Band from Hell, consisting of Arlene Wolves and Beverly Woods of Beyond the Pale, Zythyra (formerly Seth Austen), and Jessica Xavier. Hammer dulcimer, keyboard and guitar blended exquisitely, but the highlight of the concert was the original "Ballad of Nancy B.," which retold the story of Nancy Burkholder's expulsion from the festival in 1991.

Later in the evening, Ms. Feinberg and her lover Minnie Bruce Pratt, conducted a re-creation of their joint reading originally performed at the 1992 Out/Write Conference, which consisted of selections from *Stone Butch Blues* and Ms. Pratt's upcoming book *S/he*, to be published by Firebrand Books in February 1995. Ms. Pratt conducted further readings from her book the following morning.

Another of Friday's highlights was the wedding of two festival participants, Kym and Becki, performed by transsexual minister Lynn Walker. James Green and Leslie Feinberg stood up for the couple in a lantern-lit ceremony attended by everyone in Camp Trans and several visitors from the festival, and accompanied by Camp Trans musicians.

On Thursday, Riki Anne Wilchins, who is a member of the New York City chapter of the Lesbian Avengers, was invited by Lesbian Avengers inside the festival to attend their scheduled meeting on Saturday, August 13. Ms. Wilchins agreed to attempt to enter the

festival as an openly transsexual woman in order to attend the meeting if the Lesbian Avengers would provide a contingent to escort her, which they readily agreed to do.

On Saturday morning, in an attempt to obtain clarification of the "womyn born womyn" policy, protesters requested to meet with Communications coordinators Lucy Tatman and Sue Doerfer. They were asked whether Leslie Feinberg, James Green, and Kodi Hendrix would be permitted to buy tickets without violating festival policy. Leslie Feinberg introduced herself as a person who was born anatomically female but who passes and lives as a man and has a driver's license showing her sex as male. She asked whether she would be welcome to enter the festival. Ms. Tatman said that "the festival would prefer not," a statement she retracted after Ms. Feinberg declared that she would tell audiences on her upcoming book tour that she had received confirmation that she "is not welcome at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival."

Kodi Hendrix then informed Ms. Tatman and Ms. Doerfer that he was born with both male and female genitalia and asked whether "only half of [him] could come in." James Green stated that he had no desire to enter the festival, and was only there "in support of [his] transsexual sisters," but wanted to know if he would be considered a woman by the festival owners using the same logic by which they consider male-to-female transsexuals to be men even after sex-change surgery. Ms. Tatman and Ms. Doerfer were unable to provide answers to either of these questions. Protesters then requested that they receive clarification of the policy regarding these three individuals from festival owners Lisa Vogel and Barbara Price.

Less than an hour later, Ms. Tatman and Ms. Doerfer delivered a message from the festival owners declining to further clarify the term "womyn born womyn" and stating that it is up to each individual to decide whether or not she is included in that definition. Communications coordinators also assured pro-

testers that no one attempting to purchase a ticket would be harassed and that none of them would be asked by security to leave the festival, because it was "no longer a security issue." The decision was then made that protesters who wished to enter the festival would attempt to purchase tickets when the Lesbian Avengers sent their contingent out to accompany Ms. Wilchins inside for their meeting. Ms. Feinberg, who had previously stated that she would not enter the festival until her transsexual sisters were allowed to attend, decided to enter if the transsexual women were also allowed to enter.

Upon approaching the box office, the contingent of protesters presented a statement to the box office staff declaring that their group consisted of transsexual women, nontranssexual women, an intersex person, and transgendered women, and that each of them interpreted the term "womyn born womyn" to include them. None of the protesters were refused tickets or asked questions

See Camp Trans, page 23

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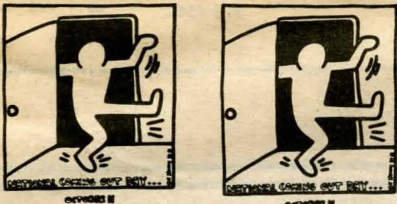


**Camp Trans, from page 9**

regarding their medical history or their commitment to uphold festival policy. The protesters were then surrounded by the contingent of Lesbian Avengers and escorted to the scheduled meeting, with a number of other festival participants joining the contingent along the way.

At the Lesbian Avengers meeting, both Ms. Wilchins and Ms. Feinberg spoke at length regarding the festival's exclusionary policy and received an overwhelmingly positive response. After the meeting, the protesters, again surrounded by Lesbian Avengers and joined by numerous other festival participants, conducted a parade through the festival grounds chanting "Support Our Policy: All Women Welcome!" As promised, no one in the Camp Trans contingent was asked by security to leave the festival.

