Avoid the park tonight: Sheriff targeting gay men

During the spring and summer, deputies from the Monroe County Sheriff's Department have undertaken a major sting operation, targeting gay men in local parks.

Using tactics that border on entrapment, the deputies aggressively approach unsuspecting men, and cruise them for sexual contact. One professional from the justice system states, "It may not be entrapment, but the stories from the men arrested are very consistent. It is clear that the deputies are pursuing these men.

The deputies generally come on to the men. They seem to be just a man to touch his genitalia, making statements such as, "I am shy," or "This is my first time, you are giving me a lot to live up to." The deputies, in many cases, refuse to stop and engage in sexual acts. Some even try to use the men's friendship as a basis for further entrapment.

The sting operation is a winning strategy for the sheriff. The fines pay for the deputies' time. Local town governments where the arrests are made receive increased revenues from the sheriff's actions. The sheriff can then use this money to fund the conservatives who re-elect him.

Often the men arrested are in the closet and/or they are married to women. These men are usually given a choice. They can plead guilty to a lesser charge (disorderly conduct), or face a felony charge. The felony charge brings a prison sentence and registration as a sexual offender.

The emotional and financial costs of fighting these charges in court are too much for most of the men arrested. The sheriff and his deputies are safe from court oversight or scrutiny by the public. The deputies can act with impunity in aggressively arresting gay men in the park.

Bill Kelly, a local psychotherapist, reports, "With the arrest often comes a deep sense of shame for most of these men. Suicidal thoughts frequently are a constant companion weeks and even months after the arrest. For some of the men, these arrests can be life threatening in terms of experiencing the type of stress that would bring on a heart attack or stroke. For some suicide is a real option."

Kelly feels that the community needs to find better ways to address these issues. Several sources note that this type of police harassment has not occurred in Rochester since the 1960s or '70s. The Wolfe Press has published names of men arrested, contributing to depression, anxiety and stress, and feelings of alienation from their families, friends and community.

Chuck Bowen, Executive Director of the GAGV, states that the Gay Alliance has been aware of the sheriff's actions for months. "We have received phone calls from local attorneys informing us of what is happening out there," Bowen said. "There is a balance involved in making sure the parks are enjoyable for all our men. It will leave many men traumatized and more alienated from the police and their spirituality and God's unconditional love."

"I stay in the Presbyterian Church because it is one of the best places for doing gay advocacy. Think about it. One of the biggest barriers to the life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is hatred."

Ralph Carter continued on page 3
Who is really like the Nazis?

The Democratic National Committee issued a widely-reproduced press release during the Republican convention, criticizing Mormon author Sheri Dew, who twisted reality in her attempt to use the photo of any person or organization in an article or on a website in a way that the photo owner believes is not in good taste. The release focused on Dew’s comparison between the atrocities of the Nazis and the practice of wearing pink triangles, a symbol of sexual orientation, in the early days of the Nazi regime.

The release stated:

The Nazis’ twisted history and beliefs are not comparable to the actions of a political figure who has a history of using and abusing equal rights to further her personal agenda.

The release continued:

It is a disgrace. The Republican participant and a discriminatory platform, together; unfortunately, with such a divisive platform, the Republican candidate for President, Michael Dukakis, may require a clearer position on the rights of all families. The Nazis hated and killed gay people; the Nazis hated and killed women; the Nazis hated and killed Jews. The Nazis hated and killed people of color. They upheld Traditional Values of male supremacy, and bigotry against minority groups who they blame for all of society’s problems. Today’s attempt by Republicans to use the case of a woman, in this instance, against the Republican nominee for President, is certainly the case of the CNN’s most beautiful areas of the United States, whose charm and grace is exceeded only by the people who live there. The Nazis also upheld and were warm folks who, for the most part, believe that “equal and equal”, and that there is always a better way of doing things. If you just apply yourself hard enough. Fortunately, you shared your vision with me as to how we could do a better job with the GAGV, building on our 30-year heritage. Not only did you share it with me, you allowed me the chance to be a part of making it happen, as we transformed the European Traditional Values of anti-Semitism.

Ultimately, Hitler’s successful attempt to unite Germans under his dictatorship by exploiting the European Traditional Values of anti-Semitism.

The Nazis hated and killed gay people; gay men were sent to concentration camps where they wore pink triangles, and lesbians were also imprisoned, wearing black triangles as women who were “anti-social” and refused their “natural” role in life. The Nazis hated feminist and defined women’s role as serving men and bearing lots of Aryan children. The Nazi definition of women’s realm was “Kinder, Kirche, Kuchen” – Children, Church, Kitchen. Sound like the Promise Keepers?

The Nazis stormover of the 1930s also bore a close resemblance to the right wing “pro-life” assassins of doctors, nurses and abortionists at women’s health clinics.

Sheri Dew’s and Rush Limbaugh’s motivations are the same: to denigrate gays and women and imply that the gay and women’s rights movements want to establish an absolute dictatorship and force poor, innocent conservatives to stop discriminating in the righteous way that God wants them to.

Hitler would certainly have approved of both Dew and Limbaugh, although he might have questioned why Dew is not staying at home cooking and minding her children. (Dew, 50, has married.)

The Nazis wanted gays, calling supporters of gay rights “Nazis” is as tasteless and rational as calling the NAACP’s branch of the KKK. (Maybe that’s next.)

The Angry Men who support Limbaugh are the ones who really resemble the Germans who supported Hitler. They have most of the same people, especially women, and people of color. They uphold Traditional Values of male supremacy, “traditional” aggression against small nations, and bigotry against minority groups who they blame for all of society’s problems.

Today’s attempt by Republicans to use that Traditional hatred against women and gays to stay in power mirrors George Bush Senior’s successful attempt to use the photo of a wild-eyed black convict Willie Horton to win what most voters in Bush’s race against Michael Dukakis.

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Who is really like the Nazis?
Carter  continued  from  p.  1
now  by  queer  parents.  They  can  be  found  among  so-called  people  of  faith.  And  what  better  place  to  work  on  them  than  in  churches  and  synagogues?

"My  partner  of  24  years,  Van,  and  I  have  found  a  marvelous  community  of  faith  at  Third  Presbyterian  Church  in  Rochester,  where  we  are  loved  and  accepted  for  who  we  are.

"There  are  numerous  congregations  in  Rochester  and  upstate  New  York  who  also  vigorously  support  civil  rights  for  LGBT  people,  continuing  the  historical  legacy  of  Frederick  Douglass  (emancipation  from  slavery  for  African-Americans),  Susan  B  Anthony  (voting  rights  for  women),  and  Walter  Rauchenhaupt  (founder  of  the  Socialist  Gospel  movement).

So  we  are  not  alone  on  this  journey.  Among  this  community  of  love  and  support,  it  is  only  right  that  we  accept  the  blessings  we  have  been  given  and  collaborate  with  LGBT  folks  and  allies  in  Buffalo,  Syracuse,  Albany,  and  around  the  country,  helping  friends  and  allies  in  their  communities  to  find  their  voice  in  advocating  for  social  justice  for  LGBT  people.

"We  will  prevail  in  this  battle  for  social  justice  for  our  people  and  their  families,  so  that  one  day,  as  promised  in  the  Hebrew  Book  of  Amos,  'justice  will  roll  down  like  waters,  and  righteousness  like  an  ever-flowing  stream.'

In  tribute  to  the  General  Assembly  of  the  Presbyterian  Church  (U.S.A.),  meeting  in  Richmond,  Va.,  narrowly  defeated  a  new  Authoritative  Interpretation  that  would  have  nullified  earlier  Interpretations  banning  the  ordination  of  openly  gay  and  lesbian  deacons,  ministers  and  elders.

GAG Board  finds  new  vision  for  the  agency  at  strategic  planning  retreat  BY  SUSAN  JORDAN

The  Gay  Alliance  board  held  a  strategic  planning  conference  on  the  last  weekend  at  the  Hyatt  Regency,  which  resulted  in  a  new  vision  for  the  agency's  goals  and  strategies.

Eleven  board  members  were  present;  two  were  unable  to  attend  due  to  prior  commitments.  National  activist  and  consultant  Donna  Runna  and  communications  consultant  Ken  Mosesian,  president  of  Gallifrey[1]  Inc.,  facilitated.

The  conference  was  funded  through  a  grant  from  the  Empire  State  Pride  Agenda;  the  GAGV  was  one  of  seven  member  organizations  of  the  NYS  LGBT  Health  and  Human  Services  Network  to  receive  funding.

"President  Emily  Jones  said,  "in  May  we  added  strategic  talent  to  the  Board  from  the  business  and  not-for-profit  leadership  base."  She  expanded  the  board,  and  past  nine  members  to  a  board  of  14.

"Critical  to  the  Agency's  success  is  our  collective  ability  to  provide  a  long-term  sound  financial  future.  In  addition,  we  need  on  the  board  to  focus  on  the  needed  and  necessary  services  and  communications  vehicles  as  described  by  the  members  of  our  Community  at  the  retreat.  Finally,  we  will  continue  to  be  the  vessel  of  the  goals  for  the  GAGV,  which  includes  those  already  identified  by  the  community.  "Critical  to  the  agency's  success  is  our  collective  ability  to  provide  a  long-term  sound  financial  future.  In  addition,  we  need  on  the  board  to  focus  on  the  needed  and  necessary  services  and  communications  vehicles  as  described  by  the  members  of  our  Community  at  the  retreat.  Finally,  we  will  continue  to  be  the  vessel  of  the  goals  for  the  GAGV,  which  includes  those  already  identified  by  the  community.

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Bob  Osborn  leaves  bequest  to  GAGV

Robert  W.  Osborn,  a  co-founder  of  the  Gay  Alliance,  who  died  May  14  in  Texas,  after  a  lengthy  battle  with  colon  cancer,  has  left  half  of  his  estate  to  the  GAGV.

The  amount  of  money  left  to  the  Alliance  will  be  determined  at  each  time  as  Osborn's  will  is  probated.  He  is  survived  by  his  sister,  to  whom  he  left  the  other  half  of  his  estate.

Bob  Osborn  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.

Bob  Osborn  told  his  partner  Kyle  Crawford  to  attend  the  union  they  channeled  being  interviewed  in  NPR  about  the  plans  for  the  funeral  at  the  National  Cathedral.

"I  was  hoping  that  he  might  throw  in,  'Guess  what  I'm  doing  tomorrow?"'  said  Hoaghton.

"I  have  known  Michael  for  years,"  said  Hoaghton.  "I  could  not  be  more  thrilled  that  he  and  John  are  moving  to  Rochester.  I  am  also  thrilled  for  Michael.  Two  Saints  and  the  Diocese  of  Rochester."
Reggae singer's call for killing gays draws protests

Jamaican-american reggae artist Beenie Man (Anthony Moses Davis) uses homophobic lyrics that call for the killing of lesbians, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Activists have initiated a campaign to get concert venues to drop Beenie Man's dates along his U.S. tour and have so far met with much success.

On Aug. 2, Virgin Records, Beenie Man's label, issued an apology regarding the opinions expressed in some of his albums, including lyrics like “I'm dreaming of a new Jamaica, come to execute all the gays”, and on another album, “Hang chi gal wit a long piece of rope” - chi chi gal being a slang term for lesbian. Beenie Man's manager responded to Virgin's apology with a statement that the apology was not an apology, that Man's record label does not represent his viewpoint and that Beenie Man reserves the right to continue discussing his "disapproval of the homosexual lifestyle.”

Beenie Man told the Miami Herald on Aug. 8, “I just want to teach people - my sons and daughters - the right way of life.”

Groups which have been protesting Beenie Man include GLSEN (Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network), GLAAD, Chicago Anti-Bias-Bathing Network, the website of the Canadian gay-activist group OutRage.

The RJ Reynolds Co., sponsor of Beenie Man's summer tour, dropped him from the tour lineup, telling the Chicago Tribune that the company “does not tolerate this or any form of discrimination based on sexual orientation.” MTV dropped Beenie Man from a Miami concert in August, contacted with the MTV Video Music Awards.

According to Glenda Testone, media director for GLAAD, Beenie Man had 30 scheduled appearances posted on his website in early August. By the end of the month he had four.

According to the Washington Blade, British authorities are investigating whether charges could be brought against the singer over his homophobic lyrics. The reggae singers advocate the killing of gay men and lesbians. Singer Banji Banton is being sought for taking part in a gay bashing in Jamaica.

GLSEN says, “We urge you to support the new effort to convince Virgin Records to DROP Beenie Man.” Visit http://glensn.org policy page to take action now.

Canadian gay archive receives $150,000 grant

Canadians will be able to learn more about the stories of Canada's gay and lesbian communities as a result of a new grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives is a registered charity that has preserved the history of the Canadian gay and lesbian communities since 1975.

The Archives, based in Toronto, makes its holdings available to everyone who is interested in a fuller picture of Canadian life and identity. Its physical and online collection is now one of the largest in the world.

The Archives is pleased to announce a grant of $150,000 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The grant will enhance the Archives' fund-raising activities and allow for the hiring of its first full-time employee. Until now, the Archives has developed its world-famous collection with volunteers and without government aid.

The Archives is grateful to the Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, receives annually $100 million of government funding distributed throughout Ontario's charitable sector.

The Foundation provides grants to eligible charitable and not-for-profit organizations in the arts, culture, sports, recreation, environment and social-service sectors.

The Archives is in a period of growth as it prepares to relocate to an historic building at 2436 St. in Toronto in the heart of the Church-Wellesley neighbourhood.

The Archives will cooperate with all parties to ensure that its new quarters will be the kind of cultural institution that the people of Ontario need. For more information, visit www.clgca.ca or contact Gordon Davies at 416-465-9317.

Washington judge says anti-marriage law violates state constitution

In the American Civil Liberties Union's lawsuit for marriage equality, Thurston County Superior Judge Hicks ruled on Sept. 5 that the state's laws that bar same-sex couples from the state who wish to marry in Washington to have their marriage recognized under Washington law, or to allow a same-sex couple to enter into a legal partnership, violate the state's laws that bar same-sex couples from the state who wish to marry in Washington to have their marriage recognized under Washington law.

In his ruling, Judge Hicks said that they are married. In the alternative, Kathy and Karrie want to be married in Washington.

Judge Hicks concluded, “Democracy means people with different values living together in one place. What can reconcile one community's values with others that violate its own? The differences are we are still one people. This is the democracy of concealment.”

In April 2004, the King County Superior Court judge ruled that same-sex marriage violates the state constitution's guarantee of equal protection and due process for all citizens. The government cannot give same-sex couples from marriage violate the state's laws that bar same-sex couples from marriage.
They have been in a committed, loving relationship for 31 years. When Pamela was recently admitted to a hospital on the mainland, she and Valerie faced anxiety and uncertainty because they did not have copies of documents confirming their relationship. Pamela and Valerie want to be married in Washington.

Allan Henderson and John Berquist of Seattle: Allan is an international consultant in the areas of hunger, health, and third world development. John is a nurse. They will offer domestic partner health insurance.

Jacques added.

Later I found out that he believed in us so much, he personally guaranteed the loan.

Chic Parker
Former GAGV President

* Tim Tompkins
Executive Director of AIDS Rochester

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**Founded in 1987**, PRINCE REALTY is a well established real estate firm, offering both residential and commercial properties.

The announcement came a day after HRC publicly denounced the company’s policy to cover employees’ pets but not their partners. The Home Depot is finally putting its policy to rest.

The Home Depot is finally putting its policy to rest.

