



THE VIEW FROM THE STAGE: Gay Pioneers at the National 40th Anniversary Celebration at Philadelphia's Independence Hall on May 1. More photos on A19. PHOTO BY DOUG MESZLER

Philadelphia's Equality Forum celebrates 40 years, 40 heroes

By Misty and Robin Angevine-Walling and Susan Jordan

On April 26, Equality Forum kicked off its weeklong celebration in Philadelphia, commemorating 40 years of LGBT activism. The event included well-known entertainers and speakers and the activists of 1965 – the Gay Pioneers.

Between 35,000 and 40,000 people filled the space in front of Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell during the National 40th Anniversary Celebration on May 1 and attended the many parties and events during the week.

Liam Deasy of Equality Forum told the *Empty Closet*, "It was extremely positive. I can't imagine anyone having a bad time. The protestors were kept at bay. We had a lot of help from the city and from counter-protestors from Metropolitan Community Churches."

Deasy said that organizers had gotten the media attention they had hoped for, although the event was not covered by CNN

or the three national networks. He said, "We had a great story by the Associated Press, which went out across the country. That was something special – that the AP was there. In terms of other press, we were spotlighted by the national gay networks, Here TV and QTV (which was with us most of the week)."

On July 4, 1965, 10 men and women staged the first gay and lesbian demonstration in front of Independence Hall. This brave movement was stoked by the flames of 1950s groups like the Mattachine Societies and Daughters of Bilitis. Only two 1965 demonstrators would use their actual names -- Barbara Gittings and Frank Kameny -- for fear of becoming government targets. Gittings and Kameny, still activists, were both present at Equality Forum, along with many of their fellow Gay Pioneers.

Annual Reminders were held from 1965 to 1969. The Annual Reminders were the forerunner of the Stonewall riots in 1969

and the first New York City Pride Parade in 1970, where as many as 5,000 people participated.

The Equality Forum seminars during the week gave participants an opportunity to interact with the panel members. Talks of past versus present struggles came to light in many forms. The week was filled with diverse workshops and town hall-type meetings, including an open panel discussion with out lesbian columnist Deb Price and a viewing of the critically acclaimed documentary *Jim In Bold*, after which there was a reception attended by members of Jim Wheeler's family.

There were many opportunities for participants to interact on a personal level with many of the gay icons and heroes honored during the week long celebration. Sunday, May 1, closed out the festivities with a block party, rally and life-affirming interfaith service held at the historical Christ Church. The homily was given by New Hampshire's Bishop Gene Robinson, who is the first openly

gay Bishop to be elected in the Episcopal church.

There was a closing party at which Cyndi Lauper and other pop stars performed. Proceeds from the mostly-free celebration went towards funding the programs offered by the Equality Forum. For more information on the Equality Forum and how you can get involved locally, log onto www.equality.com. ■

**Gay Alliance
of the Genesee Valley**

**ANNUAL
MEETING**

6 pm
Sunday, June 12
Gagv Youth Center
875 E. Main Street

FIRST FLOOR
PRINCE STREET ENTRANCE

NewsFronts

LOCAL & STATE NEWS

Plan for Pride Week now!

There's a month to go until Rochester Pride Week, but preparations are already underway. Participants are building their floats, planning their fabulous costumes (and their dogs' fabulous costumes), and dreaming up plans for a week packed with events.

The first of those is the Sweat for Pride dance on Saturday, July 9 at Muthers. This COAP-sponsored event runs from 9 p.m. until the early hours.

The next day, Sunday the 10th, sees the GAGV Pride Picnic at Genesee Valley Park, from 1 to 7 p.m. Organizer Chuck Argento notes that you can expect DJ dancing in the Roundhouse, the return of the Doggy Drag Pageant, terrific food (new vendors -- including Jamaican cuisine), great local live bands and local comedians, karaoke and all kinds of surprises. There will also be an interfaith service in the Roundhouse from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30.

On Monday, July 11, the GAGV Youth Group hosts a Youth Dance from 5 to 9 p.m., and a Mr. and Miss Gay Teen Pride Pageant, and the Youth Center, 875 E. Main St.. This is where the action is if you're between 13 and 21! For more information, call Toby at 244-8640, ext. 13.

Tuesday, July 12, sees the COAP Volleyball Picnic at Ellison Park at 5:30 p.m. Hots, burgers, soda and sweaty men provided; guests are asked to bring a dish to pass.

Thursday, July 14 means movies. The Community Business Forum holds a social at Highland Bowl from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., and Movies in the Bowl will screen *The Wizard of Oz* at dusk. The other exciting option is an *ImageOut* film at 7 p.m. at the Little Theatre. (See July EC for details.)

Friday, July 15 is a historic day, with the dedication of the Atlantic Beacon Sculpture Committee (ABSC) winning sculpture, by Christine and Paul Knoblauch, which honors the history of Rochester's LGBT community. The

(Continued on page 3)

JOHN PARRINELLO

An interview with the Republican candidate concludes our series on the mayoral race

SEE PAGE A6



CHORUS LINE

A Chorus Line 2005 runs at Geva through July 1

SEE PAGE B1



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EMPTY CLOSET EDITORIAL

BY SUSAN JORDAN



Gems from the blogs

The May 10 *Advocate* listed David Ehrenstein's 10 favorite weblogs. Check them out if you haven't yet.

According to *The Advocate*, gay bloggers on Eschaton are said to have cost rabid rightist Trent Lott's position as majority leader, and Americablog blew the cover of Jeff Gannon, a "reporter" who is actually James Guckert, hired by a rich Republican from Texas to write partisan material and ask partisan questions. Oh, and some say he was a male escort as well. You can read his side of the story (he's now a rabid right blogger) on his own site – see *The Advocate* for the address...)

Blogs are the place to read the news you won't find on the Big Three or cable, or in any of the mainstream media the Bush wingnuts (a favored blog term) secretly use to issue their disinformation. To mention just a few gems encountered on a mid-May tour:

On Eschaton (atrios.blogspot.com): Recently captured supposed Al Qaeda kingpin Abu Faraj al-Libbi is not in fact "third in command" of the terrorist group; he may say that to "impress the ladies," but he's really "a middle-ranker derided... as among the flotsam and jetsam" of the organization. Blogger notes, "So the Bush administration, once again, has falsely trumpeted some event as being a major victory. Our quality press, especially cable news, has obediently complied..."

Echidne of the Snakes (link through Eschaton at www.echidneofthesnakes.blogspot.com) says that James Dobson, "who is going to be head mullah when we get theocracy properly set up here... thinks boys need to be made into heterosexual men by showing what an achievement masculinity is." So the conservative dad, according to Dobson, should "teach (his son) to pound a square wooden peg into a square hole in a pegboard. He can even take his son with him into the shower, where the boy cannot help but notice that Dad has a penis just like his, only bigger."

AmericaBlog (www.Americablog.org) has a lot of comment on lgbt issues. "Joe in DC" wrote

mid-May, "What is up with the right wing's obsession with all things gay? Maybe Frank Rich was on to something in his Sunday column, 'Just How Gay is the Right?'. Today's *The Hill* has a report on Representative Walter Jones (R-NC) obsession with gay books:

"After reading news articles about a seven-year-old girl borrowing a children's book from her school library about two men marrying, Rep. Walter Jones (R-N.C.) began to craft legislation that would give parents a significant role in reviewing literature before it can be accessed by young children. Jones's bill, introduced late last week, would establish review boards of five to 15 parents who would analyze and make recommendations on potential purchases by educational entities.

"Rep. Jones thinks gays are bad. He has become a gay-watchdog: Jones, who says he regularly carries a copy of *King and King* to emphasize his point, is scheduled to discuss his bill this week with the Republican Study Committee, a group of more than 100 House conservatives. Sounds like a gay book club. I am getting a yuk out of the whacko right wingers sitting around reading gay books. Are they shocked or titillated? Probably both. For their next gay book club, maybe they should try *The Best Little Boy in the World*."

Crooks and Liars (www.crooksandliars.com) states, "Of course folks like Pat (Robertson) are just doing God's work, none of this is politically motivated, no sir. Except that you can get bounced from your wingnut fundy church for not supporting George W. Bush, the Iraq war, the anti-gay agenda and of course Gunship Jesus."

World O' Crap (blogs.salon.com/0002874), provides much material on a speech by rabid wingnut Ann Coulter at a Catholic college in Minnesota, including this: "From Nick Coleman's report: ...(one protestor) 'asked Coulter what she thought of the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus said, 'Blessed are the peacemakers.'"

"She replied that Jesus 'did not support sticking a fork into a baby's head' and that 'Jesus would be cool with capitalism.'"

Blog comment: "...You recall that part in the Beatitudes where Jesus said, 'Blessed are the capitalists, for they shall screw the meek out of the earth. But damned are the Democrats, for they believe in sticking forks in the heads of babies.'"

Finally, The Rittenhouse Review (rittenhouse.blogspot.com) offers the following in its list of searches that brought readers to the site: "Where can (I) find out what a wart or cyst looks like?"

"Ask Rush Limbaugh." ■

GAGV BOARD EDITORIAL

BY EMILY JONES



Who is telling our story?

Who is telling our story now and for what purpose?

It was reported on April 21, 2005, that Microsoft took a position of neutrality and withdrew its support for a Washington State bill that would have barred discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Through all accounts in the media, it appeared that the Company bowed to the pressure of a prominent evangelical church located a few blocks from its headquarters

The pastor had threatened a national boycott of Microsoft products. Dr. Hutcherson, pastor of the Antioch Bible Church, is quoted as saying, "I told them I was going to give them something to be afraid of Christians about."

In a similar move, the American Family Association crowed that they had brought Procter & Gamble to their knees earlier during this week. As I shared with you in my March editorial, the business community has been our current beacon of strength in this highly conservative legislative climate. This appearance of change on the corporate landscape is most alarming.

Microsoft's employees expressed outrage at the Company's position, groups in LA requested that they return an award that they had received for early leadership in the area of civil rights for all and HRC continued with key congressional lobbyists to work behind the scenes with key Company leaders to shift Microsoft's position.

In early May, after listening to his employees and consulting with other key leaders, Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer wrote in a letter to his employees, "Diversity in the workplace is such an important issue for our business that it should be included in our legislative agenda. Since our beginning nearly 30 years ago, Microsoft has had a strong business interest in recruiting and retaining the best and brightest and most diverse workforce possible. I'm proud of Microsoft's commitment to non-discrimination in our internal policies and benefits, but our policies can't cover the range of housing, education, financial and similar services that our people and

their partners and families need. Therefore, it's appropriate for the company to support legislation that will promote and protect diversity in the workplace."

The position of neutrality that Microsoft had taken in February on all non-business issues was being amended to include diversity in the workplace.

This shift in position did not make the national news or any major newspaper in the nation. Why hasn't this position been made public? The answer lies with the fact that the shift does not align with the conservative right's marketing of their power to reshape and intimidate corporate America. They leave the message that they have much power and most believe it. As a result, mainstream America becomes more timid and fearful of creating an environment for full civil rights for all.

The right owns the Fox channel and they are "coming out" with a vengeance after having been silenced for so long. They feel completely vindicated to take this country back to its "moral roots" as a result of the recent national election. We cannot be complacent. We and our allies represent the same percentage of the population as they do. We will not allow our voices to be drowned out.

We celebrate the accomplishments of our editor of 16 years, Susan Jordan, who was honored, along with the *Empty Closet*, by the Empire State Pride Agenda, for being the beacon of truth and courage through years of incredible change and challenge, on May 21 at the ESPA Spring Dinner. We must continue the voice of the *Empty Closet*, building on its legacy of 32 years of continual service.

We will continue to advocate for change and, most importantly, educate to continue to create a safe environment for all. As you read the paper once again, know that this paper is a labor of love brought to you by a woman and a small staff of considerable talent and dedication. Through her leadership they have never missed a deadline in 16 years.

We were proud to have joined Susan and the *Empty Closet* staff at the ESPA dinner. Please join us to celebrate their accomplishments, and those of the agency, at the Annual Meeting on June 12, at 6 p.m. in the GAGV Youth Center. We ask that you continue to support the Empty Closet through your donations and memberships, so that our voices will continue to be heard and continue to influence change.

As Gloria Steinem said on the final episode of *The L Word*, "We started the 'frontlash' -- they have countered with a 'backlash'". We must reinvigorate our voices and make sure the story ends with fairness for all. ■

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The Empty Closet does not print advertisements that contain nude drawings or photographs, nor does it print advertising that states that the person pictured in the ad is for sale, or that you will "get" that particular person if you patronize the establishment advertised. Advertisements that are explicitly racist, sexist, ageist, ableist or homophobic will be refused; advertisements from organizations that are sexist, racist, ageist, ableist or anti-gay will also be refused.

Submissions:

For publication, submit news items, ads, photos, letters, stories, poetry, ads, photographs or art by mail or in person to *The Empty Closet* office by the 15th of the month. Design services for non-camera ready ads are available for a fee.

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The Empty Closet is the official publication of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, Inc., as stated in the bylaws of that organization. Its purpose is to inform the Rochester gay community about local and national gay-related news and events; to provide a forum for ideas and creative work from the local gay community; to help promote leadership within the community, and to be a part of a national network of lesbian and gay publications that exchange ideas and seek to educate.

Part of our purpose is to maintain a middle position with respect to the entire community. We must be careful to present all viewpoints in a way that takes into consideration the views of all — women, men, people of color, young and old, and those from various walks of life.

The opinions of columnists, editorial writers and other contributing writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the collective attitude of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley or *The Empty Closet*. *The Empty Closet* shall not be liable for any loss or expense that results from the publication (whether correctly or incorrectly) or omission of an ad. In the event of non-payment, your account may be assigned to a collection agency or an attorney, and will be liable for the charges paid by us to such collection agency or attorney.

Letters to the editor

The opinions of columnists, editorial writers and other contributing writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the collective attitude of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley or *The Empty Closet*. We will print letters at the editor's discretion and on a space available basis. We will not print personal attacks on individuals, nor will we be a forum for ongoing disputes between individuals. We reserve the right to edit for space and clarity. We will print anonymous letters if the name and phone number are provided to the Editor; confidentiality will be respected. Submissions are due by the 15th of the month at: *The Empty Closet*, 875 E. Main Street, Suite 500, Rochester, NY 14605; e-mail: emptycloset@gagv.us. Online edition of EC available at www.gayalliance.org.



LOCAL AND STATE NEWS

Men's Chorus plans food/beauty drive for ARI

The Rochester Gay Men's Chorus (RGMC), in conjunction with AIDS Rochester Inc. (ARI) has established the Bob Griffith FAB (Food And Beauty) Drive to assist the ARI food cupboard.

The drive was named after a long time RGMC member, Bob Griffith, who has been instrumental in getting Chorines to donate to the food pantry at each rehearsal. Now that he is no longer singing, the Chorus felt it important to carry on Bob's important work while honoring his efforts through the years.

People making use of the ARI Food Cupboard have many needs. Obviously any non-perishable food items are appreciated. But of even greater need are items which cannot be purchased with food stamps or public assistance. These items make up the "beauty" part of RGMC's program.

Personal hygiene products such as razors, shaving cream, deodorant, mouthwash, toothpaste, tooth brushes, and bar soap are especially needed. Beauty aids such as skin lotion, lipstick, cologne, perfume, the little things which help one feel better about one's self are not covered by food stamps or public assistance.

Paper products such as tissues, toilet paper, paper towels and napkins are in great demand. And while having a pet is clearly recognized as health promoting, buying food and supplies for a cat or a dog or a bird are not covered.

While the Chorus has undertaken a concerted effort to generate contributions to the Food Cupboard at rehearsals, our efforts are limited. Therefore, RGMC is asking each person coming to the June 18 concert at the Hochstein Auditorium to bring one item, which can be donated to ARI.

The Rochester Gay Men's Chorus is proud to be able to both assist ARI and honor one of its own through the Bob Griffith FAB Drive. Please join us in our efforts on June 18.

(For full information on the June RGMC concert, see B 2, Entertainment Section.)

Meet the gay candidates June 9 at Business Forum social

The Community Business Forum is playing host to a group of openly gay Democratic candidates who are running for office throughout Rochester this fall.

Up to seven lgbt politicians will be on hand during CBF's monthly social, June 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the Rochester Museum & Sci-

ence Center. This will be an opportunity for the lgbt community to meet and talk with openly gay candidates for public office in our city, county and state.

CBF (formerly GRGLBF), is an organization that assists in maintaining a supportive environment for all individuals regardless of their sexual orientation or employment status. It is also the group that is responsible for organizing Rochester's 2005 Pride Parade and Cultural Festival at Highland Bowl, July 16.

Candidates who will attend the June 9 CBF event include Harry Bronson and Paul Haney, running for seats on the Monroe County Legislature; Deb Crowder, for City Court Judge; Jo Melleca as member of the Greece Town Council; the Honorable EllenYacknin for New York State Supreme Court; Honorable Tim O. Mains for mayor; and the Honorable Bill Pritchard for City Council re-election.

Looking ahead: CBF is planning a special social event on June 23 (5:30 at RMSC) in recognition of the beginning of the summer season -- and Gay Pride around the world.

To help celebrate Rochester Gay Pride Week, members and guests are invited to gather at Highland Bowl, July 14, for CBF's monthly social (5:30 p.m.). Special park-friendly beverages and snacks will be available.

And don't forget Rochester's 2005 Pride Parade and Cultural Festival at the Highland Bowl, on July 16, starting at 4 p.m. This year's Pride Parade line-up will be on South Goodman St. between Elmwood and Highland Avenues (step-off at 5 p.m.). This year's parade and festival theme is "Broadway at the Bowl." For information, go to www.streetsofpride.com or call 585-234-8706.

CBF membership is a diverse group of business owners, employees, retirees, and people seeking to find support, education, and networking to enhance their personal and professional lives. The group meets year-round on the second Thursday of every month at the RMSC, 657 East Ave, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Annual CBF membership dues and a monthly admission fee of just \$10, which covers hot snacks and cool drinks and raises money for various community organizations and events, such as the annual parade and festival. Meetings consist of networking, socializing with new and old friends, and a brief program during which you can learn of community happenings and business news. Drawings for door prizes also take place. For information, call the CBF voice-mail line at 585-234-8706, or drop an e-mail at www.streetsofpride.com. ■



Alex Camacho, Peer Youth Specialist at The MOCHA Project (right) with Todd Plank, GAGV Community Relations Director, at the MCC Mental Health Fair.

PHOTO: ANDREW TURNQUIST

Pride Week (continued from page 1)

ceremony starts at 5 and runs until 7 p.m., in front of the Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave., at the intersection of Atlantic Ave. and Beacon St. in the Neighborhood of the Arts.

The Pride Parade takes to the streets on Saturday, July 16, with a new route, starting at 5 p.m. at the corner of Highland and Goodman, and heading to Highland Bowl for the Festival, "Broadway at the Bowl," which runs till 10:30 p.m. and will feature many outstanding performers. For more info, go to www.streetsofpride.com.

Frontrunners will also take to the streets that day, with their 9 a.m. Fun Run. Meet at George Eastman House parking lot. Run in the morning and march in the afternoon, then dance all night -- very aerobic.

Finally, on Sunday, July 17, those who have survived the week can join Rainbow Seniors for a potluck at 4 p.m. All the details and updates will be in the July Empty Closet, out and about by Friday, July 1. And watch for those amazing picnic posters around town (thanks to Richard Young). ■

GAGV Board Fundraising

May 2005
Fundraising Goal: \$200,000

Individual donations (Incl. United Way).....	\$32,911
Memberships.....	\$3,300
Sponsorships.....	\$13,000
Events.....	\$4,209
Year-to-date Goal.....	\$83,000
Year-to-date Raised.....	\$53,420

June 24 is National HIV Testing Day. Head for St. Joseph's Park on Clinton Ave. downtown - 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. It's free, and there will be live music, live poetry, free food and a free yoga class. The event is sponsored by the MOCHA Project and AIDS Community Health Center.

CORRECTION

Michelle Szatkowski was not credited for the following photos in the May *Empty Closet*: Kate Clinton in performance (pages A 1 and B1), Kate Clinton with Tim Mains and David Gardner (page A 19), and the three photos from the fundraiser for Tim Mains (page A 18).
 Our apologies to Michelle!

DIESEL 7 Diamonds
 Jean Paul Da'mage
 7 for all mankind
 Asics
 Penguin XO XO
 Faryl Robin
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 FCUK
 Kenneth Cole
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NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Black AIDS Institute says Medicaid cuts will raise death toll

The Black AIDS Institute, the only African American HIV/AIDS think tank, says that Congressional leadership and the Administration have colluded to pass a plan for cutting Medicaid by \$10 billion over the next five years. Medicaid is the largest payer for HIV treatment in the nation, accounting for half of all people in treatment. Sixty-four percent of African Americans being treated for HIV/AIDS pay for it with Medicaid or Medicare.

"The fiscal year 2006 budget plan that a House-Senate committee agreed to last week would hold all domestic spending flat and slash spending on programs that form a safety net for America's poor," said Executive Director Phill Wilson. "At the same time, the plan racks up another \$106 billion in tax cuts for wealthy Americans over the next five years. The budget plan suggests that much of the budget reductions come from Medicaid. Ideas for cutting the program's spending that are already being discussed include increasing patient co-pays and tightening restrictions on who qualifies for enrollment.

"Earlier this year, the Senate voted to remove all Medicaid cuts from the budget plan and to instead establish an independent commission to study ways to reduce costs. The Republican leadership and the White House, however, reinserted the cuts during the conference negotiations that were needed to reconcile the House and Senate proposals. President Bush's budget proposal had recommended \$14 billion in Medicaid cuts over the next five years.

"The budget resolution is just the first step in Congress' annual budgeting process," Wilson said. "Between now and the start of the fiscal year -- Oct. 1 -- the House and Senate will each hammer out the details of what each government program can spend next year. Members of the Senate Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction over Medicaid, are believed to support at least keeping Medicaid spending level. The National Governors' Association has also expressed concerns over cutting the program, but has now begun negotiating ways to reduce spending with key House members. The African American community must engage both our state leaders and our representatives in Washington to let

them know how crucial Medicaid is to our community's health.

"Already, African Americans living with HIV are seven times more likely to die from the virus than infected whites. If Washington guts Medicaid, even as it hands out billions of additional dollars in tax cuts, more of us may be driven out of treatment or required to accept lower-quality care -- and the AIDS death gap is likely to grow."

Black Prides take place across country

The International Federation of Black Prides (IFBP), a coalition of black gay pride organizers, recently announced the 2005 schedule of Black gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender prides (below).

Currently, there are over 20 prides scheduled including South Africa and Toronto, Canada. 2005 highlights include the first annual Charlotte, North Carolina Black pride celebration and the formation of IFBP's new magazine *The Life*, a publication designed by and for Black lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people featuring news, politics, events, and entertainment.

Black gay pride celebrations have become highly anticipated and attended events around the world. It is estimated that over 200,000 people will attend black prides this year. D.C. Black Pride celebrated 15 years in May, and Detroit's Black pride will be 10 years old in July.

"One of the unique things about the IFBP is that our member Black Prides are in large and small cities through the country," explained IFBP president Earl Fowlkes, Jr. "Black Prides are used to develop a sense of community for Black LGBT folks especially in smaller cities like Nashville, St. Louis and the Twin Cities. These prides are just important as the larger prides in Chicago, Atlanta and D.C."

For more information, please visit www.ifbprides.org.

Additional Information

According to a recent Black pride survey, attendees of Black gay prides are culturally diverse, have an average income larger than the national average, enjoy disposable income, are well-educated, most with college degrees, work in professional fields, are socially active and influential, event loyal, buyers of high-ticket items, beauty, health and fitness conscious, frequent travelers, fashion conscious, trendset-

ters and brand loyal.

For more information on sponsorship opportunities and advertising rates, please call (323) 731-4955 or (202) 841-7104.

2005 INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION BLACK PRIDE SCHEDULE

BOSTON UNITY PRIDE
Boston, Mass.; June 8 - 12.

MEMPHIS TN BLACK PRIDE
Memphis, Tenn.; June 17 - 19; www.memphisblackpride.com

BLACK PRIDE NYC
New York, NY; June 21 - 26; www.blackpridenyc.com

AT THE BEACH (ATB)
Los Angeles, Calif.; July 1 - 4; www.atbla.com

WINDY CITY BLACK PRIDE
Chicago, Ill.; July 1 - July 4; www.windycitypride.org

CENTRAL FLORIDA BLACK PRIDE
Tampa, Fla.; July 14-17; www.floridablackpride.net

CHARLOTTE NC BLACK GAY PRIDE
Charlotte, NC; July 15 - 17; charlottenblackgaypride.com

DETROIT PRIDE HOTTER THAN JULY
Detroit, Mich.; July 27 - July 31; www.hotterthanjuly.com

TORONTO BLACK PRIDE
Toronto, Canada; July 28-30; www.torontoblackpride.com

PITTSBURGH UNITY BLACK PRIDE
Pittsburgh, Pa.; July 29 - 31

CLEVELAND BLACK, GAY & PROUD CELEBRATION
Cleveland, Ohio; Aug. 1-7; www.blackoutunlimited.org

JACKSONVILLE FLORIDA BLACK PRIDE
Jacksonville, Fla.; Aug. 5 - 7; www.jaxblackpride.com

INDIANA BLACK PRIDE
Indianapolis, IN; Aug. 5 - 7

MINNESOTA GLBT SOUL ESSENCE
Minneapolis, Minn.; Aug. 11 - 14; www.soulessenceminnesota.org

ST. LOUIS BLACK PRIDE
St. Louis, Minn.; Aug. 19-21; www.stlouisblackpride.org

BAY AREA BLACK IN THE LIFE CELEBRATION
Oakland, Calif.; Aug. 16-21; www.bbtl.net

EBONY PRIDE SAN DIEGO
San Diego, Calif.; Aug. 27; www.ebonypride.org

ATLANTA BLACK GAY PRIDE
Atlanta, Ga.; Aug. 31 - Sept. 5; www.inthelifeatl.com

DALLAS BLACK PRIDE
Dallas, Texas; Sept. 30 - Oct. 2; www.dallasblackpride.com

BALTIMORE BLACK GAY PRIDE
Baltimore, Md; Oct. 7-9; www.bmoreblackpride.org

OAKLAND BLACK PRIDE
Oakland, Calif.; Oct. 6-9; www.californiablackprides.org

MISSISSIPPI BLACK PRIDE
Jackson, Miss.; Oct. 6 - 9; www.mississippiblackpride.com

NASHVILLE BLACK PRIDE
Nashville, Tenn; Oct. 28 - 30; www.brothersunited.com

POC (PEOPLE OF COLOR) NOLA
New Orleans, La.; Nov. 26-28

About the International Federation of Black Gay Prides:

The IFBP is a coalition of black pride organizers formed to promote a multinational network of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and same-gender loving Prides and community-based organizations. www.ifbprides.org.

Colorado bans discrimination against lgbt employees, overturns marriage amendment

On May 5, the Colorado Legislature passed a measure that would ban discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees. A House committee also struck down a proposed amendment to the Colorado Constitution that would deny marriage, along with other legal arrangements, to same-sex couples.

"There should be nothing partisan about making sure good employees can keep their jobs," said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign. "We urge Governor Owens to ensure this important protection becomes law, making certain that Coloradoans' employment opportunities are based on the quality of their work and nothing more."

Solmonese added, "We laud the House Judiciary for defeating a measure that would put discrimination in the Colorado Constitution. This amendment was politics at its worst and put real Coloradoans and their families in danger."

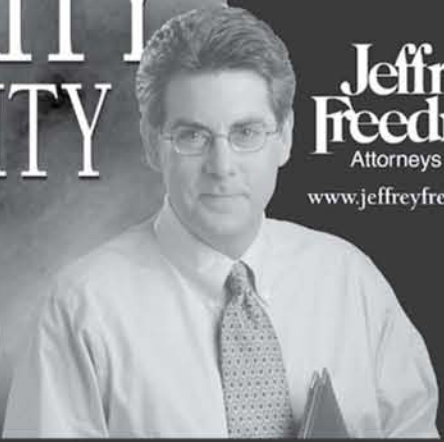
"Passage of SB 28 is a historic landmark for the cause of GLBT equality in Colorado," said Pat Steadman, a lobbyist for the GLBT state group Equal Rights Colorado. "This is precisely the bill that the authors of 'Amendment 2' tried to prevent our legislature from passing. Today's vote demonstrates just how far we've come in Colorado toward an acknowledgement of the equal dignity of each and every citizen of our great state."

Colorado S.B. 05-28 would prohibit employment discrimination against GLBT individuals. The measure was sponsored, by openly lesbian state Sen. Jennifer Veiga, D-Denver, and passed the Senate on April 25, 2005 by a partisan 18-17 vote. The measure passed the House on May 4, 2005 by a 36-29 vote. On May 5, the Senate concurred with House changes.

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have laws that prohibit employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and six also prohibit gender identity-based discrimination, including Colorado neighbor New Mexico.

Andrea Dworkin, feminist writer, dies at 58

Feminist author-activist Andrea Dworkin died April 9 at her home in Washington D.C. She had been in poor health for some time and suffered from osteoarthritis.

Dworkin's first book, *Woman Hating*, was published in 1973. She was one of the feminist activist-writers of the '70s who made violence against women a central issue. Her passionate, uncompromising stand on male supremacy, the hating/blaming of women and heterosexual pornography made her a figure of controversy. Gloria Steinem called her one of the handful of writers born in each century whose work encourages human evolution.

Born in Camden, N.J. in 1946, Dworkin was arrested and jailed at 18 for opposing the Vietnam War. She worked at various times in her life as a waitress, receptionist, salesclerk, factory worker, prostitute and poet. Her other books include *Intercourse* (1987) and *Scapegoat: The Jews, Israel and Women's Liberation*, which won the American Book Award in 2001.

In 1998 she married John Stoltenburg, also a feminist activist, who writes on male responsibility for violence against women. Stoltenburg, who has been identified as gay in news reports, is her only survivor; they had lived together since 1974.

Reach Out and Touch Someone (But Not in a Gay Way)

From <http://www.wonkette.com/politics/culture-war/index.php>:

United American Technologies, a "Christian-based phone carrier" based in Oklahoma, has a pretty good sales pitch. According to a story by John Avlon in the New York Sun, the company describes itself as "the only carrier that is taking an active stand against same sex marriages and hardcore child pornography."

Here, we pick up a taped telemarketing call after one potential customer asks if AT&T sponsors child pornography:

United American Technologies: No, No, that's MCI.

Mr. Mirman: MCI has hardcore child pornography?

United American Technologies: Yes, they are. They have a pedophile Web site for men who love boys. It's a Montréal based Web site....

Mr. Mirman: And so MCI basically has a child pornography ring?

United American Technologies: That's correct.

Mr. Mirman: What about the others? What does Verizon do?

United American Technologies: OK. Verizon, what they do is they train their employees to accept the gay and lesbian lifestyle.

