Hundreds of couples registered as domestic partners at GAGV town meeting

BY SUSAN JORDAN

Over 120 people heard the latest updates on marriage in Massachusetts at the GAGV’s second town meeting on marriage equality on May 16, the day before marriage became legal for all people in that state. Rochester City Clerk Carolee Conklin, Deputy Clerk Dan Karin and colleague Georgia De Dever were present, and registered 22 couples as domestic partners, in order to increase the numbers of same-sex couples on record in this city as wishing to marry.

Several dozen people registered to vote, and all present were encouraged to send their legislators postcards (or letters or emails) opposing S2220, the DOMA (Defense of Marriage) bill for New York State, which has gained support in the Senate this session. The bill would define marriage as “between a man and a woman”, like the federal amendment to the Constitution supported by President Bush. The Assembly is not expected to pass the bill, but the situation in the Senate is not clear.

The town meeting took place in the large hall on the fifth floor of the Auditorium Center at 875 E. Main St.

“Many of us never thought we’d live to see this day,” said GAGV Executive Director Chuck Bowen, referring to Massachusetts. He said that the dominos will continue to fall, but it will take time.

Team meeting continued on page 3

Shepard speaks at ESPA dinner

BY SUSAN JORDAN

Almost 500 people, the highest number ever, attended the Empire State Pride Agenda’s fifth annual spring dinner, held at the Riverside Convention Center on May 1, where they heard an inspirational talk by Judy Shepard.

In another first, Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks was present during the evening, as were many other politicians and officials, including Congressman Louise Slaughter, State Senator Joe Robach and Brighton Town Supervisor Sandra Frankel.

Pride AIDS Services Executive Director Alan Van Capelle said that this was his first year in the position, “It all started here last year in Rochester,” he said.

In another first, Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks was present during the evening, as were many other politicians and officials, including Congressman Louise Slaughter, State Senator Joe Robach and Brighton Town Supervisor Sandra Frankel.

Van Capelle went through some of the recent accomplishments and new projects of the Pride Agenda, including Pride in Action, Pride in the Workplace, Pride in the Union (encouraging workers to come out inside our unions) and Pride in the Pulpit.

He posed a challenge to listeners. “We are living in historic times. I believe in my lifetime we will have equal rights, including the right to marry. Five years, 10 years... when that time comes, what will you say you did?”

Her audacity to tell their stories to their straight friends, to write to newspapers and talk radio shows to protest unfair and biased coverage, and to hold politicians accountable. “Tell them it’s not a big deal to support fairness in the workplace... The real question is, do they support marriage.”

He added, “I’m 29, and I spent the first 22 years of my life praying not to be gay. Then I realized I needed a new prayer.”

Gay rights advocates celebrated the first day of same-sex marriages at Boston City Hall Plaza. Picture is Paula Virtue hugging her partner Paula Kowalke, of East Boston, outside Boston City Hall after getting their marriage paperwork.

BY SUSAN JORDAN

Area Baptist Council recognizes Reverend Will Seals’ ordination

The Permanent Council for the Rochester/Genevese region of American Baptist Churches has recognized the ordination of the Reverend Will Seals, who is Registrar and Director of Student Life at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, was unanimously approved to receive recognition.

“I think it’s safe to say I am the first openly gay African American ordained American Baptist minister in the Rochester/Genevese region,” Seals said. “I am part of a growing number of gay and lesbian American Baptist clergy in this region. Today is truly a great day, a historic day, with the 50th Anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education and Massachusetts becoming the first state to have equal marriage. We all have reason to celebrate the advances our nation is making.”

Local couple marries in Mass., seeks recognition in Rochester

A Rochester couple was married in Somerville, Mass., on May 18, and will seek recognition from Rochester’s City Hall.

Chris Bianchi, 29, and Dennis Skinner, 27, told the New York Times that they are willing to be part of a lawsuit if necessary to gain recognition of their marriage by New York State.

The situation for out-of-state couples married in Massachusetts is far from clear at this time. Although Rochester Mayor Bill Johnson has written to the Gay Alliance that he will comply with Corporation Counsel Linda Kingley’s ruling that the city will recognize out-of-state marriages, Gov. Mitt Romney is trying to block out-of-state couples from marrying (see article on this page).

See July 6C for more information.

Pam Belluck, The New York Times

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Sen. William ("Pete") Knight is a name well known to Californians, as the conser­vative state senator from Palm­dale who wrote the suc­cessful 2000 ballot initiative Prop 22, a.k.a. the Knight Initiative, that barred same-sex couples from marrying in the state. His son David came out to him in 1996, the same year the senator’s brother, who was gay, died of AIDS. Knight died himself on May 7, it was unclear at precisely when he and David had ever reconciled. David, who married his partner of 10 years in San Francisco in March, wrote in a 1996 op-ed piece for the L.A. Times, "I believe, based on my experience, that his is a blind, uncaring, uninformed, knee-jerk reaction to a subject about which he knows nothing and wants to know nothing, but which serves his political career.

Vice President Dick Cheney’s daugh­ter Mary is a lesbian who lives with her partner. She has told the media in the past, "We live in a free society, and freedom means freedom for everyone. And I think that means that people should be free to enter into any kind of relationship they want ..."

But by 2004, Cheney had decided to support the Bush endorsement of the amendment to our Constitution that would make her daughter, and all other gay people, permanent second-class citi­zens. It was the right career move, if he wanted to stay on the 2004 ballot.

Meanwhile, Matthew Shepard, murdered about the steamy lesbian sex in a novel she wrote back in the 80’s, claimed she had forgotten all about it. When report­ers ask her about her lesbian daughter, she reverts with indignant rage at the intrusive ques­tion about her private family matters.

Ah, family dramas. You may also recall Phyllis Schlafly’s son, New Gingrich’s sister, former Reagan protocol chief “Bus” Mosbacher’s daughter, and other queer relatives of what might be called “professional heter­criminals” — the banner-carriers of the hardcore right.

Jamiel and David could have chosen, like Mary Cheney, to remain silent, invisible and loyal to their bigoted fathers. Instead, they chose to be loyal to the millions of oppressed light people who so often become family to each other when their biological relatives reject them.

Mary Cheney’s loyalty may stem from love for a kind, affectionate father; from a wish to remain in Daddy’s will (all that Halliburton money from Iraq will be nice to inherit), or from all three. Jamiel Shepard was accused by his father of selling out for money to the queer media. Who knows what deep, conflicting emotions may wash inside children and parents, when family issues become entangled with public issues? Where does loyalty to a family member end and loyalty to justice begin?

As feminists of the 70’s said, “The person­al is political”. What goes on behind the closed doors of the nuclear family is just as much a part of what goes on in public in our society. This is as true of the families of wealthy, powerful public figures as it is of ordinary families — including “unreal” gay families.

Let’s be honest. Gay is a matter of choice. And I think that means that people would make his daughter, and all other 19bt issues in the daily news, the fact remains that our community is opened up for others to understand us. The only way we end hatred and discrimination is through education. The fear that the religious right continues to inject into every argument diminishes when there are faces to our movements. When our coworkers, neighbors and families know someone who is gay, it is no longer an 19bt issue “culture” or “movement”. It becomes a personal issue, not a move­ment with an anonymous face. By con­trast, we risk everything, but in the end, it is always worth it.

Judi Shepard told our yobs to be “honestly gay”. Be honest with families, friends, neighbors and coworkers. I was shocked, and somewhat dis­couraged to find out that a recent sur­vey from HRC revealed that only four percent of the lesbian community is out to everyone. No wonder there is such a strong backlash in this country against our wanting equality. Our lives are so much easier when we can be honest. But with honesty, comes pain before joy. The GAGV, HRC and other organizations can help with the coming out process.

“Sometimes our light goes out but is blown into flame by another human being. Each of us owes deep gratitude to those who have kindled this light,” said Albert Schweitzer.

In moving forward towards equality, let’s be “honestly gay” as much as pos­sible. Let’s not let Matthew’s light go out because we are afraid to tell our stories.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: The opinions of columnists, editorial writers and other contributing writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the collective attitude of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley or the Empty Closet. We will print anonymous letters with the nature of the issue in mind, but we will not print personal attacks on individuals, nor will we be a forum for ongoing disputes between individuals. We reserve the right to edit for clarity. We will print anonymous letters if the name and phone number are provided to the Editor; confidentiality will be respected. Submissions are due by the 15th month at: The Empty Closet, 875 E. Main St., Suite 500, Rochester NY 14605; email emptycloset@gayv.org. Online edition of EC available at www.gayalliance.org.
ESPAA dinner continued from page one

day, when you get out. You must engage my demographic (the heterosexual community). You can't do it alone, you need to help you.

She said, "Unless you describe your hardship, they won't know that you experience that. They won't know how to support you unless you tell them." She said that if her son Matthew had not told her and her husband that he was gay before his death, "I would always have wondered, did we somehow send him a message that we wouldn't accept him?"

Massachusetts continued from p. 1

In Rochester, Corporation Counsel Linda Kingsley issued an opinion last March that Rochester should recognize these out of state marriages, and Mayor Bill Johnson has written to the Gay Alliance saying that he will follow her opinion. N.Y.S. Attorney General Eliot Spitzer issued a 28-page opinion last March saying that the state can recognize the marriages, although it is not authorized to perform them.

Hundreds of couples exchanged vows and were pronounced "partners for life" all over Massachusetts after May 17, in joyous ceremonies both large and small. These couples are well aware that their marriages may still be invalidated by the efforts of anti-gay hate groups, but as Robin Ochs, who married her partner Peg Preble in Brookline, said, "It isn't a day for thinking about hateful people, or people who don't get it.

President Bush marked May 17 by renewing his call for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would pre­vent states from marrying same-sex couples and prevent state courts from ruling that same-sex couples must be treated equally under the law. The President made this announcement amidst new polls showing decreasing support for his Federal Marriage Amendment and increasing support for fairness for gay and lesbian families.

A recent Gallup poll indicates that opposition to same-sex marriages is decreasing. In early May, 42 percent favored same-sex marriages, up from 31 percent in mid-December, after the Massachusetts Supreme Court ruling that said denial of marriage licenses was unconstitutional. The poll showed that 55 percent oppose marriage equality, down from 65 percent last December.

The American Civil Liberties Union on May 17 praised the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for becoming the first state in U.S. history to allow lesbian and gay couples to legally marry.

"By ending the exclusion of same-sex couples from marriage, Massachusetts has begun a new chapter in civil rights history," said Anthony D. Romero, executive director of the ACLU. "These cer­emonies mark a giant step forward and they are sure to make the celebrations of the many lesbian and gay couples who marry all the sweeter."

The marriages post-May 17 mark a happy ending to the six-month waiting period imposed by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court after it ruled that same-sex couples must be treated equally under the law. The President made this announcement amidst new polls showing decreasing support for his Federal Marriage Amendment and increasing support for fairness for gay and lesbian families.

A recent Gallup poll indicates that Massachusetts continued on page 5

Town meeting continued from page 1

Bowers brought everyone up to date on the latest developments, including the move by Massachusetts' Republican Governor Mitt Romney to use a 1913 law banning marriage for out of state people whose marriages would not be legal in their own states.

Bowers said that Romney had called N.Y.S. Governor George Pataki on May 14. "The two Republican governors agreed that marriages in Massachusetts will not be recognized in New York," Bowers said. "Once again, leaders of our two states conspire to keep us from having equality." He added that N.Y.S. attorney General Eliot Spitzer had announced in early March that nothing would be done for standing up for gender and racial equality. Similarly, there have been earlier attempts to write discrimi­nation into our constitution, often justi­fied by excuse that it is "God's law."

"The challenge to the Massachusetts law that resulted in marriage equality for same-sex couples was brought by Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD): The ACLU supported the lit­igation through friend-of-the-court briefs throughout the lawsuit. The ACLU has published a guide for same-sex couples titled "Thinking About Getting Married in Massachusetts" that is available online at http://www.aclu.org/getequality/relda/massachusetts.html.

"President Bush is trying to turn the camera away from the nation's for­eign policy and economic problems," said Human Rights Campaign President Cheryl Jacques. "President Bush is Massachusetts continued on page 5

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Kansas rejects anti-gay amendment on marriage

The Kansas Legislature adjourned May 8, effectively killing a proposed anti-gay amendment to the state Constitution that would have denied marriage to same-sex couples in the state. The measure, which failed in Senate and House votes, would have also denied the protections of marriage to same-sex couples in civil unions or domestic partnerships.

"Legislators recognized that resurrecting an anti-gay amendment to the Kansas Constitution was a bad idea and waste of time," said Human Rights Campaign President Cheryl Jacques. "This amendment was twice rejected — first by the Senate and then by the House. But some lawmakers just couldn't take no for an answer. It's heartening to see fairness won out."

Following a successful House vote, the Senate, led in part by Republican State Sen. David Adkins, rejected the measure on March 26. Lawmakers then brought the measure up for another vote. The Senate passed it, however, on May 4, the House rejected it the second time around.

ACLU attacks Bork testimony at Congressional hearing

The House Judiciary Committee on May 13 held its third hearing on the Federal Marriage Amendment and supporters of the measure called on Robert Bork, whose nomination as a Supreme Court justice was roundly rejected by the Senate because of his radical viewpoints, to defend the proposed amendment that would, for the first time, write discrimination into the Constitution.

"Judge Bork's ideology is inconsistent with American values of fairness and equality," said Christopher E. Anders, an ACLU Legislative Counsel. "His philosophy falls well outside the mainstream, and fails to even be conservative — it's just plain radical. His endorsement of the amendment should raise serious flags about the intent of its supporters. Discrimination is discrimination, no matter what else you call it."

Before the hearing, the ACLU joined with leaders from a broad range of civil and religious rights organizations to condemn the amendment. Among them were the Japanese American Citizens League, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund and the United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries.

At previous hearings before the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, prominent conservatives have expressed reservations about the amendment. Former member of Congress Bob Barr (R-GA), the author of the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, which allows individual states to not recognize same-sex marriages performed by other states, said that, "Part of federalism means that states have the right to make bad decisions — even on the issue of who can get married in the state."

A leading pediatrician has also testified against the measure, saying it would harm American families.

The debate over denying marriage rights to gay and lesbian couples has escalated following the Massachusetts Supreme Court decision that those couples cannot be denied the same rights enjoyed by straight married couples, and the city of San Francisco and other local government's issuance of marriage licenses to over 7,000 gay and lesbian couples.

"Gay and lesbian families are the new targets for some politicians this election year," Anders added. "This discriminatory proposal says that loving and committed families should be denied equality, that somehow their love and commitment is not worthy of protecting. Gay and lesbian families are just like other American families, and Congress should not discriminate against them."

For more on the ACLU's response to the Amendment, go to: http://www.aclu.org/marriageamendment

Freud was wrong about gays, new Calif. study says

An Old Freudian idea that has contributed to beliefs that homosexuals aren't fit for marriage should be scrapped, according to a new study by California State University, Sacramento child-develop- ment professor Mark Biernbaum, which appears in the May/June Journal of Homosexuality.

A series of previous studies have found that Freud's theory of gay and lesbian individuals are not psychologically immature, according to Biernbaum's study. They haven't failed to grow up, despite the belief long held by some that they believed caused them to seek partners of the same sex much like children seek playmates of the same sex.

Biernbaum found instead that gay and straight 18- to 25-year-olds with similar backgrounds responded almost identically to a questionnaire designed to test psychological maturity. That finding also rules out the idea that immaturity makes homosexuals more prone to mental illness.

"You can't make the link between psychological immaturity and homosexuality. It doesn't exist," Biernbaum says. "Yes, gay people do seem to be much more at risk for mental illness, but I think it must be due more to societal factors than psychological factors."

Biernbaum's current research and a series of other studies have found that homosexual youth are at increased risk for mental health problems — including suicidal thoughts, depression and anxiety.

"A lot of research says his findings should influence how psychiatrists and other mental health professionals treat homosexual clients. More generally, he says, the findings could help alter broad public perceptions."