Following their return to Camp Trans, the decision was made to strike camp because of impending severe thunderstorms and forecasts of rain throughout the night and into the following day, and because it was felt that the protest action had been highly successful. However, protesters still feel that the wording of festival policy as "womyn born womyn" only remains unclear and that it is still uncertain whether openly transsexual women will be allowed to attend the festival without fear of expulsion in the future. Unless there is further clarification of these issues in the interim and the festival abolishes its "womyn born womyn" only policy, activists say they will continue their protests next year. **ΔΔ**



**Bangor, from page 22**

cal state representatives were present. Saxl accused CMF of trying to usurp the power of the legislature, as well as prevent the legislature from passing laws appropriately protecting all citizens.

Faircloth pointed to the bi-partisan scope of opposition to "this type of proposal which increases hate and increases the possibilities of crime." He added, "My concern is that this type of proposal is in contradiction to the character of the State of Maine."

The potential economic ramifications of this referendum once again came up as Faircloth remarked, "It doesn't help the business climate of the state of Maine. We live in a free market economy, which I believe in very strongly, . . . if we're to allow people to fire others for factors that are totally unrelated to their work performance or quality of their work then that is bad for the free market system.

"If someone is afraid to come forward when they are discriminated against, and because they have been the subject of a hate crime are fearful that they will be evicted from their homes, or lose their job because of something unrelated to their tenancy or work performance, that is wrong and that is bad for a free market, capitalist system. . .

**HATE, from page 2**

strengthen security for their patrons in Portland, Maine's most populous gay community.

Stephen L. Wessler, Assistant Attorney General and Director of Public Protection - Civil Rights Unit, pointed out that 30% of all biased crime incidents reported are from gays and lesbians. He also noted that of 15 or 20 cases that had gone to trial, all but one had been decided in favor of the victim. That one exception was a homophobic assault on a heterosexual father and son who appeared a little too intimate for the two assailants.

Verbal harassment, stalking, breaking and entering, property damage or assault may or may not qualify as a prosecutable offense against a minority person. According to Det. Lt. Mark Dion, however, such reporting, even if only an anonymous outline of the incident may be useful in stopping a habitual offender. Dion emphasized that homophobic graffiti, minor property damage or verbal harassment inevitably escalates.

Mary Ann of Sisters pointed out that gay people, particularly more obvious lesbians, are reluctant to deal with the police because of police officer's often unsympathetic or hostile attitudes toward gays and lesbians. The response was that the police must draw its officers from the pool of citizens as would any business, but like any other hierarchy, if the reporting officer or the civil rights officer provides unsatisfactory service, the victim or advocates for the victim, can go to the officers supervisor, or to the Attorney General's office. The Attorney General's office employs Stephen Wessler as well as a biased crimes detective who can apply pressure to the particular police department to move on a report.

Every single police department in the state has a civil rights officer whose job is to report and investigate any biased crime incident that comes directly from a victim or as an inquiry from the Attorney General's office as a result of reports from

an interested party. The civil rights officer's name may be obtained from the police department of each town or from the Attorney General's Office, State House Station 6, Augusta, ME 04333.

After a poll of the bar owners revealed that none of them felt there were any harassment problems, probing questions from officials as to the odd response revealed that owners, just as many gays and lesbians, had accepted a level of homophobic abuse which they discounted out of hand. Damage to vehicles, verbal assaults, even stalking were listed by the owners as "acceptable" incidents.

Assistant Attorney General Wessler noted that different minority groups had traditionally evidenced certain forms of harassment, even physical encounters as "blind spots" of acceptable endangerment. He emphasized again that all incidents should be reported, even if seemingly inconsequential and reported anonymously, because it will assist in preventing escalations of violence and in prosecutions, should escalation to violence happen.

Although not mentioned by the law enforcement officials present at this discussion, hate crime statistics are used by the radical right wing to discount the claim that gay, lesbian and bisexual people need protection or are a discernible minority. We can expect that reports will very likely be monitored by Concerned Maine Families. The '95 referendum question to deprive gays and lesbians of civil rights protection in Maine will also deprive us of the excellent legal strength of biased crimes prosecution. If passed, the referendum will remove gay, lesbian and bisexual people from a hate crimes classification.