**The Human Rights Campaign’s WorkNet project revealed Sept. 1 that Home Depot, based in Atlanta, was one of four Fortune 500 companies that offered pet insurance, but not DP health insurance, despite published policies prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation - and one covering gender identity. The others are: Sprint, based in Overland, K.C.; Waste Management of Houston, Texas; and Ecolab of St. Paul, Minn.**

**"We now call on Sprint, Ecolab and Waste Management to recognize that good business is putting an employee’s partner above the family pet," Jacques added.**

**Home Depot had been slated to earn a failing grade on HRC WorkNet’s National Equality Index, to be released later this month. The addition of domestic partner health insurance will raise its score to 71 percent - which is also Sprint’s tentative score. Waste Management is slated to receive 43 percent; Ecolab will not be scored because the company has never replied to the HRC questionnaire.**

**The index measures how equitably companies treat their gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees, consumers and investors.**

**"The only thing keeping Home Depot from a perfect score is its lack of a non-discrimination policy covering gender identity," said HRC Education Director Kim L. Mills, who oversees WorkNet.**

**"We will continue to work with the company to ensure all its employees get equal treatment."**

**Empire State Pride Agenda, New York’s statewide lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights organization, praised its new neighbor Home Depot on Sept. 2 for its decision to begin offering domestic partner health benefits to its employees early next year.**

**Home Depot opened its first-ever Manhattan stores in early September, one of them in Chelsea on West 22nd Street with service entrances on West 22nd across from Empire State Pride Agenda’s office.**

**“Last week when the orange trucks and folks in orange aprons showed up on our street to begin unloading merchandise, we checked to see what type of neighbor was moving into the neighborhood,” said Joe Tarver, Communications Director for the Pride Agenda, on Sept. 2. “We quickly found out Home Depot did not treat their employees equally in the important area of health benefits and knew this would be a problem for a company coming into Manhattan and particularly a company that would be benefiting from our business and undoubtedly employing LGBT people.**

**“We praise Home Depot for its decision to take this important step toward full equality for all its employees and we welcome it to the neighborhood. You can be sure we will be seen shopping in its aisles along with many other members of Manhattan’s LGBT community,” said Tarver.**

**HRC, ESPA**

A letter from LLEG6; Latina/o group folds after 17 years

September 14, 2004

When we joined LLEG6’s Board of Directors last year, we joined full of enthusiasm and desire to support our only national LGBT Latina/o organization and its mission. We are deeply grateful to LLEG6’s staff, volunteers, donors, funders, and every single person who has worked so diligently on behalf of the LGBT Latina/o community for the last 17 years. These are difficult times for LLEG6 and the Latina/o light community that supports its work and mission. When we look at recent events we also look at the state of the land and how difficult it is to organize around light issues. In our experience, it has always been difficult to raise money for minority light organizations and the past period has proven to be especially difficult. The Board of Directors was aware that LLEG6 was experiencing financial difficulties. However, we fully believed that these problems were being addressed in a manner that would allow the organization to survive financially and thrive for many years to come. As part of our efforts to delve into the financial state of the organization, a financial analysis revealed to us recently that our short and long-term debt far exceeded both our cash on hand and the revenue that we could reasonably expect to receive in the next several months. Under the circumstances and after a careful analysis of all possibilities, the Board, as the fiduciary agents of the organization, had no choice but to close our doors. We realized that the abruptness of this decision has caused hardship to staff, consultants and many others and for that we are deeply sorry.

As a direct result of this decision, the 10th Encuentro, scheduled to take place in Seattle on Oct. 7-10, has been cancelled.

We are indebted to COSEA, the local host committee, and LLEG6 staff who worked so hard in preparation for the Encuentro. Instead, Seattle’s Entre Hermanos is spearheading a gathering and community workshops. For additional information about that gathering, contact Hugo@entrehermanos.org.

We fully support and congratulate our compañeros/as in Seattle for taking this initiative.

Throughout its 17-year history of dedicated service to diverse Latina/o communities, LLEG6 was instrumental in developing innovative and progressive programs as a way to educate local, regional and national Latina/o light leaders and organizations. LLEG6 also played a significant role in the social development and advancement of the overarching civil rights and social justice movements, especially when it came to raising Latina/o issues. Additionally, LLEG6 was a national leader in capacity-building activities around HIV prevention, community mobilization, and leadership development. Lastly, through a growing network of 172 affiliate communities-based groups in the United States and Puerto Rico, LLEG6 served as a bridge for information and resources for the Latina/o light communities.

We appreciate very much the support and encouragement that we have received from so many people all around the country and we believe the spirit of LLEG6 will continue through the commitment from its affiliates to work on pushing forward the Latina/o LGBT agenda. Latina/o LGBT leaders throughout the country are already mobilizing at regional levels to organize a voice that will lead the movement into the future.
Interview:

RIT Gay Alliance (RITGA) kicks off another school year

BY KHANH LAO

The RIT Gay Alliance is a student organization that has been running for seven years. Their purpose is to provide support and advocacy for all gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender, and gay-friendly heterosexuals within RIT and the Rochester area.

RITGA wants to increase positive awareness of the LGBTQ community by hosting speakers, organizing fundraisers, and participating in festivities such as coming out day, the infamous drag show, and so forth. RITGA also wants to be present whenever possible to provide educational information on issues concerning LGBTQ issues as a means to curtail homophobia.

The meetings take place in Room 1829 of Student Alumni Union on RIT campus, every Wednesday night at 9 p.m. (This organization is open to the public as well, not only to RIT students.) Anyone, straight or gay, is welcome to participate in this organization. RITGA encourages people who might be unsure of their sexual orientation to come to a meeting as well. If nothing else, you'll meet people who are like you.

The executive board is President David Guetzlaff, Vice President John Kusovski, Treasurer Jakkeea Kilpatrick, Communication Coordinator Brad Elmore, Public Relations Tristan Blodyett, Webmaster Eric Kort, and RITGA Advisor Karen Pek.

I attended two meetings with my best friend. The meetings kicked off with 40-50 members (including deaf) attending, compared to last year's attendance (about 10-20 members), as RITGA President David Guetzlaff stated. The recent meeting allows us, the members, to introduce ourselves and tell our purpose in attending to RITGA and what we expect from RITGA. After the meeting, I had a chance to interview RITGA President David Guetzlaff.

Khanh Lao: What are your goals for RITGA?

David Guetzlaff: To offer a safe and social environment for LGBTQ students, to promote awareness on campus, and to spread LGBTQ issues in the community.

Khanh Lao: Would you please elaborate on this project for National Coming Out Week in October?

David Guetzlaff: National Coming Out Week is from Oct. 11 to 16. There is no definitive plan for this week's event. However, we have ideas for the plans. On Sunday night, we will chalk the content on RIT campus. On Monday at 7:30 p.m., we will have vigil for Matthew Shepard and other victims of gblt hate crimes at the Infinity quad on RIT campus. Tuesday is Movie Night. The movies are to be announced. The location will be in Club B at 9 p.m.

Wednesday plans are to be announced. On Thursday, we will have a "fair" in Fireside Lounge at RIT, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There would be presenters including Jennifer Gravitz, Karen Pek and more.

Khanh Lao: How would you like to get RITGA members to be involved in the project?

David Guetzlaff: The major way is just coming out to support the events (no pun intended). Also, for these willing members, every hand we can get is helpful.

Khanh Lao: What consequences of National Coming Out Week are you hoping to get?

David Guetzlaff: To offer a safe and social environment for LGBTQ students, to promote awareness on campus, and to spread LGBTQ issues in the community.

Khanh Lao: How would you like to see RITGA members to be involved in the project?

David Guetzlaff: I believe RITGA has always welcomed LTID students, and hopes to have more of a connection with Spectrum in the near future.

Khanh Lao: Are you looking to have RITGA members to be involved with GAG?

David Guetzlaff: Some answer to recent question as above, however, I believe we can collaborate with each other and help each other out.

Khanh Lao: Why did RITGA subscribe to The Empty Closet?

David Guetzlaff: RITGA does not have a subscription to The Empty Closet simply because the last executive board did not try to get one.

Khanh Lao: Would you try getting The Empty Closet subscription for RITGA members?

David Guetzlaff: How do you plan to do that?

Khanh Lao: I am trying my best to work to get subscriptions. I want to bring The Empty Closet to RIT campus (meaning anyone who would be interested to pick one to read), not just for RITGA members.

Khanh Lao: Is there anything else that I should know about RITGA or worth mentioning for The Empty Closet?

David Guetzlaff: We are open to hearing deaf, gblt, straight, RIT students. Non-students at RIT are welcome, but are not technically members since we are under RIT's Student Government.
“Being able to share the experience of performing live with my band through this DVD and CD is very close to my heart. It’s the next best thing to being there.”

Melissa Etheridge

**Bonus Features**

- Available in two formats: DVD/CD combo (her first-ever live CD) and DVD only
- Mixed in Dolby 5.1 surround sound and stereo
- A 44-minute “A Day In The Life” documentary and a 14 minute interview with Melissa
- Features the new song “Good Girls And Boys” exclusively on both the DVD/CD combo and DVD

www.melissaetheridge.com
A letter from the GAGV Board to the Rochester LGBT community

The Board of Directors of the GAGV participated in a two-day retreat during the weekend of Aug. 28 and 29. This retreat was a visionary retreat in order for the Board to make decisions about the direction of the GAGV.

The retreat included an extensive review of the agencies programs, activities, services, and financials. In addition, the Board utilized community feedback and assessments of the status of the current strategic plan; which afforded the Board the opportunity to focus on what the agency could balance and how to make that vision happen.

In order to accomplish our goal, the Board identified eight action items and convened three task forces to ensure prompt response and action. The task forces have been charged to complete their goals over the course of two months. This will enable the Board to have the necessary and appropriate information to complete the strategic plan. It is the goal of the Board to disseminate the strategic plan to the community upon its completion.

Chuck Brown has announced that the agency has been serving the Rochester community with over 10 years of experience in quality work at affordable pricing.

The Empty Closet
875 E. Main Street, Suite 900, Rochester, New York 14605
(Do not send emails.)
PLAY FOR KEEPS
Thomas Warfield choreographed a "Motorcycle Mambo". Members of the Black Scorpions, Diamond Boyz & others performed thrilling high speed wheelies & other feats.

Men of Bush Mango dance on the Avenue.

And the winner is — Three Pride Symbols by Christine and Paul Knoblauch.

**ARTWalk Alive: gay sculpture winner**

**BY STEVE LOVI**

On Sept. 19, as part of the ARTWalk Alive celebration, the Atlantic-Beacon Sculpture Committee announced its final design selection in front of hundreds of people on a sun-filled crisp fall afternoon.

Steve Lovi, ABSC co-chair, thanked the crowd for their support in this gay community endeavor and proudly commissioned the "Three Pride Symbols," designed by Christine and Paul Knoblauch, as the final design selection.

The "Three Pride Symbols" are comprised of three separate symbols reflecting the gay, lesbian and bisexual/transgendered communities with a rainbow colored painted surface. Each of the symbols will be approximately seven feet high, seven feet wide and six inches in depth to be placed on the corner of Atlantic Avenue and Beacon Street, honoring the history of the Rochester gay community.

ABSC has raised close to $15,000, of which $7,000 was awarded as a matching grant through the Sector Targeted Funding Initiative (STFI) by Rochester Mayor Bill Johnson.

Several city, county and state elected officials were present, including openly gay City Council member Bill Pritchard, Rochester City Council President Lois Geiss, Assembly Members Susan John and Joe Morelle and N.Y.S. Sen. Joe Robach.

Doug Rice, Executive Director of ARTWalk, recalled the unique collaboration between ARTWalk and ABSC.

ABSC Co-Chairs Gary Pease and Mike Polsenberg as well as committee members Russ Shaner, Michael Lee and Bill Kress were all present for the unveiling of the final sculpture model.

Construction of the "Three Pride Symbols" will commence shortly, with an anticipated dedication date set for Sunday, May 1, 2005. Progress updates and construction pictures of the gay sculpture project will be posted on the ABSC website at www.ABSC14607.org.
ImageArt kicks off with poetry reading

Chuck Lundeen, chair of Image Out’s board, (left) with John Williams of the Publications/Web committee. ImageArt is an art and poetry event that takes place near Festival time. ImageArt’s chair is Aimee Wiles. The open mic poetry reading was Sept. 11 at Visual Studies. The ImageArt gallery opening is Oct. 3 at the Little Theatre Cafe.

Left: Mark Smith. Above: David Hoffend of ImageArt with Michael. Right: Aimee Wiles with poets (Joy Messinger, left). Fourteen poets read at this year’s event.
**TV, which will infuse the
afternoon keynote performance, “Laughing Your Way to Wellness,” is presented by the popular sketch-comedy troupe ExtraFest. Through their performance, the troupe will illustrate how powerful humor is in relieving stress. The writers and performers of ExtraFest are Dresden Engle, Kate McClan, Allison Roberts, and Treyda Schneider.**

"Much of the magic in the recipe of Speaking of Women’s Health is the opportunity for women to come together and laugh, as they are educated about serious subjects," states Diane Dunkelman, Founder & CEO of the National Speaking of Women’s Health Foundation. "This year, we are adding a powerful new ingredient — PASSION — which will infuse the warm and comforting environment at the conference with a new level of learning and camaraderie.

"Speaking of Women’s Health, we believe TV’s lifestyle shows should not feel like drudgery," adds Dunkelman. "A sense of humor, a bit of spirituality, and love of family and friends, are the everyday bits and pieces that keep us healthy. If people wait for an epitaph they will miss the joy and positivity that being true happiness every day.”

Speaking of Women’s Health is made possible by national sponsors P&G, Wal-Mart, Lifetime Television for Women, Guidant, American Greetings, Ensure, Pfizer, Kelloggs, Funny How Your Stomach, Lean Cuisine, and Schick Initiative.

**Gay Catholic scholar to speak at Lake Avenue on Oct. 24**

Marriage and same-sex unions will be the topic on Oct. 24 when Dr. Mark D. Jordan will be the next speaker in the series “Christian Faith and LGBT Experience.” Jordan, who is Roman Catholic and openly gay, will speak that evening at 7:30 p.m. at Lake Avenue Baptist Church, 70 Ambrose St.

Dr. Jordan is Asa Griggs Caudill Professor of Religion at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga. He is the rare individual who is both a top-ranked scholar and an engaging speaker. Trained as a historian of Christian thought, his focus is on Christianity and sexuality, especially the encounter between Christian life and queer theory. His book, The Invitation of Sodomy in Christian Theology won the 1999 John Boswell Prize for lesbian and gay history. During the height of the scandal on priestly pedophilia and its cover-up, he was frequently quoted in the mainstream press — The New York Times, Newsweek, CNN, etc. Out of that experience he has written Telling Truths in Church: Scandal, Flesh and Christian Speech on what was not said in all the press coverage of the “pedophilia crisis.”

The topic for his presentation on Oct. 24 will be “The Myths of Christian Marriage and the Perils of Queer Romance.” In an interview about his work, Dr. Jordan stated, “I fully expect...that serious study of the problem of same-sex union (will) lead to profound changes in the notion of marriage. I know congregations that use a liturgy for blessing same-sex unions where regular married couples, men and women, have continued to use the ceremony rather than the marriage ceremony, because they found that it expressed their ideals better.”

Lake Avenue Baptist Church is located a half mile north of Kodak office where a traffic light marks the intersection of Lake Avenue, James St., and Ambrose St. There is ample parking behind the parish house at 57 Ambrose St., which is one way from Plymouth Ave. The church, which is entered from James or Ambrose Streets, is barrier free. ASL interpretation will be provided if requested by Oct. 11. For more information about the Sunday evening event, call Lake Avenue Church at (585) 458-5765 or Darrell Lance at (585) 422-5488.
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5. Put out flowers – A fresh flower arrangement can completely change the atmosphere in a room.

4. Paint – This fix is not as fast as putting out flowers, but nearly as inexpensive! A quick painting technique is to paint just one wall in a room or to “float” a square of color on a wall.

3. Redesign – the art of moving things around that you already own to create a new and interesting space. It’s all about the placement of items in a space that can make it feel bigger or create a good “traffic pattern.”

2. Clean and clean some more - If you do nothing else, make sure you do this. Nothing turns a potential buyer off faster than a dirty or messy home.

1. Curb appeal – If you can’t get them to come in, you can’t sell it. Go outside and look at your home from the street as though you’ve never seen it before. Would you stop to come in during an open house or would you just keep driving? If you don’t know, ask an honest friend or neighbor – or me!

Christopher Del Conte
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chrisd@parkavenurealtors.com

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AIDS Community Health Center has announced that Roberto Corales, D.O., has accepted the appointment as Medical Director for the health center. The appointment took effect Oct. 1. Dr. Corales has been a staff physician with AIDS Community Health Center since July 2000. He is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and completed his Infectious Diseases Fellowship at The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, serving as Chief Fellow in 1999. Dr. Corales received his Doctor of Osteopathy from Michigan State University and completed his residency in Internal Medicine with the Beth Isrel Medical Center in New York City. Dr. Corales has been a prolific researcher, authoring an extensive list of publications and serving as the Principal Investigator or Sub-Investigator on 25 Clinical Trials since joining AIDS Community Health Center. He also is a much sought-after lecturer by health care organizations throughout the U.S. and internationally.

In addition to his remarkable clinical expertise, Dr. Corales is active in the community. Most recently, Dr. Corales has served as Chairman of the Board of the Rochester City Ballet, where he presided during the challenging period of transition following the unexpected death of the founder and Artistic Director, Tim Draper.

"Dr. Corales is the ideal person to ensure that the clinical services at AIDS Community Health Center reflect recognized contemporary standards of quality medical care and are provided in a cost effective manner," said Jay Rudman, AIDS Community Health Center president. "We are very excited that Roberto has accepted the challenge of directing our clinical and research agenda at this critical point in our history. With his impressive expertise, commitment to our agency and boundless energy, I am certain he will strengthen our patient care service."

Michael Christic, M.D., former medical director, decided to focus more of his time on direct patient care, and remains a staff physician at AIDS Community Health Center. "Dr. Christic directed the clinical area through many significant changes during his tenure as Medical Director. We appreciate his many contributions to AIDS Community Health Center," said Jay Rudman.

School Board to vote on d.p. this month

The Rochester City School District Board will vote on domestic partnership benefits for School District employees at its board meeting this month. The Sept. 16 meeting was changed to a public hearing on the issue.

The delay in consideration of the committee's recommendation has the support of the Gay Alliance. "Based on the information available to us, it makes sense," said Chuck Bowen. "We appreciate the opportunity to garner support from the unions and other officials prior to the actual vote. This will save that considerable amount of time in implementing the new policy." At least four board members support the proposal, according to Commissioner Dr. James Bowers.

