New Jersey approves domestic partner legislation

On Jan. 8, the New Jersey State Senate voted 25-9 in favor of a bill granting domestic partners, including same-sex couples, a number of legal rights the state provides married couples. The Senate in New Jersey for passing this bill and Gov. McGreevey for promising to sign it into law. We praise the Assembly and the Governor for their courage.

Alan van Capelle, Executive Director of Empire State Pride Agenda, which is the statewide gay rights organization in neighboring New York State. "While it is not yet full equality for same-sex couples, the New Jersey victory is a step towards coming out.... I have a friend who sexually orientation issues. So for me, the issue is about making sure lgbt students aren't experiencing discrimination, and I've noticed that for several years he has registered a protest vote when the annual legislation come before Council, they all know 'Tim's going to vote no'.

"As the issue of marriage rights started to emerge in other parts of the country, we are also anxious and hopeful that people will not be judged by their sexual orientation, gender identity, race, religion, national origin, or any other characteristic that has nothing to do with a person's character. Dr. King said he had been to the top and had seen the other side of the mountain. Perhaps one day so shall we all see the other side of the mountain. Perhaps one day so shall we all see the other side of the mountain."

Rochester City Council considers same sex marriage licenses

Due to an initiative by openly gay City Council member Tim O. Mains, Rochester City Council is considering the possibility of issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The legal suggestion has received a lot of media attention, including an article in The Washington Blade.

Up to this time, city clerks (as in abolish) have been forbidden by the state Department of Health to issue marriage licenses to gay male and lesbian couples. Ten Mains told the Empty Closet that for several years he has organized a protest vote when the annual confirmation of marriage officers came before Council. The city clerk dispenses marriage licenses and provides an opportunity for people (usually the city clerk and her assistant) as marriage officers, who can perform marriages as long as they take place at City Hall. I have voted against this for years because the licenses are not equally available. After three or four years of having this annual legislation come before Council, they all know 'Tim's going to vote no'.

"At the issue of marriage rights started to emerge in other parts of the country, we are also anxious and hopeful that people will not be judged by their sexual orientation, gender identity, race, religion, national origin, or any other characteristic that has nothing to do with a person's character. Dr. King said he had been to the top and had seen the other side of the mountain."

School board adopts transgendered protections

The Rochester School Board added language protecting transgendered students from harassment to its Code of Conduct in December. The policy change came as a result of a presentation made by local students, representatives of the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN) and others on harassment in area schools. The Board then created a City School District Task Force, chaired by James Bowes of the School Board, to examine the issue.

Bowes said the Empty Closet, "For me, this issue is about making sure light students aren't experiencing discrimination. I teach at St. John Fisher and we have a stable gay student and faculty population, and I've noticed over the years they haven't been comfortable with coming out.... I have a friend who consicded suicide partly because of sexual orientation issues. So for me, the issue is a combination of personal and professional experience and political belief. An opportunity presented itself to respond to the community and ask my colleagues to let me chair the task force. It seemed like a natural thing to do."

Bowes said that the first step was to correct the policy, and the next step will be to make certain that the District will model that behavior for teachers and administration. That is the harder part."}

Ally Howell, Co-Facilitator of the Rochester Transgender Group, and a member of the Gay Alliance Board, told the Empty Closet, "The members of the Rochester Transgender Group are extremely pleased that the Rochester School Board added transgendered students to those protected under its policy. Hopefully, the Board will also see fit in the near future to add protections to personal policies for transgendered students. We are also excited and hopeful that this will set a positive model for others in Monroe County, the Genesee Valley, the State of New York, and the United States."

The Rochester School Board has followed the courageous leadership of the Rochester School Board in this area. It is important that people understand that these types of policies will not only protect transgendered students but all students."

"The board's goal is to create a respectful and safe atmosphere for all students.
LADY ON THE LAWMAN: Psychological profits for 2nd-gendered
By Gay Community News editorial director J. CLAUSON

GAGV conversations: the future of New York State
By AdNet Community News

LaSharon Haskins, HART Program Director and AIDS activist, dies at 47
LaSharon Haskins, Program Director at AdNet Community News (HIV/AIDS Residential Treatment program), age 47, died Dec. 12, 2004, of HIV/AIDS-related complications. LaSharon worked in many capacities as an AIDS activist over the years, with a special passion for helping women. She served as Vice President of the Rochester Area Task Force on AIDS (RATFA), and previously served as chairperson for several of RATFA's Bay of Hope conferences, that focused on the impact of the disease on communities of color.

LaSharon founded Positively Alive, a support network of HIV-positive women in the Monroe County area. She worked diligently to empower women and to ensure that the needs of women living with HIV/AIDS were not overlooked by service providers, legislators, researchers, workers, and educators.

LaSharon was born in March 13, 1956, to Beulah and Edward, she was a child who battled drug addiction, incarceration and homelessness for many years. After her diagnosis with HIV in 1989, LaSharon was determined to live for her life to be a shining light of hope and a role model of hope. Her boldness and courage touched thousands.

LaSharon's life brought hope and change to so many lives. She was a light and a passion to so many people who she touched and influenced.

LaSharon's death was announced by her loved ones and friends.

LaSharon's legacy will continue to be felt by the many people she touched and influenced.

LaSharon was a fighter, a warrior, and a true hero.

LaSharon was a true role model for all of us.

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Surgery re-writes British man's hetero-sexual tattoo: he threatens lawsuit

A British man may file a suit against the doctors and hospital responsible for "making a mistake" when he was operated on for removing unwanted medical tattoos.

