Local news briefs

Church sponsors lectures on AIDS

The Downtown United Presbyterian Church is sponsoring a lecture series, "Seeing the Face of God in the AIDS Crisis: Opportunities for Spiritual Growth," before Sunday worship services in April.

Church member Jeff Freeland said the series was inspired by What You Can Do About AIDS, a free booklet distributed to the public through bookstores around the country several months ago.

"We wanted to move the focus off people with AIDS and onto people seemingly unaffected by the disease and show what they can do," he said. "[AIDS] is not a judgment from God. God allows it to exist because we can learn from it."


The church is located at 121 North Fitzhugh St. The lectures are free, and those who attend are invited to stay for worship services at 11 a.m.

NYC judge brings neighbors out

NEW YORK — An administrative law judge has decided a tenant's harassment case being heard at the Human Rights Commission could undermine New York City's gay and lesbian rights bill.

In the case of Weingarden vs. Weisler, Justice Cheryl Howard ruled in late December that the plaintiff's lover must testify for the complaint to move forward, because of the knowledge of the sexual orientation of other tenants in the building where he lives. If he fails, she said, she will file him in contempt of court and will strike his complaint from the record.

Weingarden vs. Weisler is the first gay rights case to come to a hearing since the gay and lesbian rights bill was enacted in April 1986. It is the culmination of several years of legal battles between tenant Louis Weingarden and landlord Robert Weisler. Weisler moved into his own building in 1984, he has verbally harassed the gay tenants, failed to make repairs to their apartments and encouraged friends to live in the building and harass gay tenants.

The judge's decision came 11 weeks after Weingarden's lover Scott Phillips refused, while under cross-examination by the landlord's lawyer, to identify other gay tenants living in the building. Weisler's attorney asked about other tenants after a Human Rights Commission attorney, Mitchell Karp, did. Karp, who is gay, said Phillips about some other tenants' sexual orientation to make it clear how poorly Weisler treated gay tenants in comparison to others.

In her decision, Howard noted that it was Karp who "opened the door" to the line of questioning about sexual orientation of other tenants and that she could not prohibit Weisler from questioning regarding the sexual orientation of their associates.

Gay activist arrested for leafletting cars

By Michele Moore

Rochester gay activist Martin Hiraga was arrested Feb. 17 for placing fliers — advertising a town meeting on gay and bisexual sex — on cars parked outside a downtown gay bar.

Hiraga was charged with violation section of the municipal code forbidding passing out handbills without a permit. He probably would not have been arrested if he had not been advertising an event for the gay community. Hiraga said last week he could not comment on the case because Hiraga has filed a complaint with the Professional Standards Division and the police chief's office has ordered an internal investigation.

A sectioa of the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt — memorializing men, women and children from Rochester and across the U.S.

New York hospital guards harass and beat lesbian

NEW YORK — Three hospital security guards on Nov. 16 beat and harassed a lesbian who accompanied her lover to the emergency room after the latter woman was raped.

Joy DeVincenzo, 43, was violently removed from St. Vincent's Hospital in Greenwich Village just before her lover, Amy, was released from the hospital. According to witnesses, DeVincenzo was then beaten and handcuffed by first two, then a third hospital security guard, who called her a "fucking dyke" and other names.

Onlookers called police, who spoke only to the guards and then took DeVincenzo to the Sixth Precinct, where she was charged with misdemeanor assault.

The two women said DeVincenzo was forbidden to accompany Amy, who is 21 and wishes not to have her last name printed, during her examination. DeVincenzo said nearly all the hospital workers reported her, including those in the Rape Crisis Program, were hostile toward her.

"They questioned my right to be there," she told Boston's Gay Community News. "They kept giving me dirty looks the whole time."

When DeVincenzo arrived at the hospital, security guards did not allow her into the emergency room until a female police officer insisted that she be let in. DeVincenzo said she then spent the evening arguing with nurses who held off Amy's treatment for four hours.

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Let's be dignified and keep sex private

This is a letter from the Empty Closet to the editor.

One of several comments made in last month's edition regarding the need for more gay and lesbian experience in Rochester. I felt the need to express my own gay and lesbian experience and to show others how we have been ignored or ignored by the rest of the world.

I will start by saying that I am a pro-choice activist. I have fought for the right of consenting adults to love, live, work, or do anything they choose. I have been an active supporter of gay and lesbian rights, and I believe that the world needs to change to accommodate the needs of all people.

Unfortunately, I often feel that my experiences are not valued or recognized by others. It is important for me to share my experiences in order to help others understand the challenges we face.

I am grateful to the Empty Closet for providing a platform for me to speak out and share my experiences. I hope that others will also take the opportunity to share their experiences and contribute to building a more inclusive society.

Thank you for reading.
Letters

Let's be dignified and keep sex private

To the Editor:

Three recent comments made in last week's issue of EMPTY CLOSET have led me to write. I have been involved in gay activism in Rochester for the past 10 years, and I am concerned that, although we are making progress, we are not making the progress we must if we are to achieve our goals.

First, I want to comment on the article "Sex and Race," which appeared in the March 10 issue. The author, David Cowell, makes some very valid points about the role of race in the gay community, but I believe he oversimplifies the issue. For example, he states that "Sexual orientation is a matter of personal choice, not race." While this may be true on the surface, it is not true in practice. The reality is that many people are forced to choose their sexuality based on their race or ethnicity. This is a very complex issue, and I believe we must approach it with sensitivity and care.

Second, I want to address the article "AIDS and the Gay Community," which also appeared in the March 10 issue. I think the author, Michele Moore, does an excellent job of explaining the impact of AIDS on the gay community, but I believe we must do more to address the root causes of the epidemic. This includes addressing the role of homophobia, discrimination, and poverty in the spread of HIV.