New Paltz marriages valid, judge says

A State Supreme Court judge has said he will not invalidate same-sex marriages performed earlier this year in New Paltz, N.Y., but he has ruled that village officials may not perform more marriages without licenses.

Justice Michael Kavanaugh ruled that the couple have not been named parties to the case, with the right to be heard in court. Until then the marriages are valid.

Michael Staver, head of the Florida-based anti-gay group Liberty Counsel said that the group would review the decision. "It makes sense," said Chuck Bowen. "We appreciate the opportunity to garner support from the unions and other officials prior to the actual vote. This will save that considerable amount of time in implementing the new policy." At least four board members support the proposal, according to Commissioner Dr. James Bowers.

GAGV staffer works to bring young voters to primary polls

Gay Alliance receptionist Jeaneen Waddell volunteered at the Board of Elections during the primary on Sept. 14. She worked on locating voters and giving them information about casting votes at their polling places.

Waddell said, "I did it so more young people would see my face and be willing to vote." She said that she had seen four to five 18-year-olds who were voting for the first time.

Waddell volunteered for Districts 27 and 31.

Christian Faith and LGBT Experience

Mark Jordan will speak on "The Myths of Christian Marriage and the Perils of Queer Romance"

Dr. Jordan is Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Religion at Emory University. A Roman Catholic and openly gay, he is the author of The Invention of Sodomy in Christian Theology and the forthcoming Blessing Same-Sex Unions.
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10:00 AM: SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

11:10 AM: A TIME FOR COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP & A CHANCE FOR US TO MEET YOU!

11:20 AM: YOUTH & ADULT CLASSES.

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For more information call 458-5765 BUILDING ACCESSIBLE + AUDIO LOOP AVAILABLE.

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Rabbi Alan Katz and Rabbi Amy Sapowitz
www.tsinai.org

Congratulations Image Out on your 12th annual Film Festival!

Friday October 15th, 5-7 Wine Tasting

Stop by before the films on the 15th to taste wine and cheese. Mention this ad and receive 20% off all wine purchases that night.

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585.271.0590
www.wedefinewine.com
Wedding announcement

Toby Greenfield, Director of Youth Services for the Gay Alliance (right), and her partner Erika Gullo were married on Aug. 6 in Toronto. They honeymooned in Aruba. The GAGV staff and board wish them a future full of joy and love.

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At the MOCHA picnic: Barbara Turner, Kraig Pannell, MOCHA Executive Director, and Keith Powell of GLSEN.

A Step Apart
footwear & apparel

REDS: The Red Ball at the Hudson Hotel celebrated the opening of the 2nd Annual New York AIDS Film Festival on Sept. 17. The Red Ball required all women to dress in red to signify a collective AIDS ribbon. Left to right: Kate Finneran (Noises Off), Isabel Keating (The Boy From Oz), Anika Noni Rose (Caroline or Change), Laura Bell Bundy (Hairspray).

WIGSTOCK: For the second "straight" year Wigstock, the world's most celebrated drag-centric pansexual extravaganza, graced the HOWL Festival's main stage at Tompkins Square Park on Aug. 22. Pictured are Boy George and Lady Bunny (founder of Wigstock).

FIRING BUSH: Human Rights Campaign (HRC) launched 4 campaign billboard trucks with the message "George W. Bush: You're Fired!" The trucks drove around Manhattan streets during the Republican convention in August. Above: HRC President Cheryl Jacques outside the Warwick Hotel on Aug. 31.

RISE UP: The "Still We Rise" rally on 15th St. on Aug. 30, protesting the Republican National Convention and the Republican Party's anti-gay platform.

ON THE CATWALK: 12th Annual GMAD (Gay Men of African Descent) Fashion Show at the Fashion Institute of Technology Haft Auditorium on Sept. 19. ALL PHOTOS THIS PAGE BY DOUG MESZLER.

BIG TENT: Log Cabin Republicans "Big Tent" event at the Bryant Park Grill on Aug. 29. Pictured is Chris Bowman, who was a gay Republican delegate. The Log Cabin Republicans group has decided not to endorse George W. Bush.

SANTORIUM STAKE-OUT: (Left) At Tuscan Steak Restaurant (3rd Ave. & 40th St.) on Sept. 1, as Gays Against Bush protested a Republican delegate dinner, which anti-gay Sen. Rick Santorum was to attend. Activist Ann Northup talks with the NYPD.
The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley invites you to the 4th Annual Equality Leadership Conference.

Saturday, November 6, 2004 – 8 am to 1:30 pm
Burgundy Basin Inn, 1361 Marsh Road, Pittsford, New York

Join us for an informative morning as we explore the role of leadership in valuing Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender employees in the workplace, followed by our luncheon with keynote speaker, Eliot D. Spitzer, New York State Attorney General.

8 am - 11:45 am
The Value of LGBT Employee Resource Network Groups
How ERNGs benefit any organization; how to start one; and what benefits can be expected.

LGBT Corporate Diversity, "Does it affect the bottom line?"
Panel discussion by leaders of Rochester's business community, followed by a problem-solving exercise.

Noon - 1:30 pm
Luncheon Keynote Speaker
Eliot D. Spitzer
Attorney General
State of New York

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The Honorable James R. Bowers, Ph.D.
Commissioner, Rochester City School District

WOKR Channel 13
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This conference supports the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley’s leading role in Educating, Advocating and Celebrating partnerships within our community.
In the Life probes Right's infiltration of school boards

"If we can have people of faith on the school board we can change this culture, we can change the public school..." -Rev. Bill Bannetti, Executive Director, NYS Christian Coalition

In the Life's October season premiere probes the strategies of religious fundamentalist policymaking in "Hidden Agenda." Tony Award winning actor Alan Cumming guest hosts this month's expose on the religious right's pervasive power in America's educational system. The show, underwritten by the Gay Alliance, will be aired here on WXXI on Sunday, Oct. 17 at midnight.

HOSTILE TAKEOVER: In "Hostile Takeover," In the Life exposes the coordinated, but quiet decade-long campaign waged by conservative Christians to take over public school boards across the country. Through interviews with people on both sides of a local New Hampshire struggle and an interview with Eagle Forum founder Phyllis Schlafly, the show explores both the local and national implications of this development.

TEXAS TEXTBOOKS: In the Life visits the State of Texas' textbook committee and looks at the selection process and looks at the state school board and an extreme block of conservative voters on the rest of the nation. Texas, which has a relatively homogeneous culture, we can change the public school curriculum. The show, underwritten by the Gay Alliance, will be aired here on WXXI on Sunday, Oct. 17 at midnight.

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PrideNation TV offers new multimedia package

On Sept. 7, AEU Media Group, parent company of PNN (PrideNation Networks) introduced a new 24-hour multimedia entertainment package. This media package includes two 24-hour gay TV channels, two 24-hour radio channels, three pay-per-view channels and a game channel.

“We’re calling it PrideNation Version 6.0,” stated PNN President Allen Edwards. “It’s not only going to change the way people use the internet, but it’s going to change the way people watch TV and listen to the radio. The gay community has always been on top of technology so it only seems fitting that, once again, PrideNation leads the way into new horizons.”

These new horizons not only include providing 24-hour multimedia entertainment to individual members but also new program delivery methods to local cable and distribution companies.

Launching Oct. 15, PrideNation.com will be transformed from a standard website design to a high-tech multimedia control panel. “We are going to recondition the way people think about internet use,” said PNN Program Director Corey White, in “PrideNation Version 6.0 is going to have a home entertainment control interface. There will be an ability to control and adjust remote control that will operate several entertainment channels.”

This control panel interface can be integrated with home television systems and computer systems, so the user can watch or listen to PNN programming on any TV or stereo in the house. PrideNation programming on all 24-hour programming channels can be encoded and delivered in multiple bit rates to accommodate viewers with limited devices. All the way up to high broadband. “Our video delivery will be up to 900 kbps which means the quality is superb,” stated Edwards.

“This also means we can deliver programming to local and regional cable companies to accommodate the new cable/broadband boxes scheduled to be released next year.”

In September, PrideNation made a inside announcement that this new multimedia entertainment package will be free of charge to the public. PrideNation started secretly taking pre-sign ups on their website which is going over 11,000 per day. If the sign ups continue to grow, PNN has partnered with an international marketing company to allow advertising revenue to fund this network, “in turn make it free to the public.”

“It’s a revolutionary new way to advertise and corporate America is taking notice,” said White. “We can tell our advertisers who’s watching, when they’re watching, what they’re watching, how often they’re watching and where they are.” PrideNation promises exact, live data that will help their advertising clients determine how their campaign is performing.

PrideNation also runs a 24-hour broadband dance music station that was launched last December with a subscription of $5.95 per month. The television programming includes cooking shows, talk shows, fitness shows, movies, reality series and Hollywood red carpet coverage. Most programming is PNN original production.

PrideNation also runs a 24-hour broadband dance music station that was launched in late November. The network brings in an audience of over 350,000 a month. The new free entertainment pack will add another 24-hour ad-driven by the station's interactive game channel and a new music station that will play show tunes and lounge music. With aggressive pre sign ups, PrideNation estimates audience could easily triple by the end of this year.

TVT to produce live programming

Q Television Network (Pink Sheets: QBID), a gay and lesbian television network, announced on Sept. 17 that it has signed a formal agreement with Firestone Communications, Inc (FCI). Q TV will work with FCI to produce a portion of the live programming which will be seen on the network daily.

“We are thrilled to be working with Firestone Communications,” its president and CEO of Q Television Network, Edith Bernstein said. “Firestone has been very helpful to us and is building a studio just for our programming.”

The line up of live shows will prove to be very interactive and unique. One of the live programs viewers will be seeing is a broadcast hosted by a gay or lesbian personality who will take live calls from the audience. This broadcast will be much like a radio talk show, only on television. A producer and two hosts will take the calls. All the audience call-ins will be broadcast through live web cams to the station’s video monitors.

Another live program that will be produced by FCI is a news and sports show. This will be broken into two 30 minute segments with two different gay and lesbian anchors and will have 24 hours of programming for QTV.

FCI will also be creating 40 documentaries on gay rights, celebrities which will add a great deal of value to Q TV. These documentaries will be timeless television which will be a great asset for the Q TV library of films.

Prey's summer season includes gay play

Shiprock Dock's 25th season, the second at the Visual Studies Workshop, 1 Prince St, at University, promises to please with award winning plays, musicals, and much more. It includes a wide variety of shows, from early apartheid to present day South Africa. A summer of live entertainment and extended hours only one show a week.

The Atomic Swindlers have a new CD, DVD; will play at ImageOut opening night party

Atomic Swindlers have a new CD, Coming Out Electric, and a video, Fixed, My Electric Stargirl, directed by Joel Trussell, which will screen at ImageOut on Oct. 16 at 12 p.m. at the Dryden. The band's members include lead singer April Larage, Gary Trainer on bass, Scott Czarnecki on guitar and vocals, Roy Stein on drums, and Chris Vokel on guitar. The band will also play at the opening night party on Oct. 8 at Naety O's.

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More Entertainment News on page 14!
The Protea family (so lush, colourful, gloriously diverse) gave us an automatic visual contrast with the grimness of the (prison) world... the protea family represented something utterly utopian...

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**Proteus continued from page 1**

and cultures.

The film is named after a beautiful and lush flower, protea, that is identified as the other protagonist of the film. Virgil Niven (Shaun Smyth), a botanist who employs the prisoners for his own research and who secretly harbors his own homosexual desires for Claas. The flower acts in part as a symbol of the burgeoning relationship between Claas and Rijkaart, although Virgil’s feelings lead him to intervene when Claas’s life is at stake.

So how did you discover the transcript of the trial?

**JG:** I found it after I had already immersed myself in the project of Linnaean nomenclature, and was studying what Jack had been researching. He was epic 2-hour video in 1997 in the Cape Archives when he read the transcript of the trial, and how much did you...?

**CR:** First been caught at least 1...?

**JG:** In 1730, mother-country...?

**CR:** Mmmmm, I like that... a lot.

**JG:** Before we did Proteus, Jack was commissioned to do a series of six documentaries for the Robben Island museum on the political, legal, cultural, and historical background of a little island like a good candidate. We worked pretty closely with the Museum authorities, for some recent events. Some were quite supportive, while others were quite negative about our very utopian...?

**JG:** In 1730, mother-country...?

**CR:** All the events then have some...?

**JG:** From Niven (and given to Linnaeus); that this historical event occurred back that gay history was as important... Four of them are...?

**CR:** I'd like to go back to the...?

**JG:** So the film, Virgil Niven (Shaun Smyth), was researching his epic 2-hour video on queer South African history. He decided to do a story to just be a segment, and decided to make a feature. That’s when he contacted me.

**CR:** How much of the film reflects the trial, and how much did you fill in? I imagine this was a collaborative project...

**JG:** At first glance the transcript didn’t seem too promising — they were caught, lots of witnesses, found guilty, sentenced to be drowned in Table Bay. It’s like a lot of “Read closed, between the lines.” First, bits of testimony established that in fact they’d first been caught at least 10 years earlier, and that they had done bunch of encounters over the decade. Which made them — what? Fuck bad...?

**CR:** Boyfriends! What words might they have used for each other? Second, they’d been caught and the authorities had looked the other way, despite the fact that the Dutch Law considered sodomy worse than murder. For whatever reasons, they were ignored. And then something changed; they were brought to court. Much of what revolved around these two questions: what words did they have for each other, what changed?

Just about everything in the film comes either from the transcript, or from other historical sources. Much of the story from the transcript; the testimony of the prisoner Munster; the rivalry between the two Sergeants on Robben Island, Wilfer and Scholn; the invasion for the execution.

**CR:** All the events then have some basis in historical material. But at some point you had to interpret the material, as you’ve just interpreted, the material, as you’ve just said, you had to find the words you also had to develop the visual...?

**JG:** I think we wanted it to have both a narrative agency it brings Niven and Claas together, as well as having a symbolic life. In the naming of the protea family the credit naming is taken from Niven (and given to Linnaeus); this parallels the struggle over names for the island. Rijkaart expected the flower... What’s the name for us? There’s no name.

**CR:** Mmmmm, I like that... a lot.

**JG:** Before we did Proteus, Jack was commissioned to do a series of six documentaries for the Robben Island museum on the political, legal, cultural, and historical background of a little island like a good candidate. We worked pretty closely with the Museum authorities, for some recent events. Some were quite supportive, while others were quite negative about our very utopian...?

**JG:** In 1975, mother-country...?

**CR:** We always talked about the story as an unbalanced triangle, with the South African unable to act on his desires, but also instrumental in (inadvertently) bringing about their downfall. The protea family (so lush, colourful, gloriously diverse) gave us an automatic visual contrast with the grimness of their prison world.

**CR:** But it also seemed to symbolize South Africa, the relationship itself...

**JG:** In that time, the Cape was from Niven (and given to Linnaeus); this parallels the struggle over names for the island. Rijkaart expected the flower... What’s the name for us? There’s no name.

**CR:** Mmmmm, I like that... a lot.

**JG:** Before we did Proteus, Jack was commissioned to do a series of six documentaries for the Robben Island museum on the political, legal, cultural, and historical background of a little island like a good candidate. We worked pretty closely with the Museum authorities, for some recent events. Some were quite supportive, while others were quite negative about our very utopian...?

**JG:** In 1975, mother-country...?
ImageOut highlights: festival to screen 45 programs this year

BY CAROLE DOWLING

More expansive, more fun, and yes, more fabulous, is the buzz for ImageOut this year. One of the oldest festivals in the country, ImageOut has grown exponentially every year, making it the most successful film festival in the area, and the largest LGBT film and video festival in New York State outside of N.Y.C.

The festival, running Oct. 8-17, will screen 45 programs.

This year's lineup is the most ambitious to date. International cinema, independent cinema, theatre-of-the-absurd cinema, cinema especially meaningful for youths, modern romance, and all of it outstanding queer cinema.

Opening night begins ImageOut's celebration of diversity with the award-winning documentary Drag Kings on Tour, with director Sonia Slutsky and cast members appearing to help kick off the week. Bear Cub is the other opening night film, an award-winning feature from Spain, about a unique relationship and the real meaning of family. The opening night party is at Nasty D's.

Other films set to screen are Brother to Brother, set during the Harlem Renaissance; Twist, a modern adaptation of Oliver Twist, starring Nick Stahl; and for audiences "of a certain age", Superstar in a House Dress, The Lift and Legend of Jackie Curtis, will make everyone feel nostalgic for the bad behavior of the '60s and '70s.

Bruce LaBruce has turned out another totally outrageous and comic take on what it means to be a revolutionary: The Raspberry Reich, definitely X-rated. Flower City Flicks will showcase eight shorts by local Rochester directors. And drop-dead-gorgeous director John Greyson will introduce his film Proteus (see interview with Greyson, page B1).