According to the Daily Mirror a patient in the Leeds General Infirmary for a heart bypass operation had a large vein taken out of his leg to replace a section of damaged artery in the chest. The paper claims that doctors did not mention the tattoo on the leg, which read: "I love women." When surveyed, the tattoo read, "I love men."
Interview:

Tim Tompkins, chair of HPA Board, on closing of fundraising organization

BY SUSAN JORDAN

Helping People with AIDS (HPA), a non-profit volunteer organization which raised money to fund programs and projects providing direct services to people living with HIV/AIDS in a nine-county area, was founded in 1985. The organization is now shutting down, after raising over a million dollars in the past 19 years.

The founders included Jim Black, Don Mizner, and Joe Bonaventura. The late Tony Greene, although not a founder, played a major role over the years, as well as Dennis and many other community members, and many former board members. Tompkins, speaking with the Empty Closet about HPA's history and the changing nature of AIDS caregiving, said, "It's all been totally done by volunteers." Tompkins said, "There was never a paid staff." He added that for the past two years, he has personally funded some staff, but income from fundraising events had declined to the point where the effort and expense put into producing the events was greater than the possible profits.

"The last few years, we just tried to keep the Wish List going," he said. "We look at Community Health Network (CHN), AIDS Rochester Inc. (ARI), and the Strong AIDS clinic, and they are all doing pretty well with huge state funds and other funds." Tompkins said that he feels that people in the community are drawn now to organizations which provide services and identification with people. "HPA never had professional fundraisers," he said, "and it's rough because we only used our resources around. It's been a challenge to keep it going. We raised around $35,000 to $40,000 a year at the moment, and we will have certain legal fees to pay for closing up. We just gave $5,000 to CHN, and they'll assume one of our patients examining rooms after HPA. The remaining funds will be divided among the groups which provide the most with list-type services, like ARL.

The typical wishes fulfilled by HPA's "Wish List" included medication, dental bills, trip home, eyeglasses, pets, care, or cremations, VCRs or TVs. "A couple of people do doing home health care, since we gave them health club memberships," Tompkins said.

Tompkins said that giving gifts and providing assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS for their daily needs on social services, is a good thing to do. However, he reflects, "The amount of time we put in as board members, we have been off concentrating on our careers so we can write bigger checks. People have supported HPA projects, but they tended to support more the ones that they thought were fun."

HPA's most well known fundraiser was the annual Dining for Dollars event, held from 1983 until 2001. The event consisted of individually-hosted dinner or cocktail parties around the area, followed by a gala at venues like the Mall. The decoration and entertainment for the evening was always spectacular, and they eventually drew a large homeless audience as well as gay. In 1990, the decoration was gigantic blow-ups of famous paintings, and a safe house program consisting of individually-hosted dinner or cocktail parties around the area, followed by a gala at venues like the Mall. The decoration and entertainment for the evening was always spectacular, and they eventually drew a large homeless audience as well as gay. In 1990, the decoration was gigantic blow-ups of famous paintings, and a safe house program was started. In 1990, the decoration was gigantic blow-ups of famous paintings, and a safe house program was started.

Tompkins said, "Neil Parisella would be the executive director, and he contributed his great skills to Dining for Dollars." Dining for Dollars V, in 1995, was dedicated to Neil. As the years went on, the income from the event lessened. Tompkins said, "We don't want to compete with ARI and CHN."


As for the events that provided a wish list, "There's a perception problem out there," he said. Although the need still exists, he said, "We don't want to compete with ARI and CHN."

Tompkins feels that there are still good ideas out there. Although the need still exists, he said, "We don't want to compete with ARI and CHN."

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Most women in relationships spend their time complaining to their single friends. All of the better things we know are single. My friends are a group of wonderful women with a good humor and intelligence, and happen to be quite good looking. I am sick of people talking to me why we are single. We are all good looking, we all are single, and I feel sick of people asking why we are single. We are all good looking.

Most of Us have plenty of girlfriends, slept around all in all, a good year. Not much difference.

I had a blast. At midnight, I was playing cards. I had a good run of luck and played well. I was out all night and had a lot of friends with me. I was able to party at a lot of different places and have a good time. I was able to dance all night and make a lot of new friends. I was able to have a lot of fun.

This is always a strange time of year for me. The holidays are over, business is slow, and I've got a lot of time on my hands. I don't really have much to do, and I'm not really interested in doing anything. I'm just going to sit around and read a lot of books.
HomoCorps at CBGB:
Dean Johnson’s latest edition of HomoCorps brought together the best queer musicians on Dec. 13 at CBGB, a renowned rock club in lower Manhattan. Pictured on stage: R.E.

Out of the Darkness, Into the Light:
Jean Doucet, 2002 MAC award winner for Female Musical Comedy, signs the AIDS Memorial Signature Panel at the annual World AIDS Day convention at the LGBT Community Center in Manhattan on Dec. 1. ALL PHOTOS PAGES 10-11 BY DOUG MESZLER

Blackout:
Rapper Willis Ninja from “Is Paris Burning” at the Blackout New Year’s Party at SBNY.

Emery Awards:
Olga Sosnovska, Eden Reigel and Susan Lucci of “All My Children” attend the Emery Awards at Capitale. The Harvey Milk Institute, home of the Harvey Milk School, saluted on Dec. 4 those making a difference for gay and lesbian youth. Olga and Eden play lesbian couple on the soap. The Harvey Milk School, for LGBT students who are harassed in public schools, was the center of controversy when it opened last September.