Finally, I want to comment on the article "The Gay Rights Movement," which appeared in the March 3 issue. I agree with the author, Michael Moore, that the gay rights movement has made significant progress, but I believe we must continue to fight for equality and justice. This includes fighting against discrimination in employment, housing, and education, as well as fighting against the stigma associated with being gay.

I am concerned that we are not making the progress we must if we are to achieve our goals. We must continue to work together to address the root causes of discrimination and inequality, and we must continue to fight for equality and justice.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
Hospital, cont'd. from pg. 1
Sixth precinct, where DeVincenzo had been taken after her arrest, and demanded that the precinct provide sensitivity training and hire more lesbian and gay police officers.

A gay male couple also came forward, after the Voice article was published, and told a writer for the New York weekly that they had been verbally abused by security guards at the hospital.

According to the Voice, Dennis Nevin, who has AIDS, was leaning against his lover when a guard at the hospital, offered several days later to take the man's blood for screening and was told that it was not necessary to do so.

On Jan. 30, about 100 members of the New York City Gay Police Action Coalition held a press conference outside the hospital. At the press conference, police officers were asked to commit themselves to not physically or verbally abusing patients who are HIV-positive.

Hiraga, cont'd. from pg. 1

That's why, at Conifer Park, we treat the whole person — former patients are le Ue members. "As long as you can reliably roll the ball toward the pins and away from people, you're welcome," bowling society president Hiraga said.

The 50 participants in last year's tournament raised more than $500 for helping People with AIDS, which gives money directly to local PWA's to help cover their medical costs. This year's fundraising goal is $1,000, Kerr said.

The tournament will begin at 2 p.m. at Clover Lanes, 2750 Monroe Ave., and will be followed by a cocktail hour and banquet at the Hong Kong restaurant, 291 Alexander St., which will cost for the tournament and banquet is $20.

For an additional $10, participants will qualify for cash prizes in the no-tap doubles tournament. The tournament will include the nightly raffles and trophies for both social and competitive bowlers.

The bowling society is also planning a welcoming reception on Friday, March 11 for members of lesbian, gay and bisexual police officers. For more information or to register, call Dave Emlyn or Paul Schiel at 473-9948. Bowlers may also register before the tournament beginning at 1 p.m. at Clover Lanes.

Michele Tofany
Ed.D. N.C.C.

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The disease of chemical dependence affects every segment of the American population. For each human being who suffers from the condition, the roots of the illness are traced in every aspect of the life experience. For the gay or lesbian patient, that same truth is true.

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"Being accepted in treatment for who I was, made it easier for me to accept my disease."

$900,000. The suit also asks for a declaration that the policies of the state police department and Broome County Jail are inadequate for the handling of HIV-infected inmates. The suit also seeks an order that state police and Broome County government prohibit forced HIV antibody testing, maintain the confidentiality of individuals' HIV status and educate police officers about "homosexuals" and those who are HIV positive. AIDS Litigation Reporter, Edgemont, Penn.

Empty Closet
March 2, 1989

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For gay men only:
Thursdays at 8:30 pm.
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Call us anytime. We understand. And we care.
Newsfronts

101st Congress offers mixed bag of bills

Activists working on gay and lesbian civil rights and AIDS issues are preparing for an unpredictable two years with the 101st Congress.

Already Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) has introduced an omnibus AIDS bill that would, among other things, require the reporting of names of anyone who has tested positive for HIV antibodies and prohibit AIDS education programs from "encouraging" homosexuality.

Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) has held a hearing to verify whether the provisions of the AIDS omnibus bill passed in the last session of Congress are being carried out.

Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) has introduced a bill to provide grants to AIDS service providers, including community-based programs.

Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-Calif.), who introduced a half-dozen anti-gay AIDS measures early in the last Congressional session, planned to introduce AIDS-related legislation after Congress' February recess. A spokesperson told the gay and lesbian newspaper the Washington Blade that Sen. William Armstrong (R- Colo.) is expected to introduce legislation at some point to ensure that his effort to gut Washington, D.C.'s human rights law protecting lesbians and gay rights will succeed.


Sen. Kennedy and Rep. Tony Coelho are soon expected to introduce the Americans With Disabilities Act, which would prohibit discrimination in employment and accommodations against the disabled — including people with AIDS.

Openly gay Rep. Barney Frank again this year introduced a tax reform bill which would ensure that unmarried taxpayers pay no more taxes than "heads of households," who currently pay a lower rate. While this bill is not likely to see any movement again this year, there is greater hope for a bill he will introduce to reform the immigration laws. That bill, which would repeal part of the law which currently bars gay men and lesbians from immigrating, passed the House Judiciary Committee last year, and a spokesperson for Frank said he is "cautiously optimistic" about the bill's prospects this year.

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nonnominee for solicitor general

President George Bush on Feb. 1 nominated federal circuit court Judge Kenneth Starr for the post of solicitor general. Starr has written only one brief opinion in a case involving a gay-related issue, and he sided with the "no right to privacy" position. In 1984, Starr joined six of his colleagues on the U.S. Court of Appeals bench for the Washington, D.C. circuit in refusing to hear the appeal of a gay tailor dismissed from the military for having engaged in homosexual activity. The four judges who voted to hear the case, James Drennenburg vs. Zeeb, wrote a blistering criticism of the majority for refusing the full court rehearing. Starr, a Reagan appointee, took the same unusual step of writing an opinion to rebuke the dissent. In its, he defended the circuit court's original panel opinion, which was written by ultra-conservative Judge Robert Bork. The Bork decision concluded that there was "no constitutional right to engage in homosexual conduct" and that the effect of having gays in the military is "almost certain to be harmful to morale and discipline."

Starr wrote that "it simply cannot seriously be maintained, under existing law, that the right of privacy extends beyond such traditionally protected areas as the home or beyond traditional relationships." Starr also said doctrines enunciated by the court lead to the conclusion that government may not "sexually intimate consensual relationships.

