The Rochester City School Board Task Force on Gay, Lesbian and Transgendered Bias decided on June 10 to forward three recommendations to the District Board.

The Task Force recognized the physical and verbal harassment experienced by LGBT students, as presented in a report by a group of concerned members of the community, led by Kitty Moran of Rochester branches of Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN).

The recommendations are that District employee handbooks include a statement about a Bias Free Environment, that the Board implement top-down district-wide training for all school personnel, and that the Board provide domestic partnership benefits for District employees by January 2006.

Chuck Bowen, executive director of the Gay Alliance, said, “The Board showed a great deal of courage in addressing the need for safe, bias-free environments for education, even though they’re dealing with severe budget issues.”

Todd Plank, community education/outreach director for the GAGV, was one of those who made the presentation to the Task Force on June 10. He said, “I want to acknowledge the efforts of all the individuals on the Task Force in assembling this proposal to submit to the School Board. I was impressed with everyone’s contributions to this. The fact that it was so well received is a compliment to everyone’s contributions to this.”

“In his part of the presentation, Plank spoke about the failure to create a safe learning environment and how that failure causes students to drop out and lose their chance to attend college, thus losing their chance to attend college, losing their chance to attend college, thus reducing bias. After the presentation, Board member and Task Force chair Dr. James Bowers made a motion that the amendment to the handbook proposal be referred to the policy committee. The domestic partnership recommendation was referred to the finance committee, which Dr. Bowers chairs. All of the Task Force recommendations will now be considered by the Board, which will issue its decision in September.”

Dr. Bowers told the Empty Closet, “The taskforce’s recommendations are the result of a lot of hard work from some very dedicated people, Though I chaired it, I learned more than I lead, and I want to note my appreciation to those individuals with whom I served.”
No matter how "over" the rainbow t-shirts and fridge magnets we use, there’s just something about the annual pride parade that grabs most of us again every year. This year, when our civil rights are still in the closet and don’t want to give us their explanation of why marriage equality is a big deal, since we don’t think it will ever be the same. And until we finally defeat the forces of the DOMAs, then you have nothing to celebrate.

While Rochester and several other cities across the world are celebrating Pride during the month of July, the U.S. Senate will be bringing about a vote on the Federal DOMA bill intended to not only block us from achieving our inalienable rights, but also to embarrass the many Democrats who have stood by us as they convene their national convention. Many calls are coming in to lawmakers from citizens in favor of banning our civil rights—where are the calls from our community? For those of you in the light community who have made the calls, written the letters and spoken out against DOMA locally, we applaud you.

I am writing this as an explanation of why marriage equality has nothing to do with religion, the unions of straight folks or any of the other arguments we’ve heard so much about.

I do, however, want to express my concern that as a group, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans, we have failed to show our collective strength with both State and Federal leaders. Many of us are just too busy to make a telephone call to legislators asking that State and Federal DOMA’s be overturned. Many of us, however, don’t see it as a big deal, since we don’t think it will have much effect on us. Many of us are still in the closet and don’t want to give our names even when the futures and our civil rights are at stake.

But MOST of us have the time, energy and tenacity to come to the Pride Events, build and ride on floats, celebrate “Fashion” and wildly proclaim our sexual freedom.

So, while this is not the first year I’ve written comments about the annual individual rights. And we’ve taken the initiative to proudly wear our rainbow flags and declare our preference for peace. And while some may find our presence offensive, others will see what we’re for and want to join our cause. Pride = fighting for our rights!
NY State DOMA
continued from page one

The DOMA movement may have been helped by supporters of the religious right, who staged a 400-person rally in Albany on June 14. The group promoted the need for DOMA's passage, while demeaning the social significance of LGBT families.

The LGBT community has not held an Albany rally and is nowhere near as visible to lawmakers as those who oppose marriage equality.

School Board continued from p. 1

for both their efforts and deepening my knowledge and understanding about the difficulties gay and lesbian students experience.

"The taskforce recommendations, if fully implemented and supported by the district and the Board, should go a long way toward addressing the bias, discrimination, and bullying experienced by our gay and lesbian students or those who are perceived to be. The recommendations should also foster an atmosphere in which the district's gay and lesbian students and teachers feel safe and supported. Staff who feel more valued and opened to be who they are.

"While all three of the recommendations are important and need to be adopted and implemented, I place a great deal of significance on the recommendation of Domestic Partner Benefits. To me, the adoption of domestic partner benefits is about the district as an institution modeling the very behavior in which it wants its employees and students to model. We can't ask others to engage in acceptance or tolerance and embrace diversity when our own behavior is contrary.

"The next step is for the BOE to review and act on the taskforce's recommendations. Domestic Partner Benefits was referred to the Finance Committee, which I chair. The other two were assigned (on my recommendation) to the Policy Committee. My committee will be holding its first meeting on DPB sometime in the second half of July. It is my intent to try to bring a domestic partner proposal to the full Board by our September meeting. I am confident that some version of it will pass the BOE.

"If it is fully implemented, people need to understand that this is just another small step in a larger struggle. The total inclusion of the gay and lesbian community as a group is equal rights and recognition is the first great civil rights movement this country has had to face. I am fully committed to it.

"The Task Force report states that although there is no district-wide survey measuring area harassment of LGBT students, incidents reported to the Task Force from 2003-2004 suggest that many RCSD teachers, staff and administrators remain uncomfortable with and uncertain how to address LGBT students' issues."

Some examples of this discomfort, from local high schools, are organizers of an Oct. 11 Coming Out Day observance being told that they could wear coming out t-shirts, but "They cannot pass out stuff" to a high school administration approving use of their building for a community workshop including an anti-gay marriage components administration concern over the formation and meeting of a Gay/straight Alliance student group, and their attempt to change its name to "Sexuality in Today's Society rather than... Gay/straight Alliance", and their proposal that individual students be given counseling rather than permitting them to establish a GSA.

"While the Board may be hearing this for the first time, students have been demanding this for years and it is my intent to try to bring a domestic partner proposal to the full Board by our September meeting. I am confident that some version of it will pass the BOE.

"It is my policy of the RCSD that verbal and physical harassment of students because of their race, color, creed, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or disability.

"The RCSD is committed to promoting a safe, orderly and stimulating school environment, supporting active teaching and learning, as stated in the District Code of Conduct. The RCSD acknowledges this includes the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered students to be educated in an environment free of fear and intimidation.

Increased attention to this section of policy is based on a lack of understanding and acknowledgement in past practices of District personnel.

"The policy of the RCSD that verbal and physical harassment of students because of their race, color, creed, national origin, religion, gender, disability, real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression will not be tolerated.

Employees of the RCSD are responsible for acting on incidents of harassment, threats, sexual harassment and physical assaults. Language and actions intending to harass others.

School Board continued on page 14

TOURISM continued from page 1

"Thank this is a unique and great opportunity to build a business coalition between Rochester and Rochester, while, at the same time, helping area businesses take advantage of this wonderful marketing opportunity," said Tavernese.

Image Out and the Gay Alliance want to send a message to the Toronto community that Rochester has a strong, vital gay community with exciting Pride Week activities each year, including the Parade and GAGV Picnic; a top-notch light film festival; strong connections with the city's high-quality cultural organizations and tourist attractions (including the George Eastman House, the RPO, Geva and the Lilac Festival); a network of bars, clubs and restaurants; access to the beautiful Finger Lakes region with its wineries, and a history of connections with civil rights movements, such as the 19th century anti-slavery and women's suffrage movements; both Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony are buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery.


The Gay Alliance will be taking a group to Toronto on the ferry on July 15. Couples who want to marry in Canada can make the trip; Universalist ministers will be standing by to marry them, and they can return that evening on the ferry, where the Alliance will host a party complete with music by DJ Chuck Argento. It will be a memorable and unusual wedding day.

However, travelers don't have to be planning a wedding to go on the trip. Anyone who is interested in taking the ferry to Toronto with the GAGV on July 15, for shopping, shows, art, and exploration of Toronto's Gay Village, can call Lynn Tavernese at 244-8640 for information and reservations.

Former West Bloomfield man guilty of sodomy; attorneys will appeal

BY JOHN RANDALL

After a four-day trial and over 12 hours of deliberation, an Ontario county jury in Dundas on June 25 found Rupert FOCES teacher Alan Carter, 57, guilty of sodomy, unlawful imprisonment and providing alcohol to a minor, based on the complaint of 17-year-old Jasic Nicholson.

Carter was owner of Alan's Antiques Alibi, where Nicholson was currently in Ontario County jail, with pending charges involving both buscars, unlawful possession of marijuana and a "road rage" incident.

Carter's attorneys plan an appeal. Sentencing for Allan Carter is set for Aug. 4; details will appear in the August Empty Closet.
Araujo jury deadlocks; defendants to be re-tried

Twenty months after the brutal slaying of Gwen Araujo, a transgender teenager from Newark, Calif., the jury has deadlocked on whether her attackers were guilty of first or second degree murder.

According to the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, none of the jurors were willing to settle for the lesser offense of manslaughter—despite efforts by defense attorneys in the case to argue that Gwen's killers were somehow justified because she did not disclose her transgender identity to them. The prosecutor already has stated that he will re-try the three defendants, Michael Magidson, Jose Merel, and Jason Cazares, for murder.

"Because the defense team tried to make this a trial about Gwen's gender identity instead of the defendants' conduct, a lot of us were anxious about this verdict," said Christopher Daley, Co-Director of the Transgender Law Center. "Even though I am disappointed by the delay in achieving justice for Gwen, I am heartened that those jurors refused to let these young men escape responsibility for their horrific choices.

Judge Harry Sheppard declared the jury "hopelessly deadlocked" after the jury foreman told him the panel of eight men and four women have been "unable to pass over the point of reasonable doubt. In my personal opinion, further deliberations would not yield a verdict."

As they were not able to acquit the three men of first-degree murder, the judge would not let them consider whether the men were guilty of the lesser charges of second-degree murder or manslaughter. The panel had deliberated for 10 days before giving up on reaching a decision. The 24-year-old defendants, Jason Cazares, Michael Magidson and Jose Merel, could serve up to 25 years to life in prison if convicted. In the case of Cazares and Merel, the jury was 10-2 against a first-degree murder. In Magidson's case, the jury had voted 7-5 in favor of a first-degree murder.

Judge Sheppard set a hearing for July 30 to schedule a new trial date.

On Oct. 14, 2002, 17-year-old Gwen Araujo was brutally killed by four men because she was transgender. She had been intimate with two of the men previously, and they had suspected that she was biologically female. All four men met to talk about their suspicions. They created what one killer testified was a "Tony Soprano-like plan to kill 'him' and get rid of the body." One week later they accosted Araujo, beat her for six hours, drove her body to a remote national park, and buried her in a shallow grave. The investigating detective described the overwhelming display of violence as "overkill."

Three of the four defendants were charged with first-degree murder with a hate crimes enhancement. Two of the defendants asserted the "gay panic" defense. The "gay panic" defense alleges that following an encounter with a person whom a straight-identified individual believes to be gay, that straight-identified individual becomes so terrified by implications for his own sexuality that he kills that person in an unhinged rage. When successful, this defense reduces a charge from murder to manslaughter, which can significantly lessen the sentence imposed. This reduction may occur despite the fact that these crimes are frequently characterized, as here, by gratuitous violence.

In Araujo's case, the defense argued that senseless brutality committed against Araujo was manslaughter, which carries a substantially shorter sentence than the charge of murder, because Araujo had "been pushed beyond reason by their discovery" that "Araujo had decently lived the men into having homosexual sex."

Deputy District Attorney Chris Lamiere rejected the defense claims. During his closing argument, Lamiere described the crime as a calculated murder. He said the defendants killed Araujo because of their own weaknesses, pointing out that S. Merel, Paul, also had sex with Araujo but walked away from the murder scene that night.

Matt Foreman, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, commented, "We are sickened that that the jury in the Gwen Araujo murder case deadlocked and a mistrial was declared. Our hearts and thoughts go out to Gwen's family and friends."

"The perpetrators committed an unpunished, pre-meditated, and horrifyingly violent murder, followed by a calculated attempt to blame their crime on the victim. Clearly, the only "reason" for this atrocity was that two of the perpetrators feltshamed that they had sex with someone who was not the intended transgender person. That this 'defence' is even allowed is a disgrace to our judicial system; even one juror brought that pathetic line to reflect the vitriol, hatred and loathing of transgender people that lives in our society."

"Today's decision is yet another example of the injustice that exists in our justice system. Perpetrators of similar, hate-motivated murders of transgender people have long escaped any punishment for their acts of violence. This mistrial is an example of that."

We commend the district attorney for continuing to push California school districts to pass over the point of reasonable doubt and stay focused on the need for such a law. I am sure that the judge's refusal to buy into the so-called "transgender panic" defense will offer some comfort to Gwen's family because the jury recognized Gwen's humanity and stayed focused on the facts."

This case also highlights the importance of protecting transgender youth. "One of the most profound messages that must be learned from Gwen's murder is that hate crimes are preventable," said Matt Foreman, Executive Director of the Gay Straight Alliance Network. "Students, parents, teachers, administrators, and advocates must continue to work with California school districts to implement effective transgender inclusive anti-bias curriculum at all age levels."

People interested in supporting efforts to eliminate anti-transgender bias from California public schools are encouraged to make financial contributions to the Gwen Araujo Memorial Fund by visiting www.horizonsfoundation.org or calling Julie Dorf at (415) 398-2333 ext. 103. After the jury decision, Araujo's uncle David Guerrerostated he said more fully realized "the existence in society that transgenders have to face." He and the family were angered at having to sit through days of testimony "tearing Gwen down."

"Words cannot express how distressed we are at hearing this—in particular for the families of Araujo, Vanessa Edwards, and Foster, chair of the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) said upon hearing the news. "It's not an acquittal, but it's a disappointing conclusion nevertheless."

"I was stunned—I don't know what to say," said Matthew Guerrerostate that he was closest to the victim. She noted that Gwen's mother, Sylvia Guerreroreferred to her as "extremely" affected by the mistrial. "She's expressing every emotion there is. She's very upset about having to go through the trial again."

Jason Cazares' defense attorney Tony Serra, said he was disappointed that the jury was hung on the murder charges.

"I think they made their judgment based on emotion," said Serra, expressing his frustration that only one or two jurors held up the process.

Gwen Smith, founder of Remembering Gwen, said, "The defense lawyers know how to sell snake oil. I find it sad that the jury found themselves taken in."

NTAC urged the District Attorney to try for a retrial as soon as practicable.

S. Carolina, others reject amendment on marriage rights

Despite feverish last-minute efforts, the South Carolina state legislature ended its regular session on June 3 without enacting legislation that sought to prohibit not only the recognition of same sex marriages performed in any other jurisdiction but to void "simultaneous public act, record, or judicial proceeding" that extends benefits to "nonmarital relationships" such as domestic partnerships or civil unions.

One of several so-called "Super DOMA" (Defense of Marriage Act) bills passed the state House of Representatives by a 93 to 7, but stalled in the Senate.

"This is a major victory for the nation's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community," said Matt Foreman, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Executive Director. "It shows that those who want to undermine the rights of every American, not just gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans, are losing. Gay Americans in South Carolina and everywhere can be proud of the work you did to defeat this legislation."

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As Williamson was brutally murdered on the road for half a kilometer. They shouted "battyman died..." The crowd was saying "Give him to us. Let him kill him! He's a stonewall!"