"A lot of what's behind this whole debate is about gay marriage is Freud's concept that homosexuals are promiscuous and aren't capable of a grown-up romantic relationship," Biernbaum says. "I really think all the recent media coverage showing gay couples as real people sends an important message, both to society and to homosexual youth who may be having trouble finding their way." In addition to not differing on psychological maturity, the study found no differences between the two groups regarding their views on adult relationships.

Biernbaum's study included 56 young people in the Seattle area ages 18-25; heterosexual youth were matched with a heterosexual peer on a number of demographic factors as well as on their views about mature, romantic relationships. It compared their responses about how they handle conflict and whether they felt symptoms of mental illness. The study was part of more extensive research about college student adjustment.

Biernbaum acknowledges that the portion of the research dedicated to homosexuality was limited in scope, and suggests additional research is needed. As a result, students studying the matching of young people from similar backgrounds. Most similar research has compared small groups of homosexual and heterosexual youth. largely groups of heterosexual youth.

Lambda Legal seeks N.J. marriage equality

An appeal brief filed on May 6 in Lambda Legal's lawsuit seeking marriage equality for gay and lesbian couples in New Jersey puts the state at the front of the line for the ultimate answer on marriage for gay and lesbian couples in the country.

Lambda Legal filed the historic lawsuit against the State of New Jersey in June 2002 on behalf of seven lesbian and gay couples seeking marriage recognition. The lawsuit is based solely on the New Jersey Constitution. Therefore, the New Jersey Supreme Court will have the last word in the case.

The appeal follows a lower-court decision last year in favor of the state, just the lower court ruled in New Jersey that same-sex couples must receive marriage licenses starting May 17.

"New Jersey's Constitution requires the state to treat everyone equally, and gay people aren't treated equally as long as they can't marry," said David Buckel, director of Lambda Legal's Marriage Project and lead attorney on this case. "This appeal will give the state supreme court the stage in the process where the case will move quickly toward a final ruling. With Massachusetts couples able to get married all eyes will turn toward New Jersey for a big breakthrough in this historic time."

More and more these last few weeks, people have been asking us if we are going to Massachusetts to get married. We hope to be able to say our vows right here in New Jersey by this time next year," said Karen Nicholson-McFadden, one of the seven couples in Lambda Legal's lawsuit.

Along with the lawsuit, Lambda Legal launched an extensive education campaign to win the hearts and minds of New Jersey citizens by showing that gay and lesbian couples need and deserve all of the protections marriage provides.

"What makes our case in New Jersey unique is the pairing of the gay and lesbian movement with a highly visible public education strategy including 14 town hall meet- ings with record breaking turnouts throughout the state, "We learned in Hawaii and Alaska, and we hope with this major investment we will be able to avoid some of the issues other states are battling now," said Buckel. "New Jersey has a very high probability of winning marriage for same-sex couples and keeping it."

The seven plaintiff couples in the

New Zealand study surveys gay and lesbian lives, attitudes and values

A new study at Massey University in New Zealand is the first comprehensive survey in that country on the lives of an estimated 75,000 to 400,000 gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people. Questions include religion, income, education, ethnicity, health, children, sexual beliefs, relationships and discrimination, according to the New Zealand Herald.

The study, the country's first study of LGBT people, is timely in light of the new Civil Union Bill, which will soon be introduced into parliament. He told the Herald, "I think what it will reveal is that gay and lesbian people are out there and are no different from the general community in attitudes and values. That might help people who are not feeling threatened about the civil union legislation."

The Washington Blade
A Boston wedding album: May 17, 2004
(Photos by Doug Meszler)

attending to lead this nation into discrimination. We will not let him hurt our families.”

In the statement issued May 17, President Bush said, “The sacred institution of marriage should not be redefined by a few activist judges. All Americans have a right to be heard in this debate. I called on the Congress to pass, and to send to the states for ratification, an amendment to our Constitution defining and protecting marriage as a union of a man and a woman as husband and wife. The need for that amendment is still urgent, and I repeat that call today.”

“An amendment to the Constitution is discriminatory, unnecessary and undermines the Constitution,” said Cheryl Jacques. “It’s time for the President to work to unite Americans, not use the Constitution to separate some from the rest,” she added.

Support for passage of the Federal Marriage Amendment has stagnated in the last several weeks. Opposition to the amendment increases when people realize that Congress has already passed a federal law denying marriage to same-sex couples, and that a constitutional amendment would have to be considered not only in Congress, but in every state in the nation. An amendment needs approval by a two-thirds majority in both the Senate and House, and three-quarters of the states for ratification.

“There’s no compelling reason for Congress to amend the U.S. Constitution over something that has historically been a state issue,” said Winnie Stachelberg, HRC’s political director. “Putting discrimination in the U.S. Constitution is not a priority for American voters.”

Matt Foreman, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, issued a statement on May 17. Foreman said, “Today, President Bush reaffirmed the commitment of the 50th Anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education by renewing his support for amending the U.S. Constitution to erase discrimination against a minority.

“On a day in which we celebrate the role of the independent judiciary in American democracy, the President said, ‘The sacred institution of marriage should not be redefined by a few activist judges.’ I say, Mr. President, you would not be living in the White House but for a few activist judges,” Foreman said.

“Likewise, without an independent judiciary, segregation would still be the law of many states, abortion and interracial marriages would still be illegal, and indigent persons accused of crime would have no right to legal counsel.

Fortunately, the President’s proposed amendment is dead on arrival in the U.S. Senate and he knows it. The only reason for this renewed call for Congress to act is to continue to use the lives of committed same-sex couples to divide America for partisan gain.”

For transcript of Bush’s speech and Foreman’s statement, go to:

N.J. marriage

continued from previous page

case have been together between 11 and 32 years. Five of the seven couples have children. All of them want and need the legal security that comes with marriage but has been denied to them.

Leading up the list of plaintiff couples are Mark Lewis and Dennis Winslow, two Episcopalian pastors from Union City, Hudson County who have been a couple for 10 years. In addition to Mark Lewis and Dennis Winslow, the plaintiff couples in the case are Karen and Marcye Nicholson-McFadden, who have been together 13 years and are raising a four-year-old son, Kasey, and one-year-old, Maya; Saundra Heath and Alicia Toby, who have been together 15 years and are leaders in Newark’s Liberation In Truth Unity Fellowship church; Craig Hutchison and Chris Loderwicks, who have been a couple for 32 years and live in Pompton Lakes; Marilyn Manedly and Diane Marini, a southern New Jersey couple who have been together for 14 years; Sarah and Susie Ladel, a 13-year couple raising three young girls, Zenzali, Tenaj and Dani; and Maureen Killian and Cindy Menghlin, a couple of 29 years with an 11-year-old son, Josh, and nine-year-old daughter, Sarah.

The words “husband,” “wife,” “spouse,” or some form of the word “marry” appear in more than 850 separate provisions of New Jersey law. Beyond legal rights and responsibilities, marriage is an enormous part of day-to-day life and is the most common way that couples prove their enduring commitment to each other.

In New York, Lambda Legal represents five same-sex couples seeking the right to marry. In Washington State, along with the North Coast Women’s Center, Lambda Legal is working toward marriage equality on behalf of six gay and lesbian couples. Lambda Legal is also working with NCLR, Equality California and the ACLU to ensure that the marriages in San Francisco are respected. Together with NCLR and the ACLU, Lambda Legal is also representing six couples in California seeking the right to marry.

Lawrence S. Lustberg and Jennifer Ching of Gibbons, DelDeo, Dolan, Griffinger & Vecchione, one of New Jersey’s largest and most prestigious law firms, are cooperating attorneys for Lambda Legal in this case.

Left: Hillary and Julie Goodridge before their wedding ceremony at the Unitarian Universalist Association headquarters. The Goodridges and six other plaintiff couples won the Massachusetts landmark gay marriage case that issued same-sex marriage rights. Above: Hillary Goodridge, Annie Goodridge and Julie Goodridge at their wedding reception at the Unitarian Universalist Association headquarters.

Janet Statthos, Loretta Cardinals and Rev. Howard Palmer (Unitarian a man) and Rev. Paul Burns (Unitarian Church of Medford) signing the marriage license. The couple were married that day after 24 years together.
Interview:

Anne Tischer and Bess Watts marry here without license; MCC shows clergy support

BY SUSAN JORDAN

It was a sunny spring day, perfect for an outdoor wedding. Anne Tischer and Bess Watts were married, without a marriage license, on April 29 in Washington Square. The wedding was performed by the Rev. Jim Mulcahy, pastor of Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church.

District Attorney Mike Green declined to place charges against Mulcahy, who believed that it is courteous. There never was a threat or an outdoor wedding. Anne Tischer and Bess married. I told them that our intention was to demonstrate that there was a religious community involved and that using the word 'married' might cross the line.

Many area clergy and lay people attended the ceremony. Those present included the Rev. Will Seals, who is registrar at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School (see article, page one); the Rev. Gary F. Norden, pastor of Park Avenue United Church of Christ in Hilton; Denise Donahue of Spiritus Christi; the Rev. George Tyler of the First Universalist Church; Rabbi Alan Katz of Temple Sinai; H. Darrell Lance, a retired professor at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School and member of the congregation at the First Unitarian Church, and Michael Nicolics, chaplain of Dignity/Integrity.

"The support of the Rochester religious community was encouraging," he said. "I received emails from clergy who also would have liked to be there to stand in support, but were out of town or otherwise unable to attend."

The wedding was part of the worldwide International Day of Clergy Support for Equal Marriage, which was sponsored by Metropolitan Community Churches. The action demonstrated that many religious communities bless same-sex couples, and that such open and affirming congregations believe that the refusal of marriage licenses to same-sex couples denies them justice and equal rights.

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we've been
is that most of our lives we've been
Anne added,
where my co-workers would have had
which they do. They were stunned.
would have gotten bereavement leave.
I had to take vacation time, when they
It's awareness
experiences as a Black woman with
out to be supportive. Anne said,
big thing we've
amazing how things happened without
an office with a woman who is a
clueless on. That's what kicked me into
cried - and I'm a
a marriage license. Then the article
announced.
"For
"It
was meant to
be!"
Bess said,
"the
marry."
Anne said,
"I
10
gotten
"I
"The
Bess
"He
"I
the
"I
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Above: Anne and Bess talk to the media. Below: the couple with Rev. Jim Mulcahy and other clergy during the ceremony. MCC set April 29 as a day of clergy support.
Brothers Gonna Work It Out: a position paper

"Brothers Gonna Work It Out": Perspectives on HIV/STD among Men of Color in Upstate New York is a position paper from Men of Color Health Awareness Project, Inc. and Black Men Latino Men Health Crisis, Inc.

Over the past two years, the Men of Color Health Awareness Project, Inc. (MOCHA) and Black Men Latino Men Health Crisis, Inc. (BMLMHC) have worked in collaboration to identify barriers that have, in effect, kept men of color from accessing HIV testing and care. Our endeavors led to a series of focus groups which brought together men of color who are heterosexual and men who have sex with men.

This position paper represents a unique assessment of the HIV prevention needs of men of color in the Rochester and Buffalo regions of New York State.

We chose "Brothers Gonna Work It Out," Willie Hutch's 1973 hit song, as the title of the Men of Color Sexuality forums/position paper because we believe that information and recommendations contained in this document make a statement about the resource needs of men of color.

It is our hope that publishing this position paper will help maximize the involvement of men of color in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

We invite funders, providers of care and the community at large to review "Brothers Gonna Work It Out" and join us in our collaborative effort to increase the awareness of HIV status among men of color and reduce the risk of exposure within these populations.

To obtain a copy of "Brothers Gonna Work It Out," please contact: Don Bruner at (585) 262-6230 or e-mail dbrunecbmlmhc@frontiernet.net.

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Announcing the 2nd Annual Rochester Butch-Femme Connection 2004 Dinner, Brunch & Fishing Bash!

Dinner: Saturday, July 10th, 2004 (evening)
Brunch: Sunday, July 11th, 2004 (11:30 a.m. - till)

Are you a butch or femme lesbian (single or partnered) who wants to meet other butches/femmes from across the region? Want to meet others from the butch-femme online community - in person?

THIS is the event for you!

Last July, 25 butches/femmes from Rochester, Buffalo, the Southern Tier, the NYC/NJ/PA tri-state area, western PA and Canada gathered for a delightful dinner/night on the town; the next day, 35 of us enjoyed a scrumptious breakfast/lunch buffet, then made the short trek to Charlotte Pier on Lake Ontario for a few hours of camaraderie/freshwater fishing!

Check out the gang of cool grrls/bois who showed up in 2003!
http://www.nyparty.homestead.com/Roch.html

Sound fun? This year's event promises to be even better!
Come re-connect with old friends and make new ones!

Event is pay-your-own-way. For further information, e-mail Kerry & Max at DressyFemme@aol.com or phone (585) 865-4619, option 2. Space is limited...RSVP by June 25th, 2004.
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EQUAL BENEFITS FOR LGBT FAMILIES: Leslie Thrope and daughter Sadie. The late Dominique Ghossein was unable to get domestic partner health benefits from the employer of her partner Leslie. Ghossein died in 2003 and city legislation is named for her. New York City Council passed the Equal Benefits Bill (EBB), a measure requiring NYC contractors to provide equal employment benefits to all employees, whether they are married or in domestic partner relationships. ALL PHOTOS THIS PAGE BY DOUG MESZLER.


WALKING THE WALK: Kristin Chenoweth, nominated for Tony for her role in "Wicked," at the 19th annual AIDS Walk NY in Central Park on May 16.

PHILLY EQUALITY: Equality Forum's SundayOUT annual block party on 12th and Locust St. in Philadelphia on April 11. Equality Forum, a global lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization, developed Project 1138, which held a public demonstration for marriage equality involving 1,138 committed same-sex couples. Pictured are Diane Marini and Marilyn Manley, who are plaintiffs in the New Jersey marriage equality case represented by Lambda Legal Defense. (See page 4)

YOU'RE OUT: Empire State Pride Agenda 1st Annual Equality At Work Awards in Manhattan on May 13; Alan Van Capelle with Keynote Speaker Billy Bean (out major league baseball player).

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Judy Shepard talks with youth at GAGV Youth Center May 1

Above: The youth gave Judy a director's chair which they had signed, and a bouquet. Below: Judy Shepard with some of the youth who attended the luncheon at the GAGV Youth Center on May 1. Youth Services Director Toby Greenfield is on Judy's right. Left: Judy Shepard spoke and took questions. (For coverage of the luncheon, see Section C).
Town meeting continued from page 3

valid out-of-state marriages. Spitzer said she expects legal challenges to be brought against it.

Attorneys in Boston and Springfield have been instructed to begin the process of recognizing same-sex marriages in Massachusetts. The process takes a three-day waiting period after receiving the license before the marriage can take place. Witnesses are not needed for civil marriages.

Gravitz suggested that couples send their wedding announcements to the Democrat & Chronicle, which has said it will print them. “Seek formal recognition,” she said, “and expect some resistance.”

Chuck Bowen added that the Alliance for New York State hopes to have a new law that would allow its members to marry in Canada. Gravitz said that, in order to marry in Canada, they must have proof of New York marriage, regardless of whether the marriage would be recognized in New York.

Gravitz said that, in order to marry in Massachusetts, partners need to get blood tests for syphilis and HIV within 30 days of applying for their license. Massachusetts marriage license application forms are available on the state website. Have your birth certificates on hand, and, if previously married, have proof of your divorce. Both partners must be physically present at the time of application.

Gravitz said that the law is being used to criminalize couples who are uncomfortable with their sexual orientation.

Mary Bonauto, one of the lawyers who won the Massachusetts case, told the New York Times on May 5 that she objects to the broad interpretation of the Spitzer law. She said that she expects legal challenges to be brought against it. “I don’t think Massachusetts has any basis under our equality principles for enforcing discriminatory laws against other states,” she said.