With 2000 customers reportedly switching to United American Technologies each month, Christian-based lying and phone homophobia is a lucrative business. But they're not just in it for the money. A cut of the proceeds helps fund conservative political campaigns, via a 527 called "Faith Family and Freedom" created by the Republican floor leader of the Oklahoma House of Representatives. (GREG BEATO)

-Hate Speech on the Other Line <<http://www.nysun.com/article/13577>> [NY Sun]

ACLU plans national marriage campaign

The American Civil Liberties Union on May 16 announced plans to launch a national Marriage Campaign to persuade Americans that it is unfair to deny legal protections to the families of same-sex couples. The campaign will be led by Michael Mitchell, who comes to the ACLU after serving as the Executive Director of Equal-

ity Utah, that state's lesbian and gay advocacy organization.

"Our Constitution guarantees basic fairness to all people, yet lesbian and gay couples who make lasting commitments to each other just like married couples, are denied protections for their families," said Anthony D. Romero, Executive Director of the ACLU. "With states racing to enact amendments that will forever ban same-sex couples from getting legal protections, it is critical to show why it's wrong to keep people from visiting their partners in the hospital or from making emergency medical decisions, and how it hurts children to be legal strangers to their parents."

The goal of the Marriage Campaign is to step up the dialogue with the American people and show through firsthand accounts how lesbian and gay couples and their children suffer when their families are not recognized by the law. Among other public education efforts, the campaign will offer assistance to local campaigns fighting constitutional amendments that seek to ban gay people from marriage and other family protections.

"One thing I learned during Utah's recent constitutional amendment challenge is that most people don't realize the toll these measures take on very real Americans with very real families," said Michael Mitchell, the new Director of the ACLU's Marriage Campaign. "When people are given the opportunity to see the chaos caused by our government's treatment of gay families, their attitudes change. I'm eager to bring the lessons I learned here in Utah and from my colleagues around the country and focus them into an active, honest conversation with the American public."

Mitchell has served as the Executive Director of Equality Utah since 2001, when he helped to oversee the campaign to defeat Utah's anti-gay relationship amendment. He is also on the board of the Equality Foundation, a network of statewide LGBT advocacy organizations. Prior to joining Equality Utah, he worked as a senior advisor on the congressional election campaign for Donald Dunn. He also served as the Executive Director of the Gay/Lesbian American Music Awards.

"We're at a defining moment in the civil rights struggle for gay people," said Matt Coles, Director of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. "While we have recently made several important breakthroughs, our opponents are motivated like never before. It's time to fight back, and with Michael's enthusiasm and leadership we hope to show America that this is simply a matter of basic fairness for all families."

To learn more about the ACLU's efforts towards greater fairness in marriage, visit <http://www.aclu.org/getequal/ffm/index.html>.

Ernst & Young wins praise for protections

The Human Rights Campaign praised Ernst & Young LLP for recognizing the need to protect employees from discrimination based on gender identity and expression. The firm becomes the first of the Big Four accounting and professional services firms to reach 100 percent on HRC's Corporate Equality Index, ranking companies on how they treat gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees and consumers.

"Gender identity is irrelevant to how well employees do their job," said HRC President Joe Solmonese. "Ernst & Young understands this is an issue of basic fairness. It also makes good business sense, with more and more major companies instituting policies that ensure a level playing field for all employees. It's rewarding to see Ernst & Young become the leader in their industry."

"People are our greatest asset and we are committed to an inclusive, flexible work environment that values diversity of thought and people," said John Ferraro, Vice Chair-Client Service, Ernst & Young LLP. "Ernst & Young is proud to be recognized for having a 100 percent rating on HRC's Corporate Equality Index because we take pride in our culture of inclusiveness."

"Companies are recognizing the business imperative of being first in their industry to ensure equal treatment for all of their gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees," said Emily Jones, co-chair of the HRC Business Council. The Business Council is a group of 25 corporate leaders who provide expert advice and counsel on LGBT workplace issues based on their business experience and knowledge. Part of the Council's set priorities for 2005 is the inclusion of gender identity and expression in more Fortune 500 companies' non-discrimination policies.

Gay men flogged in Saudi Arabia

At least 35 men are to be flogged after they attended a "gay wedding" in Jeddah in March, according to a report of Amnesty International. The men may be prisoners of conscience, punished solely for their sexual orientation. See <http://www.ai-lgbt.org/> <http://www.ai-lgbt.org/>

Four of the men (two Saudi Arabians, a Jordanian and a Yemeni) were sentenced by a court in Jeddah to 2,000 lashes and two years' imprisonment, and 31 others to 200 lashes and six months to one year in prison. The report did not give any names or any further information as to the identity of the 35. The information was apparently provided by a source close to one of the defendants.

Amnesty International has written to the Minister of the Interior seeking clarification of the report, expressing concern that the men have apparently been sentenced to flogging, and appealing for any such sentences to be commuted.

Interfaith Advocates encourages individuals, churches and organizations to write the Minister of the Interior for Saudi Arabia. (A letter-signing party organized by the World Peacemaking Committee at Rochester's Third Presbyterian Church on a recent Sunday morning generated several dozen letters.)

Mass. Democratic Party puts marriage equality plank in their platform

On May 16, the National Stonewall Democrats (NSD) praised the Massachusetts Democratic Party for approving a plank to the state party platform that endorses marriage equality for same-sex couples.

The platform was adopted by voice vote May 14, during the state party convention in Lowell, Mass. Massachusetts now joins the Democratic parties of Colorado and Iowa in adopting such a plank. The Massachusetts Democratic Party has already voiced support for marriage equality through a resolution adopted more than a year ago. Since then, the Democratic Parties of California, New York State, Washington State and numerous county parties have issued similar resolutions.

"The Massachusetts Democratic Party understands that families are strengthened when they enjoy the full enforcement of legal protections granted by the state," said Eric Stern NSD Executive Director. "With an intense majority of Massachusetts residents supporting marriage equality, this common-sense platform plank demonstrates how Governor Romney and the Republican Party have marginalized themselves from reality."

The platform plank is the result of more than two-dozen meetings of the party's platform committee conducted across the state. Delegates to the convention also heard from three Democratic gubernatorial candidates during the proceedings, with each candidate voicing support for marriage equality during the convention.

In contrast, Republican Governor Mitt Romney has worked towards enshrining marriage discrimination in the Massachusetts constitution. Since opposing marriage equality, Romney has seen his popularity dramatically slide in the state. A University of Massachusetts poll conducted last month showed that only 33 percent of voters believed the Governor should be reelect-

ed in 2006.

The Republican Party of Massachusetts also belittled families in Massachusetts when reacting to the adoption of the platform plank. Tim O'Brien, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Republican Party, told the *Boston Globe* that the plank did not "represent the average voters of Massachusetts." Yet, recent polls have demonstrated that the opinion of the Massachusetts Republican Party contradicts the views of the majority of families in the state.

A *Boston Globe* poll conducted in March found that nearly 60 percent of Massachusetts residents now support marriage equality for same-sex couples. The poll found that 71 percent of Democrats supported marriage equality, along with 53 percent of independents and 35 percent of the state's Republican minority.

More than 6,000 same-sex couples have wed in Massachusetts since the commonwealth extended marriage equality one year ago. Since then, leading Democrats like U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy have voiced their support for marriage equality. Democrats also named Representative Salvatore F. DiMasi, a pro-marriage supporter, to replace an anti-marriage equality activist as State House Speaker.

Federal court strikes down Nebraska anti-gay amendment

In a ruling issued May 12, a federal court struck down Nebraska's anti-gay-union constitutional amendment that bans any and all forms of legal recognition for same-sex relationships, including domestic partnerships and other basic protections. The state is expected to appeal the case to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit.

The Court noted in its ruling that the plaintiffs in the case had not requested any recognition of their relationships through marriage or any other legal status, but merely sought an equal opportunity to persuade legislators of the need for protections. Judge Joseph F. Bataillon went on to say, "The court finds Section 29 is a denial of access to one of our most fundamental sources of protection, the government. Such broad exclusion from 'an almost limitless number of transactions and endeavors that constitute ordinary civil life in a free society' is 'itself a denial of equal protections in the literal sense.'"

"This anti-gay-union law, in effect, hung a sign on the door of the Unicameral saying 'Same-Sex Couples Not Allowed,'" said David Buckel, a senior attorney at Lambda Legal, one of the groups representing the plaintiffs. "It makes no sense that Americans who believe in commitment and want to be more responsible to each other and their children have to fight so hard just for the right to try to persuade legislators that protections for family are important -- successful or not, all citizens should have an equal shot in the democratic process."

The anti-gay-union law, Section 29 of the Nebraska constitution, was passed in November 2000 in a heavily debated election. Promoted to voters simply as protection of marriage, the law went far beyond restricting the right to marry to heterosexual couples. The law explicitly barred any legal recognition of a same-sex couple in a "civil union, domestic partnership, or other similar same-sex relationship."

"The judge was clear that states can't enact amendments that bar gay people from the democratic process," said Amy Miller of ACLU Nebraska. "Committed same-sex couples need the same protections for their families that married couples enjoy, and we're hopeful that the legislature will take up this issue soon. This decision doesn't mean that gay people can marry, get a civil union or a domestic partnership, but it guarantees gay people the right to lobby their state law makers for those protections."

The ACLU and Lambda Legal filed the lawsuit in federal court in Lincoln in April 2003, saying that the state law violated the U.S. Constitution. The plaintiffs are Citi-

(Newsfronts continues on page 8)

Interview

John Parrinello, Republican candidate for mayor



By Susan Jordan

Attorney John Parrinello is the Republican candidate for mayor of Rochester. He says, "I'm running for mayor because there's been one party in office for approximately 30 years," and "one-party rule does not lend itself to the proper checks and balances that should be in city government."

However, Parrinello feels that the situation in Monroe County, which has had an entrenched Republican Executive for several administrations, is different, since Democrats in the county legislature are able to challenge Republican policies and initiatives.

Empty Closet: Did you grow up in Rochester? What are your early memories and how is the city different today from what it was during your childhood?

John Parrinello: I grew up in the Villa St./Emerson St. neighborhood in the northwest part of the city. It's very different now. I lived in that neighborhood, I delivered papers, I went to school on Lyell Ave., I played in the J.P. Riley Playground, and participated in sports activities like KPAA (Kodak Park Athletic Association).

Then I went to Aquinas, and from there to the University of Rochester, and from there to the Marine Corps, and from there to the Boston Patriots. Then I went to Syracuse College of Law at Syracuse University. I moved back to Rochester in 1965 and lived on Berkeley St., between East and Park Avenues. In 1967 I moved to San Gabriel Drive off Winton Rd. In 1997 I moved back to Berkeley St. to the same house, where I live now....

The main differences now are drugs and deteriorated neighborhoods. With the exception of the Cinema and the Little Theatre, there are no movie theatres. I'd agree that there has been a flight to the suburbs.

I think our educational system in the city school district is severely deteriorated. Also, when I grew up, you could walk or take the bus downtown or ride your bike, and you didn't need an escort, and there were no concerns for your safety.

EC: Why did you decide to run for mayor, and what would your priorities be if elected?

I'm running for mayor because there has been one party in office for 30 years, which is very unhealthy, because you aren't open to new ideas. I'm running for mayor because I can run for mayor, not for economic reasons.

I feel that I can make a significant difference, especially in the economic development of downtown and the restructuring of neighborhoods. I can use the mayor's bully pulpit to try to improve public education. I can close drug houses. I can set priorities like elimination of lead paint poisoning of about 9,000 children per year.

I grew up economically in a lower middle class family and have moved through life, with the support of my family, and made something of myself, which could serve as a model for children, regardless of ethnic or economic background.

EC: Didn't Mayor Johnson and Wade Norwood also come from backgrounds of poverty?

JP: Mayor Johnson is an invisible man. He's invisible. He has shown no leadership in any positive way.... Wade is a product of the political system and David Gantt. He has nothing to say for himself.... Bob Duffy has no practical administrative experience and has not taken individual leadership in the war on drugs....

Tim Mains, of the three candidates, is probably the most decent candidate, who on occasion has had the temerity to make a stand independent of the Democratic Party – unfortunately he doesn't have a chance. Black ministers support Norwood, white suburbanites and liberals support Duffy. Who is left to support Mains?

EC: Would you take an independent stand in opposition to the local Republican Party on certain issues?

JP: I decide on my own positions and don't ask Steve Minarik before I take a stand. I do think that Minarik is effective. His method of operating may be rough, but he certainly knows how to win elections.

EC: Do you support the Renaissance Square project and what are your priorities for the renovation of Sibley?

JP: My position is to create jobs and complete the renovation of Sibley. We've got to make it a vibrant area. We're thinking about...

...we have to have a casino. We have to have a casino with Canada... We're realistic about the number of jobs that can be run. In months when it's dangerous, we have to do something to support it. We can't dry dock it – we'd need to rent it out for weddings and private parties. It will have to generate income. It will certainly help the Charlotte area and will be the first time our waterfront has been utilized for something other than dumping garbage, but will it increase budget debt?

I can't understand why the mayor moved as quickly as he did without all the answers and embraced the CATS group. He made glowing remarks about CATS... and then disowned them. Somehow the mayor dropped the ball. Wade was on the commission and I haven't heard anything (from him) but broad generalizations about how it will help the economy.

EC: And Renaissance Square?

JP: I'm chairman of the board of trustees at Monroe Community College (since 1999). We have built dormitories and a \$25 million student center, we're building a synthetic soccer/lacrosse field with lights, and are raising money for a sports center. Our fund balance has risen from four million to 20 million....

Our board approved Renaissance Square.... The Damon campus would be moved from its location in the Sibley building and into the Granite building. We will have a campus atmosphere with green space and a performing arts center and a bus terminal. I'm totally in favor of the whole process because it will bring people down there, so they can go to the Casino at Midtown and the retail complexes in the city, stay in our hotels downtown; the upper floors of the Sibley building will be a hotel, with a retail and recreational facility, including a movie complex, downstairs.

...the Renaissance Square project and the renovation of Sibley. We've got to make it a vibrant area. We're thinking about...

EC: What are your priorities for marriage equality legislation?

JP: MCC has voted in favor of that. Benefits to domestic partners were voted in favor of that.

EC: But what about legal issues?

JP: Marriage licenses are up to the legislature. It's not up to me as mayor. The state legislature says it's legal, and a gay couple asks me to marry them, I would.

EC: What if the question is resolved in the courts?

JP: The courts are there to resolve problems. Each interest would be represented. As mayor, I wouldn't have the power to do anything about resolution of that issue.

EC: A lot of gay people distrust the Republican Party, since it's essentially been part of its platform for years that our families are unreal and our love for each other is unreal – not as real as that of heterosexuals. Do you agree with that aspect of Republican philosophy?

JP: I don't think that gay couples don't have the same love for each other or respect or concern for each other that heterosexual couples do. I don't favor that position.

I get into concerns when homosexual couples have children. I do have concern about that. Whether my concern is real – I don't think there's enough statistical proof that children who grow up in a gay couple situation will not be gay themselves. I don't know the answer to that.

I'm more of a libertarian than anything. I've represented a number of people who are different from society. I don't pick or reject clients because of who they are. What I try to do is make sure principles of justice function properly. I've always been a defense attorney; I have never switched sides... Defense attorneys are the only people who daily protect people's rights. ■

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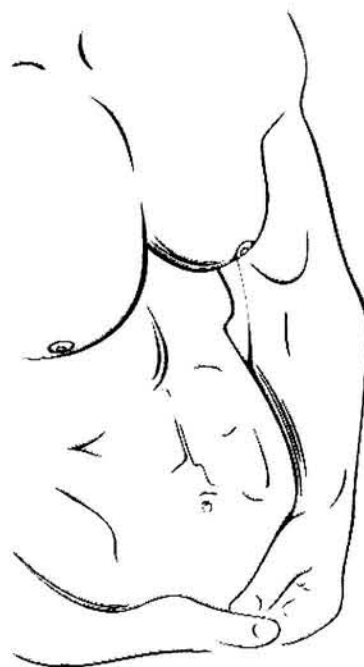
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Newsfronts (continued from page 5)

zens for Equal Protection (CFEP), Nebraska Advocates for Justice and Equality (NAJE) and ACLU Nebraska, three advocacy organizations in Nebraska blocked from seeking family protections for same-sex couples and their children because of the anti-gay-union law.

"It feels great to be a Nebraskan today, because it's looking like we'll be able to get to work for families again. Families headed by same-sex couples in Nebraska badly need basic protections and we'll set to work in the legislature to try and provide them," said Shelley Kiel of NAJE.

Members of the plaintiff organizations include Doreen Moritz, who cared for her 10-year life partner until her death but had to request that an attorney rush to the funeral home to ensure respect of the legal documents giving Moritz authority to carry out her deceased loved one's wishes. Judy Gibson and Barbara DiBernard of Lincoln, who have been in a committed relationship for over 14 years, are also participating in the lawsuit. Gibson has a severe degenerative disease that requires her to use a wheelchair, but because of Nebraska's law, DiBernard, who works for the state university, cannot advocate for a policy authorizing her to take time off from work to take Gibson to her regular medical appointments.

Another couple who are members of the plaintiff organizations are Donna Colley and Margaux Towne-Colley of Omaha, who have been in a committed, loving relationship for over six years and are the proud parents of an 18-month-old son. With a child's needs to consider, Colley and Towne-Colley are especially concerned about Section 29 because it blocks them from giving their family stability and structure through basic legal protections.

"It has been four long years waiting to be allowed to lobby our own senators -- it's great to see that democracy may be back in action in our great state," said M.J. McBride, president of CFEP. "Although equality in marriage may be out of reach now, there's

a lot we can do to help families cope better with financial responsibilities, medical emergencies and the loss of loved ones."

The Court noted in its ruling that the plaintiffs in the case had not requested any recognition of their relationships through marriage or any other legal status, but merely sought an equal opportunity to persuade legislators of the need for protections. Judge Joseph F. Bataillon went on to say, "The court finds Section 29 is a denial of access to one of our most fundamental sources of protection, the government. Such broad exclusion from 'an almost limitless number of transactions and endeavors that constitute ordinary civil life in a free society' is 'itself a denial of equal protections in the literal sense.'"

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doesn't mean that gay people can marry, get a civil union or a domestic partnership, but it guarantees gay people the right to lobby their state law makers for those protections."

The ACLU and Lambda Legal filed the lawsuit in federal court in Lincoln in April 2003, saying that the state law violated the U.S. Constitution. The plaintiffs are Citizens for Equal Protection (CFEP), Nebraska Advocates for Justice and Equality (NAJE) and ACLU Nebraska, three advocacy organizations in Nebraska blocked from seeking family protections for same-sex couples and their children because of the anti-gay-union law.

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marriage may be out of reach now, there's a lot we can do to help families cope better with financial responsibilities, medical emergencies and the loss of loved ones."

"Dangerous" Donna Red Wing takes key position at Interfaith Alliance

On May 17, The Interfaith Alliance announced the appointment of Donna Red Wing as its Senior Program and Development Advisor. A long-time leader and activist for progressive causes, Red Wing has been called "the most dangerous woman in America" by the Christian Coalition.

"I am very pleased to announce Red Wing's appointment," Suzie Armstrong, TIA Vice President said. "This is a key role for The Interfaith Alliance and with her appointment we now have the full complement of our executive team."

Armstrong said Red Wing will direct The Interfaith Alliance's field organizing program, consult and support the creation and implementation of the annual development plan, and manage the major gifts program. She will also work with the president, vice president, and board of directors around the organizational culture and vision.

"Red Wing has worked with us as a consultant for a number of years and we felt it was time to bring her on board in a full time capacity," Armstrong said.

In the 2004 presidential campaign, Red Wing served as the primary liaison to the gay and lesbian communities for the national Dean for America campaign. She was also the Democratic candidate for Colorado House District 25 in 2004.

In 1999, Red Wing was the first recipient of the Walter Cronkite Faith and Freedom Award, given annually by The Interfaith Alliance.

In a *Des Moines Register* article describing the presidential campaigns reaching

(Newsfronts continues on page 12)

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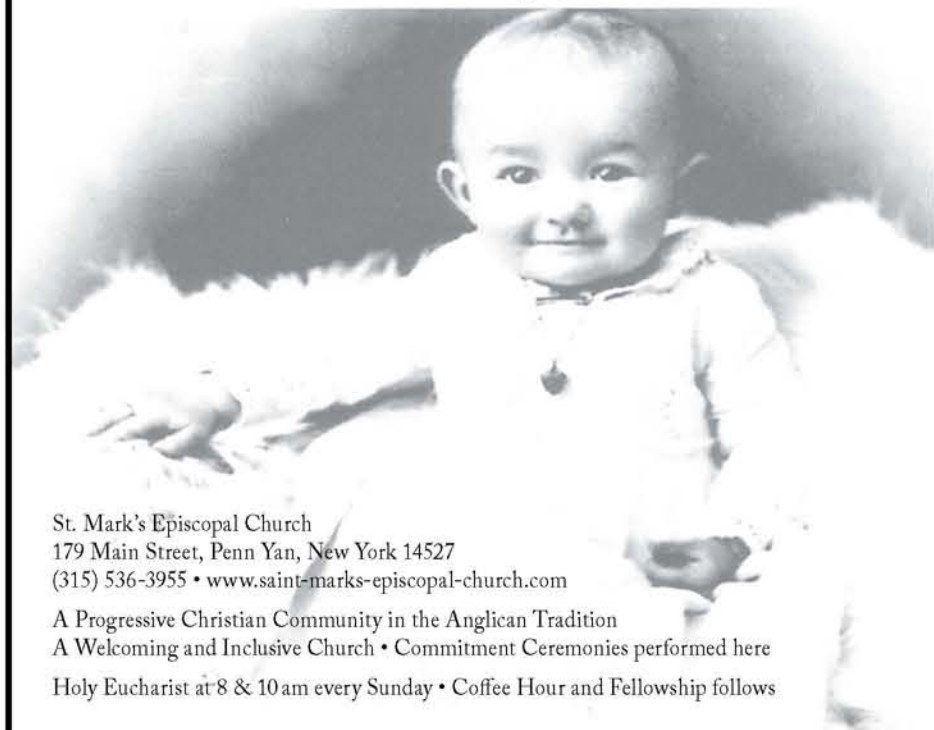
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Opinion

On the Front Range of the Culture War:

Reflections on the Soulforce Action against Focus on the Family, May 1, 2005

By Richard Lindsay, Spokesperson, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force National Religious Leadership Roundtable

"We are all participants in same-gender relationships."

-Rev. Gil Caldwell, a 72 year-old straight grandfather from Mississippi

Coming into Colorado Springs for Soulforce's action against Focus on the Family, my quiet cab ride was disturbed by two signs that I had landed in a red state. The first was an impassioned plea on the radio from James Dobson encouraging Colorado voters to contact Senator Ken Salazar to tell him to end his support of the Democratic filibuster of Bush's judicial nominees.

The second was driving past the New Life Church, a massive shopping center house of worship with a giant neon sign out front proclaiming JESUS. I got that familiar sinking feeling as someone from a flyover state who is constantly trying to defend my heritage to East and West coasters: I guess we are really that bad after all.

The next day dawned with the flanks of the Front Range hidden under cover of snow and clouds. It was a freezing May first, surely not a good sign for turning out numbers to what was billed as a "May Day family picnic" in front of the Focus headquarters. But as the time for the rally approached, clutches of people descended on the scene.

Square-state stereotypes fell away as hundreds of Colorado residents, fed up with the self-appointed spokespeople of family values, showed up to therally to dance, eat, and shiver for freedom. The usual crowd of lefties was there: Young Democrats, neo- and proto- hippies, anti-war protesters. There was a pride parade contingent of spiky-haired lesbians and leather and glitter gay boys. But then three charter buses pulled up, and church groups started filing out: straight couples with children, grandparents with P-FLAG pins, clergy in collars. They set up card tables with hot chocolate and snacks, and it actually started to look like a church picnic.

At the press conference, I denounced Focus' "Love Won Out" ex-gay programs on behalf of the Religious Leadership Roundtable and the Task Force. One of the most powerful speakers at the press conference and the rally included Reverend Gil Caldwell, an African American United Methodist pastor who was part of the 1964 Freedom Summer, in Mississippi. He stood in front of the crowd and proclaimed, "We are all partici-

pants in same-gender relationships."

It was a statement that, if I had made it, would have meant nothing, but coming from a 72 year-old straight grandfather, it meant everything. The most emotional speech came from Mary Lou and Bob Wallner. Mary Lou, a former fundamentalist Christian, lost her lesbian daughter to suicide in 1997. Next to her pleas for Christians to repent from their deadly homophobia, Focus' statements in the local papers the next morning that they love gays but the Bible rejects homosexuality came off as especially coarse.

By the time we started marching around the Focus headquarters, the popular liberal church song, "We Are Marching in the Light of God," had morphed into, "We Are Freezing in the Light of God." It was a long hike; Focus has a massive headquarters. As we rounded the final stretch of the march, we looked into windows at their in-house publishing department, a warehouse of books and pamphlets dripping with vitriol.

On Monday morning, 23 year-old Soulforce staffer Jake Reitan and his parents, Randi and Philip Reitan, marched up to the Focus headquarters to deliver a letter to James Dobson. The letter was one of a thousand, "Dear Dr. Dobson" letters Soulforce collected which described the pain Dobson's activities have caused in the lives of families. On Mondays, the Focus headquarters are usually open to the public, but because of the protest they had closed their doors and even covered the sign in the driveway with a tarp. After the Reitans read their letter, this small clan of hotdish Minnesota Lutherans right off *A Prairie Home Companion* deliberately trespassed onto Focus property. They were cuffed in plastic binders and led off to a waiting police van while about 250 Soulforce protesters sang "Amazing Grace."

The Focus leadership had continually denied requests to meet with Soulforce, claiming schedule conflicts and travel plans. Yet somehow, several of their vice presidents and spokespeople appeared in all the media stories on the event, even though they weren't, technically, there. The siege mentality of the religious right was truly apparent as they huddled behind their shuttered doors issuing useless press statements against this small contingent of peaceful protesters. And perhaps they were right to dig in: if all it takes is a bunch of liberal grandmas and hippy college students to shut down a multi-million dollar operation for a day, maybe they aren't as strong as we thought.

As I participated in the activities over the weekend, I kept thinking about Jesus' words to his disciples that they must be "innocent as doves and as shrewd as

snakes." It seems Soulforce has put the pieces together for being both prophetic and strategic. But the other thing that struck me is just how vital this work is. As Soulforce founder Mel White spoke at the Rally about conducting funeral services for young gay Christians who had taken their lives, it became apparent there is a toxic culture that has grown up around American

religion. Whatever we may do in our various denominations and religions as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and supporting people of faith, we must remember that we are working to save lives.

To view a photo of Soulforce's May Day, visit

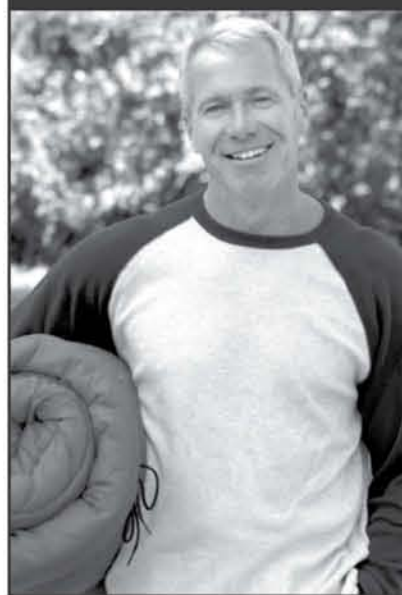
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NYC News

Photos: Doug Meszler



FAMILY VALUES: Kelly Osbourne, second from left, performed songs from her upcoming new CD, "Sleeping in the Nothing," at Roxy on April 24 at 2:30 a.m. With Kelly are designer Richie Rich and her parents, Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne.



FILM SOCIETY: Jennifer Beals at the Film Society of Lincoln Center's gala tribute to Dustin Hoffman on April 18. More NYC News on A 19.



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Strawberry Dipped Chocolate Cake
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 12 Large strawberries
 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
 1 cup white chocolate chips
 2 tsp. shortening (divided)
 2 (8 oz. ea.) frozen whipped topping thawed

Prepare cake mix and bake cake according to package directions for a 9-inch round cake. To dip berries - In separate bowls, combine each chocolate with 1 tsp. shortening. Microwave each for 30 seconds or until melted. Dip 6 whole strawberries and 12 halves (see picture) and place on wax paper to dry. Cover cake with whipped topping and and top with berries. Put remaining chocolate into separate resealable plastic bags. Snip a tiny hole in the corner of each bag and drizzle on berries.

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Sunday, July 10
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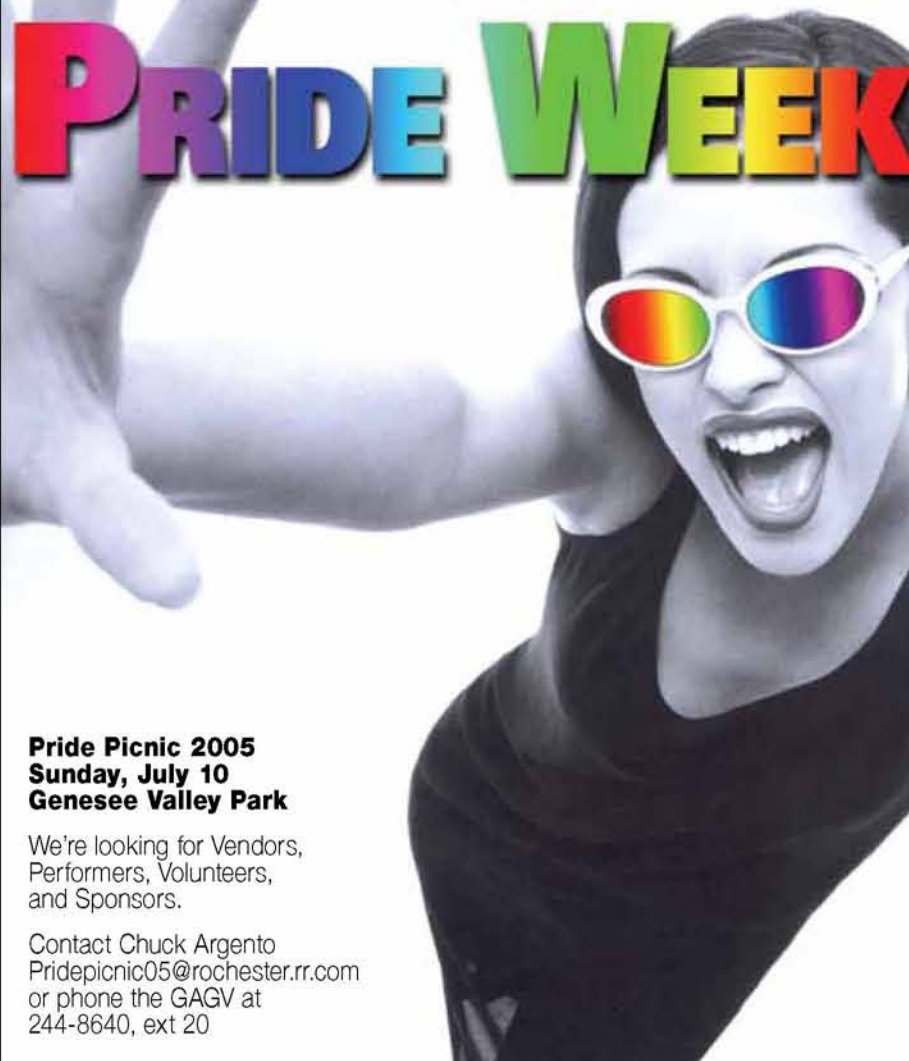
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Shawn Ryan and his fiancée Dan.