Amnesty Int'l challenges hate violence against gays in Jamaica

The crowd stood around watching, chanting "battyman, battyman, battyman" (a derogatory term for a gay man) before gathering around him as he lay on the sidewalk. The crowd, beat, punched and kicked him, for the road for half a kilometer. They shouted "battyman fi dead..." The crowd was saying "Give him to us. Let him kill him! He's a stonewall!"

- As reported to J-FLAG, Jamaica's only lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender organization, the dead man was a member of the Jamaican Forum for Lesbians All-SexUALs and Gays (J-FLAG), and one of the few individuals prepared to speak publicly about their sexuality and the persecution and promotion of all human rights. The authorities must ensure that this murder is fully and impartially investigated.

The murder follows a report from AI, which is a member of the International Network of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender organizations, that concerns about human rights activists to have been killed, tortured and ill-treated at the hands of law enforcement officials have failed to protect victims of violence, the number of men and women who report abuse is significantly lower than the number of actual incidents.

For more information on abuses against gay people in Jamaica, and to see the Action, please visit action.amnestyusa.org/action/index.aspx?step=2&item=10884.

Intersex hearing in S.F. is first in the United States

On May 27, the San Francisco Human Rights Commission held a historic hearing on the Intersex issue. It was the first public hearing on Intersex issues in the United States.

At the beginning of the hearing, Marcus Arana, a discrimination investigator with the Human Rights Commission, briefly laid out the reasons why SF HRC had received complaints that intersex people were being subjected to infant genital surgery for the purposes of sex assignment. The hearing was definitely the theme of the parade. On one float couples in tuxedos and gowns danced to the "Chop of Love," and on another rainbow balloons and streamers snaked to the throngs along the route.

On June 13, tens of thousands of people from Washington, D.C., took part in the Capital Pride Street Festival on Pennsylvania Avenue between Third and Seventh streets. About a quarter million people gathered along the parade route used for President Ronald Reagan's funeral cortege for the annual Pride parade. For many it was a fitting statement marking Reagan's ambivalence towards people with AIDS. Washington, D.C., was the site of the first gay pride parade in 1979, which was the first year of the Reagan presidency and AIDS was beginning to make its presence known throughout America.

Halfway across the country, thousands marched in Lansing, Mich. "It's fun to feel like we're the majority once in a while," said Steve Smithson, spokesperson for Michigan Pride, the group sponsoring the 16th annual rally. "It's extremely empowering for people to feel that they're not invisible."

Drawing attention to Michigan laws that prevent gay marriage, 150 couples participated in a symbolic commitment ceremony on the steps of the statehouse. About 15,000 people attended the pride event.

In Cincinnati, marchers, people in wheelchairs, on skates, scooters, bikes, and in cars and on foot rolled from Burnett Woods in Clifton to Hoffner Park in Northside. About 15,000 people cheered them on, clapping and waving colorful flags and balloons.

Thousands were on hand to celebrate Gay Pride in Salt Lake City. The party atmosphere had a distinctly serious note. This November, the issue of gay marriage reached a vote in Utah. The state legislature passed a bill to put the issue to a vote of considering a change to the state constitution to ban same sex marriages.

In Europe, more than 50,000 people crowded into Hamburg, Germany for the annual Europride celebration. The third year of this famous "Five Breaks Barriers". Next year Europride will take place in Oslo, Norway.

Don't miss this! GAGV Picnic, July 11, Geneseo Valley Park!
Baptist Council recognizes ordination of Rev. Will Seals as an openly gay minister

BY SUSAN JORDAN

The Reverend Will Seals, Registrar and Director of Student Life at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, was unanimously approved on May 16 to receive recognition for his ordination by the Permanent Council for the Rochester/Genesee Region of American Baptist Churches.

Rev. Seals, 34, is the first openly gay, African American, ordained American Baptist minister in the Rochester/Genesee region. He was elated to receive unanimous recognition, and especially because it came just before the May 17 legalization of same-sex marriage in Massachusetts, and on the 50th anniversary of the historic Brown v. Board of Education decision, which integrated public schools.

Empty Closet: How long did the recognition process take, and what was that like?

Will Seals: It took close to a year. First I needed to be a member of the American Baptists (having originally been a member of the National Missionary Baptist Church, an African American convention of the Baptist denomination). I formally joined Lake Avenue Baptist Church in May 2003, after a year of going to that church. I then met with the Reverend Alan Nugent, executive minister for the American Baptist Church of the Rochester/Genesee region. I have been ordained for the past five years. My ordination took place in Austin, Texas, which was one of the places where I grew up (my father was on active service in the Air Force). That was my home church and I went back for my ordination.

A number of people had approached me about going through this process, and it was time for me to do this. In terms of call and direction, it was the right step for me to take. I work at an American Baptist-affiliated school, and I think to pursue opportunities in the church, more doors will be open to me. I was already seminary-trained, but one thing I needed to do for the region was to have a professional assessment done. It included psychological testing, and a meeting with a facilitator, Rev. Nugent, to go over that.

The next thing was that I went before the Ordination Review Board for the region, and they assigned me a mentor – it was Darrell Lance. I had to write a statement of faith, which was only six pages, not very long. The second meeting with the Board was to talk about the statement of faith. Then they voted for me to go before the Permanent Council.

We met at the Parma Baptist Church on May 16 and they voted that day, and the vote was unanimous.

EC: How will this affect other gay or lesbian Baptist ministers? Will the local Council be challenged by the national denomination, as was the case when Rev. Janie Spahr was called to Downtown United Presbyterian Church?

WS: It's a contentious issue with most mainline Protestant denominations, including the American Baptists. I think the Rochester-Genesee Region has been known as more accepting. That's due in part to the Executive Minister, Rev. Nugent (an Executive Minister is the equivalent of a bishop).

In the past, when gay or lesbian candidates have come before the Permanent Council, there have been abstentions. With regard to my meeting with the council, because I have become vocal and outspoken about the marriage issue, there was some fear that my meeting with the Council would be controversial. I didn't know what would happen, whether there would be clergy there who would challenge me about being gay, and my support for marriage.

I did mention that I am gay, so that was all out in the open. But not a question was raised. I'm hoping that this will become a non-issue. While this region is pretty accepting, there are theologically conservative congregations in the area.

EC: How long have you been out, and what was the process like for you?

WS: It probably started when I came...
back to Rochester in 2001 to work at Colgate, where I got my Masters of Divinity. I'd say the process started then, but it has been within the past year that it's evolved. It has come as a surprise to me. If you'd known me a year ago, you wouldn't have suspected I'd become so open. One thing that contributed to my coming out was the realization that I could serve the church and be gay. I thought I'd have to choose one or the other. It was an issue of integrity to me, to be myself, then to focus on my career.

Actually, people were recognizing me as being a minister, and then when I told people I was gay, it was a non-issue. I started thinking maybe there were some opportunities for me to be myself and to be open about my orientation, and still have a career in the church, if I want that. I do.

Doing some work with the GAGV was what started me putting my foot in the water. But what really spurred me was President Bush's announcement about supporting the Constitutional amendment. I was angry about it, and began to see this as a civil rights issue for this generation, and I wanted to be part of that.

I feel compelled as an African American, and also being gay and being a member of the clergy. It really started to take off at the same time as my recognition process. I never anticipated those two things would come together — and I never anticipated I'd be this outspoken, I've had some local publicity and been known as a spokesperson as being a minister, and then when I told people I was gay, it was a non-issue. I

Forces for Good:

Beth Bloom organizes Hat Auction to benefit women with breast cancer

BY JANET SANTIAGO

Breast cancer is a serious illness that claims over 40,000 women's lives every year. One of these lives belonged to Dr. Trudy Baran, a woman diagnosed with breast cancer in 1984. Although it affected her physically and mentally, she took a stand. Trudy was a member of the Rochester Women's Action for Peace, and also a founding member of the Women's Peace Encampment. She was the driving force behind her congregation granting family memberships to gay and lesbian partners during the late 1980s. She devoted herself, her time, and her intelligence to make changes that would benefit the gay and lesbian community of Rochester. Fellow community members, lead by Beth Bloom, have joined to put together a hat auction in Trudy's memory. I had a chance to converse with Beth Bloom and ask her a few questions about this special, important event.

Q: What really spurred me (to come out) was President Bush's announcement about supporting the Constitutional amendment. I was angry... and began to see this as a civil rights issue for this generation, and I wanted to be part of that.

WS: I've experienced some overt racism and homophobia! EC: Have you personally experienced both racism and homophobia?

WS: I've experienced some overt racism throughout my life. As life goes on, it gets harder to tell. Being gay — it's an interesting question. I can say I've been fortunate. What's been helpful to me is having a supportive community at work, in church, with friends. I can't say I've experienced prejudice as a gay man. It's hard to say.

That's where I start to raise questions about involvement in ministry. I was surprised there were no abstentions from the Permanent Council. The fact that the vote was unanimous may be a turning point. Rev. Melanie May, who works at Colgate, came from the Church of the Brethren, a small Protestant organization, and was not Baptist. She made a milestone last year, when her ordination was recognized by the Permanent Council. Rev. Bill Taber at Lake Avenue transferred his ordination to the region within the past couple of years.

WS: If someone is interested in designing a hat, what are the guidelines?

A: The auction is to benefit women being treated for breast cancer. The general theme is HATS... design and construct hats and hat themed art and jewelry to be auctioned... all pieces must be of the highest professional quality. Artists can find out more from the website.

Please help the Trudy Baran Memorial Breast Cancer Hat Auction by showing your support. If you have any questions about tickets or the auction itself, you can visit the official website: http://www.hatauction.org for more information. You can also email hat-auction@bluef.org or call Beth Bloom at 585-256- 2214 with your questions and/or comments.

"Breast cancer silenced Trudy Baran's voice five years ago, but not her spirit," Beth Bloom said.

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A LETTER TO MY BEST FRIEND, STEVEN POWERS
ON THE DEATH OF FORMER PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

BY MATT FOREMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN TASK FORCE

June 6, 2004

Dear Steven,

So much wish you were here today to tell me what to do. You would know if it's right to comment on the death of former President Reagan, or if you should just let pass the endless paeans to his greatness. But you're not here. The policies of the Reagan administration saw to that.

Yes, Steven, I do feel for the family and friends of the former President. The death of a loved one is always a profoundly sad occasion, and Mr. Reagan was loved by many. I have tremendous empathy and respect for Mrs. Reagan, who lovingly cared for him through the excruciating years of Alzheimer's.

Sorry, Steven, but even on this day I'm not able to set aside the shaming anger I feel over Reagan's non-response to the AIDS epidemic or for the continuing failure of the government to respond to the crisis. If the government's response was dictated by the grip of evangelical Christian conservatives who saw gay people as deserving of the shameless duplicity of his administration's policies.

Reagan's Rochester Link

BY SEBASTIAN WHITE

It seems eerily ironic that former President Ronald Reagan died when he did, on the fifth of June, for exactly 24 years earlier, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, stumping for the first time there were 60,000 reported cases of full-blown AIDS and 30,000 deaths. I remember that day, Steven — you were staying round-the-clock in Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center for your dying partner of over 15 years, Bruce Cooper. It was another 41 days of utter silence and inaction, how many other dear friends did we see sicken and die in the public eye?

Is it personal? Yes, Steven. I know for a fact that you would be alive today if the Reagan administration had mounted even a tepid response to the epidemic. If protests in the early years. It's now been 24 years later, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, stumping for the first time there were 60,000 reported cases of full-blown AIDS and 30,000 deaths. I remember that day, Steven — you were staying round-the-clock in Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center for your dying partner of over 15 years, Bruce Cooper. It was another 41 days of utter silence and inaction, how many other dear friends did we see sicken and die in the public eye?

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Wed. July 7: **Theatre Night at Geva: Camelot** Community Business Forum Fundraiser for Pride. Reception 6:30pm, Camelot at 7pm: info@streetsofpride.com

Thurs. July 8: **Community Business Forum Pride Social**
RMSC, 657 East Ave., 5:30-7:30pm: info@streetsofpride.com

Sat. July 10: **Pride Storytime** 2 pm, Borders/Henrietta. A reading of children’s stories celebrating lives of LGBT families. 244-8640

Saturday, July 10: **Sweat for Pride at Muthers** (9pm until ?) COAP contact person: Tom Meyers, 454-3609

Sun. July 11: **GAGV Pride Picnic at Genesee Valley Park**
(1-7pm) Interfaith Worship Service held at site: 11:30 am -12:30pm

Mon. July 12: **Pride Youth Dance** hosted by the GAGV Youth Group, 5-9pm at Muthers. $5 at door. Contact: Toby Greenfield at 244-8640, x13

Tues. July 13: **COAP Pride Volleyball & Picnic** at Ellison Park at 5:30pm Hotdogs, hamburgers & cold pop provided. Guests are requested to bring a dish to pass. Group will gather at “Roadside” Pavilion. COAP contact person: Tom Meyers, 454-3609

Wed. July 14: **Free film, Journey to a Hate-Free Millennium**
7-9pm, hosted by Interfaith Advocates, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Avenue, rcarter2@rochester.rr.com

Thurs. July 15: **GAGV Toronto Marriage Day Trip** (all day event) via the Fast Ferry. You don’t have to be getting married to go on this fabulous day-trip to Toronto! Contact: Lynn Tavernese, 244-8640

Thurs. July 15: **Community Business Forum Pride Social**
Rochester Museum & Science Center, 657 East Ave., 5:30-7:30pm info@streetsofpride.com or website: www.streetsofpride.com

Sat. July 17: **Gay Pride Fun Walk/Run** with Frontrunners
9am, George Eastman House parking lot, 546-4222 or rochfr@ww.com or website: http://groups.msn.com/rochesternyfrontrunners

Sat. July 17: **Rochester Pride Parade & Cultural Festival**
Parade begins at the corners of East Ave. & Strathallan/Prince St., 5pm, ends Manhattan Square Park. www.streetsofpride.com or email: streetsofpride@rochester.rr.com.

Sun. July 18: **Rainbow Seniors Potluck** Ellison Park, 4pm. All ages. Bring dish to pass & beverage. 244-6369 or email: rswny@rainbowseniorswny.org; web: www.rainbowseniorswny.org.

Thurs. July 22: **ImageOut Fundraiser** Little Theatre, 7pm *Revolution*, starring Margaret Cho. Tickets $10/$12 at door. Tickets available online at www.imageout.org and at Guttenburg Books, Outlandish and The Pride Connection

For the latest updates, see the GAGV website: www.gayalliance.org
Break a Sweat for Pride 2004

Rochester’s seventh annual

Break a Sweat for Pride

Saturday July 10th 2004

for Rochester’s Gay Pride Week

-at-

Muther's
40 South Union Street

$5.00 @ the door
18+ with proper ID

-sponsored by-

The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley
Come Out And Play
Empire State Pride Agenda

-and-

www.gayrochester.com
Pride Week 2004
Join family & friends at two of the highlight events during Pride Week.

Pride Picnic
Sunday, July 11
1-7pm

Pride Parade
Saturday, July 17
5pm

3rd Annual Christmas In July
Non-Profit Fundraiser to benefit G.R.E.A.T.
Suggested $5.00 donation at the door,
50/50 Raffle
Silent Auction
Passed Hors d'oeuvres
Lots of Fun and Festivities

Don’t forget every Sunday Tea Dance
Starting at 4:00
Music with Chuck Berry
Food and Drink Specials

Sunday, July 25th
6:00 P.M. - 2:00 A.M.
Viking Resort
on Keuka Lake

The Viking Resort is located on beautiful Keuka Lake, the Princess of the Finger Lakes region of New York State. We have 1000 feet of private lakeshore for swimming and fishing, and nightly bonfires. Rowboats are free for guests’ use and we have a variety of boats for rent. Docking facilities are available for privately-owned boats.

