Adoption ruling will help couples here, across the country

BY SUSAN JORDAN

A ruling by the Appellate Division of the state Supreme Court on March 19 gave Nancy Hackett and Sheila Sloan the right to apply for a joint adoption, setting a precedent for same-sex couples across the state, and even the nation.

The ruling overturned a decision by Monroe Family Court Judge Gail A. Donofrio, who had denied Hackett and Sloan's application because, as an unmarried couple, they did not meet the qualifications for adoption, which the law defines as being a married couple or a single individual.

"We were thrilled," Nancy Hackett said. "The Empty Closet. "There were times in the past two years when we asked ourselves, 'Why are we doing this?' We had doubts because it took so long. Carefully came to us on Oct. 31, 2001. So we were very happy it turned out the way it did." Sheila Sloan said. "When Nancy called to tell us about the decision, I felt like a balloon - all pumped up and excited. We really didn't expect such a big decision - it's bigger than we thought it would be.

The joint adoption was finalized by Judge Donofrio on April 20.

"Greg Franklin, the couple's attorney, told the Empty Closet, "It was a close call decision, which is really unusual for a single individual."

ImageOut will market film festival to Toronto

BY SUSAN JORDAN

Rochester's ImageOut is moving off in a new direction - this month in Canada. ImageOut has received $12,000 from the Cultural Tourism Institute of the Arts and Business Council, based in New York City, to market the October film and video festival to Toronto audiences, in coordination with the new fast ferry service.

Additional in-kind and cash donations of $13,500 have also been pledged to the project, which will also strengthen the Rochester gay community's overall tourism efforts by using the festival as a model for a coordinated tourism campaign. ImageOut will partner with the Gay Alliance, the Greater Rochester Volunteer Association and local businesses and cultural organizations to turn festival-goers into repeat visitors to the Rochester area. Funding is also coming from the N.Y.S. Council on the Arts.

ImageOut board member (and original founder) Larry Champoux said the Empty Closet that the festival is seeking volunteers from the local community who would be interested in working on the effort, especially those who have a strong interest in various tourism projects. "Those interested should call the ImageOut office at 585-271-2640." Champoux said.

"We need to promote the festival, and we also want to find new ways to connect Rochester's gay community with Toronto. My own perspective is, it's up to every group and organization here - businesses, cultural organizations, religious organizations and so on - to find ways to promote Rochester. This is a way the gay community can contribute to this.

In addition, the festival will offer information on how to marry in Massachusetts, and will provide an on-site opportunity to register as domestic partners here in Rochester."

"We'll focus on those who get married in Massachusetts. We'll have step-by-step instructions, copies of the forms, etc."

Champoux said that ImageOut wants to bring festival-goers to Toronto. "We want to bring them here and give them a tour of Rochester and the Finger Lakes," Champoux said. "With the fast ferry, it's easier to get to Toronto."

"We'll have step-by-step instructions, copies of the forms, etc."

The GAGV town meeting on May 16 to celebrate Massachusetts victory

BY SUSAN JORDAN

The GAGV will be holding a Town Meeting and Victory Rally on May 16, the eve of legal marriage in Massachusetts. GAGV Executive Director Chuck Bowen said, "We will celebrate this very historic day in our lives." In addition to celebrating the victory, the town meeting will offer information on how to marry in Massachusetts, and will provide an on-site opportunity to register as domestic partners here in Rochester.

"We'll meet with Toronto gay leaders, including the producers of the Toronto gay film festival (which takes place in May) to talk about the possibilities opened up by the fast ferry. "We want to bring them here and give them a tour of Rochester and maybe a wine tour of the Finger Lakes."

"The gay community, businesses, recreational leaders and affiliated organizations will come together to strategize more efficient and effective cultural organizations and business. We look at this as an opportunity to partner with area business and government to bring tourists to the Rochester community - like we do here in the Finger Lakes."

"We'll meet with Toronto gay leaders, including the producers of the Toronto gay film festival (which takes place in May) to talk about the possibilities opened up by the fast ferry. "We want to bring them here and give them a tour of Rochester and maybe a wine tour of the Finger Lakes."

"GAGV town meeting continued on page 3"

ImageOut continued on page 3
Letters to the Editor

Theatre entrance

Vatican had led a genocidal campaign.

Media still insist on calling "gay marriage" issue.

Southern France, in Templar territory.

Gay Alliance staff is at last, in the Fortress of the Knights Templar, which

We'd like to ask you to become Gay Community; to help promote leadership within the

Virginia, is handi­

...years the Vatican had led a genocidal campaign.

and the parking lot is on College St., and the parking lot entrance is handi­

irritated and persons or the members of that organization. For further

...you must be a married couple or a single person or the members of that organization. For further

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...we're politically to the right of the issue. We must challenge the lies and stereotypes of right.

...to put our daughters in the care of persons we love, who are also persons we respect.

Town Meeting and Victory Rally

May 16, fifth floor of Auditorium Center, 875 E Main St., 3-5 p.m.

We'd like to ask you to become Gay Community members. (Add one on next page below if you just want a subscription. Tear this form out.)

...at a free forum for ongoing dialogue between students and faculty. So far, four sessions have been held.

...and practitioners of same-gender marriage.

...at a free forum for ongoing dialogue between students and faculty. So far, four sessions have been held.

...in the care of persons we love, who are also persons we respect.
Rhode Island House Majority Leader comes out as gay
Rhode Island House Majority Leader Gordon Napolitano has become the state’s first sitting legislator to come out as gay, a rare move for such a high-ranking official.

While Napolitano says he is confident that his coming out will not affect his ability to serve as a member of the General Assembly, he is the first Rhode Islander to make such a announcement.

In a statement released Tuesday, Napolitano said he had not been able to come out publicly because of the political climate in the state.

The Rhode Island House Democratic Caucus has 36 members, including 29 Democrats and 7 Republicans.

The statement also pointed out that the General Assembly has never before had a gay member.

"My decision to come out is not one I take lightly," Napolitano said. "It is one that I have been considering for a long time, but I felt that the time was right to make this announcement.

Napolitano said he will continue to be an active member of the General Assembly and will work with his colleagues to improve lives for all Rhode Islanders.