In a letter to Gov. Romney in early May, Elisa Spitzer said that the Spitzer law does not provide legal options to other states. However, he sent Romney a copy of his 28-page March opinion, stating that while New York does not authorize same-sex marriage, it generally recognizes valid out-of-state marriages. Spitzer said that the courts should decide whether New York domestic relations law is constitutional in failing to authorize same-sex marriages. Several couples have filed legal challenges to that law.

Spitzer said she had a letter from Mayor Bill Johnson saying that he would comply with City Corporation Counsel Linda Kingsley’s legal opinion that Rochester should recognize same-sex marriages performed out of state.

Rochester attorney Jennifer Gravitz was the main speaker of the afternoon. She and her partner have married legally in Canada. Gravitz gave an update on “what we know and what we don’t know.” She said that she do know that marriage is a basic human right, and that marriage equality is a civil rights issue. We know that New York has no legal recognition of same-sex marriage. We also know that President George W. Bush says that same-sex legal marriage “will destroy civilization as we know it.”

“Whatever we don’t know,” Gravitz said, “is whether New York will recognize our civil rights, or how long it will take.” Gravitz urged couples to carefully think through the legal and financial issues involved. “Make sure you know your legal rights,” she told the lawyer and financial planner—“examine your comfort level—the questions you’re willing to face in step around—be prepared for uncertainty.”

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Ontario Co., man charged with first degree sodomy; denies all charges

BY SUSAN JORDAN

Alan Carter, a teacher and businessman in West Bloomfield, has been charged with first degree sodomy. Carter vehemently denies the charges. “I respect the law,” Carter told the Associated Press. Martin E. Mushe, believes that the charge, from a then-17-year-old boy facing theft charges at this time, may be an extortion attempt.

It is illegal in New York State to have sex with people under the age of 17. On Sept. 17, 2003, the teenager boy reported to police that Carter had plied him with liquor and forced him to have sexual contact. The youth was doing yard work for Carter.

Alan Carter said, “This person is 6’2” tall and much stronger than I am and there is no way I could have forced him to do anything.” Carter is 57 and about 5’10”. He denied giving the youth liquor.

Carter said that the alleged victim tried to extort money from him after a consensual sexual encounter, and has lied about when it happened, presumu-

Hat auction for breast cancer seeks artists

The Truday Baran Breast Cancer Hat Auction is seeking artists who are interested in creating a “hat” to be auctioned off on July 25. Proceeds will benefit women with breast cancer being treated at the Plata Cancer Center in Rochester.

The hats are a reference to those worn by women who have lost their hair due to cancer therapy. Dr. Trudy Baran was a therapist and activist for peace and women’s rights who died of breast cancer in 1998.

For more information, see the website at hatauctionon.com or call Beth Bloom at 585-256-2214.

Wine tasting, auction to benefit AIDS Community Health Center

AIDS Community Health Center (ACHC), previously known as Community Health Network, will be holding its annual “A Night of.. Great Tastes” benefit on Wednesday June 9 from 5:30-9:30 p.m. at BRU, 300 State St., in Rochester’s High Falls District.

The evening will feature wine and beer tasting and delicious food and is accompanied by their much-anticipated silent auction, with many wonderful auction items up for bid. Tickets are available for $30 in advance or $40 at the door. To order tickets please contact the AIDS Community Health Center Special Events Dept at 585-244-9000 x665 or events@communityhealthnet.com

Dick Connell and Jack Ellis register as domestic partners on May 16.
Rochester man charged with fatal injury to partner

BY JOHN RANDALL

According to news stories in the Democrat and Chronicle by Staff Writer Michael Zeigler, Michael Jackson, 22, has been charged with causing a fatal head injury to his alleged boyfriend, Peter Guercio, 35, whose apartment on Birch Crescent, near E. Main St.

Jackson originally told police that he came home near midnight, and found Guercio lying outside their apartment, suffering from a head wound. Jackson said he dragged Guercio inside, and called 911. He said he held a towel to Guercio’s head until police arrived.

Later, Jackson allegedly changed his story and said he came home from a bar, looked through a window, and saw Guercio viewing a male pornography site. Allegedly, Jackson said he confronted Guercio, and slapped and punched him. He said Guercio fell and hit his head on a piece of metal by the door. Guercio was in a coma at Strong Memorial Hospital, where he died of severe head trauma on Feb. 19.

Peter Guercio was an employee of Wal-Mart and the City School District of Rochester, and was a member of the National Guard. He is survived by his wife, children, sisters, and mother.

Jackson is being held in Monroe County Jail in lieu of $15,000 bail, and has been indicted on a homicide charge.

Discovery of anti-gay online poll tests Albany U’s resolve

BY SEBASTIAN WHITE

It’s probably not a far stretch to think there are few secrets in this tiny two-college, one-stoplight town of 4,000 nestled along the rolling hills of New York’s Southern Tier. But the week of May 8, on the campus of Alfred University, one of two colleges that flank this narrow ribbon of town, a story was shaping up from final exams to solving a veritable whodunit who placed the anti-gay poll on University Website, AU Online.

Reaction was swift and concerted to the discovery on the last day of classes of a controversial survey that included questions written in pejorative language and that was posted on AU’s gay and lesbian student group, My-AU, an internal Web site accessible only to students and university personnel.

Bertha Ngin, the president of Spectrum, AU’s gay and lesbian student organization, who was among the first to get wind of the offending content and who worked with the University’s information technology service to quickly remove it, said he was “absolutely appalled.”

No one is certain how long the anti-gay poll was on AU Online, a loosely regulated information portal on the University’s network. AU Online is an internal closed campus computer network that was launched in 1997, and is monitored by AU’s Computing Resources and Computing Services, said in an e-mail that her office did not have student reaction. The poll had been posted since April 29, but no one had noticed it until May 7.

“We received a complaint from a student about this poll,” she said, adding that she did not know the perpetrator’s identity would remain a mystery.

My-AU members felt that due to the sensitive nature of the poll, all AU students would be averted from the identity of the student who posted the poll, but she anticipated that all other AU students would be“appalled”.

Since 1991, AU has offered one of the first gay and lesbian programs in the nation, and now provides a haven for all gay and lesbian issues through the Office of Gay and Lesbian Programs.

The Village of Alfred, which is located south of Rochester in rural Allegany County, began providing anti-discrimination protections for gay and lesbian residents in 1974, one of the first U.S. communities to do so.

AIDS Walk kicks off on June 6

AIDS Rochester’s 2004 AIDS Walk, marking “20 Years of Caring,” will take place on Sunday, June 6.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. at Cobbs Hill Park, and the 5K (5 Mile) Walk kicks off at 10 a.m., returning to the Park for a celebration.

For more information, call 442-2220 or see www.aidsrochester.org.

AIDSWatch 2004 report: "An overwhelming victory for gay rights."
It's better to know: free HIV testing in the month of June

Current CDC estimates indicate that there are nearly a million people infected with HIV in the U.S. Of that number, however, at least one-fourth are believed to be unaware of their infection.

To help stem the spread of HIV there are many initiatives that are meant to encourage at-risk individuals to receive testing. In Rochester and the Finger Lakes Region, numerous agencies and the state and county health departments combine their efforts to encourage as many people as possible to be tested.

In past years, all of the efforts of the various participating agencies were focused on a single day — June 27. In 2004 the event will be more consumer friendly than ever. There are numerous events planned on different days and at different times to give those who might be interested in testing as many testing options as possible. You will find the list of test sites at the end of this article.

Sometimes people ask, “How do I know if it is the right time to be tested?” Here are some points that might help making that decision a little easier:

If you’ve never been tested but you have had unprotected sex or shared a needle with someone whose HIV status you do not know, it is a good idea to be tested.

If you have been tested before but you have had unprotected sex or shared a needle since the last test, it is probably a good idea to be tested.

Don’t forget the “window period”. The test will not be accurate for any activity that is too recent. The three months before the test are not covered by the test.

It is not uncommon for people to think, “I’ll rather not know if I have HIV.” But, for two very good reasons, it is important to know your status. For one thing, most people would not like to think that they may have passed the virus on to others, even unwittingly. It is also important to remember that the treatments for HIV have gotten better and better. Experts agree that the earlier one knows that he or she is positive, the more that can be done to keep the person healthy.

An exciting change for this year’s event is that many of the test sites listed below will be offering the new rapid HIV test. This is a finger stick procedure that requires a tiny drop of blood to perform the test. The drop of blood is placed in a developer solution and test results are available 20 minutes later. The total time of the counseling and testing session is approximately 30-40 minutes.

TESTING LOCATIONS JUNE

(Testing is on a walk-in basis unless otherwise indicated)

ABC/Action Front Center, 33 Chestnut St. 6/22, 9:30-4 p.m.; 262-4320.
AIDS Rochester – Health Outreach, 442-2220.
Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave., 6/19, 10 p.m. – 1 a.m.
McBer’s, 40 Union St., 6/26, 10 p.m. – 1 a.m.
Anthony Jordan Health Center, 82 Holland St., 6/21, 8:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.; 423-2800; 6/22-25, 8:30-5 p.m.
AIDS Ctr. at Strong Memorial, 601 Elmwood Ave., 6/14, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.; 275-5000, 6/26-30, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
APPOINTMENT ONLY
AIDS Community Health Center, 87 North Clinton Ave., 6/25, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. 244-9000; 4th Floor, Hurley-Doyle, 360 East Ave., 6/24, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; 325-5100.

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Ibero–American Action League, Inc., Don Samuel Torres Park, 6/25, 12-7 p.m., 250-8900.
McCree-McCuller Wellness Ctr., 835 West Main St., 6/26, 11-3 p.m. 368-3506; St. Mary’s Gym.
MOCHA Project, Sibley Bldg, 25 Franklin St. 6/25, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. 420-1400, Suite 1060 and McCree-McCuller Van.
Puerto Rican Youth Development, 30 Hart St., Entrance 3, 6/11, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., 232-1670.
Westside Health Services, 480 Genesee St., 6/24, 8:30-4 p.m. 436-3040 X223; 175 Lyell Ave., 6/25, 8:30-3:30 p.m.

FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE LIST OF NIHDT EVENTS, CALL THE NYSDOH HIV HOTLINE AT 1-800-962-5063.
Vaccine Trials

Telly Award, honoring outstanding local, vaccines.

Keefer said, "How important it is to them to be making safer sex behavior, and to the Trials Unit."

"Knowing precisely what to get excited about is still unclear to us. Animal studies help suggest things, but you never really know until Phase Three studies. That should prove to you what you should be getting excited about in smaller studies."

Volunteers are important to the vaccine trials because they are injected with synthetic vaccines; they are injected with synthetic vaccines which do not contain the pieces of the virus which can cause systemic damage. Volunteers must be between 18 and 50. HIV negative, at low risk, and in good health. For more information, call Catherine Buncie, clinical coordinator, at 756-2329.

The information about the rate of HIV infection comes from the videotape "Scientists Can't Do It Alone," produced by Rose Films for the Vaccine Trials Unit. The 10-minute video won the Telly Award, honoring outstanding local, regional and cable television commercials and programs, and film and video productions.

The Trials Unit uses the videotape for community education and to recruit volunteers. Three volunteers, as well as Catherine Buncie, Dr. Michael Keefer (head of the Unit), HIV activist Mary Fisher and others were interviewed for the tape. The volunteers explain how simple and safe the procedures are; how comfortable they feel with the staff, and how important it is to them to be making a difference in the fight against AIDS.

Also chiming in to help this month is the producer of Hedwig and the Angry Inch, the production of the popular musical which ran with great success recently in Sycamore. John Michael has brought the production here for a run at Water Street Music Hall through June 25. (See Readers, page 16.)

Catherine Buncie told the Empty Closet, "They wanted to have a non-profit organization linked to the show." This is not a fundraiser. Hedwig's cast will refer to it to save sex behavior, and to the Trials Unit. Information about the Unit will also be available at the show.

The Trials Unit is currently involved with seven Phase One studies of Merck vaccine. Many people do not understand how a potential vaccine's effectiveness can be tested without giving volunteers live virus. Dr. Michael Keefer said, "To prove that something is effective, you need to have the final stage (Phase Three trials), when vaccine is given to a very large population with a high transmission rate (or to a somewhat smaller population in a very high risk area). The higher the rate, the fewer people you need to test. Some won't get HIV, either because of the vaccine or because they were never exposed to the virus."

Keefer said that the random aspect -- volunteers are given either the vaccine or a placebo -- in a very large population would make up for the uncertainty about whether volunteers have ever been exposed to the virus. "You have to prove statistical significance in order to get an FDA license," Keefer said. "You must show that it's not just a fluke in the study or a chance event. Going into those Phase Three trials, people doing the study meet with the FDA to establish standards for their studies."

The trials process is based on a funnel model, with many studies in Phase One, fewer in Phase Two (and 2B), and very few making it to Phase Three.

Keefer said, "We need to do a lot of small studies in Phase One. As things move through the three phases, there are a lot of different vaccines. One in Phase One can't be tested without giving volunteers live virus. Vaccines are not easy to scale up; up a hundred-fold is a big challenge." The HIV Vaccine Trials Unit at U.R. specializes in smaller studies. The volunteers being sought must be between 18 and 50, uninfected with HIV, at low or no risk for contracting it, and otherwise in good health. HIV negative volunteers are necessary because the vaccines are preventive.

"How do we early studies is have the volunteers make the immune response for us," Keefer said. "We take blood and test against the live virus in the lab.

He said that one of the major challenges for scientists in Phase One trials is the indirect nature of the studies, unlike those in Phase Three. "Knowing precisely what to get excited about is still unclear to us. Animal studies help suggest things, but you never really know until Phase Three studies. That should prove to you what you should be getting excited about in smaller studies."

He continued, "The Merck vaccine we tested here is the beginning. We were the first anywhere to test Merck vaccine, starting on Dec. 31, 1999. There are two different kinds of Merck vaccine, and we've tested both types here. They've already chosen one (to concentrate on). So some of the fruits of our labors are starting to show up."

Keefer said, "Starting next year, we'll be getting into an expanded trial with people at higher risk. This will be the first Phase 2B here (the precursor to an expanded Phase Three trial). What we're trying to do is learn as we go along. Some of the basic science is always advancing. We're trying to get a basic vaccine to the people who need it, all the while learning more. The first vaccine that's licensed probably will not be the 'ultimate' vaccine, i.e., effective for all strains and all ways of infection. Monkey studies suggest that this kind of vaccine is possible, but we have to learn more. While we go on, scientists are finding better ideas, which in turn need to be studied." Keefer said that one big thing that has been established is that the trials are safe. Over 30,000 people worldwide have now been involved in studies, and have safely received vaccines.

Bob Osbom died; was founder of Gay Liberation Front at U.R. which became Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley

Robert W. Osbom died May 14, 2004, in Texas, after a lengthy battle with colon cancer.

Bob lived in Rochester and received his Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Rochester in 1973. He worked in the civil rights campaigns of the 1960s. One of his fondest memories was sitting in the U.S. Senate gallery witnessing the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. From there we went on to found civil rights organizations in South Carolina, Texas and New York, among them, the U. of R. Gay Liberation Front in 1969-70.

His profession was in the sciences, and he served Xerox as a consultant software designer. (His kitchen on Fuller Place was a phone-sex model and an IBM fanfold printer/dataentryport, as well as a continuous pot of soybean stew.) He worked for NASA, General Instrument, IBM Bell-Northern Research, and was instrumental in Canada's installation of a national optical fibre network.

He worked to oppose the Vietnam War, and was a well-known tax resister. His mother once visited from Missouri to attend an IRS auction so that she could buy his 10-year-old Plymouth Fury wagon and register it in her name, since all his possessions had been seized. There was a camera installed on the power pole behind his home in 1972. (It is still there.)

He moved to Toronto to work with Bell-Northern, and found a spiritual home there. He wrote of Canadian Foreign Minister Bill Graham's address in February 2004 as exemplifying "the profound differences between the U.S. and Canadian governments and people -- the dichotomy of 'Love, not war.'"