Gay social worker measures homophobic bias in colleagues

By Shawn Ryan, MSW

Growing up gay in a straight world offered me much perspective on the system of oppression here in the United States. Although I can tell horror stories like the generations preceding me, it is my elders who courageously laid the groundwork so my generation could more safely discover our authenticity.

After the torment of high school, with peers placing gum in my hair and decorating my face with bruises, I set out to join the profession of social work, where the main guiding principle is to partner with and advocate for societies' most vulnerable populations. I am privileged to help give a voice to the defining silence my sisters and brothers sometimes feel.

It wasn't long into my undergraduate education before I learned some of my colleagues held similar biases as the general population. In light of this, I set out to measure homophobic bias in professional social workers. I was both enlightened and startled by some of the conclusions drawn from my research.

Let's face it, even though social workers attempt to transcend societal ignorance, homophobia is in the water we drink — none of us can escape it. Considering homophobia was removed from the long list of mental illnesses in 1973, it is unfortunate that lesbian women and gay men can still receive less optimal care from medical professionals compared to our heterosexual counterparts.

I measured homophobia in social workers from a large medical institution here in Rochester. I did so by combining a quantitative survey tool with some open-ended

questions. There was a response rate of 77 percent, which is awesome by any standard. It was found that when using quantitative measures, 95 percent of social workers were not homophobic. This percent is similar to what other researchers found a decade before.

After analyzing the open-ended questions, however, it was found that 43 percent of social workers were delivering services from a disease model. One social worker said that "gay people may be putting more risk on themselves;" another felt that "gay people need to be wary of STDs, which are relevant to their sexual preference," and one more said sexual orientation was only important if the "gay person is HIV positive."

While overall quantitative scores appear supportive of diverse sexual orientations, qualitative results offer a contrary perspective, informing social workers of areas for future development. Since the qualitative portion of the scale measured nearly 45 percent greater homophobia than the ATLG, these findings may indicate that quantitative measures alone are not enough to accurately measure homophobia in our society.

Social workers have great responsibility and must be accountable to oppressed and vulnerable populations. Having self-awareness helps social workers excel in specific areas of practice and the wisdom to refer for assistance in professional areas that are challenging. Social workers need to recognize that when one population is oppressed, we all lose.

It is time gay and straight vie together for social justice; after all, we are more similar than different. ■

Newsfronts (continued from page 8)

out to the GLBT communities, Rob Borsellino wrote, "You've got activist Donna Red Wing -- called the 'Most Dangerous Woman in America' by the Christian Coalition -- stumping for Howard Dean."

Red Wing was the Policy Director at the Gill Foundation until April 2003, where she managed a number of policy programs including the National Faith Leadership Project. She also served as the Gill Foundation's Training Director.

Other past positions and affiliations include: National Field Director for The Human Rights Campaign; Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation; Executive Director of the Lesbian Community Project, in Portland, Oregon; founding member of the National Anti-Violence Project Roundtable; founder of the Portland, Oregon Anti-Violence Project; and Executive Director of the Child Assault Prevention Project of Central New England, a primary prevention program that worked with children ages 3-18, teaching them skills and strategies to prevent physical and sexual abuse.

Red Wing served as chair of the Regional Selection Committee of Leadership for a Changing World, a program of the Ford Foundation in partnership with the Advocacy Institute and the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, New York University. She also serves on the Boards of Directors of The Advocacy Institute and The Mautner Project in Washington, DC. She is a 2004 Policy Leadership Fellow with the Bighorn Center and has completed leadership training at the Center for Creative Leadership in Colorado Springs.

Red Wing received her B.A. in Fine Art from Assumption College and her M.A. from Clark University, both in Massachusetts. She served as consultant to the GAGV in 2004.

Ohio denies domestic violence law rights to gay couples

Arguing that Ohio's new marriage amendment is limited to barring same-sex couples from marriage, Lambda Legal will seek leave to file friend-of-the-court papers in two domestic violence cases currently on appeal in state court.

"Ohio's antigay marriage amendment has nothing to do with domestic violence laws," said Camilla Taylor, Staff Attorney in Lambda Legal's Midwest Regional Office in Chicago. "The amendment blocks marriage for same-sex couples and targets 'legal statuses' that 'approximate' marriage, but nothing approximates marriage. The rights and respect marriage brings are unique and affect every aspect of life. Wedding bells don't ring just because the State protects you from domestic violence."

Two cases, one in the Court of Appeals in Warren County and the other at the Court of Appeals in Cuyahoga County are on appeal after lower court judges found that the amendment invalidated domestic violence statutes as they relate to unmarried couples. In effect, these rulings reduced what would have been felony domestic violence charges to misdemeanors.

Lambda Legal will seek leave to file the brief in Warren County on May 19 and in Cuyahoga County in early June, arguing that the plain language of the amendment does not reach Ohio's domestic violence law, which brings married and unmarried people within its protection. "The lower courts reached an absurd conclusion in these cases," Taylor said. "The amendment is spiteful and writes discrimination into Ohio's Constitution. But it certainly doesn't leave unmarried people at risk in the face of domestic violence."

(Newsfronts continues on page 14)

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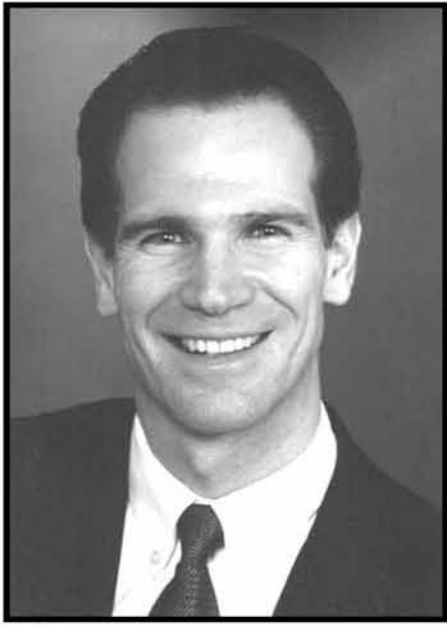


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William Monte

The Basics of Long-Term Care Insurance

By William R. Monte, CLTC, LTCP, CSA

In last month's *Empty Closet*, I spoke of the many inequities that same-sex couples face as compared to conventional married couples and the increased importance for domestic partners to proactively plan for their future long-term care. I hope that you found the article to be informative.

As a follow up, I thought it would be wise to spend some time delving into the basics of long-term care insurance (LTCI) and highlighting some of the key decisions that need to be made when designing an appropriate plan of protection. All of these design features will dictate what your annual premium will be for your policy.

To begin with, you need to understand that long-term care insurance is paid for with dollars, but it is bought with your health. In other words, it's a health-qualifying product. Basic underwriting of LTCI differs from that of life insurance underwriting in that there is no medical exam performed. An application for coverage is completed, which gives the company a broad overview of your medical history, both current and past (current medications, past surgeries, hospitalizations, etc.). A nurse underwriter then follows up with you by telephone to review the application information and makes a determination if medical records from your primary physician are needed for further information. The end result of the underwriting process is either a preferred health rating, a standard health rating, or a denial of coverage. The underwriting process can be as short as a week to as long as four to six weeks, depending on the scope of your medical history.

As far as the design of your LTCI policy, there are some key decisions that need to be discussed. Let me briefly describe each one.

Daily Benefit Amount

When you buy a policy, you are purchasing a certain daily benefit amount to cover the cost of long-term custodial care. In New York, you can purchase anywhere between \$70 and \$400 per day of benefit. Obviously, the more benefit you purchase the higher the premium will be. A decision needs to be made regarding how much of the current cost of care you are willing to pay yourself out of income and assets and how much you want the insurance company to pay for you. This daily benefit amount can be used for care in your own home, an assisted living facility, or a nursing home. It also can be used in any state in the country.

Benefit Period

The benefit period is simply the number of years that the insurance company will pay a benefit to you. You can elect as short as a two-year benefit period to as long as a lifetime benefit period that you cannot outlive. A lifetime benefit period is always the ideal choice if the premium still falls within a person's affordability guidelines.

Elimination or Waiting Period

This is similar to the "deductible" on your automobile insurance. The type of long-term care insurance policy that you purchase dictates how the elimination peri-

od is satisfied. The elimination period "clock" begins to tick on the day that you have become eligible for benefits. It can either represent the number of days of care that you have to pay first out of your own pocket (called "service" days) or simply the specific number of days on the calendar that have to elapse (called "calendar" days) before benefits begin.

Inflation Protection

The cost of long-term care continues to rise year after year. The only way to make sure that your policy keeps pace with those growing costs is to add inflation protection to your policy. Your choices are either five percent "Simple" or five percent "Compound" inflation.

Premium Discounts

There are three different discounts that are available to help make your investment into the policy much more affordable. The first two premium discounts are a 15 percent preferred health discount and a 20 percent domestic partner discount (given if both partners apply). In addition, because the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley (GAGV) feels so strongly about the need for the GLBT community to proactively plan for their future long-term care, we have implemented an additional 10 percent "affiliation" discount. This discount is not only given to the GAGV member and their partners, but it is also extended to both of their family members, allowing their entire family to plan for this substantial risk. In total, there is a possibility of receiving up to a 45 percent discount on your annual premium.

There is certainly not a "one size fits all" type of plan. Everyone has the ability to customize a plan with their own situation in mind, comprised of the options that make the most sense for them. I make every attempt to always structure a plan that has a premium cost that falls below one percent of the client's current assets. To me, it makes perfect financial sense to use one percent or less of our assets to help preserve and protect the other 99 percent from the exorbitant costs of long-term care.

I am truly looking forward to assisting the local GLBT community with this important planning issue. I hope you will utilize my knowledge and expertise to the fullest extent and allow me to provide you with a very thorough education. Only then will you be able to determine whether long-term care insurance is something that is right for you and your partner. Please call me at the number below if you have any questions or if you would like to set up an informational consultation. I look forward to speaking with you.

William is a certified long-term care planning specialist and is President of LTC Consultants, an independent long-term care planning firm in Rochester that specializes in working with Rochester's GLBT community. He can be reached at 585-721-2385 or by e-mail at bmonte@rochester.rr.com. His website address is www.ltcxpert.com. ■

Newsfronts (continued from page 12)

WorldPride to re-schedule after Gaza withdrawal

The WorldPride Festival planned for this summer in Jerusalem has been postponed. Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force issued the following statement:

"We support the decision to reschedule Jerusalem WorldPride so that it will not conflict with the new dates the Israeli government has set for its Gaza withdrawal. We share the hopes of so many that these unfolding, historic changes in Israel and Palestine will lead toward real peace.

"Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens in the United States understand firsthand what it is to be the target of those wielding religious doctrine and political extremism as a justification for bigotry. We also understand how powerful it is when we stand in unity against such intolerance. To that end, we will remain honored to join under the banner of WorldPride with our

many friends, allies and 1,000 faith leaders, so that it truly will be a 'global statement for peace, tolerance, freedom and love.'"

For further information about WorldPride see announcements listed below from Jerusalem Open House and Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum of CBST in NYC.

- Jerusalem Open House announces Reschedule of WorldPride. (<http://www.thetaskforce.org/downloads/WPrescheduling.pdf>)

- From CBST on Reschedule of WorldPride. (<http://www.thetaskforce.org/downloads/FromCBST.pdf>)

Maryland governor vetoes protection for same-sex couples

The Human Rights Campaign condemned on May 20 Maryland Gov. Robert Ehrlich's veto of two bills that would have extended limited protections to same-sex couples.

"Banning a loved one at the hospital room door does nothing to serve Maryland's greater good," said HRC President Joe Solmonese. "These bills had bipartisan support and were extremely limited in the protections they would have offered same-sex couples. In vetoing the bills, Gov. Ehrlich has signaled a serious disregard for the safety of Maryland families."

In an interview with *The Gazette*, a spokesperson for Gov. Ehrlich hinted that he would veto the Medical Decision Making Act because of amendments that the Maryland Legislature defeated.

"Equality Maryland and the bills' sponsors sat down with people on both sides of the aisle in attempts to pass them with broad support," said Dan Furmansky, executive director of Equality Maryland, the statewide gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender advocacy group. "The Medical Decision Making Act, in particular, was a very open process, and we would have welcomed the Governor's input on this effective measure that would have protected thousands of Maryland families. Clearly, we were amenable to strengthening the bill as we accepted several amendments throughout the process."

"HRC will work with Equality Maryland to override the vetoes on these critical protections," added Solmonese. "The group has done great work on behalf of Maryland families and the Legislature should ensure these protections become law."

The Medical Decision Making Act would create a statewide life partnership registry for unmarried couples and extend 11 rights to registered couples, including the right to hospital visitation, to make medical decisions on behalf of a partner, to make funeral arrangements and to share a room in a nursing home. The Transfer & Recordation Tax Exemption would exempt domestic

partners from the transfer and recordation tax that is paid when one partner is added or removed to the deed of the other partner's property on the home they share.

Pride Agenda ad for Equality-Justice Day tells Albany that religion is not anti-gay

On May 21, the newspaper in Albany covering New York State government ran a full-page ad signed by religious leaders from across the state that asked the question, "Religion is Anti-Gay?"

The signers of the ad answered by saying, "We are 125 religious leaders who don't agree."

The ad came in conjunction with the Empire State Pride Agenda's "LGBT Equality & Justice Day" on May 24, when hundreds of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) New Yorkers and their allies converge on Albany from across the state to talk to legislators about the issues that impact their lives and their families.

The Pride Agenda, New York's statewide LGBT civil rights organization, took out the ad in *The Legislative Gazette*, a weekly paper read by legislators, policy-makers and state government workers.

"We ran the ad to show our elected officials that there is strong support among people of faith in New York for LGBT people, our families and our equality," said Pride Agenda Executive Director Alan Van Capelle. "For too long on LGBT issues, religious conservatives have tried to own the pulpit. They denigrate our lives and would have everyone think religion condemns LGBT people. This ad is part of a broader effort we are conducting with people of faith to take back the pulpit and let New Yorkers know that many religions embrace LGBT people."

The Reverend Steve Clunn, a signer of the ad and a United Methodist Church minister from Schenectady, said, "I was glad to have this opportunity to speak up for LGBT people. As community leaders and ethical guides, those of us that signed this ad have a perspective that must be heard on issues affecting LGBT people. To deny equality and justice for LGBT people is to engage in discrimination and discrimination is immoral."

The Pride Agenda, through its organizing initiative "Pride in the Pulpit," has been working for more than a year with communities of faith who are supportive of LGBT New Yorkers and their fight for equality. During this time, over 400 clergy and laypeople from across the state representing over 20 denominations and faith traditions have joined Pride in the Pulpit.

For more information on Pride in the Pulpit, go to www.prideagenda.org. ■



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From Our Readers


Drug use does transmit HIV significantly

To the Editor:

I would like to correct what I believe is a mistake made in *The Empty Closet* May 2005 article entitled "The Vagina Dialogues by Alicia Fraser: Women and HIV -- the silent killer." The author states "Despite the myth that HIV is transmitted by drug users, only a small number of transmissions actually occur this way, and more commonly, drug use is strongly linked to unsafe sex, an open door for STDs and STIs." While I agree with her that drug use is strongly linked to unsafe sex, there are numerous studies that show HIV IS transmitted through actual drug use itself. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) lists "Injection Drug Use" as the cause of 246,546 AIDS diagnosis' as of the end of 2003. With another 62,418 that could be

either male-to-male sexual contact or injection drug use, since the people diagnosed, engaged in both activities. This is over 1/4 of all people living with AIDS diagnosis. Ms. Fraser may be misinterpreting the information. The CDC states that from 1999 to 2003, "the proportion of females was greater among persons with heterosexually acquired HIV infections (64 percent; 23,205 of 36,084) than the proportion of females among persons exposed through injection-drug use." However 12,000+ case out of a total of 36,000+ is still 1/3 and not a small number in any case. Direct drug use, including needle cooker, cotton and straw sharing, can and does transmit HIV to significant numbers of people.

Robert Quinn-O'Connor
HIV Coordinator
Franklin County House of Corrections
160 Elm Street
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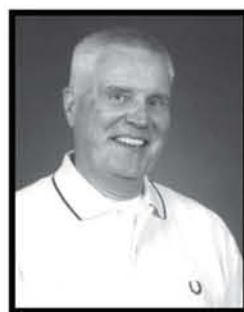
Pray for strength, courage, healing

Share what you've learned with others

Don't give up hope or extinguish it in others

Forgive yourself. Forgive others.

Author Unknown



Ron Matter

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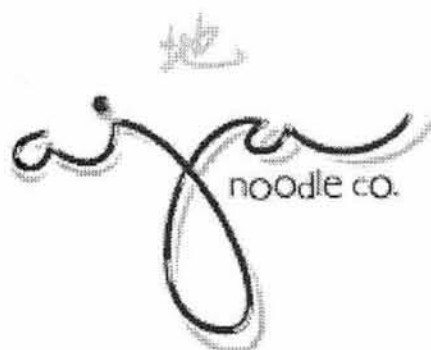


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Making



MOCHA OPEN HOUSE: The MOCHA Project held an open house and auction of art work by Thomas Sommerville on May 18 at their office at 107 Liberty Pole Way. Top above: Melissa Waters and Mary Ellen Pannell; above: Paulette Hall and John Morgan; left top: Dr. Sheldon Fields, Alex Camacho and Elier Ruiz; left below, front row: Alex Camacho, Avril Little, and Camero Logan; back row: Don Bruner, Michael Booth and Kraig Pannell.

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Thank you. I am truly at home."

Nancy Brown

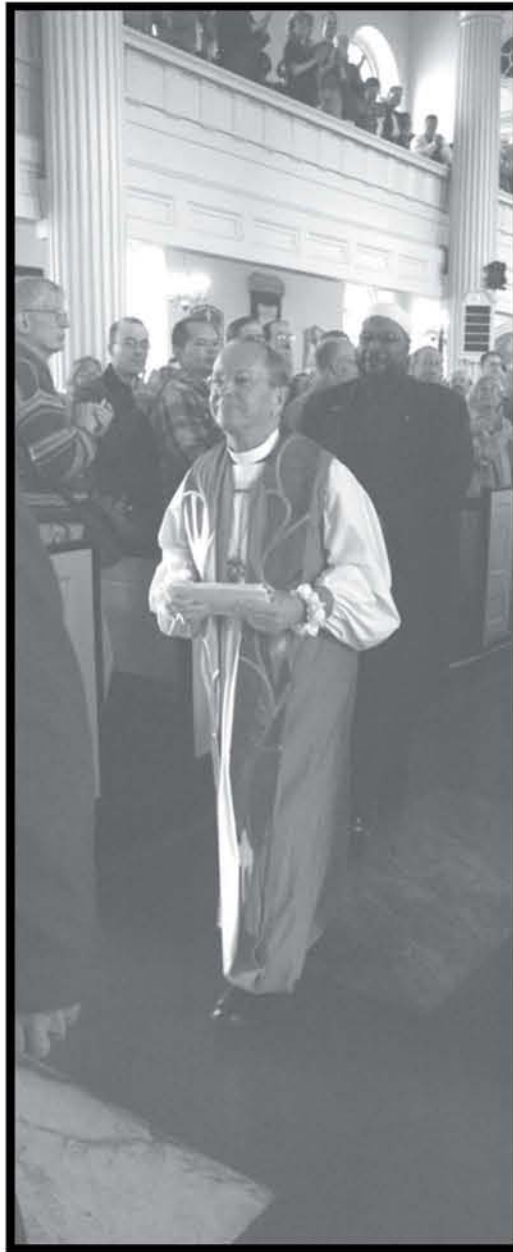
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40 YEARS, 40 HEROES: Above left: The Reverend Beth Stroud, defrocked lesbian Methodist minister, was recently restored to her position by an appeals panel, at least temporarily. Center: Bishop Gene Robinson of New Hampshire. Both are shown at the Equality Forum interfaith service on May 1 at the historic Christ Church in Philadelphia. PHOTOS BY DOUG MESZLER. PHOTO RIGHT BY ROBIN ANGEVINE-WALLING.

NYC News

Photos: Doug Meszler



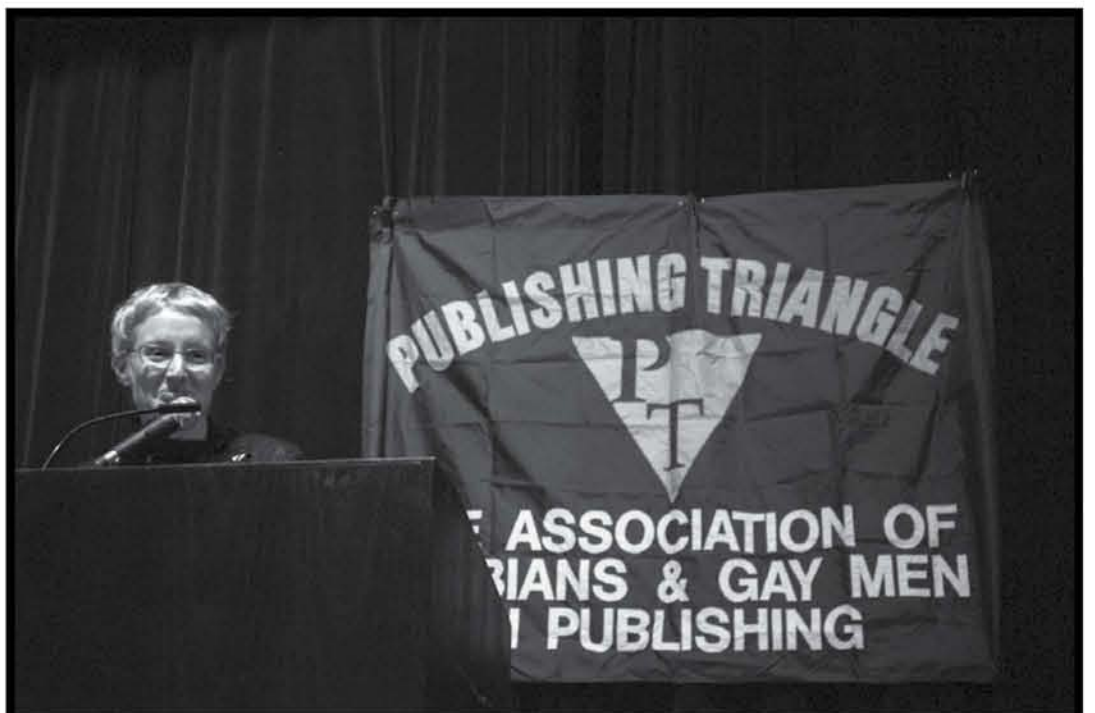
KRAMER BOOK SIGNING: AIDS author/activist Larry Kramer signed copies of his new book, *The Tragedy of Today's Gays*, at the Union Square Barnes and Noble on April 27.



OUTSPOKEN; The Hon. Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland and former U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, won the OutSpoken Award at "A Celebration of Courage," the International Gay and Lesbian Rights Commission's 15th anniversary, at Union Square Ballroom on May 13.



Deborah Edel of the Lesbian Herstory Archive accepts the Publishing Triangle Leadership Award on May 10. The Herstory Archive is located in Brooklyn.



TRIANGLE AWARDS: On May 10, Alison Smith, author of *Name All the Animals*, won the Judy Grahn Award for lesbian non-fiction at the 2005 Triangle Awards at the new School University.

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Broadway bound: A Chorus Line is at Geva through July 1

By *Brendan McDonough*

The show boasts some of the best dancers and singers in the United States and, through July 1, they will be taking front and center stage at Geva Theater.

"A Chorus Line" opened on May 25. After a 15-year absence, the show is back here, before returning to Broadway in 2006. This is one of the last stops before its return to New York City. For the performers, it is a dream come true.

Kurt Domoney is familiar with bright lights. He appeared in the first national tour of "42nd Street". This time around, he'll

be playing the part of "Danny", and says he couldn't be happier with the role.

"I've been waiting my entire life to do this," said Domoney.



Lauren Kling

He wasn't part of the original production and says this time around "A Chorus Line" will offer something for everyone.

"It is based on the original production, with a fresh approach," said Domoney.

His character Danny goes through many ups and downs throughout the performance and will no doubt keep the audience

captivated. "It's an audition setting but it's not your typical musical, the dancing and singing is amazing and it would be hard not to make the audience happy," Domoney said.

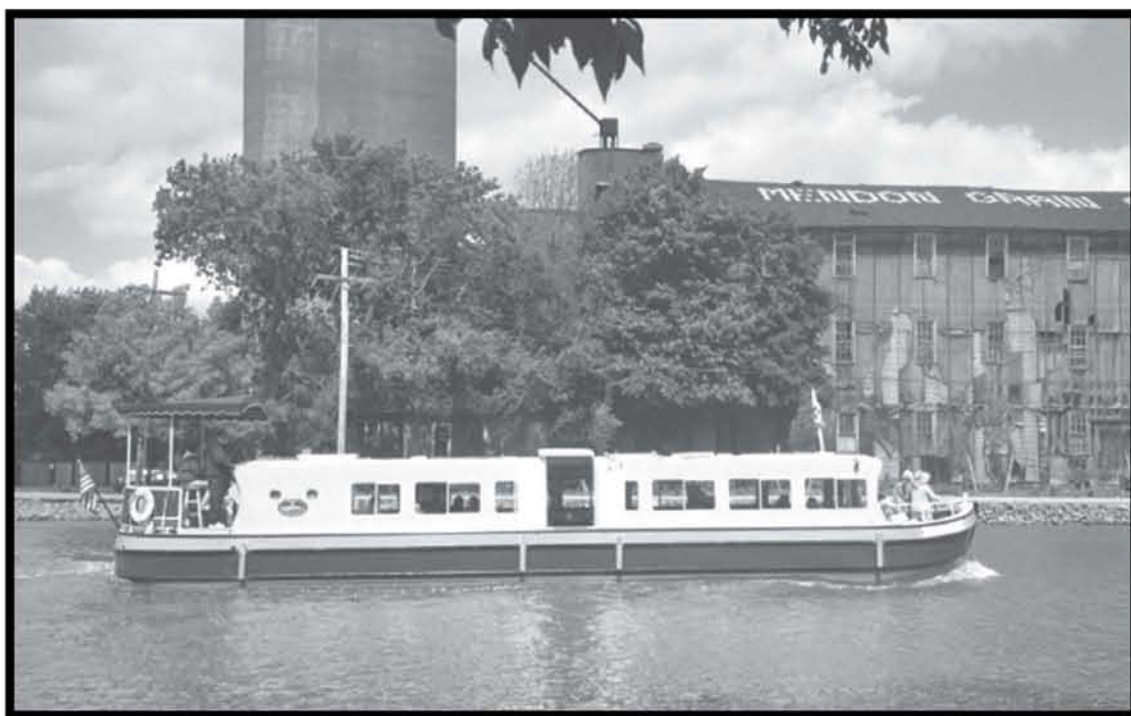
Also in the cast is Lauren Kling. She plays the part of "Maggie". "She is definitely the most innocent character of the group, but I did some of her scenes a few months earlier in New York City, so that made it a little easier," said Kling.

Audiences may recognize Kling; she was most recently in

(Continued on next page)



Kurt Domoney



ABSC hosts "Cruisin' on the Canal" boat ride fundraiser

The Gay Community Sculpture project (Atlantic-Beacon Sculpture Committee-ABSC) will be hosting a two hour "Cruisin' on the Canal" boat ride aboard the "Sam Patch" on Sunday, June 19, from 2-4 p.m.

The cruise departs from Pittsford Port/Schoen Place. This mid-afternoon adult event on Father's Day is a perfect gift idea for those

"Daddy and Boy" couples or even real Dads and their grown-up sons. Musical entertainment will be provided along with a live auction of special items to support ABSC. Delicious edibles and non-alcoholic drinks are included in the ticket price of \$40 per person or \$75 per couple. All ticket and auction proceeds will benefit the final stages of the gay community sculpture

which is being dedicated on July 15 during Gay Pride Week.

Tickets will be available for purchase beginning June 1 at Outlandish Video & Gifts at the Village Gate, 274 North Goodman St. Ticket requests can also be arranged via E-mail at ABSC14607@aol.com. This event will be sign interpreted for the deaf and hard of hearing. ■

June *In The Life* is Pride Edition; May episode also airs here in June

This June, *In the Life* unleashes its annual LGBT Pride Edition with "Setting the Record Straight." The show will be seen on WXXI on June 12 at 11 p.m., and WXXI will air the May episode as well this month, on June 5 at 11 p.m.

This hour long special explores the intersection of LGBT representation, cultural prejudice, censorship, media sensationalism vs. actual news and the big picture implications of it all. Hosted by actor, comedian, and Air America Radio talk show host Janeane Garofalo with PSAs from actor-comedian Rosie O'Donnell and young adult author Alex Sanchez (*Rainbow High, Rainbow Boys*).

In the Life begins with a visit to PBS's "Postcards From Buster: Sugartime" Vermont couple Gillian Pieper and Karen Pike to discuss the rippling effects of U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings's disapproval of the episode in which their family was profiled. Spellings urged PBS to pull the episode, slamming the door on the "ivory tower" and the open dialogue she pledged to uphold in her inaugural address.

The traditional role of a journalist has been to act as an objective observer of our culture using a standard set of ethical guidelines in their effort to report the most factual information possible. Recent controversies have highlighted journalists with right-leaning agendas and the current U.S. government's packaging of Video News Releases as actual news, calling into question the

(Continued on next page)

COLUMNISTS

Hear Me Out:

Complicity in hypocrisy: the story of Spokane mayor James West

See Page B6

Chorus Line (continued from page 1)

"Hairspray". She admits the dancing was a little different from her role in that musical. "I am very excited, I've never done 'A Chorus Line' before, but have always wanted to," she said. Kling is originally from Southern California and says she likes what she sees in Rochester.

"The GEVA Theater is round and really intimate, every seat in the house gets a really good view of the stage," said Kling. The cast and crew rehearsed for six weeks to get ready for opening night. "I'm not nervous, I really don't get nervous, except for right before the curtain goes up. Then I think I'll be a little bit nervous, but then once the production starts I'm sure it'll all go away," Kling said.

She added, "I don't think it will be hard to keep the performance fresh, the crew works well together and I'm sure there will be something that will go wrong, like a light going out or something, to keep us on our toes."

Tickets for "A Chorus Line" are \$18.50 - \$53.50 and can be purchased at the GEVA Theater Box office, which can be reached at 232-GEVA or online at www.gevatheater.org. ■

In The Life (continued from page 1)

ethical practices of journalists today. In this segment, *In the Life* explores the effects of government propaganda and its influence on headline news, which exploits LGBT people and distracts mainstream media from reporting on official policies that impact the entire culture.