As solicitor general, Starr would play a pivotal role in deciding whether the Justice Department would appeal lower court decisions. In the Reagan administration, Solicitor General Charles Fried pursued every gay and lesbian-related case lost by the government in the lower courts and argued almost all of them himself when they reached the U.S. Supreme Court.

--The Washington Blade, Washington, D.C.
Judge rules that Thompson may visit Kowalski

DULUTH, Minn. — It was not Karen Thompson's face or the sound of her voice that jogged Sharon Kowalski's memory on Feb. 2 when, for the first time in more than three years, the two women were able to see each other.

Thompson has been fighting a nationally-publicized battle against her severely disabled lover. For the past three and a half years, Thompson has been legally barred from visiting Kowalski because of a court order won by Kowalski's father, Donald, who denies his daughter is a lesbian.

The women's emotional reunion, even under the watchful eye of a hospital psychologist in the busy lounge at Miller Dwan Medical Center in Duluth, Minn., was a major victory for Thompson. During her three-day visit with Kowalski, Thompson said, she tried to explain a few of the changes she has been through since 1983, when a drunk driver ran into the car Kowalski was driving and left her severely disabled.

Thompson has told Kowalski that she has become a lesbian activist, traveling the country and speaking about the need for gay couples to secure some kind of legal protection for their relationships. She has not told Kowalski about her father preventing Thompson from visiting her in a nursing home for the last three years.

Donald Kowalski had his daughter placed in the home, which did not provide rehabilitation therapy, and prohibited visits from any of Sharon's friends.

"She's been trying to understand, but I didn't mention her parents the entire weekend," Thompson said. "I don't want anyone to interpret anything I say as being negative or say that I was saying negative things about my own father to Sharon."

After 60 days in Miller Dwan's rehabilitation unit, Thompson will undergo a re-evaluation to determine whether she is able to make a decision for herself about where she will live and who can visit her. Thompson's visit was the result of a Minnesota district court judge's temporary order to allow Kowalski undergo therapy and be able to decide who can visit her.

The lack of rehabilitation therapy, said Thompson, a physical education teacher at the state university, has taken a physical toll on Kowalski. She said Kowalski's left leg was so completely wasted that "there's no way she'll ever stand again."

—Lisa M. Keen in the Washington Blade, Washington, D.C.

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—Lisa M. Keen in the Washington Blade, Washington, D.C.
AIDS Update

Hudson's lover wins $14.5 mil. in AIDS suit

LOS ANGELES — A jury awarded Rock Hudson's lover almost $15.4 million — $5.5 million more than he sought — in a case that may increase the legal possibility of people with AIDS to suit their sexual partners that they are infected.

The jury declared on Feb. 15 that Hudson engaged in "outrageous conduct" before his death by concealing his AIDS diagnosis from Marc Christian so he could continue their sexual affair.

The jury also awarded punitive damages of $2.75 million against Hudson's personal secretary, Mark Miller, for conspiring to withhold the information about Hudson's AIDS diagnosis from Christian. Hudson's estate and Miller were co-defendants in the seven-week trial in Los Angeles Superior Court.

The case was unusual because Christian apparently was not infected with the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, which causes AIDS. It is believed to be the first case of its type in which damages were awarded to a plaintiff who had not developed physical symptoms of AIDS.

Christian said he didn't learn Hudson had AIDS until it was announced to the media after his death in October 1985.

Gay and AIDS activists are concerned that the case will inspire a host of similar lawsuits. AIDS activists fear that the publicity of the case may increase the legal possibility of people with AIDS to suit their sexual partners that they are infected.

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By Tim N. Tsoukalis

The following questions and answers are obtained from a New York State Department of Health brochure.

Can use of spermicides reduce the risk of AIDS?

Research studies show evidence that the active ingredient in spermicides, nonoxynol-9, inactivates the HIV virus as a variety of sexually transmitted diseases. Use of spermicides with condoms may further reduce the risk of disease.

Can a person with no symptoms transmit the AIDS virus through sexual contact?

Currently, most people infected with the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, have no symptoms and are not even aware they are infected. Any infected person may transmit the virus to another person through direct blood-to-blood or semen-to-blood contact.

How can people reduce their risk of getting AIDS through sexual contact?

All sexually active people — males and females, homosexual and heterosexual — are advised to limit the number of partners and to avoid sexual contact with anyone whose history and health status are unknown. Avoiding anal intercourse or other sexual practices that can result in blood-to-blood or semen-to-blood contact, and the use of condoms with spermicides, should also help to reduce the risk.

Can AIDS spread by swimming pools?

There are no cases of AIDS suspected of having been contracted through swimming pools. The virus associated with AIDS would be killed by the chlorine used to disinfect pools.

Can you get AIDS from using someone's razor or toothbrush?

There are no cases of AIDS suspected of having been contracted through razors or toothbrushes. The virus associated with AIDS would be killed by the chlorine used to disinfect pools.

What is the incidence of AIDS increasing in New York state?

The number of AIDS cases is increasing each year in New York state. In 1983 an average of 93 cases per month was reported in New York. In 1984 the monthly average was 164, and rose to 247 in 1985, 315 in 1986, and 357 in 1987.

How many people with AIDS have died?

As of March 1988 nearly 50,000 men had been diagnosed with AIDS in the United States. Of that number, 24 percent are New York State residents. More than 4,000 women in the United States had developed AIDS; 41 percent of whom are New York residents. 896 children had developed AIDS; about 34 percent live in New York State.

Can inanimate objects transmit AIDS?

A virus similar to HIV has been found in flies, mosquitoes and other insects, including monotremes. But there is no evidence that mosquitoes, other insects or rodents play any role in the transmission of AIDS to humans.

In AIDS spreading in prison?

A number of prisoners have AIDS. Nearly all prisoners with AIDS had engaged in risky behavior, usually IV drug use, prior to entering prison.

FDA approves drug to treat Kaposi's sarcoma

The Food and Drug Administration on Nov. 21 announced its approval of alpha-interferon, a protein secreted by the body. The drug is intended for use in research and is not approved by the FDA for commercial use.

