Two out of five openly gay candidates win on Nov. 8

By Susan Jerdee

Out of five openly gay or lesbian candidates running locally in the Nov. 8 election, Bill Pritchard kept his seat on City Council and Harry Bronson was elected to represent the 24th Legislative District in the Monroe County Legislature. Both are Democrats.

Tim O. Maines, who has been an openly gay City Council member since 1985, was endorsed by the Stonewall Democrats of the Genesee Valley, took 103.5 percent of the vote in the mayoral race, which was won, as expected, by former Police Chief Bob Duffy. Duffy, who has a mandate with 72.2 percent of the vote, is a friend to the light community and was endorsed by the Empire State Pride Agenda, New York's statewide gay rights organization. Bill Pritchard, after barely scraping through in the September primary by seven votes, took the top number of votes among City Council candidates on Nov. 8.

Pritchard has been named chair of the Jobs, Economic Development and Center City Committee, and serves on the Committee for Parks, Public Works and the Environment.

He told the Empty Closet, "Receiving the highest number of votes in the City Council race was certainly a great way to end the campaign. After the close call in the September primary, my supporters and I walked several city neighborhoods and reached our total of people during the fall election. It looks like that effort paid off.

"I am looking forward to working with my colleagues and our next mayor to push obstacles out of the way and embrace opportunities for success. As the next chair of City Council's Jobs, Economic Development and Center City Committee, I look forward to working with others to stroke the engine of economic growth. As the only openly gay elected official in city government beginning on Jan. 1, I will work hard to ensure that our rights are protected, and where possible, advanced. Finally, as the voice of all Rochesterians, I will make myself available to share ideas on how we can return Rochester to greatness. As I said again and again during the campaign, I truly believe that Rochester's ten­ dencies with destiny absolutely means that our best days are ahead of us."

The other City Council members who won reelection to the City Council are all Democrats, and most have been supportive of LGBT issues. Carolee Conklin and Dana Miller were both endorsed by the Empire State Pride Agenda.

Bronson defeated his Republican Conservative opponent Jonathan D. Maurer by 3,532 to 1,807. Bronson told the EC, "I am very pleased with the overwhelming support of 65 percent of the total vote and would like to thank the voters for placing their trust in me as their next County Legislator. I look forward to working on behalf of all in our county for affordable health care, quality education and safe neighborhoods in which to live. My priority will be to work in partnership with all levels of government, business, labor unions, and economic agencies to develop a forward looking economy bringing and retaining good paying jobs in Monroe County.

Two gay-friendly candidates, Paul Hanna (3rd District) and Travis Heider (16th District) also won seats in the Legislature. Heider was also endorsed by the Pride Agenda.

City Court Judge Ellen Yack­ nin lost to her two Republican Conservative opponents in the race for NYS Supreme Court. She waged what the Democrat & Chronicle called an "aggressive race" but was harmed by an "unfavorable vote." Local Republican leader Steven Minarik held a press conference at which he produced an affidavit signed by a lawyer who claimed that at a time when she was scheduled to go before Yacknin's bench, Yacknin had asked her to endorse his candidacy. The lawyer herself was not available to take questions from the press then or at any subsequent time.

"Yacknin told the Empty Closet, "It was a political play to attack my ethics, which have been impeccable throughout my career.""

Many of her supporters told the EC that they believe Yack­ nin, a lesbian feminist who has spent her career helping working women, is being pushed out of the way and embraced opportuni­ ties, and serves on the 24th Legislative District race, which was won, as expected.
Another year of proud service to the community

In 2005 the Gay Alliance served the community in many important ways. We built bridges and partnerships, broke through the isolation felt by the counteless individuals who reach out to us for help, and created infrastructure to re-establish ourselves as a steady, clear voice for LGBT people – for you, dear readers and supporters.

Growth came quickly for us a couple of years ago, perhaps too quickly. We have since adjusted and re-oriented after a difficult period, and are now on track and seeing our support re-emerge. The Gay Alliance staff, trustees, and volunteers are passionate in their desire to serve and sustain our community as a public educator; to advocate for steady progress for LGBT people. We are your Gay Alliance and we do it all for the reason we are still here after 34 years. In New York State there is no school district initiative for us to fight. There is only progress to be made. We do not have to defend the rights we have against radical conservative attacks. Instead, we must do the day-in, day-out persistent work it takes to fight for positive change while meeting the needs of LGBT community members.

We are answering the community’s call by providing critical services. This year over 150 new youth enrolled in the Youth Program, bringing the total to over 325 active members. On average, over 60 youth: are using Youth Center each week. The Youth Center is now more than a safe space for LGBTQ youth and their allies to gather and socialize. It has become a springboard for youth to advocate, learn, and practice the skills to help others on their journey, and to receive and share information about LGBT rights, health and mental health care needs, education and screening for HIV and sexually transmitted diseases, and leadership skills. The Anti-Violence Project, first reported to us by 213 calls from victims of violence this year. The breakdown of these calls is domestic violence: 133, rape or sexual assault: 20, hate activity: 54, police misconduct: 15. We also provided anti-violence training to professional services providers and schools as well as adult and student community groups.

We know about our publication, the Empty Closet, because you are reading it right now. Published three times a month, the EC is mailed to 2,000, and 211 people attended the Sweetheart Ball.

This year the Gay Alliance launched a new, well-being and we’re calling!

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

KATHRYN RIVERS

A personal story

Stay tuned, changes are happening, and we’ll be calling! The Gay Alliance has launched a new Website. Check it out at www.gayalliance.org.

Our major events, The Sweetheart Ball and The Community Picnic, are being revamped to better meet the Gay Alliance’s mission and the needs of the attend-
**Episcopal diocese dissolves anti-gay frondequoit parish**

All Saints Episcopal Church, 759 Wintona Blvd., is dissolved as a parish by the Rochester Episcopal diocese, due to its anti-gay position, which conflicts with that of the diocese and the national denomination, the Rochester Diocesan Convention decided on Nov. 20.

The Right Reverend Jack M. McKee, Bishop of Rochester, decided to have the parish declared "extinct" because it has refused to accept the 1993 ruling of the Episcopal Church USA that non-celibate gay men and lesbians may be ordained, and, in protest, has refused to financially support its diocese.

According to the 'Frondequoit Post,' Horace Roberts, senior warden for All Saints, said that the parish "is not anti-gay," while at the same time declaring that "the clergy should represent the positions of the diocese in the church," as if the morality of all gay men and lesbians is "lower" than that of all heterosexuals, due to sexual orientation. The 1993 ruling in favor of gay clergy, spurred by the ordination of openly gay Bishop Gene Robinson of New Hampshire, is disputed by many homophobic Episcopalian churches.

Bishop John Lambert, Canon for congregational development and communication for the diocese, told the Democrat & Chronicle that parishes must abide by pre-agreed arrangements, including paying their fair share.

The parish is refusing to turn over church property to the diocese, and is threatening a lawsuit.

-Linda Quinnan, 'Frondequoit Post; Margaret Gregory, Democrat & Chronicle III

---

**FAQGV Leadership Conference Award Winners Oct. 21.**

Ben Rand, D&C, Outshine Media Award; Maggie Stumpo, keynote speaker; Clay Osborne, Bausch & Lomb, Business Leadership Award; Mary Trubert, UBPF Community Leadership Award; Cheryl Wilkinson, Xerox, Courageous Leadership Award.

---

**The Empty Closet**

*The opinions of viewpoints in a way that takes into consideration of an ad. We will not print letters at the discretion of and on a space available basis. We will not print attacks on individuals, nor will we be a forum for ongoing disputes between individuals. We reserve the right to edit for space, clarity. We will print anonymous letters if the name and phone number are provided to the Editor; confidentiality will be maintained. Submissions are due by the 15th of the month at: The Empty Closet, 655-704-3713, or e-mail: emptycloset@gagv.us. www.gayalliance.org.*
“Delicious Lesbian Kisses” promotes smoking cessation

The Mautner Project, The National Lesbian Health Organization, and several LGBT community-based health organizations across the country have teamed to raise awareness and funding to support the “Delicious Lesbian Kisses” (DLK) smoking cessation campaign. Far red wristbands, with the words “Delicious Lesbian Kisses” on sale for $2, with 100 percent of the proceeds benefitting the campaign.

“Our hope is to create a sea of red wristbands,” said Deputy Director and “Delicious Lesbian Kisses” project coordinator Amari Solony, Pearson-Fields. “Supporting the “Delicious Lesbian Kisses” wristband campaign is an opportunity for both the LGBT and heterosexual communities to come together to show support for lesbian women living with cancer and other smoking-related illnesses.”

The tragic passing of ABC News anchor Peter Jennings and lung cancer diagnosis of Christopher Reeve’s widow, Dana Reeve, has resulted in a sharp increase in calls to smoking cessation counseling and other cancer-related organizations. The Jennings Effect, as coined by the media, has generated new interest in lung cancer awareness including increased interest in the lesbian-focused smoking cessation campaigns conducted by The Mautner Project.

“The outcry for information about lung cancer and a continually growing wave of interest in smoking cessation resources and support groups by the LGBT community has really heightened," said executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, David Ellis. “The Mautner Project is holding this call with our promotion of the “Delicious Lesbian Kisses” wristband campaign.”

These hard-to-miss red wristbands serve as a reminder and symbol of encourage­ment to lesbians to remain smoke-free for the sake of their personal health and the health of their love ones. “The DLK wristband is not guaranteed to provide the wearer more delicious lesbian kisses; however, rates of African-American women have reduced their risk of developing breast cancer. In 2003, the National Cancer Institute released a study showing that women who smoke alone are more likely to be killed by breast cancer than never-smokers. In fact, there is nothing anywhere in the literature that substantiates a dangerous association. Indeed, the truth is that this amendment will hurt thousands of Texas families and their communities,”

“We at the Task Force are extremely proud of the television ads (www.thetaskforce.org/media/express.cfm) we produced for the Texas fight that showed couples and their families talking from the heart about why marriage matters. Many other good things came out of the campaign, including recruiting new volunteers and winning new allies. Our community's infrastructure and its relationships with other causes and communities, are stronger now than when the campaign started, and that's the most important thing. We thank No Sense in November, its campaign manager Glen Maxey, Rev. William Lawson and our many friends and supporters in the Houston area for their hard work.

“We’re in this for the long haul, and even our most ardent opponents recognize that it’s not a question of whether we will win equality, but when. Tomorrow, the fight continues.”

What the Task Force did in Texas

Created and ran in the Houston market a groundbreak­ing series of television commercials that presented real people talk­ing about why marriage matters. The ads, which can be viewed at www.thetask­force.org/media/express.cfm, spotlighted couples and families speaking poignantly about what marriage means to them — and how the lack of equal access to marriage harms them, their families and society. The Task Force spent $225,000 on developing the television commercials, which garnered both statewide and nationwide media attention, including a lead story on the Associated Press’ New York Times.

An intensive training in Houston focusing on building campaign skills among people of color, including support groups canvassing on marriage in African-American neighborhoods.

With members of Texas’ Hispanic community, releasing in Houston (on Nov. 6) a long video ad targeting Hispanic domestic partners and couple households that found that marriage inequality specifically hurts Hispanic families. This work, focused in the 10 metropolitan areas with the highest num­ber of Hispanic same-sex households is in Texas. The study received widespread media attention in Texas and nationally. (It is available at www.thetaskforce.org/media/ research.cfm).released-D-1085).

With 47 percent of precincts reporting, 76 percent had voted in favor of the amendment, 24 percent against it, greater than the 70 percent to 30 percent average of the other state votes.

Mark Foreman, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said, “All that today’s results show is that it is profoundly wrong and profoundly un-American to put the rights of a small minority of Americans up for a popular vote. This is not democracy; this is tyranny of the majority. No one would tolerate this being done to any other minority, but it’s still open season on gay people.

“Like every campaign in the past, the tactics of our opponents have been reprehensible and distinctly un-Christian. Texas for Marriage, for example, centered its message on the claim that marriage equality would ‘hurt children’ when, in fact, there is nothing anywhere to substantiate that dangerous assertion. Indeed, the truth is that this amendment will hurt thousands of Texas families and their communities.”

“The amendment is profoundly wrong and profoundly un-American to put the rights of a small minority of Americans up for a popular vote. This is not democracy; this is tyranny of the majority. No one would tolerate this being done to any other minority, but it’s still open season on gay people.”

“The amendment is profoundly wrong and profoundly un-American to put the rights of a small minority of Americans up for a popular vote. This is not democracy; this is tyranny of the majority. No one would tolerate this being done to any other minority, but it’s still open season on gay people.

“In other states we have seen those who are against equality for gay people use this amendment like this one to launch all kinds of attacks against the LGBT community,” said Ken Upton, Senior Staff Attorney in Lambda Legal’s South Central Regional Office in Dallas. “Now that the amendment has passed, we will be watch­ing to make sure that it is not used as a weapon against same-sex couples.”