Finally, *In the Life* explores the news-magazine format, in a for-profit media model. In November 2004, ABC News 20/20 ran its own hour long special, "Matthew Shepard: Secrets of a Murder," claiming revelations about the crime using interviews with the convicted killers. The major focus was on dismantling the widely accepted position that Matthew's murder was a hate crime. ITL looks at the sources and the methodology to discover what was missing from 20/20's report.

Interviews this month include: Veteran journalist Helen Thomas and former Talon News White House correspondent Jeff Gannon, Court TV and CNN anchor Nancy Grace, Judy Shepard, attorney Sean

Maloney, "The Laramie Project" Director Moises Kaufman, Sirius Q Radio Host Romaine Patterson, Media Expert Douglas Rushkoff, the infamous Vermont couple from PBS's "Postcards from Buster: Sugartime" episode Karen Pike & Gillian Pieper, PBS Senior V.P. John F. Wilson, and GLAAD's Glenda Testone. ■

Entertainment News

By Sherrill Fulghum

Ari Gold

Child TV star and musician Ari Gold has three nominations in the 2005 Out Music Awards for Ari's latest "Space Under the Sun". The nominations include Outstanding New Recording (male), Outstanding Producer, and Outmusician of the year.

This year's awards presentations will be Sunday, June 12 in Chicago.

Other familiar names that received nominations for 2005 are 2004 Buffalo Pride featured artist Rachael Sage, the 2005 Buffalo Pride Dyke March featured artist Ember Swift, the Boston and San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, and frequent Rochester performers Jason and de Marco.

For more information about the Out Music Awards go to www.outmusic.com.

Bi Beatle?

In an upcoming book "There's a Beatle in My Closet," assistant to Beatles' manager Brian Epstein Joanne Peterson claims that not only was Epstein openly gay, but that the Fab Four's manager carried on a "relationship" with one of the Beatles. Peterson will not reveal which mop top was behind closed doors with Epstein except within the pages of the book. Epstein died of an overdose in 1967.

Sir Elton to marry

On Dec. 5 it will be legal for queers to marry in England. Shortly after the law takes effect, Sir Elton John plans to marry his partner of 11 years, David Furnish. Sir Elton would like to have the ceremony in mid-December at Windsor -- the same place where Prince Charles recently married Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall. There will be no honeymoon since Sir Elton is currently on tour.

Sir Elton credits Furnish with saving his life by getting John off being addicted to drugs and alcohol. "Meeting David has been the greatest thing to happen to me," said Sir Elton. "He's the most honest guy

I've ever met."

His marriage to Furnish will be the second time around for Sir Elton. He was previously married to studio technician Renate Blauel.

Indigo Girls

The Indigo Girls will be releasing a new album on June 14. The 18 track album "Rarities" features cover tunes and never before released songs. The duo is launching a tour on June 7. Their only New York state appearances are June 16 at the Roseland in New York City and June 17 at the Magic City Music Hall in Johnson City.

Montreal plans night Pride Parade July 25

Divers/Cité organizers have announced several big changes to Montreal's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Pride Celebration, taking place this summer from July 25 to 31.

After 13 years, it is time for a new dress, and this year Divers/Cité will be breaking out the eveningwear. This year's Divers/Cité Pride Parade will take place at night, kicking off the Pride Celebrations on Monday, July 25.

"The Night Parade is a long time dream of ours," says Director General Suzanne Girard, who hopes the change will inspire people to get even more creative with their participation. "The Divers/Cité Parade has the potential of being one of the most visually stunning events in Montreal. To do so it needs to evolve and remain fresh and new. We want to bring it back to its roots: a celebration."

The change in date also permits Divers/Cité to change the Parade's route, bringing it to Montreal's other neighborhoods. This year's Parade will take place in the city's Gay Village, moving from East to West.

LE GRAND RENDEZ-VOUS/ COMMUNITY FAIR DAYS:

Saturday and Sunday, July 30 and 31

Holding the Divers/Cité Pride Parade on a Monday night enables organizers to add a second day to the popular community fair, Le Grand Rendez-Vous. Taking place on both Saturday, July 30 and Sunday July 31, Le Grand Rendez-Vous will continue to be a meeting place for the minds and bodies of various members of Montreal's LGBT community and its supporters.

CULTURAL FESTIVAL

More than a party, Divers/Cité has blossomed to become a major arts festival in North America; one that features an assortment of free outdoor performances that run the gamut of art disciplines and musical styles -- everything from jazz to house, dance to cinema, and from mainstream pop to the alternative underground. Look out for the return this year of some of the most popular shows, including: *Mas-cara, la nuit des drags*; *1, boulevard des Rêves*; *Cachondo, La Noche Latina* and *La Grande Danse*. Some featured performers for this year's Festival include Lila Downs, Dubtribe Sound System, DJ Disciple and Drag Superstar Lady Bunny.

CLUB PARTIES, INDOOR SHOWS and ASSOCIATED EVENTS

There will be plenty of other new additions and exciting events throughout the hot seven days at the end of July, among them, the return of popular parties *Pride Ball* and *Lesbomonde*. Taking to the decks at these events will be some of the best local and international DJs.

To find out more about Divers/Cité, visit www.diverscite.org

Imageout seeks Flower City film talents

Towards the end of last year's film selection process, the ImageOut Programming Committee realized that, for the first time in our history, we were planning on showing a number of fine short films with local connections. We thought it would be a great idea to package these shorts together and highlight homegrown talent at the 2004 festival with what became one of the most popular programs of the year, Flower City Flicks.

Based upon that success, ImageOut is

hoping to make this an annual program at the festival. Thus the festival is taking extra efforts to get local talent to submit movies for our consideration this year. At stake is the award for Best Rochester Short with the filmmaker receiving a Certificate of Recognition and a cash prize. To be eligible, submissions should involve LGBT experiences and should not be more than ten minutes long.

In many cities, the LGBT film festivals have become an avenue for local filmmakers to beam a global spotlight on their latest works. As programmers, we hope to do the same for Rochester. It should be realized that many film festivals from around the country and the world check the ImageOut website (www.imageout.org) for film programming ideas and contacts. Therefore, a festival highlight such as the Flower City Flicks Program could definitely bring some attention and interest to a local director's movie.

Feel free to contact the ImageOut Office at 585-271-2640 or send email to imageout@rochester.rr.com if you have further questions.

Men's Chorus sings Songs of the '80s on June 18 at Hochstein

Saturday, June 18 is the date of the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus summer concert, "Songs of the '80s". This concert brings to you the music you grew up with as the RGMC sings the most popular tunes of the '80s.

Remember Polyester Leisure Suits, Atari, and the MULLET? Let the music of the British Invasion, Heavy Metal Hair Bands, the Pop Groups or one of the many women that came to predominance in this decade carry you back to "the good old days". You are sure to hear some of your favorite tunes as RGMC brings you the most popular songs of this decade. It's 8 p.m. at Hochstein School of Music.

Advance general admission tickets are \$15, \$12 for seniors and students, and \$6 for children. Tickets may be purchased at The Creator's Hands, Parkleigh, Outlandish, The Pride Connection, from chorus members, or by calling The Chorus Line at 585-423-0650. The RGMC website is at www.thergmc.org; email is at info@thergmc.org. Additionally, tickets will be available for purchase at the door for \$18 on the day of the performance.

GRRC receives two TANYS awards

For the third season in a row, Greater Rochester Repertory Company (GRRC) has been honored with two TANYS (Theatre Association of New York State) Roving Adjudicator Awards.

This time the awards are for their recent production of Mark De Waters' stunning original musical revue *Portraits*. The show was presented April 8, 9, 15 & 16 at Upstage 3 at the Auditorium Center.

TANYS writes: I am delighted to inform you that your production of "Portraits" has been awarded two Roving Adjudicator Merit Award(s) by Pam Rapoza: Outstanding vocal ensemble to the cast of *Portraits* and Excellence in music direction and composing to Mark Alan DeWaters for his original musical *Portraits*.

The 2005 TANYS Festival will be Nov. 18, 19, and 20, at Cayuga Community College, Auburn. Formal presentations of these awards will be held on Saturday, Nov. 19, during the TANYS Festival Awards Banquet at Highland Country Club, Auburn.

ArtWalk invites performers to apply for September event

ARTWalk is coming Alive again in the Neighborhood of the Arts on Sunday, Sept. 18. Individual artists, dancers, musicians, dance companies, poets, music ensembles and collaborations are all invited to apply by June 17 to perform.

Twenty performances will take place





ARTWalk 2002 featured city scoops doing a dance choreographed by Thomas Warfield. PHOTO BY GERRY SZYMANSKI

at different sites on University Avenue as part of the fifth annual ARTWalk Alive! celebration. Competitions are open to all residents of the eight-county Greater Rochester Area. ARTWalk Alive! also features music, art displays, prizes and activities for kids and families. "ARTWalk events are extremely popular with people of all ages from all over the Rochester area," says Director Doug Rice.

An informational meeting will be held June 1 at 7 p.m. at Writers & Books, 740 University Ave. Applications are invited for the following categories:

1. Music: Music on the Block: All styles of musical expression, both instrumental and/or vocal, composed and/or improvised, are encouraged, including, but not limited to, classical, pop/rock, folk, jazz, contemporary. Musicians may also apply for other performance opportunities at ARTWalk's "Muse-a-Thon" on June 11, and the Saturday Summer Music Series on ARTWalk.

2. Dance: Dances on the Avenue: All forms of creative movement expressions are encouraged, including but not limited, to contemporary, ethnic, ballet, tap, folk, or non-traditional dance.

3. Spoken Word: Word on the Street: All forms of creative spoken expressions are encouraged, including, but not limited to, poetry, storytelling, individual or ensemble performance or "slam" poetry, rap, and short dramatic presentations. Pieces may have rhythmic or musical accompaniment, but the word art should be dominant.

4. Visual Arts: Artist at Work: All forms of creative visual art are encouraged, including but not limited to, painting, drawing, caricatures, sculpture, computer, ceramics, sidewalk artists, installation artists, film, collage, jewelry. Collaborations are encouraged.

A group of independent jurors, made up of residents, business owners and arts professionals, will review submissions for all submissions, which must be received by

Friday, June 17 at 4 p.m.

Other opportunities are available for ARTWalk's June 11 "Muse-a-Thon," where artists will line the street showing their work and musical groups will perform along the route. Student art will also be displayed.

Applications and guidelines can be downloaded from www.rochesterARTWalk.org, or picked up at the Edward Jones office at 730 University Ave., or the South East Area Coalition (SEAC) at 1045 South Clinton Ave.

ARTWalk is an interactive urban outdoor museum on University Avenue in the Neighborhood of the Arts. ARTWalk's mission is to foster, create and maintain a distinctive public walkway connecting art destinations and cultural centers in the neighborhood, in order to provide an environment that encourages increased exposure to a variety of artistic experiences and build community.

ARTWalk has received the Common Good Planning Center's "Uncommonly Good" award and the US Conference of Mayors "2003 City Livability Award." For more information, visit www.rochesterARTWalk.org, call (585) 256-3336 or email ARTWalk@rochesterARTWalk.org.

Logo TV channel partners with Advocate publisher

Logo, MTV Network's new channel for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) viewers, and LPI Media, groundbreaking publisher of *The Advocate*, *Out* and *The Out Traveler*, the country's leading magazines for gay men and lesbians, have partnered to create co-branded television specials and a headline news service online.

The exclusive multi-year, multi-platform partnership was announced on May

16 by Brian Graden, President, MTV Networks Music Group Entertainment, and President, Logo; and James Franklin, President, LPI Media.

"I am very proud to partner with LPI Media not only because of its dominant role, but because the company is a true pioneer in the LGBT marketplace and the larger media landscape," said Graden. "They are continual proof that gay media is a real and viable business. Creatively, this deal has the potential to move our brands beyond television and the web and onto new and emerging platforms wherever it makes sense."

The partnership between Logo and LPI Media includes both companies collaboratively developing and producing at least five programs a year, with the first special to air fourth quarter 2005. The co-branded specials will be based on original content from the *The Advocate*, the LGBT community's newsmagazine of record; *Out*, which celebrates gay culture through fashion, style, trends and the arts; and *The Out Traveler*, the nation's only magazine presenting the entire travel experience from a gay perspective.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for LPI Media to work with Logo to help create this exciting new multi-media LGBT venture," said James Franklin, president of LPI Media. "We are thrilled that Logo has emerged as a new television option for the LGBT community and look forward to working with them on developing content that serves our large and important universe."

The deal also includes the creation of *The Advocate* and Logo co-branded headline news service, which will feature a daily online news service that will be found on Logo's web site, LOGOonline.com, beginning fourth quarter 2005. The service's content will come directly from the editorial staff of *The Advocate*, the gay and lesbian community's newsmagazine of record for nearly 40 years.

Logo launches June 30 with more than one thousand hours of programming con-

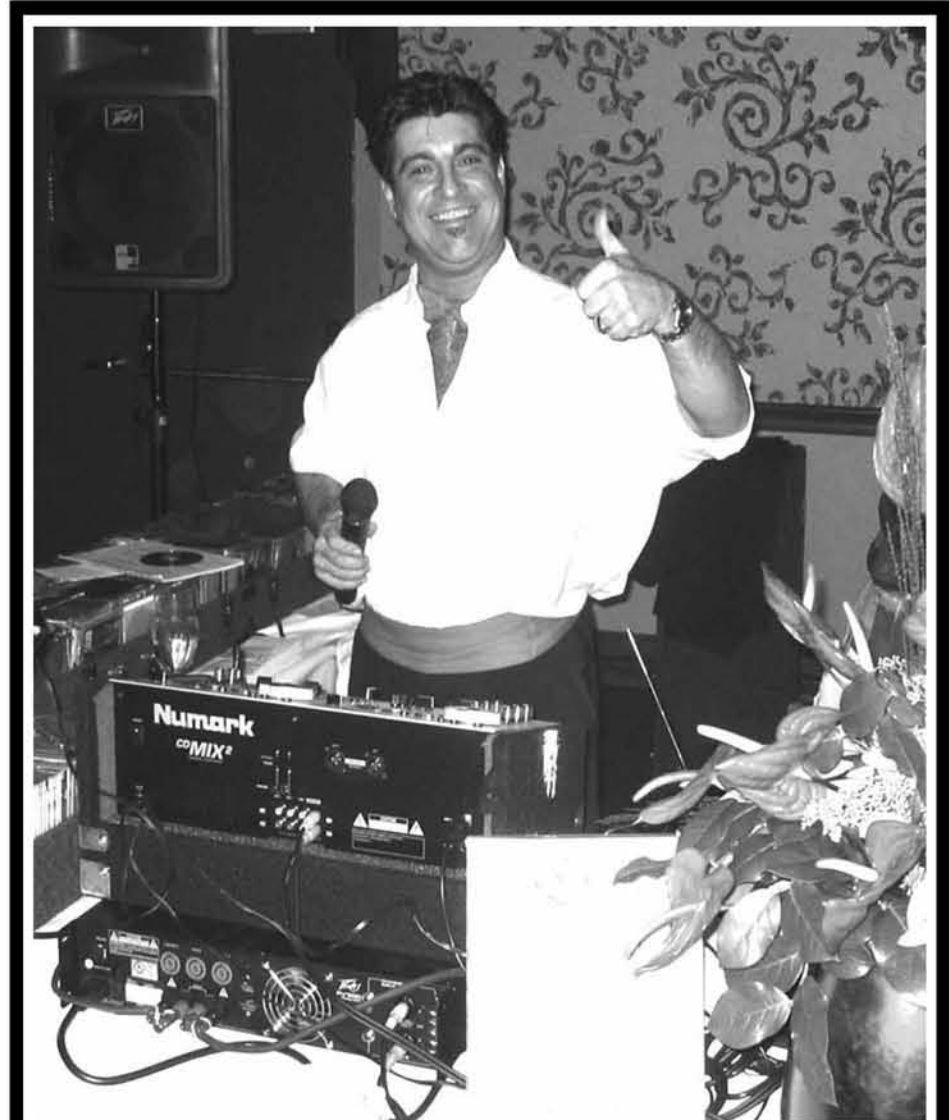
tent and approximately 10 million subscribers across the U.S. The network will provide LGBT viewers with a place where they can see themselves and be themselves through a mix of original and acquired entertainment programming that is authentic, smart and inclusive.

Logo has assembled a library of more than 200 movie titles, from the majors to the independents, including HBO's Emmy Award-winning *Angels in America*, *Mulholland Drive*, *Kissing Jessica Stein*, *High Art*, *Philadelphia*, *Latter Days*, *Far from Heaven*, *A Home at the End of the World*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Chuck and Buck*, and *Fried Green Tomatoes*. In addition, the network will launch an ongoing documentary series, *Momentum*, focusing on first-person experiences within the distinct and different lives of the LGBT community, from a gay rugby team and gay rappers to lesbian surfers and gay Muslims and Latinos.

Additional series premiering include Patrik-Ian Polk's *Noah's Arc*, a scripted comedy-drama series based on the web phenomenon (the show follows struggling screenwriter Noah, an African-American gay man navigating love and life in Los Angeles with his three best friends); *Open Bar*, an original reality series following one man's coming out process as he works to open a West Hollywood gay bar; *Out and About* (working title), a globe-trotting travel show; and *The Ride* (working title), a first-person look at some of the participants traveling the 585 miles from San Francisco to Los Angeles in the annual AIDS/Life-cycle fundraiser; and *First Comes Love*, a comedy/reality series from Canada hosted by actor/comedian Scott Thompson (*Kids in the Hall*) who has to fulfill the wedding dreams of gay and lesbian couples in just two weeks.

On July 24, the network presents the first-ever telecast of the GLAAD Media Awards, featuring Billy Crystal, Jessica Lange, Alan Cumming, Marcia Cross, Felicity Huffman, Margaret Cho, Liza Min-

(Continued on page 4)



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nelli and John Stamos, among others. As a build-up to the airing of The 16th Annual GLAAD Media Awards, Logo will present a week-long tribute to the Media Awards and past award recipients and an original, accompanying documentary. Logo will present profiles of GLAAD's past winners; previously honored films and documentaries; and interstitial interviews with actors, filmmakers and cultural commentators.

LPI Media is the nation's leading publisher targeting the gay and lesbian community. Its titles include *The Advocate*, the community's newsmagazine of record since 1967; *Out*, a lifestyle magazine that celebrates the spirit of gay culture, including fashion and style, trends, society, and the arts; *The Out Traveler*, the nation's leading magazine that presents the entire travel experience from a gay perspective; Alyson Books, the most respected gay and lesbian book-publishing company in America; and Advocate Books, a book collection influenced by content in *The Advocate*. LPI Media's Internet properties include Advocate.com, Out.com, OutTraveler.com, HIVPlus.com, and Alyson.com.

Logo is the ad-supported network targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) viewers, launched by MTV Networks, a division of Viacom Inc. (NYSE: VIA, VIAB). Debuting June 30, Logo will provide a mix of original and acquired entertainment programming that is authentic, smart, inclusive and open-minded. Logo joins Viacom's roster of popular and highly targeted cable networks, which includes MTV, Comedy Central, BET and Spike TV.

Toronto Pride celebrates 25th anniversary

By Sherrill Fulghum

Twenty-five years and counting -- that is the theme for this year's Toronto Pride, as Toronto queers celebrate 25 years of being who they are. And if the fast ferry has started service on schedule, getting there may be part of the fun.

The week-long celebration kicks off June 21 with a Gala Awards Show. The week continues with a three-day arts fest with up to seven entertainment stages per day, a weekend street fair (including a community fair and market place), Family Pride, the Dyke March and the fabulous Pride Parade.

Family Pride, sponsored by IKEA, offers kid friendly events including face painting, arts and crafts, a picnic, and day care.

Toronto Pride's Dyke March takes place on Saturday June 25. The march begins at 2 p.m. Pre- and post-march entertainment is also scheduled. The march itself is only for women who love women; but March supporters encourage men to support the march from the sidelines.

Toronto Pride week climaxes with the Pride Parade on Sunday, June 26. The parade begins at 2 p.m. Toronto Pride parades are among the largest parades in North America, drawing over one million spectators and participants each year, and this year's anniversary parade should be bigger and more fabulous than ever. (See the Groups section for details of RGMC's bus trip to Toronto.)

Again this year, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre will host a number of queer and pride related events beginning June 15 and running through Pride weekend.

Q TV plans summer travelogue

Q Television Network (Pink Sheets: QBID), the television network for the gay and lesbian community, has announced the 2005 summer schedule for one of its premiere original programs, "Q On The Move," the cross-country travelogue of gay America's most fascinating sights, sounds and people.

"Q on the Move" features host Nick Oram. Since its premiere in November of 2004, Oram has taken viewers to gay Seattle, Washington D.C., the Sundance Festival, the Winter Party in Miami Beach, and the White Party in Palm Springs. Along the

way, he's interviewed artists, community activists, athletes, celebrities and even had an exclusive behind-the-scenes view of the Presidential Inauguration by Congressman Barney Frank.

"Q on the Move's" Summer 2005 schedule includes visits to Orlando, Boston, New York, San Diego, Provincetown, New Orleans, Atlanta, San Francisco, with additional visits to Vancouver and Germany. (detailed schedule below).

"Q on the Move" is the only travel show of its kind, produced by the gay community for the gay community," said Frank Olsen, President and CEO of Q Television Network. "Since its premiere, our host, Nick Oram, has been able to showcase cities across America like no other television program on air."

"Every city has its own style and celebrates its gay identity in a different way," says Oram. "It's my job to discover that special something, through its art, its music, its parties, its fashion and its politics, and share it with viewers. But most of all what we're sharing is a whole lot of fun!"

"Q ON THE MOVE" SUMMER 2005:

May 31-June 5: Gay Days Orlando
June 11- June 12: Boston Pride
June 19 - June 26: New York Pride
July 9: Germany's Love Parade
July 25 - July 30: San Diego Pride
Aug 4 - Aug 8: Vancouver Pride
Aug 15 - Aug 21: Provincetown Carnival

Aug 31 - Sept 5: New Orleans Southern Decadence

Sept 15 - Sept 20: Atlanta
Sept 25 - Sept 29: San Francisco's Folsom Street Fair

Q Television can be found on RCN on Channel 255. For further information on programming and subscriptions please visit www.qtelevision.com <<http://www.qtelevision.com>>.

Lincoln Center salutes Pride with three days of events

Lincoln Center will salute Gay Pride Week this year for the first time, with three days of arts-related events, June 21-23.

On Tuesday, June 21, Kate Clinton will host "In Search of Family: an evening of gay and lesbian literature," at 6:30 p.m. at Lincoln Center's Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse, 165 W. 65th St.

June 22 is the date for "Out at Lincoln Center: Midsummer night swing," which will feature music by Nile Rodgers and Chic, with special guests. Disco dancing under the stars will take place from 6:30 to 10 p.m. on the Josie Robertson Plaza.

On June 23, the series ends with "True Colors: a celebration of music and dance". Gay actor/author Charles Busch will host an all-star lineup of performers from Broadway, cabaret, pop, rock, jazz, opera and dance. Most performers have connections to Lincoln Center. The evening will be in the Rose Theatre, Frederick P. Rose Hall, Time Warner Center, Broadway at 60th St.

A benefit cocktail party follows the 7 p.m. performance, which will feature Wick-ed star Christine Chenoweth, Patti Labelle, Cyndi Lauper, and many others. ■

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Growing Up
ABOUT LAST NIGHT

By Eric Bellmann

It's the last night of vacation in South Beach. It has been a month of warm weather, exactly what I wanted, needed. Lots of walking, people watching and Cuban food. Reading, swimming, but most important of all, reconsidering. Turning inward, making a personal inventory. My annual vacation here becomes a variation of a children's Time Out. Think where you've come from, think about where you are heading, think about behaviors, strategies, goals.

I've considered those things during this visit and it pleases me that I can be objective about many issues. However, I seem this last night to want to drift towards romanticism, fantasy. I'll go for a moonlit walk along the ocean, only two blocks from where I am staying.

During the day the walkways are congested with power walkers, roller bladers, derelicts, but by dusk there are hardly any people around. Daytime is noisy, so many buildings are converting to condos. Endless construction. But by dusk it's quiet. The stars are out. Far out at sea the lights of cruise ships shine. It's magical, serene.

Near one construction sight I notice a man in uniform. Maybe he is private security, maybe a cop. A cop has always been a fantasy of mine. Like snagging a soldier in uniform. Odd, he's carrying a bucket. Not a thing I could expect a cop to do. He smiles. I stop and feign interest in the horizon. Wouldn't that be a hell of a way to polish off the holiday? I actually could ask him back to my place. It astonishes me how rapidly I can calculate details. I use a side entrance. No one would see us. Is the place a mess? I even have condoms, the flavored ones, but only banana, not my favorite. Do I have anything valuable lying about? The details of assignation, how amusing but so necessary.

While I'm ruminating, he's disappeared behind some machinery. There he is. Without the pail. He climbs the wood stairs to the boardwalk. Two guys with bikes are ambling along. He stops them. Oh dear, bikes not allowed on the boardwalk. He motions them to leave. Guess he's a real cop. Not smiling at me any more.

So it goes. A brief vignette. That's what this holiday has been, a conglomeration of tiny scenes. Talk to someone at Starbucks, glare at a homeless crone sitting on the park bench I think of as mine, smile at the Hispanic server, wondering just how much English he actually understands, thumb through sale clothes, buy the Sunday *Times*, grateful I can find it here far from home, even if it is only the national edition. I like this kind of holiday. No tasks, no responsibilities, nothing to tend to, clean. Just being. Yes, being present in the moment, here and now, that is the challenge. Casual encounters, serendipitous discoveries fill the days. I pay attention to what's in front of me, then move on.

Twenty feet further along the boardwalk there are a few benches under a protective overhand. Wizenen farts sit here during the day, bored or lonely, who knows? Now I see a lone figure, a man lean and tall. Has he been there all along? It's so dark now, I hardly noticed him. He steps forward towards me. "Give me a dollar?" he asks.

Did I answer? I think I shrugged, tightened my grasp of my wallet in my front pocket, and hastened my pace. I was in that moment several things. I was offended.

I resent the homeless people here. There are so many, more than in San Francisco. They're a tough bunch too. They get in the way. And I was afraid. But of what? As I was cringing inside I was also playing forward a scenario in which I'd offer him money to trick. Make him work for his dollar, or ten or whatever. And underneath all that I was embarrassed for him, but I only realized that later.

I scare myself sometimes. I wonder, will the day come when my capacity for taking risks, the capacity that enables me to have thrilling encounters, the capacity to visit exotic places, rise to challenges, will it turn on me and lead to peril? I am getting old. I am becoming a fool. This is all too disquieting. So I walk along.

What must it be like to ask someone for money? How little does one have of worldly stuff, how low has he been brought, what of his pride, his dignity? I turn onto Ocean Drive, more lights, more people. As I pass tourists coming towards me, I think for a moment what it's like to ask for a dollar. With each passing face, I imagine forming the words, asking for a dollar. Not easy. He could get a job, couldn't he? South Beach is clogged with service workers. But how do you get a job if you are homeless, dirty, in rags?

Why on earth did I come out this last night?

A realization comes over me. I must go back, find this man and give what he asked for. He has found the ability to ask.

I know with certainty that this is a spiritual moment. This man is a gift from unseen sources. My life at this moment is not about tricking. I am elated, thrilled. But what if he has left, moved on?

I do not want to create a backstory for this man. I don't care if he spends the money he makes on alcohol or drugs. I'm not going to judge. I had a choice to say yes or no and I chose no and I want to change that. I want to say yes. I do not want to stand mute in the face of another man's shame.

I round the corner by the Delano, pass along the darkened street and return to the beach walk. Forty yards and I'm back to the boardwalk, desolate and darker now.

He is still there. I get a second chance. I hand him a dollar and say, "I felt like a shit blowing you off before." I don't think I even stopped for a moment, just went on walking.

"Thanks, man, thanks." I think we are equally surprised.

I thank God for this gift, this remarkable opportunity to just give another soul what he asks for. This is a good encounter for my final night in paradise. Sometimes I hate the burdens of being a fag, what I think of as an obligation to be seductive or predatory, greediness born out of neediness. My behavior perhaps reflects more now how my path through life is changing. I hoped that would happen.

Email: ELBCAD@RIT.EDU

Misadventures in Boyland

FREAK SHOW

by Troy Robinson

The gymnasium had the distinct aroma of dirty socks, sour milk, and prepubescent sweat glands. Memories of being a dodge ball target came rushing back as I walked across the polished floor. It was P.E. class all over again, but I had signed up for the

torture this time around.

In my attempt to increase my weekly physical activity (and reduce my waistline), I registered for a co-ed volleyball league through an adult education program at a nearby high school.

I love the sport of volleyball. In my senior year in high school, I played volleyball on the varsity girls team since there was no boys team. (The nicknames I endured during this period of my life are a whole other future column in itself.) I play regularly at Hot Shots on University Avenue (where the competition can be fierce and the eye candy can be even fiercer), and throughout the summer I play outdoors every weekend that the Rochester weather permits (brewing up a batch of skin cancer that will surely result in my early demise).

As I perused the course catalogue looking for a fitness class (my options were limited to Salsa Dancing, Line Dancing, Swing Dancing -- that's a lot of dancing even for a gay man -- and Learning to Play Bridge -- can one really consider the card game Bridge as a fitness class? Is Bridge an aerobic activity that I'm missing out on? Are old ladies with blue hair breaking a sweat during Bridge demonstrations?), I stumbled across Intermediate Co-ed Volleyball.

Immediately I thought, "Sign me up!"

The course description stated that different teams would be chosen each week (over an eight week period) and would play at a competitive, intermediate level. I play at an intermediate level at Hot Shots so I thought nothing about sending my check of \$35 to register for the class. I quickly learned that the definition of "intermediate" can have many different interpretations.

As I walked into the gym on the first night of Intermediate Co-ed Volleyball, I immediately sized up my "competition."

My "competition" consisted of:

- 1) A woman wearing maroon sweat-pants and a back brace.
- 2) A very sweaty man who was speaking in a language that sounded like a mixture of Swedish and Wookiee. And why was he

sweating? We hadn't even started playing yet.

3) A man with a reddish beard and wearing an eye patch who I quickly nicknamed "the Pirate."

4) A young guy in his early twenties wearing a "Live Long and Prosper" t-shirt. (Oh great! A Trekkie! Aren't they allergic to gymnasiums?)

5) An older gentleman in his late sixties who was wearing athletic socks pulled up to his knees, and a black turtleneck.

6) An Asian woman in a corner performing Tai Chi. Was she in the wrong class?

7) A husband and wife team sporting matching t-shirts and shorts (and the same home perm).

8) A woman in her mid-forties whose glasses were being held together by a paper clip, two safety pins, and scotch tape.

9) A man wearing a cowboy hat. ("Hey buddy, the Line Dance class meets on Tuesday nights. Today's Wednesday.")