Sponsored by the Gay Alliance, Gay Pioneers will remind everyone of the blood, sweat, tears and courage it took to be a gay activist not so very long ago. Producer Malcolm Lazin and activists Barbara Gittings, Frank Kameny, and Lilli Vincencz will appear to talk about their astounding lives and the changes they've helped effect. The Gay Alliance is also sponsoring Black Aura on An Angel, a riveting thriller that explores domestic issues and mental illness between two African-American women. Black Aura director Faith Trimnell will be on hand. The GAGV cares about youth, and is sponsoring Jim in Bold, as part of ImageOut's Youth Project. Jim in Bold is a heart-tugging look at a young, gay teen, in small-town Pennsylvania. Tickets for all Youth Project screenings are free to those under 21.

As part of ImageOut's "Out of the Archives" presentations, The Empty Closet is sponsoring Reflections in a Golden Eye, starring Marlon Brando and Elizabeth Taylor. Brando is electrifying as a sexually repressed military officer drawn to a handsome young recruit—played by none other than Robert Forster. Yes, that Robert Forster.

The festival will call it a wrap on Sunday, Oct. 17, with funny, romantic, sexy Goldfish Memory, set in modern...
Time's up?

Someone was sitting in my seat. Or so I thought. As I glanced at my ticket stub to double check, the man spoke to me. "Yes, I'm in your seat and I'll move only if you promise to talk to me."

It was going to be a short flight, Rochester to New York – the prospect did not seem that awful and I was rather amused by his audacity. He exuded warmth and sparkle, qualities I have come to associate in older people, indicators that I have not stumbled upon a whiner, someone acting to complain. My seat companion was a very old man. Next to him was a very old woman. That is how I met Kurt and Trudy.

They proved to be a charming couple on their way to visit relatives in Rochester. He was, he explained, more interested in life than just a retired businessman. He was an ardent New Yorker, a similarity we had at art and travel in common.

They came to know Kurt and Trudy. Kurt painted. I am reluctant to call him a hobbyist, a "Sunday" painter, for he painted every day and took his work seriously. Art was his life and he had devoted his retirement to reading articles about artists and gardening. They were gracious hosts. When I visited they would serve me coffee and dessert.

In one respect, visiting Kurt and Trudy was scary. They were both in their mid-nineties. Kurt, I think a few years older than Trudy. They lived alone, alert but shy. They looked like apple dolls, tiny and dry and wrinkled. However, their energy was youthful. They were very much interested in life outside their own experience.

Kurt and Trudy had been born in Germany. My heritage is German. There were places in Germany we had both been. There was a story about the one where my relatives had lived during the war. Kurt and Trudy were Jews. They had escaped.

Somehow they knew things were only going to get worse in Germany and in the late 1930s they left for Italy. I was most curious about all aspects of these circumstances and events. What astonished me most was learning that after four years in Italy, where they had created a second life, someone knocked on their door and said, "You must leave now" and that night they did just that, fled for a second time, this time to America.

Stories of people who stayed and people who left, people who somehow understood, grasped the significance of what was coming, stories of families who left for Argentina or the Congo, stories of some people who were alone or left with small children (Kurt and Trudy and a child under the age of two) moved me. How did they know? What did they do?

My parents left Germany in the late 1920s as the result of a domestic transgression. They married for the world they left behind. Had they stayed I would have been born and raised in Germany. Would I as a homosexual have ended in a camp? Or what if they had joined a youth group or the military, to fight or die or persecute Jews like Kurt and Trudy? In retrospect I have some increased regard for the misfortune that obliged my parents to come to America. They did not leave because of politics or religious views. Whatever the reasons, I am alive.

I am inclined, when I travel, to strike up conversations with strangers. This August I was in New York City for the Fringe Festival of new plays. I stood on line waiting one afternoon for tickets to be released and began a conversation with the man next to me, gay man of a certain age. We talked about the upcoming Republican convention.

"This was how it started with Hitler," he said. That got my attention.

As it turned out he lived half the year outside the United States in a Southeast Asian city where he had a second home. He spoke of other gay expatriates living there. It was a "gay-friendly" culture. He sent me a copy of letters he was already writing about transferring assets, speculating what kinds of jobs they might find to supplement their savings. They were heavy into Plan B. He mused politely as he spoke and grew ever more anxious. Was he paranoid? I just wanted a diversion after the conversation..."I didn't want a reality check."

This would appear to be the best of times and the worst of times. There exists a lively debate about all sorts of gay issues, not the least of which is marriage equality. Who anticipated this would come so soon? Same sex marriage announcements in the local paper. Gay and Lesbian people are accepted in America. We have Ellen and Portia, married in October (I'm not sure who's married to who). On the other hand we learn of the living of State Department civilan employees who worked as Arabic translators, especially in the Middle East world, not simply because they were gay. And what of that proposed constitutional amendment? At the grassroots level is there a hard line at the level what is there that engenders safety, inclusion?

Several years ago a friend told me that as she began to read "And the Band Played On," Randy Shilts' remarkable book about the beginnings of the AIDS pandemic, she was gripped by a chilling realization: everyone in the book would die. I had visited for the second time the biking vacation I met her for breakfast and told her about my trip. I told her about the paranoid gay man who was plotting suicide in Mississippi. "Don't be silly," she said. "That could never happen here."

Email: ELCBA#4TEDU

Fall Fashion

You know that autumn is in the air when the crisp, clean scent of 50 percent off back-to-school paper supplies comes through your door. And in these circumstances and events. What kinds of jobs they might find to supplement their savings. They were heavy into Plan B. He mused politely as he spoke and grew ever more anxious. Was he paranoid? I just wanted a diversion after the conversation..."I didn't want a reality check."

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Email: ELCBA#4TEDU
White man in a black neighborhood

I am driving in a friend's car past my new home.

The house is located in the northwestern corner of Fort Lauderdale, just north of Sunset, just west of 15th Avenue.

It is not a predominantly gay neighborhood. I found those to be economically

prohibitive.

So instead, I bought in one of the only areas left where you can still purchase a single-family home without mortgaging the rest of your life for it: I bought in a predominantly black neighborhood.

The combination of economic real-

ity and real estate prospecting helped convince me to take a gamble on the house in the hopes that this area of North of Sunrise, just west of 15th Avenue.

This particular day, the friend who is driving me in his car past the house in the hopes that this area of town will, in time, do what everything else in the property market in South Florida is doing: Go banks.

They are the friends who come visit my first-ever home purchase don't see the potential that I anticipate is in my new home.

Instead, they seem to see only one thing: black people.

And almost uniformly, it seems to scare the gay guys I bring into the neighborhood.

I do get the impression she
called to get a lackluster career jump-

start for what it calls, “hateful, homophobic lyrics.”

EMI has declined to comment, although Virgin said in a statement, “The Beenie Man lyrics in question are from songs released on independent labels not affiliated with the Right Said.

Men’s)

and stereotyped and made outcasts our gay people. It reminds me of when that little pasty-faced white punk named Eminem was doing the same thing.

Nothing like a little braggadocio name-
calling to get a lackluster career jump-

started.

When Beenie Man’s management team started to feel the heat from pissed off citizens, his handlers issued an apol-

ogy that was obviously not genuine or the least bit sincere. He has been on the world tour since this summer, and has been faced with vocal opposition in just about every port of call. Besides being dropped from the performing schedule for the MTV Music Video Awards in Miami last August, RJ Reynolds axed him from their U.S. Salem Sirs Your Senses Tour as well.

His shows have since been dropped in another 14 U.S. sites, including Indianapolis, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Cleveland.

“The campaign against murder music is now being turned into a political crusade,” says Peter Tatchell of OutRage.

“We’re teaching these singers that inciting homophobic violence does not pay. They will lose the respect of the rest of society and lose income.” (Source: 365Gay.com, Aug. 13, 2004)

However, it seems this hasn’t stopped another round of rhetoric swirling from the performer. He has distanced himself from that anemic attempt of an apology by his manager by referring to it (before Hurricane Ivan) and saying he’s as hateful as ever. According to the Jamaican Observer, Beenie Man made that specific implication at a concert sponsored by Red Stripe Beer. He followed that statement with song, in which he called for gay men to be shot and killed.

Now, I respectfully honor everyone’s first amendment right to express them-

selves, but how does this differ from the repugnant Nazi speeches that called for the execution of Jews? The first amendment and the very idea of free-

thinking and free expression to influence and protect people and the democratic process, not malign social order and breed contempt. I am horrified.

I was interested in a local reaction to the Beenie Man fiasco, so I dropped in on a few retail music stores in the Rochester area. Everyone I spoke to was genuinely interested in what I had to say, and was very courteous.

The manager/buyer at Record Theatre in Midtown Plaza was unaware of any controversy. When I mentioned what was happening in other cities around the U.S., I got the impression she thought it wasn’t that big a deal.

“There are hate messages in all forms of music, not just specific to gay people,” she said. She was very receptive about my concerns; however they still plan to sell and make available Beenie Man’s new release, “Back To Basics.” She said, “I have an obligation to my customers to provide the music they would like to hear.”

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Here come the brides dressed in might

We will be married by the time you read this. Do I look any different? Let me do a runway walk. This column is my runway. Here I am on display for an audience of observers who bring questions to the ceremony. I might be surprised how the power of protest can have an effect in one simple conversation. Please.

Cleaning My Closet
BY MEREDITH ELIZABETH RENGER

Here come the brides

I am a middle-aged, middle-class woman, a first-time bride, a lesbian bride. I am standing in front of you, looking very glamorous in a lavender silk gown and pumps. I am a part of the picture, you and I. This is a moment of my life where you need to connect or reconnect with your spirituality in a loving, accepting community. Our vision is threefold: to empower people, embracing the journey, touching the heart.

We are the power of change. We are the public record. We are the voices in multiple copies. Lots of people pick up those newspapers and read those words. Then they carry those words into their lives, into their fabrics, into their minds in other cars. Thus we empty the closet.

Music: Here comes the bride! Camera sweeps across the area. The runway is covered in tasteful lavender. Lesbian bride enters, center stage. Sure-footed, I walk steadfastly toward the door; big me. My invisible train trails behind me. Imagine me turning, gracefully. Arms and in the open, I am freed from the closet. Slam. Drink this and turn in might. I am FREEING. "Amen!" is a state of motion, a continuous walk down our freedom trail. As I walk this trail, I am leaving messages. I write letters to friends in other cities, other states. Some would try to attack me as a lesbian. Thank you. Your letters, all true, who understand that the closet is empty.

Some might use these documents to tell your story. Some would try to attack me as a lesbian. Thank you. Your letters, all true, who understand that the closet is empty.

Me and my words. We are on the move. We are moving into ears that try not to listen. We are moving across pages and through modern gaps. We and we, and my words, and you and your voice, we are the power of change. We are the public record.

So where were we? Oh yes, my delightfully flowing lavender silk gown. My ceremony is made up of people from very many different places. Some would try to attack me as a lesbian. Thank you. Your letters, all true, who understand that the closet is empty.

I email my columns to friends in other cities, other states. Some would try to attack me as a lesbian. Thank you. Your letters, all true, who understand that the closet is empty.

In lavender silk, with pockets, I step out of this particular closet. (For our non-heterosexual readers, it is important to understand that "coming out of the closet" is not a single event. Slam. I am out. Oh, no. Think about Alice in Wonderland. There she goes down a little rabbit door; big me. Slam. Drink this and slide right through that door. Slam. Slam. Believe the rabbit. Slam. Slam.)

Are we? where were we? Oh yes, my delightfully flowing lavender silk gown. My ceremony is made up of people from very many different places. Some would try to attack me as a lesbian. Thank you. Your letters, all true, who understand that the closet is empty.

Remember how I told you already: I am free. I am free. Let me elucidate.

I am free. Born in St. Mary's hospital, I was granted instant freedom. Freedom, please skip and jump. Free to love. Well, the skipping and the jumping did take me down some heterosexual paths, but eventually I straightened out.

First, I told my mother: I am a lesbian. Her reply: “Oh, I told my dear aunt. Her reply: “Anything you want, baby,” I told my students. “As a lesbian, I find the word ‘homosexual’ offensive.”

The words set me free. Free. Free at last. I was saved, but it was only the first step. It is first because the concept has to be inside me, in my mind. It has to settle into my heart. I had to be able to separate myself from others who say out loud “I am a lesbian.”

Then the mirror showed me, simultaneously, that I am free. I am freed from the confines of the closet. Out and in the open, I am freed from the limits of stereotypes.

Freedom is standing up to live a fully truthful existence: She is not my roommate. She is not my girlfriend. She is my intimate partner for life. She is my best friend. She is in my house; she lives in my heart.

It is certainly a blessing to have family members who welcome my spouse as a full and loved participant in all our shared activities. They invite us to weddings by our first names, not by “and guest.” At holiday times they ask what we will be doing. There are actual conversations about our future life together. We have created. It is a blessing to have friends, some old, some new, some former, some current. I am grateful that we two have formed a family.

And all of us were happy to have a wedding. Happy to perpetuate the tradition of bonding to a wonderful and loving partner to share the rituals of promises made in the presence of those we love, in the presence of a power greater than our own. Happy to be together. Happy to be a free and lesbian bride. Happy to take these steps on our freedom trail.

All along this trail, we should keep an earthly pen record to create the public record, record the steps to mark the path.

Am I FREE? is the personal self definition recorded in my heart. I know that I too was created by the purple mist greater than our imaginations. I AM FREED is the public presentation of self. I know that I am a native, teacher of high school English, American historian, artist, volunteer, poet, bride, lesbian.

I understand that some might want to use the last noun as an adjective. Some might use these documents to tell your story. Some would try to attack me as a lesbian. Thank you. Your letters, all true, who understand that the closet is empty.

It is important to understand that some might want to use the last noun as an adjective. Some might use these documents to tell your story. Some would try to attack me as a lesbian. Thank you. Your letters, all true, who understand that the closet is empty.

A few of you titter. Titter, titter. But I guess the message here is that hatred of gay people will always be visible. If you are so inclined, you may want to stand up for what you believe in. I believe you will find that you might take your hard earned dollar and spend it with a more socially responsible supplier. The consumer, it may send a message close to home that you personally will not accept or support hate speech in any form.

Freedom of expression shouldn’t be limited to the hate-mongers. Freedom of expression is what makes America great. You have the right and responsibility to exercise your first amendment rights, and not become an invisible victim. I believe you will be surprised how the power of protest can have an effect in one simple conversation. Peace.

Spiritual Seeking

This regular column is organized by Interfaith Advocates for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People of Rochester, NY. This column was formed in 1981 to seek increased awareness, understanding and inclusion of LGBT people by our individual congregations and by the larger community.

Newcomers are welcome to attend the regular meetings at St Thomas Episcopal Church, 175 North Ave, Rochester, NY. For more information, call 585-271-7697 or visit the website at www.interfaithadvocates.org to find resources and support for people of faith in our larger community.

Many of us have had the experience of coming to one of our meetings, feeling alienated from our religious community. Some have succumbed in places of worship that were not open and affirming.

Others have turned our backs on "organized religion" and decided that they had no room in their lives for church, temple or mosque.

Many of us turned our back because we made the assumption that all religion was hostile to gbt people. Fortunately, there are now many places of worship in Rochester that are open and affirming. It is sad that many have cut themselves off from traditions of rich spirituality and worship. It is sad that many don’t know that there are spiritual homes where we know that God loves us just the way we are.

MetropolitanCommunityChurches, as a denomination, was founded 35 years ago by a gay minister who had been excommunicated from a church that he loved. He found places of grief and despair in his life and attempted suicide before God spoke to him and told him to make a place where gbt people, and all people who had been rejected, could come to hear a positive message of acceptance. The message he heard was, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for ALL people."

Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church was founded in Rochester 25 years ago. Our congregation is made up of people from very many religious traditions who have one powerful attribute in common: we want to reclaim our spirituality and affirm our sexuality in a loving, accepting community. Our vision is threefold: empowering people, embracing the journey, touching the heart.

You have a place in the life where you need to connect or reconnect with your spirituality in a community that comes to you. MCC or one of the other open and affirming churches in Rochester.
**Queer is marvelous.**

**Breast cancer is not.**

Lesbians are nearly twice as likely as heterosexual women to get breast cancer. A variety of risk factors and reluctance to seek routine exams all contribute. Gay health is possible. It's up to us. Let's take care of each other.

Find out more about gay health.
Go to: www.aidsrochester.org/gayhealth, or call 585-442-2220.
**Anthony Jordan Health Center**

Action Front Center

Thursdays 2-4 pm, ages 12-25.

**Evergreen Health Services, Buffalo.**

Hotline.

**Western Health Services.**


**McGree McCollector Wellness Center at Unity Health's Connection Clinic.**

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

**Action Front Center**


**Catholic Charities AIDS Services.**

A multilingual bilingual staff providing services to a diversity of infected and affected with HIV/AIDS. Free on-site prevention, education, treatment and anonymous testing. (716) 847-0328. HIV/AIDS service

**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, medical information, and access to other Jordan services. Prevention Counseling & Testing is a walk-in program; no appointments necessary. Office hours Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am-5:30 pm; extended hours on Mondays until 8 pm. (585) 273-3089, 803-429-8252, fax 265-4752. Free anonymous HIV testing on walk-in basis. Thursdays 9 am-4 pm, provided through NYSDOH at Action Front Center, 242 Andrews St. Carmen Haus, 260-6320.