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Growing Up: Traveling

By Eric Bellmann

Time moves at a rapid clip, not necessarily alarming now but different from when it was easier to slow down in a small summer town with hours to sit near the empty playground watching GDPR come and go, or during winter, confined in the warm kitchen, shoes black at 5:30, waiting while apples baked in the Dutch oven on the stove to be scooped out and devoured, inching toward the basement to the fruit cellar for a jar of apple sauce picked at the end of summer from our backyard tree. For years I hated canned peaches.

At 20, one would be free, later 30 seemed a curse. 40 a reprieve. Time is fluid, rushing toward, faster and faster endings. My tolerance for the bizarre was alarming now but different from when it was all about.

The John featured a vestibule; one was blessed by a warming door crack before one's effective coolness was interrupted. There were also conveniently located two dress-up rooms with props and costumes, the stalls — marvels of pensiveness picked up in dolls — were accomplished with the midday sun just right, the nakedness of hair endlessly and suddenly there must remain.

A broom and dust pan were left within the large building full of offices for doctors, dentists and lawyers — and on a sub-street level, a small men's room reach-down, wide open, crisp white, the dark stains disappearing. There precisely, no one else went there. In effect, a small gay clubhouse too remote, too hidden away to be sought out by shoppers or business people. It was a man's place without pretense or admissi

The Manger Hotel on Clinton Avenue was often in my thoughts; the large hotel that I was trying to remain my interest in dolls. The library was usually a brief stop. From the library you could see the garden and the gardens of the Manger Hotel on Clinton Avenue were more than adequate to accommodate the diversity of activities. The facilities — a WPA project (America's Works Progress Administration) built just before the world went to war — were accomplished with the midday sun just right, the nakedness of hair endlessly and suddenly there must remain.

No one else went there. In effect, a small gay clubhouse too remote, too hidden away to be sought out by shoppers or business people. It was a man's place without pretense or admission or pretending to wait for the arrival of the 7 women. It was just my friends and I, girls and gals, being gals and girls, a place where one could start being gals and girls. It was nice, the way I think things should be.

The VIOLET BARBER SHOP

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372 South Ave.

The SouthWidge Barber Shop

473-5570

The SouthWidge Barber Shop

GINA

The SouthWidge Barber Shop

473-5570

Radical faeries

Winter gathering journal

By Ariel

The two-plus hours trip by car to Ithaca were accomplished with the midday sun just barely behind me. The colors of field, fen and woodlot were unusual. In spring, clear skies, shadows were sharply, precisely defined. The following days were general crowded, and my trip home was in the dark.

I acutely aware that part of me was running away from home, and part was going home. This was to be my first Christmas in 22 years without my children under my roof, or nearby, to celebrate the holiday. I feared that without them the traditional familial activities would be empty and hollow. And I was not especially regretful to join my mother and sister/husband/dog, an hour and a half away, it was a pale shadow of the family in which I grew up. So I was running away to spend the holiday with gentle, friendly, practical people.

The part of me that was "going home for the holidays" realized how important these gatherings have become for me. They are times of re-creation/rebirth — unhurried conversations; light and heavy interior sharings of thoughts, feelings, disbelief, selves, play, and celebrations of ourselves, individually and collectively in the world and universe.

And I was not disappointed. Forty of us were there for the weekend. Some had arrived several days earlier to be in time to celebrate the solstice and full moon at their specific times. Some departed early to join families for Christmas eve and day.

With no project lodge/chant — were more than adequate to accommodate the diversity of activities. The exchanges of flowers were especially faerie-like.

The trip back to Rochester was a strong contrast to the trip to Ithaca — dark, light, going to "alone" vs. going to "community." I was rested, refreshed. I could remember about Christmas Past and carry on about Christmas Future. And I began the wait for the warmer seasons!
Gay Groups

Legal group
By Wanda Wakefield
Fuller Center has announced a meeting on Feb. 12 to organize Gay and Lesbian Legal Professionals in the Rochester area.

After a get-acquainted session, the group will brainstorm ideas for the continued networking, socializing, creating a network and providing services for people with AIDS. Individuals were encouraged to join to form a gay and lesbian Legal Professionals group, and membership applications were provided.

For more information, call the Gay and Lesbian Legal Professionals group at 235-9066.

Bisexual group
Gay and Lesbian adults can identify with the experiences of others who are gay, lesbian and bisexual. A support network has been organized for such individuals.

On March 19, three male couples who have been in committed relationships for five to 30 years will lead a panel discussion of "Men and Gay Sex." The group sponsors a separate social event every month. A cooking group also meets on the fourth Sunday of each month at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 467-0877.

Gay Men's Writing Group
By R.J. Antonio
The newly-formed Gay Men's Writing Group meets monthly at the Gay Alliance of Genesee Valley, 17 South Fitzhugh St. The group meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 442-1640.

Out and About
Out & About, the lesbian and gay outing group of the Genesee Valley, will hold its third annual band dance on Saturday, March 10 at the Hong Kong, 291 Alexander St. The event runs from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. For more information, call 432-7185.

Dignity-Integrity
By Deborah Locicero
In March, Dignity-Integrity, the group for lesbian and gay Catholics and Episcopalians, will continue with its Lenten theme of "Our Journey is Love.

On March 19, we will read the Passion as we start Holy Week, and we will have our Easter breakfast and dance on Friday, March 30 at St. Luke's, St. Simon Cyrene, 42 South Fitzhugh St.

Gay Alliance

Gay Alliance card night
The starting time for card night at the Gay Alliance of Genesee Valley has changed from 8 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Friday nights.

For more information about the Bisexual Women's Network, call Michele at 244-9030 or write: RBWN, Box 40666, Rochester, NY 14604.

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**Ongoing**

**SUNDAY/WEDNESDAY**


Friday/Saturday Gym Class, Grace Church, 7:45. 575-5470.