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Court dismisses changes against New Paltz’s Mayor Jason West

On June 7, a state Supreme Court judge ruled that Mayor Jason Wot of New Paltz must stop marrying same-sex couples who do not have licenses. On June 10, charges in the New Paltz Justice Court were dismissed.

“With remarkably clear vision, the New Paltz, New York Justice Court has seen what anyone who has approached the question thoughtfully knows to be the truth: that there’s no fair reason for keeping same-sex couples from marrying. The light people of New York and the entire nation, and indeed anyone who cares about fairness, owe a debt of gratitude to Jason West for having had the courage to stand up to this terrible unfairness,” said James Esseks, Litigation Director of the ACLU’s Lesbian and Gay Rights Project.

Utica County Supreme Court Justice Michael Kavanagh had said on June 7 that the state legislature must decide who may marry in New York. Until such time as the law changes, West as mayor "may not question the constitutionality of a statute and refuse to comply with its provisions." West was sued by the Liberty Counsel, a Florida-based conservative anti-gay group, which argued that he violated his oath of office.

"We urge the Senate Majority to take up and pass the measure before the end of the session," continued Van Capelle. "The Senate majority has also made supportive comments about giving hospital visitation rights to same-sex couples. In the April 16 edition of the New York Daily News, the Majority Leader said, "There are civil liberties people have a right to. For instance, people of the same sex live together for 20 years and one of them gets very ill, and right now one of those partners can’t go make a visit or get pertinent medical information." That’s something we ought to look at and correct."
25 gay couples sue NYS for marriage rights, with support from city of Ithaca

BY BETHI SHAPIRO
365GAY.COM NEWSCENTER/ NEW YORK BUREAU

Twenty-five same-sex couples, with the support of the city of Ithaca, are using the State of New York for the right to marry.

In March, Ithaca Mayor Carolyn Peterson announced that the city in upstate New York would begin accepting applications for marriage licenses from same-sex couples, although legally, the suit must also name the city as a defendant.

Known locally as The Ithaca 50, the group's lawyers said on June 2 they plan to argue that the Department of Health and the city are denying gay couples equal protection under the law.

"By refusing to issue marriage licenses to these plaintiffs, the City and State have unconstitutionally interfered with the plaintiffs' privacy rights, and have denied them equal protection of the laws by making impermissible distinctions based on gender and sexual orientation," said Ithaca attorney Richard Sustrak.

Mariette Geldenhuys, the second lawyer in the case said that the couples have been excluded from a broad array of statutory protections and benefits afforded by New York's marriage law, as well as denied benefits and protections offered by employers and other private entities which rely on the State's definition of marriage.

Three other lawsuits also are challenging New York state's ban on same-sex marriage.

Eleven same-sex couples, including New York State Assemblyman Danny O'Donnell and his partner John Banta, are asking a court to strike down the ban. O'Donnell is the brother of Rosie O'Donnell.

Both Empire State Pride Agenda and Lambda Legal also have cases pending.

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Empire State Pride Agenda staff says hi...

Empire State Pride Agenda staff members attended the annual Spring Dinner in Rochester on May 1, from left: Deputy Executive Director Carmen Vasquez and Executive Director Alan Van Capelle; clockwise from top left: Christopher Corrimer, community organizer; Tim Stahl, director of special events; Ross Levi, director of public policy and government affairs; Jim O'Herrin, Albany program associate; Joe Taner, communications director; Hayden LaForte, database and website manager; Nora Yates, coalitions coordinator; Mark Enselman, director of finance and administration; Jose Jorge, volunteer coordinator and Joshua Tjarden, special events and database coordinator.

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Word and World School visits Rochester, GAGV

BY TODD PLANK

Over 60 visitors from the Word and World School packed the GAGV Community Center last month to learn about the history of the Gay Alliance and the Rochester LGBT community it serves.

GAGV Community Education Outreach Coordinator Todd Plank and Michael Booth from the Men of Color Health Awareness Project (MOCHA) outlined the missions of their respective agencies and fielded questions from the audience.

The group was then escorted over to the GAGV's new Youth Learning Center, 875 E. Main St., where they heard from Youth Services Directors Toby Greenfield about the planned expansion of the Program, which is to include after school activities, as well as extended evening and weekend hours.

Several members of the Sunday Youth Group were on hand to share their personal coming out stories and talk about the special challenges they face as queer youth.

The theme of the 2004 Word & World School, which took place in Rochester from June 12 through the 19th, was "Gender and Sexuality: the Struggle for Inclusion and Justice".

The focus of W & W's fourth school was on the social, economic, and ecclesiastical changes engendered by faith based feminism, womanist, mujerista, and lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgendered (light) movements. The School takes place in a different location each year.

By studying the theologies, visions, strategies, and artistic creations developed in and through these movements, it is the hope of organizers to reclaim long-silenced voices, to foster new exchanges and insights, to cultivate our communities and coalitions, and to celebrate the spirit.

Several members of the Rochester LGBT community were among the participants of the week-long school. We welcome local attendees to share their insights from the conference with Empty Closet Editor Susan Jordan, so that they can be shared with our readers in future issues.

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Thomas Warfield, Betty Meyer are
Parade grand marshals

Internationally acclaimed as a dancer, choreographer, singer, songwriter, and teacher, on July 17 Thomas Warfield will add to this impressive list a leading role as Greater Rochester's Gay Pride Parade. The parade will start at Strehlhan and East Ave. at 5 p.m. and follow the same route as last year to Manhattan Square Park for the Festival. Also sharing the spotlight in this parade is this year's Grand Marshal Betty Meyer.

"We chose Warfield and Meyer to be a special part of this year's parade," says Community Business Forum Chairman David Kessel, "not only for their contribution to the overall fabric of Rochester, but because they have long represented our community with devotion, style, and grace." Considering the theme of this year's parade, "Fashion," both Warfield and Meyer are the perfect fit.

Thomas Warfield is the founder and artistic director of PeaceArts International, and director of dance and faculty member at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at the Rochester Institute of Technology where he also serves on the President's Commission on Pluralism. He is associate director of Kaledioskope Dance Theatre at the New York Institute of Dance, and for 10 years he has been vocal soloist at both Unity Church in Rochester and the Chilmark Community Church on Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts. Having a minister for a mother and a conductor for a father, and being the nephew of internationally renowned singers William Warfield and Leontyne Price, it is no small wonder that at the age of four Thomas Warfield began a career on the stage. His 16 years with the Opera Theatre of Rochester and performances with the New York City Opera and Metropolitan Opera afforded Warfield the experience of working with many of the world's leading artists, including directors Franco Zeffirelli and Spike Lee, composers John Adams and Marvin Hamlish, scientists Carl Sagan, singers Placido Domingo and Beverly Sills, and many others.

In June, Warfield received the Unsung Heroes Award from Mayor Johnson and the City of Rochester, and in July he will be teaching at the New York Finger Lakes Dance Festival. This summer he will start recording his second CD (yet untitled)."Eighty-something" Betty Meyer is also considered an accomplished musician. A graduate of Eastman School of Music, she has mastered many instruments, but is best known as an accordionist-extraordinaire. Meyer often plays the accordion at Bullwinkle's with a piano backup, and sometimes a drum, cymbal, and tambourine band. "She always encourages the audience to join in with their own instruments, or simply to sing," says Kessel. "And it doesn't matter whether you're talented -- as long as you're wearing a hat or a boa." Meyer has entertained for numerous non-profit organizations, nursing home residents, veterans, and animal protection groups. "She has always given of herself," Kessel adds, "and has given the community many years of great fun and entertainment." A good friend and former Bullwinkle's employee who has known her for 29 years, considers Meyer to be a gracious individual who will go out of her way to help anyone, and certainly will do anything to make people enjoy life -- which is what she does best. Doing their best again this year is Rochester's BASSically TREBLEmakers Community Band, which will be marching in the parade with the Buffalo Pride Band and another new band from Ohio, the Cleveland Lesbian/Gay/Allies Concert/Marching Band. Also returning this year are members from South Florida's Flamingo Freedom Band of Ft. Lauderdale, Fl. In keeping with the Rochester Gay Pride theme this year, the bands will be playing, among many pieces, "Those Boots Are Made for Walkin'," and "The Gay Way March." The Cultural Festival takes place immediately following the parade at Manhattan Square Park. Admission to the festival is free. Attendees who wish to purchase alcoholic beverages are required to obtain a wristband prior to entering the festival grounds, any time after 4:30 p.m. VIP passes may be purchased at Capers, 54 Park Ave., for $25 ($30 day of event). VIP treatment includes complimentary open bar and food in the VIP tent at the festival site. "We believe this event will be our best ever Pride Parade and Cultural Festival," said Kessel, "which would not have been possible without the financial support of the members of the Rochester Gay Business Forum who generously contributed throughout the year."
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AIDSWalk 2004 takes place on June 6; raises $80,000 for HIV/AIDS services

AAA Bikes Empire State AIDS Ride Team and Genesee River Riders supported the Walk, sponsored by AIDS Rochester. There were over 600 walkers and 120 volunteers, and $80,000 was raised, netting 74 percent more than last year.

Both two and four-legged walkers finish the 5K route. Dogs were invited as sponsored walkers for the first time this year.

Hedwig (Aaron Berk) performs at the after-Walk party at Cobbs Hill Park. Berk turned in a terrific, high-energy performance in Hedwig and the Angry Inch at Water Street Music Hall in May and June. (Review on page B14.)

More NYC News...

STONEWALL DEBATE: NY Historical Society, Manhattan, where a panel discussion and book launch took place on June 2 for the new book entitled “Stonewall: The Riots That Sparked the Gay Revolution” by David Carter. Pictured is a gay activist confronting Seymour Pine (R), the NYPD police officer who led the June 27, 1969 raid, speaking publicly for the first time. The New York Historical Society celebrated Pride Month by hosting the book launch.

TAIWAN’S AWARD: The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission 10th Annual Felipa de Souza Awards was held June 7 at the Open Society Institute. The recipient of the award was The Gender/Sexuality Rights Association of Taiwan (pictured is Wang Ping, who accepted the award.)
**NYC NEWS**

**CHITA:** Chita Rivera at Manhattan's LGBT Community Center. on June 3. Rivera is featured in a new documentary entitled "Broadway: The Golden Age".

**CROSSING OVER:** Marriage Equality lead a march across the Brooklyn Bridge to demand equal rights for same sex marriage on May 23. ALL PHOTOS THIS PAGE BY DOUG MESSZLER.

**REALITY POLITICS:** Black Gay Activist Keith Boykin announces his campaign in New York for Showtime’s new reality show “American Candidate”. The campaign kickoff announcement and rally took place at the LGBT Community Center, on June 8. Pictured are Keith Boykin and his life partner/campaign manager, Nathan Williams. For more info, visit: www.americancandidate.com.

**ASYLUM SEEKERS:** On May 27, at the LGBT Community Center in Manhattan, The Queer Immigration Rights Project presented a panel discussion on the challenges faced by LGBT asylum seekers, including those detained by the Department of Homeland Security, who fled persecution in their home countries. Pictured is Pradeep Singla.

**SEX AND THE CINEMA:** A Tribeca Film Festival panel discussion took place on May 8, entitled “Sex and the Cinema”, at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center. Above: John Cameron Mitchell, author of Hedwig and the Angry Inch, and actress Glenn Close.

**QUEENS:** Right: The Queens Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade was June 6 in Jackson Heights, Queens. Pictured are participants watching the end of the parade.
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VPH CAN BE 100 TIMES MORE CONTAGIOUS THAN HIV. GET VACCINATED.

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Ask your healthcare provider about protection against VPH today. Vaccination is often covered by insurance. A list of community and public health clinics offering free or low-cost vaccination is available at www.hepclinics.com.

*VPH includes hepatitis A and hepatitis B. Hepatitis C is not more preventable.
ImageOut presents a screening of Margaret Cho's new movie, Revolution, on July 22 at the Little Theatre.

The film starts at 7 p.m., and tickets are $10 in advance and $12 at the door. They are available at www.imageout.org. Gutenburg Books, Outlandish Video, and Pride Connection.

In Revolution, Cho returns to the screen with the same unbridled, no-holds-barred humor that characterized her previous films. She travels through Thailand’s red light districts, witnesses the explosion of childbirth, barters sex for household chores, Revolutionizes her self esteem, and copes with her lower ex-boyfriend and, of course, with her new world-famous mother.

Filmed live at the Wiltham Theatre in Los Angeles, in 2003, Revolution stars Cho and Bruce Daniels.

Montreal presents Pride Fest July 26-Aug. 1

Montreal's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Pride Festival, 12th edition, will take place from July 26 to Aug. 1.

Montreal is a city of tongues. French and English tongues engaged in an intense love affair with culture and diversity. The city has taste, flavor, sex appeal. The city is bi (-lingual that you can never be sure if you are in French or English). But no other festival is more beloved or anticipated in this city than Divers/Cite, cultural metropolis, an international urban capital. Located in the province of Quebec, Montreal is a warm multicultural city where the queers are ubiquitous: the boys, the girls, and those anywhere in between. The city is bi (lingual that you can never be sure if you are in French or English), and between the lines of French and English there are the city's two main languages.

Montreal is also a city of free outdoor festivals and the summer is full of them. But no other festival is more beloved or anticipated in this city than Divers/Cite – Montreal's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered pride celebration.

What sets Divers/Cite apart from many of its counterparts is its cultural component. The Divers/Cite cultural festival is one filled with a number of free outdoor high-quality shows, from July 26 till Aug. 1, such as Boulevard des rêves (drums and song), Cachaco (Latin extravagata), Seaguard (electro punk and rock), La Grande Danse (massive House party) and the pître de résistance – Masca, la nuit des drags, without a doubt the biggest, zaniest drag show of that kind of that year. We had classes every day in speech and voice, which are two totally different things, movement, combat, scene study, text work.

The Empty Closet, on Saturday, July 31, attracts participants who stroll the streets of Montreal, the LG BT pride Parade is a blazing succession of colour, community, sass and sexiness. In addition to the free outdoor events, Divers/Cite also throws a number of wicked indoor parties, the smack which from which will linger on your lips: Homoroma, Lesbomonde and Pride Ball. Tickets are already on sale. For up to date information on the events and performers and to purchase tickets, check Divers/Cite's Web site: www.diverscites.org or call (514)285-4011.

Buffalo's CEPA Gallery shows Deviant Bodies

CEPA's Deviant Bodies is an exhibition that explores the margins of contemporary gay male culture. Representing CEPA's contribution to Gay Pride Month, this exhibit opened with a reception on June 25, and runs through Aug. 21.

Throughout the course of its 30-year history, CEPA has proudly presented the work of gay and lesbian artists in its large, them-based exhibitions, but Deviant Bodies is its first show specifically focused on the gay community. In fact, it is the first significant exhibition of queer visual art in Western New York. In this era of the “positive” gay whites male assimilating into contemporary mainstream culture, Deviant Bodies presents an alternative image, one that celebrates diversity and individuality and provides a variety of perspectives, from that of the young African American to the Canadian senior citizen to the Radical Faerie.


Deviant Bodies continued on page 2
Deviant Bodies
continued from previous page
N.Y., and Alix Kiril, Buffalo, N.Y.