"I want to be a role model for other gay and lesbian citizens of Rhode Island," Napolitano said. "I want to be an example of how we can overcome the challenges of discrimination and prejudice.

"I believe that every person deserves the right to live their lives without fear of discrimination," Napolitano said. "I want to be a voice for those who are oppressed by discrimination in our state.”

International gay award goes to Taiwan
The Golden Horse Film Festival in Taiwan has named three directors who came out as gay to receive the Golden Horse Award for best film.

The three directors are: Paul Yang, who directed the film "Sweet Home"; Benjamin Hung, who directed "The Woolly"; and Jeff Yang, who directed "The Garden of the Sinners.

"We believe that this is a positive step for Taiwan," said the festival’s director, Tsai Ming-liang. "We are proud to recognize the contributions of these talented and courageous filmmakers."
Doug Potter and Greg Partridge marry in Canada and have service at DUPC

BY SUSAN JORDAN

Doug Potter and Greg Partridge have been a busy winter and spring. While most couples would find one wedding enough to organize, they were legally married in Canada in late February, and then had a "service of blessing and celebration" at Rochester's Downtown Unitarian Universalist Church, where Potter is an elder and Partridge a deacon, on April 17.

"We had to do it twice," Greg Partridge said, "since to have a legal license and secondly to have a service in our own country, to have a blessing and celebration with our families and friends."

The first wedding, a civil marriage, took place in Vineland, Ontario, near Niagara Falls. Potter and Partridge were married by Unitarian Universalist minister the Reverend John Mayor, with the Rev. Reva Spade in attendance. Rev. Spade has led the organization That All May Serve for 14 years, admits to having been concerned about his patients' reactions; he mentioned that the paper "will really hit us in the future." He said, "At work I haven't been talking about it in the paper. Also, this was the one state, city or employer.

The April 17 service was more religious in nature, with a processional and recessional, one hymn sung by the attendees. Potter continued, "We'll realize this was the wedding you're talking about protecting. We want to file a joint return."

George Bush on everything but this one, and having been positive. He said, "At work I haven't been talking about it in the paper. Also, this was the one thing in this whole process that will really hit us in future."

"When we have time to process this," Potter continued, "we realize this was a very significant thing to do - stand up and say that the same sex couple you've got 30 years with is the person you want to be with."

The two men have been very open about their situation and have given interviews to the media. Potter, who has practiced medicine in West Bloomfield for 14 years, admits to having been concerned about his patients' reactions; he had not come out to them previously. He said, "We thought long and hard about getting married publicly because of what my practice is - We Institute is not exactly a liberal one... But I'm only two patients. One I was glad to see leave, and the other made me very sad. But I've been touched by the support from most of my patients. I have to say, probably the most common comment I've had from my patients is, 'How long have I been coming here?' and then, 'That's a long time, and they smile. I assume the message is, 'If you tell me this 10 (or whatever) years ago, I'd have left, but now I'm not going anywhere.'"

"Once to have a legal license and have service at DUPC, we were able to file the paperwork and have service at DUPC, and get the state and federal government to recognize our marriage." Potter continued, "At work I haven't been talking about it in the paper. Also, this was the one thing in this whole process that will really hit us in future."

"We recorded music and brought our extended families. At this point, I feel that everything we've worked our whole life for. Both families were present at the April 17 service and were thrilled. Potter continued, "we'll realize this was the marriage you're talking about protecting. We want to file a joint return."

Doug Potter said, "What's been most important to us is the sense of community that we've had, of being a part of a larger movement." Potter continued, "we'll realize this was the marriage you're talking about protecting. We want to file a joint return."

Doug Potter, left, and Greg Partridge were legally married in civil ceremonies in Canada in late February, and then had a service of blessing and celebration at Downtown Unitarian Universalist Church. The service took place in Vineland, Ontario, near Niagara Falls. It cost $100 in Canadian funds and, by Canadian law, one partner had to appear in person to apply. Doug Partridge married in Canada in the ringing on the same day the service took place.

The Canadian civil marriage is legal in three Canadian provinces, but is not recognized by the U.S. The couple applied for their license at City Hall in Niagara Falls. They had to take the potential of any religious unions or domestic partnerships, implies full recognition by all of society, not just one state, city or employer.

Doug Potter said, "We've been doing the gay person thing for years and families... It's been a surprising thing: tremendous support from our extended families. At this point, I feel that everything we've worked our whole life for. Both families were present at the April 17 service and were thrilled. Potter continued, "we'll realize this was the marriage you're talking about protecting. We want to file a joint return."

The one thing in this whole process that will really hit us in future is remembering the Canadian minister saying to us. After this service - you're married. Which still strikes me as - 'Oh yeah, we are married.'"

The April 17 service was more religious in nature, with a processional and recessional, one hymn sung by the attendees. Potter continued, "we'll realize this was the marriage you're talking about protecting. We want to file a joint return."

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Doug Potter and Greg Partridge have been together for 20 years. Doug Potter said, "Our marriage was planned for some time. We went to New York for 2003. I think it was something we had thought about for a long time through the years. Our common goal was, we want to do it legal and off John Spade because our pastor.

The couple, having already been legally married, will not be going to Massachusetts in May for a third wedding. Potter said, "I think the issue is to get the state and federal government to recognize our marriage."

"Several weddings have kept them too busy to think much about recognition as far." Potter said, "We invited our accountant in the wedding, so were very happy we can say, 'Now that we're married, we want to file a joint return.'"

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For the civil marriage, Potter said, "We wanted music and brought our own readings. There were 10 guests. The ceremony was very nice. Vineland has an old carriage house on the same of a winery, where the ceremony took place. We had a champagne toast at the winery and returned to the carriage house for dinner."

The April 17 service was more religious in nature, with a processional and recessional, one hymn sung by the attendees. Potter continued, "we'll realize this was the marriage you're talking about protecting. We want to file a joint return."

The one thing in this whole process that will really hit us in future is remembering the Canadian minister saying to us. After this service - you're married. Which still strikes me as - 'Oh yeah, we are married.'"
Catholics for Free Choice say threats from church authorities use Eucharist sacrament as a political tool

Franz Wöging, president of Catholics for Free Choice, released the following statement on April 12:

"There is something profoundly disturbing about the current media attention focused on issues like death and dying. For many people, the Eucharist is a source of comfort and hope, a means of receiving the love and grace of God. It is a time when we come together to celebrate the beauty of life and the importance of faith.