Metropolitan Community Church, 243 Rosedale St. 3:30-6:30 pm. 262-6470.

Rochester Breastline Women's Networking and Support Group, 10:30-12:30 pm. Second Sunday. Location, info: 244-8930.

University of Rochester Gay and Lesbian Association, 250 E. University Ave., Wilson Commons, 6:00 pm. GAGV lounge, 8:00 pm. 442-1400.

GAY COMMUNITY

University of Rochester Gay and Lesbian Connection, 250 E. University Ave., Wilson Commons, 6:00 pm. GAGV lounge, 8:00 pm. 442-1400.

Rochester Community's Women's Networking and Support Group, Mt. Vernon St., 6:15 pm. 244-3552.

ACT UP/ADVISE Coalition to Unleash People. 7:00. First and Third Sunday. Location, info: 442-2650.

Lebanese Resource Center, 400 East Ave., 5:30-7:30 pm. Location, info: 442-2650.

THURSDAY

EDUCating the Disabled in Gay Environment. Rochester Third Presbyterian Church, 17 S. Fith St., 7:30 pm. 221-0670.

Gay and Lesbian Connection, post meeting and social time. Location, info: 442-0670.

THURSDAY

Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 400 East Ave., 7:30-11:00 pm. Location, info: 442-2650.

TUESDAY


SUNDAY


WEDNESDAY

Friends Support Group meeting, sponsored by AIDS Rochester, Inc. 7:00. 633-1172.

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to nowhere... .

Some selected tidbits from Unnatural Quotations

A sample from Unnatural Quotations by Leigh W. Barludge. Alyson Publications, 40
Plymouth St., Boston, MA 02118. 1988. 50c.

Let me say, a more artistic, appreciative group of people for the arts does not ex-
ist, and the films we show are a reflection of our loving of the arts. They make the average
male look stupid.
Lillian Carter (1898-1993), mother of Jim-
mermy Carter.

I don't know any gay man who took
exception to homosexuality... that there
wasn't something drastically wrong with
that very person himself.
Richard Burton (1925-1984), interviewed on
the set of the 1969 film Staircase, in which
he and Elizabeth Taylor played middle-
gs age gay couple.

He's all man — we made sure of that.
Ronald Reagan, asked on the campaign
trail whether his son Ron, a ballet dancer,
was gay.

I think you are wonderful and charming, and
if I should ever change from liking girls
beau, he would be yet another man who
Humphrey Bogart (1899-1957), to Noel
Coward.

A thing of beauty is a boy forever.
Cupid and critic Carl Van Vechten
(1880-1964)

I had the experience with The Joy of Gay
Sex, when it was being distributed in Canada, that a woman of the 50s would tell me she
was buying The Joy of Cooking. She went home and
looked up “chicken” and was absolutely ap-
cepted in many cultures. Among the
Cheyenne they were match-makers who
negotiated marriages for young people. They
also accompanied war parties to care for the
wounded. Their presence was valued not
only for their medical skills but also because,
like many drag queens today, “they were
good company and fine talkers,” “socially
graceful and entertaining.”

Among the Lakota (Sioux) the gay man
was the winter; he gave newborn children
their secret names, which brought luck
and long life. These names were often fun-
ny and sexy, and were known only to the
giver and the recipient. Famous warriors like
Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse bore secret
winter names.

Midnight Sun, an Anishnawbe, focuses on
the influence of economic organization in
relation to patterns of gender and sexuality.
For instance, Natoqai (Dineh) society was bas-
cased on a horticultural economy that provid-
ed women with a high degree of autonomy.
Descent was matrilineal and the husband
joined the wife’s family upon marriage.
In this woman-centered culture there was no
societal condemnation, men and women
enjoyed equal rights and freedom of expres-
sion. Religious ideology shows a favorable
attitude toward the nardie, who were traditionally
given charge of wealth and property.

Among the Lakota, those who dreamed of
a summer coming spirit called Double Woman
took on the traits of the opposite sex. When
a woman dreamed of Double Woman she
sometimes entered the gay world and
chosen work. She took whatever lovers she
desired and could do male work and wear
male clothing. Double Women were “crazy”
and laughed uncontrollably, their actions
were spontaneous and unpredictable, and
people tended to be afraid of them, especially
of hearing their voices at night.

Those who were bewitched together by
their visions of Double Woman would per-
fected. They lived in a circle bound by a single
rope, with an image representing a baby which
symbolized the fertility and productivity of nature.
They walked along laughing wildly and
madly, and said that one could become
possessed by spirits. The women laughed with
wild delight, while the men looked on and
wondered whether they are “speaking up, reaffirming that tradi-
tional society. It is putting the whole, tradi-
tional roles, or drink all the time.

Out of this past come the gay and lesbian
Indians of today. The second part of the
book deals with current conditions and in-
cludes poetry, fiction and nonfiction essays.
The selection from Paula Gunn Allen’s new
novel, Raven’s Road, is especially enjoyable.
There is excellent work by Chrysostm, Beth
Brant and many others.

M. Owlfeather (Shoshone-MeteicCre) speaks of his life on the reservation.
He takes part in traditional ceremonies and
dances. Although Owlfeather always
wanted to go away, he did come home again to
reclaim the essence of belonging to family,
clan, nation and land.

Homophobia, combined with all the pro-
blems of poverty and racism, has reduced
reservation life hard, has driven many
gay and lesbian Indians to the cities, where
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BOOKNOTES
• The Pyramidal Periodical is an in-
dependently published quarterly of creative
writing by men of color. The Fall 1988 issue
contains a short story with a character from
Rochester.

Subscriptions are $16 a year for a sample
copy, send $3.50 to Pyramid Periodical,
BOX 1111, Canal Street Station, New York, NY
10013.

Submissions are being sought for an an-
thology to be published in 1990, Word of
Mount: Short Story Writings by Women.