**Evergreen Health Services, Buffalo.**

Primary care, HIV and family care, HIV testing and counseling; (716) 847-0328.

**CDC National STD and AIDS Hotline.**

1-800-222-4237, 1-800-222-4292. English service 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Spanish service: 1-800-344-7432, 8 am-2 am, seven days a week. TTY service: 1-800-222-4287, 10 am-10 pm, Monday-Friday.

**Public Interest Law Office of Rochester (PILOR).**

80 St. Paul St., Suite 701. Free legal services to HIV positive persons, families. Spanish bilingual advocates available. No civil cases accepted except divorce; no criminal cases. Ask to speak to someone in PILOR, 454-4509.

**Health Association HART (HIV/AIDS Resources and Treatment) Program.**

250 East Ave. (585)232-0392. Provides housing assistance, acupuncture, massage, reiki, support groups, referral services, Positively Alive (HIV + women's support network).

**Westside Health Services.**


**Catholic Charities AIDS Services.**

A multilingual bilingual staff providing services to a diversity of infected and affected with HIV/AIDS. Free on-site prevention, education, treatment and anonymous testing. (716) 847-0328. HIV/AIDS services provided through substance use. Programs include outreach, transitional care, medical treatment, food and clothing assistance with rent/mortgage/utility payments, and limited subsidized housing.

**Hather Doyle.**


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**WEB:**

http://www.gayalliance.org

THE EMPTY CLOSET
Home Travel Style

Stylesetter for October:
The Legendary Torre Adore loves Chanel, Escada, Dior

Torre, tell us, how do you define your style?
Chic, elegant, glamorous and trashy.
Who is your favorite designer and where do you shop?
Where do I shop? I shop daily at IGA.
What is your favorite color?
Lucky, Gold's People.
What are your fashion loves?
Separates.
What are your fashion hates?
Duct Tape, bird seed and a corset.
What kind of bag do you carry and what's inside it?
Chanel, of course. Are there other bags? And of course in everyone’s bag is that lip-gloss that always seems to disappear and of course bug spray for those relentless pests.
Where would you go for the ultimate shopping spree and what would you buy?
Well, if in N.Y.C. it would be Sak’s Fifth Avenue, and there I am sure it would be Chanel I would buy -- but if in Rochester, I would be in line at the IGA for a chuck roast.

What beauty product and fitness regime can’t you live without?
Concealer, Dior Lipstick and Lip Gloss. It just seems to disappear... I have a fitness regime. What are your fashion hates? Things that do not fit. What are your fashion loves? Things that Sparkle, and, of course, things that fit. What kind of bag do you carry and what’s inside it?
Chanel, of course. Are there other bags? And of course in everyone’s bag is that lip-gloss that always seems to disappear and of course bug spray for those relentless pests.
Where would you go for the ultimate shopping spree and what would you buy?
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What is your biggest style disaster?
New.
What was your biggest success?
When I accepted my Oscar for Funny Girl.

ADORABLE: Torre Adore wears an Escada wool crepe de chine suit; collarless, single breasted, cinched waist fitted jacket with straight skirt, trimmed with Rhinestone buttons and fox cuffs. Her partner Paul’s tie by Versace. This year, Ms. Adore marks the 20th anniversary of winning the Miss Gay Rochester title.

Home for Sunday Dinner in the Finger Lakes...

Christ Church Unity, 55 Prince Street, Rochester, 585-473-0910
Our Mission: To Love One Another
There is nothing to need, hide from or fear.
You are whole and complete right now and right here.
Please join us Sundays at 11 a.m.

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’t imagine how much that meant to us.”

Natasha Doty and Jeanne Newland

“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:

Sacramento, I'll Take The Old...

BY MERLE EXIT

I'll be blunt. If not for the IWFL Championship game between the Sacramento Sirens and the New York Sharks, I wouldn't have schlepped to Sacramento. However, other than the outcome of the game, I had an enjoyable four days.

My stay for the first two nights was at the Hilton Garden Inn, 2540 Venture Oaks Way in South Natomas (916-568-5400), located two miles from Old Sacramento. The hotel was a bit out of Sacramento. I set up a rather inexpensive activity between the players' hunger and thirst. I don't know which profited more, the BQ or the Bar. My take on the food was good, but not great. It was rather late in the day and a professional critique wouldn't be fair.

The team's lunch meal before the big game... was at the Hungry Hunter, located just across the street from the Hawthorn Suites. They had carbs. I'm not a football player. I had prime rib, which the Hungry Hunter is noted for. Noteworthy given.

I spent most of my time in Old Sacramento. It was easier in the heat of the day. I made it a point to hop aboard the Spirit of Sacramento ship would make for an excellent post card.

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I spent most of my time in Old Sacramento. It was easier in the heat of the day. I made it a point to hop aboard the Spirit of Sacramento ship would make for an excellent post card.
You know, technology is a wonderful thing. Sure, it has brought us electricity, central air, and the internet, but it has also done so much more. People tend to overlook one of the most important places technology has improved our lives—the bedroom.

Now, don't get me wrong. I'm not talking about some new virtual-reality action...though that might be fun, too! I'm talking about some great sex toys that might put a little more swing in your step. So if you'd like to really see technology in action, read on! You'll be glad you did.

Now be honest. When you hear the term "sex toy," what's the first thing you think of? Vibrators, right? We've all heard of them, but are you aware that there's more to sex toys than meets the eye? It's true. Sex toys can be discreet enough to buy at the drugstore or even online, yet they're also powerful enough to change the way you experience sex.

The walls of the rectum are made up of mucosal tissue and are very rich in blood vessels. Some of the most common health concerns associated with the anus and rectum include:

1. Trauma. It is possible to cause tearing if you insert something that is too large. The anus and rectum can be fragile and so this month, the last in our male sexuality series, we will cover this final part of the anatomy: Butt...Anus...Rectum...Ass...Bacon.

No matter what they call it, many gay and bisexual men have come to understand just how sexual this part of the body can be. The discussion of anal sexuality has been a taboo in our culture...but not talking about this issue can be a problem for men for whom it is a key component of their sexual functioning. So let's do a quick review of the anatomy of the butt and some common health tips and concerns.

The anus, which is anal stricture, consists of two sphincter muscles -- an internal and an external. These muscles open and close the entrance (or exit) of the rectum, the inner cavity that connects the anus to the large intestine. The sphincter muscles, while strong, are susceptible to tearing...which is as uncomfortable and inconvenient as it sounds! Additionally, in many men the walls of the rectum can be fragile and tearing may occur -- leading to other health problems. Patience and lots of water-based lubrication are the key to not only making anal sex more pleasurable but also more healthy!

3. "BAD" problems. There is a collection of common ailments that the medical community refers to as Benign Anorectal Disorders (BAD). These ailments include hemorrhoids (internal or external), which are swollen or ruptured veins in or around the anus and rectal walls and can cause bleeding, itching, or pain; fissures, which are tears in the anal canal and have similar symptoms; and abscesses and fistulas, infections in the glands and walls of the rectum that are very painful. A common mis-conception about these ailments is that they are caused by anal sex...when in fact they are more linked to diet and bowel regularity. Eating enough fiber and having regular healthy bowel movements are the best way to prevent these problems.

4. STDs/HIV. The rectum is lined with tissue that can be easily infected by sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. Condoms, male or female, might also be used with the toys to ensure safety between partners.

Now, get out there and experience this great technology! You won't regret it.

Queer & Healthy
BY ERIK LIBEY

Getting to Know You Vol. 7: A Trip to UrANUS

I can remember in high school learning basic information about my body—the penis, testicles, etc. As a gay man, however, I soon came to realize that those basic anatomy lessons left out an important part of my sexual anatomy—and so this month, the last in our male sexuality series, we will cover that final part of the anatomy: Butt...Anus...Rectum...Ass...Bacon.

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Now, get out there and experience this great technology! You won't regret it.

The anus and rectum, much like all the other body parts we've covered, are important to us as men. They can be a source of great pleasure but can also present us with some serious health concerns.

Being educated, aware of your body and getting good medical attention when you suspect a problem are critical in the struggle...be gay, be proud, be healthy!

Erik Libey is the Gay Health Coordinator at AIDS Rochester, Inc. and can be reached at (585) 442-2220 x3042 or by email at elibey@aidsrochester.org.

An archive of his previous articles, as well as other gay health information, can be found at AIDS Rochester's website dedicated to queer health at www.aidsrochester.org/gayhealth.

While my mother had died of metastasized breast cancer in 1976 and I myself had had many benign breast tumors removed over the past 30 years, the news hit me hard. I needed to find ways to adjust to the realities of having a life-threatening disease, the impend­
sing six and a half hour surgery -- which would remove all my breast tissue and replace it with tissue from my abdomen -- and whether I would need chem­
otherapy. I cried a lot. Charlie wasn't even a blip on the sonar screen of my worry and panic.

Four days after the surgery, I was discharged from the hospital to begin what was to be a three-month recovery period at home. Immediately, I noticed that Charlie was walking smack into the furniture every time he was in the room with me, which wasn't often. When I looked into his formerly beau­
tiful green eyes, what stared back at me were blood red orbs. He looked absolutely demonic but acted pathetic, mostly hiding in a closet. Inter­
acting with a pet was supposed to be an anti­
dote for stress, but seeing Charlie in this state was increasing mine.

Charlie was always somewhat of a fragile kitty. When we adopted him we knew there would be problems with reconstructed breasts that can't对接到利比里亚。这些早期的先驱们设定的舞台为同性恋者和女同性恋者争取平等权利提供了平台。1958年，吉娜·凯尼和莉莉·温森追随了马特金尼斯协会和利比里亚的先驱。吉娜·凯尼在1970年的第一次同性恋权利游行中被承认，随后每年的同性恋和女同性恋者游行队伍不断壮大，成为争取同性恋婚姻权利的初步尝试。然而，同性恋和女同性恋者的权利斗争仍然在继续。

Senior visibility at ImageOut

In the month of October, older Gays and Lesbians will be given increased visibility during the ImageOut Film and Video Festival.

Two films being screened at the Dryden Theatre on Saturday, Oct. 9, include "Late Wedding," a film that includes two films, Late Wedding and Liberty: 3 Stories About Life & Death.

Commenting on the importance of these stories, ImageOut Executive Director Jim O'Neill wrote: "Our society views aging and death as taboo, topics to be kept out of sight and in the closet. Such denial and invisibility hold just as true for older gay men and lesbians, and in some cases even more so. ImageOut is very proud to present this program on the joys and sorrows of growing older, a time of struggling with losses and rejoicing in the preciousness of life."

Gay Pioneers is an outstanding documentary portraying the courage­
ous actions of seven early pioneers of the gay rights movement: Barbara Gittings, Frank Kammen, and Lilli Vincenz following the screening of Gay Pioneers.

Barbara Gittings has been a gay rights activist since 1958. Her cam­
paign to promote gay materials and eliminate discrimination in libraries was recognized by a honorary lifetime membership conferred by the American Library Association in 2003.

Senior Moment continued on next page
Pet Talk with Tulip: Queers to your health...

BY MISS TULIP (AS TOLD TO TODD PLANK)

Hello my Lovelies,

Miss Tulip has another letter to share from an adoring fan, but first, she has an alarming discovery to report. A significant number of pet owners (Miss Tulip begs forgiveness for using such a politically incorrect term) and their animal companions are not out to their Primary Health Care Physicians (PHCP).

Miss Tulip went undercover (don't look convincing with my Poet (pronounced Pooh - designer Derek's toy with GAGV logo and pet-thecope?) to find some answers. In between seeing patients and playing the prerequisite rounds of golf, Miss Tulip did some sniffing around and dug up the dirt, as it were, on homophobia in health care. What I learned really hit me off!

What Miss Tulip discovered is that pet owners and pets often face financial, personal and cultural barriers when attempting to access health care. Fearing discrimination, we often withhold personal information about our sexual orientation, gender identity, sexual practices and behavioral risks from doctors.

Some polls have indicated that upwards of 50 percent of LGBT people surveyed were "out" to their doctors about their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

A very real concern is the lack of knowledge and education about LGBT health among health care planners and providers. These problems are compounded because LGBT people are at increased risk for certain forms of cancers (including lung, cervical, breast, and anal cancer) due to an increased rate of smoking, and inadequate risk assessment and medical screening.

LGBT people (and pets...my human companion gives me major stress) also have an increased risk of stress-related mental health problems and substance abuse.

Miss Tulip would like to provide a couple of suggestions of things that you and your animal companion can do to improve the quality of your health care.

First and foremost find an LGBT-friendly provider. Ask your friends, get referrals from your local LGBT Community Center (www.gaysalliance.org), or log on to websites such as www.gayhealth.com for information.

Second, come out to your doctor - it's the most effective way to make certain that your health concerns are addressed completely. "Don't ask, don't tell" doesn't work in the military and this policy has no business in the doctor's office either.

The only way to change the disparity in health care to LGBT people and pets is to be out, loud, and proud, and demand the quality of care that we deserve.

All this investigative reporting has made Miss Tulip dog tired! Too bad Doc's amorous adulations in my fan letters: "Dear Ms. Tulip, just read your Pride column and I must say that you look just gorgeous in your 'dog days of summer' outfit. Would love to share a cool bowl of mint juleped water with you next time I am in New York!"

Your celebrity is not limited to Rochester. Dogs, and their human companions, know about you and your columns across the globe. You are an icon. And your style, well, darlin', no one 'puts on the dog' like you do! I have enclosed my photo. I am a very handsome, wire-haired dachshund with lots of attitude and even more style.

Love,
Doc"

Next month Miss Tulip responds to Doc Watson's note and answers the pressing question on her readership's minds: "Is this Good-Biff?"
THE CHOSEN FAMILY

Tell me about school today.

At lunch Ashley barfed right on top of her peanut butter sandwich.

It looked exactly like creamed tuna on toast.

Only more orange.

Then I heard this roar like Niagara Falls.

What was it?

Eric fed himself again.

Anything else?

Philip came to school in pink tights and a gun.

If Philip keeps wearing pink tights to school he's going to need a gun.

by Norma Stovens

Christina Smith
Licensed Massage Therapist

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Teatro Bilk“What an Exhilarating World!”
Youth update:

**Concert to benefit new Youth Center**

BY TOBY GREENFIELD

Greetings from Youth Group Land... I can hardly contain my excitement at this HUGE news! We are honored and thrilled to have Rochester native, singer and songwriter Ross Falzone here to perform a benefit concert for the GAGY Youth Center.

The concert will be Oct. 16 at 9 p.m. at the Montage Grille. Ross is in town to celebrate his debut CD, “Radical Heart,” which features an eclectic mix of pop, rock, R&B, gospel, hip-hop, funk, and humor to tackle the tough issues of politics, war, religion, oppression, power, activism, and love.

But wait, there’s more! Rochester’s own Meg & The Clams will be joining Ross onstage, as will local musicians Chip Milligan and Jeff Gilhar! Tickets will go fast, so please reserve them by calling Montage Grille at 232-5380.

I’ll take a deep breath now... Our other BIG news this month is the first edition and fabulous debut of the Youth Pages on pages 6-7C of the GAGY! The kids worked long and hard on this and I am very proud of them, as I’m sure you all will too when you read some of their stuff! It’s amazing! October means two things if you’re an LGBT teenager: ImageOut and Halloween! A wonderfully diverse selection of films is on tap at this year’s festival, and we encourage everyone—adults and kids alike—to head out and see these great LGBT films. On Oct. 9 at 4:30 p.m., several members of the Youth Group will talk briefly about the Youth Programs at the GAGY, right before the showing of the Youth Film “Jim in Belf” at the Dryden Theater.

There is a wonderful selection of Youth Films this year, so don’t miss out... And of course, there’s always fun (and bad fashion) to be had at the Youth Halloween Dance! Please check our Youth Website at http://youth.gayalliance.org for updated info on the time and place of the dance.

And last but not least, I need some talented adults out there! If you have a special talent (oh, say—photography, art, yoga, poetry, fashion, knitting, etc.) and would be interested in sharing your talent with some eager LGBT youth, please give me a call at 244-8640.

The amount of time you volunteer is entirely up to you. You can come in and do one group with the kids, or you can make it a monthly or weekly group. The possibilities are endless...!!

**Family Matters:**

**ImageOut offerings**

BY TODD PLANK

The inspiration for my column this month comes from the 12th ImageOut Rochester Lesbian & Gay Film & Video Festival, which begins with its opening night features on Friday, Oct. 8 and continues through the Closing Night Party and Gala Reception at the Dryden Theatre on Sunday, Oct. 17.

Throughout the 10 days and 45 programs of film and video, there are 11 different films dealing with marriage, and so much more about their story and answer questions following the screening of their real-life parentaging drama *Internal Institute.* Rochester Gay Fathers Group is the Community Co-Sponsor of this film, which takes the audience along on a journey with Mark and Erik as they embark on a quest for fatherhood via a surrogate mom.