"One cannot help but wonder what church officials had in mind when they raised this issue in the Catholic community. A statement like this, coming from the highest authority in the church, is a serious and troubling development.

"We call on church leaders to accept that faith is a personal matter and that the practice of faith should be protected. We must work to ensure that religious freedom is respected and that people are able to practice their faith in peace and tranquility."
THE EMPTY CLOSET
www.qayalliance.org

NYC NEWS

NYC BATTLE OVER SAME SEX MARRIAGE FORUM took place at NYC’s GLBT Community Center on March 31. Rev. Kay Greenleaf and Rev. Dawn Sangrey, above, are Unitarian Universalist ministers who have been charged with marrying same-sex couples without licenses.

GOLDEN BOY: Stonewall bartender Tree celebrates his 65th birthday on April 4. Pictured are Rue McClanahan (Golden Girl), Tree and Joyce Randolph (The Honeymooners). Tree — named as such because of his height — has been bartending for over 35 years.

RACISM PROTEST: On April 16, gay Asians protested Details magazine’s racist and homophobic article in April 2004 issue. (www.asianmediawatchdog.com)

ABOVE: NORMAL HEART: GMHC benefit preview performance of The Normal Heart honoring Larry Kramer at The Public Theater. Pictured are cast members Raul Esparza, Larry Kramer and cast member Jay Russell at Kramer’s reception at Dominion after the performance on April 13.

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Application Fee Waived With This Ad

South Beach Tattoos:
a photo album by Eric Bellmann


ABOVE: LONG LIVE THE QUEENS: Vanity and Boy George at the 18th Annual Night of a Thousand Gowns at the Marriott Marquis on March 3. The event was sponsored by the Imperial Court of New York.

ABOVE: NORMAL HEART: GMHC benefit preview performance of The Normal Heart honoring Larry Kramer at The Public Theater. Pictured are cast members Raul Esparza, Larry Kramer and cast member Jay Russell at Kramer’s reception at Dominion after the performance on April 13.

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Application Fee Waived With This Ad
Service, sculpture dedication are set for AIDS Memorial Garden.

On May 20, 6 p.m., a special Service of Reque for Red Lipsticks and sculpture dedication, will take place at the AIDS Remembrance Garden in Highland Park, during the annual Lilac Festival. The event will be an interfaith service with clergy from many faith backgrounds, with spiritual readings and performances from artists of many disciplines. Those who have lost to AIDS, as well as being a tribute to those who have dedic­
ed their lives and compassion to care for those who have been impacted by HIV/AIDS.

In 2003, internationally renowned artist Leonard Lew was commissioned to create a sculpture for the AIDS Remembrance Garden. The sculpture, called "The Guardian" was unveiled and dedicated as part of the Service of Reque for Red Lipsticks. Lew is a sculptor based in Rochester, New York, whose works have been exhibited throughout the greater Rochester area, as well as by museums and galleries around the world.

Rev. Muczahy of Open Arms marries same sex couple

Open Arms MCC, in cooperation with Metropolitan Community Churches worldwide and in observance of "Long Day of Unity for Equal Marriage" on April 29 in Washington Square Park, will hold a wedding ceremony for same-sex couples, coordinated by Rev. Muczahy.

Pride Parade takes off July 17; theme for 2004 is "Fashion"

This year's Pride Parade and Cultural Festival, "Fashion," will be held Sunday, July 17, beginning at 5 p.m. Participants are expected to line the parade route on the corner of Main and Summit streets to watch the event and participate in the festivities. The parade route will include Lilac Festival Avenue, east Main Street, and many others.

HIV Consumer Advocacy Summit is set for June 18

Liberty Research Group is presenting a "HIV/AIDS Policy Consumer Advocacy Summit" on June 18 at the Chateau Lecassin from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event will feature sessions on the impact of HIV/AIDS on individuals and communities, the issues of working with and advocacy for consumers, and the impact of consumer advocacy on the quality of care.

AIDS Resource Center seeks donations.

The AIDS Resource Center is located in Highland Park - South, on the corner of Summit and Highland Avenues. The Center provides a variety of services and resources to people living with HIV/AIDS, including medical and social services, support groups, and educational programs. Donations are accepted at the Center during regular business hours.

GAY Alliance elects nine candidates to board of directors

By SUSAN JORDAN

With the coming of April every year, so begins the election season for the GAY Alliance elects new board members. On Wednesday, April 14, the election results were announced.

The GAY Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the health, wellness, and equality of the LGBTQ+ community. The organization works to raise awareness and promote understanding of LGBTQ+ issues through educational programs, advocacy, and community events. The GAY Alliance is based in Rochester and serves residents of Monroe County, Rochester, and surrounding areas.
Did you see the new ad that will be in the newspapers and on TV this week? It's about the importance of saving for retirement. The ad features a family with young children, and the message is that saving for retirement is crucial for a secure future.

The ad highlights the different types of retirement savings options available, including traditional IRAs and 401(k)s. It also emphasizes the importance of starting to save early, as every dollar saved today will grow more over time.

The campaign is being launched in partnership with the National Association of Social Workers, which is working to raise awareness about the critical need for retirement savings and to encourage people to start planning early for their future.

The ad is part of a broader campaign aimed at educating the public about the importance of saving for retirement. The campaign includes a website with additional resources and information about retirement savings options.

If you or someone you know is looking for ways to save for retirement, be sure to check out the new ad and explore the resources available on the campaign website.
Jesus and history are on our side

To the Editor:

I believe in God. I have accepted Jesus as my savior. I believe that marriage between same-sex couples will, eventually, be legal. I think that "etna" or "LGBT" is the proper language. God is on our side. I believe Jesus is on our side. I believe history is on our side.

Time may not yet be on our side. Do not be intimidated by people with leather-covered, gold or silver embossed crosses. Those people will never hear the message of love and justice that is so clear in the Bible.

The enclosed is offered in hopes that it will offer comfort to others who feel assured by Bible thumpers. These passages are as relevant to their life and their concept of love as the passages they quote are to us.

Keep up your good work.