Bob reached the lives of many of us here in Rochester some personally, by supporting us and encouraging us, and by being "Out and Proud" and family exemplifying the quiet, dignified demand for justice; and all of us by founding and directing the Gay Liberation Organization which led to the GAGV formation in 1972.

He went to Texas to visit his aging mother despite his weakened condition, and was hospitalized there. He will be interred in his home town in Missouri, and memorial services will be held in Toronto as well. (For a memory of Bob, see From Our Readers, page 76.)
The Empire State Pride Agenda praised the full New York City Council for passing on May 5 the Equal Benefits Bill (EBB) (Intro. 271), a measure that requires N.Y.C. contractors to provide equal employment benefits to all employees, whether they are married or in domestic partner relationships.

The lopsided 43-5 vote on the EBB came after months of Council hearings and years of preparation and work by Council supporters and the Pride Agenda. Despite the big victory, the bill must still overcome the opposition of Mayor Bloomberg before it can become law. Once a supporter, but now an opponent, the Mayor is widely expected to veto the bill when it reaches his desk. This will force the City Council into overriding the veto if it wants to enact the legislation. Speaker Gifford Miller and lead sponsor Councilmember Christine Quinn have said this is an action the Council is ready to take.

In response to the May 5 vote and the anticipated veto from the Mayor, Pride Agenda Executive Director Alan Van Capelle said, "The New York City Council came together today and said with a strong voice that all workers and their families should be treated equally by employers and that continued use of taxpayer dollars to fund discriminatory practices by NYC contractors in the area of employee benefits is no longer acceptable. We thank every Councilmember who voted today for the EBB and urge all of them to stand fast against any effort by the Mayor to defeat this important piece of family legislation.

"The Pride Agenda particularly thanks bill sponsor Councilmember Christine Quinn for all her hard work in getting the bill to where it is today and Councilmembers Margarita Lopez and Phil Reed for their early support and ongoing advocacy for the bill with their fellow members on the City Council," said Van Capelle. "We also thank Contracts Committee Chairman Robert Jackson for moving the legislation through his committee and Speaker Gifford Miller for his strong support and promise to see this bill become law, even if it means overriding a veto."

The EBB requires contractors that do more than $100,000 of business each year with N.Y.C. to offer the same benefits to employees who are domestic partners as they do to those who are spouses. It is expected to make benefits like health coverage available to tens of thousands of additional people in the New York City region and hundreds of thousands across the country.

The EBB was first introduced on Sept. 23, 2002, with less than a dozen Council sponsors and Mayor Bloomberg's support for the issue in general, based upon his response to the Pride Agenda's 2001 candidate questionnaire when he ran for Mayor. At the Pride Agenda's October 2002 Fall Dinner, Mayor Bloomberg surprised the 1000 people in attendance by telling them he no longer supported the issue and would oppose the bill.

"Trying to use the City's procurement dollars to advance social issues is just not productive," said Bloomberg. He also cited a decrease in competition for contracts and a resulting increase in the cost of services. (None of the jurisdictions with similar laws in effect -- San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Oakland, and the State of California -- have experienced such problems.)

The Pride Agenda's work with Councilmember Quinn on the EBB spans a period of over three years. From assistance in drafting legislative language before the bill was introduced to putting together the support necessary from elected officials, the LGBT community and allied communities to win today's vote, the Pride Agenda has been the lead advocacy group working with Councilmember Quinn to pass the EBB. Since the Mayor reversed himself on the EBB, the Pride Agenda has been working with Councilmember Quinn to put together and keep together a veto-proof majority of Council supporters. This work has included organizing constituent visits and postcard writing campaigns, and cultivating active support for the bill among groups not normally allied with the light community.

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Proud to serve our Community
Gay Alliance presents awards to volunteers, youth, LGBT leaders

BY SUSAN JORDAN

The focus was on the Youth Program at the Gay Alliance’s annual meeting on May 2. The Youth Leadership Award for 2004 went to Alitra Schraweiter, and five Youth Group facilitators were recognized for their contributions.

Around 65 people attended the meeting, held in the new Youth Center at 875 E. Main St., site of the lunch with Judy Shepard the day before.

Schraweiter was cited for having helped found the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) at Wilson Magnet High School. She said, "I’m trying to help as much as I can, and make a change." She received a standing ovation.

Youth facilitators Erik Libey, Julianna Siler, Jack Ellis, Chris Manfield and Jeff Markarian were recognized by Youth Services Director Toby Greenfield for their huge contributions to the program.

The Vicki Award, founded by Arnie Pegish in memory of Vicki Russo, went to Susan Pryntz, a teacher whose work with the Rochester chapter of Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN) has contributed to the creation of the Brighton School District Non-Discrimination Policy. The Rochester City School Board Task Force on LGBT issues, and much more. Susan has also served as a GAGV board member and Board Vice President, and as a member of the Speakers Bureau.

The Vinnie Award, in memory of Vinnie Wheeler, went to Duffy Palmer, in his fourth term as co-chair of the Empire State Pride Agenda. Duffy tirelessly advocates for LGBT equality with local, state and federal politicians, and has been a leader in the fight for SONDA and other LGBT rights legislation. Also a teacher, he said that he was especially pleased to share the Vicki-Vinnie Awards with Susan Pryntz.

The Kevin Campbell Award, for the "unsung heroes" who volunteer time and energy behind the scenes, went to two people this year. Gerry Mason was recognized for his longtime work with the steering committee of the annual Pride Parade, and with the Community Business Forum (Parade producer) and Bassically Treblemakers Band. He has also served on the GAGV board.

Theresa Feller of the Lambda Network at Kodak was the other recipient of the Kevin Campbell Award. She has been Lambda’s board secretary since 2002, and she thanked the people who have been active in Lambda, and those who have encouraged her to take an active part in working for justice and respect in the workplace.

The first Susan Jordan award went to Don Scott, who volunteers for the Empty Closet both as a word processor and mailing volunteer. A retired professor at Alfred University, his long participation as a volunteer has been typal of those who generously give their time to make production of the Empty Closet possible.

"Faces of Change," a 15-minute documentary videotape about the history of the Gay Alliance by Rochester’s Q Productions, was shown to an appreciative audience. The complete 90-minute documentary, "Reflections of a Rainbow," about the history of Rochester’s LGBT community, is expected by February 2005.

Finally, former GAGV Board President Bill Kelly paid tribute to departing Board President Dr. Ann G.T. Young. He noted that in the past year she has focused on improving leadership, fiscal responsibility, and collaboration with other organizations, and has helped the agency become the voice of the community in many ways.

The new President of the Board is Emily M. Jones.
GAGV award winners, from left to right: Therese Feller of the Lambda Network at Kodak, Alita Schratweiser of the GAGV Youth Group, Susan Pryntz of GLSEN, Duffy Palmer of the Empire State Pride Agenda, and Don Scott, volunteer for the Empty Closet. Gerry Mason, co-winner of the Kevin Campbell Award, is not pictured (see previous page).
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Prism Invites Design Studio
On Saturday, June 19, the RGMC (Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus) will be teaming with the RWCC (Rochester Women’s Community Chorus) for their summer concert, “Together in Harmony,” which will be held at Hochstein and will start at 8 p.m. Advance general admission tickets for “Together in Harmony” are $15, $12 for seniors and students, and $6 for children. For more information on tickets, visit the website at www.thergmc.org, or call 585-423-0650.

ARTWalk is seeking submissions for the fall event. Competitions are open to all residents of the eight-county Greater Rochester area. Individual artists, dancers, musicians, dance companies, poets, music ensembles and collaborations are all invited to enter. Twenty (20) performances will take place at different sites on University Avenue as part of the fourth annual ARTWalk celebration. This year’s ARTWalk Alivel has grown to five areas in which artists can apply: Theatre, T-shirt and Poster Art (New Category).

This year ARTWalk is asking for design submissions to be used on all promotional materials in conjunction with the event. This includes t-shirt and poster designs that will be utilized across the entire event in a visually powerful way.

Music (Music on the Block) All styles of musical expression, both instrumental and/or vocal, composed and/or improvised, are encouraged, including but not limited to, classical, popular, folk, jazz, contemporary.

Dance (Dances on the Avenue) All forms of creative movement expressions are encouraged, including but not limited to, contemporary, ethnic, ballet, tap, folk, or non-traditional dance such as dancing, rock climbing, rollerblading or rappelling.

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

Visual Arts (Art on Work) All forms of creative visual art are encouraged, including but not limited to, painting, drawing, caricatures, sculpture, computer, ceramics, sidewalk artists, installation artists, film, collage, jewelry. Collaborations are encouraged. A group of independent artists, made up of residents, business owners and artists professionals, will review submissions for all competitions, which must be received by Friday, June 18.

Thanks to a grant from Culture Builds Communities through the Arts & Cultural Council of Greater Rochester, ARTWalk will be able to provide a $10,000 honorarium to each entrant selected. Culture Builds Communities Awards are designed to support community projects that involve artists and/or cultural organizations and that result in the creation of a lasting work of art that celebrates the neighborhood. Culture Builds Communities grants are awarded by the Arts and Cultural Council for Greater Rochester with funding through Citibank and the City of Rochester. Application and guidelines for both open calls are available upon request via e-mail at artwalk@rochester.rr.com.

Hedwig and the Angry Inch comes to town

Hedwig and the Angry Inch, a hit in Syracuse last winter, and will offer support and publicity to the HIV Vaccine Trial Unit at the University of Rochester. Called by Rolling Stone “the first rock musical in the history of rock musicals that really rocks,” Hedwig is a story of love and finding your other half and who you really are (based on Plato’s Symposium). An East German girlie boy named Hansel lives his life with the hope of finding his other half to make himself complete. His mother tells the tale to her little son of how we were all one and then split in two.

One day a black G.I. named Luther meets Hansel, and proposes marriage to him to take him away from East Germany to the U.S. This all occurs before when the Berlin Wall went up. Hansel agrees to get a sex change operation in order to pass the physical examination needed to move to America. The sex change operation gets botched, leaving one inch of genitalia, and Hansel, now Hedwig (using his mother’s name), is left to be neither man nor woman. Hedwig’s husband leaves her one Hedwig continued on page 3.
June In the Life: How “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” is hindering the war on terror

For its all-new Gay Pride Month period this June, In the Life investigates how discriminatory government policies like "Don't Ask Don't Tell" are hindering the nation's efforts to combat terrorism.

"In the Life" is the TV newsmagazine of record on gay and lesbian America. The show will air in Rochester on June 20 at 11 p.m. on WXXI. It is underwritten locally by the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley.

As in the truest spirit of the June 1969 Stonewall Riots, In the Life examines how policies throughout United States history -- from McCarthyism to the Patriot Act -- have needlessly targeted gays and lesbians as threats to national security.

In its special report, "In the Life" interviews Rear Admiral Alan Steinman, who became the highest-ranking member of the military to disclose that he is gay, in December 2003, and Robert Hicks and Allair Gboma, two Army linguists fluent in Arabic who were discharged at the height of the war on terror for being gay. (Segment Title: "Level Pink")

Hosted by Tony Award-winning actor Cherry Jones, the special episode also showcases the following segments:

- PFLAG’s 30th Anniversary: On its 30th anniversary, In the Life profiles the courageous parents who founded Parents, Families, Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), the nation’s largest family-based gay and lesbian civil rights organization, with its African-American offshoot, PFLAG Family Reunion. (Segment Title: "PFLAG")
- Political Science: From sin to crime to mental illness, In the Life traces the politicization of “homosexuality.” Showcasing interviews with pioneering gay and lesbian activists Barbara Gittings and Frank Kameny, In the Life explores the decades-long effort that culminated in the 1973 decision by the American Psychological Association to declassify homosexuality as a mental illness. (Segment Title: "Political Science")
- India’s Transgender Gender: In the Life explores with Alexandra Shiva and Sean MacDonald, whose documentary, "Bombay Eunuchs," explores the Hijras, a long revered community of eunuchs in India that trace their roots back to the Indian mythological figure of the kinnari. (Segment Title: Real to Real: Bombay Eunuchs)
- Harvey Firestein's Out Takes: In the Life's transgender groundbreaker, four-time Tony Award-winner Harvey Firestein, calls on the gay community to reach out and take an active role in mentoring and supporting transgenders. (Segment Title: "Bringing Up Babies")

For more information, visit In the Life online at www.IntheLife.com.

"I thought that I was the only kid with a gay parent and for years I was too afraid to be out about my mom."

ArtWalk: dealing with issues for children of gay or lesbian parents

By Todd Plank


Claudia Stallman, Project Director of the Leaf and Indian River LGBT Project (LGBFP), and Programming Educator Karen Armstrong, were responsible for bringing Producer/Director Meema Spadola and her award winning film Our House to Rochester.

Through additional grant money awarded to the Leaf, Institution, the LGBFP, headquartered in Binghamton, was able to take Meema, who resides in Brooklyn, and her film on the road during the month of May. They traveled first to Coronning on May 1, followed by their visit to Rochester on May 2. On May 3, the trio screened the film in Syracuse and wrapped things up on May 16 in Binghamton.

The documentary tells the real life stories of youth, who are gay and queer, growing up in gay and lesbian households.

Meema’s parents divorced when she was young and her mother came out as a lesbian. Describing what it was like growing up in a small town in Maine, she said, "I thought that I was the only kid with a gay parent and for years I was too afraid to be out about my mom. I wanted to make a documentary that presents realistic portraits of sons and daughters of gay and lesbian parents. To profiling a diverse range of families, I hope that viewers will see that our families are truly everywhere."

Although self-identifying as straight, Meema feels a strong connection with queer families, which, sadly, has been marginal to news media, libraries, and the public at large.

In the Q&A discussion following her film, she stressed the need for parents to create opportunities for their children to make connections with other families headed by a same-sex parent or parents.

Although kids may be involved in after school and other extracurricular activities, Meema stressed the importance for queer families to build community with families like theirs. By creating opportunities for youths to socialize with other families that mirror their own, they get a break from the stereotyping and rejection of their peers and adults, and have a chance to hang out with other kids of similar family backgrounds.

"In the Life" is the TV newsmagazine of record on gay and lesbian America. For more information, visit www.IntheLife.com.
Hedwig

continued from page 1

year later in Junction City, Kansas, alone and penniless in a trailer park. She takes on babysitting gigs and a few odd jobs, "mainly the jobs we call blow." She meets a boy named Tommy Speck who also lives in the trailer park. Tommy becomes a famous rock star, leaves Hedwig behind and does not give her credit for any of the songs she wrote for him. Hedwig is left alone once again feeling rejected, spirital and jealous.

Hedwig becomes somewhat famous when she and Tommy fall victim to a terrible accident that puts them in the headlines. Hedwig was a huge hit on Broadway and has a devoted cult following. Check out the production at Water Street Music Hall to see what all the fuss is about.

Our House

continued from previous page

(585) 214-9476 or call the GAGV at (585) 244-8640.

Also recognized at the Our House event was ImageOut board member Chuck Landeen, for kindly agreeing to team up with the Gay Alliance in promoting this important film. He was instrumental in identifying Tempel B'rith Kodesh as the venue for the screening. The GAGV would also like to express its appreciation to ImageOut staff member Bruce Colburn for his support, and ImageOut volunteer Doug Schacht, who created the beautiful flyer advertising the film, as well as designing the tickets. A large, heartfelt thank you to ImageOut for lending their expertise to the organizing and advertising of this event. We hope to team up with you again to host another successful event!

My name is xxxxxxx, xxxxxxxxxx individuals who missed the film screening and would still like to see the film, Our House will be airing on the Sundance Channel in June. The Gay Alliance also purchased a (VHS) copy of the film, which can be signed out of the loaning library. Arrangements to borrow the video can be made by calling Todd Plank at (585)244-8640 ext. 24.