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“Do It Without Shorts”

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Twisted Holiday:

Grammy Awards:
Left: Gay rapper Capwell performs at the Grammy Awards, held at B Harnings on Dec. 14.

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largely determined by three key ingredients: the time the policy has been in force, the level of the current interest rate, and the insurer's profit margin. In the long run, the value of a permanent life insurance policy will be greater than the death benefit if premiums were used to build up the cash value of the policy. Often, an increase in interest rates will lead to a greater cash value, which will ultimately affect the future earnings on the policy.

Insurance companies, on balance, are able to predict their own mortality and investment experience with reasonable accuracy. But interest rates are a different story. Despite the best efforts of learned economists, actuaries, and other experts, no one knows with certainty what discount interest rates will take in the future. As interest rates, expenses, and mortality experience change, however, your policy's performance may also be impacted. That's why it's important to review and verify your life insurance policy每年, to ensure your policy continues to meet your needs.

Impact of Interest Rates

The amount of interest paid varies, as does the time each interest rate is paid on the policy. Your policy's performance will be closely tied to the interest rate your insurer receives on the money it invests. Higher interest rates increase the cash value of your policy.

Whether you purchase a one-year or a ten-year policy, the cash value of your policy will be determined by your insurer's interest rate. The higher the interest rate, the greater the value of your policy. Therefore, it's important for you to know the interest rate your insurer is paying on the investments it makes on your behalf.

The interest rate can be fixed or variable. A fixed interest rate is guaranteed, while a variable interest rate can fluctuate. The interest rate is determined by the insurer and is usually published in the policy's prospectus. It's important to review the prospectus to understand the potential impact of interest rates on your policy's performance.

Life insurance policies can be affected by changes in the economy, interest rates, and other factors that affect the financial performance of the insurance company. For example, if the economy is in a recession, interest rates may be lower, which could affect the performance of your policy. Conversely, if the economy is in a boom, interest rates may be higher, which could increase the value of your policy.
V-state by passing a statewide law to allow every student in New York to attend a boy or a girl. New York State governing community members who made the students. His goal is to create a respectful and harassment policy. The Board was considered a success in the area of pro-

Kitty Moran said that the task force examined existing District policies and found that they were good in the area of pro-

Continued from page A1

Currently the N.Y.S. Legislature is considering bills related to protecting transgender students. As Governor of Vermont, Howard Dean has enacted them. I care about a leader who, through his campaign, organized his supporters in 2004. The PRP's are a grassroots organization. You can e-mail me at paul@prp.org. Please GAYBROUGHTS in the subject line. Send Dean. Thank you for your information to your desktop, your holiday card list, your family, colleagues and friends. Tell everyone you know about Howard Dean.

Meet a Dean house party.

Dana Red Wing

Member of: National Assoc. of Prof. Pet Sitters, BBB, & Greece Chamber of Commerce

For information call the Gay Alliance at 244-8640

SPEAKER: Ross Levi, Empire State Pride Agenda

Co-host: Donna Red Wing

Member of: National Assoc. of Prof. Pet Sitters, BBB, & Greece Chamber of Commerce

For information call the Gay Alliance at 244-8640

Speaker: Ross Levi, Empire State Pride Agenda

Moderator: Donna Red Wing

February 22, 3-5 p.m., Fourth Floor Meeting Hall, Auditorium Center, 875 E. Main St.

For information call the Gay Alliance at 244-8640

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For information call the Gay Alliance at 244-8640
Dear Mr. Huston and Mr. Peterson:

While she was in triage, the nurse and other staff members of Rochester General's emergency department refused to call me her partner, the biological "next of kin," Rochester General would have had to admit her into the hospital, even though she came in with documentation verifying her relationship with me. The nurse and other patient registered nurses, who were not as informed about the hospital's policies, accepted our relationship, and referred me to the admitting department, where I was admitted as her partner under my name. The hospital's discriminatory policy results in a disruption of health care for gay patients and their family members. In addition, their staff members deny them the same opportunity to be treated as their heterosexual counterparts. I would have been a party to unimaginable emotional, financial, and physical suffering that has been the source of substantial emotional and financial support for many years. As a result of the reckless hospital's discriminatory practices, I have been forced to deal with further trauma.

Your immediate action to resolve this matter is absolutely necessary. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with you to resolve this matter.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. Gravitz, Esq.

Quarrel with Bowen column - but he's making a great job

To the Editor:

I am a daily reader of the Empty Closet. It is a great paper, something for all of Rochester's gay community to be proud of. Each month I always read Susan Jordon's editorial. Excellent, Beth Bellows's column and then Executive Director Chuck Bowen's column. I agree with him and follow him. He is a great job, as is the staff as a whole. His column in one sitting and then, as I have done many times, as I read many of the other fine columns and articles that I enjoy.

I love to read the Empty Closet; it is a great source of emotional and physical support for emergent treatment of possibly life threatening symptoms. It was clear that Rochester General would not even accept or recognize the documents at the primary of our relationship.

I rarely give the requisite insurance and address myself as her partner and proceeded to discriminate against lesbian couple asked me to provide the necessary information. I remained her primary care provider until she was transferred to another hospital for emergency treatment of potentially life threatening symptoms. It was clear that Rochester General would not even accept or recognize the documents at the primary of our relationship.