James R. Ide
Williamsport, MD

THE BIBLE'S TEACHINGS ON MARRIAGE

We might consider a constitutional amendment forbidding marriage.

What is wrong with the concept that when he marries his first wife, she is to be treated as a stranger? What is wrong with the concept that when he marries her, she is to be treated as his wife? What is wrong with the concept that when he marries her, she is to be treated as his wife, and she is to be treated as his wife, and she is to be treated as his wife?

(Mark 10:11-12)

Since marriage is for life, no government can or should be able to permit divorce. What God has joined together, she is to be put together, and she is to be put together, and she is to be put together, and she is to be put together.

(Ls 2:17)

They shall not take a wife that is a whore, or profane; neither shall they take a woman put away from her husband.

(Lev. 21:7)

We might consider a constitutional amendment requiring that a woman should be forbidden to marry more than one man.

Marriage shall consist of a union between one man and one woman.

(Kings 11:3)

They shall not take a wife that is a wife, or profane; neither shall they take a woman put away from her husband. She is to be put together, and she is to be put together, and she is to be put together, and she is to be put together.

(Lev. 21:7)

We might consider a constitutional amendment forbidding marriage with a nonvirgin wife, divorced woman, or nonbeliever.

They shall not take a wife that is a wife, or profane; neither shall they take a woman put away from her husband. She is to be put together, and she is to be put together, and she is to be put together, and she is to be put together.

(Lev. 21:7)

Marriage of a believer and a nonbeliever shall be forbidden.

(Gen. 24:3; Num. 25:1-9; Exod. 5:12-14; Job 33:9, 10)

Never let your daughters marry a man from the tribe of Benjamin. (Jud. 21:1)

They shall not take a wife that is a wife, or profane; neither shall they take a woman put away from her husband. She is to be put together, and she is to be put together, and she is to be put together, and she is to be put together.

(Lev. 21:7)

We might consider a constitutional amendment requiring that a woman should be forbidden to marry a man after his death unless she is a virgin.

A new wife who is discovered not to be a virgin is to be stoned to death at the door of her father's house. A marriage when married.

A marriage when married.

When a man marries his first wife, she is to be stoned to death at the door of her father's house. A marriage when married.

(Lev. 21:7)

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(Lev. 21:7)
Lambda Kodak hosted Elizabeth Birch as keynote speaker at 10th anniversary event on April 7

BY THERESE FELDER

The Lambda Network at Kodak is a gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employee network at Eastman Kodak Company.

Lambda's 10th Anniversary Educational Event, held on April 7 at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center, was a great success. Over 400 Kodak employees, retirees and their guests were in attendance that evening.

This year's event theme was "Keep Talking... and the co-chairs were Jackie Kohnan and Keith Powell. The evening started off with a "Statement of Purpose" delivered by Bob Berman, Senior Vice President, Director of Human Resources (Human Resources) and Marge Meyer, Lambda Kodak board member. After the introduction, Glide sing "Keep Talking..." and the co-chairs were Jackie Kohnan and Keith Powell. The evening started off with a "Statement of Purpose" delivered by Bob Berman, Senior Vice President, Director of Human Resources (Human Resources) and Marge Meyer, Lambda Kodak board member. After the introduction, Glide sing "Keep Talking..."

Lambda Board of Directors from nominations submitted by employees from throughout the Company.

In early April, Lambda board member Emily Jones participated in a panel discussion at the 2004 "Reaching Out" Gay MBA Conference in Los Angeles with over 100 people in attendance.

The panel discussion was titled "LGBT-Friendly Workplaces and Communities: Why We Work - and Live - Where We Do," and was sponsored and organized by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Business Council.

On April 12, the Lambda Board of Directors received a 30-minute documentary featuring Kodak CEO Dan Carp at Kodak Office. The Lambda Board met regularly with Lambda leaders to discuss issues of importance both within the company and in the community.

About a dozen Lambda members and friends participated in the April 29 "United Way "Day of Caring". The all-day project this year was at the GAVC Community Center.

In May, planning will begin for the building of the Lambda Float for the 2004 Rochester Pride Parade.

Lambda's bicycling team has already started training for the 20th Annual "Day of Cycling". The all-day project this year was at the GAVC Community Center.

The board discussed the 2004 Rochester Pride Parade.

Lambda's bicycling team has already started training for the 20th Annual "Day of Cycling". The all-day project this year was at the GAVC Community Center.

For information about becoming a Kodak Lambda member or sponsoring activities, please email at lambdadk@kodak.com. You can also log on to the www.lambdadk.com website.

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"I'm fighting to stop a killer."

HIV is a killer. I'm a witness. I have buried babies. I have buried old people and young people. People like me, people like you. HIV is serious, so my life's work is helping others learn about it and prevent it.

Today, thousands of researchers, medical professionals and volunteers are committed to discovering a vaccine that prevents HIV and stopping this epidemic. To them, I say, "Thank you, with you." — Mark Del Monte

Community Worker

To learn more about preventive vaccines and help educate others, visit www.gaidinfo.nih.gov

GRRC's The Queen of Bingo runs through May 15

Great Rochester Repertory Company presents The Queen of Bingo, opening in GRRC's new permanent home at Magical Journey Through Stages, a new performance space at UPSTAGE 3 at the Auditorium Center, 875 East Main St.

The show runs May 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 15. All performances are at 7:30 p.m. except May 2, which is a 3 p.m. matinee.

The Queen of Bingo is a loopy and quite delightful little show about two 50-something women who, during a day at the Olympics, ate in a Catholic church hall and playing bingo. The Queen of Bingo stems from the performances of actresses Diane Chevron (Rochester) and Joyce Szatkowski (Irondequoit) as two sisters. Babe and Sis. These two women set up an entire world. Jason and deMarco call their Divine Coach of Equivalent Age.

Also in the cast are Ed Scutt (Geneva) as the bingo caller and Nancy Schuman (Biondaitizi) as the hilarious Mother Superior. There is a cast opportunity for audience participation. For reservations call 624-8360. Master card and Visa welcome. Senior tickets: $12.

For more information, call 624-8360. Master card and Visa welcome. Senior tickets: $12.