Victory in Maine as voters reject hatred, smears by the right

Voters in Maine on Nov. 8 defeated a ballot initiative seeking to repeal the state’s new law protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people from discrimination. With 35 percent of the precincts reporting, 57 percent had voted yes on the amendment, with 43 percent in favor of it.

“Today’s win proved that dogged, grass­roots organizing of LGBT people from anti-gay zealots and the profound unfairness of having minority rights put at risk in the courts and by the extreme right wing of the Republican Party is not only cost-effective, but necessary,” said Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. “After the amendment loss, strokes we’ve experienced over the last 12 months, this is a much­needed victory for our national movement — it proves we can win statewide contests.

“Every lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgen­der American is deeply indebted to the staff and volunteers of Maine Wins’ Discriminate, and to the people of Maine for embracing fairness and rejecting bigotry.”

The Task Force made significant invest­ments to identify pro-LGBT voters and defend the anti-discrimination law, includ­ing cash grants of $10,000 over the last two years (including $9,500 to Maine Wins’ Discriminate), sending seasoned staff who took key roles in the cam­paign, and operating phone banks in New York and Washington D.C. (This work is detailed below.)

“The Task Force has been an integral part of our efforts to keep this law on the books from the beginning. They provided critical organizing expertise and generous financial support,” said Jesse Connolly.
campaign manager for Maine Won't Discriminate. "With their help, we grew the campaign, and we witnessed the fuel that brought us to victory on Election Day." 

Margie Pinson, President and CEO of Maine Women’s Correspondence, said at the health that Maine Won’t Discriminate campaign.

Because the last two contests in Maine were so close (the measure in 2000 lost by less than 5,000 votes), voter identification and get-out-the-vote work was considered crucial. Starting in 2003, Equality Maine began an ambitious program to identify pro-LGBT voters through door-to-door canvassing in Portland. This work has been funded by three successive $25,000 Community Impact Fund grants from the Task Force. That effort resulted in more than 8,000 new pro-LGBT identifications, which were made available to the Maine Won’t Discriminate campaign. In turn, the campaign focused on these voters and others identified from previous campaigns and identification work, encouraging them to vote early. This clearly paid off: more people voted than ever in any prior-year election in the state's history, and appears to have provided the margin of victory.

Winners: Campaign by Repeal Proponents Called "Reprehensible"

The Task Force called the tactics of the proponents of the repeal effort, including the Christian Civic League of Maine and the Coalition for Marriage, "reprehensible.

"These tactics, which are aimed at intimidating and discouraging voters, are reprehensible. Written materials claimed the nondiscrimination law meant that "a pedophile cannot be barred from a job as a public school teacher." Television and radio ads asked voters to keep the ballot to keep it "from forever changing the innocence of our children" and to "protect your right to protect your children." The ads attempt to link gay people with child abuse, disruptive, reprehensible and immoral," Foreman said. "While we are gratified the people of Maine rejected these kinds of smears cause long-term damage to groundwork. Mainers today sent a strong signal that this law has no place in our state. We want Maine to stay true to its values, with utters and hard-working team at Maine Won’t Discriminate for this victory." 

The Human Rights Campaign was an essential partner in this fight from day one. The Human Rights Campaign’s early and substantial support was the key in making this victory possible tonight," said Jesse Cornall, campaign manager for Maine Won’t Discriminate. "Education has always been a long-term effort and this vote shows that the longer the conversation can happen, the better off fairness will be in the end. Mainers have been building understanding for years now and today is the culmination of those conversations."

HRC has been working with Maine Won’t Discriminate since the first time this repeal made the ballot. HRC provided more than $50,000 this year alone to defeat the referendum and significant staff resources. By Election Day, more than 25 HRC staff members had traveled to Maine to work directly with the campaign.

The actual count and gender identity inclusive non-discrimination bill passed through the Maine Legislature in March of 2005 with the strongest support in both houses of the legislature and was signed into law by Democratic Gov. John Baldacci. This was the third attempt to pass comprehensive measures and the first time voters approved the law.

-NLGTF, HRC

**Task Force study gives data on same-sex Hispanic families**

A groundbreaking study released Nov. 13 by the National Latina/o Coalition and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund Police Policy Institute and the National Latina/o Coalition for Justice finds there are more than 200,000 Hispanic same-sex couples households nationwide, and that same-sex couples in which both partners are Hispanic are rising. The first time to own a home than white non-Hispanic same-sex couples households.

The study also finds that roughly two-thirds of same-sex couples in which both partners are Hispanic are raising children, and that nearly half (44 percent) of the individuals in same-sex couples in which both partners are Hispanic report they are not U.S. citizens, compared to just five percent of individuals in white non-Hispanic same-sex couples.

For these reasons, the study finds that Hispanic same-sex couples have much to gain from the legal protection of marriage and nondiscrimination protections — and much to lose when states prohibit same-sex marriage and other forms of partner recognition. Several states with large Hispanic populations have anti-marriage constitutional amendments on the ballot during the coming year. Hispanic and Latino Same-Sex Couples Households in the United States: A Report from the 2000 Census is the first national study of Hispanic same-sex couple households identified in the 2000 U.S. Census. The 2010 Census is the largest dataset available on same-sex couples. It compares Hispanic same-sex couple households to white non-Hispanic same-sex couple households, Hispanic married opposite-sex couple households, Hispanic “inter-ethnic” same-sex couple households to Hispanic cohabiting opposite-sex couple households.

Similarities between Hispanic same-sex couple households and Hispanic married opposite-sex couple households detailed in the study includes:

- Individuals in Hispanic same-sex couple households are nearly as likely as individuals in Hispanic married opposite-sex couples to report living in the same residence as five years earlier (29 percent vs. 48 percent), an indicator of relationship stability.
- Hispanic same-sex couple households primarily speak at home at nearly identical rate as Hispanic married opposite-sex couple households (77 percent vs. 81 percent).
- Hispanic same-sex couples are raising non-citizen female same-sex couples to be Hispanic married opposite-sex couples (five percent vs. four percent).
- Latino’s same-sex couples are no different than any other loving couples. We form families, both immediate and the extended form of family, just like many in the Latino community, said Lisa B. Casita, research director.

"Many of the L138 federal benefits and protections of marriage are designed to help families save money, purchase a home and better provide for their children. This study shows that Hispanic same-sex couples would not only benefit from the ability to marry, but also are disproportionately harmed by anti-same-sex marriage and constitutional amendments," said Jason Cianciotto, the study’s author and Policy Institute research director. "For example, the inability to marry prevents individuals from sponsoring a non-citizen same-sex partner for immigration purposes, or doing disproportionate harm to the financial ability of Hispanic same-sex couple families, many with children.

Additional critical findings include:

- Same-sex couples households in which both partners are Hispanic earn over $25,000 in median household income than white non-Hispanic same-sex couples households.
- Male same-sex couples in which both partners are Hispanic are over three times more likely than white non-Hispanic male same-sex couples to be raising children (58 percent vs. 19 percent). Female same-sex couples in which both partners are Hispanic are over twice as likely as white non-Hispanic female same-sex couples to be raising children (66 percent vs. 32 percent).
- Hispanic women in same-sex couples report military service at a disproportionately high rate despite the risk of losing their income and benefits because of the ban on lesbian, gay and bisexual people serving openly.
- Hispanic women in same-sex couples report get-out-the-vote work was considered crucial.
- While all same-sex couples families face legal and economic discrimination, the study indicates it is much harsher for Hispanic same-sex couples because they earn less, are raising more children, and must overcome much steeper immigration and language barriers, said Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

The study, released at a press conference in Houston, featured Task Force Executive Director Matt Foreman, Jason Cianciotto, the study’s author; Houston Coordinator Allison Parker Lorenzo Herrera, Executive Director for Justice, board member and Sergio Sarminco, Immigration Equality.

The complete version of the report, Hispanic and Latino Same-Sex Couples in the United States: A Report from the 2000 Census, is available at hightower, theTaskForce.org. A Spanish version of the report and press release is also available at the site.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Police Policy Institute is a think tank dedicated to research, policy analysis and strategy development to advance: greater understanding and equality for lesbians, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. The National Latina/o Coalition for Justice fights to end discrimination in marriage and constitutional amendments, and the first time voters approved the law.

-NLGTF, HRC

**Nebraska pro-gay ruling is in danger of repeal**

Lambda Legal and the American Civil Liberties Union have filed a brief before a federal appeals court urging the court to let stand an earlier decision striking down
Interview

Dr. Michael Keefer of the HIV Vaccine Trials

Unit seeks men who have sex with men for new Phase II study

By Susan Jordan

Merck has developed a new HIV vaccine, which may be able to keep up with the rapid mutations of the virus — mutations that have kept the virus just out of reach in the past, as it changes before vaccines can affect it. Advanced Phase II studies are underway at many sites, including the University of Rochester Medical Center’s HIV Vaccine Trials Unit.

The new vaccine uses three synthetically produced genes (gag, ‘pol’ and ‘nef’) which scientists try to sneak into the human body, rather than the ancient Greeks smuggled soldiers into the city of Troy inside a huge wooden horse presented as a sacrifice to Artemis. If the immune system reacts to the disguised genes as it would to real HIV, the problem of rapid mutation may be overcome, and we will be one step closer to finding a vaccine to prevent HIV/AIDS.

The new vaccine is being studied now in Seattle and elsewhere in this country, and in South America, the Caribbean and Australia. The HIV Vaccine Trials Unit here is seeking a large number of volunteers, who must be healthy and HIV negative, but also ‘at risk’ in the sense that they have sex with a variety of men.

The Empty Closet talked to Dr. Michael Keefer, head of the Vaccine Trials Unit, and also to Chris Guarino, bartender and ‘mixologist’ at Nasty D’s, one of several local gay community members who are supporting the effort to bring new hope and vitality to the fight against HIV, right here in Rochester.

Dr. Michael Keefer

“This study is different primarily because it is one of the few that we have done that is in ‘advanced phase’ testing, that is, the vaccine has looked good in the small studies that we typically do here in Rochester, and is advancing into studies that include several thousand volunteers. As you may recall, the smaller initial studies are done in volunteers who are at lowest risk for HIV acquisition, and by ‘looking good’, I mean they have been shown to be safe and have induced a degree of immune responses (killer cell responses mainly, less so antibodies) in the blood of our volunteers, so that we feel that it stands a reasonable chance of showing positive effects in people (prevention of infection or disease) who expose themselves to the virus.

‘However, we do not know for sure if it will produce positive effects in face of exposure to the virus, and that is exactly what we hope to learn by doing the study. The benchmark we use (that is, the way we decide if it is ‘looking good’ enough to go into expanded studies) is by looking at the animal models (rhesus macaques mostly) vaccinated with a similar vaccine, which has created similar immune responses in the monkeys, while those that are infected after ‘challenged’ (given infectious virus). Obviously, we DO NOT do these type of challenge studies in humans, and in fact counsel all our volunteers frequently about avoiding risky behavior, but we know from years of experience that even intensive counseling will only work, so well.

‘Regarding the ‘Trojan Horse’ analogy, this is not the first time we’ve tried something like this, but it has been shown to (by a wide margin) create the best immune responses in our volunteers in the small studies, while having a good safety profile. The ‘Trojan Horse’ is more precisely referred to as a ‘vector’ refers to a ‘carrier organism’, usually a virus, but sometimes a bacterium or fungal organism, that carries the genetic parts of HIV (in this case, the core of HIV gag, pol and nef) and it is the vector organism that creates the HIV proteins in addition to their own proteins. Examples of such Trojan horses we’ve tried in the past include vaccinia virus (the smallpox vaccine), other types of poxviruses that are more attenuated (ie, not able to reproduce in people, thus likely to be safer) such as canarypox, another ‘Polio’, and ‘Modi­fied vaccinia Ankara (MVA),

‘Our network has also done a small study (not in Rochester) with an inactivated salmonella bacterium, and also used an attenuated alphavirus as a vector. For this particular study, the Merck vector is the adenovirus, type 5, which is one of many viruses that cause the common cold. However, this cold virus is modified so that it cannot infect people, but instead simply undergoes a single round of replication, thus presenting the HIV and adenovirus proteins to the volunteers immune system. In fact, typically, mostly of the safety concerns that we have with these ‘Trojan Horse’ vaccines, which entail giving HIV genes directly into the body muscle cells (by IM injection) and thus the persons’ own cells make the proteins (rather than the vector organism) that are encoded by the included genes.