In the book's main essay, A Baltimore Essay, Photography, Sexuality, Community, Tyler Curtain writes, "There's a desperate dynamism in Badertscher's Baltimore photographs: they are intense, angry, pungently erotic. For the past thirty-odd years, Badertscher has used his camera to record prostitutes and hustlers, petty thieves and addicts, queers and performance artists, transvestites, strippers, and drug dealers. The people who step into and out of the frame of these photos were his friends, lovers, erotic fixtures, acquaintances, tricks, street kids, and pastry bakers who wanted attention and affirmation. Badertscher's art takes the feel, the excitement of a scene and transforms it to the surface of the photo. It's an extraordinary, arresting effect... The art of this trick is, in part, an artlessness. Badertscher is a self-taught photographer who respects and teaches off of the personalities and lives that his subjects bring to his portraits.

Horace Mayfield will present work spanning from his earliest pieces when he lived in Socorro, New Mexico, through his middle period when he moved to a trailer park in Central El Paso, to the present day where he lives in the self-rented Villa Pomplemi, a purple Roman-like prairie house, in downtown El Paso, Texas. Mayfield's works depict apocalyptic visions of death and redemption. Within these powerful visions on the one hand, there is a physical sense of religious spirituality can be felt. These works, consisting of a variety of everyday materials, display an uneasy continuity of the cheerfully bright with the subtly disturbing.

New works to be presented in this exhibition are The Catullus Covering Carline, The Cleavage of Juarez, Men Without Shadows and lastly a new piece inspired by Antonio Poliziano's engraving, circa 1460, The Battle of Naked Men. At the exhibition opening, Texan sculptor, and close personal friend of Mayfield, James Magee, read from the works of Catullus, while composer Douglas Cohen created sonic textures from Magee's spoken text. Cohen has also composed a sound installation based on Catullus' texts to accompany the Mayfield exhibition.

Keith Gernerek will be presenting a retrospective of his photographic work. A continuing body he describes in the following passage.

"The closet doors have opened, in some places, tanding just outside these closet doors, I have had the opportunity to photography gay life in the studio, in the streets and in the woods. These photos show a life that celebrates itself, through the construction and illusion of what heterosexist hegemony and fights for its rights to simply be. Here is the beauty and vision and heart of drag queens, the mixing of artistry and activism by AIDS activists, Radical Fagies, butches and femmes, gay male nuts, and fierce pitty youth in the multifaceted world of the city. Make community to welcome and provide a place. It is a place that is rich with history and culture in the making."

Meg & the Clams to perform at fund-raiser for Rochester’s Zinko Films

Zinko Films announces a July 29 concert by Meg and the Clams to raise funds for their feature-length comedy, "Getting Personal," which will be filmed in Rochester, beginning in the fall.

Meg and the Clams will kick off an evening of high energy fun that includes food and beverage, a silent auction of five fine art works, presented by the 10 minute screening of Zinko Films' work. The event runs from 6-8 p.m., Thursday, July 29, on the spacious back patio of the hotel at 600 East Ave. Parking is available behind the building in the lot located at 7 Prince St. Tickets cost $10 and are available at the door.

Raptors beat Maine Freeze in first win, then lose to Philadelphia Phoenix

BY JENNIE BOWKER

The Sunday after the Rochester Raptors' 2004 season final was rough, a day to "pleasure the eye," as the phrase goes. Philadelphia Phoenix sent the Raptors home from Ambler, Pennsylvania, in the wee hours that Sunday, tired and defeated, having outscored Rochester's pro women's football team 58-0, on Saturday, June 12.

Rochester's twenty or so brave players are part of a 40-woman Philadelphia team roster, and never quite made it off the ground that Saturday. Although the team was composed of women's injuries, Raptors came home with the usual bruises, sprains and sore muscles, and more pain piled up on top of that, internal and external.

In sharp contrast was the May 29 victory against Maine Freeze, in which the Raptors scored three touchdowns to win 22-14. On their home field at East Rochester High School, the Raptors trailied going into halftime, but persisted and more pain piled up on top of that, internal and external.

Jeffrey Byrd is a photographer and performance artist whose work has been exhibited throughout the United States. He has had solo exhibitions in New York, Minneapolis, Philadelphia and Portland. He has performed at Lincoln Center, DCTV, Greenwich House and the Alternative Museum in New York, Chicago's N.A.M.E. gallery, Boston's Institute for Contemporary Art, Fall Night, Los Angeles. Byrd's elegantly minimal art explores the metaphoric potential of the human body through video, movement, original music and otherworldly vocals. Much of his work connects with the spiritual and translates autobiography into symbolic actions.

Akill Kirlew a Buffalo based film and video maker will be presenting a five screen digital video and audio installation at CEPA's Women's World 2004, titled entitled Fannibal/Classe. This piece is an exploration of the competing narratives of the depicting sexuality in the Western world.

This exhibition will contain imagery of an explicit sexual nature. Galleries containing such images will be marked. Please keep this in mind when making age appropriate decisions concerning children. This exhibition is supported by grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for the Visual Arts and the generosity of many private donors. Images available on request.  

Jason Hendrix wins International Mr. Leather title

Jason Hendrix, Mr. D.C. Eagle, has been named International Mr. Leather 2004, winning over a field of 57 contestants from six countries, including Canada, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

He is sponsored by The D.C. Eagle, Washington, D.C. Jason Hendrix works as Director of Administration and Finance for The National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors — a career dedicated to reducing the incidence of HIV infection. He has volunteered for and supported Scarlet's Bake Sale, Eagle Wings and Art for Life — all in Washington, D.C. He is dedicated to supporting causes that promote the leather lifestyle.

The 26th annual International Mr. Leather Contest was held May 30 at the Congress Theater in Chicago. More than 10,000 leather folk attended.

As the International Mr. Leather 2004 titleholder, Mr. Leather Hendrix will represent the Leather Community over the next year. He also received a prize package that includes $5,000 in airline travel certificates, as well as donations from businesses and organizations supporting the leather community.

Remi Alexandre Collette, Mr. Leather Toronto 2004, was named first runner up. He is sponsored by Mr. Leatherman Toronto Competition, Inc., Thursday, May 27, at the Leather Shop, Mr. Fitch Switzerland 2004, was named second runner up. He is sponsored by Club Rage GMBH of Switzerland.

Jason Hendrix, International Mr. Leather...
"A lot of what starts a piece out is from the impulse of wanting to say something. With Five Course Love, the new piece, really what I wanted to say was just too silly to be said."

GREG COFFIN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Join the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and started working the I-5 circuit. JY: So you were performing? GC: Yeah, I was. JY: When did you find that music began to replace acting? GC: I started piano when I was five and I was singing around seven or eight. Just always played something.

I got an offer to be in the company of “Guys and Dolls” with the Sacramento Theatre Company where Mark Cuddy was then the artistic director. I was working on the score for that when I had ACT’s mainstage moment and I real- ized that I had been an actor and a music- ian long enough to know how music was supposed to work on the stage, and from there it just kind of segued into music began to shift. The last perfor- mance I acted in was four years ago now, the opening night of ‘Verona’, with a dog. Of course they tell you never act with children or a dog!

JY: They can be scene stealers. GC: Absolutely! JY: So, you began doing six to seven score a year and you have not acted in the past four.

JY: How long have you known Mark Cuddy?

GC: Going on 15 years.

JY: That is very cool! We are very fortunate in Rochester that this has been going on for so many years. But the joy of that role is, you taller that role so that you watch the dog, so the minis and you can do something you can play to the audience, you can see what I have to work with here!

JY: (Laughing) Good.

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Coffin continued from previous page

have quarks. It's weird when you are in the kitchen like 30 seconds later and you are in the middle of dinner at 10 o'clock at night and then the lyrics just start happening, you just go "Hi, I'll be back in just a little while.""  

JY: Sounds like "Five Course Dinner"; just excuse yourself from the restaurant and walk away.

GC: (Laughter) Yeah, gotta go! That happened with "Convenience," I was trying to figure out how to thematically get moving faster. It didn't take me about 2 a.m. in the morning and I literally got out of bed and into my study and started writing. 

And about domestic violence today I am writing a curtain call for "Five Course," and I noticed that I have to be moving. I will find myself in the kitchen like 30 seconds later and not know how I got there. Flirting with flan and straddling with scrumptious. All these things are going on. 

JY: How old were you when you knew you were gay?

GC: It had to be probably eight.

JY: How did you know?

GC: I knew because the kids that I was going to school with were all guys and the kids I thought that I was supposed to hang out with were all girls. And the supposed part of all of that made me go, "Hm. What are they, some kind of something?" was off. As much as a kid could figure out at that time. My first kiss was with Cathy Bickford and it was in kindegarten. But no fault of her own I knew it was just not for me.

JY: I felt that when I had my first experience with a little girl when I was around six. That first kiss didn't have the spark but when the neighbor boy Danny wanted to play show and tell, I knew that was exciting. It's just such a different reality today with all the information available for young people to resource. It's changing the world.

GC: When I figured out I was (gay), then I had to figure out how. When I figured out how it was, it was after an acting class with this brilliant acting teacher and he said, "As an actor you only do two things: you tell the truth and you tell the story. That's all you do." 

So when I got home that night I went, "Oh my God, how am I going to tell the truth when I am lying about this thing that is so woven into who I am. How can I ever be a vessel of truth when I am lying on stage?"

GC: Yeah there is a story written by Leonard Bernstein. A day with Lenny. I was working with perception. I'm always thinking about that. Everything you are trying to communicate ideas. Most people have a preconceived notion of HIV/AIDS. If you could articulate and passionate about the potential art has to communicate ideas, I recently interviewed him to learn more about his moral and aesthetic vision for the piece, I learned about his perceptions of the Rochester community. 

GC: I was sick unless you knew my personal story. When I first became aware of super heroes was Batman and Robin on TV. Then when I was growing up it was the Super Friends and the Hall of Justice, my idols.

JY: I loved that show.

GC: Because it was just everyone together. Like the Wonder Twins and that monkey that was always with them. What was that all about? I always thought Aquaman was really hot but that was probably because he was blonde. (Laughter)

JY: Remember the Fantastic Four?

GC: God yeah.

GC: My favorite was the Flame. Flame on!

GC: Well duh! I mean you had to!

JY: He was the sexy one anyway. Do you have a favorite super hero now?

GC: More often than not, the super heroes are the artists that I idolize. Like Shakespeare, like Sondheim, like WC. Ravel. I think those tend to be my heroes.

JY: Those are total super heroes, cultural super heroes. If you could spend an entire day with anyone who ever existed who would it be and what would you do?

GC: I would want to spend a day with Leonard Bernstein. A day with Lenny. I would want to know, how did you write your 'Serenade'? Could you walk us through it? I'd sit right on the bench next to him and watch him create.

JY: Do you have any creative solutions to the current political situation in this country?

GC: I think about creating community would be a great solution. I am not a fan of uncreative thought. I am not a fan of force.

Another big thing politically that is quite frustrating is what are we going to tell our kids. The minute that you put an answer into the middle of the room two hands immediately raise in non-agreement. The minute you ask a question, suddenly everyone moves closer to it to try to figure out what is going on and there is no answer. It's a question of how to engage with each other.

There might not be unity in the answer that is reached, but the process of asking the question creates the unity. And then it's an administration that is so afraid of questions, I think that that is a huge mistake.

JY: I agree with you, Gregg. The current administration is afraid based racist rhetoric. It just doesn't work. Any new projects that you would want to talk about?

GC: Yeah there is a story written by Steve Cohen ("Red Badge of Courage"). called "Maggie, A Girl Of The Streets". Around the Gangs of New York period and I learned a lot.

And it was working on "The Black Crowes" and "Mother Goose". Also I will be writing the music for Gwai's production of "Pigrant" next year.

JY: So if you were going to prepare our readers for coming to see the show that would be some words of advice.

GC: Come hungry! Don't eat a dam thing. That's what you should do with any piece of art, you should come starving for it.

JY: Congratulations Gregg, on "Five Course Dinner," and thanks for the interview. Kisses on your opening.

Chris Cuffia, visual artist: as he is

BY TONY LEUZZI

Anyone visiting Monroe Community College’s Mercer Art Gallery’s Annual Student Art Exhibit is bound to be surprised by at least two pieces in this section. One, an eye chart entitled "See Me As I Am," spells out words related to gay sex; whereas the other is a three-dimensional box that contains the following include autogenous material such as the artist’s culinary experiences and gay pornographic images.

Both works are bound to stun, but unlike so many artists who choose shock tactics as the end instead of the means, Manhattan-born Chris Cuffia is at once articulate and passionate about the potential art has to communicate ideas. I recently interviewed him to learn more about his moral and aesthetic vision for the piece, the process, I learned about his perceptions of the Rochester community.

GC: I want down to the Gallery and saw your piece. Let's talk about "Eye Chart." Eye Chart was a two-dimensional assignment where your name had to be included in it. So I thought it would be interesting to utilize my HIV-status in the eye chart and called it "See Me as I Am.

What were some of the words in the Eye Chart?

GC: "FUCK."

JY: What was the word "FUCK"?

GC: It basically fit in that spot in terms of coming down the actual eye chart. I had to fill a space that would take up four letters. That seemed the most appropriate to the piece.

JY: What were some of the other words you put in it?

GC: "DICK."

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JY: What were some of the other words you put in it?
I love my home. I think the snide phrase "house proud" might apply to me. People remark on my neatness, my eye for detail. Friends invite me to clean their houses, an offer I decline. My neighbors are slobs. Actually it's just one set of neighbors, a couple directly across the street. In the summer, at best, they cut the lawn just once a month, and while their children are at school, let their kids play in the front yard, not, apparently, occruses to them to pick up trash. Food wrappers, old newspapers, diapers, toilet paper, whatever nature flutters about.

For a long time I just stewed, seethed with resentment. Then one day I was struck with inspiration. Since I hate the litter and they won't pick it up, why not just do it myself and be done with it.

This attitude shift was a real breakthrough. You want it done? Do it yourself and let go of expectations and, hopefully, the resentments disappointment can unleash. Now, when I leave the gym in the morning, I walk along the sidewalk and gather up odds and ends of trash. When I come home two hours later, I feel like a salad a little richer by adding one More thing. Usually, by the end of summer, one unsettling notion has taken hold: I haven't done enough. I didn't go to the lake or I didn't go to some dumb Fireman's Carnival — things like that. So, to counter that feeling, the other night, after a meeting that ended around nine, I decided this evening at The Little to make a tasteful protest.

The ticket seller and asked for my money back. I explained that I did not want to remain in what was, for me, an uncivil environment. He seemed, seeing only a handful of people in the audience, I had a hunch the film might be a dud.

An imperfect world

with it? Then one day I was I miss the and having my trimmed. I left a quarter-size bald spot on the back of his head.

And I've had some people really admire my shaved head. (I'm not follicle challenged or hair­

When I was a child, I felt that baseball caps give me feeling like a broken tree limb caught in a cloud of dust. So by the time I was 25 years old, I had parted it down the center and it was the 90's.

I had parted it on the right. I had parted it on the left. I had parted it down the center and feathered the sides. (Don't give me any crap — it was the 90's.)

I had layered.

One of the unfortunate souls whose parents did not pass along their genes for a healthy head of hair (nor did they pass along a tidy little trust fund for me to live off of either).

Once I had parted it on the right. I had parted it on the left. I had parted it down the center and feathered the sides. (Don't give me any crap — it was the 90's.)

I had layered.

I had sported the Joker look which is basically a spiky mohawk. (Don't do any crap — it was the 90's.)