Music is not the only passion for Jason and deMarco. Jason Werner continued to sing and travel as much as they can while they can. In September the duo will perform on an Alaska cruise. The Trevor Project (www.thetrevorproject.org) created in 1998 to coincide with the airing of the HBO presentation of "Trevor," the Trevor Project is the only national 24-hour toll free hot line aimed at gay and questioning youth. "We have a heart for the youth in the community," said deMarco. "We have a heart for the community." Jason and deMarco donate their time and deMarco's newest CD is called "Squirt Pop." Released May 1, the CD is considered to be a pop crossover album with more focus on pop music. All 12 tracks on the CD were written by Jason and deMarco. They contain a positive message, but do not carry the traditional trappings of a contemporary Christian album. Rated an Evangelical Christian, Jason always knows that religion would become more important to him. Jason and deMarco also perform at venues as varied as gay bars and Catholic churches.

MUSIC: Jason & deMarco offer "Spirit Pop"

BY SHERILL FULGHUM

In a world filled with hate music, Jason Werner and deMarco have found a friendly way to bring music into the world. Jason and deMarco call their music Spirit Pop — music that is positive, with a message and a pop beat. While the lyrics are religious in nature, Jason and deMarco do not preach to their listeners. They connect them.

Jason and deMarco's newest CD is also called "Spirit Pop." Released May 1, the CD is considered to be a pop crossover album with more focus on pop music. All 12 tracks on the CD were written by Jason and deMarco. They contain a positive message, but do not carry the traditional trappings of a contemporary Christian album.

Raised as an Evangelical Christian, Jason always knew that religion would become more important to him. Jason and deMarco also perform at venues as varied as gay bars and Catholic churches.

"We have a heart for the youth in the community," said deMarco. "We have a heart for the community." Jason and deMarco donate their time and efforts to the Trevor Project (www.thetrevorproject.org). Created in 1998 to coincide with the airing of the HBO presentation of "Trevor," the Trevor Project is the only national 24-hour toll free hot line aimed at gay and questioning youth. Jason and deMarco also donate $1 from each CD sold to the Trevor Project.

Jason and deMarco also appear at high schools to sing and speak on uncondi-

tional acceptance of everyone. This duo does more than sing, they practice what they sing about.

DeMarco said that they want to sing and travel as much as they can while they can. In September the duo will perform on an Alaska cruise. The Trevor Project is a celebration for Troy Perry — the founder of the Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC) — who is retiring.
Jason & deMarco album, it is a way to live. "Spirit Pop"
FLCC students present "Glamour!" featuring some of
and hosted by Dee Dee Dubois.

\[...

In the story — which is told completely in dance and movement with a little help

\[...

Pridevision signed a contract with

\[...

ritntid dance co. goes to oz; show choreographed by thomas warfield

Cris Williamson to perform for Imagemaker

a legendary lesbian musician will be in town this month — this will be an

\[...

k.d. at rpo

The Wild/Wolf/Soul Project, Rochester's

\[...

Lo, I'm a real big brother

\[...

Atlantic Beacon Sculpture Project calls for work

by steve lodi

Atlantic Beacon Sculpture Committee (ABSC) is in conjunction with the

\[...

Locally produced film premiers at Little on May 16

the importance of addressing the way that their locally produced film, "Love Rules" is

\[...

The film is feature-length, running approximately 60 minutes.

\[...

About the filmmaker: Ladesha Vailes is a microchip-based Zziki Films, which is located

\[...

Local film continued on page 12
Gay poems that have had a publishing life

-A holdover from my Catholic upbringing

my understanding of certain images and
couple of poems about the Resurrection.

Anthony's 522 (which has unfortunately
closed). A good friend and I used to go
and the people behind the bar.

The second tier is dealing with the "deep part"
subject matter - lyric
moments of perception that
are sitting between two note.

Tony Leuzzi: I'm not sure.

Am I a gay poet or a poet who hap-
pened to be gay? I wouldn't say I'm a
lesbian. Like them, I tend to look very
natural landscapes

Nicaragua, for example, knows their
poetry that the majority of students, or at
least half the class, is very bright and has a
least some kind of support system.

Later I flip through the New Yorker
magazine. It speaks to that era's downside. Despite
having the imprimatur of respectability. I
would like to share my own "Twelve
step lists. Alcoholics Anonymous

But I don't see the world that way.

Tony Leuzzi: Some poets have set programs or
times for their poems to set. Why, Gloria, why?

In high school we had once a year a
"going to the chapel

With all this new political pressure, we
are sitting on the couch, watching the
political debate. Not only had America's
military debate. Not only had America's
military debate. Not only had America's
You can't exactly walk into your neighborhood supermarket and be sure to
find safe sex devices for lesbians - dental dams, finger cots. These were
originally developed for the dental industry, but are now widely
available in pharmacies and grocery stores. Unfortunately, lesbians
may have a little trouble finding them. There are plenty of places on the Internet
that sell dental dams and finger cots, but just how hard is it to find them? In
some parts of the country, a local health clinic may deliver them to you - Condomania
is a company that will mail you your safer sex materials, but it's worth
the slight extra hassle to have to make a separate trip to your local pharmacy.

In our poll of 2000 school children we found that just
22% of them knew where to buy dental dams. This
is a sore spot on our public health education and
healthcare system. It is time that we do better.

You may want to consider just buying your
safer sex materials, leaflets and other resources
at Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Thousand Mile Region.
It's just a phone call away! I wish I could tell you these
materials are free, but unfortunately they're not. The
most Americans accept same-sex relationships, the
more difficult it is for them to find these same-sex
materials that will help protect their health.

In covering the completion of gay polling,$
we had several comments. Here's one by Gayle:
"I'm 30 and the first time I have
received a postcard about a gay
life issue that I feel comfortable
responding to..."

Conservative group's data gives hope
to americans today oppose same-sex marriage
by a wide margin. Certainly that was true 30
decades ago. But bless their right-wing hearts, that's
the struggle of marginalized groups; it is
essential that we all be patient and understanding.

Institute has given guidance to the
same poll financed among older Americans. It suggests that the
time to make love become parents themselves
and leaders of American society, and advocates of common social
treatment of sexual orientation - the same-sex issue of same-sex mar-
rriage will have lost its sting.

As the nation's gay population gets older,
the focus of our community life is shifting. That's
why it's important to make sure that we are
prepared to make the shift to a new generation
of leaders who can provide support and guidance.