Raptors have a tough season

BY JENNIE BOWKER

It seems that their April and May game scores would make any of the Rochester Raptors wonder whether their hard work has been worth it. The lopsided scores detailing the Raptors' defeats tend to contain double-digits on the opponent's side, and zero on the Raptors' side. On April 24, the game was called during the third quarter, by the referees. A huge hit off-Broadway and has a devoted cult following. Check out the production at Water Street Music Hall to see what all the fuss is about.

Our House

continued from previous page

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what every gay man wants in his

Survived the war. They were, I suppose, the

without much thought, reached for the

stuff, the carols and special foods. By the

lating emotion. Three couples dominated

lains were sneering, bumbling Krauts.

lines parted left and right. Some were

have starved.

pulled from their homes, shoved onto

Europe began. My grandmother, aunts
to be born in America, just as the war in

made me feel less isolated.

my aunt told me years later, they would

through the media, just barely buried

it progressed I grew more

ficult to embrace. He's a fidgeter. Truth

is in his journey, and am all the sadder

interpretations: he mistrusts me or he's

for my noble thoughts!

fails utterly to

be alone. I want the

in Pittsford (just kidding – I haven’t been cruised in there for a very long time.

Nightclubs that I Miss:

1) Carpe Diem (where it seemed like

New Year's Eve every night)

2) The Girls Next Door

3) X (Where I first kissed a boy wear­

black lipstick.)

4) Infinity (The first gay club I ever
crushed in)

5) Club Heat in Buffalo (Where I dis­
covered the boys in Buffalo were friend­

like in the on­line realm.)

My Favorite Songs from the '80s

1) Raspberry Beret by Prince

2) Cruel Summer by Bananarama

3) After Midnight by Cyndi Lauper

4) Any song by New Order

5) Holiday by Madonna

And then I'm constantly updating my list of CDs that I miss. I'm happy to report that I can check the fol­

lowing entries off my list due to recent purchases:

1) The soundtrack to Pretty in Pink

2) 3 Feet High and Rising by De La Sowl

3) Inna by BT

4) I'm Still Here Don't Let by Sandra Bernhard

My Favorite TV sitcoms:

1) All in the Family

2) WKRP

3) Scrinfeld

4) The Ab Fab and the Simpsons (I don't know why I don't make one of them #5 on my list, I guess I truly believe it's a tie between them.)

My Favorite Gay-themed Movies

1) Girls Will Be Girls (A recent edi­
tion to the list with some of the ranchershi­
p毓ens I’ve never heard on film.)

2) I Think I Do

3) Hedwig and the Angry Inch

Movies That Can Make Me Cry:

1) The Cider House Rules

(Where the two sisters are reunited at the end of the movie, well you can just mop me off the floor.)

2) Philadelphia

3) The Wizard of Oz

p. last two lists I mentioned rem­

me of a couple of others that I am con­

fusing Men I Want to Sleep With:

1) Orlando Bloom (Either as an elf or a swashbuckler, I would love to role-play with this little hootie.)

2) Hugh Jackman (One word: Gerr­

3) Ethan from Survivor (You can have pretty boy Colby. I'll take nice boy Ethan any day!)"
hanky and occasionally had his shirt off. Whimpier. Did I mention he was blond?)

3) Myra Carter of Wonder Woman fame
I have quite a few lists pertaining to my childhood.

Things from My Childhood I Wish I Still Had
1) My needlepoint stuff (Morphing is cool. I could wake up looking like a different gorgeous man everyday.)
2) To be able to predict the future (I would love to match Microsoft stock that I would have bought so much Microsoft wealth. And I would be so very rich if my mom hadn't sold them in a garage sale.)
3) My courage (I seem to recall having a fearless nature that allowed me to tackle almost any endeavor as a child with glee and determination. But as I grow older I have become cautious and not always

Hear Me Out
BY MUBARKAH DAHIR

Time for hard questions and credible answers on Iraq

The claim by some members of the gay and lesbian community that the invasion and occupation of Iraq is not a "gay" issue crumbled last month when photos of naked Iraqi prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad being forced to simulate gay sex acts as a form of abuse and humiliation.

As a gay man and as a person of Arab descent, I feel a double sting from those pictures.

Looking at the blurred-out photos of hooded Iraqi prisoners being forced to perform simulations of gay oral sex on one another. I had to wonder what it was that allowed those uniformed Americans in uniform who were directing the scene found the most despicable: the fact that the men were performing gay sex, or that they were Arabs.

No one can doubt that the gay-sex photos of abuse display the deep-seated homophobia that has pervaded and unchecked in the United States military.

But this is not where the gay angle ends to the story of abuse, humiliation, and torture in the prisons there, or indeed of our very involvement in Iraq. There are broader issues to the debacle of Iraq that we as gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people are particularly situated to tackle because of our own history of being marginalized and misrepresented by government propaganda and militaries.

Part of our legacy as gay and lesbian people must be to learn from our own history, and to be able to apply those lessons to other situations as we seek darker pictures of truth in troubled times.

Now more than ever, we need to mobilize our skills of skepticism and cut through government manipulation to figure out what peril our country is in today so we might help put it on a better track.

As a shocked world now knows, the "gay sex" pictures were among numerous disturbing new depictions of prisoners in various deplorable conditions: in some cases, naked Iraqis were shown shackled together, and one of the top officers of a human heap, behind the mound of stripped humanity, American soldiers stood with evil smiles on their faces, giving the camera a thumbs up.

One photo shows a dead and bruised Iraqi in an open body bag filled with ice.

In another, a man in a black painted hood stands on a box or crate. Wires are attached to the tips of his fingers and other parts of his body, and he stands arms spread to either side, execution style.

And in others, American soldiers are shown dragging naked prisoners around on the ground on collars and leashes, as if they were dogs.

Since the leaked photos were made public, reports have also surfaced that captives were not just humiliated, but were likely tortured, both psychologically and physically. According to a report by the International Committee of the Red Cross, abuse at detention facilities in Iraq, including Abu Ghraib, was widespread. Part of the abuse was psychological, and included keeping detainees naked in small concrete cells without food or sleep. Other abuse documented by the Red Cross included physical intimidation that left prisoners with lasting burns, bruises and other bodily injuries.

The Red Cross report documents conditions at prisons between March and November 2003 — long before the disgraceful photos came to the public’s attention in early May 2004.

Press reports are also now confirming that some Iraqis have died while in the hands of military interrogators, though officials of what befell those who died or how many prisoners remained shrouded in secrecy. When the particulars do emerge, the picture is likely to get even grimmer.

President Bush has condemned the photos and given a mild chastising to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. At least six guards at the prison are being court martialed.

But Bush and Rumsfeld want us to believe that what we need to do is to look at the photographs are isolated incidents carried out by a few unruly soldiers. That explanation lacks credibility.

As a gay and lesbian person, we know that when one of our own gets beaten, it doesn’t happen in a vacuum. It happens because of the atmosphere of tolerance and violence towards us because of who we are.

The same thing is happening in prisons in Iraq.

The Red Cross report describes the methods of cruelty and torture it documented as a systemic pattern of abuse used to extract information from detainees. In a May 9 investigative feature in the New York Times, soldiers reported that the now-infamous photos were taken with the implicit encouragement of intimidating other prisoners into making confessions or “cooperating” in other ways.

Some in the military have tried to defend, or at least minimize, these actions by saying that the prisoners were suspected “terrorists” and “insurgents.”

I also asked questions about who is being detained in Iraq, and why. Human rights groups have pointed out that there are 24,000 “terrorists” in Iraq, but only 20,000 Iraqi men, between the ages of 15 and 81, have been imprisoned since the invasion. Are we really to believe that there are 300 “terrorists” in Iraq — and that the United States army was clever enough to capture most of them?

Calling the masses of Iraqis “terrorists” is as absurd as saying most gay men are pedophiles. It is nothing more than propaganda that doesn’t hold up under scrutiny.

Indeed, the Red Cross report estimates that 90 percent of Iraqis detained in U.S.-run detention centers were arrested “by mistake.” It seems painfully clear that thousands of Iraqi men were probably rounded up in general sweeps and being illegally held for no good reason at all.

Our government told us we were invading Iraq to rid it of weapons of mass destruction. Those arms have never been found.

Since we invaded Iraq, nearly 800 American soldiers have died. An estimated 15,000 Iraqis have been killed.

Now we see stomach-turning photos of American-led abuse, and we are supposed to believe that it isn’t government policy, but the work of a few miscreants.

Is it then in this case we demanded plausible answers — and some real policy revisions — on what is going on in Iraq?

Rape against lesbians — an eerie silence
BY SARAH EVANS, PLANNED PARENTHOOD ROCHESTER/SYRACUSE REGION

Rape is devastating — there’s no way around that. Victims are left feeling angry, afraid and confused. This is commonplace knowledge, but what if the victim is a lesbian?

Lesbian rape is frightfully underreported and ignored. Some people, especially lesbians and bisexuals, wish to view the lesbian community as a utopian society of love, but the truth is it is impossible to foster such a perfect environment in such a sexually fractured world. Rape against lesbians is an important issue that must be dealt with straight with the same severity as rape against straight women. Violence against lesbians must not be silenced if we ever hope to end it.

Lesbians raped by men deal with the same practical issues as straight women: pregnancy, risk of STIs, painful penetration, sexual dysfunction, and insensitive treatment by police or medical personnel. There are, however, more issues to be dealt with by lesbians that stem from the fact that a man raping a lesbian is not less important to her because of her lifestyle. Feelings of isolation are common to all rape victims, but lesbians may experience them more intensely. They often feel that society only view them as a painful reminder of their vulnerability, which stems from society’s view of a woman without a man is “fair game.” The victim, already isolated from mainstream society on account of her sexual preferences, is now made to feel isolated from her peers, as well.

There is not much reason to report rape other than to ensure that nothing happens to the victim again — which means making sure the perpetrator is punished. Since the leaked photos were made public, women who have been raped in Iraq are now more and more likely to feel they can report their rape.

The view that it is better to stay silent for fear of reprisal is an eerie reminiscence of the years before gay liberation. Since we invaded Iraq, nearly 800 American soldiers have died. An estimated 15,000 Iraqis have been killed.

Now we see stomach-turning photos of American-led abuse, and we are supposed to believe that it isn’t government policy, but the work of a few miscreants.

Rape against lesbians — an eerie silence
~

Rape against lesbians is frightfully underreported and ignored.
The second major function of the testicular series on male anatomy and health we're 4673. www.pprsr.org. Constriction of the testicles, manually fill with blood and often grow in size or with the use of a cock-ring, can help are then stored in the epididymis and going to address a whole different set of biological functions occur. The first is the RAiNN hotline at NUMBER 369 www.gayalliance.org THE EMPTY!

It seems like summer has finally arrived... the season for sun and fun and outdoor sports with balls. This month in our series on male anatomy and health we're... another biological function occurs. The first is the... its... a pouch below the... fluids... testicles are extremely painful. In some... lead to swelling, bruising, or internal bleeding. Another problem that can... causes... testicles to the testicles and, unfortunately, can... spermatocele... Much of this infections are not serious... the result of... infections or inflammations. Most of these infections are not serious... can be treated easily by a doctor. Epididymitis, inflammation of the... and is caused by sexually transmitted infections and can result in pain, swelling, and nausea. It is treatable with prescription antibiotics. A hydrocele occurs when an abnormal... in a pouch below the... fluid... can... draining or the fluid pouch may... spermatocele is an enlargement of the... painless and harmless but may change the appearance... of the testicle. It is not necessary... treat it but men... for aesthetic reasons. A varicocele is an enlarged vein... can... discomfort and can be treated/removed. The most serious aliment of the testicles is testicular cancer -- which is most common in white men age 15-40. This form of cancer... with regular self-examinations. All men... at least once a month... sites... are... during or after a warm bath/shower looking for a solid lump (usually the size of a pea). Detecting a growth... becomes cancerous and can spread. If detected early enough... percent. Once cancer has already developed treatments such as radiation or chemotherapy may be necessary. Many of the above issues are uncomfortable... and some... left untreated, may lead to... problems such as sterility, sexual functioning problems, and hormone imbalances. Men generally know... however, may be an indication of... apparent reason) is actually common... in men. Unfortunately... the testicles can also... McPherson to create a uniform... selection of demeaning terms. They insult... desire to try it but many men choose... removed for aesthetic reasons. A varicocele is an enlarged vein... varicose vein. Delay ejaculation. The testicles are also... can... size am I?... try this: IX and 2X and 3X and 4X. Be or not to be: 160 or 167 or 16W.

Codes rather than facts. No facts, like interviews. Just codes... Those codes are a collection of demeaning terms. They insult my intelligence. I have no idea what size to take into the dressing room. Have I ever checked with Diane to create uniform translations into inches? Apparently not. They waste my time. And the codes put me in a bad mood. If I wear a 9 dress that means I will look that age? Will my size 14 have a 28 inch waist? I'm One Size Fits All. My second favorite is the zero. I walked into a store and they asked, "Are you size 0, 1, 2, or 3?" Zany! Do I wear size 36? Size Nothing! Zeroooooooooooooooooooh!!!! It makes me want to go naked. Or wear men's clothes.

Speaking of men's clothes: what shall we wear for our wedding? We had considered wearing tuxedos. Bride in a moon green tuxedo. Groom in a black tuxedo which she looks hot in black.

That would at least let us rent the appropriate formal wear. But we worry that we will look like the poster couple for the stereotype one fem and one butch.

Hair. Handle, handle in the mall: who is questioning, looking at the testicles. Another important aspect of the testicles is their involvement in sex. They fill with blood and often grow in size during... circulate the... body just before and during orgasm. Constriction of the testicles, manually or with the use of a cock-ring, can help delay ejaculation. The testicles are also very sensitive and stimulation of the testicles can be very pleasurable. Unfortunately, the testicles can also be a source of pain and health problems. Some temporary minor tenderness or pain in the testicles (at times the... apparent reason) is actually common and harmless. Persistent and/or serious pain, however, may be an indication of a problem. At times pain in the testicles is caused by a trauma or other external factor. Most men know that... and can... an apparent problem. However, the most common... occur is torsion -- twisting of the spermatic cord that provides... to the testicles. This can occur from... testicles during sex or from the use of a cock-ring that is too tight. This... may lead to... tumors, and in extreme cases may completely cut off blood supply and require the removal of the testicle.

Other problems in the testicles are the result of infections or inflammations. Most of these infections are not serious... can be treated easily by a doctor. Epididymitis, inflammation of the... discovered externally is torsion -- twisting of the spermatic cord that provides blood to the testicle(s). This can occur from... testicles during sex or from the use of a cock-ring that is too tight. This... may lead to... tumors, and in extreme cases may completely cut off blood supply and require the removal of the testicle.

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Women's RESOURCES

HEALTH:


Elizabeth Wende Breast Clinic, 170 Sawgrass Drive, 442-8422. Dr. Wende Logan-Young and an all-woman staff provide mammograms.

AIDS Rochester Women's Health Outreach, 1350 University Ave, ARI has services for HIV positive women and others in the lesbian community. 442-2220.

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

Alternatives for Battered Women, 232-7353, TTY 232-1741. Shelter (women only), counseling. Lesbians, gay men welcome.

Victor Resource Center of Wayne County, Newark N.Y. Hotline 800-405-1172; office (519)351-1171, fax (519)351-1189.

Mary Magdalene House, Women's Outreach center for HIV positive women and women at risk. 291 Clinton Ave, Open Mon-Fri. 10:30-9:30 pm 458-5728.

POLITICAL:

National Organization for Women (Greater Rochester NGO), PO Box 93106, (585)461-1310. E-mail: info@rochesternow.org Web page: http://www.rochesternow.org.

CULTURAL:

Rochester Women's Community Chorus. 234-4411. (See Ongoing calendar).

SPORTS:

Rochester Renegades Women's Rugby. New players always welcome, any skill level. We will teach you the game. Hotline (585)394-3066; online at www.renegades-rugby.com.