The editor, Irene Zahava of Ithaca, says
“you scope the book which will reflect a wide
spectrum of women's experiences, issues and
abilities and outlooks. "I think of the book for
people that will reflect that of the book, which,
people that will reflect the essence of a person, woman, event, place, thought or even the
"socially graceful and entertaining."**

Submissions should be about 500 words
long and should include a stamped, self-
addressed envelope, a brief description of the
work and the author's telephone (for
acknowledgment). Previously published work is preferred, but Zahava will consider work already in print if the

author owns the copyright.

The deadline is June 30. Payment for published work will be $10 and a free
copy of the anthology. Send submissions to Irene
Zahava, 50-17 84th Street, New York, NY
11485. For more information, call
(212) 273-4675.

• Persona Press recently began publishing
Persona Review, a newsletter on contem-
porary gay fiction. Each issue contains an
essay and several short reviews of current
collections. For a free copy, write
Persona Review, Box 14022-BB, San Francisco, CA
94114.

• Author Dell Richards is soliciting
material for Lesbian Lists, a companion
volume to The Gay Book of Lists, to be
released. Send all the fall by Allyn Publishing.

• Paula Gunn Allen writes, in "Some Like
Indians Endure":

"... dykes remind me of indians like
and gay whites. They are supposed to die out or
forget... or drink all the time or shove
go away to nowhere... even though the words happen they remember and they say
because the moon remembers... because the sun
say because the moon remembers... because the sun
can remember... and the persistent stubborn grass
of the earth".

Lambda Rising
BOOK REPORT.

• Experiences provocative opinion, spe-
culate and cite sources, the story is a
tumultuous exploration of new essays and
revealing interviews.

• Lively and enticing, each issue presents
the best the lesbian and gay literary world has
to offer.

• A Contemporary Review of Lesbian and
gay literature, BOOK REPORT is the only
publication of its kind and the first place to
unearth the Gay Literature Experience.

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By Shelly Rafferty

I long ago gave up the notion that I could allow myself the luxury of purchasing a hardcover copy of a novel unless it was simply proleptic. But for most lesbians incarcerated in the prison of AIDS, the hardcover copy seemed like a life preserver, since the vast majority of all lesbian fiction appears first in print (Rita Ma Brown's work is the standend exception). But from the outset, lesbian publishers have had a corner on an alternative kind of marketing: most fiction is printed in a hardback-sized format, and the price tag measures up — usually $7.95 to $8.95 for this larger paperback. Because these books hit the shelves initially in paper, there is virtually no second-hand potential in reprints. The higher price tags do lend themselves to a longer shelf life, since there is a larger profit margin for both bookseller and publisher, and probably no reason for even the most time-starved salesman to spend enough money to purchase these "fictional" works.

Nearby two years ago, I got tremendously excited about the impending publication of two lesbian novels: After Dolores by Sarah Shulman (of The Sophie Horowitz Story fame), and Margaret Erhart's Unusual Company. Because Dutton is a mainstream publisher, I assumed these two books would appear initially in hardback (or softback for Corgi, if available), which virtually guaranteed the reprinting in paperback. At last, I thought to myself, I'll surely be able to acquire lesbian fiction in a normal


This book is a collection of essays which originally comprised the special AIDS issue of October magazine. When the volume was reviewed in the Advocate, the reviewer observed, "I think this book is for everyone. That precisely is what it is."

But this is what follows. It is a series of analytical articles which, while engaging in the kind of cultural critique first practiced by the French philosopher Michel Foucault, seek to delineate the hidden discourses and cultural practices which have become associated with AIDS, as well as work against "the inarticulacy of the traditional ideal conception of art, which entirely divorces art from engagement in lived social life." But this is not a purely theoretical book. As the title suggests these essays are for the reader to review the facts we receive from publishers each month. To find out how to help, call 244-9030.

**Essays examine AIDS as a cultural phenomenon**


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Andrey Holleran: No lover promised this much


By Eric Bellman

Andrew Holleran saved my life. Or more precisely, gave me reason to go on living.

Twice a year when I visit Manhattan I buy $50 worth of books at A Different Light or The Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookstore. I buy hundreds of anything and stash them away for the next vacation. Last August in Paris, I found Ground Zero. I haven't been the same since.

Years ago, when life was safer, more than one friend recommended Holleran's Dance From the Dance. It was a popular best seller and a remarkably accurate reflection of an era. It made me squirm. I thought I didn't like it. Fifteen years ago in New York I'd lived on the periphery of the life Holleran chronicled, but mostly with my nose pressed against an invisible barrier.

Reading the book, I felt the way you feel on a day early in spring when it is suddenly too warm and you feel the drugs, the urges, rising up within and you want to cruise or just feel alive and you that youth has passed. So I put Dancer aside and read... read... read... and begin to shatter. And there will be Ground Zero, in a class alone.

Often I'm afraid and when I listen to the advice in "Face Your Fears," I feel braver. I wonder if Holleran is afraid. I don't think so. My fears are rooted in ambivalence and hesitation, linked to regrets. Andrew Holleran moves forward, awed of the effects of time, observing human nature, admiring men.

I realize with a gasp that this man of intelligence and discipline has life in perspective. He is an integrated man, self-assured, often funny, with body and mind in an equitable relationship.

I think the book will terrify readers. Who the hell needs the truth? I do.

Gay and lesbian poetry: one of the finest collections


By Andrew Gordon

Anthologies of poetry are always difficult to assess, and this particular collection is no exception. Yet I can say that this is among the finest collections of lesbian and gay poetry ever produced.

Even those who feel that poetry is not their "thing" will find in this volume a wide variety of value — as editors assert in their introduction: "there is no one poem in this book about poetry instead of life."

This anthology, by collecting a varied sam­

ple of work from a large number of lesbian and gay poets, adds to its value by setting the poems in dialogue with one another by exploring the juxtapositions, differences, similarities and language and idiom of the lesbian poets — eventually arriving at that point toward which the editors aimed: a varied and engaging celebration of the distinctness (not separateness) of the vision of gay men and lesbians.

