

# The Portland Press Herald

[Letters to the editor: June 10, 2013](#)

## Zumba saga puts Kennebunk in global spotlight

Like Siamese twins, Zumba and Kennebunk will forever be joined after York County Superior Court Justice Nancy Mills handed down sentence recently as the ["Sordid Zumba story ends with tears, jail"](#) for her "Kennebunk prostitution business and begins a 10-month sentence" (**Portland Press Herald**, June 1). CNN interrupted regular programming and provided video link as headlines around the world spread the breaking news from the Kennebunks.

Dublin's **Irish Independent** reported [the story](#)

like a prizefight ringside announcer: "The case of Alexis Wright (30), scandalised the picturesque seaside community of Kennebunk, Maine which is best known for its proximity to the summer compound of the Bush family ... Wright quietly answered 'guilty' 20 times when the judge read the counts, which include engaging in prostitution, promotion of prostitution, conspiracy, tax evasion and theft by deception in the Maine town" (**Irish Independent**, June 1).

Friends in Ireland called to inquire about what this global notoriety would do to Maine's motto: "The way life should be."

The dance instructor got 10 months; her business partner, sometimes lover, got only 20 days for his part in this sordid drama. Among the 68 men and one woman charged with soliciting



Alexis Wright, right, with her attorney, Sarah Churchill, reacts May 31 after hearing that Justice Nancy Mills had denied Wright's request to serve her 10-month sentence at the Cumberland County Jail to better facilitate visits from Wright's 8-year-old son. Wright pleaded guilty March 29 to charges of prostitution, tax

Wright's services, none appear headed for prison, although several were forced to resign their public employment.

The public health dimensions of this several-year saga of illicit services have been glaringly absent in the media coverage. Responsible editorials might take the teachable moment and find room to state the wise exhortation of the Irish punster Spike Mulligan, who said: "Contraceptives should be used on every conceivable occasion."

Justice Mills concluded the sentencing session with this admonition: "It's time for this chapter to close so that everyone can move forward." She might have added Milligan's exhortation in the interest of public health, "So that all might move forward, safely."

***Robert F. Lyons***

***Kennebunk Lower Village***