ONLINE:

Rochester Dykes: www.rykes.com; e-mail sabrini@rabeach@yahoo.com

WOWcny: e-mail WOWcny@aol.com

GENERAL:

Pride & Joy Families See Ongoing Calendar

Rochester Gay Moms' Group, Support group for lesbian mothers and wannabe mommies in Rochester and surrounding areas. Subscribe: RochesterGayMoms-subscribe@yahoo.groups.com.

Women's Resource Center, YWCA, 175 N. Clinton Ave, 546-7740.

Butch-Femme Connection, Contact Kerry at 855-4819, or e-mail DressyFemme@aol.com.

Color Outside the Line Crew, Contact Jackie Williams, 482-4945.

WNY Lesbian Couples Third Saturdays, GAGW, 7-9 pm. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WNYLesbianCouples/ Check our monthly and ongoing Calendars and the Gay Groups section for more woman-centered groups and events, and call the GaySource hotline for referrals, at 244-8422. And send us your information!

Free testing for HIV exposure is available from New York State Department of Health, call Rochester Area Regional Hotline at (585)423-8001, or 1-800-962-5063 for pay phones or calls outside Rochester. Deaf or hearing impaired people should call (585)423-8120 (TDD). New Rapid HIV Testing now available — test results in 30-40 minutes! Statewide info can be obtained by calling 1-800-341-AIDS. Other organizations which provide AIDS-related services are as follows:

AIDS Rochester, Inc., 1350 University Ave., Rochester 14607. Provides support services for people with HIV/AIDS and their families; presents educational programs related to HIV/AIDS to community groups; offers free, confidential testing every Monday and Thursday, 8-9 pm (no appointment necessary). Also testing on Outreach Van throughout city. Contact information: business line (585)442-2220 and TTY; www.aidsofrochester.org. Rural counties served by ARI offices in Geneva (1­800­422­5282) and Bath (1­800­954­2427).

Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, provides referrals to physicians and service agencies. Person on duty Mon-Thurs 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Fri. 1-6 p.m.; message machine other times. (585)244-8940.

Center for Health and Behavioral Training of Monroe County, 691 St. Paul St., 4th floor. Collaboration of Monroe County Health Department and U. R. Provides year-round training in prevention and management of STDs, HIV, TB and related issues, such as domestic violence and case management, (585)650-4962. vity.

AIDS Community Health Center (ACHE). 87 N. Clinton Ave. (4th floor). Comprehensive HIV care and primary medical care for HIV positive individuals, their negative partners, and adult family members. ACHE provides nutritional evaluation, vision screening, gynecological care, medical case management/counseling, and substance abuse counseling. The Center also offers out-patient treatments and infusions onsite, liaison nurses to coordinate home-care needs, educational resources and support groups, an active Patient Advisory Committee (PAC), access to clinical trials, lab onsite, and referrals to psychotherapy and other specialized health services. (585)244-9900. TTY (585)461-9002.

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

Men of Color Health Awareness Project (MOCAH). HIV prevention focus for men who have sex with men (MSM) in the minority community. Support groups, one on one peer education, safer sex workshops, referral services, buddy testing. Sibey Tower Building, 25 Franklin St., Suite 1000, 420-1400.

Monroe County Health Department, at 855 W. Main St., offers testing and counseling for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. (585)464-9292.

Strong Memorial Hospital provides a complete range of HIV medical care, including access to experimental treatment protocols, and HIV testing. Also provides individual and group psychotherapy. Training of health care professionals also available. Infectious Disease Clinic, 585-272-0539, Department of Psychiatry. (585) 275-3379. AIDS Training Project, (585) 275-5869.
**Planned Parenthood of Rochester and Genesee Valley**
offers testing and information (585) 546-2595.

**Threshold Youth Center**
provides confidential testing for young people ages 12-23. Fees on sliding scale, no one denied service. Threshold Center for Alternative Youth Services, 80 St. Paul St. 454-7530. Free oral HIV testing Thursdays 2-4 pm., ages 12-25.

**Rural Hotline**.

**Anthony Jordan Health Center**
Action Front Center, 4572. Free anonymous confidential testing, no one denied service. (Action for a Better Community.) Provides counseling:

- Spanish service: 1-800-344-7432, 8 am-2 pm, seven days a week.

**Threshold Youth Center**
provides confidential testing for young people ages 12-23. Fees on sliding scale, no one denied service. Threshold Center for Alternative Youth Services, 80 St. Paul St. 454-7530. Free oral HIV testing Thursdays 2-4 pm., ages 12-25.

**Evergreen Health Services**, Buffalo.

- HIV counseling:
  - Spanish service: 1-800-344-7432, 8 am-2 pm, seven days a week.

**Genevieve Bernard Center**

- Provides preven­tive services to a diversity of people and families.
- A provider, or know of one who would like to be included in this directory, please call Erik Libey at 442-2220 for more information.

**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 counseling, educational presentations, and access to other Jordan services. Prevention Counseling & Testing is a walk-in program; no appointments necessary. Office hours Mon.-Fri., 6:30 am-5 pm; extended hours on Mondays until 8 pm. (585)423-2822; fax 423-2893. Website: www.jordanhealthctr.org. For more information call Program Manager Pearlie Browne-Lutwell, (585)423-2874.

**Gay Health Directory**

- Monroe County Department of Health STD Clinic
- Monroe Community College Student Health Services
- Highland Hospital Nursing Staff
- Rochester Institute of Technology

**Gay Health Directory**

- Monroe County Department of Health STD Clinic
  - Phone: (585) 454-5928
- Monroe Community College Student Health Services
  - Phone: (585) 292-2018 (MCC Students only)
- Highland Hospital Nursing Staff
  - Phone: (519) 991-3600
- Rochester Institute of Technology Student Health Services
  - Phone: (585) 470-2255 (RIT Students only)

**Threshold Center for Alternative Youth Services**

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

- Winsor Gynecology & Childbirth Associates, PC
  - Phone: (585) 244-3430 (Main Office)

**Additional Listings Available Through The Gay Alliance Website, Check Out Our Resource Directory at:**

- www.gayalliance.org
- Add a Business - Find a Business
Being active around our community is the core of Come Out And Play's mission to Rochester's Gay and Lesbian social group. So when asked what our favorite spots and activities were around town, our members did not hesitate to list the many places we frequent. Here is a summary of our most popular hot spots and fun places. Come join us some time!

1. What is your favorite hangout (bar, coffeehouse, etc.)?
   Spot and Spin took our awards for best places to meet friends or after a movie. Sitting in front of Spin on a nice evening took our top slot for summer nights.

2. Favorite restaurant?
   Whoa! COAPers know their restaurants! After all, when winter sets in, we change our name to "Come Out And Eat!" We had many mentions; here are a few we consistently patronize: Friends on Monroe Drive, Hooters, Tonic on Tuesdays, the Muthers drag shows, and also bar night at the Forum. Other mentions included Tara and our occasional (but always entertaining) visits to Bullwinkles and Hooters.

3. Favorite music source?
   For favorite music, COAPers look far and wide. Local selections include the RPO and Geva productions, the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus. Not so local favorites included "iTunes" and the Internet radio stations Protonradio.com and Digital Imported - www.di.fm

4. Favorite sports teams and/or athletes (locally)
   When not out playing our own games -- Rochester's Rhinos and Red Wings are always fun.

5. Favorite clothing store?
   Another wide sampling of our community: Eddie Baez, A Step Apart, Banana Republic and Old Navy!

6. Favorite movie theater?
   We frequent the Little and Dryden theatres, often as group favorites -- but also frequent Tinseltown for mainstream movies and Culver Ridge Regal theatre when we want to skip the crowds and get Brusters Ice Cream afterwards.

7. Favorite area event/festival?
   Aside from our own Pride events - the Park Ave fest and Corn Hill Arts festival took top spots. The ImageOUT festival required special mention as the only local event COAP specifically schedules our weekly calendar around every year.

8. Favorite Saturday night out?
   Favorite Saturday night out COAPers enjoy many movies on Saturdays along with a stop in at Tonic and also bar night at the Forum.

9. Favorite museum/gallery?
   Artisan Works came up as Best Undiscovered Art spot for COAP - other favorites included the MAG, and the George Eastman House.

10. Favorite beach or pool?
    Favorite local beach was the Lake Ontario beach in Durand Eastman Park. COAPers Favorite pool was any pool with a party! woot woot!

11. Favorite day trip in greater Rochester area?
    Cornings Glass museum, Finger Lakes wineries, biking/walking and rollerblading on the canal path and of course -- IKEA in Burlington Ontario.

12. Any nominations for another category of Rochester's greatest?
    Rochester's greatest way to get COAPers out patronizing bars, restaurants and clubs - NYS No Smoking ordinance! Yeah!!!

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**Thinking about buying or selling a house?**

"The Diane Miller Team"
RE/MAX Realty Group
(585) 389-1099 www.selzhouses.com

"Let us help make a difference in your life"

"My partner and I were relocating to Rochester and had less than a week to find and buy a house. We were so lucky to find The Diane Miller Team. They were professional, friendly, and thorough. They went far above and beyond "the call of duty". More than that, we felt so comfortable with them. Diane went out of her way to introduce us to this new community. You can imagine how much that meant to us."

*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*
Travel Tips:
How mile high I am...

BY MERLE EXIT
Winter Park, about two hours Northwest of Denver. Tuesday, May 11, morning. I put on a t-shirt and carry a jacket. The weather is cool and clear and the altitude is over 9,000 feet. I forget to bring something and have to climb 12 steps. I am out of breath but off to Boulder, closer to the 5,000 of Denver.

That evening I return to Winter Park and encounter a snowstorm. It snows on and off all day Wednesday. Thursday early morning, I am off to the Denver airport. More snow. I rent a car from Enterprise. Although quite accommodating, the steering wheel shakes when I brake at 35 miles per hour and the windshield wipers are retaining the snow in my attempt to clear my view. My body is shaking as I drive down a mountain with vodkis of curves hoping that it will be an easy drive once I get on the main highway. No such luck.

Arriving in a timely manner at the airport, I nod out on the plane and am off to Boulder, I am out of breath but off to Boulder, closer to the 5,000 of Denver.

Now, the beginning of the trip, when I arrive in Denver on May 6 and check into the Executive Tower Hotel at 16th and Platte, Colorado? Denver on the whole is considered a gay friendly place and needless to say, there are a great deal of hangouts for men.

Arriving in a timely manner at the airport, I nod out on the plane and am whisked home to New York. It is humid.

I am...
Internet dating can
Asian male who was curious about what
walks of life. This jury of their queers
how romantic?)

Entertainment news continued on next page

Each day the men will complete
into separate West Hollywood lofts,
and exciting to me. To meet someone so

I entered the room as "Asiandude"
I gotta tell you this really scared me.
I'm talking about living in a post-gay
world. Conversely, it says nothing about
some of these places might exist at some
eventual when your desires are met equally

In the United States, politicians
and societies

However, can one?
when this generation

Conundrums
nostalgia, politics, and society.
In the United States, policymakers


tell us that this is when we can expect

that a fact about a person's experiences

and the 1980s could be a
toleration. It's an understanding that

In the United States, policymakers

the 1980s could be a
toleration. It's an understanding that


LaTeX code not provided.
Gay marriage, Massachusetts and May 17, 2004

Unless you've been living in total seclusion on a polar ice cap during the last several weeks and just drifted into a Motel 6, you've doubtless read or heard these words and date mentioned countless times.

I think they are certainly worth repeating.

On that day — May 17, 2004 — HISTORY WAS MADE as Massachusetts became the FIRST U.S. STATE TO LET SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRY. And I have to ask, how cool is that?

Although I wasn’t one of the happy couples to partake in the excitement and elation of that historic day, the marriage looks to die for, as well.

While sipping my tea I checked out the television listings, and television stations, radios and newspapers alike all kept abreast of those who thought getting same sex couples married was the best thing to happen since the invention of the DVD and remote control.

Oh well, as far as those who felt same immorality had just become the new law of the land. One bible thumping group even suggested this would lead to marriage between cats and pigs.

However, contrary to Bush and Co., life has continued.

And as for me? Well, after work on that day I went home, made a cup of green tea and flipped on the computer. While sipping my tea I checked out the photos of the happy couples and my heart couldn’t help but smile as I viewed partners looking at each other with total bliss and looks to die for, as well.

And I felt it right somehow that I take part in this historic day, the marriage looks to die for, as well.

And I thought that my imaginary fence that says, let’s celebrate our differences, was still a wet toilet seat and I draw (not of course) the line there.

“Would you like a drink, m'am?”

Ricki: “Sorry, I don't do one night stands.”

WILL: “Lothario (or Steve or John etc.) you’re looking very sexy tonight and my hand is getting very itchy.”

Do you say we go trip the lights fantastic (or go screw our brains out).

So, dear readers, I need to put this genie back in the bottle and she

Gay filmmaker Lino Brocka's queer masterpiece, Manila, will receive a much-belated Rochester premiere this summer as part of George Eastman House's "Site Seeing: The Empty Closet" series.

The 1975 Philippine production will play on June 30 at 8 p.m. in the Dryden Theater. The screening will be part of a Pride Month in which several films of gay interest will be shown at George Eastman House.

Based on a novel by Edgardo Reyes, Manila follows Julia ("The Year of Living Dangerously" Bembol Roco), a young man from a small fishing village, who travels to the Philippines capital in search of his childhood sweetheart. Once there he finds himself pulled into the metropolis's thriving underworld, eventually befriending a gay hustler and becoming a sex worker himself at a male brothel.

Although its reputation has grown stronger, Manila is globally acclaimed as one of the greatest works of Third World Cinema. And while it is not without flaw, afirmación de identity position — indeed Julio's homosexual inclinations never rise to the level of a fully formed gay identity position — Manila is also considered historically significant in the history of Third World Cinema-- being flown in from the British Film Institute as one of the Best Films of the year.

And it is now being flown in from the British Film Institute as one of the Best Films of the Century's greatest motion pictures.

It was premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 1975; was shown at the Chicago Film Festival in 1976; was included in the Critics' Choice (2001), edited by Geoff Andrew, as one of the top 150 films of all time.

Despite the film's high level of acclaim, its reputation in the U.S. lags behind that within the larger international film culture. For its George Eastman House presentation, a rare 35mm print is being flown in from the British Film Institute in London for the one-time-only screening. The film is in Tagalog with English subtitles and has a running time of 125 minutes.

In addition to Manila, George Eastman House will present a number of other films of gay interest throughout June.

On Wednesday, June 2, controversial queer director Pier Paolo Pasolini's "Criminal Lovers" (June 17), something of a bisexual version of the Hamlet and Greetel tale; and finally the Fassbinder-inspired comic melodrama "Witter Drops on Burning Rocks" (June 24). The latter two features were also hits at Rochester's ImageOut festival and continue to be favorites of gay audiences worldwide.

General admission at the Dryden is $6, $5 for students with I.D., and $4 for museum members. All these films will be screened at 8 p.m.

For more information, call 271-4090.
Pet Talk with Tulip:

**Miss Tulip comes out as a leather queen...**

**BY MISS TULIP (AS TOLD TO TODD PLANK)**

Hello My Darlings,

Pride events will soon be starting up across the nation and around the world, so now is the time to start shopping for that perfect outfit. Miss Tulip is "over the rainbow", so to speak, and wouldn't be caught in heat wearing one of those garishly colored costumes. For a lady of my age and stature, classic fashions look best, so I'll be sporting basic black leather and chains at this year's pride events. (For those of you who haven't been paying attention... the Pride Picnic is on Sunday, July 11 and the parade is on the following Saturday.)

I confess that I'm a leather queen, which places me in good, or should I say, bad company. I'm hoping to meet the leather daddy of my dreams during Pride. Many of my canine counterparts are into the leather scene, which is quite understandable when you stop to consider that most of us were brought up in bondage. As a puppy, your master trains you on a leash, and before you know it you're wearing leather chaps and a harness.