‘In general, the vector approaches have created the best responses to date, are particularly good at producing the killing cells, which have been shown in HIV infected people to control HIV replication and limit the damage that HIV can do to the immune system. All approaches and indeed all of our studies are monitored very closely by the FDA (before and after they go into people in our studies), and the

Georgias Gourmet Chocolates

Gourmet Chocolates Fresh Fudge Fancy Praline Nuts

• Employee of the Month Program
• Corporate gifts
• Local deliveries
• Worldwide shipments

2775 West Henrietta Road Rochester, NY 14623
585-424-5079
georgia@georgiasgourmet.com

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Georgia’s Gourmet Chocolates

Dianne Bouquet
A delicious alternative to flowers

Merck has developed a new HIV vaccine, which may be able to keep up with the rapid mutations of the virus — mutations that have kept the virus just out of reach in the past, as it changes before vaccines can affect it. Advanced Phase II studies are underway at many sites, including the University of Rochester Medical Center’s HIV Vaccine Trials Unit.

The new vaccine uses three synthetically produced genes (gag, ‘pol’ and ‘nef”) which scientists try to sneak into the human body, rather than the ancient Greeks smuggled soldiers into the city of Troy inside a huge wooden horse presented as a sacrifice to Artemis. If the immune system reacts to the disguised genes as it would to real HIV, the problem of rapid mutation may be overcome, and we will be one step closer to finding a vaccine to prevent HIV/AIDS.

The new vaccine is being studied now in Seattle and elsewhere in this country, and in South America, the Caribbean and Australia. The HIV Vaccine Trials Unit here is seeking a large number of volunteers, who must be healthy and HIV negative, but also “at risk” in the sense that they have sex with a variety of men.

The Empty Closet talked to Dr. Michael Keefer, head of the Vaccine Trials Unit, and also to Chris Guarino, bartender and “mixologist” at Nasty D’s, one of several local gay community members who are supporting the effort to bring new hope and vitality to the fight against HIV, right here in Rochester.

Dr. Michael Keefer

“This study is different primarily because it is one of the few that we have done that is in ‘advanced phase’ testing, that is, the vaccine has looked good in the small studies that we typically do here in Rochester, and is advancing into studies that include several thousand volunteers. As you may recall, the smaller initial studies are done in volunteers who are at lowest risk for HIV acquisition, and by ‘looking good’, I mean they have been shown to be safe and have induced a degree of immune responses (killer cell responses mainly, less so antibodies) in the blood of our volunteers, so that we feel that it stands a reasonable chance of showing positive effects in people (prevention of infection or disease) who expose themselves to the virus.

“However, we do not know for sure if it will produce positive effects in face of exposure to the virus, and that is exactly what we hope to learn by doing the study. The benchmark we use (that is, the way we decide if it is ‘looking good’ enough to go into expanded studies) is by looking at the animal models (rhesus macaques mostly) vaccinated with a similar vaccine, which has created similar immune responses in the monkeys, which then resist infection/disease after they are ‘challenged’ (given infectious virus). Obviously, we DO NOT do these type of challenge studies in humans, and in fact counsel all our volunteers frequently about avoiding risky behavior, but we know from years of experience that even intensive counseling will only work, so well.

“Regarding the ‘Trojan Horse’ analogy, this is not the first time we’ve tried something like this, but it has been shown to (by a wide margin) create the best immune responses in our volunteers in the small studies, while having a good safety profile. The ‘Trojan Horse’ is more precisely referred to as a ‘vector’ refers to a ‘carrier organism’, usually a virus, but sometimes a bacterium or fungal organism, that carries the genetic parts of HIV (in this case, the core of HIV gag, pol and nef) and it is the vector organism that creates the HIV proteins in addition to their own proteins. Examples of such Trojan horses we’ve tried in the past include vaccinia virus (the smallpox vaccine), other types of poxviruses that are more attenuated (ie, not able to reproduce in people, thus likely to be safer) such as canarypox, another ‘Polio’, and ‘Modified vaccinia Ankara (MVA),

“Our network has also done a small study (not in Rochester) with an inactivated salmonella bacterium, and also used an attenuated alphavirus as a vector. For this particular study, the Merck vector is the adenovirus, type 5, which is one of many viruses that cause the common cold. However, this cold virus is modified so that it cannot infect people, but instead simply undergoes a single round of replication, thus presenting the HIV and adenovirus proteins to the volunteers immune system. In fact, typically, mostly of the safety concerns that we have with these ‘Trojan Horse’ vaccines, which entail giving HIV genes directly into the body muscle cells (by IM injection) and thus the persons’ own cells make the proteins (rather than the vector organism) that are encoded by the included genes.

“In general, the vector approaches have created the best responses to date, are particularly good at producing the killing cells, which have been shown in HIV infected people to control HIV replication and limit the damage that HIV can do to the immune system. All approaches and indeed all of our studies are monitored very closely by the FDA (before and after they go into people in our studies), and the
overwhelming tendency to date has been to take no chances in making a vaccine that may in itself turn out to be unsafe. Thus, our safety record for all 30 or so vaccines that we have tested over the years has been excellent... as good as those for most licensed vaccines.

Finally, the three genes of HIV that are included in this vaccine encode the internal proteins of HIV, which are much more "conserved" than envelop proteins among strains around the world. In fact, in the laboratory, killer cells obtained from people who received this vaccine have been shown to recognize and react to viruses that are from Africa and Asia. Of course, we do not know if this means it will protect against infection or disease from these diverse strains, but this is certainly more encouraging than if they were unable to do so.

On the subject of what kind of volunteers are needed, Keefer said, "The high-risk" definition is specific to the protocol and should not be taken to be an absolute definition. Basically, it has to do the behaviors that would make the person more likely to encounter the virus than the general public at-large. Factors include the number of sex partners over time, the types of sexual activities (e.g., insertive vs. non-insertive anal, oral, vaginal use, etc.), and sex with an HIV-positive partner. Of note, high-risk women are being recruited at other sites which are participating in these studies (specifically in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Chicago... because investigators at those sites have a demonstrated expertise in finding and following women who are truly at high risk).

"In Rochester, we're not sure we can be successful in this area, in particular with respect to keeping them in the study (required a major outreach effort), and we currently do not understand and predict precisely what the HIV seroincidence is in local women that we think are at high risk. Women are an important part of this overall study, but not for the enrollment group in Rochester. Of note, we do enroll women (at lower risk) in essentially all of our other studies and our overall proportion of MF enrolled over the years is pretty close to 50/50."

When asked how scientists can be sure that the three mutated genes will trigger the same reaction in the body as real HIV would, Keefer said, "The only way to be 100% sure is to do the work (with respect to vaccine efficacy) is to do an expanded study like this (N=3000), or even larger studies (N=8000). The latter studies will be required to lead to licensure, but this study (we call it a Phase 2B study, as opposed to the larger Phase III efficacy trials) will be able to tell us if we are on the right track. That is, if we see very little effect, we can save our resources for other promising approaches that will undoubtedly be coming in the future. If we see a positive effect in this study, it can be quickly expanded into one that can lead to licensure. In these days of limited resources (while getting a better idea of potential efficacy than the small studies can provide) before we can move to a full-hledged Phase III study.

"Note that the only prior Phase III that was done in the U.S. (VaxGen), was NOT done with the support of the NIH. The scientific community felt that it was unlikely to work and chose not to fund it with public (taxpayer) funds. Consequently, the company raised the money to do it themselves. There is a second phase III study currently being conducted in Thai­land. We can expect vaccine similar to ones that we have studied previously, but this too created a storm of controversy in the scientific community about whether it was worth the investment... that is, many feel that it is unlikely to show benefit.

"Note that this area of research is plagued by a big Catch 22. Although many scientists hold strong opinions, primarily about the animal models (which are far from perfect predictors of HIV infection), the only way you can be sure if a vaccine is or is not effective is to do the Phase III study, but since they are so big, long lasting and expensive, we need to be very selective about the vaccines that we test in this way, because it will necessarily take resources away from other newer approaches that eventually are likely to be even better than what we are looking at today. As you know, the vast majority of work we do in Rochester is the smaller studies, which forms the basis for making these difficult decisions (that is, we do the work that, will inform the decision about moving into Phase III studies). Thus, without our Phase I contributions, the field can never get to Phase III, so although the smallest studies are less "exciting", they are every bit as important to us to get us to the final goal."

Keefer said, "This Merck vaccine is the best chance we've ever had to date for a successful HIV vaccine and I'm very excited to see what the study will teach us. Of note, the overwhelming majority of the HIV vaccine scientific field feels that it is the right thing to spend our precious resources on... there has been no controversy in the decision to do this study. In effect, it is really the culmination of every­thing we have done to this point. However, there are no guarantees that the results will be favorable, so we need to continue our small studies with new and (potentially) improved vaccine candidates. Even if this vaccine does prove to meet or exceed our hopes for effectiveness, we all agree that it is pretty likely that once we are able to show some degree of protection, we will be able to dissect out what is going on and improve on it considerably with future vaccine candidates. In a way, the immune responses created by this vaccine might be like the development of AZT, which is effective against HIV, but of limited use by itself. In that case, it took about another eight years to get to the triple drug cocktails, which really have shown great ben­efit, and then another three years to get the cocktails to make them more effective, less toxic and easier to take."

"Of course, I could be wrong in this analogy... if we are lucky, the Merck vaccine could be like the first cocktail that came out in '96 but nevertheless needed continuous improvement since. Therefore, most of us feel that the 'ultimate' HIV vac­cine (the one that eradicates HIV from the world) is likely to be a ways off, but as the animal models cannot truly be relied upon as our only read into what we will see in people, we feel that we are compelled to follow the course we have been on, as long as it takes. Who knows, we did get pretty lucky with vaccines against smallpox and polio... maybe it will happen again.

On the topic of how to deliver the vaccine globally, once it has been found effective, Keefer said, "Vaccine delivery, of course, is a separate, but related problem (polio is not yet eradicated from the world, although there is a highly effective vaccine... it takes additional work like that of Rotary International to push towards success there). We do know now that Merck has the technical capability to make millions of doses (for else they never would have embarked upon the program), but exactly how much it will cost and who will pay for it is not yet sorted out. How­ever, with the PEPFAR $5-15 B program that buys ART for developing countries, and Gates Foundation's interest in global health, I am pretty certain that a way will be found to get the vaccine to the people who need it. While Merck (and other big Pharma) are in business to make money, I am confident that governments will ultimately come to the realization that it is far cheaper to furnish vaccines than treat­ment, and will make vaccine distribution a priority.

People who are considering becoming volunteers, or who are interested in learning more about other studies, can call the Trials Unit at 756-2DAD. “Also,” Keefer said, “we have been working to improve our website (www.vaccineunit) (Continued on page 8)
2, 3 & 4 Bedroom Home
Family & Adult Communities
Hundreds of
We enrolled the very FIRST person in the work to arrive at the ‘ultimate’ HIV vaccine, and the importance of the contributions of our volunteers from Rochester. We enlisted about five or six other small (phase I) Merck studies that have been conducted to improve upon the vaccine regimen since then.

"In fact, the first Merck HIV vaccine was a DNA vaccine, which didn’t provide enough benefit to the immune responses seen after the Ad5-05 vaccine alone, so the company decided to abandon it and focus instead on the Ad5 vaccine. This is a common theme with the other vaccines that we have worked on... never has the first vaccine studied in people proven to be the exact one that is taken into expanded studies (we tested several versions of the VaxGen gp120, as well as several versions of the canarypox vaccine being tested in Phase II currently in Thailand).... These studies take time (and volunteers), and some five-plus years after the Merck study (http://www.stepstudies.com), where queries are referred back to the Merck study (http://www.merck.com), where queries are referred back to the Merck study (http://www.merck.com), where queries are referred back to the Merck study (http://www.merck.com), where queries are referred back to

EC: As a bartender and "mixologist," you must see a lot of men regularly and hear a lot of talk about what’s on their minds. Do you feel that a large number of men will be willing to volunteer for the study?

CC: I think it is possible to get a large response for the study. However, I think it will take a lot more ads in print and in other mediums. I think for optimum response it is very important to get a very good word of mouth promotion going.

Of course, ads are also a necessity for this platform to give it an official quality. Some people talk to a lot of people on a day to day basis, the majority being gay men, I can honestly say I’ve never heard anyone voluntarily say, “I wish there was something I could do to help the fight against HIV/AIDS.”

This fight has been going on for quite sometime now. I don’t want to say it had been forgotten, but it does seem to be a fight the average man does not feel he has something he could do to help the fight against HIV/AIDS. This person’s answer, I imagine many would love the idea that if this a working vaccine, that they got it first and are that close to being a part of this in the beginning stages, if it does come to be a real vaccine, a bonus too. And, I imagine many would love the idea of courses of free, regular and very state of the art testing throughout the study. Also, many will find being a part of this in the beginning stages, if it does come to be a real vaccine, that they got it first and are that close to being closer to safe from this horrible virus.

EC: Have you or any of your friends considered volunteering?