It is imperative that you report every incident of homophobic comment or assault to the office of the Attorney General, 626-8844, or to your local Civil Rights Officer in any town in Maine. As a community, we need to take advantage of the systems already in place to help us.

Therefore, I think that those who want Maine to have a growing economy and want Maine to have a continuing low crime rate will oppose this type of proposal."

"I am here because I am the female head of a household that lives in Maine, and I am part of a concerned Maine family," said Judy Harrison. She continued, "But I am not concerned about the things Carolyn Cosby is concerned about. I have a 15 year old son who spent some days, when he was around 10, playing games with his friends called 'Bashing the Queer.' I have a son who attended Middle School, who refers to things he doesn't like as being 'gay' and who checks out his friends to see if they are 'homos' . . . I've had arguments with my son over the fact that I have testified in support of civil rights and want to extend the civil rights act to cover sexual orientation."

Harrison went on to express her concern about the mixed messages we are sending to our children. "I think what we are saying to our kids is, 'Well, you can discriminate over here, but you can't throw people off a bridge . . . I don't want my kids to grow up in a place where they hear that. I want my kids to grow up in a place where the message is, 'It's not OK to discriminate against anyone because of who they are.' And that's why I'm here. I also

want to send a message to the public that not every female who is in a traditional family is a member of or supporter of this referendum."

EPM/Bangor co-chair, Jeanine Crockett wrapped up the press conference with her own story of having witnessed signature-gatherers at work at a local church. "What I saw there," said Crockett, "was people signing the petition as they entered the church before they had received any information and without asking any questions. As I watched, I wondered how many realized that they were helping to make life more difficult for their neighbors, for their co-workers, and in some cases, for their own family members.

"What we will ask of the people of Maine is that as you hear the ugly myths and stories and false statistics, that you try to remember who we really are. Remember that we are people living in your own neighborhood with families, jobs and house payments. We pay taxes. Many of us are people who you know and trust with your children, your health care, your money and your legal troubles. . . We have confidence that the people of Maine will not allow Carolyn Cosby to write a law that forces them to discriminate." **ΔΔ**

**1994 Maine AIDS walk scheduled**

by Winnie Weir, Editor

What better way to spend a fall day in Maine than taking a five mile walk around Back Cove in Portland with a group of friends united in a common purpose? (Chill - it's a rhetorical query!)

On Sunday, October 2nd at 1:00 pm, walkers at ten sites around the state will begin their annual trek to raise much needed funds to benefit five local AIDS service organizations. They include the AIDS Project, People with AIDS Coalition, AIDS Lodging House, The NAMES Project/Maine and Peabody House.

The nine sites include Lewiston/Auburn, Brunswick, Oxford Hills, Belfast, Ellsworth, Bangor, Waterville, Augusta, and Portland. Call your local area AIDS organization for details as to the specific walk route.

There will be pre-walk festivities including entertainment by local artists, refreshments before, during and after the Walk, a few speeches (brief! Very brief!) and grand prizes for the top fund raisers.

The Maine AIDS Walk-Portland is a five mile walk coordinated by the Maine AIDS Alliance and local AIDS service organizations to benefit HIV/AIDS education and care in central and southern Maine. The proceeds will be used by local organizations for direct care, support and education. HIV/AIDS affects all Maine citizens. It's important that we all work together in the battle against HIV/AIDS in Maine.

You can help by volunteering to walk and then getting as many sponsors as you can. Don't overlook family, co-workers, friends. Registration and donor/pledge sheets are included with this copy of CPR and additional copies can be obtained from TAP or other AIDS service organizations. You can also photo copy them for wider distribution. Each person who pre-registers by September 15th will receive a free, commemorative Maine AIDS Walk t-shirt. If you are able to recruit a whole team, your t-shirts will have your team name printed on the back and you will be in the running for prizes to be awarded to the team raising the most money.

This effort is looking to raise between \$75,000 and \$100,000. Walkers are being encouraged to set a goal of raising \$100. At \$10 a sponsor that's only 10 sponsors. Think about it . . . a fall day in Maine and a five mile stroll with friends, hundreds of friends . . . AND you get to feel good about yourself for raising money for AIDS service organizations. YES!

For more information, you can call The AIDS Project, 774-6877. There will be limited free parking at Cheverus High School, (the starting point in Portland) so car pool with other walkers.

(Ed. note: The CPR team is looking for sponsors. Call 879-1342 and let us sign you up on our pledge sheets. Hurry, we want shirts with our names on them!) **ΔΔ**