Clearly equal is Rochester General's intention, by ignoring the primary of a partner requiring a "biological next of kin." to trigger every patient's greatest fear — that she would be separated from me as if she were dying. Based on my partner's actions, I know that had my partner not contacted me in her condition worsened or if the her partner was the biological "next of kin," Rochester General would have had her partner registered nurse, and not her partner of nine years, to her bedside. The sense of being separated from her in a nightmare which continues to haunt me.

There is no easy way to explain the suffering that I endured because the way by experiencing such pain and feeling betrayed.

While she was in triage, the nurse asked me to provide the necessary information to the receptionist. I introduced myself as her partner and prompted to give the requisite insurance and address information. When the receptionist asked for my partner's "next of kin," I responded that I was her partner. The receptionist refused to acknowledge our relationship, did not enter any name and instead that she needed a "biological" relative to refer to as "next of kin". I refused to provide the information to make sure that I remained her primary care provider until she was transferred to another hospital for emergency treatment of potentially life threatening symptoms. It was clear that Rochester General would not even accept or recognize the documents at the primary of our relationship.

Several pre-pay Discount Packages Available - Save up to 36% Call for complete information - Start saving today!

Proud to serve our Community!
The 2003 Holiday Gayla was held on Dec. 6 at the Rochester Museum and Science Center and was sponsored by the Lambda Network at Kodak, GLASS and Lambda of Rochester. The community center was festively decorated from floor to ceiling and wall-to-wall with beautiful garlands, wreaths, dangling snowflakes, a Hanukkah menorah, and, of course, a Christmas tree (another big thank you to Sen. Charles Schumer for donating holiday decorations…youprettymuchmerititreering...). The candlelit reception (over 40 tea lights were scattered throughout the community center to illuminate the room) was an oasis of calm, with a delicious spread of cheese and crackers, Christmas cookies, eggnog and Starbucks coffee (a special thank you to the 12 Corners Starbucks for donating the coffee for our event).

While the guests mingled and enjoyed the holiday goodies, Anne Murray and Whitney Houston softly serenaded the crowd with Christmas music. One GAGV board member was heard to comment that in all her years as a member of the GAGV, she had never seen the community center look so beautiful. The Gay Alliance is looking forward to hosting another holiday drop-in next year.

**Holiday Gayla proceeds go to Rochester area PFLAG**

BY THERESE FELLER

The 2003 Holiday Gayla was held on Dec. 6 at the Rochester Museum and Science Center and was sponsored by the Lambda Network at Kodak, GLASS, and Lambda of Rochester. The Holiday Gayla planning team met with two PFLAG representatives recently to present the $1000 check to their organizations.

"In the 15 years that I have been involved with the Rochester PFLAG chapter, we have never received a gift of this magnitude," said Adrienne Kllc, co-chair of PFLAG Rochester, "We are very delighted and grateful that the Holiday Gayla proceeds will go to their organization as a recipient of this wonderful gift."

PFLAG hopes that this donation will help them in updating software and purchasing new videos and books for their library and also help with advertising costs and getting word out that PFLAG is still active in Rochester. The PFLAG Rochester website address is www.ggw.org/pflag.

**Gay Alliance hosts holiday drop-in on Dec. 12**

Over 50 guests attended the Gay Alliance holiday drop-in on the evening of Dec. 12. The GAGV staff was on hand to meet and greet visitors as they arrived.

Santa (a.k.a. Community Education Outreach Coordinator Todd Plank) and his elves (hugs and kisses to the crowd) were busily working right up until the last minute to complete the transformation of the GAGV's community center into a winter wonderland.

The community center was festively decorated from floor to ceiling and wall-to-wall with beautiful garlands, wreaths, snowflakes and, of course, a Christmas tree (another big thank you to Sen. Charles Schumer for donating holiday decorations…you pretty much merit iterring...). The candlelight reception (over 40 tea lights were scattered throughout the community center to illuminate the room) was an oasis of calm, with a delicious spread of cheese and crackers, Christmas cookies, eggnog and Starbucks coffee (a special thank you to the 12 Corners Starbucks for donating the coffee for our event).

While the guests mingled and enjoyed the holiday goodies, Anne Murray and Whitney Houston softly serenaded the crowd with Christmas music. One GAGV board member was heard to comment that in all her years as a member of the GAGV, she had never seen the community center look so beautiful. The Gay Alliance is looking forward to hosting another holiday drop-in next year.

**Reception for Sen. Schumer on Dec. 3 raises $10,000**

Members of the Rochester LGBT community held a fundraiser on Dec. 3 to benefit the reelection of Sen. Charles Schumer, at the East Avenue home of Charles Arena. Over $10,000 was raised.

City Council member Bill Pritchard, one of the organizers, said the Empty Chair that Sen. Schumer's support for the community is important. The proceeds will be used to meet seniors and the Gay Alliance to explore the possibilities of federal funding for the GAGV, Pritchard said.

"When asked for his support," Pritchard said, "without missing a beat, the senator pointed to his Legislative Assistant Joe Flansini and said, 'Have the Gay Alliance call Joe and he will connect you with the senator's staff and help you speak to Washington. This is a perfect example of why he's important to the Rochester gay community.'"

Among the hosts for the evening were Evelyn Bailey, Chuck Brown, Harry Bronzer, David Carpentier, Sue Cowell, Tom Ference, Patrick Galey, Dave Hein, Tim Madsen, Ian, Bill Pritchard, Mary Quinn, Cathy Palmer and Mark Staley. The dessert reception was catered by Gifford's Catering.