CC: Two years ago, I was involved in a Phase I vaccine trial. I saw an ad in a bar, and called the number given. After a brief phone conversation, I had an appointment which took about an hour. The whole process was comfortable and not very time consuming or invading. I was chosen to be a part of the study, which entailed a brief visit to that same office, roughly every two months. I felt I was in good hands, and really liked the thorough and regular blood testing I was receiving. Felt like I was doing a positive thing for a cure that is a very real part of my life. On top of all that, there was a $1,000 fee given to me. It was win-win, to say the least.

As far as a result of doing this, I had three other friends call immediately, and they all shared the same positive experience.

EC: Do men resist thinking of themselves as “at risk”? What is your sense of the local community’s attitudes to HIV issues now?

CC: People are very aware of HIV/AIDS. Do I feel like people are being as cautious as they should be? My answer would have to be no. Too much stock is given to people’s word, when asked, “Are you clean?” Not to say a large number of positive/infected people are lying, but many don’t know, and aren’t regularly tested. This person’s answer, “Yes, I’m clean” can be based on dozens of previous partners.

EC: Anything you’d like to add?

CC: To give up all your sexual history and current practices and to actually get stuck with a vaccine, as well as commit to a year of blood tests, is a huge leap from being both conscious of HIV/AIDS and wanting to help. It is not too much to ask though. I did it, with little to no prodding at all. We just have to get the "Someone who will do it" mentality out of our brains. You can slightly liken it to voting on election day. I think enough of our people will have to realize they themselves have to be the "someone else, Ill
Opinion

Much Ado Over Outing

By Jasoyne A. Carviaux, Black Justice Coalition

No single article that I have ever written or protest that I have participated in has garnered as much attention as the “Outing Black Pastors” campaign that I did with my colleague Keith Boykin.

It was a simple idea hatched in a casual conversation of Black gay activists while in Washington D.C. Frustrated with the increasing number of attacks on same-gender loving people by Black pastors, we decided to take action. The action in this case was calling out Black pastors on their hypocrisy as it relates to the gay community and their relationship to the current Bush Administration.

The outline of the campaign was straightforward. Each day for one week Keith and I profiled a Black pastor highlighting his relationship with the Bush Administration, recent homophobic gay comments, and ending with a question to the pastor gay. Starting with mega church pastors Bishop Eddie Long and T.D. Jakes, we included profiles of other prominent pastors including Los Angeles’ Ned Jones and Bishop Charles Blake, D.C.’s Reverend William Wilson, Chicago’s Reverend Gregory Daniels, New Orleans’ Bishop Paul Morton and Georgia’s Creflo Dollar, and ended with a joint profile of gay gospel singer Donnie McCombs.

For the record, there is nothing wrong with asking a question. My experience has shown that the people who are the most adamant on issues also tend to be dealing with the same issues. People who are comfortable with who they are usually don’t care as much about what other people are doing. Which leads me to an obvious question, are these pastors gay?

Remember that despite all of his racist rhetoric, Senator and former segregationist the late Strom Thurmond fathered a Black daughter, to everyone’s surprise. Conservative pundit and frequent Republican candidate Alan Keyes caused a stir during the 2004 Republican convention by labeling Vice President Dick Cheney’s lesbian daughter a sinner and calling homosexuality “selfish hedonism.” Alan Keyes’ daughter Maya is a lesbian.

Being able to point out the hypocrisy that exists in our community is why we have a democracy.

To date, I have received over 1,000 emails regarding this campaign and they still continue to come in. While a good number of the responses that I have received regarding this campaign are positive, I will say that I have received many threats against my life for “bringing harm to a man of God.” And if the email wasn’t a threat against my life, I was blamed for speaking badly about men of God, not notifying the pastors ahead of time and put on notice that I was going to be on a direct path to hell, as opposed to a more secular view.

Do I have to remind you that anyone can claim to be a man of God? Jim Jones said he was a man of God and because of him, 913 people, many of whom were Black, are dead. President Bush claims he is a man of God and was called upon by God to lead this country and look at where we are today, Reverend Craig Ward of the Brookins African Methodist Episcopal Church considers himself to be a man of God, but he was still arrested in Oakland for trying to negotiate a 20-dollar oral sex act.

So you see, claiming that you are a man of God does not automatically cleanse you to hell, at least not in my book. The other issue that people took offense to was me not notifying the pastors ahead of time that they were going to be the subjects of a vicious attack.

Well, I don’t recall a memo ever coming across my desk that this Sunday’s sermon was going to condemn me and those like me to hell. But I am supposed to send them advance notice on what I plan to do. Seems like a double standard to me.

Depending on what you believe, heaven and hell are both up for interpretation, as it relates to religion.

I find it hard to believe that someone who has never been to hell and does not know for a fact who’s in hell, knows that I am going to hell. Until you can send me a link to a Mapquest with clear directions on how to get to Lucifer’s lair, I reserve the right to question your claim that I am going to hell, or even heaven for that matter.

So far, the campaign never specifically “outed” anyone, as it pertains to his or her sexual orientation and possible sex lives. However, we did expose in depth the ties that certain Black pastors have with the Bush Administration, which is equally dangerous and harmful to Black communities.

In order to institute change, sometimes you have to deviate from traditional methods. That was the case with this campaign. We pushed the envelope and brought the discussion of homophobia in the Black church and President Bush’s Faith Based Initiative to mainstream Black America. Had we done just another article about yet another Black preacher spewing hate against gays, we probably wouldn’t have garnered as much attention as this single campaign did.

In the words of the great Malcolm X, “Usually when people are sad, they don’t do anything. They just cry over their condition. But when they get angry, they bring about a change.” This campaign was a way to bring attention to the validity and religious affiliation of people using God and religion as a way to oppress a group of people. It sent a clear message that there are those of us in the community, gay and non-gay, that are tired of the hypocrisy and double standards where it concerns sexual orientation and gender.

Our campaign may have been the first of its kind, but it is a part of a much larger movement of oppressed voices beginning to speak up for themselves. The days of silence on these issues are long gone on the Black community.

Personal, I feel that it is my right and my responsibility to get up each and every day and fight oppression in all of its many forms, including lesbian and gays that have earned a place up there.

However, we did expose in depth the ties that certain Black pastors have with the Bush Administration, which is equally dangerous and harmful to Black communities.

In order to institute change, sometimes you have to deviate from traditional methods. That was the case with this campaign. We pushed the envelope and brought the discussion of homophobia in the Black church and President Bush’s Faith Based Initiative to mainstream Black America. Had we done just another article about yet another Black preacher spewing hate against gays, we probably wouldn’t have garnered as much attention as this single campaign did.

In the words of the great Malcolm X, “Usually when people are sad, they don’t do anything. They just cry over their condition. But when they get angry, they bring about a change.” This campaign was a way to bring attention to the validity and religious affiliation of people using God and religion as a way to oppress a group of people. It sent a clear message that there are those of us in the community, gay and non-gay, that are tired of the hypocrisy and double standards where it concerns sexual orientation and gender.

Our campaign may have been the first of its kind, but it is a part of a much larger movement of oppressed voices beginning to speak up for themselves. The days of silence on these issues are long gone on the Black community.

Personal, I feel that it is my right and my responsibility to get up each and every day and fight oppression in all of its many forms, including lesbian and gays that have earned a place up there.

However, we did expose in depth the ties that certain Black pastors have with the Bush Administration, which is equally dangerous and harmful to Black communities.

In order to institute change, sometimes you have to deviate from traditional methods. That was the case with this campaign. We pushed the envelope and brought the discussion of homophobia in the Black church and President Bush’s Faith Based Initiative to mainstream Black America. Had we done just another article about yet another Black preacher spewing hate against gays, we probably wouldn’t have garnered as much attention as this single campaign did.

In the words of the great Malcolm X, “Usually when people are sad, they don’t do anything. They just cry over their condition. But when they get angry, they bring about a change.” This campaign was a way to bring attention to the validity and religious affiliation of people using God and religion as a way to oppress a group of people. It sent a clear message that there are those of us in the community, gay and non-gay, that are tired of the hypocrisy and double standards where it concerns sexual orientation and gender.

Our campaign may have been the first of its kind, but it is a part of a much larger movement of oppressed voices beginning to speak up for themselves. The days of silence on these issues are long gone on the Black community.

Personal, I feel that it is my right and my responsibility to get up each and every day and fight oppression in all of its many forms, including lesbian and gays that have earned a place up there.
Day Pet Services

delivering premium pet products to your front door
Save Time, Gas & Money
Bringing you only the finest pet products
Diamond, Premium Edge, Wellness, Innovs, Evolve and many more
Delivered right to your front door!
Family Owned & Operated

Don’t forget your pets on Christmas!
We are at the Public Market on Saturdays
And Sunday December 4th, 11th & 18th
Depending on the weather
Day Pet Services
585-233-0803
See our website for more information & Products
www.Daypetservices.com
Say you seen this ad in EC get $1.00 off first order

Residential New and Old Work Specialists
Serving the Rochester Community for over 20 years

Ellenwood Electric

“We Do It Without Shorts”

- Licensed
- Fully Insured
- Free Quotes
Office: 654-8642
Emergency: 202-0402
Fax: 224-8228

Bear Nights are Changing!
Beginning January 7th
First Saturdays
At the Bachelor Forum
www.empirebears.org
Armani was crowned as Miss Gay Rochester 2006 at Harro East on Nov. 13.

Marcella marked her 20th anniversary as Miss Gay Rochester.

Pandora Boxx celebrated her 10th anniversary.

The Miss Gay Rochester pageant is produced by MLTV Productions.

**Shear Madness**

Now extended thru December 31!

COMING TO GEVA’S MAINSTAGE JANUARY 10 - FEBRUARY 5:

By Morris Panych
Directed by Mark Cuddy

A self-professed neurotic named Kemp quits his job at the bank to sit by his dying aunt's bedside. But this is no movie of the week. With wicked humor, spy plot twists and surprising poignancy, two people find that neither one is what the other expected in this deliciously brilliant black comedy.

Rochester Gay Men's Chorus presents **Carols for the Holidays**

Hochstein Music School
12/9/05 & 12/10/05 at 8:00 pm


Door Price: $18
Advance Sale: $15
Student, Senior (65+) $12
Children under 12: $6
Newsfronts (continued from page 5)
Nebraska’s extreme anti-gay relationship law that bars all protections for same-sex couples, including civil unions and domestic partnership.

The Nebraska amendment that was struck down made gay people into political outcasts, making it impossible for same-sex couples even to lobby for basic domestic partnership protections,” said Tamara Lange, a senior staff lawyer with the ACLU’s Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. “Our Constitution makes it very clear that all Americans are entitled to participate in our democracy. This law denied lesbian and gay Nebraskans an equal shot in the political process. That’s not how our democracy works.”

Federal District Judge Joseph P. Battilone struck down Nebraska’s anti-gay amendment on May 12, 2005, in response to a legal challenge brought by the ACLU and Lambda Legal on behalf of the ACLU of Nebraska and state-wide LGBT lobbying and education organizations. Citizens for Equal Protection (CFEP) and Nebraska Advocates for Justice and Equality (NAJE).

The court ruled that the amendment was so far reaching that it barred lesbian and gay people from participating in government in violation of the Constitution’s equal protection guarantees. The decision on appeal does not mean that the state has to allow same-sex couples to marry or to form civil unions or domestic partnerships, but merely allows them to lobby their legislatures for protections for their relationships.

“No state in this nation has a law that takes this much off the table only for gay people of faith and good will, I say, ‘Wake up!’ Theologies of exclusion lead to spiritual violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people,” said Rev. Troy Bataillon.

Methodists rules gay can be members; church revokes minister’s ordination

The United Methodist Church Council of Bishops unanimously adopted a pastoral letter on Nov. 3, stating that, “While pastors have the responsibility to discern readiness for membership, homosexuality is not a barrier.”

The letter is in response to an appeal ruling by the Supreme Judicial Council, the denomination’s highest church court, which reinstated a pastor who had been suspended after denying church membership to a gay man.

The Judicial Council also revoked the ordination of openly lesbian minister Beth Stroud.

In the spirit of ecumenical cooperation in opposition to injustice, members of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force National Religious Leadership Roundtable made the following statements:

“We are thankful for the bishop’s pastoral statement upholding the right of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people to be members of the United Methodist Church,” says Rev. Troy Bataillon, Roundtable member and executive director of Reconciling Ministries Network, an organization that promotes the full participation of lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender individuals in the United Methodist Church. “But as the bishops write in the pastoral letter, ‘as the Judicial Council of the United Methodist Church, we must not let the underlying prejudice in the church’s constitution — which states that homosexuality is ‘incompatible with Scripture’ — remain. To all United Methodists and all people of faith and good will, I say, ‘Wake up!’”

Theologies of exclusion lead to spiritual violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

“We are pleased that the Council of Bishops has unanimously adopted a pastoral statement concerning the ruling of the Judicial Council as it pertains to membership of gay people in the church,” says Emily Eastwood, Roundtable member and executive director of Lutherans Concerned North America. “Let until the church takes official action the Judicial Council’s discriminatory ruling stands. The green light for blatant discrimination in membership is on and that is unacceptable. If churches put a clergy bouncer at the door to check sin cards, who will be left in the pew?”