I wonder if Monty likes leather? While I was out shopping at Outlandish, this letter arrived:

"Dear Miss Tulip,

I was so pleased that you still want to be my pet pal, in spite of my 'infirmities'. But I have a confession to make: the photo that I sent you is not a recent one. I am now a few years older, have clouded eyes, and weigh a few pounds more. Yet, still I want you to know, I have a nice personality!

My human companions, Bill and Tom, were aghast at my indiscretion, but their single friends tell me that what I have done is all very common today, in the game of romance and happens all the time to those who place personal ads.

So, Miss Tulip, am I forgiven? Can we still be friends and pet pals?

Your Friend,
MONTY from Brighton"

Needless to say, Miss Tulip was initially put off by news of Monty's deception. I am not one to play games, unless it's in a well furnished dungeon; and I don't appreciate being lied to, unless it's in the form of a flattering remark about my timeless beauty. Perhaps Monty needs to go back and reread my April column about aging gracefully and with pride.

Monty, if you're reading this column, I want you to know that it's what's on the inside that counts (Miss Tulip hates making trite, sappy statements, but she will stoop on occasion to make a point, or to get someone's attention.)

Aging is a lot like owning a pair of leather pants. They look nice and fresh and new when you first buy them, but it's only after you've broken them in after wearing them for a while that they develop character. Those wrinkles and creases are part of a natural process that enhances the beauty of the garment (or person/pet).

As for and extra pounds, I have one word for Monty: Liposuction.

As to whether or not Miss Tulip should allow Monty back into her good graces, I'd like to ask my readers to write in with their comments. Should Miss Tulip forgive Monty and continue to be his pet pal? Or is it time to give him the (leather) boot? I can Harley, I mean hardly, wait to hear from my readers!

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Anti-Violence Program
Youth Center, Empty
Meeting space is wheelchair accessible.

The Youth Group of The Young Adults meets Tuesdays from 3-5 PM at Youth Center, 875 E. Main, 585-244-8640

Lunch with Judy
Members of the GAGV Youth Group met with Judy Shepard on May 1. She was in town to speak at the Empire State Pride Agenda spring dinner that night, and graciously agreed to lunch with the Gay Alliance Youth Group, their parents, and members of PFLAG. The event was the first at the new Youth Center, which was decorated with balloons from CT Image Creations and flowers by StikBalloons.

Youth update: Judy Shepard, plans for June
BY TOBY GREENFIELD
Greetings from Youth Group Land... June is here, and we’re glad to be catching our breath from a very busy May, when we were so fortunate to have Judy Shepard visit our Youth Group!

The lunch with Judy was a great success, and she was a delight. June finds us continuing to work on the setup and design of our new Youth Center, and planning and gearing up for Pride Week, as well as participating in the AIDS Walk on June 6.

BY PLANK
Volunteer Corner for June: what work interests you?
BY TODD PLANK
With all the changes going on at the Gay Alliance, including the relocating of our offices to the Auditorium Center, the GAGV staff is requiring a lot of additional help to get the job(s) done.

For this month, I’ve compiled a revised and expanded wish list from the GAGV staff. If you see a volunteer opportunity that interests you, please call us (585) 244-8640 and we will arrange a time for you to meet with the person who oversees your particular area of interest.

GAGV Executive Assistant Cindy Erleiseh is regularly in need of someone to help with filing, organizing supplies, and bulk mailings (as needed). In addition, file organization and reorganization are also periodic tasks. Regular availability helps to structure the tasks.

Alex(a)ndra Cobus, the GAGV’s newly hired Anti-Violence Project (AVP) Coordinator, is looking for help in creating materials to promote the Anti-Violence Program. Her specific requests are for AVP Media Assistant (a temporary volunteer position) who would assist with creating AVP related public relations material. Specific responsibilities:

- Volunteer opportunities that interest you.
- Orientation at our new Youth Center.
-_bulk mailings (as needed). In addition, file organization and reorganization are also periodic tasks. Regular availability helps to structure the tasks.

Domestic violence comes out of the closet
BY ALEXANDRA COBUS
Many myths and misconceptions regarding domestic violence permeate our society, to the detriment of victims everywhere. When it comes to LGBT victims and survivors of domestic violence, the additional component of homophobia can complicate matters.

Women and men who are victims of domestic violence can find it difficult to seek help for fear of rejection and stigmatization from the community because of homophobia. They may not want to make the gay community for fear of rejection and stigmatization because of the violence. It is this profound isolation that often keeps the victim in the abusive relationship.

The Anti-Violence Program at the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley will work to educate the LGBT and community about the realities of domestic violence within LGBT relationships. Below are just a few of the many harmful myths about abusive relationships.

Myths: only straight women get battered; gay, bisexual, and transgender men are never victims of domestic violence; lesbians, bisexual, and transgender women cannot batter; Lesbianism is not common in LGBT relationships.

Domestic violence continues on next page

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Judy Shepard
Youth
Youth update
continued from previous page

Matthew Shepard Foundation, which works to increase understanding and tolerance, and reduce violence against LGBT youth and adults nationwide. She was in town to speak at the Empire State Pride Agenda spring dinner on May 1, and met with the Youth Group members, who listened closely to her every word.

Youth update
continued from previous page

We're also working on the development of a special Youth Page insert to the Empty Closet that we hope to have up and running sometime this summer. Please call me at 244-8640 if you would like to join or volunteer with the Youth Group, or donate anything to the new Youth Center, or if you just have any general questions, comments, suggestions, or fashion tips.

Domestic violence
continued from previous page

Size, weight, butchness, queeniness, or any other physical attributes of domestic violence. A batterer doesn't need to be bigger than you to smash your compact discs, keep you up all night to continue an argument, cut up all your clothing, or threaten to tell everyone at work that you're gay. Violence is a matter of personal choice, not body size.

Domestic violence is any pattern of behavior within an intimate relationship used by one partner to coerce, dominate or isolate another person, or the exertion of any form of power that maintains control.

Domestic violence may include but is not limited to emotional/psychological, physical, economic, sexual abuse and isolation. Domestic violence happens in every part of our community, to people of all genders and of every race, ethnicity, class, age, ability or disability, education level and religion.

Especially in light of the recent attempts to secure equal marriage rights for LGBT couples, there is fear among some members of the LGBT communities that any public attention given to domestic violence in LGBT relationships will only serve to reinforce attitudes of homophobia and impede progress towards equality. The fact is that we know domestic violence does occur in LGBT couples, at the same rate as in opposite gender couples.

Ignoring this reality will only serve to reinforce the many myths described above that work to keep victims and survivors of domestic violence in danger. Despite fear and community denial, more and more LGBT folks are speaking about battering and abuse in their relationships. To paraphrase Audre Lorde, our silence on this issue will not protect us.

Myths and Facts adapted from material in Men Who Beat The Men Who Love Them, by David Island and Patrick Letellier.

Day of Caring volunteers

Thank You

The Gay Alliance would like to extend A BIG THANK YOU to all of our hard-working volunteers who participated in the United Way Day of Caring on April 29th. Our volunteers painted the entire interior of the downstairs and several of the upstairs rooms at the GAGV Community Center, as well as painting and cleaning at our new youth space at the Auditorium Center.

We would like to acknowledge the following people for their efforts:

THE LAMBDA NETWORK AT KODAK:
STEVIE ADAIR
JOANNE BENNETT
JANE CLARK
CHARLEY FRITZ
JACKIE KEEGAN
PATTI MCGORY
THERESA MILLER
JIM MULCAHY
LISA NUCCI
BRIAN SUMMERS
JO VOLLMER
JERRY WANG

THE GLOB&L NETWORK AT BAUSCH & LOMB:
DARYL BLEAU
TOM CARLOCK
ALICIA KIBITLWISKI
CHRIS MANOS
SHANNYN QUINN
PAULA WITHAM

GALAXE PRIDE AT WORK AT XEROX:
RALPH CARTER
MICHAEL OSWALD

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU GOES OUT TO:
JOHN BERSCH AND RC SHAHEENS FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATION OF PAINT AND PAINTING SUPPLIES.
Rachael Sage to perform at Buffalo Dyke March on June 5, and Pride March on June 6

BY SHERRILL FULGHUM

"I'm drawn to write about things that are left unsaid or unresolved, because that's where there's proof we're all connected," said Rachael Sage.

The New York resident is an artist in every sense of the word. Not only does Rachael sing and play the piano, she also writes poetry and songs, dances, and is a visual artist. She will be performing after Buffalo's Dyke March on June 5, and the Pride March on June 6, on both occasions at Bidwell Park.

At the age of five, the Connecticut native committed each day into the big city to attend The American School of Ballet. But it was the music and not the dance that captured young Rachael's attention. She learned to play the piano by listening to her mother play the piano. Since the music in a ballet class is classical, that is where Rachael started. She remembers playing Beatles songs using classical arrangements. Rachael played the piano after class until they made her leave so they could lock up for the night.

From the time she was 12, Rachael knew that music would be an important part of her life. After high school Rachael went to college at Stanford University in California. Her major was not in music, as one might have thought, but drama. Being on the west coast brought Rachael some good experiences - it was in college that she first saw Ani diFranco in concert - but that was not where she wanted to stay. After graduation, Rachael moved back east to New York City. She began doing commercial voice-overs and jingles. It was here that Rachael first knew that she had to play music full time.

Rachael made her first CD and promoted it any way she could to clubs, radio stations, and anyone who would listen. It was that determination that has made Rachael Sage a success.

Rachael doesn't just play the piano, she sings and writes her own music too, and also designs her own album covers. In 1996, she started her own record label, MPress. Having her own label enables Rachael to maintain creative control. Having a contract with a big label means that someone else worries about the business part of the music, but it also means someone else is in control and thinks that they know what is best for the artist.

Rachael says that she gets inspiration for her music from personal experiences and things she sees and hears around her; but she adds that her biggest inspiration comes from her heritage. Rachael is a Conservative Jew with Eastern European ancestry. It is for this reason that she first started touring in Europe - to see where she came from.

Now Rachael fills venues with 10,000 fans wanting to hear her music.

Rachael has just released her new album, "Public Record". It is her fifth album in seven years. Besides making music, Rachael enters her compositions into various songwriting contests. Over the years Rachael has won numerous songwriting awards, including the Grand Prize in the John Lennon Songwriting Contest in 2001.

In her career Rachael has performed on the Lilith Fair tours, and shared the stage with Ani deFranco, Sarah McLachlan, Melissa Ferrick, Sheryl Crowe, Suzanne Vega, and The Pretenders.

Rachael finds that hand painting clothes and furniture is a way for her to relax and unwind. Many of the clothes she wears on stage are her own design.

Rachael makes her home in New York's East Village, but she is constantly on the road touring. With all her talents and interests, Rachael is often referred to as a renaissance woman. Rachael prefers some of the older instruments when she plays. Her favorite instrument is a Wurlitzer electric piano she refers to as Wurly.

Rachael Sage will be performing at C'est What in Toronto on June 4 and at Bidwell Park in Buffalo on June 5 and 6 as a part of Buffalo Pride weekend.
ABSC
"A Night of S&M" fundraiser, which was held on April 17 at the Bachelor Forum in conjunction with the RAMS, was a great success! Thanks to all of our RAMS brothers and the terrific staff at the Bachelor Forum for helping to make this event an unforgettable evening. More thanks to our incredible volunteers who offered unique experiences to all who participated. Atlantic Beacon Sculpture Committee has now reached its preliminary fundraising goal in order to memorializing "Stonewall." If you are an aspiring artist and looking to make a major contribution to Rochester's art scene, consider downloading ABSC's Call for Artists! Information may also be obtained from Steve Lovi, co-chair ABSCI4607@aol.com or www.ABSCI4607@aol.com.

Plans are under way to celebrate the anniversary of Stonewall with another fundraising event. If you are interested in joining the planning committee for this fundraiser or to be a part of ABSC, contact us at ABSCI4607@aol.com.

Meetings are held every Tuesday from 6 to 7 p.m. at Outstanding in Village Garc. Our events are under way to celebrate the anniversary of Stonewall with another fundraising event. If you are interested in joining the planning committee for this fundraiser or to be a part of ABSC, contact us at ABSCI4607@aol.com.

Meet there at 7 p.m. for a relaxing evening of conversation and java! The June 4 event will be held at the GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave, corner Elton/Atlantic Ave.; please bring a non-alcoholic beverage to pass. For further info on our new Dinner Nights 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 DressyFemme@aol.com or write P.O. Box 18734, Rochester, NY 14618.

Bassically Treblemakers
Pride Season has arrived, which means Marching Band is the fashion as we prepare to march throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Members of BT joined the California Bands (SF, LA, and PS) at Las Vegas Pride to march in their night time parade on May 14. It was a great sight to see a large band dressed in uniforms and lots of white lights making its way through old Las Vegas (6th and Freemont).

In June, BT will kick off the month making appearances at the Rochester AIDSWalk and on the same day will help our neighbors in Buffalo by joining their new band (June 6). The next weekend we head to Washington, D.C. Pride (June 12), next Syracuse Pride (June 19), and next Toronto Pride (June 27). And of course our hometown Pride Parade on Saturday, July 17 at 5 p.m., marching down East Ave.

In August we wrap up our Marching Season by marching at the New York State Fair for two days this year (Aug. 28 and 29). If any of you have been involved in any type of traveling group, you know how much work it is to organize and coordinate all the details of uniforms, water, equipment, etc. BT always needs volunteers whether it is a performing member, band aid, color guard, twirling corps, etc. So if you would like to join us at any of our events please contact us at 507-5289 and leave a message for our Band Manager Tim, or check out our web site for rehearsal site and performance details at www.btrochester.org.

Dignity Integrity
Our faith traditions are not in agreement over what to call these coming summer Sundays. The Catholic tradition refers to this season as Ordinary Time, while the Episcopal tradition retains the old practice of numbering the Sundays After Pentecost. At any rate, we hope to continue to have extraordinary services throughout the summer—but we need to have more folks in attendance to make this happen. So please join us at 5 p.m. any and every Sunday as we claim our rightful place in the Church.

We are dedicating our June 20 potluck, which happens to fall on Father's
We're having a party this weekend, celebrating the BEARS as we move into the summer season. We'll be camping at Hillside ToolBox, our last trip there as a group, so come out and enjoy the fun. We just got back from our annual trip to Toronto's bear bar, the Empire Bar, and we're excited to share stories and laughs with everyone again.

Frontrunners
Saturday June 12: Seneca Park Walk: Meet us at the main zoo parking lot at 4:30 to walk and explore the park trails. We will all be having dinner together afterwards (this is in addition to our regular 9 a.m. walk/run at the George Eastman House). If you are coming and want to join us for dinner, please stop by one of our member tipples where both groups will take to the tunes that both groups will take to.

Frontrunners are included in the GLSEN Rochester end of year dinner/membership meeting on Friday, June 18. The meeting will be at Lorraine’s Food Factory, 777 Culver Road, Rochester, starting at 6 p.m. We’ll send a flyer to our mailing list with details as they become available. If you’re not on our mailing list and you’re interested in membership information or dinner details, email us at GLSENrochester@aol.com, or call 585-244-1509.

Gospel Choir
The Rochester Rainbow Gospel choir enjoyed performing at the 2004 Festival of Voices at the historic State Theatre in Ithaca on April 17. On May 7, the choir opened for Jason and deMuro in their concert at Lack Avenue Baptist Church.

Gospel Choir is now looking forward to opening for African-American gospel singer and evangelist, Delores Berry, when she visits Rochester in June. Rev. Berry will give a free concert at Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church on Saturday, June 26 at 7:30 p.m.