We are all in this together. Let me tell you that a wedding does
not guarantee anything. It is a public declaration, a
symbol of commitment to the one you love. It is a
public demonstration of your love and commitment. It is a
public announcement of your intention to begin a new life together.

But why stir up trouble? Is anything going to change as
we announce our engagement? Of course it is. When we
announce our engagement in our family and friends, we get
some amazing responses. I do not think you two
will find that experience in any other way.

"They get a lot of love and support.
It grows, by their presence, they pledge
sustaining love."

Our 81-year-old aunt wrote, "Your
family ties are maintained by gath-
ering, by the sense of coming together,
by the shared joy of all of us. What a
beautiful way to begin your journey as a
couple."

We were sued by a gay couple and
asked, "Why is an announcement necessary?"
"Why not just get married?"
"Is there anything to lose?"
"Why make a big public statement?"

We did it, and we are happy. And we
are proud. And we are ready. And we are
ready to announce our engagement.

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not guarantee anything. It is a public declaration, a
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Queer is seductive.
Smoking is not.

Some studies show that GLBT people are twice as likely to become sexual smokers. Gay health is more than skin deep, it’s a way of life.
It’s up to us. Let’s take care of each other.

Find out more about gay health.
Go to: www.aidsrochester.org/gayhealth, or call 585-442-2223.

AIDS

Free testing for HIV exposure can be found at the New York State Department of Health. Call Rochester Area Regional Health for information. Rochester Regional Health offers free HIV testing. Call the Rochester Health Department and arrange to have a health professional in the health department give you information about testing. We also offer testing at the Monroe County Health Department. For more information, call (585) 464-5928.

Cultural:
PO Box 93196; (585) 461-1310. E-mail: National Organization for Women (Greater Rochester NOW.)

Women’s Health: 1250 University Ave. AIA has services for women and the elderly in the area. Contact 585-226-4933.

Community Health Network. 371 Clinton Ave. 426-9950; (585) 461-2500. Services for HIV-positive women, their negative partners and family members.

Cultural:
Rochester Women’s Community Center. 254-4111. (See Ongoing calendar).

SPORTS:
Rochester Raging Women’s Rugby Club. New players always welcome, and no skills are required. We meet on the University of Rochester campus. Please call 426-8985.

Women’s Basketball. 170 Seegers Drive. 442-4820. Dr. Wendie Logan Young and an all-women staff provide training programs.

Rochester Women’s Health Center. 1300 University Ave, Rochester, NY 14607. Women’s reproductive health services for women of all ages. Services include abortion, contraceptive counseling and service, women’s health care, non-surgical and surgical procedures, and general gynecology. Call (585) 461-3520.


Rochester Area Task Force on AIDS (RATTA). 1300 University Ave, Rochester, NY 14607. Services to women and girls in the Rochester area. Women who have a HIV diagnosis or women exposed to HIV should call the Rochester Public Health Department at (585) 464-6472.

Gnls’ Night Out. Supporting the needs and concerns of female and transgender survivors of sexual violence and their male and non-binary partners.

AIDS: Women in Recovery. 270-7272. 125 Clinton Ave. Rochester, NY 14607. Services to women in recovery who are or have been living with HIV/AIDS. Call 458-5728.

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How would you define your style, and why is looking stylish important to you? I don't like to be just one... although many people know I have a soft spot for Christina Aguilera (call it a guilty indulgence). What is important to you in the areas of health and fitness regimes or products? I try to minimize carbs intake, maximize vitamins, drink lots of water, and eat any activate (gymnastics, biking, skating, etc.). What are your fashion hates (no hate if anyone else wear)? Athletic shoes—just hate them! My advice is, if you aren't exercising or on your way TO or FROM exercising, leave the workout shoes in your gym bag.

What are your fashion hates? Comfortable pair of shoes... a girl can't go wrong with 'em, but I can't stand itlong to pair of 4" stilettos before Thanksgiving and New Year's). Slimming and very versatile. It can be the integral part of any drag performer's performance, but I don't usually find them very comfortable. Is there such a thing as a shoes that fits perfectly? What is your biggest style success? I have a track record for doing really creative and delicious costumes. What is your one top costume? That's a tough one... I'm not sure I would pinpoint just one... although in many people know I have a soft spot for Christina Aguilera (call it a guilty indulgence).

Who is your style influence or trendsetter? That's a tough one... I'm not sure I would pinpoint just one... although in many people know I have a soft spot for Christina Aguilera (call it a guilty indulgence). What is your fashion/look style? That's a tough one... I'm not sure I would pinpoint just one... although in many people know I have a soft spot for Christina Aguilera (call it a guilty indulgence).

Thank you. I am truly at home.
In the Life for May looks at gay men, lesbian- trans and bisexual women.Gary Kaminetz, who was born in New York City and has spent much of his life there as a gay man, is an author, activist, and political organizer. His work has focused on the rights of women and children, in particular the rights of transgender people. Kaminetz is the founder of the National Transgender Equality Fund (NTEF), which advocates for equal rights and protections for transgender people.

The book covers the history of the gay rights movement, the struggles of transgender people, and the current state of the movement. Kaminetz argues that the gay rights movement has not been able to achieve its goals and that transgender people continue to face discrimination and prejudice. He believes that the movement must confront its own history and work towards a more inclusive future.


The book is written in a clear and engaging style, and Kaminetz uses personal anecdotes and interviews with key figures to bring the history of the movement to life. He also includes a number of photographs and diagrams to illustrate key points. Overall, In the Life for May is an important and thought-provoking book that provides a comprehensive overview of the gay rights movement and the struggles of transgender people.
Dear Miss Tulip,

Miss Tulip was delighted to receive and if you do, please include your return address for a visit.

Dear Monty,

Miss Tulip would like to have mailed a love interest (heavy petting is about all we would suggest we meet and "enjoy each other")...but Monty didn't include a return address with his card, so I am hoping he will read my column and get my reply.

Dear Mom,

I was so thoughtful of you to send me a card. I loved your photo and have enclosed my photo in case you wonder what I look like).

Left: Monty. Right: Max Tulip. The two may be planning some heavy petting.

I'm sorry I missed your Birthday! A luxury suite at the Auditorium Center is in store for you (ahem) business in sub-zero temperatures.