A sunset family moment from Making Grace

**Anti-Violence Program advocate trainings continue for fall**

BY ALEX COBUS

The Anti-Violence Program held its first AVP Advocate Training in mid-September.

The training facilitators included consultant Donna Red Wing, and Rochester Police Department Liaison Officer Jim Hall.

Both Red Wing and Hall have been strong supporters of the AVP program since its beginning, and each generously shared their time, knowledge and experience with the AVP Advocates.

The training was well attended, and the AVP is looking forward to working with these unbelievably caring and committed individuals. With the help of these amazing volunteer advocates, the AVP will be able to gradually extend the hours of the program, and offer advocacy during evening and weekend hours to victims of violence in our community.

The AVP advocate training is continuing through the fall, so it’s not too late to sign up!

Please call me at 585-244-8640, x17 and request an AVP Advocate application.

**Don’t miss this!**

**Equality Leadership Conference**

**November 6**

Burgundy Basin Inn

8 am – 1:30 pm

Workshops on employee resource groups and diversity; keynote speech by Attorney General Eliot Spitzer

**The GAGV Community Center News**

Thank you, everyone, for coming out and making this such a wonderful day. It takes a heartwarming and humorous look at the confusion and struggles.

*Family Matters continued on page 14*
Doug Wright: the unflinching playwright

BY OVE OVERMYER

In the contemporary world of theatre arts, playwright Doug Wright has been telling us stories of real people who are, in no uncertain terms, well... peculiar. This world is inhabited by transgressive, but fundamentally transgressive, characters with strangely developed, extravagant personalities — fundamentally transgressive, but curiously appealing.

Some early examples of Wright's work include a biographical attempt to reconstruct the creation of mercurial painter Marcel Duchamp's masterpiece, "Intermezzi out of the Nudes." He also wrote a play about surrealist Salvador Dali, one of the art world's weirdest icons.

Then, in 1997, Wright debuted Quills, a controversial award-winning drama turned major motion picture in 2000, starring Geoffrey Rush as the horrifying and chilling Marquis de Sade. Wright spent two years inside this creepy pornographic mind doing research, and emerged relatively sane. This was by a feat unto itself.

In an interview shortly after its debut, Wright told a reporter, "I'm a repressed homosexual who grew up in the Bible belt. This is why I'm inextricably drawn to unspeakable characters like this." However, it was the movie's screenplay that caught the attention of international theatre and film critics worldwide. This fine attempt at writing film, a movie script earned him a Golden Globe nomination, and won him the Paul Selvin Award from the Writer's Guild of America.

This award is presented to a script that embodies the spirit of the constitution, civil rights and liberties, which are indispensable to the survival of a free society.

The film was nominated for and won several awards internationally, and was selected as best picture by the National Board of Review. Moreover, and not too recently, Wright climbed the pinnacle of free writers to an idle leisure class. Instead, Wright explains that he sees these characters viewing art as innately subversive. He does too. In other words, he identifies with their soul.

"To be an artist is to step outside the dominant culture, and to examine it with an unflinching eye. These characters perceive themselves not merely as painters, writers, or artists offering their talents to an idle leisure class. Instead, they select the day as cultural pronouncements — as a do — that if certain civilized institutions exist to support and condone the 'status-quo'— governing, for example, or the church — then art must exist to challenge it."

It appears that Doug Wright has given his artistic impulses considerable thought. He continues, "At best, art can function in a society as its collective conscience. And such a conscience is useless unless we can operate unchecked.

Propaganda provides answers — art should stimulate questions. Dali, Duchamp, and de Sade did more than just chew our pages of prose or canvas after cans. They each took center stage in their own time as agitators, while - at the same time — revolutionizing their respective crafts. I hope to follow that example."

The 41-year-old Dallas-born playwright received his undergraduate degree from Yale University, before moving on to earn his MFA in playwriting from NYU. He is currently employed as the Goldberg Playwriting Teacher at NYU. When his drama students found out last April that he had won the Pulitzer, they brought cheap champagne and Krispy Kreme doughnuts to class to celebrate.

And speaking of food, Wright has his fingers in lots of other pies, too. He is working on a musical version of the film "Grey Gardens," which tells the story of Mrs. Edith Bouvier Beale and her daughter Edie. They are most famous for having Jackie O. as an aunt and first cousin.

Wright is also presently adapting a book for Warner Bros., and writing a thriller for actress Reese Witherspoon. Wright's professional affiliations include the Dramatists Guild, Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, the Writer's Guild of America, East and the New York Theatre Workshop, known for their innovative and daring productions.

Wright says he is going to try and stay as busy as possible, so he can pay off his new Manhattan apartment. He thinks that should be the least of his concerns. Source close to him reveals that he has enough story ideas in his head to cover the next 15 years of his professional life.

Doug Wright is probably the best-kept secret of the contemporary American theatre scene. Theatre critic Martin Denton writes, "His plays feel un-Broadway, which makes them more special. In some ways, it's just too simple, too honest, too political and too academic — but it is necessary and must be witnessed. It seems that stories from World War II, the Holocaust, and our hidden gay past must continually be told and in order for us to remember and challenge others to never forget, as difficult as that may be." (Source: Nytbeat.com, Dec., 2003)

In the play I Am My Own Wife, Charlotte states, when referring to the collection of objects in her home, "They are too old-fashioned, too difficult to dust, but still I have an affinity for these things."

Generally speaking, we must all possess an affinity for what constitutes our written and unwritten personal and collective history. Fortunately for us, there is a playwright named Doug Wright to help us do just that.

Author's Note: Please remember you can find selected works of Doug Wright and other featured authors of the Wordsmith Profile series at the GNY Library and Archive, 179 Atlantic Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14607. The Library is open Weds. evenings, 6 to 8 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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Hobart hosts author/activist Starhawk Nov. 17

Starhawk is one of the most respected voices in modern Goddess religion and earth-based spirituality, as well as a global justice activist and organizer.

She travels internationally teaching magic, the tools of ritual, and the skills of activism. Her talks, "Earth Spirit, Earth Action," will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 17, at 7:30 p.m., in the Geneva Room of Hobart/William Smith College in Geneva.

Starhawk draws on the insights of nature to explore how the Earth herself is our greatest teacher and healer, whether we want to heal and transform our personal hurts, or heal the huge wounds our society inflict on Earth and other human beings.

Seeing our connection to Earth as our deepest source of hope, renewal, and strength, Starhawk presents ways to help us to combine the transformative powers of earth-based spirituality with political action. Weaving together the ways of earth spirit and earth action, Starhawk draws on her experiences as an organizer with Code Pink: Unreasonable Women for Peace; her work with Jewish and Palestinian women in the West Bank and Gaza; and her many years as a leading innovator in the Goddess revival and eco-feminist movements.

Her talk will culminate in a ritual for the Earth on William Smith Green. A reception will follow the Earth ritual in the Library Atrium.

Author or coauthor of 10 books, including The Spiral Dance, the ecopagan novel The Fifth Sacred Thing, and most recently Web of Power: Notes from the Global Uprising and Earth Path: Grounding Your Spirit in the Rhythms of Nature, Starhawk's books have been translated into many different languages, including French, Japanese, Spanish, German, Portuguese, Dutch and Italian.

Available Readings:


- Grounding Your Spirit in the Rhythms of Nature.

A workshop with Starhawk, “The Earth Path,” will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2-4:30 p.m., at The Fisher Center, 212 Demarest Hall.

Can we learn to listen to the land, and have a deepened relationship with real air, real fire, real water, real earth - real inspiration, passion, emotion, and embodiment as we move around the magic circle of the elements?

In this workshop, Starhawk shows us how the place of transformation and change is in shifting our thinking from a focus on isolated objects to relationship. She will guide participants through a process of learning to use the tools of observation, awareness, and magic, “the art of changing consciousness at will,” to create myths and rituals to bring us into harmony with the full community, human and beyond human.

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Buffalo theatres start 2004 season


Tickets: $10

Studio Arena Theatre, 710 Main Street, Buffalo 856-5560. Hail Mary! Through Oct. 10. World Premiere Comedy written by Tom Dudzick, directed by Pamela Hunt. A brand new comedy about a plucky young novice who puts her future as a nun in jeopardy when she teaches her personal unorthodox views of God and religion. A blend of the mix a traditional Mother Superior, a childhood sweetheart, and a mysterious janitor bearing messages from a “high authority.” Tickets: $43 - $57.


Ujima Theatre, Once On This Island by Stephen Flaherty, Lynn Ahrens. Through Nov. 9. A poor peasant girl falls in love with an upper class boy whose life she saves after a car crash.
Artsy Fartsy
Do you like artsy films but your friends don't? Want to critique them with old friends and friends you haven't met yet?
If so, you're invited to join the Artsy Fartsy Film Group, an outreach of Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church, on the afternoon of Saturday, Oct. 23, to view one of the latest must-see films at the Little Theatre (240 East Ave., Rochester).
To learn the name of the film and the start time, please call the church at 271-8748 to hear a recording, or visit our webpage at www.frontiernet.net/artsy on or after Thursday evening, Oct. 21.
After the show, we'll adjourn to a nearby coffee place to tear the film apart. We look forward to having you join us!

Butch Femme
Bi-Monthly Dinner Nights Out is in full swing! Come enjoy sampling the area's finest dining establishments with us, reunite with old friends and make new ones! All dinner events begin at the location specified at 7 p.m. and are pay-your-own-way.
October's Dinners: Oct. 11, Basil, Rte. 15A (across from MCG), 7 p.m.; Oct. 25, Jay's Dinner, Rt. 15 (West Henrietta Rd.), 7 p.m. (Please call for November dates/information).
Don't Miss This Upcoming Event! The Rochester Butch-Femme Connection is proud to be a sponsor of “Drag Kings On Tour”, the opening night film of the 2004 Image Out Film Festival on Friday, Oct. 8 at the Little Theatre at 7 p.m. If you are a drag king and would like to help that evening with handing out flyers etc. please contact us, we would love to hear from you! We hope to see you all there to support this event!
Our October Discussion Night on Oct. 1 will be Ghost Stories (bring a story to share with us). The Oct. 27 Social Event will be Costume Night and will also be held at the GAGV, 179 Atlantic Ave., corner Elton/Atlantic. Show up in costume (not required, but suggested) and bring a snack/beverage to pass.
For further info on Drag Kings on Tour, our new Dinner Nights Out, and/or on our discussion/social event meetings, please contact Kerry at (585) 865-4619; email DressyFemme@aol.com; or write PO Box 18734, Rochester, NY 14618.

Dignity Integrity
Please join us in welcoming the new Rector of St. Luke and St. Simon Cyrene Church, the Rev. Michael W. Hopkins, who is also a past president of Dignity at the national level. Sunday, Oct.10 is the first Sunday that Rev. Hopkins will celebrate Mass at Two Saints, at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. We encourage all our fellow worshippers to join in the celebration and attend one or the other of the morning services at Two Saints (the principal service being the 10 a.m. Mass). That evening we will also have Evening Prayer in the Episcopal tradition at our usual time of 5 p.m.
Oct. 10 is Solidarity Sunday as well, so we will have a lot to celebrate!
We will have a New York Steak dinner on Sunday, Oct. 17. All are welcome. Please join us at 5 p.m. any and every Sunday as we claim our rightful place in the Church. Please see our display ad for more information and how to contact us. Thanks.

Women's Fishing Group
The October 2004 outings of Fishing In The Fingerlakes, a social group for womyn who love freshwater fishing, will be held on Sunday, Oct. 17 (out to Webster Pier, Lake Rd., Webster) and on Sunday, Oct. 24 (out to Charlotte Pier at the end of Lake Ave., in Greece). We meet outside the GAGV, 179 Atlantic Ave., corner Elton/Atlantic Ave., between 10 - 10:15 a.m. and we'll head out for the day! For further info, contact Kerry/Cindy at 288-7208, or email FishingFolksNY@aol.com.

FrontRunners
Saturday, Oct. 16: Join us for our annual Red-Hot and Out. Every year in October we celebrate being out and proud by dressing all in red as we walk or run through the Park Ave neighborhood. You can be as outrageous or as conservative as you are comfortable with. Just wear as much red as you can. We will be going to breakfast at a nearby restaurant following the walk.
Also on Saturday the 16th, The FrontRunners/Frontwalkers are the community co-sponsor for ImageOut's “Flower City Flicks,” 12 p.m. at the Dryden Theater. We will be the ones in red.
Saturday, Oct. 30: Mount Hope Cemetery Walk. Join us as we take the walking paths of this fascinating, historical Rochester landmark. Mt. Hope is one of the most remarkable Victorian cemeteries in America.
Be at the George Eastman House parking lot at 9 a.m. or meet us at the main cemetery entrance on Mt. Hope Ave., the one closest to Elmwood, at 9:15. We will be having coffee at Piermont on Hylan Drive in Henrietta afterwards.
We are a group of men and women who meet three times a week to run or walk on Monday and Wednesday at 6 p.m. and Saturday at 9 a.m. at the George Eastman House parking lot. On Saturday mornings we socialize over coffee following our three-mile walk or five-mile run. Other social events are scheduled throughout the year. We meet year-round and welcome everyone regardless of your level of fitness.
Visit us on the web at http://groups.frontiernet.net/ftrogers.

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Rainbow Bridge Meetings:
3rd Monday 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
www.rainbowbridgegroup.org
We started out by welcoming everyone back and introducing our new leader. Due to work constraints our leader for the past four years had to back down from his role as facilitator. Our first meeting of the year went really well, and we’ll be looking forward to getting to know everyone again, as well as any new members.

We encourage all gay fathers out there to attend our meetings at any time, to see what we have to offer. We have a great bunch of guys who enjoy chatting and offering support to those who need it. We will be continuing to meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

We are also pleased to announce we will once again be a co-sponsor of a movie festival, our theme this year is “Paternal Instinct.” Show time will be at 12 noon. More information about the movie or any possible time changes in the festival program.

For more information about our group and our meeting dates, please call us at (585) 244-1509. Our web site is at GLSENrochester@aol.com or call 585-244-1509.

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Group information:
The group consists of men and in some cases, their same sex partners. We are all at different points in our lives; some are married; some are going through the separation/divorce process; and are in various stages of coming out. We have a support group (not therapy) intended to discuss the challenges facing gay fathers. Some topics for discussion include dealing with wives, ex-wives, or children; coming out to children, parents, spouses, co-workers; building new relationships or maintaining existing relationships; issues with children and your partner.

The meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of the month (except June, July and August and the first Tuesday of September, we do not meet), from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. A group social night is also sometimes planned on a monthly basis, for the fourth or fifth Tuesday of each month. Please call the GAGV at 244-8640 if you are interested in finding out more information. We have brochures about our group also available at GAVV.

GLSEN
GLSEN Rochester is just finishing an in-depth operations review as part of GLSEN National’s annual accreditation process. Part of the review involves identifying our goals and objectives for 2004-2005 and beyond. In case you’d like to volunteer, here’s what we signed up for in the near year:

Program Goals

1. Introduce No Name-Calling Week to the Rochester area by implementing NNCC in three school districts, getting publicity in local media and issuing an official proclamation in support of NNCC.

2. Expand the number of training presentations with schools and community groups from 10 to 13-15.

3. Continue presentations to college-level teacher education classes.

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3. Continue presentations to college-level teacher education classes.

from one college to two.

Management Goals

1. Expand the Board membership to include at least one more teacher.

2. Recruit a Board member who is skilled in fund-raising/grant-writing.

3. Expand and extend our volunteer base, especially in the areas of training and public outreach.

If you’re interested in helping with any of the above, know someone with the skills we’re looking for or would like to donate to the cause, please get in touch with us at GLSENrochester@aol.com or 585-244-1509.

On Tuesday, Oct. 26, GLSEN will hold a leadership meeting, 7-8:30 p.m at the GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. The film “A Time To Ride the Tale of Two Grandmas Who Take On the Radical Right” will be screened.

If you’d like to join GLSEN Rochester, email us at GLSENrochester@aol.com or call 585-244-1509.

Rainbow Seniors
BY MARY

A recent article in the Democrat and Chronicle came to my attention: “Coalition to Fight Elder Abuse,” June 1, 2004. My reaction to that article led me back to the Nov. 9, 1997 insert, “Protecting Our Elders.”

Who is not familiar with the form such abuse can take: physical, emotional, financial, and, of course, neglect, isolation, loneliness. I began to wonder: are there specific needs our elderly gay brothers and sisters might have?

The obvious ways of reaching out are phone assurances, cards, driving, and myriads of other practical helps. But then, thoughts began to tumble into my head:

What about preparing conversation pieces as relates to gay status today. What things are happening in our gay culture in society today, what is happening in our own lives? The sharing of our life experiences is always fascinating and, it goes without saying, confidential, and can help keep an older connected and involved with the world.