I had a perm. (I will never again listen to my mother on grooming or fashion tips).

I had a shed also known as a wedge. I had a bob.

I was 25 years old. I had parted it on the right. I had parted it on the left. I had parted it down the center and feathered the sides. (Don't give me any crap — it was the 90's.)

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that it was over. She is asking. Questions of what
To paraphrase an old adage, you can't
accept
over. Like a trusting child, she thought
their mouths
that their life would end with wrinkles,
the phrase
never a chance in the first place.

Sarah lies recalling the night she told
Laugh-filled dinners, long walks and
Looking back, she can see how she tried to convince herself, unsuccessfully,
Looking at the world of moving forward and stand­
ing firm with that with

happiness, as well as the fact that the company
and lesbian employees.
and lesbian bars.

the Lowdown on the Down-Low: Bisexual Greed Or Just Plain Dishonesty
A friend of mine named Kevin called me the other day to tell me he just gave his
new partner an ultimatum. I never knew this other gay before, and knew very
little about him. I did know he traveled a lot, and was living in a suburb of

"I told him it was either me or her," Kevin exclaimed. I was taken aback for a
moment, only to realize that Kevin was being forced into a situation of his own
affection. This wasn't the first time I've heard of such a thing. This scenario has been
around for a long time. It seems as if Kevin just found out that his partner is on the
"down-low."

The "down-low," or (DL) phenomena is a phrase that implies secret information,
or "do not make known." By the way, it is not implied here that this behavior is specific to one race, gender, or health status. It is not
exclusive to the partners of gay and lesbian employees.

In addition, the Coors Brewing Co. has
Coors' position on the federal
marriage amendment does not reflect the corporate values of the Coors Brewing Co. The
letter stated that the company
does not endorse discrimination against gay, lesbian bisexual or transgender people.

to create a dialogue about self-discovery,
health issues, and bisexuality in the black
community, the author is also profiling on
marginalizing a segment of society. He
turns this issue into something we
never knew there were bisexual black men
in the universe before.

If Kevin had written this book, he would have known that he had
created shock and paranoia in the black female population. In an attempt
to create a dialogue about self-discovery,
health issues, and bisexuality in the black
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In essence, the book he has written has
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just like your daddy." King said in a recent interview.

The fact remains, that whoever you are and where you come from, activities, regardless of race, gender, how you identify or don't identify yourself, you are still ultimately responsible for protecting yourself every time you choose to have sex.

Getting back to my friend Kevin with the relationship problem, I really didn’t know what to say to him on the phone. I don’t like to give advice. Information, yes -- not advice. I just held the phone right and listened intently like any good friend should. Some time later, Kevin said that his partner wanted to know why he had to make a choice between two joined together. (This is after the ceremony, we brides have many choices of for our house band for our wedding walk. Maybe we can each carry a red candle, slightly used, lovingly shipped.

Stuffed: something new; something borrowed; something blue. The Something New is easy to find. For our life after the ceremony, we new hom-owners, whether LGBT or S, do need a few more things. Our personal gay list goes from domecat to riding mower. Something New: during the ceremony is the next part of the ritualized collection. This is the most obvious part of the aisle ant. I mean, don’t all LGBT and 5 brides wear new underpants? Although I must admit that I do have an image of bride-two riding down the aisle on her something-new green John Deere.

Something old: something new; something borrowed: something blue. Something borrowed for sure. We and the Bank have joined together for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health. Something borrowed for our shared life after the ceremony. Something borrowed for our son, some Straight's own weddings. They tell the story, some Straights own weddings and the word “marriage.” And some of those 5 people are not even on seat with LGBT people.

May I borrow your word? No, NO. Like recalcitrant children, some of the 5 while “You can't have it! it’s mine, all mine.”

Some want to whip out Webster's Unabridged and throw the book at us. “No, no, the dictionary knows every-thing,” some of them will claim. Marriage is between a man and a woman. “The dictionary prints irrefutable truths,” some of them will exclaim. One man plus one woman equals two married people. Wow, where did they get that edition! From their dusty basement! Stored in a ratty cardboard box for generations!

Their old dictionary, maybe from high school? A dictionary and its definitions pushed far from the light of day, far from the light of today?

A dictionary is of the people, by the people. I know that a living language evolves from the hands of all people. I know that Webster and Funk and Wagnall revise their books. They add words for new concepts. They eliminate old words after dead people and dead activities disappear from our present tense. I know that the dictionary has codes like “archaic” to designate words that have moved into our past.

Marriage is... Can I borrow your word? Absolutely I can and I will. And I will adopt the implications of “marriage” that I embrace: love, two together, commitment, honor, friend-ship, life long.

I will scrutinize the other parts of your definition, I will adapt the parts that do not fit my reality.

I will reject the words that ostracize.

I will defeat the meanings that steal my rights.

I know that sticks and stones can break my bones, but words will never stop me.

I'm getting married in the morning. Ding dong the bells are going to chime. Something old; something new; something borrowed; something blue. I'm getting married in the morning. And heaven only knows where the Blues are. Maybe that box labeled "bads and ends." Marriage: Something old: something new; something borrowed: something true.

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Health Crisis

BY DON BRUNER

Open House/Devon Low

Black Men Latino Health Crisis, Inc. (BMLHIC) hosted our very first Office/Open house on May 24; at least 50 community individuals were in attend-ance. We are very thankful for the indi-vidual and community support we have received to date.

At our office Open House, we pre-sented our very first Rev. Dr. Samuel McCree Jr., James Bruner, and Jose Burgos Recognition Awards. We are very honored to have recognition awards asso-ciated with the late Rev. Dr. Samuel McCree Jr., who was a pioneer locally by responding to HIV/AIDS from an African American Faith perspective. James Bruner is my beloved late brother and Jose Burgos is the late first cousin of our Board President, Roberto Burgos. In the area of resource development, Robert R. Lebman, Vice President/ CEO-Preventive-Health-Doyle-Memorial-Institute: Through Bob’s leadership, Huther-Doyle has sponsored BMLHIC since its inception dating back to 2001 pro-viding staff and time during our devel-opmental phase. In the past two years,
Reports reveal domestic violence in roughly 11% of lesbian homes. Accurate statistics in gay male homes are still unknown. Gay health starts at home. It’s up to us. Let’s take care of each other.

Find out more about gay health.
Go to: www.aidsrochester.org/gayhealth, or call 585-442-2220.
Rural HIV testing, anonymous and confidential, in Allegany, Livingston, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne or Yates Counties, call 1-800-862-5063.

Action Front Center (Action for a Better Community) Provides HIV prevention education and case management services. Training and technical assistance to service providers. Resource library open to public. All services free and confidential. Multicultural and bilingual staff. Jeardal Noble, program manager. 33 Cresent St., second floor. Hours: 8:30-5 pm, Monday-Friday. 262-4330; fax 262-4572. Free anonymous HIV testing on walk-in basis, Thursdays 9 am-4 pm, provided through NYSDOH at Action Front Center, 240 Andrews St. Darwin Hsu, 292-4553.

Anthony Jordan Health Center Prevention Counseling and Testing Program.
Part of national initiative to increase testing among communities of color, targeting the GLBT population. Provides prevention case management, educational presentations, and access to other Jordan services. Prevention Counseling & Testing provided through TIY, 454-7530. Free oral HIV testing (OraQuick Rapid Test) for young people ages 12-25. Fees on sliding scale, no one denied service. Threshold Center for Alternative Youth Services, 80 St. Paul St. 454-7530. Free oral HIV testing Mondays 2-4 pm, ages 12-25.


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**Home Travel Style**

**Stylesetters for July:**

Bird & Bun go Retro-Edwardian

This month, distinguished animals-about-town Bird and Bun share their fashion philosophies.

How would you define your style? Bird: "Retro-Edwardian. Brandy and cigars after dinner; smoking jacket; straw boaters and top hats; that sort of thing."

Bun: "Starched but not uncomfortable."

Who is your favorite designer and where do you shop? Bird: "Cocktail Chanel. When we're in Rochester, I fly to New York to shop."

Bun: "I love Giorgio Armanish, a Yiddish tailor on Park Avenue who serves up a good latke while you wait."

What are your fashion loves? 

- Bird: "Fashion is not about hating. Bun: "Yes, it is! I hate turtleneck sweaters. They give me a self-doubt in my emotional baggage."

- Bun: "Eggshell blue. It's like burnt umber taken out of the oven five minutes earlier."

- Bird: "Eye-liner."

What's your favorite color? 

- Bird: "Medallion green. It’s like burnt umber. It’s like straw boaters, and top hats, that sort of thing."

- Bun: "Medium-well mate fantasy shopping spree?"

What clothing item can’t you live without? 

- Bird: "Feathers."

- Bun: "Eye-liner."

- Bird: "A good wingtip collar."

You rarely wear...? 

- Bird: "Lycra."

What are your fashion hates? 

- Bird: "Fashion is not about hating."

- Bun: "Yes, it is! I hate turtleneck sweaters. They give me a self-doubt in my emotional baggage."

- Bird: "The combination of goat-hair shawl and derby hat worn by mountain women in Peru."

- Bun: "Clam-diggers, but only when worn by actual clam diggers."

Where would you go for your ultimate fantasy shopping spree? 

- Bird: "Taking John Kerry shopping to redecorate the White House in November."

- Bun: "Who would you go for your ultimate fantasy shopping spree?"

What kind of bag do you carry and what's inside it? 

- Bird: "Ziploc; and a half-eaten cucumber sandwich."

- Bun: "Sometimes I carry lingering self-doubt in my emotional baggage. For example, does this cravat make me fat?"

Bun wears a silk vest with grandmother-of-pearl buttons; stylish bell-bottom tuxedo pants for a casual look and feel; and a real bowtie (no clip-ons here!).

His pocket watch fob features a portrait of the Prince of Wales.

Bird sports a wingtip collar (heavy on the starch), with an Italian cashmere cravat, diamond stickpin, double-breasted jacket, and comfortable short-pants.

Bun’s choice of refreshment is a Davidoff Double R corona.

**TORONTO TRIP**

Eager to check out the Fast Fairy (oops – Feny) and the Gay Village in Toronto? Take the GAGV day trip on July 15. Call Lynn Tavemesser for full info: 244-8640, ext. 21.

Come for Sunday Dinner in the Finger Lakes...

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- 12 Main St.
- Penn Yan, New York 14527
- (585) 336-1055
- The Rev. C. Rebecca Yarbrough
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- 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist
- 11:30 AM Holy Eucharist with Choir

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Natasha Doty and Jeanne Newland

"The Diane Miller Team made buying our home a joy. Everything was great!"

Lynda Baudanza and Deb Coffey

"When I first considered buying a house, my first reaction was, "I don't know how to do that," followed very quickly by, "I need a realtor!" How glad I am that you were that realtor. From the very beginning, your expertise, your professionalism, and your patience with me exceeded every expectation I had. I would, and have, highly recommended you, especially to anyone who wants to remove the anxiety from searching for a house. Thank you. I am truly at home."

Nancy Brown

**SHARE YOURSELF...**

The EC is always looking for your recipes, entertainment ideas, travel tips and more! Submissions are due by the 15th of each month at: The Empty Closet, 875 E. Main St., Rochester, NY 14605. Call 244-9030, Fax 244-8246, or email to: emptycloset@gayv.us.
Travel Tips: I do, I do: a trip to Provincetown

BY MERLE EXIT

I love being in Provincetown. The escape to the fresh smell of the breeze whisking against the water. A town free of franchises——hey, what’s that? A Subway sandwich shop? I was already surprised when a Ben & Jerry’s hit Commercial Street.

I haven’t been here in two years. I wonder if anything else is new. I came here this week (May 20-23) for the Cabaretfest. Little did I know what else would be happening. It was three days after the waiting period for gay marriages in Massachusetts. It looked as if the gay population had rented P’Town for their reception. Gee, do I feel out of place.

Not wanting to drive, I flew into Boston and took Cape Air—a nine-seater plane. Do they classify it as a DC? I checked into White Wind Inn for the night. Rob and Michael are the owners of this pet-friendly lodging at 174 Commercial St. (805-487-1526). The inn’s “great rooms”, loading out to the veranda, has a fireplace, grand piano and a few soft couches. The dining area and kitchen about the room providing an intimate space for a ceremony. I’m stopping back here Saturday night for a cabaret show. Free admission, food and drinks. Can’t beat that.

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In the meantime, I’m going to have dinner at my favorite restaurant ... The Lobster Pot on Commercial St. Gee, I’ve known Joy McNulty since 1976. I’ve known Joy McNulty since 1976. L’Ocagni, her favorite restaurant, is the new kid on the block. Exceptional seafood entrees like Grilled Stacked Salmon, layered with fresh spinach and Black Forest ham, served with champagne Hollandaise sauce, roasted rosemary mashed potatoes and vegetable du jour.

While I’m in town, I’ll check out some of the women owned places to stay. Fairbanks Inn at 50 Carver (805-487-0380). Lynette Molnar and Sabrina Riddle are the owners of this Colonial mansion. Good place for a wedding. Aside from having a penthouse, total privacy is offered in studio apartment, complete with kitchen and own entrance.

Lynn Mogoll and Sarah Paule recently tied the knot in P’Town. They are the owners of Heritage House, 7 Centre St., (805-487-9027). It has a glorious outdoor garden equipped with a Gazebo and hot tub. There is one of those “water flowing on rocks” machines near the entrance and due to the inn’s alley locale I’ll be unaware of the sounds coming from either Bradford or Commercial Streets. Erin and his mom own this place. Great spot for a wedding ceremony.

There seems to be a parade. Look who’s there! Cheer NY! That’s why they’re not at the New York Sharks game cheering them on! Parade over. I’m heading to the Pilgrim Monument. You know, the tallest granite erection in the country. They said that if you pay the $7 admission charge you could have the ceremony here. A monumental event!

Time for dinner. On the corner of Bradford and Carver sits the famous Gifford’s Stillwater Inn. (805-487-0688). It should be since they’ve been in business for 140 years. Gifford’s Stillwater, a fine dining restaurant, is the new kid on the block. Exceptional seafood entrees like Grilled Stacked Salmon, layered with fresh spinach and Black Forest ham, served with champagne Hollandaise sauce, roasted rosemary mashed potatoes and vegetable du jour.

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Lynn Mogoll and Sarah Paule recently tied the knot in P’Town. They are the owners of Heritage House, 7 Centre St., (805-487-9027). What’s more is that Sarah is running for State Representative. At least we know where she stands on the issue of gay marriage.

Theatre is back in P’Town with the Provincetown Theatre Company and Provincetown Repertory Theatre. Their new home is located at 238 Bradford St. Most of the performances July 1-16 will be at this location. The Provincetown Inn will be the site for the Provincetown Fringe Festival through Sept. 5.