When a church excludes some believers from the body of Christ, club rules trump the Gospel. — Rev. Rebecca Voelkel, Roundtable member and executive director of the Institute for Welcoming Resources, says, “The bishops have taken a courageous stand, but in a world which so desperately needs a church that offers extravagant welcome, the United Methodist Supreme Judicial Council’s decision upholding anti-gay discrimination against both a potential member and a pastor is a devastating blow to its faithful lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender members. It is a reminder that, too often, our churches extend abuse, oppression and hatred where Jesus extends a hand of kinship and compassion.”

The Task Force says, “Contact The United Methodist Church Council of Bishops to let them know you support their stand against discrimination. Contact the United Methodist Church Judicial Council and let it know that rulings 1027 (reversing the ordination of Rev. Beth Stroud) and 1032 (allowing pastors to discriminate against openly gay individuals seeking church membership) should be reconsidered. Send an e-mail with the links below.

All people of faith are urged to respond.
To identify your faith tradition and let the United Methodist leadership know that the church must end its discriminatory practice against gay, bisexual and transgender people affect us all.
Contact the United Methodist Church Judicial Council at judicialcouncil@umc.org.
Contact the United Methodist Church Council of Bishops at cob@umc.org.

Task Force honors Transgender Day of Remembrance

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force commemorated global Transgender Day of Remembrance on Nov. 20, by reflecting on the loss of members of the transgender community due to hate or prejudice.

“Recent statistics show that transgender people suffer from 11 percent of bias crimes committed against all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people; a percentage of attacks far in excess of their numbers in the population, continuing to make the transgender community one of the most vulnerable in our society,” said Clarence Patton, executive director of the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project.

Your Body Massage

www.yourbodymassage.com
James R. Yost, L.M.T.
60 & 90 minute Therapeutic Massage Sessions by Appointment. Call 202-8754 or Visit Us Online.

Gift Certificates and Prepaid Discounts Available!

Come celebrate Christmas! Sunday, December 25, 2005 7:00 PM Lessons and Carols
Community Christian Fellowship meeting at the East Avenue Inn 384 East Avenue, Rochester 585-520-6949 / CCRochester@hotmail.com

Certified Professional Pet Grooming Pick-up & Drop-off Service Available

Available!

Proudly Serving Our Community
The Dream Goes On!

A gospel music celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Featuring the Rochester Rainbow Gospel Choir
Sunday, January 15, 2006
7:00 PM

Hosted by Community Christian Fellowship
meeting at the East Avenue Inn, 384 East Avenue, Rochester

- A freewill offering will be taken to support The MOCHA Project
- Rainbowchoir@hotmail.com / 585-520-6949 / www.RROC.org

In platinum, 18 karat, 14 karat, and two-tone

RICHARD'S fine jewelers
1855 Monroe Avenue at 12 Corners
Brighton Commons (same plaza as Bagel Bin Cafe) • 242-8777

SANDYRELLA CLEANING SERVICES
Make your home or office sparkle like a castle.
Fuly insured. Call for a free estimate today.
Sandy Jacques
(585) 787-2081 • Cell: (585) 752-4604
sandyrellaclean@aol.com

Susan SanFilippo, C.S.W.
234-3561
Counseling & Psychotherapy
- Why can't life be fair?
- If I change, will my partner?
- What effect does my past have on me?
- What can I do about my future?
Individual and couples therapy (sliding fce scale)
500 Helendale Road, Suite 155, Rochester N.Y. 14609

Amy D. Sumner, LCSW
Child & Adolescent Counseling
595 Blossom Road, Suite #205
Rochester, New York 14610
(585) 330-7917

THE DREAM GOES ON!

More reasons to shop at Wine Sense
- Boutique atmosphere
- Limited Production wines at reasonable prices
- Spirits, ports, dessert wines
- Free wine and cheese tastings
- Friday evenings
- Learn while you shop
- 20% off all mixed cases
- Open Sundays 12-5

749 Park Avenue
585.271.0590
www.wedefinewine.com
Youth, Toby Greenfield speak out at School Board meeting

Toby Greenfield, Youth Services Director for the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, and three area students addressed the Rochester City School Board on Oct. 20. Their testimony follows.

"Good evening Board Members and Superintendent Rivera. My name is Toby Greenfield and I'm the Youth Services Director at the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley.

I'm here to talk to you about what I see and hear every single day from the over 300 lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth in my Youth Program. Over 80 percent of the youth in my program attend the city schools. Violence, homophobia and harassment of light skin students continue to be the rule - NOT the exception -- in the Rochester City School District. For so many kids going to city schools, school is a dangerous and unsafe place.

"Each and every morning these kids wake up and have to prepare as if they are going off to war. Do you know what that feels like? I hear story after story of kids continually being harassed - both verbally and physically - every single day."

"I see kids come into our Youth Center after school crying - sobbing with such despair and depression, refusing to go back to school. I hear stories of teachers and principals simply turning their backs and doing nothing -- often when this harassment happens right before their eyes. I hear stories of kids feeling that they are and pretending to be who they're not just so they'll fit in and avoid being a target.

"Is this the kind of environment our youth deserve? Are these kids getting the same education as everyone else? Have they been denied the opportunity to learn and grow in a safe and nurturing environment?"

"I founded the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley in 1985 and now work full time on providing that environment by educating staff and students alike. My involvement in my high school's GSA showed me that I wasn't alone in dealing with the many issues faced by LGBT students today. It gave me a voice, it gave me an outlet.

"Every other Monday we all banded together in a tiny closet-like room to share our stories, strength, and ideas for creating a better, safer space, despite all the outside ridicule we faced. What may be impossible for you to comprehend is that to us, to grasp is the isolation and loneliness LGBT students feel, just even walking down the hall, and the change and strength it takes to be yourself in an environment that seeks to convince you that there's something wrong with you. This may explain why 80 percent of LGBT teenagers are four times more likely to try to or commit suicide.

"Federal government grants GSA the right to exist and to be treated equally as any other high school club or organization. According to GLSEN 2003 national school climate survey, 84 percent of LGBT students report being verbally harassed at their school. 82 percent of students report that faculty never or rarely intervene when present. This student need change, and that change can start by allowing GSA's to continue to exist to help create a tolerant and safe school setting.

"I'll end with a positive example: a friend of mine, who is now a junior in high school, found the GSA at her school this year. She was verbally harassed as rumors flew about her sexual orientation, she was even stopped going to school.

"This year, the GSA has expanded with 25 kids, and a new advisor. It has moved from the tiny closet office to a room. Lindsey has relaunched the GSA this year and is an active member. Most of her friends in the GSA are too. This hasn't stopped the verbal harassment. But at least now she has a strong group of friends to support her, and knows that every other Monday afternoon she has a safe place to go to know she's not alone."

This kind of environment we're all talking about isn't acceptable. It must change. If we care about our children, it is imperative that we change it."

Randy G. Raetz

General Dentistry for the entire community
Including bleaching and cosmetics

WE ARE NOW IN OUR NEW OFFICE!!!!!!

Come check out our new modern office, offering patients the benefits of digital x-rays, intraoral cameras, and flat screen t.v.s in a relaxing and enjoyable environment.

2927 South Clinton Avenue
Westfall Park Medical Center
Rochester, NY 14618

(585) 473-1550

Check us out on the web at www.drdandrjan.dds.com
Call for an appointment today!!

Lake Avenue Baptist Church
A Welcoming & Affirming Congregation Invites you

9:45am Sunday morning worship service
11:15am Class on LGBT liberation theology
Childcare and Sunday School for children age 4-12.
On site childcare is available.

Lake Avenue Baptist Church is located just off Lake Avenue near the stop light at 145 Lake Avenue.

For more information phone: 585-458-5765
Holiday Shopping is In at

OUTlandish & Video & Gifts
Where It's In to be Out

Leather for Your Lifestyle

Check us out for your Holiday needs
- Pride Decorations & Ornaments - Gift bags - 2006 Calendars -
and a host of unique special gifts for special people

The Bears are back!
Stop in & select from our exclusive display of bear-themed
statuettes and ornament
from Big Sky Carvers
Shop early for best selection

Our Leather and Toy Departments are Bulging with Clothing, Accessories and
Adult items, perfect for your Holiday Gift Giving

274 North Goodman Street • In Village Gate
Phone: 585-760-8383 • Fax: 585-760-8384
www.outlandish1.com • outlandish@frontiernet.net
Hours: Mon – Sat, 11 AM – 11 PM  Sundays, Noon – 5 PM

OUTlandish is proud to underwrite In The Life on WXXI-TV. Tune in 12/18/05 & 01/22/06 at 11 PM
From Home Ideas to Ideal Homes

Whether you're remodeling your home, building a new home, or just looking for a lender you can trust for your purchase or refinance, we offer a full range of home loan programs. Develop a relationship with a proven team helping all communities meet their financial needs.

Wells Fargo Home Mortgage is the nation's leading retail mortgage lender.*

Through our Sharing Advantage® program, each time a customer closes a home purchase or refinance loan with us, we'll make a $300 contribution to the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley or non-profit organization of your choice.

Shane Belcer
(585) 419-2070 x 125 Direct • (585) 309-3899 Cell
(585) 419-2098 Fax • Shane.R.Belcer@wellsfargo.com
300 Red Creek Drive, Suite 210 • Rochester, New York 14623

FIND THAT PERFECT PLACE

This is the perfect time to be buying real estate, interest rates are at their lowest and home values have become the best investment you can make for your future. We can guide you through the entire process and answer all your questions about your individual needs.

Buy or Sell a home with ERA and Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, and a $300 donation will be made in your name to the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, and ERA will pay for a one year membership for you as well.

Laurie Schulman
ERA FIRST TEAM REAL ESTATE
2712 EAST HENRIETTA ROAD
HENRIETTA, NY 14467
585-359-2000 ex 17
Musings on a post election morning

To the Editor: Looking back on election day, 2005, the light victories won by gay-friendly candidates in many different levels of local government here in Genesee Valley highlights the dedication of these officials actively pursued support from the gay community, so it’s imperative that you now ensure these people accountable for their future decision-making. The pressure is squarely on them to deliver the goods.

Specifically, Bill Pritsch was reelection to city council, as well as Harry Bronston for Monroe County Legislature for the 24th District. Even though there were more visible, openly gay candidates that did not win their respective races, all they should be commended for. The anonymous courage and stamina it requires to run for public office. Democrat Ellen Yackin, Tim Mains and newcomer Joe Melica ran great campaigns this year. They worked extremely hard to level the political landscape at state, city and town levels. These three people are true leaders, who made personal sacrifices so you can have visible representation in government. They must be given your support in future endeavors, ever so they may be.

What is most regrettable about this year’s elections, is candidates and light lobbying groups who could not even muster support for our very own candidates, after their dedication to electing officials in the U.S. only 28% are openly gay. One out of every five states in America has no openly gay legislators makers at any level of government. It’s fair to say, without overlooking this, that being in the closet has, to a great extent, raise the visibility issue, and continue the national trend toward a more decent and equitable society.

Simply put, money raised from the gay community that does not go to gay lobbying groups and candidates who are elected. That did not happen. The reality for people and their families. I still commended for the enormous courage and effort to city council, as well as Harry Bronston, for stating the obvious. I have been told that my comments were divisive, and it ridiculous, not possible to enforce and putting a fairy, you know; I love to attend the University of New Hamp- minde marriage as we know it” should be wildly redone. Most marriages are good, but divorce and separation, spousal abuse and neglect of children are also a part of the landscape. Those who complain about families with children and two same-sex parents need to look at the many studies by psychologists, social workers, pediatrists and child care experts about the children raised by gay couples are as healthy and normal as those raised by heterosexual parents. I once met a 82-year-old citizen, and I huge enjoyed watching a Gay and Lesbian Museum and Science Center to watch the new exhibit that featured “The Dykes of Etsy.”

In later years, travels brought me to London, England, at a time when Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had just issued an edict that the schools should not include any material in the works of any author or artists who were gay. Riding a crowded train from London to a suburb, I was standing between two cars with a young woman who also couldn’t find a seat. I started a conversation, and she said she was a student in law. I asked her what she thought about Thatcher’s edict. She called it ridiculous, not possible to enforce and totally undemocratic. Later, back in London, my travel companion from Rochester and I hugely enjoyed watching a Gay Pride Parade. There was one story from a friend that read “The Dykes of Holland.”