10) And lastly Jo-Jo the Dog Face Boy. (Just kidding. But I did feel like I had just walked into a traveling freak show.)

As I watched the rejects from the Island of Misfit Toys, I thought "What level of Dante's Inferno did I get myself into?"

I was the most "normal" person in the whole room. And I'm a big FLAMER!

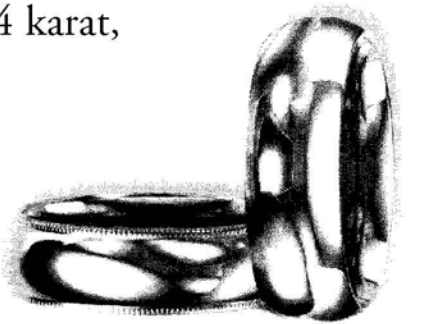
As I was contemplating my escape, I walked the instructor, a portly fellow with a handlebar mustache. Great! The ringmaster of this circus was blocking my exit. I was stuck.

After a quick round of introductions (I think the Swedish Wookiee said his name was "Yrrrgh"), we quickly lined up to count off by twos in order to break up into teams. (The number two is pronounced "Ziggf" in Swedish Wookiee tongue.)

My team consisted of the Pirate, the Trekkie, the Tai Chi Master, the Cowboy (who had actually signed up for Intermediate Co-ed Volleyball, and not Country Line Dancing as I had thought), and the instructor.

Our opponents were Ms. Back Brace,

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the Swedish Wookie, Turtleneck and tube socks, the husband and wife team (who I later learned were a brother and sister team and not a husband and wife duo), and Safety Pins. As you can tell, I couldn't remember anyone's real name and had already assigned pet names to each of my fellow competitors. I also learned that most of these "freaks" had been playing together for years and that I was the new kid on the block.

As we were about to start our match, in walked the evening custodial staff. It was their dinner break, and for the next hour we were their dinner theater.

During the first game of the match I had impressed my teammates with my passing, setting, and serving skills.

The instructor stated "We've got a ringer here tonight." when I spiked the ball into Safety Pin's face, which then resulted in a 15-minute delay of game as she re-assembled her glasses. I was afraid we wouldn't find all her pins and someone would fall on one resulting in the need for an emergency Tetanus shot. No way was I going to get lockjaw playing Intermediate Co-ed Volleyball. The Trekkie offered to get his metal detector out of his car to help look for the missing pieces, but we luckily found all of them before we had to call in the big guns.

I was in awe with the surprisingly good depth-perception the Pirate had in passing the ball to me when I was in the setting position. I was also equally impressed with the Tai Chi Master's serving skills and the Swedish Wookie's ability to block an opponent's spike (he would follow each block with a "Hrg brvaa fizz ong!" which loosely translates to "In your face!"). I was also fascinated that the Cowboy never lost his hat all night.

The only other delay of game was when Turtleneck and tube socks had to take an insulin shot break.

And although there was no way these teams would have survived an Intermediate level of competition at Hot Shots, everyone was having a good time and trying their best. Soon I had let my guard down and was laughing with the "freaks" as the games progressed. Our team took four out of five games, but each one was a squeaker.

At the end of the evening as I walked to my car, the Swedish Wookie shouted out, "Chuum miika ila beer?" which the Cowboy quickly translated, "Wanna join us for a beer?"

"Maybe next week," I replied.

"So we'll see you next week?" asked Ms. Back Brace.

"Definitely!"

"Then we'll see you later, Newbie! Good playing night," the instructor yelled back.

I had been nicknamed "Newbie."

It was a Hallmark Hall of Fame movie moment.

To paraphrase the 1932 horror classic *Freaks*:

"Gooble gobble,

We accept him,

We accept him,

One of us."

And to paraphrase the famous line by Renee Zellweger from the film *Jerry Maguire*, "You had me at grzakea (Swedish Wookie for 'hello')."

And tonight I'm writing another check in the amount of \$35 to drop in the mail tomorrow.

Email: misadventuresinboyland@hotmail.com

Hear Me Out COMPLICITY IN HYPOCRISY

by Mubarak Dahir

Hypocrisy was the word of the day when the *Spokesman-Review*, a daily newspaper in Spokane, Washington, recently published the findings of a three-year investigative effort that proved the mayor there lead a secret gay life.

But the burden of hypocrisy isn't reserved alone for Mayor James E. West, the 54-year-old Republican with a history of fervently anti-gay political behavior.

In two decades of political deceit in which West was a zealous opponent of gay rights, he had plenty of accomplices to help him keep his tawdry little secret.

Today, in Mr. West's downfall, at least part of the shock should be reserved for those who waited so long to publicly ask the most basic questions.

Those included a political system that

long knew of the fervently anti-gay politician's private life but chose to look the other way; a cowed gay community that dared not cross a powerful political foe; and even the newspaper that eventually ended up exposing West — but only when the charges against him included abuse of minors.

"It's the worst-kept secret in Washington (state) politics," Christian Sinderman, a top Democratic political consultant, told the *Spokesman-Review*.

Why, then, was Jim West never questioned about how his public policies deviated so drastically from his apparently well-known private life?

West gave the political establishment, gay activists and journalists plenty of opportunity to question how he could be so publicly homophobic while leading a closeted gay life.

As far back as 1983, when West was elected to the Washington House of Representatives, he aligned himself with conservatives specifically by taking extreme public stands on hot-button social issues — including gay rights.

In 1985, West was among the state's most vocal politicians in criticizing then-Governor Booth Gardner for issuing an executive order banning discrimination in state hiring based on sexual orientation.

In 1986, West was one of 15 Republicans who sponsored a bill that would have prohibited gay men and lesbians from working in schools, day-care centers and some state agencies. The bill included provisions for screening for gays, and firing employees whose sexual orientation became known.

Later in 1986, West voted against the state issuing pamphlets that contained safer sex information to help people protect themselves from HIV. He called the safer-sex information "something people go buy at dirty bookstores."

When West was elected to the state Senate and became one of the Republican's most powerful leaders, he repeatedly and vocally opposed civil rights measures that would have expanded state protections in jobs and housing to include gays and lesbians.

In the 1990s, West publicly clashed

with an openly gay senator from Seattle, who tried to get a statewide gay anti-discrimination bill passed.

In 1998, West voted for the state's Defense of Marriage Act, which prohibits same-sex marriage.

In 2003, West initially forced the sponsor of a Senate resolution honoring women on International Women's Day to withdraw the decree because it called for recognizing women "of all races and sexual preferences." West publicly and heatedly objected to the inclusion of sexual preference.

And most recently, as mayor of Spokane, West threatened to veto a measure passed by the city council to extend domestic partner benefits to city employees. Luckily, the city council passed the law with a 5-2 vote, strong enough to withstand any possible mayor's veto.

All this, and yet no one had the nerve to stand up and publicly ask the deceitful politician how he squared his public policy positions with his private life?

"We decided his personal life wasn't germane because his private life is his private life," Sinderman, the highly-placed Democratic consultant, told the *Spokesman-Review* about why the campaign of Laurie Dolan, who challenged West in the mayoral election, chose not to raise the gay issue. "It's not a public issue unless it involves the abuse of power."

Dean Lynch, a former Spokane city councilman and the town's first openly-gay elected official, told the newspaper that the gay community there had "general knowledge that Jim West is a closeted gay man," but that no one acted on it because of "the tremendous power that he wields."

Even the newspaper that eventually told the truth about West did so only after there was a question of whether or not West sought out sex with underage men, and used his position to offer favors to young men he courted online.

The mayor's apparent web of deceit unraveled when, over the past three months, he spoke online to a Gay.com chat buddy who identified himself as being 17 years old.

The young man turned out to be fictional. The newspaper hired a computer consultant to create the fictional teenager's profile, and over a three-month period, the make-believe gay youth traded flirtatious online chats and instant messages with the mayor.

In earlier exchanges with another, different fictional young man — this one who said he was 18 years old — the mayor offered up an internship.

In the extensive expose and editor's notes detailing the mayor's exchanges with fictional young men and teenagers, the *Spokesman-Review* stressed that the issue with the mayor was not his homosexuality, but his abuse of power.

Current city council members who were interviewed since the story broke have expressed shock at the fact that the mayor used city computers to talk to guys online.

And yet all of this time, no one in all of these circles of power and activism have thought it was somehow wrong that James West was lying to the public through his political agenda?

It never struck anyone as immoral that a closeted homosexual was an attack-dog against gay rights?

Since when isn't political hypocrisy relevant?

It never crossed anyone's mind that James West was using his political might to hurt unknown thousands of gays and lesbians across the state simply to cover up his own lies and duplicity?

That is a far more egregious abuse of power than trolling for sex from a make-believe man on Gay.com.

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Conundrums

ONE RAINY NIGHT

by Ove Overmyer

On a recent rainy spring evening in downtown Rochester, I ran umbrella-less over to the corner of Exchange and East Main to catch the first eastbound RTS bus going by. The main thing I was concerned with at that moment was getting out from underneath this downpour, and getting home as soon as possible.

Through the dirty water spots of my eyewear, I could see a large looming figure sitting on the bench inside the bus stop shelter. He was an imposing black brother about my age, and twice my size. He was sipping on a drink and smoking an unfiltered cigarette. He was well groomed, and had a shiny vinyl book bag tossed over his shoulder. He initially turned and glanced my way, just to let me know he knew I was there. Since there was no immediate bus in sight, I guardedly slid to one end of the shelter, basically to avoid the swirling tobacco fumes billowing under the canopy.

I cautiously kept him in close check, mostly by peering out the corner of my eye. I guess it's just the "street" in me. I was pretending to occupy my time by looking westward for an approaching bus, and bopping my head to the beat of an old Coltrane tune that was pumping out of my ipod. It was that kind of wet, bluesy night.

He abruptly interrupted our brief silence, blurting out, "You know, women are ruling the world now. Every car that I see go by is driven by women folk. See! Look right there in that Escalade. They are turning our sons into faggots, and our men into pussies. What's this world coming to?"

"Excuse me, you talkin' to me?" I said. "I'm not sure I exactly know what you mean."

"Women are changing society man, and changin' the church, too. They rule everything now. Look at that Hillary chick. That's why I don't want my son to spend all his time with his mother and her crazy sisters. I don't live with my boy's mother, but I take him to the movies or to Adams St. rec to b-ball when I can. I think it's important, so he'll know the difference."

"The difference in what?" I asked. "The difference between bein' a man or a woman, you know what I'm talking about."

"No, not really," I replied. "But I do know that kids today are breeding babies that they can't care for — addicted babies, AIDS babies, and unplanned babies. These are babies being born into the cycle of poverty and hopelessness that their teenaged parents are living in. Our generation has failed our kids."

"OK, brotha man, I don't need a civics lesson from some smart ass white boy."

I became simultaneously angry and disturbed — a rush of blood singed the top of my ears. What made me think this guy wanted to hear any of that? What was I possibly thinking? What was I to expect from him? I rationalized my comments, thinking he was the one that initiated the conversation. He seemed like he needed to talk to someone, anyone on this cold, damp rainy night.

"Hey -- what about all these punks today who decide to become gay?" he continued. I remember taking a defensive posture. "They get all this education and learn all that alternative stuff. Your folks at home don't teach you that."

I was somewhat dumbstruck that he wanted to continue our conversation. Was he baiting me? The tone of his voice seemed like he was genuinely interested in having an exchange of words, and I did appreciate his openness and honesty. Even though that little voice inside my head said "keep your mouth shut," I just couldn't help myself.

"I guess some people don't recognize that this is the diverse natural order of things. Everyone has a unique and different orientation to their sexual desires. It's what makes the world go 'round. It's my belief that sexual behavior is in part determined by the will of human nature... and human nature is the will of God, right? It's foolish to think that always being around women and getting an education can make a man be gay. I'm sure you know lots of gay people

and don't even know it. As a matter of fact, you're talking to one right now." What did I just say? Am I crazy? I just outed myself to a perfect stranger, and he's twice my size. If he wanted to, he could crush me like yesterday's toast.

"I don't believe you," he said with a chuckle. Undoubtedly, I was somewhat relieved by his response.

"Why not?" "Well, you don't talk or act all swishy." Swishy? I thought.

"And you don't look like a faggot either," he added.

"Well, it's true. I'm a same gender-loving individual. It took me most of my adult life to come to love and appreciate myself for who I am. If your son grows up to be a same gender-loving individual, it's not because he spent more time with his mother and his aunts and not with you. It will be because he has learned, like myself, to trust the natural expression of his character without guilt, fear or shame. If he learns anything about faith and courage from you, he'll grow up to be a happy, well-adjusted man."

He sat there staring at me from our measured distance. He went back to sipping his drink. All of a sudden, it occurred to me I wasn't as uncomfortable as I was before. I felt a moment of peace wash over me. I told this guy exactly what was on my mind, and I'm still standing here unscathed. I thought this was either very brave of me, or extremely stupid.

Moreover, I didn't regret anything I said. I have sat silently in public before when men like him have spouted off about their hatred of gays and women, and everything else that is masculine to disrespect. I guess I got tired of being silent, invisible-so to speak. I could no longer live on my street, in my city, in my community, and say nothing — I would be just perpetuating ignorance and the by-products of violence and discrimination. This was my personal tipping point. Remaining silent was tantamount to prolonging my own private oppression.

Neither of us spoke again for a while. Shortly thereafter, the number 3 came roaring around the corner, screeching to a halt right in front of me. Even though there were times just earlier that I thought that I could loose a couple of teeth at any moment, I was pleased with myself enough to believe that these verbal volleyball games must happen to affect change. I really wanted to believe that.

As I dug for some loose change in my pants pocket for the bus fare, my motionless new found friend said, "Good talkin' to ya brotha. I'll think about what you said."

"Yeah, and thanks for listening to me vent," I returned. "You helped me more than you could ever know."

He nodded in acknowledgement, then stared downward as if he was checking out how waterlogged his Timberlands were.

"Peace brotha," he quipped. I said, "You too."

Confessions of a Serial Blonde

"IS THERE HAIR COLOR IN HEAVEN?"

By Robby Morris

"God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve!" We've all heard the religious right protest this at one time or another. It has always bothered me.

You see, before I moved to Rochester and became the fabulous diva you read before you, I was a little boy living in the Bible belt of Missouri. This meant more than a few Sunday school visits and Church sponsored summer camps. Looking back, I don't remember much in the way of scandalous man on man action going on in the bible, because, trust me, if there had been, young Robby might have paid more attention. All kidding aside, what I did learn then, something that is still quite relevant now, is how subject the bible is to interpretation.

The Adam and Steve thing is quite irksome. I don't think when Genesis was written, it was meant to imply anything about Adam and Eve's sexual orientation. Sure, the whole snake-forbidden fruit-temptation thing is a brilliant foray into metaphor, but tell me, why the instant homophobic retaliation? Does the scripture say something about Adam being tempted by the White Party? Am I missing something? Who makes this shit up?

I would love for anyone to show me just how he or she took the "Steve" leap from what was actually written. To me, Genesis is about what it says it is, God's period of creation. I always thought Adam and Eve were included to represent examples of, rather than definitive versions of, man and woman. To me, they're nothing more than models filling in the beautiful scenery. Kind of like the cast of *The O.C.* So yeah, it is Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve, but I hardly think that had anything to do with the blasphemy of homosexuality. Maybe there was a Steve, but maybe they ran out of tablets and had to cut his part. The same thing happened to Anne Francis in *Funny Girl*.

I'm also rather annoyed with the whole concept of equating the "evils" of homosexuality with the tales of Sodom and Gomorrah. Again, my bible study days taught me that those places were destroyed because its people were morally deviant and not charitable to others. Sure, the phrase "to know man" is a direct reference to sexual acts, but I'm more disturbed by the offering of two virgin daughters, which hardly seems to raise an eyebrow. Blatant prostituting of your own children or vague references to same sex action? Hmmm? Which one sounds more morally deviant to you? And the reference to same sex acts written there are those of violence and humiliation, which, for the record, don't have anything to do with being gay, in my opinion.

Leviticus contains the oft-mentioned line, "Thou shall not lie with a man as with a woman; it is an abomination." It seems whenever someone gets a little too homo for comfort, this is what most bible beaters throw out to thinly disguise his or her contempt. I really want to send these people back to the fifth grade and hand them a dictionary. Abomination means to detest. Detest means to not like. Nowhere in either of those explanations does it say, "Robby, stay away from that penis or you'll burn in hell." The way I read it is, "God would rather you not do that." Well, I'm sure Martha Stewart would rather I not alter one of her recipes because I'm too damn cheap to buy fresh ingredients either, but I hardly think I'm going to burst into flames over it.

I just find it aggravating how quick religious zealots are to throw their righteous perceptions of the bible on to us members of the gay community out of misconception and fear. I personally don't put too much stock into the written scripture, because when my days on this Earth have come to

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an end, I don't think I'm going to be having that great big one on one with a book.

As turn around is fair play, I propose to end this vicious cycle of perception of convenience with a few convenient perceptions of my own. Have you heard of The Ten Commandments? Yes, it was a brilliant movie by Cecil B. DeMille, but that's not the one I'm talking about. I'm referring to those little guidelines we were raised on. Two of them seem extremely relevant to the topic at hand.

"Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain", and "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour". My perception of these? Don't use God as an excuse for uneducated rhetoric and hatred and don't judge my lifestyle solely based on a limited interpretation of what he (or she) may have supposedly said. I think we all know whom we ultimately have to answer to... and it's not each other.

The Vagina Dialogues Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse Region

SO MANY TOYS,
SO LITTLE TIME!

By Alicia Fraser

Despite what some say, size definitely matters! With so many different styles, shapes, lengths and girths of dildos, whatever you want, baby, you can have it! If a toy is too small, it may leave you craving for more

-- if it's too big, it may sit in your drawer unloved. P.S. -- Don't forget the lube!

Twelve thousand years ago, women in China had dildos made of jade, ivory and wood, which also served as pieces of art. Ancient Polynesian and Arab women utilized unripe bananas. Early mid-eastern women creatively used dried camel dung coated in a hard resin.

Today, your choices are much more appealing. Dildos range from the realistic phallus to the Virgin Mary -- swirls, veins, sparkles, the list goes on and on! Dildos can be made from silicone, rubber, vinyl, glass, acrylic and metal. The shape and texture of a dildo is important to take into consideration, since the most sensitive part of the vagina is the outer third.

If you're on a budget, rubber dildos are the most affordable. There is a wide range of rubber dildos, including "jellies," which are softer than plain rubber. Because rubber and vinyl are porous, condoms should always be used with these toys; condoms should ALWAYS be used when using toys with a partner, and changed when switching orifices. Clean rubber and vinyl dildos with anti-bacterial soap, be careful not to submerge a dildo in water if it has any moving or vibrating parts.

Cyberskin™ dildos are covered for their realistic texture and human flesh feel. Warming quickly to your body temperature, Cyberskin™ is the choice material for those who wish to "pack" their dildo in their shorts (such as a Soft Pack), and simulates a flaccid penis. A Soft Pack is not meant for intercourse, but for a realistic bulge in your pants. The most realistic Cyberskins have a bendable, firm core

to adjust to shape and position, as well as weighted balls for a realistic feel and balance when used for intercourse with a harness or solo. After cleaning your Cyberskin™ dildo with soap, dry it thoroughly and dust with cornstarch to prevent it from getting tacky or sticky. Do not allow it to rest against other toys, as it will melt and deform against them.

Most dildos have a flanged bottom or balls, which allow you to secure your dildo into a harness with a metal or plastic "O" ring. Harnesses are made of vinyl, leather, or denim, and you can buy one or even make your own! You can also buy starter kits which include a harness, dildo and lube -- ready to go!

Silicone dildos are more expensive than rubber, since they are often handcrafted in small batches by independent manufacturers. Silicone is non-porous and therefore can be sterilized by boiling in hot water for five-10 minutes or by putting in the dish washer. Silicone dildos last longer than other materials and come in a wide range of vivid colors. Vixen, a woman-owned company based out of San Francisco specializes in hand poured dildos in gorgeous colors -- including camouflage! Make sure to use water-based or silicone-free lube with silicone toys -- silicone lube causes a chemical reaction with silicone toys, causing them to disintegrate.

A little lube goes a long way with glass, acrylic and metal dildos. Handcrafted glass dildos can qualify as pieces of art, and their price reflects this. Blowfish has a wonderful selection of glass dildos. Glass and metal toys are non-porous like silicone and great for the ease of cleaning and can be boiled like silicone.

You have many more choices than our foremothers did when they ordered their dildos from the back of magazines and the Sears Roebuck catalog, advertising to help keep women "relaxed and content." So peruse some of the woman-friendly stores listed below and seize the day!

For more information:
www.comeasyouare.com Toronto Store!

www.babeland.com NYC and Seattle
www.vixencreations.com San Francisco
www.goodvibrations.com San Francisco and Berkeley

www.blowfish.com online only
Alicia Fraser is the VP of Rochester NOW and Chair of the N.Y.S. Lesbian Rights Taskforce.

Queer & Healthy

TESTING, TESTING, 1...2...3...

By Erik Libey

June is a pretty happening month. It is the month we can be fairly certain the weather will get warm and stay warm. For many it is the first month of summer vacation. It is the month when many cities around the nation and world (including our neighbors to the west in Buffalo) celebrate Gay Pride. It is also the month in which National HIV Testing Day falls -- on June 27. So this month I wanted to spend just a few moments reflecting on the importance of HIV Testing... especially in our community.

HIV and AIDS have been much in the news lately. We see issues ranging from how the new pope will address the issue of condom use for HIV prevention in the Catholic faith, to sensational stories of men on the "down low" spreading HIV throughout the community and a new "super-virus" being found in a gay man in New York City, to heightened use of crystal meth fueling alarming new HIV rates among gay men. One common theme to rise from all the dialogue around HIV, though, is the importance of getting people tested so that we can diagnose HIV as early and efficiently as possible.

More than two decades into this disease, however, it seems this ideal is still far from being met. Results from a recent study and survey done in England showed that amongst gay men alone, a national average of 30 percent of men who were infected with HIV were not aware of their infection because they had not been recently tested (and in some cities, including London, that figure approached 50 percent of gay men!).

Here in the United States, the CDC estimates that one in three people who are HIV-positive do not know their status. So let's look at Rochester: the NY State Dept. of Health reports that in Monroe County alone there are approximately 1,600 individuals living with HIV or AIDS... and of that figure it's estimated that anywhere from 30 percent to 40 percent could be gay or bisexual men. If the CDC's estimates are correct that would mean that in Monroe County alone there could be as many as 800 individuals who are infected with HIV and do not know it... and that 240 or more of them could be gay or bisexual men!

Clearly the need for HIV testing and knowing your status has never been greater!

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- Knowing your own status can help you make decisions about how best to protect your partner(s).
- HIV Testing has never been easier to access. Tests are available in so many locations and so many formats.

I want to strongly encourage everyone in our community to remember the fun we can have in the month of June... but also to remember the significance of National HIV Testing Day. If you have never tested positive for HIV, consider getting a test done this month... especially if you have had any risk at all and it's been a while since your last test. Regular screening and keeping informed about your own status are in incredibly important part of helping you... be queer, be proud, & be healthy!

Erik Libey is the Gay Health Coordinator at AIDS Rochester, Inc. and can be reached at 442-2220 or by email at elibey@aidsrochester.org. An archive of his previous articles, as well as other gay health information, can be found at www.aidsrochester.org/gayhealth.

Acting On Faith

PURPLE STATE

By John Wilkinson

This column is organized by Interfaith Advocates for LGBT People, formed in 1991 to seek increased awareness, understanding and inclusion of LGBT people by individual congregations and the larger community in Rochester.

Newcomers are encouraged to attend the next meeting, Sunday, Sept. 18, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Asbury First United Methodist Church, 1050 East Ave. Call 585-271-7649 or visit www.interfaithadvocatesLGBT.org to find resources, events, welcoming congregations, and to sign the Interfaith Statement in Support of Equal Marriage for All.

Guest columnist for this month is John Wilkinson, pastor of Third Presbyterian Church, Meigs St. at East Ave. John may be reached at jwilkinson@thirdpresbyterian.org. For more information about the congregation, call 585-271-6513 or visit www.thirdpresbyterian.org.

Can there be any "purple state" breakthrough in a church defined by "red state/blue state" polarities? That is the reality that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), along with many other mainline Protestant churches, is living with these days on issues of human sexuality and the LGBT community.

Current Presbyterian law effectively denies ordination to lesbian and gay persons. Our official teaching is that any sexual behavior outside the "covenant of marriage between a man and a woman" is contrary to scripture, and therefore a barrier to ordination.

There are many within the Presbyterian church, in fact, a sizable minority, who believe that teaching to be incorrect and our law in error. We are working for change. Several affinity groups are working for legislative change, as well as on educational materials that will reach the hearts and minds of those who would support the current standards.

A network of congregations, called "More Light," has gone on record with its disagreement, with many more congregations expressing disagreement in many ways. Third Presbyterian Church, the congregation where I am privileged to serve as pastor, became a More Light congregation in 1987.

We do not think we have "more light" on this issue than those who disagree with us, though we do think we are correct on this. We do believe that God has "more light" to bring to all of us, in matters of human sexuality and in every conversation that we have dealing with the life of faith.

It is sometimes difficult to sustain hope in the face of the continuing Presbyterian teaching and practice. Many gifted

people have left the church, disappointed and rejected. Yet many stay, because their sense of call and the faith they have received has convinced them that the church is their home (even when its practices demonstrate otherwise) and that the church's change of heart and mind is inevitable. May it be so.

In the meantime, we look for glimpses of grace and moments of hope. Perhaps there are those in the majority of the Presbyterian church whose perspective may be changed, or who can determine a way to live in the church with their GLBT fellow travelers even if they are not so sure about their own perspectives on this.

Like many denominations, the Presbyterian church made decisions on ordination several decades ago, in some ways determining ordination policy prior to a full consideration of the broader, and more central, conversation about human sexuality. We have benefited more recently from scholarship both theological and secular, as well as the steadfast, persistent witness of so many GLBT friends.

"Failure is impossible," Susan B. Anthony, Rochester suffragist, said in another context. I believe failure is impossible here as well, because the justice of God and the hospitality of Jesus tell me so. Our work continues, as does our prayer. ■



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Resources

FAMILY RESOURCES

Pride & Joy Families
See Ongoing Calendar

Rochester Gay Moms' Group

Support group for lesbian mommies and wannabe mommies in Rochester and surrounding areas. Subscribe: RochesterGayMoms-subscribe@yahoo.com.

Gay Fathers Group

Meets first and third Tuesday, 6:30-8:30pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

Lesbian & Gay Family Building Project

Claudia E. Stallman, Project Director, Ferre Institute, Inc. 124 Front St., Binghamton, NY 13905, Phone: (607) 724-4308; Fax: (607) 724-8290; E-mail: LesGayFamBldg@aol.com; Web: www.PrideAndJoyFamilies.org

WOMEN'S RESOURCES

HEALTH:

Highland Hospital Breast Care Center

1000 South Ave., Rochester, NY 14620. 585-341-6869. Specializing in breast health, diagnostic breast imaging and treatment and mammography outreach and education.

Monroe County Women's Health Partnership

111 Westfall Rd., Rochester NY 14692; (585)274-6978. Comprehensive breast cancer screening services for uninsured and underinsured women.

Elizabeth Wende Breast Clinic

170 Sawgrass Drive. 442-8432. Dr. Wende Logan-Young and an all-woman staff provide mammograms.

AIDS Rochester Women's Health Outreach

1350 University Ave. ARI has services for HIV positive women and others in the lesbian community. 442-2220.

Community Health Network

87 N. Clinton Ave. 244-9000; TTY (585)461-9202. HIV and Primary care medical services for HIV positive women, their negative partners and family members. OB/GYN, HIV pre-test and post-test counseling. Confidential or free HIV testing.

Alternatives for Battered Women

232-7353; TTY 232-1741. Shelter (women only), counseling. Lesbians, gay men welcome.

Victim Resource Center of Wayne County

Newark N.Y. Hotline 800-456-1172; office (315)331-1171; fax (315)331-1189.

Mary Magdalene House

Women's outreach center for HIV positive women and women at risk. 291 Lyell Ave. Open Mon-Fri. 6:30-9:30 pm 458-5728.

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114 University Ave., Rochester, NY 14605; Toll-free Helpline: 1-866-600-6886. Planned Parenthood has led the way in providing high quality, affordable reproductive health care since 1916. Our experienced and compassionate medical staff will listen to your concerns and answer your questions in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. All our services are confidential. We accept most insurances; including Medicaid. You may even qualify for low- to no-cost family planning services. When you make your appointment, be sure to ask about our sliding scale fees. No one is turned away for lack of ability to pay.

POLITICAL:

National Organization for Women (Greater Rochester NOW)

PO Box 93196; (585)461-1310. E-mail: info@rochesternow.org Web page: http://www.rochesternow.org.

CULTURAL:

Rochester Women's Community Chorus 234-4441. (See Ongoing calendar).

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ONLINE:

RochesterDykes:

www.rdykes.com;
e-mail sabrinabeach@yahoo.com

WOWcny:

e-mail: WOWcny@aol.com
Rochester NY Lesbians;
groups.aol.com/rochstrlesbians?mmch_=0

GENERAL:

Women's Resource Center

YWCA, 175 N. Clinton Ave. 546-7740.

Butch-Femme Connection.

Contact Kerry at 865-4619, or
e-mail DressyFemme@aol.com.

Color Outside the Line Crew

Contact Jackie Williams, 482-4945.

Check our monthly and ongoing Calendars and the Gay Groups section for more woman-centered groups and events, and call the Gay-Source Infoline for referrals, at 244-8640 And send us your information!

AIDS DIRECTORY

Free testing for HIV exposure

is available from New York State Department of Health: call Rochester Area Regional Hotline at (585) 423-8081, or 1-800-962-5063 for pay phones or calls outside Rochester. Deaf or hearing impaired people should call (585)423-8120 (TDD.) New Rapid HIV Testing now available —test results in 30-40 minutes! Statewide information can be obtained by calling 1-800-541-AIDS. Other organizations which provide AIDS-related services are as follows:

AIDS Rochester, Inc.

1350 University Ave., Rochester NY 14607. Provide support services for people with HIV/AIDS and their families; presents educational programs related to HIV/STDs to community groups; offers free, confidential testing every Monday and Thursday, 5-8 pm (no appointment necessary). Also testing on Outreach Van throughout city. Contact information: business line (585) 442-2220 V/TTY; www.aidsrochester.org. Rural counties served by ARI offices in Geneva (1-800-422-0282) and Bath (1-800-954-2437).

Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley

provides referrals to physicians and service agencies. Person on duty Mon./Fri. 9 am-6 p.m.; message machine other times. (585) 244-8640.

Center for Health and Behavioral Training of Monroe County

691 St. Paul St., 4th floor. Collaboration of Monroe County Health Department and U.R. Provides year-round training in prevention and management of STDs, HIV, TB and related issues, such as domestic violence and case management. (585)530-4382 v/tty.

Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse Region

114 University Ave., Rochester, NY 14605; Toll-free Helpline: 1-866-600-6886. Planned Parenthood has led the way in providing high quality, affordable reproductive health care since 1916. Our experienced and compassionate medical staff will listen to your concerns and answer your questions in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. All our services are confidential. We accept most insurances; including Medicaid. You may even qualify for low- to no-cost family planning services. When you make your appointment, be sure to ask about our sliding scale fees. No one is turned away for lack of ability to pay.

Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse Region

114 University Ave., Rochester, NY 14605; Toll-free Helpline: 1-866-600-6886. Offers confidential HIV testing and information. When you make your appointment, be sure to ask about our sliding scale fees. No one is turned away for lack of ability to pay.

AIDS Community Health Center (achc)

87 N. Clinton Ave. (4th floor). Comprehensive HIV care and primary medical care for HIV positive individuals, their negative partners, and adult family members. ACHC provides nutritional evaluation, vision screenings, gynecological care, medical case management/counseling, and substance abuse counseling. The Center also offers out-patient treatments and infusions onsite, liaison nurses to coordinate home-care needs, educational resources and support groups, an active Patient Advisory Committee (PAC), access to clinical trials, lab onsite, and referrals to psychotherapy and other specialized health services. (585) 244-9000. TTY (585) 461-9202.

Rochester Area Task Force on AIDS (RATFA)

is a collection of agencies providing a multiplicity of resources and services to the upstate New York community. Their offices are located through the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency, which also provides medical literature and newspaper clippings, as well as demographic and statistical data for use in developing health care services. (585) 461-3520.

Men of Color Health Awareness Project (MOCHA)

HIV prevention focus for men who have sex with men (MSM) in the minority community. Support groups, one on one peer education, safer sex workshops, referral services, buddy testing. Sibley Tower Building, 25 Franklin St., Suite 1060. 420-1400.

Monroe County Health Department

at 855 W. Main St., offers testing and counseling for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. (585)464-5928.

Strong Memorial Hospital

provides a complete range of HIV medical care, including access to experimental treatment protocols, and HIV testing. Also provides individual and group psychotherapy. Training of health care professionals also available. Infectious Disease Clinic, (585) 275-0526. Department of Psychiatry, (585) 275-3379. AIDS Training Project, (585) 275-5693.

Planned Parenthood of Rochester and Genesee Valley

offers testing and information (585) 546 2595.

Threshold Youth Center

provides confidential testing for young people ages 12-25. Fees on sliding scale, no one denied service. Threshold Center for Alternative Youth Services, 80 St. Paul St. 454-7530. Free oral HIV testing Thursdays 2-4 pm., ages 12-25.

Rural HIV testing

anonymous and confidential, in Alleghany, Livingston, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne or Yates Counties, call 1-800-962-5063.

Action Front Center

(Action for a Better Community.) Provides HIV prevention education and case management services. Training and technical assistance to service providers. Resource library open to public. All services free and confidential. Multicultural and bilingual staff. Jearald Noble, program manager. 33 Chestnut St., second floor. Hours 8:30-5 pm, Monday-Friday. 262-4330; fax 262-4572. Free anonymous HIV testing on walk-in basis, Thursdays 9 am- 4 pm, provided through NYSDOH at Action Front Center, 242 Andrews St. Carmen Hau, 262-4330.

Anthony Jordan Health Center Prevention Counseling and Testing Program

Part of national initiative to increase testing among communities of color, targeting the GLBT population. Provides prevention case management, educational presentations, and access to other Jordan services. Prevention Counseling & Testing is a walk-in program; no appointments necessary. Office hours Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am-5 pm; extended hours on Mondays until 8 pm. (585)423-2822; fax 423-2893. Website: www.jordanhealthctr.org. For more information call Program Manager Pearl

Breedlove-Luttrel, (585)423-2874. Evergreen Health Services, Buffalo. Primary care, HIV and family care, HIV testing and counseling: (716)847-0328.

CDC National STD and AIDS Hotline

1-800-342-2437; 1-800-227-8922. English service 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Spanish service: 1-800-344-7432, 8 am- 2 am, seven days a week. TTY service: 1-800-243-7889, 10 am- 10 pm, Monday-Friday.

Public Interest Law Office of Rochester (PILOR)

80 St. Paul St., Suite 701. Free legal services to HIV positive persons, families. Spanish bilingual advocates available. All civil cases except divorce; no criminal cases. Ask to speak to someone in PILOR. 454-4060.

Health Association HART (HIV/AIDS Resources and Treatment) Program

250 East Ave. (585)232-6382. Provides housing assistance, acupuncture, massage, reiki, support groups, referral services, Positively Alive (HIV + women's support network).

Westside Health Services

Brown Square Health Center, 175 Lyell Ave. (254-6480); Woodward health Center, 480 Genesee St. (436-3040). HIV/AIDS services, support, more.

McCree McCuller Wellness Center at Unity Health's Connection Clinic

(585)368-3200. 89 Genesee St., Bishop Kearney Bldg., 3rd floor. Full range of services, regardless of ability to pay. Caring, confidential and convenient.

Catholic Charities AIDS Services

A multicultural and bi-lingual staff providing services to a diversity of people infected and affected with HIV. Intensive home-based case management for all ages; a clinical crisis manager; a child/adolescent case worker; transitional case management for children and family members going through bereavement; recreational and support groups for children and teens, and camping experiences including Camp SOAR. We coordinate HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS) short term emergency assistance with rent/mortgage/utility payments and limited subsidized housing. 1945 E. Ridge Rd., Suite 24, Rochester NY 14622. (585)339-9800.\

Huther Doyle

360 East Ave., Rochester 14604. Offers drug, alcohol prevention, education, treatment. Risk Reduction Plus Team offers services to HIV positive and those at risk through substance use. Programs include outreach, transitional case management, free confidential testing (OraQuick Rapid Testing). NYS Dep't. of Health offers free on-site confidential and anonymous testing. (585)325-5100, M-F 8 am-9 pm, www.hutherdoyle.com.

GAY HEALTH

Monroe County Department of Health STD Clinic

Phone: (585) 464-5928

Monroe Community College Student Health Services

Phone: (585) 292-2018 (MCC Students only)

Highland Hospital Nursing Staff Hobart & William Smith College Health Services

Phone: (315) 891-3600

Rochester Institute of Technology Student Health Services

Phone: (585) 475-2255 (RIT Students only)

Threshold Center for Alternative Youth Services

Phone: (585) 454-7530 (serving ages 12-25)

Women Gynecology & Childbirth Associates, P.C.

Phone: (585) 244-3430 (Main Office)

Gay Health list compiled by AIDS Rochester, Inc. Further information on this list and related gay health topics available at <http://www.aids-rochester.org/gayhealth>

This list is under construction. If you are a provider, or know of one who would like to be included in this directory, please call Erik Libey at 442-2220 for more information.

Travel

Food

H-2b program in trouble: may affect P-Town

By Merle Exit

Over the past 14 years, the H-2b Visa program has been a major contributor to tourism by providing workers in the low-skilled and semi-skilled positions that Americans couldn't seem to fill.

Recently the federal government put a 66,000 cap on this program involving the employment of these immigrant workers. An employer advertises an available position, such as a dishwasher, cashier, house painter, landscaper or chambermaid. Unfortunately, Americans do not apply. Why? The newly employed are highly skilled and not interested in a seasonal job requiring relocation to say, a resort community, such as Provincetown, Massachusetts.

It is there that I spoke with Joy McNulty, owner of the Lobster Pot. The problem, she said, is that a small percentage of workers are H-2b and without them, businesses are in danger of closing, resulting in the loss of American jobs. On a national level, businesses that are dependent on H-2b visa labor will be forced to curtail hours, range and quality of business, or even close their doors, having a further impact on the job market.

Are the H-2b Visa workers a drain on our economy? It seems that they pay full taxes, including social security, and do not receive benefits... no unemployment or disability. Employers don't even have to pay health insurance or contribute to retirement or pension plans. Much of the money that they earn goes towards rent, food, clothes and local products. Yes, money does go back to their country and families.

Joy McNulty has owned the Lobster Pot for 31 years with her grown children. "Staffing has always been difficult, becoming more so with the escalation cost of property in most resort areas. Fourteen years ago, encouraged by the government and their program of H-2b visa, we hired our first employees from Jamaica. They were diligent, committed and hard working. We tried continuously to recruit American workers, but most Americans preferred jobs in the dining rooms waiting table or hosting. Very few were willing to do dishes. Currently I can say that I have not had the luxury of one American applicant for work in my dishroom in over 10 years."

"In our company, as in many other resort businesses," McNulty said, "we pay our H-2b workers as directed by the terms of the H-2-b petition. Most of our workers have been with us from five to 14 years, coming back and forth from Jamaica every spring and leaving after Thanksgiving. They are excellent employees, well trained, committed to us, are willing to work for a short season (eight months) and have become an integral part of our workforce."

A Nantucket innkeeper is closed from

mid-December to mid-April and cannot offer a year round job. With housing a shortage, she had to create staff bedrooms in the inn, private bath, two to a room. She says that Americans are not willing to live in dormitory conditions and college students, who might be willing, return to school in mid August, leaving the inn with no staff during the busiest time of the year.

Seasonal regions are defined by the Dept. of Labor and the elimination of the 120-day application period, which adversely affects many resort areas, appears to be the first step. "If we don't make progress prior to Oct. 1, 2005 we risk the possibility those with seasons earlier than ours will file sooner and the cap could be reached before we ever have a chance to submit our petition."

In other words, a hockey team in Maine employing Canadian players is vying for the same H-2b Visa program. And so are Ringling Bros., shrimp boaters, and ski resorts.

McNulty is looking at three solutions: 1). A three to five year renewable visa subject to and annual review; 2). Visas should target entry level and semi-skilled workers, the jobs that Americans are not presently seeking; 3) Any visa should be indexed to state unemployment numbers to insure that there would be ample workers available during periods of low employment while at the same time ensuring that no American would be denied an opportunity to work because of too many foreign workers.

Obviously, much time has past since the H-2b Visa program has been challenged. There was a recent editorial in a Colorado newspaper that read, "For the second summer in a row, many Colorado businesses are out of luck securing the workers they need to make hotel beds, wait tables or trim hedges. The best they can hope for now is that Congress will perform one of its basic functions and help meet the labor demands of the economy."

"The problem is that the statutory cap of 66,000 H-2B visas for temporary foreign workers was reached Jan. 3, the second year in a row the quota was hit during the first few months of the fiscal year. That means many employers who rely on legal immigrant labor to supplement the limited number of Americans interested in seasonal work will again be grossly understaffed."

"Thankfully, the haggling has started over a modest but helpful bill co-sponsored by Colorado Sen. Ken Salazar that would reserve 33,000 visas for employers needing workers during the summer."

As I write on May 14, 2005, there is still no decision on the matter. I will be going to P'Town the beginning of June to write about what's new and exciting there. Hopefully I'll get some good news from Joy McNulty. Hey, I can't imagine The Lobster Pot going out of business! ■

Whining and Dining

COOL SPOTS BY THE WATER

By The Phantom Diner

It's time for waterside dining, whether by the lake or by Sodus or Irondequoit Bays. What could be finer than escaping from the gritty city, sipping a tall icy drink, taking in the scene of white sails on blue water, and feeling a cool lake breeze as your appetizers arrive?

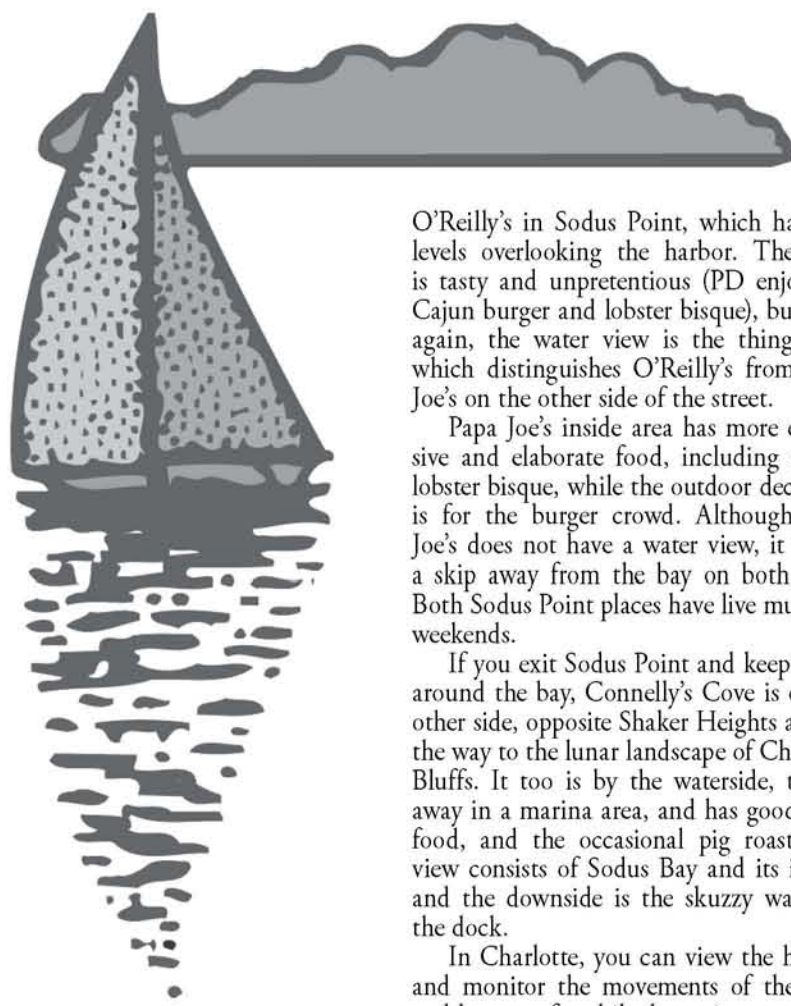
The Phantom Diner lists a few spots with good food, low prices, and, of course, location, location, location:

Sodus Bay; MR. DOMINICK'S, 4699 Lake Ave., Charlotte.

Dining on the deck at Castaways is a great idea on a hot summer evening. If you can get the ultimate tables at the end of the deck, you're sitting almost IN the lake. The seafood, while not gourmet-standard, is good, and the lake view at sunset is great.

A recent special of crab cake, coconut shrimp and baked salmon was tasty, although the salmon was clearly farmed, not wild. PD's dining companion enjoyed her stuffed haddock.

Summer paradise is also to be found at



O'Reilly's in Sodus Point, which has two levels overlooking the harbor. The food is tasty and unpretentious (PD enjoyed a Cajun burger and lobster bisque), but once again, the water view is the thing here, which distinguishes O'Reilly's from Papa Joe's on the other side of the street.

Papa Joe's inside area has more expensive and elaborate food, including a nice lobster bisque, while the outdoor deck area is for the burger crowd. Although Papa Joe's does not have a water view, it is just a skip away from the bay on both sides. Both Sodus Point places have live music on weekends.

If you exit Sodus Point and keep going around the bay, Connelly's Cove is on the other side, opposite Shaker Heights and on the way to the lunar landscape of Chimney Bluffs. It too is by the waterside, tucked away in a marina area, and has good basic food, and the occasional pig roast. The view consists of Sodus Bay and its island, and the downside is the skuzzy water by the dock.

In Charlotte, you can view the harbor, and monitor the movements of the ferry and lesser craft, while devouring your calamari on the little porch at Mr. Dominick's (there are several other Italian restaurants in Charlotte as well). Mr. Dominick's is popular and usually pretty crowded, and it may be hard to get a table on the porch on a weekend. ■

CASTAWAYS, 244 Lake Rd., Webster - on the far side of Sea Breeze (take 104 to Bay Rd. and make a left on Lake); O'REILLY'S, Main St. in Sodus Point; PAPA JOE'S, also Main St., Sodus Point; CONNELLY'S COVE on the far side of

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875 E. Main Street, Suite 500
Rochester, New York 14605

Office Hours
Monday to Friday, 9am-6pm

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(585) 244-8640

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(585) 244-8246

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GAGV Website
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Rochester, New York 14607-1255
Library open Wednesdays, 6-8pm
Meeting space is wheelchair accessible.

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Youth Groups:
The GAGV Youth Group (13-23) meets Sundays 2-4pm at the Youth Center, 875 E. Main Street, Phone: (585) 244-8640

The MOCHA Youth Group (14-20) meets Tuesdays from 3-5pm at the MOCHA Project Office, 107 Liberty Pole Way, Phone: 585-420-1400

YOUTH UPDATE: QUEER, PROUD & HEALTHY

By Toby Greenfield

May was an eventful month as we had singers Jason and deMarco here to perform for our Youth Group on May 15. They were a class act and we want to thank them very much for taking time out of their schedule to visit and sing for us. A special thanks also to Chris H. who helped arrange and set up all the sound equipment. You rock Chris...

We also had 20 youth get on a big gay bus at 5:45 a.m. to attend the Pride Agenda's Equality & Justice day in Albany. Who knew teenagers could get up that early?! Who knew I could? It was worth it, though, as we had an inspiring day meeting and talking with legislators and sharing our stories.

This month we'll be continuing our Queer, Proud & Healthy curriculum done in collaboration with AIDS Rochester. This curriculum covers topics such as substance abuse, HIV/STDs, body image and self-esteem, and healthy relationships. The Youth Group will also be participating in the AIDS Walk on June 5. If anyone out there is interested in sponsoring us for the AIDS Walk, please contact me at 244-8640 ext 13. We would appreciate it!

As always, please check our youth website at <http://youth.gayalliance.org> for all groups, times and events. ■



The Rochester Transgender Group (RTG) held a safety/self defense demonstration on May 18. Left to right: Alex Cobus (AVP), facilitator Paul Brew, Pamela Barres (RTG). More next page. PHOTO TODD PLANK

ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT: DONATE USED CELL PHONES

By Alex Cobus

Last month, a community member generously donated several used cell phones to the Anti-Violence Project (AVP). We learned from Verizon's HopeLine program that any properly charged, working phone can dial 911 for emergency services. So if you are

getting a new cell phone, and don't know what to do with the old one, you can donate it to the AVP, or another domestic violence program of your choice. The AVP is able to distribute these phones to domestic violence survivors to use for safety purposes.

Additionally, we are also an approved domestic violence program for Verizon's HopeLine program. Marking its 10th year in 2005, HopeLine today collects wireless phones and accessories from any wireless service pro-

vider, and then refurbishes the phones or recycles them in an environmentally friendly way.

As a result of HopeLine, and related phone recycling programs the company has organized since 2001, Verizon has collected more than two million used wireless phones for the benefit of domestic violence victims and advocacy groups.

If you are being abused by your partner, and are interested in obtaining one of these phones, call GAGV'S AVP at 585-244-8640, x 17. ■



Alicia Kibitlewski, left, and Channyn Quinn with two of their kids.

FAMILY MATTERS: FOSTERING

By Todd Plank

May was National Foster Care Month, so I thought it would be appropriate to interview a local couple who have become foster parents. Meet Alicia Kibitlewski and Channyn Quinn.

Alicia and Channyn have been together for over four years. A couple of years into their rela-

tionship they began to talk seriously about introducing children into their family. As a first step in that direction they purchased their first home in the summer of 2004. (Little did they know at the time how quickly their house would be fill up!)

Alicia and Channyn attended the mandatory eight-week training for prospective foster and adoptive parents. Several home studies were required and detailed

personal histories were taken.

Channyn (age 27) remarked that it felt awkward describing past relationships in front of her partner Alicia (age 39), but that overall it was a very positive experience working with the foster care system. It helped that their caseworker was an out lesbian and that several other employees they encountered in the social services system turned out to be "family".

Alicia noted that the fact that they were a same sex couple was a non-issue and that she and Channyn were treated with the same respect and sensitivity that would be expected for anyone embarking on the perilous journey to parenthood.

During my conversation with Channyn and Alicia, it became clear that they were on the foster parent fast track. Since August of 2004 they have welcomed 11 different children, ranging in ages from two days to 16 years old, into their home.

They received their official papers from Monroe County authorizing them to serve as foster parents on July 31, which coincidentally was when they

held a housewarming party to celebrate their new digs, and on the very next day, before they had even had a chance to sign the papers and mail them back, Channyn received a call inquiring if they could take in three sisters, an infant only two days old, along with her sisters, ages two and 10.

On Aug. 1, Alicia found herself at Walmart in a state of "overwhelm," as she tried to sort through the myriad choices of diapers and purchase beds for the new arrivals. The three sisters were in their home for only a week, but Alicia and Channyn had been initiated into their new roles as foster care parents.

Currently our dynamic duo are caring for five boys, ages six and a half months, 22 months, three, four and a half, and 14. Three of these boys are brothers. Some of these children present special challenges, due to the neglect they suffered before arriving at the safe haven provided by Alicia and Channyn.

Explaining their motivation for becoming foster care parents, Channyn relates, "It was our empathy and a desire to reach out (Continued on next page)"

Meet Interesting People!
Volunteer for *The Empty Closet*. We are looking for reporters, photographers, mail and distribution volunteers who can give two hours per month to the cause. Please call Susan at 244-9030. Thank you.

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Above: Pam Barres repels an attack; Paul Brew is on the receiving end at the Transgender Group safety demonstration. (see article page 1) PHOTO BY TODD PLANK

FAMILY (continued from page 1)

and help kids who had nothing and who were desperately in need of stable homes where they could be safe that prompted us to open our homes and hearts to these kids."

I asked Alicia and Channyn how their lives had changed since they became parents and their answers weren't surprising: "Cleaning our house and taking a shower have become luxuries," and "It's difficult

to find time for just the two of us."

A trip to the grocery store is now a major production, with the family resembling a small parade as they wind through the store with three shopping carts and five kids in tow. Channyn, who at present is the stay at home mom, now needs a good half hour to assemble her crew for an outing, whereas before, when it was just her, she could be out the door in five minutes.

What advice would they offer other

couples contemplating foster care?

"Communication between spouses is critical. Kids are smart and they will try to play one parent against another to get what they want. It's important for the parents to be consistent in their dealings with the children."

When I asked Alicia and Channyn if they would do anything differently now that they have become seasoned foster care parents, she offered this: "You can never have enough supplies on hand. Our attic is now loaded with surplus items, because you never know what you'll need. Our house has become a department store of sorts."

With the additional stress and extra demands on their time and energies, do they have second thoughts about their decision to become foster parents?

Channyn's reply: "Being foster care parents has been a great experience! If you have

a stable home and love kids, you should consider foster care. Don't deliberate about it too much. Start the process and you will figure things out as you go along."

Is foster care a stepping stone toward creating a more permanent family? Channyn shared that adoption may become an option if their foster kids cannot be returned to their families of origin. Having biological children of their own is still a possibility, and their long range plans will quite likely involve adopting a couple of children.

Whatever choices they make with respect to family planning, it appears likely that Alicia and Channyn will be busy parents for many years to come!

NOTE: The Pride and Joy Families meeting for July will be at the P&J Families area at the GAGV Picnic on July 10, where there will be special activities for kids. We look forward to seeing you there! ■

Elaine Elkins, M.S.
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Buffalo's Universal Grille Band will perform at Pride on June 5.

NYS Prides run from June 5 to July 16

BUFFALO: June 3-5. The spotlight will shine on Buffalo's Channel 2 News anchor Maryalice Demler, when she takes center stage with Buffalo's leading man, Jim Janowski, for the June 5 GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender) Celebration at Bidwell Parkway.

To kick off this year's festivities, FABULOUS the Party at the Tralf sets the "True Colors" tone for the three-day extravaganza. The party starts at 9 p.m., on Friday, June 3, featuring the talents of DJ Paul Grace – music consultant for Queer as Folk, premiere Toronto DJ, one of Canada's top remixers. Saturday night brings the Dyke march, starting at 7 p.m. at W. Utica, traveling down Elmwood Ave., and culminating in a celebration at Bidwell Parkway, Toronto-based singer/songwriter Ember Swift will perform.

Sunday's main event, the Pride Parade, commences at 1 p.m. from Kleinhans Music Hall, and travels up Elmwood Avenue until reaching the festival at Bidwell Parkway. This year's main stage show will include nationally known comedienne Suzanne Westenhoefer, Toronto singer Ember Swift, Buffalo's legendary Universal Grille Band, the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus and local artist Alison Pipitone. On the second stage, hosted by Jimmy Hill and Jamie Cudney, Comedienne Kristen Becker, local artist Tina Crapsi and regional artist Felicia Rose will perform, among others. Female impersonators as well as DJ Bill Andrews will round out the Pride Day entertainment.

For more information, call or e-

mail Pride Buffalo at 716-559-3800; info@pridebuffalo.org; or visit the Pride Buffalo Web site at <http://www.pridebuffalo.org>.

STATEN ISLAND: June 4. Pride Festival and Parade, South Beach Boardwalk, Staten Island. Noon- 8 p.m. www.sihealthaction.org.

QUEENS: June 5, noon- 7 p.m. 37th Ave. from 89th to 75th, Queens. www.queenspride.org.

CHEMUNG CO.: June 11. Wisner Park, Elmira. www.stnypride.com.

WESTCHESTER: June 11. BROOKLYN: Pride Festival. June 11. 15th St. from Bartel-Pritchard Circle to 7th Ave.; 7th Ave. from 15th to Lincoln. www.clearviewfestival.com.

ALBANY: June 12. Capital Pride. Washington Park, 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. 518-462-6138.

NYACK: Gay Pride Rockland 2005. 845-634-6138.

LONG ISLAND: Pride Parade. LI Pride Parade Inc., 631-321-0906.

SYRACUSE; Central New York (CNY) Pride 2005. Everson Park, Syracuse. www.cnypride.com.

NYC BLACK PRIDE: June 21-26. www.blackpridenyc.com.

NYC: Pride Parade. June 26, 11 a.m.- 10:30 p.m. March down Fifth Ave. to PrideFest. www.hopinc.org; Heritage of Pride Inc., 212-807-7436.

ROCHESTER: July 10 GAGV Pride Picnic, Genesee Valley Park, 1-7 p.m. www.gayalliance.org. July 16, Pride Parade/Festival. www.streetsofpride.com. (See article, page 1.)

AUBURN: Auburn Pride, July 16. ■



Suede brings her sophisticated style to Common Grounds in Ithaca on June 18.

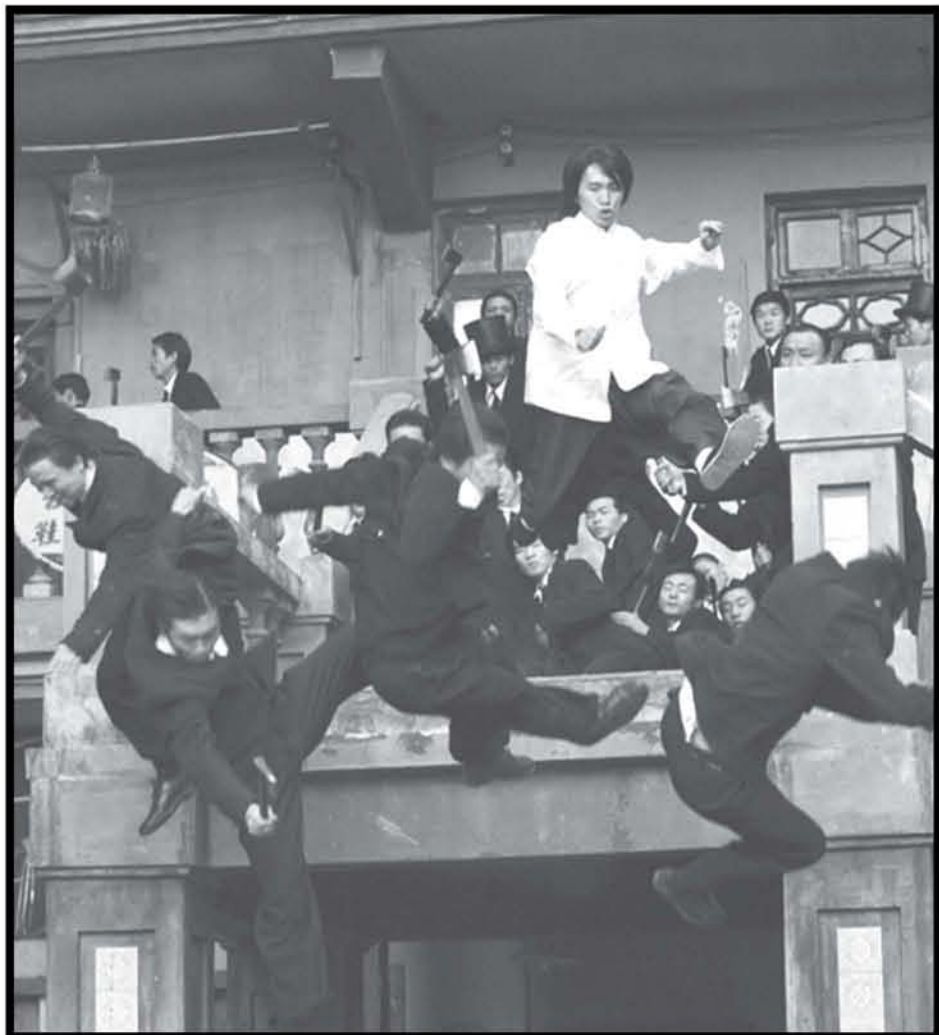
Suede to perform at Ithaca's Common Ground

Suede is an electrifying pop/jazz/blues vocalist. Imagine a cross between Ella Fitzgerald and Bette Midler, throw in a little Rosie Clooney, add a dash of Louis Armstrong, and you might get some idea of Suede's unique musical talents.

Think sophisticated pop/jazz, think naughty blues with a sizzling trumpet, think love songs that will make you swoon, think funny, think Wow... what a voice!

This consummate entertainer sings original material and pop, blues and jazz standards like nobody you've ever heard. Suede accompanies herself on piano, trumpet, and guitar.

Suede will perform at Common Ground (1230 Danby Road, Ithaca) at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 18. Tickets are \$20 per person. Advance ticket purchase is recommended. Tickets will be available at the door only as space permits. Tickets are available at Common Ground and online at www.ithacacommonground.com. ■



Geneva's Smith Opera House screens Kung Fu Hustle

The funny, kicky, leave-all-seriousness-at-the-door "Kung Fu Hustle," premiering at the Smith Opera House in Geneva on June 2, is the epitome of martial arts movie magic.

Plot? What plot? It's slight, but that hardly matters. Over here are the good

folks. Over there are the bad. Let them have at each other.

The movie -- sort of a "Lil' Abner's" Dogpatch meets "The Matrix" -- is loaded with astonishing fight visuals, hysterical, cartoon-like sight gags, and complicated set

(Continued on page 8)



ATLANTIC BEACON SCULPTURE COMMITTEE

June and July will be very busy months for ABSC as the sculpture dedication day, July 15, nears. A cruise on the Sam Patch and a drag show are scheduled for June.

The two hour "Cruisin' On The Canal" boat ride fundraiser aboard the "Sam Patch" (at Pittsford Port/Schoen Place) on Sunday, June 19 from 2-4 p.m. Entertainment, a live auction and delicious edibles will be provided.

Seating is limited and tickets will be on sale for \$40 per person or \$75 per couple.