As for my slant on gay marriages? Marriage, heck. I’m still looking to date. Let’s see, I’m an extremely young 55, 5’3“, blond hair, great sense of humor, intelligent, fun loving, into dining, traveling, music....
have with their patrons. This project draws on best practices currently in use elsewhere, identifying barbers/hairdressers who are able to deliver HIV prevention interventions to their patrons. Eight barbershops and hair-salons are located in what is referred to as the "second-rate care to homosexual patients. The first of these glands is the prostate gland. The second is located in the Cowper's region. The largest is the seminal vesicle. The others are the appendix and the bulbourethral glands. Lesbians have always dealt with fear that reality. Call Planned Parenthood for an appointment or ask a personal question: 1-866-600-6886. Our mission is to provide health services to all without regard to sexual orientation. It is very important that everyone receives proper medical care, and Planned Parenthood is here to help you maintain your sexual health. We can also help you point out the direction of other medical professionals who will be supportive to your needs and with whom you may feel comfortable. We know the fear is there, and with goodcause, Lesbians are scared for their lives. Let us work together to change that reality. Call Planned Parenthood for an appointment or ask a personal question: 1-866-600-6886.
Finding a spiritual home

This regular column is organized by Interfaith Advocates for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender of Rochester, NY. This column is submitted by volunteers in an effort to spread increased awareness, understanding and inclusion of LGBT people by our individual, congregational and the larger community. Please visit the IA website at www.interfaithhudson.org to find resources, upcoming events, welcoming churches and organizations in the area. All views and opinions are the sole responsibility of the author and not necessarily those of the Interfaith Advocates for LGBT Rights of Rochester in a larger community.

By ELLEN INGRAM

Deadline n...
Pet Talk with Tulip: Coping with the dog days

BY MISS TULIP (AS TOLD TO TODD PLANK)

Hello my Darlings,

It’s Tulip quee, me here. I can’t help myself, Pride Panic has taken hold!

There are so many important decisions we’ve made, like what to wear at this year’s Pride Picnic and Parade, as well as the appropriate outfits for the after-parties after the day.

Now, I know in last month’s column I had indicated that I would be wearing my best leather attire at this year’s Pride events; however, the recent climb in temperatures has forced me to reconsider my options.

I can tell you that there’s only one thing more worse than the heat I mean the canine version of a “hot-dog”- honestly, and that’s a bitch-in-hand! Southern bellies like myself are no less affected by the heat than you northerners, and since trotting around a parasol is cumbersome (not to mention our outfits), I’m opting for something cooler to wear.

I hope that all of you Human Companions out there (a.k.a. pets owners) are keeping a proper sensitivity to the needs of your ltt pets at this year’s Pride outings, and all summer. It’s wonderful to include your pets in the festivities, but please put a little advance thought into how you plan on caring for your physical and emotional needs.

Make sure that we are frequently offered something cool to drink on those hot summer days, and don’t you dare leave your best friend out in the hot sun or locked up in a car for extended periods of time, which is the equivalent of being left in a toaster oven (they’re not as popular a wedding gift as you might think).

Getting back to the subject of Pride...at this year’s Pride Picnic (July 11, 1-7 p.m. at Genesee Valley Park)...I hope you’ve bought your tickets yet, I will be hosting a very special Pet Pride event: Doggie Drag. Human Companions are invited to bring their favorite canine or whatever (remember, cats DO NOT LIKE excursions like this) dressed in drag (keep in mind the heat), and the best pet with the best Pride costume will be crowned Ms. Pet Pride 2004.

Special points will be awarded for most creatively dressed canine, or whatever clever tricks (not the kind you pick up at the after parties)

Having won numerous Pride competitions myself, I can tell you it’s cool being hot! And what my shirt has to do with that.

It sounds like the experience closed you down.

No it didn’t. I was afraid to see my doctor! I always felt a constant dread. In order for treatment to work, you have to be completely up front with your doctor.

Upon arrival, I visited the AIDS Community Health Center now and I’m thoroughly pleased with it. I have great respect for that organization. Not only do they embrace you, they’re more than willing to do whatever it takes to make your health care work for you. I hope my relationship with them continues.

What are your impressions of the gay community here?

Tough questions! The people I have gotten to know are great people, but I think in a smaller city like this I find gay men are a little more reluctant. A lot of times I feel I’m not being allowed into their groups. I’m having a difficult time socializing in the gay community.

In the end, this is better for me, because it enables me to focus more on what my shirt has to do with that.

Becky Bowen.

Miss Tulip is ready for the dog days, with a casual Hawaiian theme. She knows how to chill out. Fashion conscious canines throughout the community are planning now for the exciting Doggie Drag event scheduled for the GAGV Picnic on July 11.

I hear that the competition is already heating up, so you ltt pets and pet lovers better get shopping for that winning outfit.

Happy Pride...Miss Tulip

Wigged out by Hedwig...

BY PAUL JOHNSTONE

Revenge, despair, desire and acceptance of oneself. No, they aren’t the topics of the next Dr. Phil program. They are just some of the themes prevalent in the rock opera Hedwig and the Angry Inch by John Cameron Mitchell, with music and lyrics by Stephen Trask.

I had the pleasure of seeing the show on the night before its official opening at the Rosetta Street Music Hall; the show ended June 26.

Hedwig tells the story of a young boy, Hansel, and his journey from East Germany to the United States. Along the way Hansel becomes engaged to a military man, leaves his family, and oh yes, undergoes a sex change operation. Unfortunately, the operation is botched, but that doesn’t stop Hansel from becoming Hedwig in order to get out of behind the Berlin wall.

Soon Hedwig meets a young man named Tommy Speck, and as she helps Tommy realize his potential, she falls in love with him. Unfortunately, Tommy does not return the love and ends up stealing Hedwig’s music and heart.

Aaron Berk played Hedwig in this production and did a phenomenal job of maintaining the energy throughout the show. He danced, jumped, shook, and twirled, and did the best white male impersonation of Tina Turner I’ve ever seen.

Berk, also serving as the vocal director for the show, did another amazing job with the music. As the show progresses, Hedwig slowly transforms from a bitter, hurt, and vengeful diva to a loving, forgiving and accepting man.

This production, which was a hit in Syracuse last winter, has none of the extras that weighed the movie down. Gone are the subplots of Hedwig’s adventures and in their place are simply Hedwig and her band the Angry Inch. A member of the band, Yitzhak, serves as Hedwig’s sidekick and comic foil.

As the show progresses, Hedwig details her rise from the poor side of the wall to a semi-famous rock star. In between are the rock songs in which Hedwig pours out her heart and soul.

The show has songs that rock. It’s hard not to tap your foot and bang your head to these tunes. The only complaint I had about the show is that some of the lyrics were undecipherable. It’s easy to not dwell on this while the songs are being played. Under the direction of Ryan J. Davis, we get plenty of modern pop culture references, as well as references familiar to Rochesterians. He keeps the costume changes and props to a minimum and the show has a great flow to it and never seems to drag.

The audience participation bits are an added bonus. However, the audience was willing to participate when the show was not sure whether to participate or not.

Hedwig also included a bit of clever casting. Hedwig, a female character, is played by Berk, who is male. In addition, the character of Yitzhak, who is supposed to be male, is played by female Aysa Morehead. Morehead, by the way, has a voice every bit as strong as Berk’s.

The two of them played off each other during the show, and by the end, when the two of them become forever connected, you truly believe it.

Slowly and surely, Hedwig and Yitzhak realize that what they want is already inside of them.

For Hedwig it’s the confident man he really is, and for Yitzhak it’s the woman she longs to be. Moreover, by the time Hedwig stands before us stripped down to almost nothing, it’s obvious that the confidence and strength we all seek is already there. It’s just a matter of letting it out.

Anne Seale reads at Triangle Talk

Local writer Anne Seale will be the discussion leader at Triangle Talk at Borders MarketPlace at 7 p.m. on Monday, July 26. The event is free.

Seale will read from her lesbian mystery novel Fagging Mrs. Phelps (Algonquin 2004: ISBN 1555838375). She says, “It’s my first novel, but I’m widely published in lesbian anthologies (Upstream, Best Lesbian Love Stories, Hot & bothered, Sex in Stone, Body Check, etc., etc.). In the ‘90s, I wrote lesbian songs and comedy, and performed at women’s music festivals, bars and bookstores, both local and throughout the country.”
Celebrate Pride Week

NASTY D’S

Saturday After Parade Bash
Sunday Brunch and BBQ with Live Music
Bring your picnic ticket and get your first drink free
(well or domestic)

Weekly Specials

Mondays
.25cent Wing Night (Dine in only)
$2 Coors Lite Bottles

Tuesdays
Best Karaoke in Town!
$2 Well Drinks and $2.00 Drafts

Wednesday
Wild Wednesdays with live music from Paul Strowe
**Two for One Well and Domestic**
9:00pm until Midnight

Thursdays
Guys Night Out
$2 Well and $2 Domestic

Sundays
11:00 - 4:00 The New Sunday Brunch
Sunday Specials and Themes
$2 Mimosas $2 Bloody Marys
4:00 - 9:00 Chicken Lickin Barbeque
– Outdoor Smokers
Chicken, Ribs, Steaks and all the Fixins
Live Acoustic Music
140 Alexander Street
Rochester, New York
585-256-1000

Upstairs at THE D SPOT

Saturday the 3rd Red, White and Drag
with Pandora Boxx, Darienne Lake,
Cooki Crisp, Frankie Starr, Sasha Sashay and More
9th and 10th Pride Party#1 with DJ CK
16th and 17th Pride Party #2 with DJ CK
24th Live Comedy Hosted by Ambrosia Salad
Youth update: Teen Pageant, Youth Dance set for Pride Week

BY TOBY GREENFIELD

Greetings from Youth Group Land...July finds us busy planning and gearing up for Pride Week.

We are holding our annual Mr. and Ms. Gay Teen Pageant and Youth Dance on July 12 at Matthis, 40 S. Union St., from 5-9 p.m. LGBT youth and straight allies ages 13-23 are welcome! Admission is $5. You'll perform and there will be some surprise guests! At the end of the evening, Mr. and Ms. Teen Queen and King will be crowned.

We'll also be selling temporary tattoos, glow sticks and necklaces at the Picnic on July 11, so come out and support us!

We are continuing to work on the setup and design of our new Youth Center, and are delighted to be working with Dwellings — a design firm assisting us with the concept and design of the new Center. The youth met with Babs Ads from Dwellings on June 6 and gave their feedback and ideas on the new design. We think it's going to look fabulous, and are hoping to begin work on it by August. Please call me at 244-8640 if you would like to join or volunteer with the Youth Group, care to sponsor the youth for Pride Week, want to share your butch skills on the construction of the new Youth Center, or if you just have general questions, comments, suggestions, or summer fashion tips.

Anti-Violence Program looks at hate crimes

BY ALEX COBUS

While you are enjoying the many wonderful Pride events this month in the Rochester community and beyond, we at the Anti-Violence Program (AVP) would like you to keep some things in mind: Whenever there are steps taken to advance the civil rights of any oppressed group of people, they are often met with a backlash of resistance.

Sometimes this resistance can take a violent form. Hate crimes range from harassment to assault to homicide. They are crimes committed against people because of who they are or how the perpetrator perceives them. Also known as bias crimes, hate crimes against an individual send a threatening message, often meant to intimidate the entire light community.

Hate crimes against light people are growing increasingly frequent in recent years. There are also hate incidents against light people, and those are incidents that may not legally qualify as crimes, but still send a threatening message to the entire light community. Those should still be reported to the police, and definitely to the Anti-Violence Program (585-244-8640).

A pattern of incidents can be a warning of more severe crimes to come. Additionally, hate crime under-reporting and under-documentation, combined with pervasive homophobia, often result in many hate crimes remaining invisible and not prosecuted. In April, The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs located in New York City, released the 2003 Report on Anti-LGBT Hate Violence. While the general LGBT news has been mostly good for 2003, the Report showed a staggering 26 percent increase in anti-light crime activity in the last six months of 2003.

The report goes on to link this activity directly to two distinct events: the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision in the Lawrence v. Texas case, which struck down sodomy laws across the nation, and the increased visibility of LGBT people in the media for marriage equality. The Court's decision released in late June 2003 was widely seen as a victory by LGBT rights advocates. However, the data released in the 2003 Report on Hate Violence represents clear evidence of the "backlash." The report also makes an in-depth exploration of the connections between the rise in anti-light violence, particularly in the last half of 2003, when compared to the same period in the previous year and the greatly increased visibility of and controversy surrounding the light community during the year.

So, as you celebrate Pride, be proud enough of who you are to take care of yourself. Be safe. Don't discount the feeling of the "backlash" this year's harassment. If you witness any anti-light hate crimes or incidents, tell someone. If you are witnessing a crime, call 911.
Immediately. If you come across anti-lgbt graffiti, or notice vandalism outside a gay or lesbian community center or bar, call the Anti-Violence Program to report it. If the office is closed, leave a message detailing what you have seen. You can also do this anonymously, or leave a safe telephone number, we can call you back when the office reopens. Just report it.

Reporting creates a written record of facts, which may be helpful in pursuing criminal and/or civil remedies against the perpetrator. Reporting assists in enforcing policies, creating new laws, and expanding victim services. Most of all, reporting empowers you as a lesbian, gay man, bisexual, transgender person or person living with HIV/AIDS to stand up for your rights and not be silenced.

Please visit our website at www.gayalliance.org, and vote in our Anti-Violence Program Poll. This month’s question is: Have you been a victim of a LGBT related hate crime? You must register at the website first, which is quick and easy, and votes are confidential.

Excellus BlueCross BlueShield offers excellent employment opportunities. Representatives from Human Resources will also be attending the picnic and available to accept resumés.

You may also mail your resumé to:
Excellus BlueCross BlueShield
165 Court Street, Rochester, New York 14647
attention Human Resources
or fax it to (585) 453-6380
Here, queer and at the Pier: Pride Center party coming up in August

This summer, Western New York’s lgbt community is going to party. The Pride Center of Western New York presents Pride at the Pier, a day of fun in the sun on Sunday, Aug. 22 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

This first-time event, which will be held at the spacious Festival Grounds at the Pier in Buffalo, will feature food, music, dancing, guest DJs and more.

“It’s just a big summer bash. No more, no less,” Pride Center Director Jim Ver Steeg said. “We simply want to give our community a chance to get together and have fun and enjoy a great day at The Pier.”

Even the unpredictable Buffalo weather won’t be able to dampen the spirits at this bash. Indoor facilities able to accommodate hundreds of partygoers guarantee that the festivities will stay in full swing, rain or shine.

Each $15 ticket includes beer/soda and food. Tickets go on sale July 1 at the Pride Center and online. Call 852-PRIDE (7743) for more information.

Buffalo Pride: What have you done today?

BY SHERRILL FULGHUM

On June 4 Buffalo kicked off Pride month with a weekend of song, dance, and celebrations of being yourself. The theme for 2004 was “What have you done today?” — a celebration of “who you are right now.”

Buffalo Pride Weekend kicked off with an all-night party on Friday night, held at Club Marcella in Buffalo’s Theater District.

On Saturday evening women celebrated the fourth annual Dyke March. March participants walked up Elmwood Ave. beating on drums, blowing whistles, and making noise with whatever they could find. The small group of bible bashing protesters did not hinder or intimidate the marchers.

The procession ended at Bidwell Park with a concert by singer-songwriter-piano player Rachael Sage, joined by her drummer and cellist. She was scheduled to play for about 45 minutes, but she entertained the crowd for well over an hour before mingling with the audience and signing autographs.

Mother Nature co-operated and provided pleasant weather for the big event on Sunday, when over 70 organizations joined to participate in the 2004 Buffalo Pride Parade. Plenty of brightly colored balloons accompanied parade entrants along the parade route lined with spectators.

A celebration followed the parade in Bidwell Park. Dr. Ross Hewitt gave his farewell address to the people of Buffalo. After being involved with treating patients with HIV and AIDS for over 20 years, Dr. Hewitt is returning home to New York City to pursue his acting career.