As Moore and Larkin observe, referring to the number of well-known works (by such established gay and lesbian poets as Paul Goodman, W.H. Auden and Adrienne Rich) published side-by-side with much more obscure poets: "Even familiar poems look on a different life... And began to speak to one another."

It is chiefly its eclectic quality that makes this book such an important statement. Its diversity is liberating, it includes and speaks to the complexities of life and love in a way few previous anthologies have been able to do, particularly because they suffered from our culture's insistence that gayness ought to be viewed reductively as sexual practice. The editors make this point directly in their preface: "Sex is vitally important to us — as a number of poems in this book evidence — but we are also certain the major culture would so conveniently have it, ex­
clusively by the way we make love."

Gay & Lesbian Poetry has the additional value of being a valuable archive of work by poets to a large number of gay men and lesbians and the vast majority of heterosexuals who otherwise have no ac­cess. The editors' preface contains a brief history of lesbian and gay poetry and its publication in the United States. Each collec­tion of poems is accompanied by a biographical sketch and brief bibliography of the featured poet, and the book includes a brief bibliography dealing with literary criticism, gay studies and works concerning gay and lesbian culture. This collection of poets would help redress the balance of nonfiction books had in preparing it: it is informative, challenging and important and eminently inspiring.

Books in brief

By Michele Moore

No time, and not enough space for reviews... so, here are some titles that caught my eye.

Books are a good idea, but next year the publisher should get a better proofreader.

People of the Gay Grape. A Personal In­


This is the first almanac of its kind compiled for sale to anthropology and sociology instructors for use in classes, but is probably of interest to anyone interested in gay and lesbian culture would so conveniently have it, exclu­sively by the way we make love."

Gay & Lesbian Poetry has the additional value of being a valuable archive of work by poets to a large number of gay men and lesbians and the vast majority of heterosexuals who otherwise have no ac­cess. The editors' preface contains a brief history of lesbian and gay poetry and its publication in the United States. Each collec­tion of poems is accompanied by a biographical sketch and brief bibliography of the featured poet, and the book includes a brief bibliography dealing with literary criticism, gay studies and works concerning gay and lesbian culture. This collection of poets would help redress the balance of nonfiction books had in preparing it: it is informative, challenging and important and eminently inspiring.

Books in brief

By Michele Moore

No time, and not enough space for reviews... so, here are some titles that caught my eye.

Books are a good idea, but next year the publisher should get a better proofreader.

People of the Gay Grape. A Personal In­


This is the first almanac of its kind compiled for sale to anthropology and sociology instructors for use in classes, but is probably of interest to anyone. There is not one poem in this book about poetry instead of life."

This anthology, by collecting a varied sam­ple of work from a large number of lesbian and gay poets, adds to its value by setting the poems in dialogue with one another by exploring the juxtapositions, differences, similarities and language and idiom of the lesbian poets — eventually arriving at that point toward which the editors aimed: a varied and engaging celebration of the distinctness (not separateness) of the vision of gay men and lesbians.

As Moore and Larkin observe, referring to the number of well-known works (by such established gay and lesbian poets as Paul Goodman, W.H. Auden and Adrienne Rich) published side-by-side with much more obscure poets: "Even familiar poems look on a different life... And began to speak to one another."

It is chiefly its eclectic quality that makes this book such an important statement. Its diversity is liberating, it includes and speaks to the complexities of life and love in a way few previous anthologies have been able to do, particularly because they suffered from our culture's insistence that gayness ought to be viewed reductively as sexual practice. The editors make this point directly in their preface: "Sex is vitally important to us — as a number of poems in this book evidence — but we are also certain the major culture would so conveniently have it, ex­clusively by the way we make love."

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Born in this month

Paul Verlaine (1844-1896)

By Thomas Krolak

The poet should live life fully, live in all the senses." This was the advice of the gay writer Paul Verlaine, one of the most ac-claimed and tragic artists of his time. His words well describe his stormy ex-istence, which began March 30, 1844, in Metz, France. He moved to Paris when he was seven. While attending high school there, he developed an intense interest in fic-tion and writing. In his late adolescence he gave up studying law and, while working as a government clerk, started writing poetry. Verlaine joined an anti-Romantic group called the Parmassians and wrote for its periodical. His first book of poems, influenced by other writers, was published when he was 21.

Three years later he published his second work, the first to show his musical style. In the 1860s Verlaine became a leading sym-bolist poet. His verse became filled with "dreams and illusion," with symbols, not directness. He wrote 18 volumes of what his biographer called "musical, evocative" poems. He also wrote criticism and autobiographical works.

One of Verlaine's collections of poems, Songs Without Words, was based on his life with the poet Arthur Rimbaud. They met in 1871 in Paris. The 16-year-old Rimbaud ad-mired Verlaine's poetry, and Verlaine invited the youth to live with him and his wife. The precocious, rebellious boy believed a writer had to become totally deranged to reach the state of "the unknown." The poet could then express the unexpressable on a higher plane than good and evil. Rimbaud thought. On the way to this condition, the writer must experience "all forms of love" and vice, he believed.

Besides this philosophy, Rimbaud was notorious for his crude behavior and slovenly appearance. Verlaine introduced him to members of the city's literati, who were of-fended by his rudeness. But Verlaine fell in love with the young man while realizing his marriage was a mistake. He then shared Rimbaud's disdain for middle-class values. Verlaine was an alcoholic. He had lost his job because of this and his small involvement with the revolutionary Paris Commune of 1871. His drinking fits led to violent scenes with his wife. The birth of their son a month after Rimbaud's arrival did not reform Verlaine.