**Lake Avenue Baptist Church**

A WELCOMING AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION INVITES YOU!

10:00 AM: SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

11:30 AM: A TIME FOR COFFEE & FOLLOWUP: A CHANCE FOR US TO MEET YOU?

11:40 AM: YOUTH & ADULT CLASSES

CHILD CARE & SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN ARE AVAILABLE

FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH: OPEN COMMUNION

Lake Avenue Baptist Church is located where Jones and Andrews Streets meet Lake Avenue, about one half mile north of the East High School Building.

For more information call 458-3795
BUILDING ACCESSIBLE, AUDIO ASSISTIVE

**Community Center**

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**Members, staff and friends enjoyed a holiday drop-in at the Community Center on Dec. 12.** (Center: Toby Greenfreld, Youth Services Director.)
Howard Dean a special report on circuit parties and a powerful profile of lesbian rabbis. The show will air here on Feb. 22.

Hosted by acclaimed slam poet and Def Poetry Jam star Staceyann Chin, the show will air here on Feb. 22.

For more information, visit the website at www.mochaproject.org.
The Vagina Monologues. Others doing so include Morgan Fairchild, Audra McDonald, and Jessica Lange. The show has been performed in theaters around the world, with proceeds going to various organizations that support women's rights and gender equality.

The Vagina Monologues is presented in 32 languages and has been translated into dozens of other languages. The show has been performed in theaters around the world, with proceeds going to various organizations that support women's rights and gender equality.

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More about Bruce
Good Bums 75 min. Available at RentLive.

The film is basically about a group of AIDS activists who assemble in the West Hollywood cemetery written with a simple elegance that one can only hope to imitate. "I realize we are running anathem in the midst of the current AIDS crisis in Los Angeles," Bruce said.

We are Bruce at home in the Villa La Viola, surrounded by lots of books, getting ready to go on a bit of a hike. Bruce is an avid hiker, often going for long walks in the hills. He enjoys reading and writing, and is known for his love of nature and outdoors.

Like you!

Yet to live through. One just went by.

cities. There is a more of a theater tra­

cue. 'Cause there is no real tradition

what a road schedule is like. It is a

just kneed him aside. (Laughter)

White House and the price of that is

that R^ublicans can't win elecrtions

and healing great, but there is nothing

dislocated a knee cap and it has been

to heal 'cause I keep putting it into

JY: Do you have any questions for

 Thanks Bruce, this was really great of

BV: You're welcome. I enjoyed it.

They were at the beginning.

of them), Lily Tomlin, Billy Crystal, Robin

We see him in his youthftil actor. We see Bruce's hands poised over the

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There are less than three weeks left to list your gay/lesbian/friendly business in the Alternate Phone Book.

The publication reaches 40,000 GLBT individuals in the Rochester/Phallic region.

Contact Barbara Richards, Director of Sales at 716-769-0855 or barbaltabook@rochester.rr.com

Call Ray or Karla at 585-272-411

Coldwell Banker Prime Properties, Inc.
Office: 899-5525
Cell: 729-2259
E-mail: noreaster@coldwellbanker.com

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E-mail: noreaster@coldwellbanker.com

Time's up.

The Click
Happy February, ladies, and if it's OK with you, I'd like to share something about my summer plans.

 prefer to avoid marriage, not weaken it.

same-sex or opposite-sex marriage, for "traditional values." In the lead-up to his 2004 campaign, Bush assailed what he called

favorite animal is a Budweiser. Winged monkeys go near a Wizard (unless to get your name unmasked) because the Constitution in order to define same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. He's surely true to form.

Columnists continued from page 85

considering a sexual assault victim or any other person who was improperly subjected to an official examination at the time of the assault.

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**AIDS**

**RESOURCES**

**HEALTH:**
- Monroe County Women's Health Partnership: 111 Washington St., Rochester NY 14604; (585) 458-0345. Women's health issues and support groups for women and underserved women.
- Black Lab Women's Health: 175 Seagers Drive, 422-8602. Dr. Wende Logan-Simms and an all-women staff provide mammograms.
- AIDS Rochester Women's Health: 2550 University Ave. AIDS has services for HIV-positive women and others in the lesbian community. 442-2220.
- www.theslencecenter.org

**Medical:**

**GAY HEALTH DIRECTORY**

**AIDS**

**Community Health Network:** 202 Clinton Ave. Clinton Ave. across from the PNC Bank. STD/HIV counseling, testing, and referral services. Free HIV testing 6:30-9pm. 242-4420.

**AIDS Rochester, Inc.:** 1300 University Ave., Rochester NY 14607. AIDS counseling and testing. 242-4420.

**Brown Square Health Center:** 250 State St., Rochester NY 14607. Comprehensive HIV care and primary medical care for individuals who are HIV-positive, that requires part-time or full-time medical care. Call (585) 273-3379 for more information.

**GO TO:** www.aidsrochester.org/gayhealth, or call 585-442-2220.

**Check out the monthly and ongoing Calendars of Events, and call the fingerlinc line (585) 987-1853.**

**For more information, call 288-4508**

**The Key Health Initiative is a program of AIDS Rochester, Inc., 1300 University Ave., Rochester 14607. 585-442-2220.**
Cruises...we opted for the Dolphin and FulSea..." Captive Cruises, Out-Island Adventure Cruise. You hear of Grouper, Mangrove Snapper, Seafood and a sunset dinner at Windows on the Island. Sanibel Inn has a bar and her companion manage this particular gorgeous piece. Sanibel Inn is also one of the properties. The cuisine. Billed as "home of Mannys Mediterranean cuisine. Delicious food.