Pride ambassadors Keke Velasquez-Lord and Goldie St. James, along with Chanel Shiamore and the Buffalo Gay Men’s Chorus, entertained the crowd before Rachael Sage once again took the stage to perform.
ROMANS
ROchester Male Naturists (ROMANS) is a social organization of gay naturists who enjoy camaraderie in the nude. Our affiliations include Gay Naturists International (GNI) and International Men Enjoying Naturism (IMEN).

If you have thought about social nudity but were apprehensive about being nude the first time there are several clothed events such as eating out as a group at restaurants, going to concerts or movies, where you can meet other members of our group in a clothed environment.

Now that summer is upon us, our group will be out in the sun camping, swimming, and of course tanning. We are camping at Jones Pond the week ends of July 16-18 and Aug. 13-15. If you have never gone to Jones Pond, this is a great opportunity to go with a group of people.

Membership is open to men over 21 years of age who have an interest in nudity but were apprehensive about trying community committed to exploration and growth, and enjoy the freedom of feeling the sun, air and water over all of you.

Butch Femme
Announcing our newest endeavor — bi-monthly dinner nights out! Come enjoy sampling the area’s finest dining establishments with us, reunite with old friends, and make new ones! All dinner events begin at the location specified at 7 p.m. and are pay-your-own-way.

July/August’s Dinners: July 10/11 Dinner Out, on the July 10/11 event and/or on our discussion/social event meetings, please contact Kerry at (585)865-4619, option 2; email DressyFemmes@aol.com, or write PO. Box 18734, Rochester, NY 14618.

COAP
Summer is now in full swing as Come Out And Play rolls out the summer fun. Our Tuesday night volleyball games are a great place to start — so join us any Tuesday evening at 6 in Ellison Park to play or watch some volleyball. Afterwards we always head to Friendlys for ice cream!

And do not forget about our Pride Volleyball Cookout - Tuesday July 13 at 5:30. Just bring a side dish or dessert to Ellison Park and COAP will be providing the hot dogs and soda!

Also coming up during Pride Week will be our annual Sweat For Pride fundraiser in conjunction with The GAGV, Empire State Pride Agenda and GayRochester. com! So Come Out And Dance! with us Saturday July 10 at Mulhens bar!

Other exciting events coming up in July include our famous game nights on July 19 and the return of our annual Mini Golf tournament on July 29 at Whispering Pines!

For the newbies — Come Out and Play is Rochester’s largest gay and lesbian social group. We meet on a monthly basis to plan weekly social events for everyone to join and find out more about COAP. Our range of activities range from volleyball, road trips, biking and Trabes to dinner nights and movies! To find out more about COAP — join us on July 26 at the GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave., at 7 p.m., or look us up on our website - www.gayrochester.com/COAP.

See you soon!

Dignity
Integrity

Some people think that D-I goes away in the summer months. That is not true! While many of us are busy as one might expect, there are always enough of us here to worship on any given Sunday.

So please join us at 3 p.m. any and every Sunday as we claim our rightful place in the Church.

On Sunday, July 11 we will have a table at the Pride Picnic. Stop by and see
July party planned. The second weekend, some of us will be camping at Hillside. The third weekend, we’ll be camping at Oneda. On the 31st we’ll be warming out our long wait at the pub at Frontier Field during the game. Of course, we also have planned our regular Second Saturday Barnight at the Forum, with a theme on the 10th of “Show Us Your Pride Colors.” We expect some members to attend the Pride Picnic on the 11th, and the Parade on the 17th. We continue our Monday night suppers at Michelle’s on West Henrietta Rd at 6 p.m. It’s very close to Movies 10, which makes catching a movie easy.

The Empire Bears are also gearing up for our annual Lake Ontario Bear Rendezvous, which we plan to be bigger than ever this year. Check us out on the web at empirebears.org, or call 585-244-1509.

Glen Shack
Choreographer

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) is working to ensure safe and effective schools for all students. GLSEN envisions a world in which every child learns to respect and accept all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. If you’d like to join GLSEN Rochester, email us at GLSENrochester@aol.com or call 585-244-1509.

Rochester City School District Progress

The task force appointed by the Rochester City School District presented its training proposal to the School Board at the June meeting. The proposal to require training on GLTB issues for all school personnel was sent to committee for review, along with a proposal for domestic partnership coverage. A third recommendation involving inclusive language in the RCSD handbook was approved. (See article, page A11.)

New Board Members Added

GLSEN Rochester introduced three new board members at our annual meeting on June 18: Matt Rabinson, a senior at Greece Odyssey High School; Leigh Ryan, a junior at Greece Odyssey, and Tom McGary, a worldwide finance director at Eastman Kodak Company and the President of the Lambda Network at Kodak. She and her partner Trish have been together for 19 years and are the parents of two beautiful daughters, Brenna, age nine, and Erin, age seven.

“IT is important to me that our schools are safe for all children to thrive and learn to the best of their ability,” Pati said. “The work that GLSEN performs is critical to reaching that goal and I am proud and excited to be a part of it.”

GLSEN Rochester Co-Founder

Congratulations to Susan Pryntz, co-founder of GLSEN Rochester, for winning the Vicki Award at the GAGV’s annual meeting. In addition to her tireless efforts with GLSEN Rochester, Susan also was cited for being a member and Vice President of the GAGV Board, as well as a member of the GAGV Speakers Bureau.

Pride Week Activities Planned

Look for GLSEN Rochester at the Pride Picnic on July 11. If you’re interested in membership information, have questions or would like to be on our email list, be sure to stop by our table. We also plan to march in the Pride Parade on July 17. If you’d like to join us, let us know by email at GLSENrochester@aol.com or calling 585-244-1509.

Rainbow Seniors

BY BOB HAMMOND, RSWNY

PRESIDENT

Has it been a year already? Time does fly when you are having fun and working with wonderful people. On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone who gave us a sign of confidence when a group of 15 decided it was time to make a difference for the “older” GLBT community.

July 2003: We turned a few faces. Who ever expected a group of “old” people in the Pride Parade?

October 2003: Yes, we liked costumes and fun at the Queertastic Halloween Party and of course we can’t forget ImageOut.

November 2003: We were officially incorporated by the State of New York.

March 2004: We received our tax exempt status from the I.R.S.

April 2004: We unveiled our website: www.rainbowseniorsny.org.

May 2004: We were fortunate enough to be included in a joint awareness training effort with the GAGV for the staff of Lifespan.

June 2004: Our first birthday party! Seeing the friendly faces of older and new, is always a good time. The birthday cake was yummy. Were YOU there to join us?

Where do we go from here? Plans are in the works for Pride 2004. There may be a few surprises in store for you as well. Last year we started the parade as a small group and more than doubled in numbers now reach almost 15 times that number. This is just a beginning. You, each and every one, should think about where our/your community is headed in the next year and beyond. If you do not think or yourself as “old” join the club, we will think we are old either! Our ages range from 52 to over 80. We have already made friends and alliances with groups outside of Rochester and Monroe County: Syracuse, Buffalo, Ithaca know we are here.

June 2003: we first met each other and decided a voice was needed for the “older” GLBT community.

Empire Bears

We are proud and excited to be a part of the “older” gay community.

It’s a busy, hot month for the furry bears of Rochester.

For both events Meet us outside the GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave., corner Elton/Atlantic Ave., between 10-10:15 a.m. and we’ll head out for the day! For further info, contact ferris/Cindy at 288-7208, or email fishing/FollonNT@aol.com.

ELIZABETH BEISSER

Women’s Fishing

The July 2004 outings of Fishing In The Fingerlakes, a social group for women who love freshwater fishing, will be held on Sunday, July 18 (outing to Bass Pro Shops, Rtes. 5 & 20, Auburn – an amazing place with its own 250 gal-
Gay Groups
continued from previous page
since along the way! I wonder what will happen this year! Our limits are only those thoughts and ideas we have not yet considered. Why not join us and give us your ideas?
It is very interesting to see the reactions at our first intergenerational panel. The youth from the GAGV learned about our times and trials and we learned about the differences they have as well. In many ways today is easier than in the past to “come out”, but it is never easy. Everyone learned something and no one left without making a new friend.

There will be some very interesting times and events in the next year, so let’s all be a part of making history. We currently meet the third Sunday of every month. Our board meeting is at 2 p.m., followed by a potluck dinner at 4 p.m. We are currently meeting at Peace Lutheran Church, located at 125 Caroline St. Our July meeting is the day after the Pride Parade. If you are here from out of town for the festivities, please come and join us. Check out our website for any updates or call 585-442-6639.

Rochester Rams
Join us for Bike Night on Saturday July 19 at the Bachelor Foram. Come and see all the hot models and support the BK at the same time. Our annual run is will be here soon. This year it is scheduled for Aug. 27-29. It is a fun filled weekend of parting with hot men on beautiful Seneca Lake. For more information check out our website www.rochesterrams.com.

The Rochester Rams M.C. is Rochester’s foremost gay motorcycle and leather club as well as being one of the oldest clubs of its type in the country. Our home bar is the Bachelor Foram 670 University Ave., where we hold Bar Nights on the third Saturday of each month. We hold general meetings (open to the public) the Wednesday before each Bar Night at Foran. For more information, please visit our website www.rochesterrams.com.

RGMC
The Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus (RGMG) would like to extend our gratitude to all who attended our summer concert “Together in Harmony” on June 19. The luscious tones of our chorines were coupled with the sweet sounds of our sisters in song, the Rochester Women’s Community Chorus (RWCC). The combination produced an outstanding concert. The RGMG’s new small group, The Cosmopolitans, also wowed the audience with their debut performance.

June was a busy and very successful fundraising month for the RGMG. Our annual Gaughe Safe took place on June 5 and 6 and our first ever PrimaDonor event was held on June 12. At the Gayrage Safe, many loyal supporters and treasure hunters turned out to look through thousands of donated items. Most did not walk away empty-handed.

Our PrimaDonor evening was held at Artisan Works. After some cocktails and delicious hors d’oeuvres on the patio of this beautiful facility, our donors retired to an intimate gallery for a presentation by our board. A good evening was definitely had by all.

This year on the 31st, July 17 will mark the beginning of a long- awaited adventure to Montreal, Canada. The Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA Choruses) will be holding their VII Festival International from July 17 through July 24 and the RGMG will be there to sing our songs to the world. Held only once every four years, this event is a truly rare and phenomenal experience. Our choruses will be singing alongside hundreds of other choruses from all over the planet. GALA offers an opportunity, not only for the RGMG, but also for the City of Rochester to participate in global unity and support of the LGBT community.

August brings the hottest of our summer days, so why not spend a relaxing evening strolling through some of Rochester’s most beautiful private gardens? The RGMG will be hosting a Garden Sunset Stroll on Aug. 21 from 5 p.m.-9p.m. Become inspired for your own garden or just admire the botan­ical beauty. Tickets are $12 in advance or $15 on the day of the tour. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call our office at 585-423-0650.

Don’t forget to visit www.thermg.org.

Fathers Group
The Fathers Group completed their twice monthly meetings for the 2003-2004 year, by having a picnic at one dad’s home in June. Everyone brought a dish to pass. We all had a great time, and would like to thank everyone for coming. It was nice to see some of the past members come join us as well. A big thanks goes to the our dad host, who welcomed us into his home for a great dinner. Thanks DAD!

We will be breaking for the summer months, and will start our regular scheduled meetings back up again in September. We like to break to allow everyone to enjoy the summer and spend time with their families. We will see everyone has a happy and safe summer. See you in September.

New feature: The Wordsmith Profile
a reader’s guide to contemporary literature
July: E. Lynn Harris
BY OVEY OMEYER
This feature is first in a series that highlights current works in contemporary literature. We will try to introduce to you a number of diverse authors, poets, screenwriters, and journalists who have dedicated their life to documenting and enriching gay life as we know it.

As a reminder, volunteers are coming around to bring the GAGV Library and Archive into the 21st Century. The collection is housed at the Community Center, located at 179 Atlantic Ave. It presently includes hundreds of fiction and nonfiction titles, as well as movies, audiotapes, memorabilia, and ephemera. (The Empty Closet archive at the same location would welcome contributions.)

Reading List

“Together in Harmony”
E. Lynn Harris

This is the first book in a trilogy of novels starring Michael Page, a young, aspiring actor. The first book is slightly more intense than the others, but it provides a great introduction to the world of Page and his friends. The story follows Page as he navigates the ups and downs of his career, as well as his personal life. The book is well-crafted and keeps the reader engaged from beginning to end.

Reviews

“Together in Harmony” is a thought-provoking and well-crafted novel that offers a realistic look at the world of show business. The characters are well-developed and the plot is gripping. If you are looking for a book that will keep you riveted, then “Together in Harmony” is a must-read.

Summary

Michael Page is an aspiring actor who dreams of making it big in the entertainment industry. He moves to New York City to pursue his dream and quickly discovers the harsh realities of the industry. As he navigates the ups and downs of his career, he must also deal with his personal life and relationships. This book offers a realistic look at the world of show business and will keep you engaged from beginning to end.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteer for the Empty Closet. Are you a writer, photographer or proofreader? Want to help out with the summer of 2004, researchers at the Atlantis GLBT, we would request that you go to https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.php?act=978855112065, read about the survey, and fill out the anonymous questionnaire there.

The Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester is now accepting nominations for the 21st Annual Arts Awards. Community members are invited to submit nominations in one or more of the following categories: Business/Foundation: A business or foundation that has provided significant support to the arts and cultural life of the Rochester region. Cultural Organization: An organization that has made an outstanding contribution to the arts and cultural life of our community. Individual: An individual who has made a significant contribution to the arts in our community, including arts in education, patronage, development of cultural programming, or arts activism. Literary Artist: A literary artist, residing in the Rochester region, who has made a significant contribution to the art form in our community. Media Artist: A film, video or electronic media artist, residing in the Rochester region, who has made a significant contribution to the art form in our community. Performing Artist: A performing artist, residing in the Rochester region, who has made a significant contribution to the art form in our community. Visual Artist: A visual artist, residing in the Rochester region, who has made a significant contribution to the art form in our community. The Arts & Cultural Council will also recognize significant anniversaries of local cultural organizations. In five-year intervals, of organizations in continuous operation for at least 15 years will be recognized. This is not a competitive category.

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PERSONALS

The following persons are lonely and would appreciate hearing from anyone who will write.

Hello, I am a 27 year old gay Hispanic male in search of a friend to write who may have similar interests. I am 5'2", 200 lbs., very fit and interested in meeting someone who is honest, open and sincere. Daniel Ramos, #71866, PO Box 1989 E.S.P., Elvy, NY 89301.

ROOMMATES/HOUSEMATES

Roommate wanted to share home in Greece. $400 includes everything. Great location for shopping. Male, non-smoker preferred. Must have job and references. Call Dan at 585-754-0055 for more info.


Roommate wanted to share two bedroom Penfield apartment, $462-59 and utilities. Free cable, workout facility, shared storage unit, parking, laundry, great location. Female preferred. For more info see Doc, 264-1565.

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Fremont-Peterson. Valley Creek condo. Total privacy, wooded views, walk to Wegmans Fairport. Electric all appliances. Garage, security system. Two bedrooms. Must see location. $750 plus. No pets. Leave message, 244-3440. Ill
Atlantic Ave. Set-up and clean-up help

rim

Shabbat. 8 pm, 363

site: www.streetsofpride.com or see Tim

from

Gallery, Buffalo, through Aug. 21.

Geva Nextstage, through July 11.

info@streetsofpride.com, or visit

Business Forum hosts Fundraiser

Borders in Henrietta. Todd

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 GLBTI

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This is an open discussion meeting.