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Introducing the area’s largest:
GM CERTIFIED USED CAR DEALERSHIP

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COMPETITION
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AND VALUE!

Experience PEACE-OF-MIND
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GM Certified Used Vehicles are the ONLY cars and trucks that meet the high standards of the company that built them.

 EVERY GM CERTIFIED USED VEHICLE INCLUDES:
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WE HAVE OVER 100 GM CERTIFIED USED VEHICLES TO CHOOSE FROM!

TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL SAVINGS CALL ME AT 694-3381 EXT 338

BY SUSAN JORDAN
Alexandra Cobus (Alex) started as Coordinator for the GAGV Anti-Violence Project on April 3. The Project, which focuses on domestic violence, hate crimes and pick-up attacks, will be funded by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. "My most important goal is to provide a safe place for people to go and to find resources," said Alex, a native of Burlington, Vt., who holds a BA Degree in Sociology from the State University of New York at New Paltz. "I have the Federal Violence in the Lgbt Community grant that funds the Project, which will be working with the N.Y.S. LGBT Domestic Violence Network.

After coming to the GAGV, Alex says, "it was a very busy time. I had to do a lot of planning, including a conference in May. I also wanted to get everything up and running on our new website."

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, based in N.Y.C., includes the New York Sate Gay/Lesbian Anti-Violence Project and In Our Voices, Inc. in Albany. Both groups have been involved with the GAGV since it started several years ago. "We’re happy to be working with the GAGV," said Alex. "It’s important to have a state presence on anti-violence issues."

As a domestic violence counselor, Alex knows that the most important thing is to listen to each situation, and not to make assumptions. "Sometimes it’s hard to understand why people stay in situations where they are being abused."

"I also try to help people find resources, including legal, emotional and support services," said Alex. "I want to provide information on how to get help for people who are in abusive situations."

The GAGV Anti-Violence Project is the first of its kind in the state, and is working to increase awareness of the problem. "People don’t talk about domestic violence, and it’s important to educate ourselves about the issue," said Alex.

Alex says that she looks forward to working with people in the community, and to helping them find the resources they need. "I want to be a resource for people, and to help them find the support they need."

The GAGV Anti-Violence Project is scheduled to be ongoing indefinitely, and is working to expand its services in the future. "I hope to see the Project grow, and to help more people in the community," said Alex. "It’s important to have a place where people can come and find support."
We also planned that our youth would be invited to volunteer at a ESLD program doing literacy education. Please thank you to Duffy Palmer for the information.

Alex

At The Day of Silence 2004

On June 4, 2004

The Day of Silence has been an annual event that has been held on the campus of the University of Rochester since 1992. It is a time for students to come together and express their support for the rights of all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. The Day of Silence is a way for students to show their solidarity with those who are affected by discrimination and to demand an end to all forms of oppression.

At the Day of Silence, students and faculty members from the University of Rochester came together to show their support for the rights of all people. The event was held on the campus of the University of Rochester, and it was attended by students, faculty members, and members of the local community.

The Day of Silence is an important event because it is a way for students and faculty members to come together and express their support for the rights of all people. It is also a way for students to show their solidarity with those who are affected by discrimination and to demand an end to all forms of oppression.

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ROMANS

B'Chesher Male Naturists (ROMANS) is a social organization of gay men who enjoy naturism in the male environment. Our affiliation includes Gay Naturists International (GNI) and International Male Enjoying Naturism (IMEN).

If you have thought about social naturism but were apprehensive about being the first one, there are several clubs that exist as outgrowths of green bodies in various areas of the country. InMaryland, there are two groups that are members of the Maryland Society of Naturists.

For more information, contact info@mdsociety.org or call (301) 262-7193.

We invite you to share with us your comments, questions or suggestions. We can be reached at rochfrww@hotmail.com.

THE EMPTY CLOSET.

www.quotecorpus.com/yemen.txt or E-mail: rochfrww@hotmail.com, or ROHANS, PO Box 52293, Rochester, NY 14602.

Dignity Stability

Germ Stanton Counseling Services

Women's Bisexuality Group

Barbara Debes, M.S.
Counselor/Lesbian

Encouragement Caring Guidance Respect

Cooperating Churches

A Christ-centered Church that embraces and includes the whole church

Gays Groups

Cooperating Churches

Barbara Debes, M.S.
Counselor/Lesbian

Churches in Rochester

Church of St. Jude and St. Simon Cyrene

Liturgy every Sunday at 5:00 p.m.

E. C. Lingwood of the World - A Fairer World

We encourage existing members of the congregation to come and support us in prayer.

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Dignity for All Students

The Dignity for All Students Coalition is a group of more than 170 individuals and organizations that work toward meaningful measures that help protect LGBT students in New York City's public schools. The Coalition believes that all students have the right to be treated with respect and dignity, free from discrimination and harassment. The Dignity Act, introduced in the Assembly for three years now by Assemblymember David Weprin and other supporters, would establish school-wide policies to prevent bullying, discrimination, and harassment on the basis of actual or perceived race, national origin, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability. The Coalition urges all legislators to support the Dignity Act and to pass it into law as soon as possible.

The Dignity Act would require schools to develop and implement anti-bullying policies, including anonymous reporting mechanisms, and would mandate training for teachers and staff. It would also establish clear consequences for violations of the anti-bullying policies, including disciplinary action and the possibility of termination for employees found to have engaged in discriminatory behavior.

The Dignity Act is supported by a diverse coalition of organizations, including parents, teachers, students, and advocates. It is also supported by the New York State Council of Churches, which has endorsed the Act, and by the New York City Bar Association, which has expressed its support for the Act.

The Dignity Act is a critical step toward creating a safer and more inclusive environment for all students in New York City's public schools.

For more information, please visit www.dignityforallstudents.com.
Homewood Realty Group

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

**Classifieds**

**OUTlandish**

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- T-Shirts
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- "Playroom" Equipment
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- Magazines
- Belts, Caps
- Ties, Wallets
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- Books
- Premier Pet Sitting
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- Plastic wedding rings! Choose from one of our five great styles in classic, modern or unique. Get the Ring! www.ringfashioning.com

**Do you need financial aid? Are you in need of debt consolidation, personal or business loans? Home equity or re-fi? Contact Past and present. Ask past and references are available. Visualize your future and then take action today! Come in to help! We offer financial aid! Call us: 585-485-3245.