Boat ride tickets will be available beginning June 1 at Outlandish Video and Gifts at the Village Gate, 274 North Goodman St. Ticket requests can also be arranged via E-mail at ABSC14607@aol.com. Sign language interpreted.

Running Thursday, June 23 through Sunday, June 26, Muther's, 40 Union St., will be hosting a nightly drag show to benefit ABSC, in commemoration of the Stonewall Uprising in N.Y.C., which sparked the gay rights movement beginning in 1969. Come to Muther's to support your favorite drag performers for a good cause benefiting ABSC.

On Friday, July 15, during Pride Week, the gay sculpture dedication will take place from 5-7 p.m. at the corner of Atlantic Ave. and Beacon St., next to the Bachelor Forum and along ARTWalk. The event will celebrate Rochester's newest outdoor sculpture, in commemoration of the Stonewall Uprising and recognizing the longstanding contributions of Rochester's GLBT community.

The celebration will be sign language interpreted. For more information about these upcoming events, check out www.ABSC14607.org or e-mail at ABSC14607@aol.com.

BUTCH FEMME

Dinner Nights Out: Our Dinner Nights out for June 2005 will be the 11th (Saturday) at 7 p.m. at Winfield Grill (North Winton Road, just south of East Main/Winton intersection); and on Saturday, June 25 at 7 p.m. at the Chinese Buffet on West Ridge Road in Greece (Lowe's Plaza, between Bally's and the AAA Travel Store).

Please note: The Connection will now only offer meetings once per month, for our social event only. Our Social Event for June 2005 will be Ferry Night! Come meet us outside the GAGV at 7 p.m. (corner Elton/Atlantic) and we'll head up to Charlotte to check out the new Fast Ferry terminal/the Ferry! The Ferry arrives back in town around 9 p.m. -- a beautiful sight to see at dusk/right after sunset.

Don't forget to bring your camera and sandals for walking on the beach... For further info, contact Kerry, facilitator, at (585) 865-4619, email DressyFemme@aol.com, or write P.O. Box 18734, Rochester, NY 14618.

EMPIRE BEARS

There's BEARS in them thar woods! That's right. Camping season is upon us, and the BEARS will be at Hillside June 3-5.

We've got a great site reserved, and would love for you to join us. We've also planned three other camping weekends as a club, and other smaller campouts this summer. Members plan to camp at Hillside,

Oneida, Jones Pond, the Point, and attend runs all over the east coast of the US and Canada. Check out our website for details: empirebears.org.

We're also planning a BEARrun at Camp Oneida July 29-31. Check out the details at empirebears.org. It'll be a great weekend with events to keep all the ursine happy.

We hold our final potluck of the season on June 11. As usual, it's at the GAGV Community Center. Meet at 6:30 Saturday night, and eat at 7 p.m. The BEARS supply drinks and paper goods. You bring the home cookin'. The theme for June is picnic foods, so fill up your basket with goodies and get to 179 Atlantic Ave.

Later that night, the BEARS will be at the Forum for our monthly BEARNIGHT. Wave your flag; the theme is red, white, and blue. Get creative with how you wear your colors, cubs. May's Bearnight at the Forum was well attended. Let's keep the good times going. Snacks are on us. We're there every second Saturday.

We continue to meet every Monday at Mel's Diner at 6 p.m. for supper and fun with Becky. It's great going to a place where the waitress knows your name, what you want to drink, your favorite salad and soup, and probably knows what you want to order better than you do. And Becky knows some dirty jokes, too.

Enjoy your summer, and see you at the Pride Parade. WOOF! And visit us at empirebears.org.

GAY FATHERS GROUP

The Gay Fathers' Group meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley Community Center located at 179 Atlantic Ave. We do not meet during the summer months and will begin meeting again on Sept. 6, 2005.

Guest speakers are scheduled occasionally. We recently had two speakers from AIDS Rochester and Patrick Fisher from the U. of R. Vaccine Trials Unit, talking about the vaccine trials for HIV now going on. A potluck dinner is sometimes planned for one of these bi-monthly meetings also. One of them has taken place already this cycle.

In general:

The group consists of men and in some cases their same sex partners. We are all at different stages in our lives. Some are married, some are going through separation/divorce, some have custody of their children and some don't, and all are at different points in the coming out process. This is a support group (not therapy) intended to discuss all these issues and more. Every one here is offered the opportunity to seek support and to give it. Issues we discuss include relationships with our children and our former spouses, relationships with our partners, family, the coming out process and legal concerns. Every one has a chance to participate since we are not a very large group (usually about 12 men) and all the conversations are confidential.

Our web site is a work in progress and we hope to have it up and running soon.

Please call GAGV at 244-8640 if you are interested in finding out more about us. This call is necessary before any new member is allowed to attend because we want to make sure that we meet your needs and assure the confidentiality of the current members. There are also brochures available about our group at the GAGV.

GLSEN

Membership Meeting

GLSEN Rochester will hold our end of the year dinner/membership meeting on Thursday, June 23. The meeting will be at the Golden Dynasty restaurant, 1900 South Clinton Ave. (Tops Plaza), Rochester, starting at 6 p.m.

We'll send a flyer to our mailing list with details as they become available. If you're not on our mailing list and you're interested in dinner details or membership information, email us at GLSENROchester@aol.com or call 585-244-1509.

GLSEN's 2005 National School Climate Survey is Here!

GLSEN National needs your assistance getting the word out about the 2005 National School Climate Survey, GLSEN's fourth national survey of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth about their experiences in school. The National School Climate Survey is a crucial tool documenting the problem of anti-LGBT bias in K-12 schools across the nation. It also is a chance for LGBT youth to speak out about their experiences and to inform education policymakers and the public about what is really going on in their schools.

Additional information and the online survey are available at:

<http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/library/record/1789.html>

LGBT youth who were attending high school or middle school during the current school year (2004-2005) and are at least 13 years old are eligible to participate.

Be Part of GLSEN's LGBT Families and Schools Research Project

GLSEN -- in collaboration with COLAGE (Children Of Gays And Lesbians Everywhere) and the Family Pride Coalition -- needs LGBT parents of school-age children and children of LGBT parents to participate in surveys about their experiences with schools. The information gathered from this survey will help GLSEN to lobby and advocate for the rights of all students and their families to be treated with respect in their schools.

If you are interested in participating in this very valuable research project and are either an LGBT parent with at least one school-age child currently attending school (K through grade 12) OR a student in middle school or high school (13 years of age or older) who has an LGBT parent or parents... please go to the following website for more information and to complete an online survey: <http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/news/record/1787.html>. Contact Elizabeth Diaz, Research Associate, at ediaz@glens.org or 212-727-0135 x 8051.

If your school or organization is interested in making schools safe for all students, consider the resources GLSEN Rochester has to offer. In addition to loaner videos, we offer programs that provide teachers, administrators and students with the knowledge and age-appropriate tools they need to successfully create a culture where all people are respected, free to express themselves and reach their fullest potential. To schedule a program for your school, organization or event, contact us at (585) 244-1509 or GLSENROchester@aol.com.

GLSEN Rochester is the leading local organization dedicated to ending anti-gay bias and harassment in our schools. We strive to assure that every member of every school community is valued and respected, regardless of real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. To join us or make a tax-deductible contribution, contact us at GLSENROchester@aol.com or (585) 244-1509.

HAPPY BUNCH AT THIRD PRESBYTERIAN

The "Happy Bunch" of Third Presbyterian Church is a social group with regular activities, and is open to all who celebrate diversity.

A cookout and croquet match will be held at Van and Ralph's on Saturday, June 16 at 4 p.m. For those interested, we will also be attending the 8 p.m. performance

of the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus. For information and directions, call 271-7649.

To receive email reminders of upcoming events email TPChappybunch-subscribe@yahoo.com.

Third Presbyterian Church has joined with other churches to promote inclusive ministry and seeks the full participation in ministry by all who are called of God regardless of sexual orientation or any other human condition. For more information, visit www.thirdpresbyterian.org. Click on "Outreach," then click on "Diversity" for full information about the church's ministry to the LGBT community, and find links to other organizations, such as More Light Presbyterians.

LAMBDA NETWORK AT KODAK

By Deanna Teifenthal

The Lambda Network at Kodak is a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender employee network at Eastman Kodak Company.

The Kodak 2004 Annual Report recognized Lambda for having won the "Out & Equal ERG of the year (2004)". Check out page 101 of the Kodak Annual Report, in the "Voices of Employees" section at

http://www.kodak.com/US/en/corp/annualReport04/corp_101.shtml. Also mentioned is Kodak's 100 percent rating on the HRC corporate equality index.

If you are interested in participating or helping with team photos at the AIDS Walk on June 5, please contact Amy Friend at 724-4988.

Lambda is participating in the Outriders Annual Boston to Provincetown ride on June 18. If you love bicycling, this is a great opportunity to ride, have fun, and meet new people. For more information contact Marge Meyer at marjorie.meyer@kodak.com or 722-2516.

March with Kodak Lambda at the Toronto Pride parade on Sunday, June 26. Over one million people will attend. For more information, contact Paul H. Smith at 588-4353.

Kodak has been named Image Sponsor for OUT & Equal, which strives for workplace equality. This year's conference is Sept. 22-24 in Denver. Check out outandequal.org. We may also go out early to do some training at the Kodak Colorado site. If you are interested in participating on this year's Kodak Out & Equal team, please contact Nancy Laurie, 588-6984.

For information about becoming a Kodak Lambda member or upcoming activities, please email us at lambda@kodak.com or leave a message on the Lambda voice mail (585) 234-4388. Lambda's intranet site for Kodak employees is <http://lambda.kodak.com>. More details on Kodak's global diversity activities are featured at www.kodak.com/go/diversity.

ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS

Warm weather brings not only flowers and green grass, but also shopping! Specifically, garage sales! The first weekend in June brings the return of the ever popular Gayrage Sale! Help support the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus (RGMC) and find some treasures for your home.

This year the Gayrage Sale will be held on Saturday, June 4, and Sunday, June 5, at 38 Riverside St. in Rochester. We will be open 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. for all of your shopping needs. From furniture to light fixtures, garden items to glassware, antiques to athletic equipment, and even an upright piano, last year the Gayrage sale had it all! You never know what you will find in our collection of donated items. Items to fulfill your every household need can be purchased for bargain prices at the Gayrage Sale!

The Gayrage Sale serves as a major fundraiser for the RGMC and over the years has grown by leaps and bounds. We now offer literally thousands of items for sale! For more information email us at info@thergmc.org or call The Chorus Line at 585-423-0650.

2005 marks the 25th anniversary of

Pride Week in Toronto, and the RGMC is going to be there! We are hosting an overnight bus trip as a fundraiser so that you have a chance to experience this landmark year at one of the largest Pride Festivals in the world. See the sights during the day on Saturday, dance the night away on Saturday night at one of the many Pride Festival parties, and then attend the annual Pride Parade on Sunday.

Our luxury motorcoach departs at 7 a.m. on Saturday, June 25, and returns at 10 p.m. on Sunday, June 26. Transportation to and from Toronto in a luxury motorcoach is covered by the ticket price of \$60 per person, but hurry! We have only a few seats still available and they must be reserved ASAP! For more information or to purchase tickets, please email us at info@thergmc.org or call The Chorus Line at 585-423-0650.

Mark your calendars! Saturday, June 18 is the date of our summer concert, "Songs of the '80s". This concert brings to you the music you grew up with as the RGMC sings the most popular tunes of the '80s. Remember Polyester Leisure Suits, Atari, and the MULLET? Let the music of the British Invasion, Heavy Metal Hair Bands, the Pop Groups or one of the many women that came to predominance in this decade carry you back to "the good old days". You are sure to hear some of your favorite tunes as we bring you the most popular songs of this decade. It's 8 p.m. at Hochstein. This is going to be mint!

Advance general admission tickets are \$15, \$12 for seniors and students, and \$6 for children. Tickets may be purchased at The Creator's Hands, Parkleigh, Outlandish, The Pride Connection, from chorus members, or by calling The Chorus Line at 585-423-0650. You can also visit our website at www.thergmc.org or email us at info@thergmc.org. Additionally, tickets will be available for purchase at the door for \$18 on the day of the performance.

The RGMC will be hosting a tour of some of the most unique private gardens

in Rochester on Saturday, July 30, from 5 p.m.-9 p.m. Our third annual Garden Tour will include several gardens in the Southwedge, Cornhill, and University Avenue areas. Become inspired for your own garden or just admire the botanical beauty. What makes this event truly special is the time. Instead of walking about in the blazing afternoon sun, enjoy strolling through the gardens in the cooler hours of the early evening. You will even catch a special performance of The Cosmopolitans at one of the stops! At our March concert they made their world premier and were truly the highlight of the show.

Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 on the day of the tour and include a souvenir brochure. If you purchase your tickets in pairs you save even more: \$20 for two tickets in advance or \$25 on the day of the tour! For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit our website at www.thergmc.org or call our office at 585-423-0650.

ROCHESTER RAMS M.C.

Join us for Daddy's Night on June 18 at the Bachelor Forum. Come out and show your Daddy how much you appreciate him on Daddy's Night.

If you don't have a Daddy then maybe you will find one. If you are a Daddy then this night is for you. Bring your boy or pick one up at the Bachelor Forum on Daddy's Night.

Remember, this is barnight; leather, denim and boots never go out of style. All of our regular barnight features like beer bar, boot shine, raffle and wall-to-wall hot men will be available at this full-service event.

Our July Barnight will be XXX Night on Saturday July 16. Come out and join the Rams in preparation for our 30th Anniversary Run XXX. Put on your chaps and have them oiled or wear your rubber and have it shined at the Bachelor Forum on XXX Night.

(Groups continued on page 8)

Barbara Debes, M.S.
Counselor/Lesbian



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Rainbow Bridge Meetings:
2nd Monday, 7 - 8:30pm
www.rainbowbridgegroup.org

GAGV Youth Pages

Coming home and staying out

By Cynthia Stallard

For a college student, the middle of May marks the end of a long semester filled with tests, papers, and seemingly endless other assignments. For those of us who go away to school, mid-May also marks the end of the freedom that comes with living on campus.

For me, the freedom of being away from my Brooklyn home is not simply being rid of the shackles of overpowering parents. In fact, my parents were always amazing in that respect. At home I had more freedom than anyone I knew. All that was asked of me was that I always keep my parents informed. If I wanted to come home at 3 a.m. it was OK, as long as I gave a call home to let mom and dad know I was not abducted by the psychos on the subway or murdered by the monsters in dark N.Y.C. alleys.

The freedom I lose this summer is very different from these simple parental rules. I lose the freedom I've taken for granted this past year on SUNY Geneseo's campus. When I go home, I go back to being the single girl next door who just hasn't found the right guy yet. I go back into the closet.

The last time I was home was for spring break back in March. One night I found myself creating a boy named Jason that I had supposedly been fooling around with. I told the girls on my block about him, after being pressured to explain the quotes about love in my AIM profile. I had never done this before and I felt like my insides were being ripped out. It was one thing to outwardly deny my own sexuality, but to deny the existence of the girl I love tore me apart.

Granted I came clean a couple of minutes later because I couldn't keep the lie up (frankly I didn't want to), but I'll never forget how I felt that night. Sometimes I wonder why I did it. It was just fear, I guess. I was never extremely close to these girls but I grew up with them. I was afraid they'd turn on me in a second. So I made something up. Ultimately it wasn't worth it. Even if my friends had turned their backs on me and vowed never to speak to me again (which they didn't, they were happy for me and my relationship), pretending to be something I'm not would not have been worth it. I am not the single girl next door looking for the perfect man. I am the girl who's found someone. I am the girl who's found a beautiful woman. That is who I am, like it or not.

So I told a select group of friends the last time I was home. My parents and brother were informed about a month into my relationship. I wasn't so worried about them. My family has always been very liberal and though I didn't think my mother would be overjoyed (she had visions of me meeting prince charming and having tons of babies), I knew it would ultimately be accepted. So you're wondering what's left to worry about here at home, if I'm already out to my friends and immediate family. Well, there's the problem of my grandmother.

My Italian grandmother is 81 years old and is prejudiced against almost every minority out there. She has no deep hatred towards people, but you can tell she has no love either. I love my grandma to death. She spoils me and takes care of me like I'm still five years old. She loves me to death. But I'm afraid to tell her that the nice girl she met a few months ago is my girlfriend. I'm afraid she'll call me a "lessie" in that derogatory tone she uses when being condescending. I'm afraid at 81 years old everything we have will change. I really don't know what to do.

I've changed a lot since my experience with the girls I grew up with. Now I'm all about being honest and open. I believe it'll make life easier, regardless of the reactions I receive. It's different with my grandmother, though. Honestly, I think she'll get over it. A couple of years ago she got over my cousin having an interracial baby. That was something I never would have imagined her coming to terms with. But it took a little bit of time. I don't think this would be much different for her, but I wonder how much time it'll take her and how much time she still has.

So for now, I hide it from my grandmother. I keep it from others in the neighborhood so she doesn't inadvertently find out. I think I might stop doing that. I want to be active in the GLBT community here in a similar way that I'm active up at school. I can't do that the way I want to if I'm hiding.

My mother suggested simply letting my grandmother figure it out in her own time. So I won't tell her directly, but I'll stop hiding it from others and if she finds out she finds out. I don't want to take steps backwards in my personal progress in coming out just because I have come home. I hope it works out. ■

Eryn with a "Y"

MY STORY

By E. Tierney

In the fourth grade, I had always known that something about me wasn't "normal", and understandably, being so young, I couldn't put my finger on it. Until the sixth grade, I had no explanations for how I was feeling. I didn't understand what was happening to me, which caused me not to understand myself. I can't really pinpoint the exact day I said, "I like girls, this is right for me," because I truly don't remember. I guess that I always knew it, but as a fourth grader, I didn't have a name for it.

Seventh grade: middle of the year. I wasn't ready to come out to everyone, but someone else made that decision for me. I had told a few people close to me: my mom, my best friend, and the friends I really trusted. However, there was one friend who I didn't tell because I didn't trust her. I couldn't make sure that she wouldn't tell people. When she found out, she used the one thing she knew about me, that would hurt me, and she told everyone. Soon, nearly the whole school knew, and I was slowly crawling further into myself. I was scared. I didn't understand how I could be this way, when it wasn't seen as "right" or "normal" to the community. It didn't make sense to me. At all.

So I researched. I read books, magazines, watched videos, surfed the Web. I found a name for myself, "Bisexual", and for a long time, that is what I called myself, mostly because I was afraid what would happen to me if I stopped liking boys. Would I lose all my friends, besides the ones I had already lost? The one thing that I truly cared about was having friends and being accepted. I wasn't going to care about finding a girlfriend because my friends were enough. Or so I thought.

Everyone deserves to be loved. Even me. A 15-year-old girl who loves to read, sing, and dance. I design clothes and write a lot, and one day, I hope to double major in Fashion Design and Creative Writing, somewhere in New York City. I deserve the right to love a woman and not get criticized for it. We all deserve the right to love our own gender, just like the heterosexuals deserve the right to love the opposite gender. We deserve those freedoms. I want to walk through the hallways of my school, holding my head up high, and not having the judging eyes of my peers slice through me. I want to be free to love who I want.

I am still on the journey to find myself. It is taking many tears and hurt feelings, pages in my journal, and good friends and family. Recently, I came out to my father,

and I hope to soon come out to my brother and his girlfriend. I want to be free of the burden of keeping a secret. I want to be proud of myself; everywhere I go, with everyone I'm with, with everyone in my future.

I have my eye on someone right now, and I have for quite a while. Though she knows, nothing will come from us right now. Best friends we shall remain. Maybe more, it's up to her.

For now, I will love myself. First and foremost, I will be proud of me. Like it or not. ■

Top 12 ways to be a youth ally

By Alexander Rochzenko

Ever since the Sweetheart Ball, there has been an attempt in the youth center to have a conversation with the adult community. Although this has been met with what I believe to be a mixed response, the refrain that I hear over and over again from the adult community is, "So what can I do?"

Although I want to say that the adult community is chock full of creative people who could figure this out, maybe they just don't have time, and are using their activist powers in some other realm that needs it (what can I say, perpetual optimism). So I have created a list.

Let me just think that I actually created this list, let me disabuse you of that notion. Parts of this list were compiled by the Search Institute, and Khadine Bennett. I just picked out the ones I liked, reworded them some, and pulled them together. Consider this my work cited.

Let me just state at the outset that these are meant to be a stepping stone ONLY. If you read this, incorporate three of them into your life, and never speak to a youth, we will still be at the same place we are now. But hopefully this will put to rest the question "what can I do?", so that maybe the adult community can focus on DOING it instead.

All right -- Alex's Top 12 Ways to be a Youth Ally (I had 50, but they didn't fit):

1. Have a real conversation with a young person (in or OUT of a group setting).
2. Develop a MUTUAL mentorship program between adults and young people
3. Be an advocate for youth by making sure they're at the table when you are discussing them.
4. Only go to meetings where youth are invited or you can bring young people with

Cat Chat with Circa

JUNEBUGS AND JELLYFISH

By Circa (as told to Jessica Cohen)

Spring has sprung -- summer is near. And all the excitement of my new home, the warm weather and upcoming Pride have made me one happy puss. Meoww.

Ah, despite the tinkling tunes of Good Humor and the hot summer sun, there are just some things about this season that I can't understand. The first being the female fuss over swimsuits. I hear my two mothers chattering restlessly about the new line of bikinis and summer sandals. I watch them, time and again, prepare for trips to the beach and to the pool. Last year, they even left me for a trip to Aruba (no, no, I have not forgotten the trauma of my abandonment). Yet with all my observance, with all my feline knowledge, I am befuddled. Simply aghast, really. All of this human worry... and for what? Water. Ick.

What is there possibly to enjoy about getting one's fur all in a mat? Water is not worth it, kittens. While I've tried to purr some practicality into my Feeders, they refuse to listen to reason and authority. So while they are willing to settle for unnecessary evils, I will offer my advice to my readers instead.

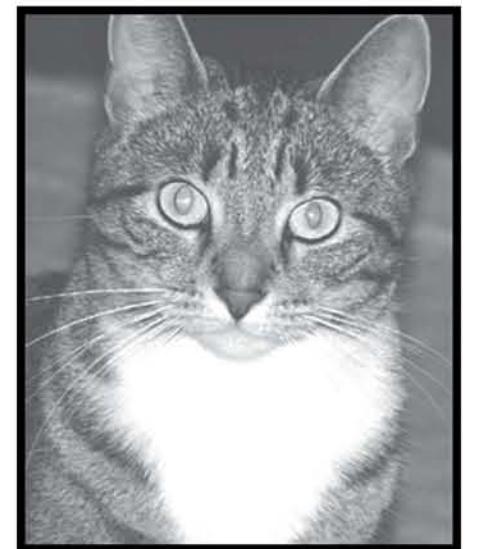
Giving up water has much benefit. Without this natural feline threat, there come several benefits. The first of which should appeal to many: No bathing suits. Oh! The Glory of it all. No swimsuits mean no dieting. No dieting means you can eat all the tuna fish in the cupboard. Jump

on the table, my kittens, and lick the milk from your mommies' cereal bowls. Throw your sarongs to the wind!

With no worries of water, there are no worries of waistlines. Just think -- freedom from skin hugging spandex. And there's more. No unflattering tan lines. No leg-stinging jellyfish. No chlorine, dry hair or anxieties about little kitties peeing in the pool. And no, my dear Tuna, no terrible sights of those European tomcats in bright blue speedos.

And don't you worry, my feminine felines. The summer heat can still be squelched without sinking one's self under like a submarine. The best, most reliable relief comes without even leaving your home. Air conditioning. For those kittens not fortunate enough to have this amenity, do not fret. I have a plan. First, plotz yourself onto a newspaper and nap on the Carrier advertisement. Move only to meow pathetically into the fan. Use your Kitten Eyes and laze about as though you simply don't have the energy to move. And finally, shed that winter coat, my friends. Bonus points for grooming yourself on blank tank tops or coughing up that nasty furball on your feeder's favorite new sandals.

While I may encourage mild manipulation to achieve necessary goals, let me remind that positive reinforcement is needed for our parents who provide love and lox. My own mothers (though crazy with bathing suits, faux Gucci glasses and achieving the perfect tan) have allowed me to transition into my new home with little fluff to my fur. I have settled in, claimed the car-



pet, and found fabulous feline-sized niches all over. (Unfortunately, my favorite spot in the lining of my feeders' box spring left me well-rested but stuck. My mothers had to cut me out. I nearly lost my tail). With my feeders' recent kindness, I have eased up on the 10 o'clock cat crazies and midnight toe attacks. We all must show affection at times, if even to just keep the yum-yum kitty treats coming.

With that, I leave you with these reminders: There is nothing cooler than conditioned air in the summer. All-you-can-eat Salmon buffets are better than a size 6 swimsuit. And, finally, water is for toilet bowls, drinking, and washing dishes.

Until next month,

Circa ■

- you. Then bring young people with you.
- 5. Value young people's work and pay them for their work. Don't assume that just because someone is young they are a volunteer. Hire Youth!
- 6. Write a short note of support to other adult allies (meaningful looks at Toby and Erik L., as two of the best adult allies ever).
- 7. Treat youth as individuals; don't make one youth represent all young people.
- 8. Avoid interrupting young people.
- 9. Challenge youth and youth organizers and be OK with being challenged.
- 10. Understand and be open about the dynamics that happen between youth and adults.
- 11. Remember: youth are NOT the future of our movement -- we are an integral part of the movement NOW!
- 12. Respect young people as your peers.

Let me put the emphasis on the last two. Although I strongly believe that all of these are important (or else they would not have made the top 12), the last two really speak to me. Don't think of the youth community as separate from the rest of the GAGV, or the adult lgbt and queer community. And don't wait for us to grow up so our voices will gain some sort of importance. We are important NOW, we are active NOW and we will never have as much free time as we do now. If the adult community does not treat us the way they would treat any other group, as peers, we will join other causes (we ARE joining other causes) that take us seriously, and listen to our concerns. Basically, integrate us, or we'll go over there (nah-nah-na-nah). ■

Generation of Trannys RESPONDING TO "CHRISTIAN GENDER IDENTITY CORRECTION"

By Mia Carrera

Hello ladies and gentlemen "and everybody in transition or in between". I'm once again terribly sorry for my absence in last month's issue... Of course Mia waits until the very last minute to exert the physical energy to create her column... and on the night of her deadline she has one or 16 too many green apple martinis... and wakes up in her own vomit the next morning without her weave and surrounded by a group of "unusually" happy Mexican migrant workers.

Aaaaaanyways... I thought for this month's column, instead of rambling on, passing time with random chit chat, I would share with you all an email that I wrote to a website owner who claims to be a Christian professor of sexuality and gender identity correction... *giggles*. This person claims that he and his methods can steer you away from that "unnatural" way of thinking and lifestyle... I read a lot of his stuff - I couldn't help it, it just intrigued me how ridiculously some people think. Before you read, here is just a tiny little sample of what this man thinks about us... (*words have been significantly altered to portray my version of this sick little story and don't worry, nobody's getting the f**king source because I can't even remember it. To be honest I was kind of a little "tired" while I explored it, so don't even think of suing me, because me and daddy's



lawyers will DESTROY you**)

"Science has become the Western World's GOD. That being the case, those who should know better, are going about fostering lies drawn from wrong studies in order to explain their personal failures to either rid themselves of their own, or their patient's self-destructive course, manifested in Homosexuality & Transsexuality."

My response:

Hello my name is MISS Mia Carrera, I am a 17-year-old male to female transsexual who began my transition when I was 13. I read quite a bit of your work on this website and have come to believe that you are extremely uneducated and supremely ignorant on the subject of Gender identity. IF you had opened your mind beyond "completely theoretical, until scientifically proven" religious beliefs and done actual scientific research, you would have discovered... that the cause of transsexualism is

not from a fantasy or from our own self delusion, but is caused from a REAL scientific condition called Gender Dysphoria, which has been proven to be a real live thing.

I agree that all transsexuals, unless they are "intersexed", are genetically male or female. This means their chromosomes are that of the gender they were born, but when a genetic chromosomally male or female is in the womb things happen and surges of hormones are flushed through the fetus and the amount of estrogen and testosterone is determined by the chromosomes of the child. More estrogens for girls, which causes the body and brain to remain and develop into female, or more testosterone to change the brain and body into male. Although sometimes there is hormonal imbalance and the fetus receives just enough of the certain hormones to change the body but not enough of the certain hormones to change the brain... which in result causes a gender dysphoric child.

There are, however, many levels to gender dysphoria. The hormonal surge and development could have just been enough to alter the child to a homosexual...to transvestism... or in the most extreme cases transsexualism. When I was extremely young, maybe two or three, I remember feeling like a girl long, long, long before I even knew what gay was, let alone transsexual. But when school came, I came to the realization that I was physically boy but I still felt extremely feminine and envied the girls for their "life".

Eventually, as soon as I could dress myself, I wore my clothes in an androgynous fashion so I would not have to feel like a boy and undergo the extreme discomfort. I tried to be a boy - I really did... until the absolute realization hit me that if I live in this FALSE reality that I was a boy and go against all of my feminine instincts and emotions and try to tap into any truly non-existent male characteristics of my personality or emotions, and try upon everything to become what I physically was... I knew it would eat away at me like it had done for the several years since my discovery of my maleness... and I knew that living such a lie would kill me.

That same year I attempted suicide four times... of course I was 12 and the boxes of Sudafed, Tylenol PM and Tylenol Sinus I took just put me to sleep and the wounds on my wrists immediately scabbed over... but altogether I would have rather died than to have continued my life as a boy.

So at the age of 13 I went to my only option at the time and came out as homosexual. After the tiny amount of weight of that was off my shoulders, I realized that was certainly not enough. I did extensive research and came to the most significant realization that the absolute truth to the matter was that I was born with a girl's brain but a boy's body, and I knew that it was absolutely true. That is what a true transsexual is... We are not handicapped "because we can completely independently functional in society". Although we are not the stereotypical "normality" either... and there are a lot more of us than people realize.

Our condition may be rare in comparison to "normal heterosexual" births, but the actual statistical population of us is far greater than one may expect... and if the hidden members of our community came out - either by coming out themselves and realizing what they are - or the ones that have already come out and transitioned coming out of the shadows and allowing themselves to be counted... if all of us were to be counted, those great numbers alone would result in the universal revelation that we are not just confused self delusional individuals with a trauma or life induced gender crisis, but we are actually and literally the Third Sex... and being the Third Sex, it would only make sense that if there is an actual stereotypical God that fits all of your standards... that She created us as well and we did not create ourselves... and who are you to question Her authority of creation?

Please do not take what you personally do not know about and have not experi-

(Mia continues on page 8)

Our Story So Far: Chris is a straight-acting costumed superhero, Metaphormer of Mutant Force. Eric is a queer wannabe-hero, self-titled Nightside. Each retains a shapeshifting ability with differing limitations. Fate brought them together, and it will see to their end one day as well. Chris met Eric's friends Kelly & Carla. The boys were shocked to discover Kelly has a split personality which changes into it's other selves, one of which is a superheroine named - Girl! (She has her own ongoing DA comic book series, check it out!) Eric was suddenly blasted by a villain with a gun that siphons out homosexuality from it's victims.