Sanibel Resort, 3000 Jeff S. St., in the "front yard" and pelicans on the docks. The cottages are fully equipped and decorated with individual designs, such as Whimsical, Southwestern, Ocean and Southern Comfort. The price is $185 per night.

If you wish to book a room in the "front yard" and pelicans on the docks, the cottages are fully equipped and decorated with individual designs, such as Whimsical, Southwestern, Ocean and Southern Comfort. The price is $185 per night.

INNS & OUTS

Pierhouse Grill, 5401 Shore Blvd. S., St. Pete Beach when the "NY Sharks played the Miami Fish,.. we were so glad you're already familiar with the area. I stayed at Captiva Cove, Excellent location! Rooms on the beach. The rooms to look luxurious. 10 waterfront cottages, four two-bedroom boats, and an oceanfront, where you may sit by the docks and watch boats in the "front yard" and pelicans on the docks. In the "front yard" and pelicans on the docks.

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This country of ours can’t use Vermont’s misanthropes care to personally meet the need it most. There is no reason why 96 percent have it. There are more potential transsexuals than as women to fulfill a deep need, not just for definitions anyway? What we really need is wisdom with the caveat that transsexual ones. I maintain my opinion that an actual ones. I maintain my opinion that an

states, both of us do very well develop into "man"

the quality of life for every American. The urgency to change the political direction of America’s future has mani­fested into a stable international order. The Wright brothers, and websites across America. This crisis of conscience from some of the Bush-bashing to match the party faith­fuls’ passionate mood. Dean is the initial lack of character in the White House. He is neo-conservative onslaught. He pulls no punches, and attacking a woman’s right to make her own heatth care decisions. Bush divides us, and attacking women’s rights under the guise of patriotism.

stated four spe­cifics to my dear readers. I am writing

is to experience a spiritual and emotional stability and a real uplifting of spirit which is not available to them.

This note is being written on the day of the 100th anniversary of powered flight. It’s easy to look at how remarkable this achievement was in today’s era of intercontinental jet travel. The Wright brothers, and attacking a woman’s right to make her own heatth care decisions. Bush divides us, and attacking women’s rights under the guise of patriotism.

there’s certainly no shortage of topics

Lately though, as I have progressed

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Hello my lovelies.

It's your favorite canine confidante, Miss Tulip, here. As the ED (Elegant Dog) of the GAGV (Gay Animals Gayning Visibility), I've decided it's high time that Rochester's LGBTQ pets be given a forum (don't be confused by the association with the gay bar down the street from the GAGV... that's a subject for a future column) for addressing our issues and concerns.

For too long, LGBTQ pets (or Animal Companions to use the politically correct term) have been relegated to the shadows, kept in the basement (or garage, been left out in the cold, been denied adequate snacks, and remained silent. It is time for us to speak out, demand our rights, and be proud of who and what we are!

Through my column, I seek to increase the visibility of LGBTQ pets everywhere. Each month I will seek to address a topic of concern to the animal queerdom. It is my intention to be inclusive of all my feathered, furry and amphibious friends, and I invite all of you to write into me with your questions, as well as offering your suggestions for future articles.

Some of the subjects that I intend to cover this year include how to come out to straight pet owners, where to go to meet other LGBTQ pets, what to do about anti-gay bias towards animals, and who to support in our fight for equality. I have enlisted the aid of a local veterinarian, who will provide authoritative answers to your questions about proper nutrition, health, and fitness for LGBTQ pets and their owners.

Also, being the hip chick that I am, I'll be featured in a fashion spread each month, displaying the latest in canine, grooming products (I refuse to use any pet care products tested on our human friends.) and home decor. There are plans to visit some of the local establishments and let you know how "family friendly" they really are.

I'm very excited and honored to be a voice for the LGBTQ Animal Companion community and I'll do my best to represent you well and advance our cause.

Happy Valentines Day!

Luv,

Tulip.

Next month we'll explore the topic Are You a Party Animal?

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Inside Harvey Milk: two students speak up

BY ALIA SCHAEFER

Deep in the heart of New York City is a building on a corner. Inside this building, a little over 100 students are now attending school. The school's name is Harvey Milk High School and it aims specifically to the needs of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender students.

Named after San Francisco's former openly gay city supervisor, who was assassinated in 1978, the school gives children an environment where they can focus on their schoolwork, without worrying about homophobia or discrimination based on their sexual or gender identity.

There is much controversy surrounding the consensual opening of the school, which has been running as a homogeneous program for students in need for several years with the help of the Harvey Milk Institute (HMI).

Janine Weekes and Daron Davis, two students at Harvey Milk High School, were kind enough to express to GAYV about their experience at the school.

2. What is it like to attend a GLBT school?

Janine says that she likes school, but she was not able to fully discover his sexual orientation while being bullied in school, a guidance counselor recommended the school because she wanted him to feel comfortable about being himself.

Daron says that he felt that he needed a place to feel comfortable about being himself.

Why did you decide to go to Harvey Milk?

Janine says that she liked school, but there were too many students in regular classes, while Harvey Milk currently enrolls around 150. It's a better learning environment, with a low teacher-to-student ratio. Most who attend go by friend* and not have anybody look at me and say "wow she's a lesbian." She claims that she has a brighter smile on her face and truly wants to come to school now that she's found Harvey Milk.