I have several times marched behind my church’s “Straight Pride” and “Gay Pride” here in Rochester. Two years ago, I couldn’t march, but brought a lunch chair to sit by the museum and Science Center. I paraded and cheer. Across the street, an obnoxious group had set up a loudspeaker, blaring a message that said, “Change your ways or burn in hell!” It seemed highly inappropriate to me, and I thought police should have stopped them from disturbing the peace and using hate language. I was outraged. As the parade passed, the marchers began to sing a song I learned as a child: “Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.” We spectators joined in. The corner of the street where the neighbor from down the street came to call on me I had been ill and was temporarily housebound. Part of the reason for her to tell me about her church, in case I was “unchurched.” She said they needed new members to make their budget. She proudly told me that hers is the church which holds classes for gays to help them become “straight,” I said, “If you believe that God created all mankind, did not that include people who happened to be gay?” Her reply was that they didn’t want to convert me. It is also refuted. Most marriages are good, but divorce and separation, spousal abuse and neglect of children are also a part of the landscape. Those who complain about families with children and two same-sex parents need to look at the many studies by psychologists, social workers, pediatrists and child care experts about the children raised by gay couples are as healthy and normal as those raised by heterosexual parents. I once met a 82-year-old citizen, and I hugely enjoyed watching a Gay and Lesbian Museum and Science Center to watch the new exhibit that featured “The Dykes of Etsy.”

In later years, travels brought me to London, England, at a time when Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had just issued an edict that the schools should not include any material in the works of any author or artists who were gay. Riding a crowded train from London to a suburb, I was standing between two cars with a young woman who also couldn’t find a seat. I started a conversation, and she said she was a student in law. I asked her what she thought about Thatcher’s edict. She called it ridiculous, not possible to enforce and totally undemocratic. Later, back in London, my travel companion from Rochester and I hugely enjoyed watching a Gay Pride Parade. There was one story from a friend that read “The Dykes of Holland.”

I have several times marched behind my church’s “Straight Pride” and “Gay Pride” here in Rochester. Two years ago, I couldn’t march, but brought a lunch chair to sit by the museum and Science Center. I paraded and cheer. Across the street, an obnoxious group had set up a loudspeaker, blaring a message that said, “Change your ways or burn in hell!” It seemed highly inappropriate to me, and I thought police

Family Reading Program needs gay choice

To the Editor: How can you read about the Readers Digest FAMILY READING PROGRAM. This is a school fundraiser where the students send out request to friends and family to subscribe to a magazine of choice. The problem is that there is no “GAY CHOICE.” There are NO gay/bi/lesbian trans magazines on the magazine list. I phoned the company... to say that there were no magazines to represent my family. And though I enjoy some of the other “choices,” I prefer to support a gay magazine to represent from and I felt it was discriminating to the gay community and to my child’s family and friends.

The women was nice and said that the magazines are voted onto the list. She also she made a request of my local musical director that she would send my suggestion on to the higher ups and if enough people called then she contacted the company. With such people they would consider adding our magazines to the list.

I am writing you to put this out there to our community so we can be acknowledged in the school funding programs. If you can only offer your help or input.

Here’s the FAMILY READING PROGRAM CUSTOMER SERVICE. Box 10203, Des Moines, IA 50336; 1-800-678-2673 (Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30 CST)

Dina Massaro

82-year-old citizen speaks out on LGBT issues

To the Editor: I grew up in Somersworth, New Hampshire, the smallest city in that state. The town had an “opera house,” a theatre which musical comedies, plays and concerts played, which my mother loved. I recall attending a show with her, and a comment which some were made. She said, “She’s a fairy, you know; I love to watch her direct the orchestra...” He has been tried on the issue with some people they would consider adding our magazines to the list.

I attended the University of New Hampshire, graduating in February 1945. It was there a student and her friend were lesbians, but again, I didn’t know what that meant. Later, a two year Masters Program in work at Western Reserve University filled in a lot of gaps in my education, and I became a peace advocate for social justice in many areas.

In later years, I read books about the NAACP, the ACLU, as well as how to run for public office. I recall the4:30 CST.

Dina Massaro

82-year-old citizen speaks out on LGBT issues

To the Editor: I grew up in Somersworth, New Hampshire, the smallest city in that state. The town had an “opera house,” a theatre which musical comedies, plays and concerts played, which my mother loved. I recall attending a show with her, and a comment which some were made. She said, “She’s a fairy, you know; I love to watch her direct the orchestra...” He has been tried on the issue with some people they would consider adding our magazines to the list.

I attended the University of New Hampshire, graduating in February 1945. It was there a student and her friend were lesbians, but again, I didn’t know what that meant. Later, a two year Masters Program in work at Western Reserve University filled in a lot of gaps in my education, and I became a peace advocate for social justice in many areas.

In later years, I read books about the NAACP, the ACLU, as well as how to run for public office. I recall the
Making the Scene

REACH FOR THE STARS: Susan Sarandon, center, with documentary filmmakers Renee Sotile and Mary Jo Godges in L.A. Sarandon did the narration for their film, Christa McAuliffe: Reach for the Stars, which won the Audience Choice Award at the High Falls Film Festival on Nov. 13.

WE ARE HERE, JESUS: The Rev. Elder Jacquelyn Holland at the first service held by Tawa Pano (We Are Here) Unity Fellowship Church on Oct. 30 at the Clarion Hotel. For more information, see the column by the Rev. Dr. Sharon Jacobson (Soul & Inspiration, page B10) and the article in Groups, Section C.

Rainbow Seniors dance was a blast

By Sherlea Dony

Amid rainbow colors in the Roger Robach Community Center, Ontario Beach Park, people moved, grooved, laughed, and loved on a crowded dance floor. DJ Chuck Argento was having a fabulous time too! Over 100 adults of all ages attended. This was the first Annual Fall Dance and Secret Auction for Rainbow Seniors of Western New York (R S W N Y ), on Nov. 12. It was our biggest fundraiser and it was a blast! One person commented that it was a wonderfully safe and welcoming space. There were gourmet desserts, snacks, and beverages, not to mention 30 auction items from hand-crafted items and gift certificates from businesses in the Rochester area. The positive feedback has inspired Rainbow Seniors to at least make this an annual event, if not more frequent. Perhaps R S W N Y can be persuaded to host a Spring Fling. As you may know, R S W N Y is a not-for-profit organization devoted to providing social and life-enhancing opportunities for older GLBTI individuals. Behind the scenes we network with community agencies and organizations to increase awareness about issues affecting older GLBTI individuals. We welcome new members and those who would like to sign up for our mailing list. Our web site, www.rainbowseniorswny.org, will give you information about our activities. We hope to see you at our next event!

IMAGE ARTISTS: The winners of September’s 2005 ImageArt show were Jerry Burch, Eric Bellmann and Beth Bloom, seen above with ImageArt coordinator David Hoffend. (Photos by Gerry Szymanski.)

HALLOWEEN SCENE: Eric Bellmann was in Manhattan at Halloween and observed the Greenwich Village Halloween Parade. Above: Eric with Eak the Geek, NYC street poet and icon, now starring in an ad campaign for HSBC. Photos by Eric Bellmann.
GLAMOUR GIRLS: Glamour Magazine Salutes the 2005 Women of the Year at Lincoln Center on Nov. 2; above are Melissa Etheridge and Tammy Lynn Michaels.

TAB CONFIDENTIAL: Tab Hunter, '50s film icon and author of Tab Hunter Confidential: The Making of a Movie Star, spoke at the LGBT Community Center on Oct. 17. His autobiography describes his double life as a closeted movie star.

REMEMBERING LEROY WHITFIELD: Keith Boykin spoke at The NYC memorial for AIDS journalist LeRoy Whitfield at the National Black Theatre in Harlem on Oct. 20.

THE MARRYING KIND: New Paltz, NY Mayor Jason West at Barnes & Noble Chelsea on Oct. 21, giving a talk and signing for his new book, “Dare to Hope”. West faced charges, now dismissed, for marrying same-sex couples in 2004. He has been forbidden to marry more couples.

WALK TO END AIDS: Walk-The-Tunnel marks the first day (Oct. 15) of a march from New York City to Washington, DC, part of the Campaign To End AIDS (C2EA). Hundreds of people concerned about HIV/AIDS walked for three weeks, from the Lincoln Tunnel to the Lincoln Memorial. Pictured are marchers on 42nd St.

SHE’S AN ACE: Comic Sandra Bernhard at the 9th Annual ACE Awards at Cipriani on Nov. 8.

TALKING POLITICS: Politically Out, a pre-election roundtable with Patrick Guerriero, Stephanie McLean, David Mixner, Carmen Vazquez at the LGBT Community Center on Oct. 19. Pictured are Patrick Guerriero and David Mixner.
F.A.G
Fabulous and Gay™

It's not who you are it's how you live.

2005 Best Men's Shave Cream
Instinct Magazine Men's Grooming Award

A Rochester, NY based business
www.fabulousandgay.com
T'was the nightmare before Christmas:
IMAGEOUT PRESENTS
HELLBENT

Offering an eye-opening chiller to its 2005 festival, ImageOut The Rochester Lesbian & Gay Film & Video Festival will screen Hellbent, a contemporary horror thriller that focuses on gay protagonists. This fundraising screening will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. in Little Theatre 1 at 240 East Ave. In its only public screening in Western New York, Hellbent will be presented in 35mm, Dolby SR. To popular demand, ImageOut's 2005 Audience Award winner for best short film, Powerplay, will receive an encore screening preceding the feature.

Winner of the Vanguard Award at the Rhode Island International Horror Film Festival and a favorite at lesbian and gay festivals nationwide, Hellbent takes place at the West Hollywood Halloween Carnival, where a handsome but deadly masked man sets his sights and slyly appears on a quartet of gay revelers. Balancing suspense and terror with welcome servings of romance, humor, and grotesquerie, Hellbent is the first feature to make the inevitable connection between the so-called "gay high holidays" and the intense "mad slashers" genre pioneered by Dario Argento, John Waters, and Tim Curry. Hellbent is the most Rochester minds might be, occurring with Roy Wahl, who moved to Rochester at the age of 20 from Minnesota where he had one 1000 performance as an actor. It seems like a lot, except when I mention that (fellow cast member) Margot Moreland had one 1000 performances in the month of October 2004!

In January, Wahl will head back to Florida to see the exciting for a production of The Mystery of Irma Vep, by the late playwright Charles Ludlam for the The Throat of the Ridiculous. The play will be at the Actors Playhouse in Coral Springs, Florida. Wahl did the play two summers ago at the Blowing Rock Stage Company in North Carolina. He thought that playing in regional theatre is a real experience, and he appears regularly across the United States, in Florida, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina. Wahl graduated from Hilton high school in 1980, and went to work at Kodak for five years, "One of my jobs was waxing camera spools with Lemon Pledge," he said. I got laid off in 1985 when Kodak laid off one third of its workforce. I thought, "I can really do whatever I want with my life." I'd been doing community theatre and really loved it, so I decided to become an actor. A friend in Ft. Lauderdale kept telling me, "There are so many ads in the paper for actors," so I jumped in my car and went to Florida.

Wahl's ads didn't bring in the type of work Wahl wanted, but he did get an agent and then started getting parts. "I got my Equity card in 1990," he said, "and my SAG Actors Guild card at the same time." The ads didn't bring in the type of work Wahl wanted, but he did get an agent and then started getting parts. "I got my Equity card in 1990," he said, "and my SAG Actors Guild card at the same time." Wahl notes that it can be hard getting starts when you're not liv- ing in L.A. or N.Y.C. By the time film crews arrive to work in Florida, the casting has already been done, and the filmmakers are just looking for walk-on parts. However, his TV and film credits include "Practical" with Jack Scalia, "Plant's Run" with Roy Scheider, and "Fred Ward" with Jim Carrey, as well as a recurring guest role on "Moon Over Miami," which unfortunately only ran for a couple of seasons.

"I'm very satisfied with life in Florida," he said. "As first I thought it'd move up to L.A. or New York, but I work 10 days there to move away and have to start all over again. I love living in South Florida the theater community is very close and nurturing. And the weather is great!"

Wahl thought he'd fill his spare time in Rochester. Wahl said, "I haven't had time to remember (myself) for really good chicken wings. I'll try to get there. The cast went out to Two Vine restaur- ant, which was great.

When asked what he would say to young people interested in becoming actors, he replied frankly, "Don't!" It's not exactly an easy life.

"Do talent, looks or persis- tence matter most when seeking a career in the theater?"

"I'd have to say, persistence. My father gave me a really good piece of advice: "Stay on the bus." He said, 'When you start off, you get on a bus with a bunch of people and most of them will get off before reaching their destin- ation.'"

I stayed on the bus."

**INTRODUCING A NEW COLUMN**

**Soul & Inspiration**

by Rev. Dr. Sharon Jacobson

**Page B 10**
Hellbent continued from page 1

hope - even assume - that no one will die.
In our film, we pay homage to the recogniz-
able slasher stereotypes - the bad boy, the sex addict, the virgin - but they're more fully formed characters."