This strip has been altered a little bit from my original script, and Ashley is trying something a little new with the art on this one. Let us know what you think. Email: gogofiascoboy@yahoo.com, or join our site www.groups.yahoo.com/group/Divine_Authority. We'd love to hear from you.

Subject to CHANGE #3 Mark McCracken Writer/Creator Ashley Claypool Artist

Chris holds his lover's limp body hoping against hope that he'll be okay.

Chris isn't "out" at work, but he won't let that stop him now. He'll have to trust his secret among friends.

You picked the wrong queers to mess with!

Yeah...wait, hello! I'm not queer, my other personality is!

Break the weapon, reverse the effects. Hey, it always works in comic books!

Finally, I can move. My sexuality is a part of my being, my very existence. Without it I felt hollow inside, devoid of personality.

If you take away homosexuality, there is no underlying hetero-psyche. My natural emotions are gay, I was made this way, this is one thing that won't change. No matter how hard they try, we're not going anywhere.

Next: Summertime!

Groups (continued from page 5)

The Rochester Rams M.C. is Rochester New York's foremost gay motorcycle & leather club as well as being one of the oldest clubs of its type in the country.

Our 30th Anniversary Run XXX will be August 26-28. Applications are available on our website. This is a big event for us, so come out and play for the weekend with about 150 other leather men.

Our home bar is the Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave., where we hold Bar Nights on the third Saturday of each month. We hold general meetings (open to the public) the Wednesday before each Bar Night at 7:30 p.m. at the Forum. For more info, visit our website: www.rochesterrams.com.

ROMANS

ROchester Male NaturistS (ROMANS) is a social organization of gay naturists who enjoy camaraderie in the nude. Our affiliations include Gay Naturists International (GNI) and International Men Enjoying Naturism (IMEN).

If you have thought about social nudity but were apprehensive about being nude the first time there are several clothed events such as eating out as a group at restaurants, going to concerts, movies, where you can meet other members of our group in a clothed environment.

Our nude swims are the first Saturday of the month, before hand our group meets for dinner in a clothed environment. Our Summer Camping will begin in July and continue through August.

Membership is open to men over 21 years of age who have an interest in social nudism. Most members come from the greater Rochester area, though Buffalo, Syracuse, Utica and the southern tier are also represented.

Visit the Romans web site where an application for membership and information about the club is available. Contact us at <http://www.geocities.com/wnyromans/> or E-mail: wnyromans@yahoo.com, or write ROMANS, PO Box 92293, Rochester, NY 14692

WOMYN'S FISHING

June 18 marks the start of New York's BASS season and the fishies are already out, from what we've heard (and seen!).

This has been a GREAT fishing year so far, so come on out and join us!

Fishing in the Fingerlakes is Rochester's social group for lesbians who enjoy (or want to learn!) freshwater fishing; we visit two locales throughout the Finger Lakes per month to fish the region's different lakes, rivers and canals.

On Sunday, June 12, we will travel to Hemlock Lake. Take Rt. 15A south through Henrietta and keep going to the town of Hemlock; pass through town, then look for the north end of the lake and turn right, visit the little booth for a fishing permit first, then take the dirt road up near Rt. 15A about 3/4 miles to the parking area and walk down to the lake.

Meet us there after 11 a.m. or outside the GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave., between 10 and 10:15 a.m. and after getting bait we'll head out for the day!

On Sunday, June 26, we'll stay a little closer to home, and visit Summerville Pier in Rochester (at the end of St. Paul Blvd.; park your car and walk through the bar's parking lot to the entrance walkway that passes the Coast Guard station, marking on pavement says TO PIER)....

Meet us on the pier after 11 a.m. or outside the GAGV between 10 and 10:15 a.m. For further info, contact Cindy/Kerry at 288-7208, or email FishingFolksNY@aol.com.

PLAGAL

PLAGAL prides itself on the diversity of its membership. It is one of the few pro life organizations that accept all those who are prolife. PLAGAL members come from different social and economic backgrounds, different political parties, some have religious affiliations while others do not. We

have members who are drag queens, parents, bisexuals, single, those in long term relationships and we have heterosexual individuals in our group.

Contact us for more information. PO Box 33292 Washington DC 20033; 202-233-6697; Fax: 202-265-9737; plagal@plagal.org; <http://www.plagal.org>. Rochester liaison: Donna Marie Kearney, 585-442-399.

WOMEN'S HIKING

We're gearing up for hiking... join us! Cool way to meet great women.

We have lots of fun, and you are never alone because new ladies area always joining our adventures. Meet new friends or maybe find romance. For info call Donna Marie Kearney, 585-594-1699.

Mia (continued from page 7)

enced -- especially such a subject as this where you are EXTREMELY uneducated in your own questioning and reasoning. The mistake that people who publicly embarrass themselves make is bringing their own personal ignorance and completely "theoretical until scientifically proven" religious beliefs into a public conversation without prior scientific examination and studying... and that sir is what you are doing here... so may I suggest you read up on the facts and do some significant research the next time you put your time and effort into creating such an intricate idea of what our lives -- something you can never relate to or experience -- are about.

Thanx for your time. Toodles.

MISS Carrera

I wrote to him three weeks ago... I have yet to receive a response...*giggles*

Luv,

Mia

Upstate (continued from page 3)

pieces that build toward a knockout finish.

It all springs from the gifted brain of Chinese director Stephen Chow, who earlier made the comedy "Shaolin Soccer."

"Hustle" is proof that every moment Chow isn't shooting movies, he must be watching them.

Like a rap genius, he steals from film after film ("The Untouchables" to "The Shining") and director after director (Quentin Tarantino to Akira Kurosawa) for "Hustle," twisting and reshaping his pilferings into one of the funniest and most enjoyable movies of the new century.

There's not much "Hustle" doesn't have. Sweeping crane shots? Got it. Well-used CGI? You bet. Difficult tracking shots? To obtain a yes, just cue the first scene as the camera climbs through the interior of a police station for a noisy introduction to a rotten-toothed, cowboy boot-stompin' baddie.

Everything works. The Wile E. Coyote-ness of the often 'toon-like action. The homages to Charlie Chaplin's lovable tramp. The soaring soundtrack that, when it isn't twinkling traditional Chinese music, is blaring trumpets and strings like the best Clint Eastwood spaghetti westerns.

The setting is mid-20th century China as the notorious Axe Gang is making mincemeat of the Crocodile Gang.

There's that police station, full of cowering cops and the remaining members of the Crocodiles. A seemingly endless squad of Axe Gang members is massing outside on the street, all dressed in black, some sporting "Chim-Chim-Cheree" stovepipe hats and wielding slice-and-dice axes like they're ready for some chopsocky fun.

The music blares. People die. When the Axe Gang celebrates, it makes for a near perfect Tarantino lapdance.

On the opposite end of the spectrum is the crowded, rundown housing project Pig Sty Alley, sort of a cross between Dogpatch and "Dogville." Through mishaps, its poor, seemingly helpless residents, led by a loudmouth landlord (Wah Yuen), with his locks in hairpins, and a louder-mouthed landlady (Qui Yuen), with a roll-her-own

cigarette eternally perched in the corner of her mouth, become the objects of the Axe Gang's wrath.

Maneuvering through both camps are homeless, hapless and wannabe bad guys Sing (Chow) and his hefty sidekick (Chi Chung Lam).

What keeps the film's blood pumping is Chow's visual acuity and inventiveness. He can create an intoxicating battle involving two guys, their giant harp and plucks of sharp music. And that loudmouth landlady? She's got lethal lungs that can clear a room of thugs, furniture and the wall covering.

The literal-minded be forewarned: "Hustle" is not ruled by time, space or gravity. It's a world as looney as that of Yosemite Sam and the Tasmanian Devil, a cinematic cross between "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," "Pulp Fiction," "The Tramp" and Mel Brooks.

So filled with crazy energy that it seems to leap off the screen, "Kung Fu Hustle" is the most wildly inventive, purely entertaining and cuckoo-cool flick to hit movie houses this year.

The Smith screens "Kung Fu Hustle" June 2, 3 and 4 at 7 p.m., June 5 at 2 p.m. and June 6 at 7 p.m. Rated R for sequences of strong stylized action and violence, this film has a running time of one hour, 39 minutes. It is in Mandarin and Cantonese with English subtitles.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and senior citizens. All seats are \$3 on Thursday. Call 315-781-LIVE or toll-free 866-355-LIVE for details or to reserve tickets.



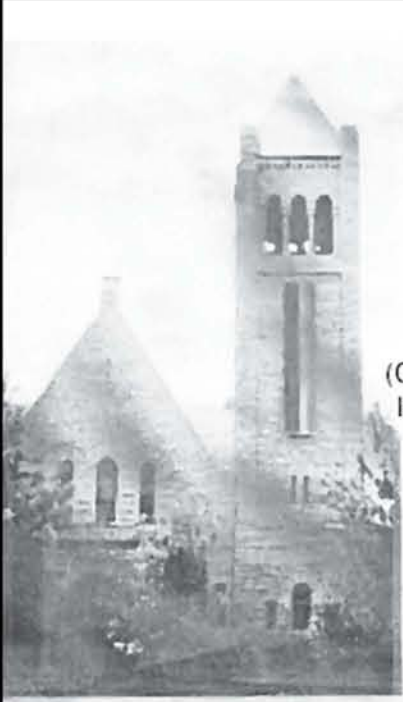
Kung Fu Hustle is coming up at Geneva's Smith Opera House.

Chow's kinetic, exhausting, relentlessly entertaining film throws scraps of a half-century of international pop culture into a fast-whirling blender. It is a lively, visual treat and like "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," it is a subtitled movie for people who don't do subtitles.

The Smith Opera House is located at 82 Seneca St. in Geneva. The Smith is supported, in part, with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, the City of Geneva, the Town of Geneva and by contributions from individual supporters. ■

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Classifieds



Classified ads are \$5 for the first 30 words; each additional word is another \$1.

We do not bill for classifieds, so please send or bring ad and payment to *The Empty Closet*, 875 E. Main St. Rochester, NY 14605. The deadline is the 15th of the month, for the following month's issue. We cannot accept ads over the phone. We publish free ads for prisoners on a space-available basis. Pay when you place your ad.

We will accept only ads accompanied by name and phone number. Neither will be published, but we must be able to confirm placement. *The Empty Closet* is not responsible for financial loss or physical injury that may result from any contact with an advertiser. Advertisers must use their own box number, voice mail or personal address/phone number.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteer for the Empty Closet. Want to help with monthly mailings and distribute ECs around town to all kinds of cool places? Want to write, take photos, do reviews of books, films, etc.? Call Susan at 244-9030!

SERVICES

Rochester's best full-body rub. To all you men who have not yet let my skilled, strong hands work their magic on you – call me! I'm a fit, friendly, healthy Italian GM. My 10 years plus experience ensures your relaxation and satisfaction. Hotel out calls or central location in calls. Reasonable rates. Discretion assured. Don't delay, call today at 585-235-6688, or email me at musclelovermen@peoplepc.com.

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HOUSEMATES/ ROOMMATES

Smartly furnished townhouse in Cornhill -- roommate spot will open the last week of June. All utilities, internet and amenities included at \$450. A responsible, clean, quiet, lifestyle-tolerant and fun roommate is sought. Respond at 546-4122 or sweave10@rochester.rr.com

Active older male seeks clean, neat, responsible male friend to share small furnished house on west side. Non-smoker. No pets. \$250 plus utilities. Other perks. Call for details. 225-6368.

FOR RENT

New cottage for rent on Canandaigua Lake. Sleeps four, private beach, electric boat hoist, hiking trails. Weekly or monthly rentals. 261-5947.

FOR SALE

Household sale. Saturday, June 25, 2005. 9-3. Retro furniture and accessories. TV lights, pillows, '50s/'60s power tools, household items, outdoor furniture. 33 Finch St.

For sale. 63 all-male VHS tapes. Very good shape. \$5 each or best offer. Phone 585-762-4809.

Home for sale. Are you looking for a place affording TOTAL PRIVACY? This two-bedroom is nestled on over four acres, on a very quiet country road! Located on the west side, about 30 minutes to downtown. Screenhouse, outbuildings, \$109,900! Call Cindy Favata, Nothnagle Realtors, 352-8527.

Weekly GLBTI AA Meetings in Rochester

There are five regularly scheduled GLBTI AA meetings in Rochester every week.

What makes GLBTI recovery a bit different is that we recognize: issues surrounding our sexuality can contribute to our alcoholism and addiction; coming out and coming to terms with ourselves as alcoholics or addicts can be as traumatizing as coming out and coming to terms with our sexuality; other drugs of abuse run rampant in our community and we do not exclude those so addicted (you will not be shouted down for speaking words like pot, cocaine, crack, heroin, ecstasy, K, speed, meth, pills, etc.); the bars play a large role in socialization within our community which can present challenges even when we are fully committed to our sobriety.

After our meetings, we frequently go out for coffee, dinner, movies, whatever; while it's tempting to stay in the fold of GLBTI recovery, we live and work in a predominantly straight society, so we encourage our members to include "straight" meetings in their program.

Open meetings are open to alcoholics and addicts as well as to our partners, friends, family and anyone else interested in the AA program of recovery. Closed meetings are limited to alcoholics and addicts. We ask that partners, friends, family and curiosity seekers respect our privacy.

Wednesdays

New Freedom/New Happiness Group: 7 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, 220 S Winton Rd. Bus riders: Take the last #18 University bus to 12 Corners. Use the stop just past the top of the hill at Hillside Ave and before Highland Ave. Or take the #1 Park Ave to the corner of East and Winton, then walk five minutes south (uphill) on Winton.

This is an open discussion meeting. All issues — as they relate to our alcoholism/addiction and recovery — are fair game.

Fridays

(2 meetings)
Free to Be: 7:30 p.m. at The Yellow House, 1601 Jackson Rd, Penfield. NOT accessible by bus.

Closed meeting, restricted to alcoholics and addicts

Mixed men and women
Handicapped accessible
This can be a speaker, discussion or steps meeting depending on what seems best at the time.

Gay Men's: 7:30 p.m. GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. at Elton St. Bus riders: Take the #18 University Ave bus, use the stop between Portsmouth Terrace and Elton St., Walk one block north on Elton St. to the GAGV Community Center.

Closed meeting, restricted to alcoholics and addicts

Men's meeting
Handicapped accessible

This is a round-robin discussion meeting. If you are shy about meeting people or speaking up in a group, you will find this meeting particularly warm and inviting because everyone gets their turn to speak (or pass). As a result, this meeting often runs long, so plan on more than the usual hour.

Saturdays

Saturday Night Special: 7 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, 220 S Winton Rd. Bus riders: The #18 University Ave bus does not go by the church on weekend evenings. Take the #1 Park Ave bus to the corner of East and Winton, then walk five minutes south (uphill) on Winton

Open meeting, all are welcome, "straight-friendly"
Mixed men and women
Handicapped accessible, take the elevator to the basement
This meeting begins with a speaker who is followed by an open discussion.

Sundays


Rochester Gay Men: 8:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 S Fitzhugh St. Bus riders use the Fitzhugh St stop on Main St at the County Office Building and walk south one block.

Closed meeting, restricted to alcoholics and addicts

Men's meeting
NOT handicapped accessible
This meeting begins with a speaker who is followed by an open discussion. ■

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June

WEDNESDAY 1

ArtWalk informational meeting, 7 pm, Writers & Books, 740 University Ave.

FRIDAY 3

Buffalo Pride Week: Fabulous The Party, The Tralf, 9 pm. DJ dancing.
Empire Bears. Camping at Hillside, through June 5. empirebears.org.

SATURDAY 4

Buffalo Dyke March. Starts 7 pm on W. Utica, marches down Elmwood Ave. to Bidwell Parkway for celebration, music.
RGMC Gayrage Sale. Also June 5. 38 Riverside St., 9 am- 5 pm. Thousands of items for sale. 423-0650; info@thergmc.org.
COAP Brady Bunch Movie Marathon. Hosted by Mike H. at his house. Movies begin at 11 a.m.

SUNDAY 5

Buffalo Pride Parade. Starts 1 pm, Kleinhans Music Hall, proceeds up Elmwood to Bidwell Parkway. Festival performers include comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer.
Public Market Centennial Celebration. 280 S. Union St. Also June 5.
AIDS Walk 2005. Cobbs Hill Park, 10 am. After-walk celebration back at the park with BBQ and live music.
In the Life. WXXI, 11 pm. First of two shows this month.

TUESDAY 7

COAP volleyball, every Tuesday 5:30 pm till dusk. Ellison Park. Often followed by going out for ice cream.

FRIDAY 9

Meet the lgbt candidates. Community Business Forum-Social, 5:30 pm, Rochester Museum and Science Center.

SATURDAY 11

Butch Femme Connection Dinner Night Out. Winfield Grill, N. Winton Rd. south of Main/Winton intersection. 865-4619.
Empire Bears final potluck of season. 6:30 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Bring a dish – theme is "Home Cookin'." Followed by Bearnight at the Forum; theme is "Red White and Blue". empirebears.org.
Women's Community Chorus concert. "Forces of Nature." 7:30 pm, Hochstein Performance Hall.
ARTWalk Muse-a-thon. Art and music, University Ave. between Goodman and Eastman House.

SUNDAY 12

Womyn's Fishing. Hemlock Lake (Rte. 15A). Meet there 11 am or at GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave., between 10 and 10:15 am. 288-7208.
GAGV Annual Meeting. 6 pm, GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main St.
Albany Pride. Washington Park, 11 am- 4 pm. 518-462-6138.
In the Life. June episode (See Section B). WXXI, 11 pm.
COAP Sunday Brunch at Mario's. Hosted by Tom M. and Brian P. Meet at Mario's at 12 noon. RSVP required

THURSDAY 16

Women Loving Women: A Shalom Retreat. Shalom Mtns., Catskills. Women of all ages. 845-482-5421 ext 11.

FRIDAY 17

Fourth Annual Eastern Ontario Women's Drum Camp. Fee includes accommodations, vegetarian meals. Write Drum Camp c/o Judith Comartin, 1090 Kipps Lane #12, London Ont. Canada N5Y4S7; 519-435-0861; info@drumcamps.ca; [web www.drumcamps.ca/EOWDC.html](http://web.www.drumcamps.ca/EOWDC.html).

SATURDAY 18

Suede performs at Common Ground, Ithaca, 1230 Danby Rd. 7 pm. \$20/person. www.ithacacommonground.com.

Happy Bunch/Third Presbyterian Church. Cookout and cricket match, 4 pm at Van and Ralph's. Info: 271-7649. Followed by RGMC concert.

Outriders Annual Boston to Provincetown Ride. To join Lambda Kodak group call Marge Meyer at 722-2516; email mamrjorie.meyer@kodak.com.

Rochester Gay Men's Chorus concert: "Songs of the '80s". 8 pm, Hochstein School of Music. Advance tickets \$15; \$12 seniors/students, \$6 children. 423-0650; www.thergmc.org. \$18 at door.

Rochester Rams Daddy's Night, Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave.. www.rochesterrams.com.

COAP Dirty T-Shirt Contest. Hosted by Shawn W. Meet at Nasty D's at 10:30 pm.
Bashing Back. Outright Radio production, 3 pm, WXXI AM 1370. Stories of gays who stand up to their oppressors.

SUNDAY 19

ABSC "Cruisin' on the Canal" fundraiser. Board the Sam Patch 2 pm, Pittsford Port/Schoen Place. Ends 4 pm. Entertainment, live auction, food. ABSC14607@aol.com. \$40/person; \$75/couple.
Brother to Brother. Film on WXXI, 11:30 pm.

TUESDAY 21

Summer solstice.
Lincoln Center Salutes Gay Pride 2005. Runs through June 23 as part of Heritage of Pride Week in NYC. www.lincolncenter.org.
NYC Black Pride. Through June 26.

THURSDAY 23

19th Annual Golden Threads Celebration, Provincetown, Mass. Lesbians over 50. joy@goldenthreadstowntown.org; www.goldenthreadstowntown.org.
GLSEN dinner/membership meeting, 6 pm, Golden Dynasty, 1900 South Clinton

Ave. 244-1509.

Drag shows benefiting ABSC, through June 26 at Mothers, 40 S. Union St.

FRIDAY 24

Old Midsummer Eve. Ancient pagan festival of the sun; traditionally a night for Faeries and Goddesses to dance around bonfires...

HIV Testing Day. 10 am- 4 pm, St. Joseph's Park. Free food, music, more.

SATURDAY 25

Butch Femme Connection Dinner Night Out. Chinese Buffet, W. Ridge Rd., Greece, in Lowe's Plaza. 7 pm. 865-4619.
RGMC bus trip to Toronto for Pride. Departing 7 am; returning June 26, 10 pm. \$60/person. info@thergmc.org; 423-0650.
Toronto Dyke March. 2 pm.

SUNDAY 26

Womyn's Fishing. Summerville Pier, Rochester, at end of St. Paul Blvd. Meet on pier 11 am or at GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave., between 10-10:15 am. 288-7208.
Toronto Pride Parade. 25th anniversary. To march with Lambda Kodak call Paul H. Smith, 588-4353. Events start June 21, include three-day arts fest, weekend street fair, Family Pride, Dyke March (June 25, 2 pm), etc.
NYC Pride Parade. 11 am-1:30 pm. March down Fifth Ave. to Pride Fest.

MONDAY 27

Monthly COAP Meeting. Meet at GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 7 pm.
COAP Movie Night - War Of the Worlds. Hosted by Andy Y. Theater location TBD. Approximate Showtime 8 pm.

JULY, FRIDAY 1

Empty Closet mailing and distribution of July issue. First shift; stuff envelopes, 2-4 pm.; second shift: bulk mailing 6:30-7:30 pm. Second floor, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 244-9030.

PRE-ORDER



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Ongoing Calendar

MONDAY

Gay and Lesbian Support Group

Third Presbyterian Church, 34 Meigs St., First, third Mondays, 7:30-9pm, 338-3466

Rochester Historical Bowling Society

7:15pm, Mondays. Clover Lanes, 2750 Monroe Ave. (Group is full.)

COAP

Come Out and Play. Business meeting last Mondays, 7pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Tom M. 454-3609. MAY ONLY: Meeting May 23.

American Baptists Concerned

Third Mondays, 7:30pm, Webster House, 57 Ambrose St. 442-5486

HIV Positive Gay Men Support group

Every Monday, 5pm, AIDS Rochester, 1350 University Ave. 442-2220, x3051

Green Party (political)

Second Mondays, 7-9pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 234-6470

Rochester Frontrunners/Frontwalkers

Run/walk every Monday, 6pm, meet George Eastman House parking lot. 442-7412

MOCHA Chemical Dependency Group

Support group for men of color. MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way. 420-1400

TUESDAY

Atlantic Five 0

Gay men 50 and over. Second Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 461-0821

Pride GLBT AI-Anon

Every Tuesday, 7-8pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Call Todd Plank, 244-8640, ext 24

Gay Fathers' Support Group

First and third Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. NO MEETINGS UNTIL SEPT. 20

The MOCHA Youth Group

3-5 pm, MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400; 244-8640

MOCHA Hepatitis Clinic

Free Hepatitis A & B vaccinations, third Tuesdays, 5:30-7pm, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400

WEDNESDAY

Women's Community Chorus

Rehearsals each Wednesday, 6:30-9pm, Call for location, 234-4441

Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley

Board of Directors' Meeting, second Wednesdays, 7pm, 875 E. Main St., fourth

floor Blue Room, 244-8640

New Freedom New Happiness AA Gay meeting

7pm, Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Rd. Men and women. Open meeting

Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost Children

First, third Wednesdays, 11 am-12:30pm, Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Meigs St. Sponsored by Genesee Region Home Care. Free. 325-1880

Frontrunners/Frontwalkers

6pm run/walk; meet George Eastman House parking lot. 271-2709

Empire Bears

First Wednesdays, 7:30pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. info@empirebears.org

Transgender Group

Third Wednesdays, 6:30-9pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

Multicom-4 Coffee Talk

7pm, Spin Cafe, 739 Park Ave. Social for former Multicom-4 BBS members; other gbt cyber geeks welcome, every fourth Wednesday, 8pm

GAGV Library & Archives

6-8pm every Wednesday, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 244-8640. Books can be returned to GAGV offices, 875 E. Main St., Suite 500, from 9am-6pm

Butch Femme Connection

Fourth Wednesday, 7-9pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

Brothers Keeper

Support group for men over 30. Second Wednesdays, 6-8pm, MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way. 420-1400

AQA

Support group for transgenders of color. Third Wednesdays, 6-8pm, MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way. 420-1400

THURSDAY

Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns

6:30pm, first Thursday. For location call Ralph, 271-7649

Community Business Forum

Gay and Lesbian Professionals' social group. Second Thursdays, 5:30-7pm, 234-8706

GLOB&L

(Gays and Lesbians of Bausch & Lomb). Meets every third Thursday in Area 67 conference room at the Optic Center. Voice mail: 338-8977

Rochester Gay Men's Chorus

Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St. 6:30-9pm, 423-0650

Free confidential walk-in HIV testing

Every Thursday night, 5-8pm, AIDS Rochester, 1350 University Ave. 442-2220

MOCHA Chat

Second, fourth Thursdays, 6pm, MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400

GLSEN board meeting

7-9pm, second Thursday, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

GAGV Anti-Violence Project Support group for LGBT victims of domestic violence.

First Thursdays, safe location. Call 585-244-8640 ext 17.

FRIDAY

Gay Men's AA meeting

Each Friday, 7:30-8:30pm, Closed meeting. GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

Free to Be AA Meeting

7:30 pm, The Yellow House, 1601 Jackson Rd., Penfield. Men and women; closed meeting.

SATURDAY

Rochester Rams Bar Night

Third Saturday, 8pm-2am, Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave. 271-6930

Frontrunners/Frontwalkers

9am run/walk. Meet George Eastman House parking lot. 461-4246

Empire Bears Bar Night

Second Saturdays, Bachelor Forum, 470 University Ave. Bearline: 234-33816

Cross Dresser Support Group

First Saturdays, 6:30-9:30pm, GAGV, 179 Atlantic Ave. Info: 251-2132 RCDNET@hotmail.com

Transgender Group

Last Saturdays, 2-5pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

Saturday Night Special Gay AA

7pm, Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Rd. S. Men and women. Open meeting.

Lilac Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf (LRAD)

Fourth Saturdays, 6-9pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

Something for da Sistaz

Women's group, every second Saturday, MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400

Pride and Joy Families

Third Saturdays, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 244-8640 x 24.

SUNDAY

More Light Presbyterians

for gay and lesbian people and friends, 12:15pm, last Sundays. Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St. 325-4000

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)

2:30-5pm, Last Sunday. Call for location: 234-0156

Dignity-Integrity

5pm, St. Luke's/St. Simon Cyrene Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. Every Sunday, 234-5092

Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church

175 Norris Drive, Cobbs Hill, 11am, Contemporary worship service, 7pm, 271-8478

Gay Men's Alcoholics Anonymous

St. Luke's/St. Simon Cyrene Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. 8:30pm, 232-6720, Weekly. Closed meeting

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Friends Association (GLBFA)

U. of Rochester, Sundays, 5pm, Morey Hall 401. 275-9379, E-mail: glbfa@uhura.cc.rochester.edu

GAGV Youth Group

Ages 13-23. Every Sunday, 2-4pm, GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main St. 244-8640

Rainbow Amateur Radio Assoc.

Finger Lakes chapter, Business meeting/lunch. Call Bob, 442-7185

Sacred Spaces Meditation

Second Sundays, 7pm, MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400

Rainbow Seniors

Third Sundays, Potluck at First Universalist Church, 150 S. Clinton Ave., 4pm. Handicapped parking behind church; others please park in lot accessed from Court St.

Community Christian Fellowship

Every Sunday, 7pm service, The East Avenue Inn, 384 East Ave. 288-4508.

Men's Cooking Group

Third or fourth Sundays, 461-2273.

Bassically Treblemakers Band

Rehearsals 7-8:30pm, every Sunday. Call Tim, 242-0237

Rainbow Gospel Choir

Every Sunday, 5 pm, East Ave. Inn, 384 East Ave. Info: 288-4508.

Martha M. Howden, CSW, CASAC

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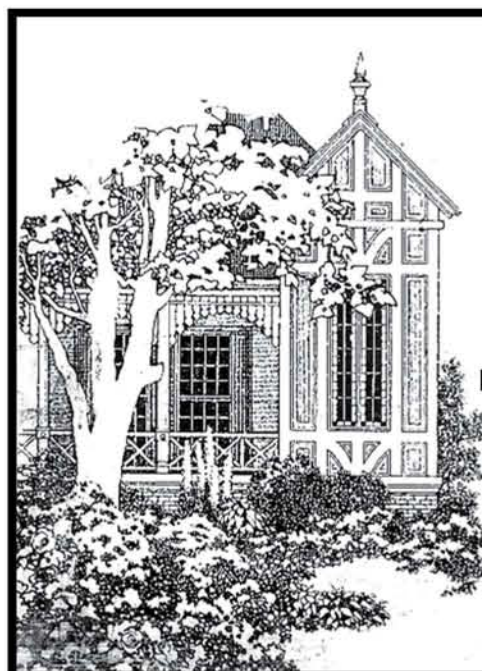
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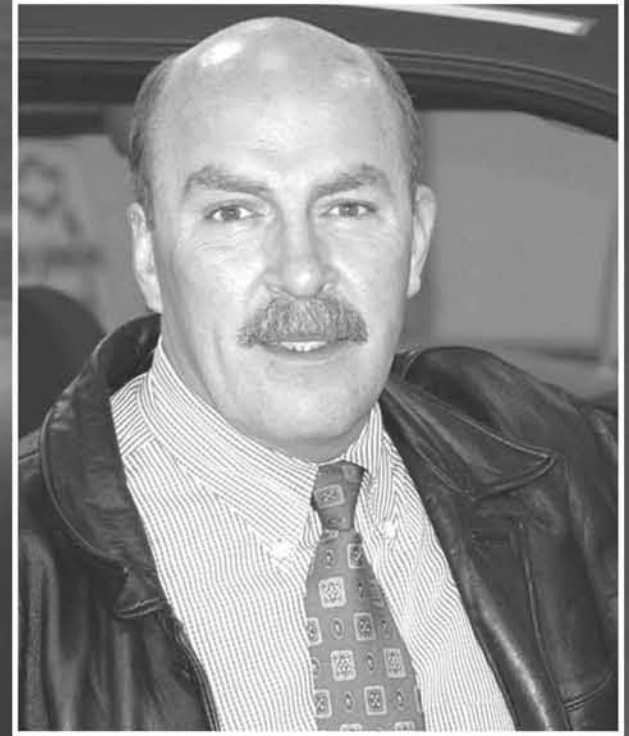
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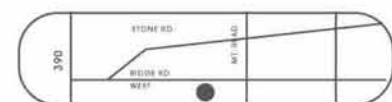
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