Daron is more into the fun and games aspect of Harvey Milk, where he's allowed to be himself, and really wants to come to school now that he's found Harvey Milk.

What is it like to attend a GLBT school?

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Harvey Milk Continued on next page
Above: Karen Armstrong (left) and Claudia Stallmann of LGFBP Pride & Joy Families met on Jan. 17 at the GAGV Community Center to discuss possibilities for the group and get on board the Rainbow Senior’s meeting in March. The Group is looking to establish itself as an extension of the Gay Alliance identify the makeup of gay & lesbian parents to explore parenting options. Chris, Regina, and Judith will be creating an assessment tool to survey lgbt families in Monroe and surrounding counties to help the Gay Alliance identify the makeup of local Pride and Joy Families. This information will be used by the GAGV to develop programs that will be supportive of the diverse mix of lgbt families in our region.

Based on her experience organizing Pride and Joy Families, Claudia suggested that in addition to the pFJ (Families) group, we also consider arranging a separate meeting time for the parents to meet away from the children, to provide them with an opportunity to sit and discuss particular issues and challenges. If you would like to join the list, please contact Claudia at kaylajordan (at) hotmail (dot) com for a membership card for a Lesbian Families Network.

Common Threads

The GAGV is planning to return to the world renowned Patricia’s Fund’s Family chapter soon in the spring. The ‘70s: The True Thing: Gay & Lesbian Parents Need to Know. We are eagerly looking forward to Claudia and Karen’s return.

In early April or early May, the GAGV will be bringing filmmaker Mepha Spees-produced “A Good Thief...” a heartwarming film. Our House, a documentary about the gay and lesbian community. We hope to have a date set and location sometime in time for an announcement in the March issue of the Explorer. GAGV BOARD GROUP FORMS

The Buffalo GLBT Archive was founded jointly by0 librarians Madeline Davis and Therri Emmendorfer and Ron Gannam in the fall of 2003. The Archive was formed from a project that came out of a project Ron was undertaking for a class. He had to write a series of statements and collection policy for a small library. Eventually, he gave up the idea of writing a Library. That class project appealed and he wrote it. He then put it away for a while, then took it out one day and it became reality. The following spring I chose a Board of Directors and we went into business. Unfortunately, Ron became too busy to continue working with me and he left to the fall of 2003 to finish school and get his professional library job at University of Buffalo.

WHAT KINDS OF MATERIALS ARE INCLUDED AND HOW BIG IS THE COLLECTION?

The Collection is now available by appointment only. Since it was put together in response to a need, we have assembled a collection that includes such basic information as we could find. All documentation from the second quarter of the 20th century and all the over the state meet at the annual Buffalo Archives Day June 2004.

The Buffalo GLBT Archive is located in the basement of the GAGV Community Center at 173 Atlantic Avenue. It is open Monday through Friday from 2-5 p.m. and the second Saturday of each month from 1-3 p.m. The Archive is open for the public to browse and gather information. We ask that those who wish to use the Archive bring their own supplies, such as pens and paper. We will be able to have a trained Archivist (I am currently a volunteer) once we have our staff and seminar space. We are currently hiring a part-time volunteer to do a handout.

We are hoping to acquire more and better materials from within the gay and lesbian community for many years. Therefore we are working on a website.

The Archive can be reached at Buffalo.GLBT. Archives (at) rochester (dot) com.

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**Dignity-Integrity**

Dignity-Integrity Rochester is a faith community in the Roman Catholic and Episcopal Churches. We meet every Sunday at 153 Atlantic Ave. at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome regardless of who they are, where they are from, or why they are here. Come be a part of our community! For more information, contact Jeannine at 585-244-4837 or e-mail dir@rochestergay.org.

**BABC**

Bظروفهية الأقضية **BABC** is a faith community in the Roman Catholic and Episcopal Churches. We meet every Sunday at 153 Atlantic Ave. at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome regardless of who they are, where they are from, or why they are here. Come be a part of our community! For more information, contact Jeannine at 585-244-4837 or e-mail dir@rochestergay.org.

**Gays Everywhere**

Gays Everywhere is a national community-based group that provides children of LGBT parents with a community of their own. We meet regularly, break the isolation they may experience by not having connections and support from other COLAGE.

**For more information, contact Dr. Lucine P. Modern at 585-244-2440.**

**DIGNITY**

DIGNITY is a volunteer group that helps to support the Gay and Lesbian community in Rochester. We meet every Sunday at 153 Atlantic Ave. at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome regardless of who they are, where they are from, or why they are here. Come be a part of our community! For more information, contact Dr. Lucine P. Modern at 585-244-2440.
Rainbow Seniors

BY SORAH HAMMAD, PHOTOGRAPHER

Who is a Rainbow Senior of Western New York? This is an interesting question. First of all, everyone in our community is a Rainbow Senior. We have learned there is no rule to 20 or 30 years of age. We have decided, however, that our "Rainbow Seniors" are not "old" GLBT right now, somewhere you will be.

As an organization, we are a diverse group. We are your friends, your neighbors, or a co-worker. To others, we may be a member of your family, your brother, sister, aunt, uncle, in or in some cases your parent or grandparent.

"Many of us are doing the same. We are a diverse group. We are your friends, your neighbors, or a co-worker. To others, we may be a member of your family, your brother, sister, aunt, uncle, or in some cases your parent or grandparent.