**HELP WANTED**

Executive Assistant. Provide primary support to the Executive Director and Board of Directors, and support volunteers to other agency departments and staff. Other job responsibilities involve and require experience with creative writing, planning, coordination, investigation, analysis, negotiation, purchasing, inventory control, tracking, scheduling and facilities management. $15 to $20. Administers or related field preferred, three years experience with high level administrative duties, plus intermediate level word processing, spreadsheet and data entry experience. Good organizational, writing and communication skills required. Requires the ability to relate to people of diverse cultures, ethnicities, and religious orientations. Must have a reliable vehicle, a valid NY driver’s license and most agency policies. Address resume to Ms. John for this position. Must be able to lift 25 lbs. Must have a flexible schedule and would appreciate bearing from 1 to 10 hours per week. Phone 585-265-0653.

**PERSONALS**

The following prisoners are lonely. They would appreciate hearing from anyone who will write. I’m 6’, 175 pounds, Puerto Rican, have brown eyes and black hair. My hair is shoulder length. I am a bisexual male, 26 years of age. I have a light complexion. I am looking for a friend, Hector. Phone 585-02282, Lakeworth, S.C.

**Carriage House for Rent.** This 250 sq. ft. storage built in 2002 is located directly behind main house separated by beautiful gardens in theosas Highland Park area, has a cathedral ceiling, living room, beds, walls, windows, ceiling, brick, stone, hardwood floors, air conditioning and ceiling fan. There is a car in-hustry with a view, ceramic tile floor, microwave and all new appliances. Finally it has plenty of closet and attic storage space, a new washer and dryer, Quiet, private and very tranquil, tucked away in the back corner of the property. Fujiyama owner is listing just the right person. This space is suitable for only one occupant, a non-smoker, with no pets. $350.00/month (tenant to assume monthly mortgage). Furnishings optional. 411-6167.

**Megan Moore, 24. Loge bed two beds mattresses - just renovated - in huge four-family home. On site many ages, offering all new kitchens, including gas ranges, refrigerators, and dishwashers. New bathrooms with all new fixtures, top quality appliances, private rear entrances, private yards, renovated; call. 716-262-8446.

**FREE AREA**

**CONCERNED**

The following prisoners are lonely. They would appreciate hearing from anyone who will write. I’m 6’, 175 pounds, Puerto Rican, have brown eyes and black hair. My hair is shoulder length. I am a bisexual male, 26 years of age. I have a light complexion. I am looking for a friend, Hector. Phone 585-02282, Lakeworth, S.C.

**Announcements**

Volunteer for the Empty Closet. Seeking mailing and distribution volunteers. Team work. Contact BTheels@rochester. com or J.P. at 585-454-5954, or bandsms@jy.net.

**Brochure Distribution**

In the Rochester area. We offer all the following monthly issues. We cannot accept ads over the phone. We publish free ads for classified ads are $5 for the first 30 words; each additional word is another $1. We do not accept only ads accompanied by name and phone number. Mention is being published in our magazine. Free contact with a volunteer agency or organization, such as churches, non-profits and government agencies. Free listing for other community organizations.

**Brooke’s Homemade**

Homemade Greeting Cards

Where it’s IN to be OUT

**Broker/Owner**

Amy OBrian

**Office/Realtor**

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Skilled Negotiators

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Hundreds of new & previewed videos & DVDs for sale.

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PLUS Hundreds of new & previewed videos & DVDs for sale, priced from $4.95 - $19.95

Check out our everyday low prices on Schott NYC Leather Jackets along with a wide selection of Leather Jackets, Pants, Chaps, Shirts, Vests, Belts & Caps from Kookie, Carroll & Black on Black Leathers

Outlandish Video & 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 _@ell (e)

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SATURDAY NIGHTS

NON-PET OWNERS SPECIALS MONDAY LONG

OK, for Discussion

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A friendly, safe and supportive group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Baptists and their families, and friends.

**FOR DETAILS CALL 271-4475**

**The Bachelor Forum**

Winter’s Almost Over! Get Your Spring Form in Shape!

3 FOR 2

7 DAYS A WEEK 2PM - 9PM

1/2 PRICE DRINKS

TUESDAY NIGHTS 10PM-2AM

SPECIALS: ALL MEAL LONG

OK, for Discussion

**FOR SALE**

Used roof top carrier (mushroom).

Located in Penfield in covered area.

Prices: $50 (50 percent off original cost) $50-6126.

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**FOR DETAILS CALL 271-4475**

**For Rent**

Rental Home • 585-265-0653

Located in Penfield in covered area.

Prices: $50 (50 percent off original cost) $50-6126.
RGMC office at 585-423-0650, or visit
Rams
See us on our first May Barnight on Saturday, May 15 and our second Barnight, on Saturday, May 22 at the Bachelor Forum. May is our annual Can-Am party.

The RGMC welcomes the Rochester Women’s Community Chorus for its 14th anniversary. In addition to the RWCC, our annual Spring concert will be held on June 12 at Hochstein Music Hall and will feature songs from烩se movies. Tickets are $12; $10 for students and seniors; $7 for children 12 and younger. There is a discount of $2 per ticket for advance purchase and group discounts for 20 or more are available.

For those of you who have asked how you can support the RWCC, here are a few suggestions attend our concerts, place an ad in our concert program booklets or semi-annual newsletter, contribute items for the silent auction, make a donation or sign up to join our mailing list. You can contribute items for raffles and other fundraising events. Call John Magere: 266-5565 x 24. Thanks to all those who participated.

The first movie we enjoyed was a documentary called “Real”. The movie tells the story of a young woman who is faced with pressures of the 14 churches associated with RSWNY in the collective consciousness making it even better! See you on June 12!
**Back by popular demand!**

**Spirit Pop Artists...**

**JASON & DEMARCO**

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<th>Day</th>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>In Concert</td>
<td>Spiritus Christi Church</td>
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<td>DPDC, 121 N. Fitzhugh</td>
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<td>May 7</td>
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<td>May 8</td>
<td>Special Music</td>
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<td>Spiritus Christi Church</td>
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