Perhaps one of our most basic needs as we age is to remain connected to our true selves, to our “gibii-ness.” Since our mutual gayness alone creates a bond, we have the ability to give credence, affirmation, and encouragement to our brothers and sisters. If you have ever felt like you were living in a land of make-believe and eventually found a safe landing place, you will understand the gift you could be to our gay elders.

And if we don’t know someone already, how do we locate “family” members? Not from any list that I know of. I think the answer is already among us, and perhaps has been for some time. We stay alert for those who are out but may be in an unfamiliar situation, or the closeted and lonely. And when the opportunity arises to speak out, to “educate” health care providers, we will have the courage and right words to do so.

The Rochester organization that is specifically set up to address the needs of the older gay community is the Rainbow Seniors of Western New York. If you would like to respond to this article, you may do so at RSWNY@twcny.rr.com. Our web site is www.rainbowseniorsny.org. Our new location is at 150 South Clinton Ave. (First Universalist Church of Rochester, corner Court St., next to Xerox Tower). The open Board meeting is at 2:15 p.m., and the potluck social is at 4 p.m., both

Groups continued on page 14
Hello, hello, hello. I'm not sure how I should introduce myself, so I suppose I'll just start off with my name. I am Mia Carrera, socialite, diva, beauty queen, but most of all tranny.

Some of you might know who I am. I just won my very first title and I am now the reigning Miss Gay Teen Pride 2004. You might have seen me at the pride parade sitting my tushy down in a pick up truck, and presenting an all too fake smile and wave. What else was I supposed to do? I was sitting in a pick up truck for goodness sakes! Obviously coordinated by lesbians. Not that I have anything against lesbians, but okay, I mean, I just won my very first title and I am mature, sophisticated, and worldly so, you know, I was thinking of all the acting and dancing and, you know, TV commercials and whatnot, and then I thought, nope, one more and I slowly pieced the puzzle together. Once I figured everything out, I had to tell everyone that I was actually a woman.

I was lucky. A lot of people don't receive the kind of love and support that I received and still am receiving. I had a few problems with my dad but he's pretty much gotten over it. I did a lot of research and found that I was a transsexual. In the midst of my research I found the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, I live in a community that would burn me at the stake if they could, and I figured if I was going to succeed in my transition, I was going to need a lot of support. A week later I attended my first meeting at the GAVG, and there I met my first real friend. I continued living as a genetic "boy" transforming myself socially until I was 15 when I started my hormone treatments. I had been seeing my doctor for years and she was fully aware of my condition, so with her help I began a life and body altering process.

Some people ask why am I so open with my transsexuality. And I say, why not? I'm just a normal, real girl with something extra in her panties and anybody who has a problem with it can consult my pepper spray :) As for my former classmates, "giggles" all I have to say is, in the immortal words of her majesty RuPaul, "look at the br'tch now!"

So now you all know me a little better, and I hope with this column I can help all the little trannys out there who just dream about being "utterly, utterly fabulous," and how I WILL make this the Generation of Transys. Why should the government or anyone else care how we live our lives? In my opinion it is time that we fight to make it known everywhere that the only person who has the right to tell us who or what we are is ourself. Toodles.

Love, Mia

---

Introducing a monthly feature: THE YOUTH PAGES

Generation of Trannys: a column by Mia

Cat Chat with Circa

AS TOLD TO JESSICA COHEN

Hey, Miss Tulip. Do you like gardening? Then plant Tu-lips right here. (Kiss mah fluffy butt!) Meow.

That's right. This Rainbow roombom has a new Queen, and she ain't dragging her paws to reclaim the lost tiara of gay pethood. Move over, Miss Tulip. Circa has entered the building.

My arrival is long overdue, as I was not aware of this "Pet Talk" column until this past month. My feeder happened to leave a newspaper in my noon nap area, so I had no choice but to shred the paper a bit (to her a little lession) and then sente down atop the text for my afternoon beauty sleep. But before I could shut my tired cat eyes, I saw the ghastfulness of images. A little dog dressed in flags! Oh hooey, how could you let them do that to you! Please, Tulip, tell me you got at least one good scratch in there to protest.

While reading during scheduled sleep time is not usually my M.O., I just had to give in to curiosity this one time. And it damn near killed me... All you cats out there with lesbian homes should be ashamed of yourselves for not putting a stop to this nonsense sooner. Yes, I am quite understanding of the time crunch we felines face lately. Fitting social activism into our busy schedule is hard, but kittens, we have an image to maintain. No real exertion is necessary to fight canine with feline. Simply hire a human scribe, as I did. We cats may not understand the way we do care about our future of our families. With four out of five cats preferring lesbians, and the majority of pet households having cats, one can only assume that the feline population should reign golden in that of gay nobility.

Cats have long since provided companionship to humans beyond that which a must may give. We offer up personal sacrifices to those we love, without the need to snuff your nosh first. Though a golden retriever may be lovely in thought (ah, a noble creature in the silly world of dogs), the pros of co-habitation with felines are many, especially when compared to that of our canine cousins. These include: self-sufficiency (no 5 a.m. walk or pooper-scooper necessary); we will not lick your face or sniff your butt (in fact, we may not acknowledge you at all). We won't bark, or chase cats (run! You want me to RUNN!); we are perfectly capable of amusing ourselves (a paper bag, a thread and your shirt, an empty bed) and, finally, we won't tear up the house while you go to Aruba (but damn you both for leaving me at home).

I appreciate the groundwork that has been laid, but I am digging up her bone and tossing it back to traf-fic (sorry Tulip, recall that it IS my Feeder's partner that you are stealing bags from). While readers may not be blessed with kinkly images of me in costume, I promise a column that is sure to provide comfortable napping space to cats everywhere. So until next month, my furry friends, when I will discuss controversies such as de-clawing your feline friend and introduce the San Francisco Godfather of the Lesbian Cat Mafia, Meow and happy napping.

Circa

Seeking gay culture around the world

BY ALITA SCHRAEWEI

In the United States, most people (including those unfortunate souls who are straight), can tell you all about gay culture. Correct or not in their assumptions, gay culture surrounds us all. From circuit parties to artificial insemination: the hardcore bunched to the dainty feminine: playing or breaking house; the glbt community has its own culture. From the boroughs of New York City to Bushnell's Basin, people can tell you that a gay man is one who has sexual or emotional relations with another man.

But what about other countries? Do they have the same "coming out" experiences as we do? Do they live radical lives? Is there really such a thing as a "gay lifestyle" really only a "lifestyle" in our own country? I've heard that Europe is the key center for circuit parties, but outside of the lights and the sweaty, half-naked, grinding bodies, do these people live their everyday lives asserting that they are "gay" or "lesbian," or do they not want to announce it? I want to know what it means to be "gay," especially "young gay," in other nations. Places of oppression, freedom, anger, hate, love, pride, religion, persecution, and celebration; I want to know them all. Want to know: is there really such a thing as a "way to be gay," or is it all a myth? Does sexual equality even matter?

As a self-proclaimed Asianophile, I feel I need to explore the country of Japan first. My mission: Find out why Japanese schoolgirls obsess over the illusion of the Perfect Gay Man! First off, Japan is a much more conservative country, due to its history. And much of the country is still male-oriented. But just like in America, views on homosexuality seem to vary. However, it's interesting to know that Samurai often had male lovers, and now school-

Gay culture continued on next page
POETRY BY YOUTH

All the thought intertwined between your hands and mine could make for some serious change if it were put into action but maybe our arms just aren’t strong enough our fingers would slip through chance chance got a firm grip between the word lover and the word freedom in a place I see in your eyes sometimes when I stop pretending I don’t care and I don’t see that place that fits me perfectly almost touching me sometimes the music in your mind plays a song defined by the sweet rhythm of growth and progres and clean clear air trying to surface somewhere where it really should have been all along but the system pollutes our bodies that obviously and we don’t even think to question we compromise for the sake of convenience without even knowing we had a choice we only see when the brutality affects us directly above our own eyes like in the sky.

say maybe a big city with a pair of capitalized siblings standing so tall there hand in hand for the better good of man or is it business and is there even a difference? Makes you think there isn’t on the one day one hand slipped, and they just couldn’t make the status quo the reality hurt that money couldn’t fly but it was people, it was people that died so why are similar situations constantly justified? Is one human rights violation better than another? Easier to stomach, I guess when the smoke of war is yonder and drifting between eyes that look up under a different sky. So why fight free with free? I ask why just simply attack back? Has violence ever made a solution in the past? Does one death cancel out another? Could we maybe ever just stop, I mean really how illogical is war? Brother against brother emphasizing our petty differences with aggression, throwing rocks and stones of nuclear weapons and before we all die could we seriously just stop? And listen to a little child’s cry, the so called weak and feeble, with the simplest and most logical prayer, praying for her parents to just stop fighting to end on neutral and love each other then maybe she can just grow up right Cuz it’s hard to think you’re beautiful when all you see is fighting... and it’s hard to make change when the majority doesn’t even attempt to understand. Stay quiet and sick in apathy, and no one will ever win... a loss of freedom, everyday, happens that easily, the government plays a joke on us, called mind control, and we smile entertained so sweetly by the superficial sounds of reality tv perpetuating prejudice and glorifying ignorance and all you have to do is turn on a tv this is America the land of the free so I’m sorry when I close my eyes and the music doesn’t sound too right cuz all I really want to do is have wings and take flight hold your hand and feel that energy right there cuz that’s easy you know just not to care I said if only love came that easy And your hand could just stay there But these hands got to make change and action this Mind has to be stay aware But please just let me stay here with you Try to reconcile the feelings of as a female child diminutive hopeful passionate dreamer queer learner saw innocence broken member of a society made to temper with the simplest and most logical prayer

Gay culture

continued from previous page

Girls read comics that involve passionate and beautiful stories of male lovers constantly. But why? Why is there this obsession with male on male love? And while homosexuality may not be outwardly shown, is this because of the conservativeness, or just because most sexuality isn’t show outside Japanese homes? What’s private is private. I’m learning too... and everything I learn just piques my interest more as to why do people in other places think like they do... I’ll leave you all to think about that... *(biophile- One who is obsessed, sometimes sexually, with the “ exotic” males and females of East Asia.)*

Youth pages continued on page 12
THE EMPTY CLOSET IS AVAILABLE AT:

Classifieds

buy it. sell it. trade it.

THE RIGHT PRICE:
Classified ads are $5 for the first 30 words; each additional word is another $1. We do not bill for classifieds, so please send or bring ad and payment to The Empty Closet, 875 E. Main St, Rochester, NY 14605. The deadline is the 15th of the month, for the following month’s issue. We cannot accept ads over the phone. We publish free ads for prisoners on a space-available basis. Pay when you place your ad.

FYI:
We will accept only ads accompanied by name and phone number. Neither will be published, but we are able to perform placement. The discretion 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Volunteer for the Empty Closet. Are you a writer, photographer, or proofreader? Want to help out with bulk mailings and/or distribution of the EC? Want to meet people, have fun and make a contribution to the community? Can you give two hours per month? Call Susan at 344-9030.

American Staffordshire Terrier - two year old male, basic obedience, crate trained, neutered, shots all current, wants lots of love, thinks he is a lap dog. Need to downsize number of pets in my house. Free to a very loving home. Crate provided. Call Judy 559-0125.

Downstairs Cabaret Theatre, a not-for-profit professional theatre, is auditioning actors (male and female) for roles in upcoming productions. Paid Auditions by appointment from resumes and photos sent in advance: Downstairs Cabaret, 20 Windsor St, Rochester, NY 14605 or call: (585)325-4370.

Women’s Health Survey. Linda Martinez, 50, a registered nurse with a master’s degree in counseling, has launched a rare health care survey of aging lesbians. The survey, part of her current masters’ thesis in a nurse practitioner’s program, will run until December of 2004. Surveys are anonymous. Take the survey at www.womenhealthsurvey.org, or send for a copy: Dr. Marianne McCarthy (Women’s Survey), P.O. Box 872602, Tempe, AZ 85287. You will not be asked to identify yourself.

SERVICES
Rochester’s Best Body-Muscle Relaxation by a handsomemasseur, Italian GWM. Athletic build, clean-shaven, degreed professional. Don’t waste your money on “bi-boys” who are “gay for pay” in their ads. Support your local gay community! Relax with a real man having 10 plus years experience. Discretion assured, reasonable rates. Can’t wait to get my hands on you! In/out/hotel calls. Centrally located. Don’t delay, call today! 585-255-6688 or email me at: masculovetman@peoplepc.com.

Penis Rings: Non-piercing sterling silver rings for casual wear. Choose from one of our five great classics, modern or exotic styles. Free shipping and discreet packaging. WWW. RINGTHATTHING.COM

Massage. Bodywork can be a wonderful medium for feeling better and healing. Sore back, shoulder injury, strained knees, or just feeling run down? I have 15 years of experience and have helped hundreds of people. Call for an appointment at 244-2415 for 10 percent off.

Hot Oil Rubs, Full-body. Experience a relaxing, sensual rubdown by this friendly, very nice male. I have 8+ yrs. experience. Discretion assured. Students $13/hr, others $20/hr. For appointment only, call 585-325-7241, 7 p.m.-11 p.m., or leave a call-back phone #.

Receive a Hot Body Rub by a very attractive masculine Italian bi-male, age 30. I have an athletic build, muscular arms and am clean shaven with a GQ look. The rate is $75 and I come to you. Page Shawn at 521-0455.

PERSONALS
The following prisoners are lonely and would appreciate hearing from anyone who will write:

I am interested in corresponding with a penis. Bobby Sommernell, CCI 516-815, PO Box 50, Gollotho, OH 44601.

ROOMMATES/HOUSEMATES

Big ground level one bedroom apartment in East Avenue mansion. New renovation, dishwasher, working fireplace, coin laundry, off-street parking. Tangent, 875 E. Main St, Rochester, NY 14605. The first month’s rent is $3 Cosmo’s. 875 E. Main St, Rochester, NY 14605. The first month’s rent is $3 Cosmo’s. The second month’s rent is $3 Cosmo’s. The security deposit is $3 Cosmo’s. The security deposit is $3Cosmo’s.

COME AND SING WITH THE
ROCHESTER RAINBOW GOSPEL CHOIR
Gospel Choir is beginning its fifth season!
Singers rehearse either Sundays 5-6:30 pm or Tuesdays 7-8:30 pm at Open Arms MCC, 175 Norris Drive, beginning September 12
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Weekly GLBTI AA Meetings in Rochester

There are five regularly scheduled GLBTI AA meetings in Rochester every week.

What makes GLBTI recovery a bit different is that we recognize: issues surrounding our sexuality can contribute to our alcoholism and addiction; coming out and coming to terms with ourselves as alcoholics or addicts can be as traumatizing as coming out and coming to terms with our sexuality; other drugs of abuse run rampant in our community and we do not exclude those so addicted (you will not be shouted down for speaking words like pot, cocaine, crack, heroin, ecstasy, K, speed, meth, pills, etc.); the bars play a large role in socialization within our community which can present challenges even when we are fully committed to our sobriety.

After our meetings, we frequently go out for coffee, dinner, movies, whatever; while it's tempting to stay in the fold of GLBTI recovery, we live and work in a predominately straight society, so we encourage our members to include straight meetings in their programs.

Open meetings are open to alcoholics and addicts as well as to our partners, friends, family and anyone else interested in the AA program of recovery. Closed meetings are limited to alcoholics and addicts. We ask that partners, friends, family and curiosity seekers respect our privacy.

Wednesdays
New Freedom/New Happiness Group: 7 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, 220 S Winton Rd. Bus riders: Take the #18 University Ave bus to 12 Corners. Use the stop just past the top of the hill at Hallsadle Ave and before Highland Ave. Or take the #1 Park Ave to the corner of East and Winton, then walk five minutes south (uphill) on Winton.

This is an open discussion meeting. All issues — as they relate to our alcoholism/addiction and recovery — are fair game.

Program: Free to Be: 7:30 p.m. at The Yellow House, 1601 Jackson Rd, Penfield. NOT accessible by bus.

Closed meeting, restricted to alcoholics and addicts

Mixed men and women

Handicapped accessible

This can be a speaker, discussion or steps meeting depending on what seems best at the time.

Gay Men's: 7:30 p.m. GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. at Elton St. Bus riders: Take the #18 University Ave bus, use the stop between Portmouth Terrace and Elton St., Walk one block north on 86th to the GAGV Community Center.

Closed meeting, restricted to alcoholics and addicts

Men's meeting

NOT handicapped accessible

This is a round robin discussion meeting. If you are shy about meeting people or speaking up in a group, you will find this meeting particularly warm and inviting because everyone gets their turn to speak (or pass). As a result, this meeting often runs long, so plan on more than the usual hour.

Saturday Night Special: 7 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, 220 S Winton Rd.

Bus riders: The #18 University Ave bus does not go by the church on weekend evenings. Take the #1 Park Ave bus to the corner of East and Winton, then walk five minutes south (uphill) on Winton.

Open meeting, all are welcome, "straight-friendly." Mixed men and women. Handicapped accessible, take the elevator to the basement.

This meeting begins with a speaker who is followed by an open discussion.