As a former art director, Etheredge-
Ozts took great pains to create a visually
sophisticated film that's part Black
Orpheus, part Tom of Finland. "The Hal-
looween setting is dream-like," he remarks. "I envisioned the design of the film to
reflect the journey the young characters take
during the course of the Halloween
night. At the beginning, ... the details are
surrounding, glowing, often saturated. As
the story progresses, and horrible events hap-
pen, the movie visually darkens, becomes
less saturated. The holiday setting supports
tones in the most identifiable slasher stereotypes - the bad boy,
hope - even assume - that no one will die.

Concerts continued from page 1

"Our fans are living outside the closet while in the
workplace. In "Downsizing Stereotypes." This December, in "The Life..., the Life takes a look at
some remarkable LGBT people who are
living downtown. Stereotypes." Hosted by Tony Award-winning actor Alan Cumming, this episode includes special
messages from Judy Shepard, actor Sam
Bharns, and Democratic National
Committee Chairman Howard Dean.

In "Firefighter," in "The Life follows Fire
Captain Michele Kammerer, second in
command at Engine Company Number 63
that kicked off the 2005-2006 season and
they are back for their first regular show of
the season.

Finally, in our recurring segment Com-
ing audiences unavailable to most drag
performers across communities from the
church to city hall.

When it comes to having a major impact
on the face of pop culture, only a handful
of people in the world can boast the
parameters for gays in a most unlikely place, and at a
most unlikely time.

"Firefighter," in "The Life follows Fire
Captain Michele Kammerer, second in
command at Engine Company Number 63
that kicked off the 2005-2006 season and
they are back for their first regular show of
the season.

Finally, in our recurring segment Com-
ing audiences unavailable to most drag
performers across communities from the
church to city hall.

When it comes to having a major impact
on the face of pop culture, only a handful
of people in the world can boast the
parameters for gays in a most unlikely place, and at a
most unlikely time.

"Firefighter," in "The Life follows Fire
Captain Michele Kammerer, second in
command at Engine Company Number 63
that kicked off the 2005-2006 season and
they are back for their first regular show of
the season.

Finally, in our recurring segment Com-
ing audiences unavailable to most drag
performers across communities from the
church to city hall.

When it comes to having a major impact
on the face of pop culture, only a handful
of people in the world can boast the
parameters for gays in a most unlikely place, and at a
most unlikely time.
American Idol's first season only openly gay Atlanta. Volunteers. The CLGA is working toward finalist, has recently released his new album ence of his idol George Michael. Varraros 21. He admits that he could probably have sold makes his home in Crystal Lake, Illinois. He has ditched the glasses and has added a sexier look, but the voice is the same. Very much his own man and voice, Jim Varranto's music shows the influence of his idol George Michael. Varranto makes his home in Crystal Lake, Illinois. He admits that he could probably have sold more records, but there is something nice about being able to walk into a bar and not have to watch your back, or to hold hands with a guy when he wants. Varranto wants to show gay youth that it is important to be who you are. Sir Elton New album with his latest album "Peachtree Road," Sir Elton John has released the album as a two disc set. The first disc is a CD with his premier没事 national album and three new tracks - songs from his musical "Billy Elliot". The second disc is a DVD with nine live performance tracks of "Peachtree Road" songs that were recorded last year at the Tabernacle in Atlanta. Sir Elton has set the date. He and partner David Furnish will be married on Dec. 21. CLGA The Canadian Lesbian and Gay Association is designed to collect and preserve the history of the lesbian and gay community in Toronto and Canada. Established in 1973, the organization is comprised of volunteers. The CLGA is working toward having a permanent home for the collection, and hopes to move to their perman- dent home on 34 Isabella St. Currently the CLGA is housed in 65 Wellesley St. Suite 202. The Archives are open to the public for research or to just browse, Tues­ day through Thursday evenings from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

For more information on the Cana­ dian Lesbian and Gay Archives or to find out how to contribute to the Archives visit their website at www.clga.ca.

Reichen Lehmkuhl "Here's What We'll Say" is the new book by Air Force Captain Reichen Lehmkuhl. Reichen attended the Air Force Academy and the book tells of his life and struggles as a gay Air Force Cadet. The book's title was engraved on the inside of the class rings of Reichen and fellow gay cadets who had to lie to Air Force officials to remain at the Academy and in the Air Force.

Lehmkuhl is a model, TV celebrity, and winner of the CBS reality series "The Amazing Race." While a member of the Air Force Academy Lehmkuhl was an instructor and a pilot. To learn more about Reichen or purchase merchandise visit his website at www.reichen.org.

Chef Doug He's gay and he's a gourmet cook. And his show is not like any other cooking show ever seen on TV. Chef Doug and his crew descend upon a neighborhood knocking doors until someone invites him in. Chef Doug invades the kitchen and prepares a gourmet meal with whatever he finds in the cupboards and refrigerator. The pilot for The Gay Gourmet was filmed in East Orange, N.J., where the 68 year-old actor spent most of his life. He is very thankful for her fans and is not afraid to throw her support behind the fight for equal rights for gays. Eder feels that it is stupid for anyone to fight for the right for gays to marry.


Peatchy Nietzsche to record live at Bug Jar On Saturday, Jan. 15, 2006, Peatchy Nietzsche will be recording live at The Bug Jar, 219 Monroe Ave. in Rochester, (585)232-2250, with special guests, The Earl Cram Revue. The band says, "After 14 years, 200 concerts and more than a few bars, we can even we keep on track. Pete-chi Neat­ che is going on hiatus for a little while. (We hope to have back by the fall.) Although you'll always hear the excuse 'artistic differences' if you ask any random Peatchy member, it's actually not that at all. Instead, it's familial, as a couple of us are about to become first time parents (no worries, please as we would be crazy enough to procreate with a ‘Neatchy, we've heard them all, thanks)."

The promoter behind this break, we decided to go out with a bang and perform a concert of our newer originals and record them digitally on a multi-track recorder with the intention of releasing it in the future as a live concert. (Kiss Alive 13 or something similar to that.) "Opening up will be The Earl Cram Revue. If you haven't seen them perform in the last two years or so, don't worry about it, you're self a favor and mark it on your calendar to check them out. (Maybe you sit at the table and look at the Earl Cram Revue "Say" song)."

"Sue" Willpower is a fantastic front­ woman, and has been for the last 10 years. She's been there for her Navy man's big band backing her, it is an act that you should not miss.

The web site is back up and running, thanks to Jeff 'Prowed' by Satun, so you can check that out as well. New bio, new live songs, pictures etc., at www.peatchynachy.com, www.earlcrammusic.com, www.bugjar.com."
This is my home away from home. There is a large room that serves as living room with a dining area and full kitchen at one end. There is also a bedroom, a foyer and a bathroom. There is a TV, of course, and an ironing board with iron and that seems a bit unusual. In the closet there are five hangers, only five, never more. I don’t know why that is.

The very worst thing about traveling is going back indoors, away from the drama of the city, any city, Istanbul, Paris, even Albuquerque. I hate feeling trapped in a small space, cornered into a bed that crowds a tiny room, cursing a bathroom squeezed into a closet-sized space. The transition from adventure to confinement is terrible, like going to jail, I imagine. I stumbled on this hotel by accident, which is how I discover many things that were not for nothing. I argued. No, I don’t want to pay that price. Oddly, this charmed them and they acquiesced. I soon found.

What I like about this room is that it is the only one where the TV is in the bedroom, not the living room. I like to watch TV in bed. The hotel is advertised abroad and I’ve never been back to it. The hotel is on the Lower East Side and close to a bar opened and expelled smokers clussers... The hotel is managed (and owned) by Reiniger, who owns a full block away, has lost its lease. The one right across the street, a magnificent holdout is a man who owns a full block of buildings... There is also a gender specific expectation. Mommy and Daddy... There are other stories I don’t share. Those are just for me.

I finally drove that last year when I was walking home last Halloween Night and turned the corner from Prince Street onto the Bowery, a handsome but worn-looking and not given much to glare of the bright ceiling light to find my way and staggered off to flag down a cab. He know... He knew. We are all New Yorkers. We like that. I know they keep it up at night they would take cover. In the middle of the night I woke, under the glow of the bright ceiling light to find my way and staggered off to flag down a cab. He knew. We are all New Yorkers. We like that. I know they keep it up at night they would take cover. In the middle of the night I woke, under the glow of the bright ceiling light to find my way and staggered off to flag down a cab. He knew. We are all New Yorkers. We like that. I know they keep it up at night they would take cover. In the middle of the night I woke, under the glow of the bright ceiling light to find my way and staggered off to flag down a cab. He knew. We are all New Yorkers. We like that. I know they keep it up at night they would take cover.
PURSE.

PURSES

PURSES

PURSES

The Troys.

Purchase-The Troys.

Alice Walker, my cats.

vide pockets; fashion supersedes function.

Clearly there was no place to leave my jacket on the back of a chair. If my Satchel was conveniently with me, then I could wait next to a chair. If my Satchel could be left unsupervised, I could leave it with Needed Stuff: brush, calculator, keys, cards, cash, credit cards, debit cards. A Stolen Purse is an invitation to also steal a car, rob a house, rape a resident, deplete a credit line, accrue huge charges, commit identity theft.

Once upon a time I knew all this. "Knew" meaning I had read about those risks and had carefully filed the information in my brain under Other... "It only happens to Other people." Eventually I understood those Others were my sister, my little old mother, my friend Mary. Ultimately I understood the Curse of the Purse. Ever since, I have refused to carry Vulnerability in a Purse. I have chosen pockets. It has been twenty-three years since I de-pursed myself, and, in all that time, no one has stolen my pants.

Mme/dElisabeth4itionally@Frontiernet.net

Misadventures In Boyland

AND THE WINNER IS... by Troy Robinson

I love award shows. The glamour. The red carpet. The poorly written acceptance speeches. I love it all!

At the end of each year I like to reflect upon all the events and people that made the news and hold my own little award show—the Troys. (The name just doesn’t quite have the zing the Emmys or the Oscars, or I’m working on it.) I honor those who have made a significant (and sometimes insignificant) impact on our culture over the past year.

And although I’ve never had anyone stop by to pick up his or her award, I still roll out the red carpet (a small bathroom mat with a weird stain in the corner). I also put out velvet ropes to separate the paparazzi from the potential arrivals, but so far they’ve only tripped up a pizza delivery guy from Domino’s.

Nonetheless, the following are the winners for 2005 (drum roll please):

The Comeback of the Year: Mariah Carey—Just a few short years ago, it seemed that this songbird would be whisked off in a straightjacket to the loony bin. Mariah appeared to have lost her Midas touch by releasing two uninspired albums (Glitter and Charmbracelet) and one mess of a movie (Glitter) in the first half of this decade. But with the release of this year’s album The Emancipation of Mimi, which has been certified quadruple platinum, she proved that her visit to a mental health facility back in 2001 was time well spent. So if you like your divas crazy (like a fox) and talented, Mariah is your girl.

The I-Thought-Pandas-Had-A-Better-Chance-At-Propagating Award: Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes—J. Lo can only hope that she and her groom will make a better attempt at the future of the species than the prolific Pope of Dye, who has been known to dye his hair a different color every other day.

The Best-Reason-To-Purchase-The iPod-With-A-Video Award: Port! Leave it to the shady marketers find a way of getting skin flicks on the iPod’s tiny 2.5 inch screen. So the next time you see that hot guy at your gym running on a treadmill while plugged into an iPod, it may be more than just his heart rate that’s rising.

The Hottie of the Year: Chris Evans—This young actor had gay men shouting "Flame on!" all summer long with his leading man turns in The Fantastic Four. The body of the year, no doubt! He was a perfect fit for the role of the Human Torch for his character the Human Torch for the movie The Fantastic Four. I carried a torch for his character the Human Torch for most of the year. And I dare you to google his name. Your computer screen will melt.

The Comeback of the Year: Mariah Carey—Just a few short years ago...
Did I just wake up?
Likely-To-Grab-The-Gay American Idol, this little pop tart has
Award involves Ken and Blaine!
year’s mega-hit
win back former girlfriend (and American story. From when she first appeared on
bie’s ex) - Mattel announced in October
secret teen daughter.
festivities? I mean we hate to have a party
in the year 1984? From Madonna to Cyndi
Decadence this year.
Fags Award: Hurricane Katrina - If God
then she gathers her golden curls and tucks
choker.
She wears earrings, and a tasteful pearl
coast her, she pulls out her fan and
candy this makes the must-read gay site on
Now, American Girl and Girls Inc. have teamed up to help young girls.
Felicity and Elizabeth are best friends.
They dress up together.
Felicity loves her lavender gown, white stockings and black shoes with
fancy buckles. She likes to have her long blonde hair brushed and tied with a matching lavender ribbon. Then she gathers her golden curls and tucks them underneath a
she's hot, she pulls out her fan and
candy this makes the must-read gay site on
Now, American Girl and Girls Inc. have teamed up to help young girls.
Felicity and Elizabeth are best friends.
They dress up together.
Felicity loves her lavender gown, white stockings and black shoes with
fancy buckles. She likes to have her long blonde hair brushed and tied with a matching lavender ribbon. Then she gathers her golden curls and tucks them underneath a
she's hot, she pulls out her fan and
candy this makes the must-read gay site on
Now, American Girl and Girls Inc. have teamed up to help young girls.
Felicity and Elizabeth are best friends.
They dress up together.
Felicity loves her lavender gown, white stockings and black shoes with
fancy buckles. She likes to have her long blonde hair brushed and tied with a matching lavender ribbon. Then she gathers her golden curls and tucks them underneath a
in Albany's New York Lesbian and Gay Lesbian Awareness Fund, which has been recognized today as Empire State Pride Agenda.