For the next two years, during periodic desertsions from his family, Verlaine travel-ed with Rimbaud to Switzerland, France, and Belgium. His love for Rimbaud was the most intense passion of his life. He also resumed writing. Verlaine's time with his wife was only unproductive period. After leaving her he erupted into creativity, writing poems that included lesbian love sonnets. Verlaine influenced Rimbaud's poetry, which became more disciplined and less experimental.

But while his deep attachment to Rimbaud increased, Verlaine's words became too make him completely happy. While in Lon-don, they spent much of their earnings from giving French lessons on drugs. They often quarreled, at times with knives. Verlaine had wanted to be dominated, but Rimbaud began to view him as weak and indecisive.

After Verlaine left his wife, she discovered his love letter to Rimbaud. This convinced her to try and get a separation, divorce was illegal. During a second sojourn in London, Verlaine became upset about his wife's plans. He received a report from Rimbaud, who taunted him cruelly.

Tired of the constant tension, Verlaine left for Brussels. He wrote to his wife and Rim-baud that if she did not re-join him, he would kill himself.

His wife ignored him, but Rimbaud felt guilty and met him in July 1873. He saw that Verlaine was often drunk and erratic and won-dered if he should leave. But Verlaine shot his wounding his wrist. Later that day, after Verlaine again seemed to threaten Rimbaud, he arrested.

Rimbaud's wound was minor and he didn't want to press charges, because he sympathized with Verlaine. But while talk-ing to this, Rimbaud revealed why Madame Verlaine wanted a separation. The results of a physical on Verlaine convinced the court that he had gay acts. He was sentenced to two years in prison.

When he got out, there was little to do. He won a separation and Verlaine lost custody of his son. He went when he was told, and soon he converted to Catholicism. Religion gave him the comfort he needed. During his in-carceration he wrote a volume of religious poems. Wisdom. Its publication won him many Romantics.

In 1872, a change in the law allowed Verlaine and Rimbaud to marry. Verlaine was poor by then, but his mother's death left him with a small inheritance which his ex-wife needed. She claimed he hadn't paid support, although her father provided well for her. After his release in 1875, Verlaine met Rimbaud in Stuttgart. They got drunk and Verlaine suggested they convert. They fought and Rimbaud knocked Verlaine out, left him with one of his poems and fled, never to see him again.

That year Verlaine went to England to live in the country and teach French. He found peace in the rural surroundings. After two years he returned to France, hoping to remove his wife and son. But with one brief exception, she never let him visit their child.

In 1879, after his hopes for a reconcilia-tion with Rimbaud had failed, now-professor Verlaine again turned to liquor, once getting some students drunk with him.

One of his pupils was a 19-year-old Lucien Letinois. Verlaine saw him as a substitute for his child, and spoke of him as his adopted son. Letinois's love for Verlaine was no less intense as Verlaine's for him, and the older man felt jealous when he thought Letinois loved another. Verlaine went to live on a farm with Letinois and wrote poetry about him there. In a book about his new conservative views, Verlaine addressed Letinois, urging him to resist temptation. In fear he would lose Letinois to a rival. Letinois's death in 1883 was a blow to Verlaine's past life. A long poetic tribute to Letinois is published in his book of verse, Amour.

Before this tragedy Verlaine lost the farm due to debts. He was expelled for a clerical job because of his association with the Paris Commune; this was one reason the court in Brussels rejected his appeal. Ironically, by the time of his rejection he had become quite patriotic. But he continued drinking. His only income came from writing, so he was not able to attain the respectable life part of him craved. He admitted that there was an angel and a beast within him.

* Roadwork, the women's cultural organization that produces Sweet Honey in the Rock tours and the annual Sisterfire music festival in Washington, D.C., is seeking tax-deductible donations to help eliminate its $30,000 debt. Roadwork has eliminated its paid staff, but needs to restore its financial health before it can determine whether it will be able to continue Sisterfire. For more infor-mation or to contribute, write: Roadwork, 1475 Harvard St. NW, Washington, DC 20009, or call (202)481-9508 (voice or TDD).

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Robert Mapplethorpe was a famous artist in the 20th century, known for his provocative and controversial photography.

Ends March 17

By Marcia Scribben

Two nuclear arms negotiators — one from the United States and one from the Soviet Union — make a walk to the Lone and rend them to a moving and funny performance. The performance is a study of the human condition, the limitations of love, and the search for meaning and understanding.

The series, "Border Crossings," also includes four other films. All will be shown at Visual Studies Workshop, 1551 East Main Street, Rochester, N.Y.

For more information, call 442-8676.

By Maria Sclapocch

The exhibition's works were solicited among the black community, and the resulting exhibition includes a range of styles and themes, from figurative to abstract art.

The exhibit is on view through March 17.

The exhibition is sponsored by the Visual Studies Workshop and is part of the gallery's ongoing series of exhibitions focusing on African American artists.

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Bilines: The ongoing process of coming out

By Cleandro

After reading Frank Rich's thoughts recently, I realized how brash I am in coming to grips with my own sexuality — being frank with myself, my friends, my family, and my peers. As I have grown older and more experienced, I have come to the realization that I am gay. It is not easy to come to grips with this, but it is necessary to do so in order to come to terms with all aspects of my life.

My relationship with men began in high school, where I met my first gay friend. He was smart, funny, and a great guy. We became close friends and remained so through college and beyond. It was during this time that I realized that I too was attracted to men.

In my early 20s, I began to see the world in a different way. I started to question my own sexuality and the role it played in my life. I began to seek out other gay men and to explore my own feelings and desires.

As I continued to pursue my feelings and desires, I became more and more aware of the need to express myself. I began to write poetry and to share my thoughts and feelings with others.

The important thing was, my sexuality was not the only thing that defined me. I was also a intelligent person with a variety of interests and talents. I continued to pursue my education and to explore new ideas and experiences.

I realized how blessed I am. It's hard enough being gay, but having the courage to come out and to be open about my sexuality is even harder. I hope that others will find the courage to do so and to live their lives as openly as possible.
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