The church is located at 175 Norris Drive, near Cobbs Hill Park. Rev. Berry will also sing during the morning worship service at Open Arms MCC on Sunday, June 27 at 11 a.m. This concert is free and open to the public. A free will offering will be taken to help support Rev. Berry’s ministry. For more information, call 288-4508 or e-mail rainbowchoir@hotmail.com.
Gay Groups
continued from previous page
Rainbow Seniors
BY SAUNDRA PENDRAK EHMANN
Hey, hey, hey! June is bustin’ out and so are the Rainbow Seniors — planning, musing, and all the other fun stuff we enjoy. There are, however, a few seniors who could use an extra hand or two, so take a look at that volunteer listing for a few hours. Let’s celebrate our “family” community by helping each other out.
Oh boy (oops, not pc), OK, then, oh boy. We’re excited about getting together for the Pride Parade / community picnic. On the note, for all you ever wanted to know ‘bout RSWNY, check out www.rainbowseniorswny.org. Some of the pies are quite inspiring.
Remember, age is a state of mind, not a set of numbers on a piece of paper. So just try to keep up with us, I dare you! We not only have picnics, a chess club, and cheap dates every month. Our group keeps in contact with seniors needing help with errands, cooking, surgery, AIDS, emotional support. In our togetherness we are strong!
Our annual meeting and elections take place on Sunday, June 20, at Peace Lutheran Church, 125 Caroline St., between South Ave. and S. Goodman. If you haven’t access to a computer, call either of the numbers listed here: 585-423-0650.

Women’s Fishing
The June 2004 outings of Fishing In The Fingerlakes, a social group for women who love freshwater fishing, will be held on Sunday, June 13 (Charlotte Pier, Geneseo — the smallmouth are in) and on Sunday, June 27 at Soda Pier in Soda Point, in Wayne County.
For body events: Meet us outside the GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave., corner Elton/Atlantic Ave., between 10-11:15 a.m. and after getting back well head off to the lake for an afternoon of fishing, conversation and fun! You will need your NYS fishing license and your fishing gear. For more info, contact Kerry/Cindy at 788-2708, or email FishingFolksNY@gmail.com.

Women’s Hiking
We’re gearing up for summer hiking...join us! Cool way to meet great women. We have lots of fun, and you are never alone because new ladies are always joining our adventures. Meet new friends or maybe find romance.
For information call Donna Marie Kearney at 585-442-6399.

PLAGAL
PLAGAL prides itself on the diversity of its membership. It is one of the few pro-life organizations that accept all those who are pro-life. PLAGAL members come from different social and economic backgrounds, different political parties, some have religious affiliations with others do not. We have members who are drag queens, parents, bisexuals, single, those in long term relationships and we even have heterosexual individuals in our group.
Contact us for more information. PO Box 33292 Washington DC 20033; 202-233-6097; Fax: 202-265-9737; plagal@plagal.org; http://www.plagal.org. Rochester liaison: Donna Marie Kearney, 585-442-6399.

4-page booklet with over $500 in vacation discounts! The book contains discounts at upstate New York and Toronto hotels, restaurants, and attractions! The book also includes a commemorative boarding pass good for $28.00 toward a trip on the Fast Ferry and instant Museums First membership for discounts at area museums $28. Regular round trip boarding pass is now offered for $25. Order for GAGV members at the GAGV, 585-244-8460, ext 21, for all the details.

458-248-2470
www.gayalliance.org
June 2004
Volunteer Corner

reduced from page 1

ties would include assisting with creating a brochure for the AVP and developing other materials to promote the AVP program. Candidates for this volunteer opportunity would need good writing, editing and graphic design skills. In the future, Alex will also be looking for help in creating and maintaining a resource for LGBT victims of domestic violence, and hate/bias crimes. This would entail mostly researching resources in the community, and putting the pertinent information together in one place. This will be an on-going project, as it will need to be regularly updated.

The AVP will hold an Advocate Training on Saturday, June 19. This training will be specifically for advocate volunteers to staff the Anti-Violence Program phone after working hours. The training will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Community Center at 179 Atlantic Ave., and includes lunch. For information or to register, call Alex at 244-8640, ext. 17.

Susan Jordan, editor of the Empty Closet is looking for photographers and reporters; individuals to review books, films, theatre, music, etc; proofreaders and word processors and ESPECIALLY mailing and distribution volunteers. She can be reached at 244-9030.

Todd Plank, Community Education Outreach Coordinator at the GAGV, is looking for volunteers to help with the seasonal decorating of the Community Center. If you are looking for an outlet for your creativity and want to have fun, please call me.

With the move of our offices to the Auditorium Center at 179 Atlantic Ave. and help with the general upkeep and maintenance of the Center (inside and out... any landscapers out there?), I have an immediate need for volunteers to staff the library on Wednesday nights from 6 – 8 p.m. (Beginning June 2). These hours will be expanded in the fall, so the need for volunteers to help oversee the GAGV library will be ongoing. Call and let me know when you would be available to help with the library staffing.

I am also looking for a “personal assistant” to help me get organized in my office(s) – I will be maintaining a small office at the GAGV Community Center as well as operating an office out of our new space. Preferably, this would be someone who is computer savvy and who could help me simplify and streamline some of my tasks, such as developing and managing a database of volunteers.

Our Youth Services Director, Toby Greenfield, is going to need lots of help outfitting the new Youth Center at the Auditorium Center at 875 E. Main St. She is looking for help in organizing the 5500 square feet of space that will be used for a variety of functions, including after school programs and evening activities, as well as future plans for a Learning Center.

As we expand our hours and the services offered through our Youth Program, the GAGV will be looking for volunteers to staff the new center on weekday afternoons, evenings and weekends. If you would like to be a part of this exciting expansion please call and let us know how and when you’d be available to help.

Chuck Bowen, our Executive Director, is finding it a challenge to keep up with all the light-related news across the country. With things changing so rapidly, he would appreciate having someone who could assist him in keeping up with breaking news and in formulating announcements and posting stories and links to our GAGV website. If you are a news junkie (TV, radio an internet) and have good communication and writing skills, your help would be most appreciated!

Chuck Argento is coordinating the Pride Picnic this year and boy is he going to need volunteers! He is looking for as many helpers as he can get to cover shifts during the picnic (July 11). Suggested shifts are in three hour increments, beginning at 9 a.m. and continuing until 9 p.m. Of course, if you want to volunteer for more (or fewer) hours, that’s OK too!

Give Chuck a call at 244-8640 and let him know when you’d be willing to help out. Chuck is also looking for an assistant(s) to verify phone numbers and mailing lists for current and prospective vendors for the picnic. The hours are flexible for this volunteer opportunity and you’ll get to hang out with the GAGV staff. What more could you ask for?

GAGV library (see page C-3)

PRIDE WEEK

July 15, 2004 - GAGV Marriage Day Trip

• Leave Rochester in the morning
• Be Married in Toronto
• Celebrate with private reception on the Fast Ferry

This trip is open to couples, friends and family.

Contact Lynn Tavernese, GAGV Community Relations Director
585-244-8640 or lynnt@gagv.us or info@gayalliance.com
Homewood
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746-1411

“Busting out of your closet lately?
Let us help you find more space.”

OUTlandish
Videos & Gifts
Where it's IN to be OUT

- Greeting Cards
- Pride Jewelry
- Stickers
- T-Shirts
- Books
- Magazines
- Leather Clothing
- Belts, Caps
- Ties, Wallets
- “Playroom” Equipment
- “Personal” Accessories
- Lubricants

☑ Upstate’s largest library of over 5000 GLBT themed Mainstream and Adult Videos and DVDs for rent or sale along with Hundreds of new & previewed sale videos & DVDs, priced from $4.95 - $19.95

☑ Our new shipments of naughty T-Shirts, Aprons & Summer Pride merchandise.

$ Save on Schott NYC leather Jackets during June! $

All Schott merchandise reduced 15% off our already low prices through June 30th.

Sale prices apply only to in-stock merchandise. Sizes & styles limited

Outlandish Videos & Gifts & Leather - 274 North Goodman Street, in the Village Gate
Hours: Monday – Saturday, 11 AM – 11 PM and Sundays, Noon – 5 PM - After-hours Video/DVD Drop is Available
Phone: 585.760.8383 - www.outlandish1.com - outlndvid@aol.com
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteer for the Empty Closet. We need reporters, photographers, mailing and distribution volunteers, and more. Please call Susan at 244-9030.

HELP WANTED

Disability Rights Advocate. Progressive disability rights organization seeks individual to advocate on disability issues, including transportation, community living, accessible housing, and more. Responsibilities include policy analysis, outreach/education, public speaking and community organizing/direct action. Associate's degree in Human Services plus two years related experience. Strong writing skills a significant plus. Individuals with disabilities urged to apply. Life experience can be substituted for education or experience. Second set of hands also available. Reply CDR, 412 State St., Rochester NY 14608.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are looking for individual to advocate on disability issues, including transportation, community living, accessible housing, and distribution volunteers, and more. Responsibilities include policy analysis, outreach/education, public speaking and community organizing/direct action. Associate's degree in Human Services plus two years related experience. Strong writing skills a significant plus. Individuals with disabilities urged to apply. Life experience can be substituted for education or experience. Second set of hands also available. Reply CDR, 412 State St., Rochester NY 14608.

FYI:

We will accept only ads accompanied by name and phone number. Neither will be published, but we must be able to confirm placement. The Empty Closet is not responsible for financial loss or physical injury that may result from any contact with an advertiser. Advertisers must use their own box number, voice mail or personal address/phone number.

CLASSIFIEDS

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ROOMMATES/HOUSEMATES

Roommate wanted to share home in Greece. $460 includes everything. Great location for shopping. Male, non-smoker preferred. Must have job and transportation. Call Dan at 585-734-0055 for more info.

FOR RENT

Meigs/Monroe area. Large two-bed-room apartments - just renovated - in huge four-family home. On site manager, offering all new kitchens, including gas range, refrigerator, and dishwasher. New bathrooms with all new fixture, tub/shower combo, pedestal sinks, etc. Walk-in closets. Re-finished hardwood floors. Freshly painted throughout. Each room CATV/telephone ready. New on site laundry. Each apartment has own attic and basement for private storage. NO PETS. Garbage, water/sewer included. References, deposit and credit check required. 650+ per month. 585-0102.

www.oz.rochester.com. Apartments, houses, condos and more... also serving Genesee, Livingston, Ontario, Orleans, Steuben and Wayne counties. 585-325-3640.

Fabulous Attic Suite. Pearl St. Walking distance to Monroe and Park, close to the bus line. Loft with private kitchen, shared bath, gas fireplace, hot tub with private yard, on-site laundry. $475 with utilities and cable. For showing, 585-507-3955.
**TUESDAY 1**

COAP volleyball. Every Tuesday, 7 p.m. Elmhurst Avenue Community Center.

Storming the Patriarchy. Louisville, Ky. Weekend of workshops, teach-ins and open discussion of violence against women. Louisville GLBT Community Center and vegan food. StormingthePatriarchy@yahoo.com.

heidwieg and the Angry Ink. Water St. Music Hall through June 20.

**THURSDAY 3**

Pride Month films at Dryden. Four short films in Paseo's favorite genre: a gay or lesbian cowgirl and Marina de Van. 8 p.m. $6 general admission, $5 for students with ID, $4 museum members. Dryden Theatre at George Eastman House, 900 East Ave.

FRIDAY 4

COAP Ethnic dinner. 7 p.m. Call To: 625-4609.

Empire Bears camping trip. Hillside Campground, south of Binghamton in Pennsylvania Hills, through June 6. 234-3381; empirebears.org.

Southern Ontario Women's Drum Camp. Kettle Point, Ontario, Canada. Through June 6. Fee includes accommodations, workshops, meals; 519-485-0861; info@drumcamps.wwsdram­camps.ca/OWDC.html.

Buffalo Pride event. Fabulous Thang! Thursday, 200 South Main St. Buffalokers.org.

Doors open 7 p.m. $40. RSVP to info@drumcamps; www.drum­camps.ca/OWDC.html.

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**Weekly GLBTI AA Meetings in Rochester**

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Monday
Gay and Lesbian Support Group
Third Presbyterian Church, 6 Meigs St. First, third Mondays, 7:30-9 pm. 325-3460.

After AIDS Bereavement Support
Second, fourth Mondays, 4-5:30 pm. AIDS Rochester, 1350 University Ave, Free. 442-2200.

Rochester Historical Bowling Scouting
7:15 pm, Mondays, Clover Lanes, 2700 Monroe Ave.

COAF
Come Out and Play. Business meeting last Mondays, 7 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Tom M., 454-3600.

American Baptists Concerned
Third Saturdays, 7 pm, GAGV Community Center, 170 Atlantic Ave. 234-5370.

Tuesday

HIV Positive Gay Men Support group
Every Monday, 9 pm, AIDS Rochester, 1350 University Ave. 442-2200 x 9251.

Green Party (political)
Second Mondays, 7 pm, GAGV Community Center, 170 Atlantic Ave. 234-5370.

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

Transgender Group
Second Thursdays, Open Arms MCC, 175 Norris Drive, 6-30 pm.

Rochester Frontrunners/Frontwalkers
Run/walk every Monday, 6 pm, George Eastman House parking lot 271-2709.

Triangle Talk

Tuesday

Atlantic Fire 0
Gay men 50 and over. Second Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm, GACOI Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 401-0821.

Orleans Rainbow Fellowship
Support group, meets second Tuesday, 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. May 18 is last meeting until Sept. 21.

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 1000, 420-1400.

Youth of Color Group
3-5 pm, MOCHA Project, 25 Franklin St., Stileby Center, Suite 1000. 420-1400; 244-8640.

First Steps AA Meeting
7:30-8:30 pm, Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St.

Diocece House, 935 East Ave. 231-6805. Open meeting, gay-friendly-welcoming.

LGBT Alzheimer’s Caregivers Support Group
Third Thursdays, 7 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Second floor. Paul, 244-8640 x 14.

Women’s Community Chorus
Rehearsals each Wednesday, 6:30-9 pm, Call for location: 234-4441.

Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley Women’s Movie Night
Meeting, second Wednesdays, 7 pm, 179 Atlantic Ave. 244-8640.

New Freedom New Happiness 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 Meigs St. Sponsored by Geneva Region Home Care. Free. 325-1880.

Frontrunners/Frontwalkers
6 pm run/walk; meet George Eastman House parking lot 271-2709.

Empire Bears
First Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. emopinebears.org

Rochester Frontrunners/Frontwalkers
Run/walk every Monday, 6 pm, George Eastman House parking lot 271-2709.

Adirondack Gay Men’s AA meeting
Ashbury Methodist Church, 1050 East Ave. 7:30-8:30 pm, Closed meeting. July 2: Meet GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

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

Saturday

Rochester Rams bar night
Third Saturday, 8 pm-2 am, Bachelor Forum, 470 University Ave. 271-8990.

Frontrunners/Frontwalkers
5 pm run/walk, meet George Eastman House parking lot 461-4246.

Empire Bears
Second Saturdays, Bachelor Forum, 470 University Ave. 234-5381.

Cross Dresser Support Group
First Saturdays, 6:30-10:30 pm, GAGV, 179 Atlantic Ave. 415-231-2132.

Transgender Group
Last Saturdays, 6-9 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

Country line dancing
Every Wednesday at Mullers. 7-10 pm. Free lessons. Kevin, 325-6745.

Gay Men’s Alcoholic Anonymous
2, Meet GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

First Saturdays, 6:30-9 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 244-8640.

Cross Dresser Support Group
First Saturdays, 6:30-10:30 pm, GAGV, 179 Atlantic Ave. 415-231-2132.

Transgender Group
Last Saturdays, 6-9 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.

LGBTQ Alliance for the Deaf (LBRAD)
Fourth Saturdays, 6-9 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. No meeting in June.

Something for da Suwan
Women’s group, every third Saturday, MOCHA Project, 25 Franklin St., 244-8640.
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Please let me introduce myself. My name is Tom Greco—sales and leasing professional for Bob Johnson Chevrolet. As an automotive veteran, I am proud to be working at the #1 Chevy dealership in Rochester—Bob Johnson Chevrolet.

Bob Johnson Chevrolet sells more Chevy vehicles than any other Chevy dealership for many reasons, particularly:

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