This meeting begins with a speaker

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Science Center at 657 East

FishingFolksNY@aol.com. Day Trip (all day event) via the Fast

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Atlantic Five

Gay and Lesbian Support Group
Third Presbyterian Church, 34 Mingus St.
First, third, Mondays, 7:30-8 pm.
Catholic Mass.

After AIDS Bereavement Support Group
Second, fourth, Mondays, 4-6:30 pm.
AIDS Rochester, 1350 University Ave.
Free. 442-2220.

Rochester Historical Bowling Society
Co-Op
Come Out and Play. Business meeting last
Monday, 7 pm. GAGV Community Center,
179 Atlantic Ave. Tom Mt.
494-3639.

American Baptists Concerned
After Third Mondays, 7:30 pm.
Webster House, 57 Amanda St. 442-5421.

HIV Positive Gay Men Support group
Every Monday, 6 pm. AIDS Rochester, 1550
University Ave. 442-2220 x 3051.

Green Party (political)
Second Mondays, 7 pm.
GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 234-6470.

Basicly Troublemakers Band
Rehearsals 4:30-6:30 pm, every Monday.
Call Tim, 242-0237. No meeting June 23.

Transgender Group
Second Mondays. Open Arms MCC, 175
Norris Drive, 6:30-9 pm.

Rochester Frontrunners/Frontwalkers
Rutgers every Monday. 8 pm, meet
George Eastman House parking lot.

Triangle Talk
Fourth Mondays. Light book discussion.
Borders Books & Music, 7 pm. Free.
Sponsored by GAGV.

Tuesday

Atlantic Five 0
Gay men 50 and over. Second Tuesdays,
6:30-8:30 pm, GAGV Community Center,
179 Atlantic Ave. 491-0821.

Orleans Rainbow Fellowship
Support/social group, meets second
Tuesdays, 7 pm. For location call Dale,
589-9107, or e-mail DLAubac186@aol.com

Gay Fathers’ Support Group
First and third Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm.
GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.
On hiatus until Bed.

MOCHA coffee chat
Open discussion for men of color who
have sex with men. Coffee, refreshments.
First and third Tuesdays, 6:30 pm.
MOCHA Project, 25 Franklin St., Suite 1050.
420-1400, 244-8640.

Youth of Color Group
3-6 pm, MOCHA Project, 25 Franklin St.,
Sidney Center, Suite 1050. 420-1400, 244-
8640.

First Steps AA Meeting
7:30-8:30 pm, Downtown United
Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St.
244-8640. Open meeting, gay-friendly/re-
coming.

LGBT Alzheimer’s Caregivers Support Group
Third Tuesdays, 7 pm.
GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.
Second floor. Paul, 244-8543 ext. 14.

Wednesday

Women’s Community Chorus
Rehearsals each Wednesday, 6:30-9 pm.
Call for location. 254-4441.

Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley
Board of Directors
Meeting, second Wednesdays, 7 pm.
Atlantic Ave. 244-8640.

New Freedom New Happines AA Gay
meeting
7 pm, Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Rd.
Men and women. Open meeting.

Support Group for Parents Who Have
Lost Children
First, third Wednesdays, 11 am-12:30 pm.
Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Mingus St.
Sponsored by Genesee Region Home Care.
Free. 325-1801.

Frontrunners/Frontwalkers
9 pm run/walk: meet George Eastman
House parking lot.

Empire Bears
First Wednesdays, 7:30 pm.
GAGV Community Center.
empebears.org

Transgender Group
Third Wednesdays, 6:30-9 pm.
GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

Midtown-Coffee Talk
7 pm, Spin Cafe (719 Park Ave.) Social for
former Multicom-4 BBB members; other
plot gayer geeks welcome, every fourth
Wednesday, 8 pm.

Gray Area
Support/social group for bisexual women.
First Wednesdays, 5:30-7 pm. For location,
see http://home.rochester.com/grayarea-
group/ or call 451-1335. 339-9758.

Country line dancing
Every Wednesday at Muthers. 7-10 pm.

Thursday

Presbyterians for Lesbians and Gay
Concerns
8:30 pm, first Thursday. For location call
Ralph, 271-7640.

Merry Spiritual Companion Programs
Eveing of reflection for those impacted
by HIV/AIDS. 7-9 pm.
Call 671-6570 or 473-6893.

Greater Rochester Gay and Lesbian
Business Forum
Professionals’ social group, Second
Thursdays, 5:30-7 pm.

Caregivers Support Group
First, third Thursdays, 5:30-7 pm. For
location call 231-6880.

Latinos Mission
Second and fourth Thursdays, Third
Presbyterian Church, 7 pm.

GLOBE
(Days and Lesbians of Bausch & Lomb).
Meets every third Thursday in Area 57
conference room at the Optic Center.
Voice mail 338-8977.

Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus
Downtown United Presbyterian Church,
121 N. Fitzhugh St. 7:30 pm, 423-0000.
Free confidential walk-in HIV testing.
Every Thursday night, 5-9 pm.
AIDS Rochester, 1350 University Ave.
442-2220.

MOCHA movie night
Second Thursdays, 5:30 pm. MOCHA
Project, 25 Franklin St., Suite 1050.
240-1400.

Friday

Gay Men’s AA meeting
Each Friday, 7:30-9:30 pm. Closed meet-
ing. GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

Women’s Movie Night
Third Fridays, 7 pm.
GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.
244-8640. On hiatus until fall.

Rochester Rams bar night
Third Saturday, 8 pm-9 pm am. Bachelor
Forum, 470 University Ave.

Frontrunners/Frontwalkers
9 am run/walk: meet George Eastman
House parking lot.

Empire Bears
Second Saturdays. Bachelor Forum, 470
University Ave. Bearline, 234-0381.

Cross Dress Support Group
First Saturdays, 8:30-9:30 pm.
GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

Transgender Group
Last Saturdays, 2-5 pm. GAGV Community
Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

Country line dancing
Second and fourth Saturdays, 6-9 pm.
Call Kevin, 325-6745.

Saturday

Night Special Gay AA
7 pm, Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Rd.
Men and women. Open meeting.

Lilac Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf
(LRAD)
Fourth Saturdays, 6-9 pm. GAGV Community
Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

Pride and Joy Families
Third Saturdays, 1-3 pm.
GAGV Community
Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. NO MEETING.
JUNE-AUGUST. Group will meet at kid-
friendly site at GAGV Picnic on July 11.

WNY Lesbian Couples
Third Saturdays, 7-9 pm. GAGV Community
Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Dyketyed and
Game Night. Start-up after Labor Day.
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/
WNYLesbiansCouples/

Sunday

More Light Presbyterians
For gay and lesbian people and friends.
12:15 pm, last Sundays. Downtown United
Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St.
325-4000.

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and
Gays (PFLAG)
2:30-5 pm. Last Sunday. Call for location:
234-0156.

Dignity-Integrity
5 pm, St. Lukas/St. Simon Cyrene Church,
17 B. Fitzhugh St. Every Sunday.
234-5092.

Open Arms Metropolitan Community
175 Norris Drive, Cobbs Hill. 11 am.
Contemporary worship service, 7 pm.
271-6478.

Gay Men’s Alcohols Anonymous
St. Luke’s/St. Simon Cyrene Church, 17 B.
Fitzhugh St. 8:30 pm, 232-8730. Weekly.
Closed meeting.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and
Friends Association (GLBFA)
U. of Rochester, Sundays, 5 pm.
Money 401. 275-9379. E-mail: gblfa@rochester.
cc.rochester.edu

GAGV Young Adults
Sundays 12-3:30 pm. GAGV Youth Center,
1350 University Ave. 244-8640.

GAGV Youth Group
Ages 13-18. Every Sunday, 2-4 pm. GAGV
Youth Center, 875 E. Main St. 244-8640.

Rainbow Amateur Radio Assoc.
Finger Lakes chapter. Business meeting/meal.
Call Bob, 442-7185.

Food Not Bnach free food
2 pm, every Sunday. Friends Meeting
House, 84 Scoio St. 234-0684.

Rainbow Seniors
Third Sundays. Polluck at Lutheran Church
of Peace, 125 Carolina St. 6:4 pm.

Single Women’s Potluck
Fourth Sundays, 5 pm. GAGV Community
Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Bring diet to
place, table setting.

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Wordsmith continued from page 6

- Harris kicks the door down to a world rarely depicted in popular literature—on the gay and bisexual black community. Written with sensitivity and plenty of attitude, these novels have all appeared on best-seller lists. They have also won enthusiastic acclaim from a diverse readership and critics alike. E. Lynn Harris' trilogy offers a keen insight into the lives of men and women, gay and straight, as they face such universal problems as finding and keeping love, making the right career choices, and dealing with sometimes difficult parents, co-workers, and friends.

His novels not only recount the changes and choices the characters confront, they evoke in telling detail the society in which these choices are made. From the importance of church and family to the consequences of biases based on skin color, sexual orientation, and gender, Harris uncovers ties and relationships that divorce us from the African American experience.

At the center of the Invisible Life trilogy is Raymond Tyler, a man struggling to do the right thing without betraying his lineage or sacrificing his ambitious dreams. The son of a successful lawyer from Birmingham, Alabama, Raymond is being groomed to follow his father’s footsteps. His life takes an unexpected turn, however, when he finds himself attracted to a handsome fraternity brother at college.

Their carefully cloaked relationship—confusing, always exhilarating, and sometimes frightening—marks the beginning of Raymond’s journey toward self-discovery and self-acceptance. The protagonist’s life takes him from the tradition-bound south, to the Mecca of the gay world (Manhattan), Chicago, and the Pacific Northwest. In Seattle, Raymond’s legal career and love life seem, well... really good. Along the way, we encounter a rich and diverse lot.

There is Kyle, very flamboyant, excitable, and openly gay; the beautiful and loving Nicole, an aspiring actress, and Basil, a charismatic and often reckless professional football player. These characters’ stories intertwine and swirl around Raymond in a fast-paced diarying chronicle that proves love, friendship, and sexual desire frequently defy conventional expectations and explanations. Even though some of the characters are unfaithful, and live on the D.L. (down-low), Harris delicately fashions a deeply moving and compelling story that stabs at bisexuality in the age of AIDS with empathy and compassion. The plot lines and the characters groove eventually have you asking yourself pertinent moral and ethical questions about individual responsibilities, the consequences of those behaviors, and life’s lessons.

Presently, E. Lynn Harris is enjoying the status of one of the most sought after talents in contemporary American literature. Three of his books are being optioned for major film production. He has also been tapped by Fox television to write a pilot of a new drama series. As well as his literary credentials, Mr. Harris has appeared on Broadway in 2001 benefit performance as the narrator in Dreamgirls. He has a busy schedule of public speaking, often addressing
THE EMPTY CLOSET IS AVAILABLE AT:
college audiences and doing the proverbial endless book tour and signings. Unfortunately, he will not be coming to the Rochester area in the foreseeable future. When I spoke with his representative on the phone, Alison Rich, from Random House Publishing, she explained that E. Lynn is overwhelmed with offers to appear. His book tour has him presently in New Orleans, La. He is reading excerpts and signing copies of "What Becomes of the Brokenhearted," his never before told life story. In his memoir, he reveals his childhood fantasies of a perfect life, his struggle with suicide and depression, and some of the people who were real life inspiration for his characters.

Mr. Harris has won numerous awards, including the James Baldwin Award for Literary Excellence, and is the only three-time winner of the Blackboard Novel of the Year prize. He was inducted into the Arkansas Hall of Fame, has been named in Our Magazine's "Out 100," New York Magazine's "Gay Power 101" list, "Most Intriguing African Americans" by Ebony Magazine.

However, the list of his many impressive credentials and accomplishments does not stop there. E. Lynn has established the "E. Lynn Harris Better Days Literary Foundation," to provide new writers with guidance and assistance in publishing their work. The objective of this enterprise is to inform and educate the world about literary talent that otherwise wouldn’t find an audience. For more information, you can contact him by emailing to: elynnbetterdays@aol.com.

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Open to LGBT individuals, allies and friends of the community

**Sunday July 11, 2004**  
**Genesee Valley Park, Rochester, New York**  
(Corner of Elmwood Avenue & Moore Road)  
**1:00 - 7:00pm**

**Interfaith Worship Service**  
11:30am - 12:30pm ASL interpreted

**At the Roundhouse Pavilion**

**Food Vendors**
- All Star Pizza & Clams  
- Mykonos Greek Cuisine  
- Ann Sherman’s Grill  
- Cassidy’s Ultimate Bar-B-Que  
- Gran’s at the Renaissance  
- Lorraine’s Food Factory  
- Abbott’s Frozen Custard  
- Kettle Korn Station

**At Pavilion 1**  
1-7pm Continuous DJ Music  
Dancing with your favorite local DJs  
Cash Bar by Motor

**At Pavilion 2**

**Information Booths**
- AIDS Rochester  
- Rainbow Senior’s of Western New York  
- Fortunate Families  
- ImageOut gay and Lesbian Film & Video Festival  
- Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network  
- Log Cabin Republicans  
- Planned Parenthood of Rochester  
- Threshold  
- Empire State Pride Agenda  
- Rainbow Democrats of Monroe County  
- Rochester Community Business Forum  
- Jeffrey Freedman Attorneys at Law  
- Rochester City Council  
- Out & About Directory  
- Rochester Women’s Community Chorus  
- About Magazine  
- Huther-Doyle Memorial Institute  
- Dignity-Integrity/Rochester  
- Green Party of Monroe County  
- Humane Society at Lollypop Farm  
- Kodak Lambda Photo Booth  
- American Express Financial Advisors  
- Parents Friends Lesbian and Gays (PFLAG)  
- The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley  
- Soka Gakkai International (SGI)-USA

**At Pavilion #3**

**Sales Vendors**
- Outlandish Videos and Gifts  
- Mary Kay Beauty Consultant  
- The Pride Connection  
- Integrative Healing Arts Center  
- Sharkware  
- Imprints 4 All  
- Jewelry Outlet Boutique  
- PetSmart  
- In Mixed Company

**At the Entertainment Stage**  
(Off Pavilion 3)

- Aggie Dune as Mistress of Ceremonies  
- Interfaith Service 11:30-12:30am  
- Basically TrebleMakers 1-1:30pm  
- Opening Ceremony 1:30-1:45pm  
- James D 1:45-2:15pm  
- M Shaka 2:15-2:45pm  
- Mike Maffie 2:45-3:15pm  
- Leah Zarcari 3:15-3:45pm  
- Mike Gosech 3:45-4pm  
- Rainbow Skye Karaoke 4-6pm  
- The Earl Cram Revue 6-6:30pm  
- Youth Sponsored Band 6:30-Close

**Family Area**  
(Between Pavilions 2 & 3)

- Drumming Circle with Rose Husted, 3pm  
- Doggie Drag Contest 4pm  
- Small Wunders Miniature Horses  
- Moonwalk  
- Dunking Booth  
- Face Painting  
- Balloons  
- Tattoos  
- Petting Zoo

**Ticket Prices**
- Children 12 and Under Free with Adult  
- GAGV Members: $5 In Advance, $10 at Gate  
- Non Members: $10 In Advance, $15 at Gate  
- VIP Parking Pass $150 Includes Admission for four, Special Reserved Parking, and Gifts

**Sponsors**
- Excellus BlueCross/BlueShield  
- Eastman Kodak Company  
- Bausch & Lomb  
- HSBC Bank USA  
- Jeffrey Freedman Attorneys at Law  
- ID Lubricants Inc.  
- Holiday Inn  
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