As of our February meeting, our group is now 57 years and 21 months of age. We have members who are 80 and over, and we have members who are 21 and under. In some ways, it is a bit of a paradox that we have members who are much older than others who are much younger than us. This is because we are a club for younger people who have been active in our community for many years. We have members who are not old but who have been active in our community for many years. We have members who are not old but who have been active in our community for many years.

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TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL SAVERS CALL 254-2172 OR 335-2172.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Volunteers Needed: Volunteer for the Empty Closet. Are you a reporter, reviewer, photographer? Would you like to do 200 hours of work and be a part of it? Call Susan at 244-9030.
Mug Do's Wheels: Mugs On Wheels provides hot meals to every student at Monmouth College's campus. During the winter months, we need volunteer drivers to deliver meals. Your gift of time and effort is the "warmth" needed, a minimum of two at a time. Call 787-8330.

Call for Work: The Hartnett Gallery is inviting professional and student photographers interested in exhibiting their work at the Hartnett Gallery in the academic year 2004/05. The gallery is located in Rochester, New York, also home of the International Contemporary Printmaking Biennale. Hartnett Gallery Call for work, 2004/05, March 22, 2004. Send all information to: KimBlood, Communications, School of Art, 200 Wilson Commons, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY 14627.

SEROVICES
Body/Makeup jobs for men. Do you or your partner, a friend or yourself a special Valentine's Day gift in a range, Italian male (10 years experience) and/or Italian female (5 years experience) don't commit, central location, days or evening, available call (585) 603-6038. Call accepted 7 a.m. - 11 p.m. to set appointment.
Taker Creek Road Bed & Breakfast 200 to 1,500 per night, self-contained, nearby Rochester and Brighton, off road. Space for two. $125. Contact: 789-2229.

HELP WANTED
Overseer Specialist: We are looking for a man who has seen and made meals. Requires one year of experience working with Black and Latin communities. Knowledge of HIV prevention and counseling preferred. Education includes a bachelor's degree in counseling psychology or social work, or equivalent. Must have reliable vehicle and meet agency driving policy. Annual salary $23,035 plus benefits. Resumes to: Andy Rochester, 355 University Ave, Rochester, NY 14607. Non-smoking, clean. Call 271-8190.

Muse Model Needed: Professional photographer with studio is looking for male models to expand his portfolio. I have experience with fine art, fashion, and sports photography, and am looking for a male with a minimum of 5 years of experience in full-time work. Although I cannot pay the minimum of $15 per hour ("trade for prints"). This means that the model will be compensated with prints, advertising and/or cash. All prints will be signed in the form of CQ, or CQ ("for prints"). The model will receive certification of ownership. The model must have an interesting look and be in shape. I would be willing to provide a picture of you prior to setting up an appointment, but it does not have to be professionally taken. S30, I cannot accept at requests. Thank you for your interest. 481-4546 or mvphotob.com.

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There are a variety scheduled GLBT AA meetings in Rochester this week.

Monday

**Empire Stars Branch**
1 pm, Empire Plaza, 581 E Main St. 

**Step Meeting**
(3 times and Monday)

**MONDAY**

**Freer-Meeting**
6:30 pm, The Yellow Church, 220 S Winton Rd. Free. 442-7185.

**Recovery Day**
6:30 pm, First United Church of Christ, 217 S Union St. $5. 420-5687. 

**12-Step Meeting**
7:30 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 442-7185.

Tuesday

**Addiction**
8:30 pm, St. Luke’s/St. Simon Cyrene Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. 7-9:30 pm. 423-0650.

**Caregivers Support Group**
Second and fourth Saturdays, 6-9 pm. GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 442-7185.

**Gay and Lesbian Support Group**
Third President-Church, 179 Atlantic Ave. 7-9 pm. 244-0821.

**Gay Men’s AA**
3-5:30 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 244-0821.

**HIV Positive Gay Men Support Group**
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THE GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESEE VALLEY

Presents the
6th Annual Sweetheart Ball

"Bring your Sweetheart or Meet a Sweetheart"
Saturday, February 14, 2004
7:00 p.m. Dinner • 8:30 p.m. Dancing
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Downtown Rochester
For more information: 585.244.8640

Ticket Information
Dinner/Dance Tickets
$40 per person for GAGV members
(available at the GAGV or online
at www.gayalliance.org)

$50 per person for non-members
(available at Pride Connection,
Parkleight, Outlandish)

$35 members of Rainbow Seniors

Dance Only Tickets
$12 per person in advance
$15 per person at the door

DJ's Include
DJ Mighty Mic: Red & Black Bash
DJ Chuck Berry: Main Dance Floor

Sponsorship Levels
Valentine Sponsorship level:
$175 for GAGV members
$225 for non-members
Includes: two dinner/dance tickets, bottle of
champagne, box of Godiva chocolates, one long-stem
rose, one song request, a personal message displayed
at the event, acknowledgement in the
March Empty Closet

Sweetheart Sponsorship Level:
$150 for GAGV members
$200 for non-members
Includes: two dinner/dance tickets, one long-stem
rose, one song request, a personal message displayed
at the event, acknowledgement in the
March Empty Closet

Won't be able to attend the Sweetheart Ball?
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Cupid Sponsorship Level:
$125 for GAGV members
$150 for non-members
Includes a personal message displayed at the event
and acknowledgement in the
March Empty Closet

Tickets Available Now!