Sundays
Rochester Gay Men: 8:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 S Fitzhugh St. Bus riders use the Fitzhugh St stop on Main St at the County Office Building and walk east of Lake Ave.

Closed meeting, restricted to alcoholics and addicts

Men's meeting

NOT handicapped accessible

This meeting begins with a speaker who is followed by an open discussion.

FRIDAY 1
Butch Femme Connection discussion group: ImageOut, 7 pm. GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave., 865-4619.

SUNDAY 3
Tom Somerville art show opening. Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave. 6 pm. To benefit Anti-Violence Program.

ImageArt Gallery opening. Little Theatre Cafe, 240 East Ave 2-5 pm.

WEDNESDAY 6
Montreal Black and Blue Festival, through Oct. 15. 514-875-9090. www.bbcm.org: information@bbcm.org.

FRIDAY 8
ImageOut opening night. Bar Caf, 9:30 pm. Little Theatre. After Party at Nasty D's, featuring Atomic Swindlers. Drink stub admission. (Festive highlights only in this calendar for: full listing, see program.)

COAP Din Sum, 7 pm. Tom, 454 3609.

SATURDAY 9

ImageOut. Jim In Bold. Producer Malcolm Lincoln and activist Benjie Nyeum will be present. Co-sponsored by GAGV Youth Programs: group members will speak. 4:30 pm, Dryden Theatre at Eastman House.

SUNDAY 10
Butch Femme Connection Solidarity Sunday and Rev. Michael Hopkins' first services at St. Luke St. Simon Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. 8 am, 10 am.


Spiritus Christus Solidarity Sunday. Gay-themed masses with gay couple hosts. Oct. 10, 7–30 am mass, Downtown United Presbyterian Church (121 N. Fitzhugh St) and 9–30 am mass at Hochstein School of Music and Dance at Eastman. Coffee hour follows 9:30 am.

MONDAY 11
National Coming Out Day: RTGA vigil for hate crime victims, 7–30 pm, Infinity quad, RT.


WEDNESDAY 13

THURSDAY 14

FRIDAY 15
Empty Closet deadline for November issue. 24-9030.


SUNDAY 16


ImageOut. P7S: 9:30 pm, Dryden Theatre. Director John Greyson will be present. See (article page B8).

MONDAY 17
COAP Meeting. GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 7 pm.

Butch Femme Connection dinner out: Jay's Diner, 7 pm. 865-4619.

TUESDAY 26
GLEN membership meeting, 7-8 pm, at GAGV Community Center.

Frontrunners Screening of A Time to Ride.

WEDNESDAY 27
Butch Femme Costume Night, 7 pm, GSVG, 179 Atlantic Ave. 865-4619.

THURSDAY 28
COAP Dinner Night, 7 pm. Eric S., 461-2174.

FRIDAY 29
Empty Closet mailing party. Stuff envelopes 2–5 pm, bulk mailing 6:45–8 pm. GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 244-9030.

SATURDAY 30
Mount Hope Cemetery walk with Frontrunners/Frontwalkers. Meet Eastman House parking lot, 9 am, at cemetery entrance near Elmwood at 9:15 am. rochfrfr@hotmail.com.

SUNDAY 31
Monday
Gay and Lesbian Support Group
Third Presbyterian Church, 34 Meigs St.
First and third Mondays, 7:30-9 pm, 538-3466.

Rochester Historical Bowling Society
715 pm, Mondays, Clover Lanes, 2750 Monroe Ave. (Group is full).

American Baptists Concerned
Tuesdays, 7 pm. For Rochester FrontrunnerslFrontwalkers Bassically Treblemakers Band
Rochester Historical Bowling Society
HIV 57 Ambrose St. 442-5486.

3-5 pm, 2709.

Gay men
George Eastman House parking
Call Sibley
Second Mondays, 6:30-8:30 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 422-2200 x 3051.

Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost Children
First and third Wednesdays, 11 am-12:30 pm, Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Meigs St. Sponsored by Genesee Region Home Care. Free. 325-1880.

Run/walk
Atlantic Five 0
Wednesday
Women’s Community Choir
Rehearse each Wednesday, 6:30-9 pm, Call for location. 234-4441.

Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley Board of Directors
Meeting, second Wednesdays, 7 pm, 875 E. Main St., fourth floor Blue Room, 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 Genesee Region Home Care. Free. 325-1880.

Butch-Femme Connection 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. info@empirobes.org

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

MultiRos4 Coffee Talk 7 pm, Spin Palace (799 Park Ave.) Social for former Multicom-4 BBS members; others greeting gay bar geeks welcome, every fourth Wednesday, 8 pm

Gray Area Support/social group for bisexual women. First Wednesdays, 5:30-7:30 pm. For location, call 481-1338, 392-9738. GAGV Library & Archives 6-8 pm, every Wednesday, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 244-8640. Books can be returned to GAGV offices, 875 E. Main St., Suite 500, from 9 am-6 pm.

Empire Bears Second Saturdays, Ballroom, 470 University Ave. 234-3381.

Cross Dresser Support Group First Saturdays, 6:30-9:30 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Info: 251-2132. RCDNETHOTMAIL.COM

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

Saturday
Rochester Rams bar night Third Saturday, 9 pm-1 am, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

Butch-Femme Connection 9 am run/walk, Meet George Eastman House parking lot, 461-4249.


Cross Dresser Support Group First Saturdays, 6:30-9:30 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Info: 251-2132. RCDNETHOTMAIL.COM

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

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

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

Something for da Sistas Women’s group, every third Saturday, MOCHA Project, Suite 1060, 26 Franklin St. 420-1400.

Pride and Joy Families Third Saturdays, 3-5 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

WNY Gay Men’s Support Group

GAGV Library & Archives
GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 10 am-2 pm.

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

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) 2:30-5 pm. Last Sunday. Call for location: 234-0165.

Dignity-Integrity 5 pm, St. Luke’s/Sit, Simon Cyrene Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. Every Sunday. 234-5092.

Open Arts Metropolitian Community Church 175 Norris Drive, Cobbs Hill, 11 am. Contemporary worship service, 7 pm. 271-8478.

Gay Men’s Alcoholics Anonymous 1400, 121 N. Fitzhugh St. 420-1400.

AA Meets every third Thursday in Area 67

Atlantic Five 0 Gay men 50 and over. Second Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm Atlantic Five Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 451-0821.

Orleans Rainbow Fellowship Support/social group, meets second Wednesdays, 7 pm. For location call Dale, 591-9107, or e-mail DLubac186@aol.com

Gay Fathers’ Support Group First and third Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Meetings resume 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 1060, 420-1400.

Youth of Color Group 3-5 pm, MOCHA Project, 25 Franklin St., Sibley Center, Suite 1060, 420-1400.

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

GLOCALy
(Gays and Lesbians of Bausch & Lomb) Meets every third Thursday in Area 87 conference room at the Optic Center. Voice mail 338-9877.

Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St. 7-9 pm, 423-0050;
Free confidential walk-in HIV testing Every Thursday night, 5-8 pm, AIDB Rochester, 1330 University Ave. 442-2220.

MOCHA movie night Second Thursdays, 6:30 pm, MOCHA Project, 25 Franklin St., Suite 1050, 420-1400.

Gay Men’s Movie Night 7-9 pm, GAGV Community Center. Check for October events to imageOut.

GLSEN board meeting 7-9 pm, second Thursday, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

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

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

Something for da Sistas Women’s group, every third Saturday, MOCHA Project, Suite 1060, 26 Franklin St. 420-1400.

Pride and Joy Families Third Saturdays, 3-5 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

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- Irondequoit—585-467-0919 *MarketPlace—585-427-8231

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Youth Pages
continued from page 7

“Tired”
Living through this lonely soul
My eyes begin to shut and fold
Crammed inside in an unwanted shell
Instead of being here I want to live in hell
Hold me close and pamper me
Tell me that it will be ok
Show me soon I will be free
Here, I refuse to breathe

I wish to walk on the other side
Live in the forever night
Reality here
Is what I fear
I've become
So tired

Do not try to awake me
Forevermore I sleep in silence
Blind to the aftertime
Disappar unworthy present
Because of you my eyes begin to fall
Because of you I'm getting sleepy

I wish to walk on the other side
Live in the forever night
Reality here
Is what I fear
I've become
So tired

Treading every path alone
In these years what have I shown
Loneliness is what I know
Scared by peoples visions
Murdered by peoples thoughts
On my knees here again
I pray to you again

-Marcus Golden
The 34th Annual

Miss Gay Rochester Pageant

Advance Tickets $15
$20 at the door
Doors open 6pm
Showtime 7pm
Tickets Available at:
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Samantha Suley

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The Syringa Tree by Pamela Gien
Winner of the 2001 Obie Award for Best Play
October 1-24, Fri & Sat 8 pm; Sun 2 pm
One woman, playing 24 characters, uses humor and palpable fear to make sense of the chaos, magic and darkness of Africa and two families’ destinies, spanning four generations, from apartheid to present day free South Africa.
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Visit our website for more details about the rest of the season:
Elizabeth Rex and It’s All True
Buy Flex-Tix! $85 for 5 admissions good for any REGULAR performance

The Crumble Zone
by Buddy Thomas
A delightful comedy about 3 gay Staten Island roommates coming to crisis during one frantic Christmas weekend.
“...a rollicking farce with a heart of pure gold.” —LNY

December 2-19, 31st*
Thursdays 7:30pm
Fri & Sat 8 pm
Sun 2pm

The Trials of Ezra Pound
by Timothy Findley
“Against Ezra Pound’s egomaniac, his various judges struggle in their moral ambiguities between two unacceptable verdicts: treasonous or crazy. A brilliant and disquieting play.” —Jane Rule

Feb. 11-Mar. 6
Fri & Sat 8 pm
Sun 2pm

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Express your interest in your BEST BLUE!

Milestonex
170 East Avenue
Saturday, October 16, 2004
Doors open at 9:30pm, Show begins promptly at 11:30pm
$7.00 21 over
$10.00 18 over

GET YOUR TICKETS EARLY IF YOU MISSED THE LAST EVENT... YOU DEFINITELY DO NOT WANT TO MISS THIS ONE!

For Ticket and Event Information... Contact Gabby at 585.327.9771
Or BASICs (DaVita) at 350.5047
***This is an Indigo Soul Production***

For Ticket and Event Information... Contact Gabby at 585.327.9771
Or BASICs (DaVita) at 350.5047
***This is an Indigo Soul Production***
Family Matters

prespective parents, and anyone interested
in learning more about the challenges of parenting from a queer perspective, are invited to join Rochester Pride & Joy Families at the GAGV Community Center (179 Atlantic Ave) for a potluck dinner and free screening of the 30 minute independent film “That’s a Family”.

It is requested that those planning to attend the potluck event RSVP to the Pay a ticket at PrideandJoyRoch ester@yahoo.com. The GAGV will provide paper products and drinks. Everyone is invited to bring their family and a dish to share.

Other dates to mark on your 2004 calendar include the third Saturdays (3-5 p.m.) in November (20th) and December (18th) for a Thanksgiving Feast and Winter Festival respectively. There will be food and fun activities for the whole family!

Call me for more info about Rochester P/J and upcoming events at (585) 244-8640 ext. 24.

Rainbow Seniors
continued from page 5

on the third Sunday of the month.

We mean it when we say all are wel­come. III

Rochester Rams

Join us for Show Your Colors Night on Saturday, Oct. 16 at the Bachelor Forum. Put on your club colors and show off your club to all the hot men from other clubs at the Forum.

Remember this is barnight; leather, denim and boots never go out of style. All of our regular barnight features like beer bar, boot shine, raffle and wall-to-wall hot men will be available at this full-service event. Our November Barnight will be Our Annual Rich Richards Memorial Toy Drive on Nov. 20. Bring in a new unwrapped children’s toy and get a free drink on the Rams and the Bachelor Forum.

The Rochester Rams M.C. is Rochester’s foremost gay motorcycle and leather club, as well as being one of the oldest clubs of its type in the country.

Our home bar is the Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave., where we hold Bar Nights on the third Saturday of each month. We hold general meetings (open to the public) the Wednesday before each Bar Night at 7:30 p.m. at the Forum. For more info, visit our website: www.rochesterrams.com.

RGMC
The Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus (RGMC) would like to extend a very big THANKYOU to everyone who helped support us at our Summer Wine Tasting Benefit on Sept. 18. Wine Sense, on Park Avenue, proved to be a wonderful host for what will now likely become a yearly event. Fine wines and good times were had by all.

Fall is now upon us and so begins our exciting 22nd concert season, Music of Our Lives. As this season marks the 20th anniversary of several significant events in the fight against AIDS, the RGMC has chosen to dedicate a portion of each of our programs this season to celebrating the music of those composers, lyricists, arrangers, and performers who have been forever silenced by AIDS.

Season tickets are now available and may be purchased on our website at www.thergmc.org, by emailing us at info@thergmc.org, or by giving our office a call at 585-423-0650. The season ticket price of $40 ($36 for students/seniors) includes preferred front-row seating at all three of our concerts and advance notice of special events.

In addition, you will take advantage of a savings of over 25 percent off the regular ticket pricing of $18 at the door. Don’t delay! Our holiday concert, Queer Eye for the Holidays, is coming up soon on December 10th.

Also, watch for information about an official 2005 RGMC calendar! Details about how you can obtain a copy will be available soon.

Don’t forget to visit us at www. thergmc.org.

Men’s Movie
Starting on Oct. 21, a men’s movie night will be held every Thursday at 7 p.m. at the GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave, at Elton St. The gatherings will take place in the downstairs lounge, or in a yet to be announced upstairs.

Whichever possible, the films will be about gay male life. Attendees may bring their non x-rated VHS tapes to be seen. Only one film will be shown during a meeting. Tapes of television shows can be included. Next year, after its new season begins, tapes of the series Queer As Folk will be viewed.

On Oct. 21, our first showing will be of The Stem of Us, co-starring a young Russell Crowe and based on the play. Bring a friend, some popcorn or other snack, or a non-alcoholic drink, relax in our smoke-free setting and escape with the movies.

ROMANS
Rochester Male Naturist’s (ROMANS) is a social organization of gay naturists who enjoy camaraderie in the nude. Our affiliations include Gay Naturists International (GNI) and International Men Enjoying Naturism (IMEN).

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

Our nude swims begin Oct. 2, before hand our group meets for dinner in a clothed environment. Also we will be having a barnight on Oct. 23.

E-mail for details.

Membership is open to men over 21 years of age who have an interest in social nudism. Most members come from the greater Rochester area, though Buffalo, Syracuse, Utica and the southern tier are also represented.

Visit the ROMANS web site where an application for membership and information about the club is available, http://www.geocities.com/wnyromans/ or E-mail wnyromans@yahoo.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 info call Donna Marie Kearney, 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 while others do not. We have members who are drag queens, parents, bisexuals, singles, 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; 202-223-6697; Fax: 202-265-9737; plagal@plagal.org; http://www.plagal.org. Rochester liaison: Donna Marie Kearney. 585-442-6399.

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Ross Falzone

roars into town this month to celebrate his debut CD release, Radical Heart, in a benefit for the Youth Center of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, on Saturday, Oct. 16, at Montage Grille, 9 p.m., $12 cover.

Falzone's soulful show promises an eclectic mix of rock, pop, blues, gospel humor and funk while tackling the tough issues of war, religion, oppression, power, activism and love. Helping heat up the stage are his longtime friends and local musicians Meg and the Clams, Chip Milligan, and Jeff Gilhart. A very special guest, acclaimed performance poet Ami Mattison, opens the show with her eye-popping, hip-hopping, ear-candy rants and rhymes. Exploring the topics of race, class, and gender politics, Mattison pieces the facade of prejudice and polarities with deep sensuality and scathing wit. Mattison took home first prize in the Atlanta Gay Pride, Girls in the Night, 2003 Slam Slam poetry competition, and performs at conferences and festivals throughout the country. Her self-produced CD is entitled Strange and Potent Mixture. The money raised from the Rochester Montage Grille show will go toward creating the GAGV Youth Center in its new home at the Auditorium Theatre, to include a learning center with computers and comfortable meeting spaces. During the show, and in the week leading up to it, Radical Heart CD sales will also benefit the new Youth Center.

Community-conscious Falzone, an East High School '69 graduate, and retired City of Rochester firefighter, moved to Nashville with his wife in 1993. When his son was born in 1996, Ross became a stay-at-home dad and now volunteers much of his time to coaching in community youth athletic programs. Falzone’s wife, poet Kelly Cass Falzone, grew up in Greece, N.Y., and attended Cardinal Mooney High School. Her organization, Poet People, published the Radical Heart CD with the generous sponsorship of family and friends. Since its summer release, record proceeds have gone to an award-winning Nashville youth agency, Oasis Center, where Ross, at one time, volunteered in the emergency shelter for homeless teens, and Kelly was a clinician for 10 years.

Tickets for the Radical Heart Benefit show can be purchased by calling the Montage Grille, 50 Chestnut St, at 232-8380 or going to www.montagegrille.com. Advance reservations are recommended. More information about Ross, the Radical Heart project, and GAGV can be found at www.poetpeople.net.
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.

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