As a strong advocate in our community for the past 20 years, Tim Mains has set the standard in his primary roles as a city councilman. Every year as an elected official, Tim has joined other openly gay elected officials on Washington D.C.'s Black Tie and High Heels AIDS/HIV/AIDS Fundraising. Right here in Rochester, Tim has personally raised thousands of dollars in memory of his friend and one time legislative aide, Joe Carroll.

As a result of his outstanding accomplishments, his work is truly impressive. Besides creating a domestic partnership registry, establishing the citywide Department for the Elderly in 1994, he has been the focal watchdog by chairing the Finance Committee for over six years. He is also instrumental in creating the region's first tax rebate fund, lead parent abdomen legislation, and co-sponsored other initiatives. Tim still serves as the current chair for the city council's Public Services Committee. Health, and the Recreation Committee. Additionally, he currently attends several board meetings weekly, including Action for a Better Community, Inc. and the Center for Dispute Settlement.

These historical contributions are perhaps why the Community Business Forum (CBF) has just named him as the 1999 recipient of their Lifetime Achievement Award. Incidentally, he has done all of this while maintaining his job as a city councilman. Presently serving as head of R.C.S.D. Inc., Tim is in a position that is required to assist in the implementation of a new policy that will helpcioy with the implementation of a new policy that will help in the implementation of a new policy that will help for even better. Again, you can call and ask him how you can help continue to improve the quality of life for all people with disabilities. Just maybe, then maybe we could help keep minds off of retiring from public office. Even if it's just for a little while. Peace.

A Few Bricks Short

THAT'S CISTERN, SISTER!

by David Hull

"It looks like our well has gone dry again," said my partner, Bernie, as he knelt on the ground and used a flashlight to peek down into the narrow tube that disappeared into the side yard. "Until we can afford to have another well dug, we're going to have to work with the cistern."

"Which cistern? Your sister or my sister?"

I asked my partner. Cooperating with family members is not always easy.

He shook his head. "Not sister. Cistern. It's that big concrete tank in the basement. If we pump water into it, we can pump it up to that whenever the well goes dry. Well, we're still going to have to bottle water for drinking and cooking. But the cistern will be full, for everything else.

"This sounds like something out of Little Richard and the Pips. I just can't get that song out of my head."

"I can't think of another song that has been stuck in my head for more than 50 years," admitted my partner.

"Well, I'm wrong," said my partner. "In the perfect world, I would still be stuck in the sink.

"And you got your cowboy boots on, too?"

"Yeah, I'm Hank," he said, tipping his black Stetson to me. "I'm here to fill yer cistern, if yer 'bout ready."

I couldn't actually speak. There was a handsome cowboy standing on my front porch. I nodded and smiled back while Cowboy Hank got to work. Who would ever have thought that there would be a cistern-filling cowboy?

"Well, we've got water," said Bernie at our home, "we've got water." I watched the water splash into the sink. "And you got your cowboy boots on, too?"

"I'm Hank," he said. "I'm ready to empty that cistern fast so Cowboy Hank could be filled, we would have to pump the cowboy? ever have thought there would be a cistern-filling cowboy?"

"My dream is to be a cowboy," said Bernie. "I want to empty that cistern fast so Cowboy Hank could be filled, we would have to pump the cowboy? ever have thought there would be a cistern-filling cowboy?"

"Well, I'm wrong," he said. "Everybody deserves a break. I'm ready to empty that cistern fast so Cowboy Hank could be filled, we would have to pump the cowboy? ever have thought there would be a cistern-filling cowboy?"

"I was just thinking of how much fun it would be to have a cistern-filling cowboy," he said. "I thought it would be a great way to celebrate Christmas Day."

"What is the likely cause, the blood in the semen -- the risk of rupturing blood vessels?" In most or all of these cases, symptoms should clear on their own.

"Some physiological problems that can cause disease in a variety of ways: Some examples of physical causes of hemospermia might include a trauma to the genital or grain area that burrs blood vessels inside the body. Additionally men who smoke a cok-"cowboy? ever have thought there would be a cistern-filling cowboy?"

"Hey, I'm Hank," he said. "I'm ready to empty that cistern fast so Cowboy Hank could be filled, we would have to pump the cowboy? ever have thought there would be a cistern-filling cowboy?"

"I couldn't actually speak. There was a handsome cowboy standing on my front porch. I nodded and smiled back while Cowboy Hank got to work. Who would ever have thought that there would be a cistern-filling cowboy?

"Well, we've got water," said Bernie at our home, "we've got water." I watched the water splash into the sink. "And you got your cowboy boots on, too?"

"I'm Hank," he said. "I'm ready to empty that cistern fast so Cowboy Hank could be filled, we would have to pump the cowboy? ever have thought there would be a cistern-filling cowboy?"

"My dream is to be a cowboy," said Bernie. "I want to empty that cistern fast so Cowboy Hank could be filled, we would have to pump the cowboy? ever have thought there would be a cistern-filling cowboy?"

"What is the likely cause, the blood in the semen -- the risk of rupturing blood vessels?" In most or all of these cases, symptoms should clear on their own.

"Some physiological problems that can cause disease in a variety of ways: Some examples of physical causes of hemospermia might include a trauma to the genital or grain area that burrs blood vessels inside the body. Additionally men who smoke a cok-"cowboy? ever have thought there would be a cistern-filling cowboy?"

"Hey, I'm Hank," he said. "I'm ready to empty that cistern fast so Cowboy Hank could be filled, we would have to pump the cowboy? ever have thought there would be a cistern-filling cowboy?"

"I couldn't actually speak. There was a handsome cowboy standing on my front porch. I nodded and smiled back while Cowboy Hank got to work. Who would ever have thought that there would be a cistern-filling cowboy?

"Well, we've got water," said Bernie at our home, "we've got water." I watched the water splash into the sink. "And you got your cowboy boots on, too?"

"I'm Hank," he said. "I'm ready to empty that cistern fast so Cowboy Hank could be filled, we would have to pump the cowboy? ever have thought there would be a cistern-filling cowboy?"

"My dream is to be a cowboy," said Bernie. "I want to empty that cistern fast so Cowboy Hank could be filled, we would have to pump the cowboy? ever have thought there would be a cistern-filling cowboy?"

"What is the likely cause, the blood in the semen -- the risk of rupturing blood vessels?" In most or all of these cases, symptoms should clear on their own.

"Some physiological problems that can cause disease in a variety of ways: Some examples of physical causes of hemospermia might include a trauma to the genital or grain area that burrs blood vessels inside the body. Additionally men who smoke a cok-"cowboy? ever have thought there would be a cistern-filling cowboy?"

"Hey, I'm Hank," he said. "I'm ready to empty that cistern fast so Cowboy Hank could be filled, we would have to pump the cowboy? ever have thought there would be a cistern-filling cowboy?"

"I couldn't actually speak. There was a handsome cowboy standing on my front porch. I nodded and smiled back while Cowboy Hank got to work. Who would ever have thought that there would be a cistern-filling cowboy?

"Well, we've got water," said Bernie at our home, "we've got water." I watched the water splash into the sink. "And you got your cowboy boots on, too?"

"I'm Hank," he said. "I'm ready to empty that cistern fast so Cowboy Hank could be filled, we would have to pump the cowboy? ever have thought there would be a cistern-filling cowboy?"

"My dream is to be a cowboy," said Bernie. "I want to empty that cistern fast so Cowboy Hank could be filled, we would have to pump the cowboy? ever have thought there would be a cistern-filling cowboy?"

"What is the likely cause, the blood in the semen -- the risk of rupturing blood vessels?" In most or all of these cases, symptoms should clear on their own.
Whispers
The man whispered, “God, speak to me” and a meadowlark sang.

But, the man did not hear.
So the man yelled, “God, speak to me” and the thunder rolled across the sky.

But, the man did not listen.
The man looked around and said, “God let me see you.”
And a star shined brightly.

But, the man did not see.
And, the man shouted, “God show me a miracle.” And, a baby’s life was born.

But, the man did not notice.
So, the man cries out in despair, “Touch me God, and let me know you are here.” Where upon, God reached down and touched the man.

But, the man brushed the butterfly away & walked on.
I found this to be a great reminder that God is always around us in the little and simple things that we take for granted.

Don’t miss out on a blessing because it isn’t packaged the way that you expect.

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Coldwell Banker Prime Properties
RON MATTER, Associate Broker, Notary
3750 Monroe Avenue, Pittsford, NY 14534
Office: 899-5521
Cell: 729-2259

For Your Real Estate Needs

The Dorschel Automotive Group would like to welcome Dan Bresnan to Dorschel Lexus and Saab. Dan brings with him nine years of professional experience and knowledge. Call Dan today for information on his referral program.

Direct: (585) 321-2424
dbresnan@thedorscheldifference.com
3817 W. Henrietta Rd., Rochester, NY 14623

Yo! Check it out Dude: www.Boy4Boy.Net

FAST!! FREE!! SIMPLE TO USE!!

WOW !!!

50” HD PLASMA TV

Win 1 of 25 TVs !!

Details @ www.Boy4Boy.Net
you see. You only get one day. And you find what we used to have and be. Nothing lasts.

Something else.

spend as much time as I can telling the friends near me on a regular basis, before we all be affected by time and space, which unfortunately can limit each option. The older we get, the farther we drift away from something else.

Yet, I have this dangling carrot. For one day, Christmas, I get all of these things I want, unencumbered. But that's the catch, you see. You only get one day. And you find yourself thinking, Remember back when we could do this and that, before our lives CHANGED? It's depressing.

So yes, I have big issues with change, though it is inevitable. I just want more time to say and do the things I feel I have left to say and do. I want more time with the people in my life. Don't we all?

This Christmas, in spite of these necessities, I'm going to try really hard to let my blonde existence of mine how much I love and how important they are to me.

This Christmas, in spite of these necessities, I'm going to try really hard to let my blonde existence of mine how much I love and how important they are to me.

A couple of months ago, Susan Jordan asked me what the biggest challenge was to my ministry in this city. I told her it was to heal the biblical and spiritual abuse in this city. Now that Tiwa Pano Unity Fellowship Church has been open almost a month, I would have to say the same thing. It's that just now, I have a greater understanding of the severity and depths of the wounds that have been inflicted by some religious leaders in God's name.

For some, what we offer will be the balm that soothes their souls. For others, we need to create ways to allow the wounds to heal before they can even consider trying church again. I know that even this is possible. Because I know that God sent Jesus here to collapse the walls that divide us from each other. God never collapses walls, God opens doors, windows, and has had the roof taken off buildings, so someone could receive healing.

One of my favorite songs says, "God's got a miracle for you." And I know that is true. As the song says, all we have to do is "reach up and grab it," "cause 'God has a miracle for you." And God has more than a miracle for each of us. God has love and God has healing and God has everything we need. We just need to have faith as big as a mustard seed and reach up and grab it. God has those miracles for each of us.

We all can see it, we just need to reach up and grab it, because God has all this for us.

And God has something special for each of us. Those in my congregation know I can't carry a tune, but I can make a lot of lively noise. Despite this, there are songs that minister to my soul. One of the songs that I love, says, "what God has for me in it." That is so true. God is not a one blessing fits all kind of God. God has something that is just for you. And God will make sure you receive everything that God has for you.

Sometimes we just make it hard to receive those blessings, because we can't believe that God would bless us that abundantly. But God so wants to. As a friend of mine, Reverend Kevin Taylor of UFC New Brunswick, always tells his congregation, "dream your fullest dream because what you have at the top of your prayer list is on the bottom of the list of what God has for you." That is the only thing that keeps us from experiencing the fullness of God's love for us is the walls that we have put up to protect ourselves from further experiences of biblical or spiritual abuse.

We end each service with a song that touches our soul. That some of us need each other to survive. We need to be praying for each other, because when one of us is hurting, we all are hurting. My survival is linked to the survival of others. We need to help each other not just survive, but to thrive and be stalwart protectors. We need to work at being supportive and loving with each other and not adding to the hostility in our own community. So each week, as we sing this song, we promise, "I won't hurt you, with words from my mouth" because we are committed to encouraging each other and building each other up. There are enough people hurting us; we do not need to be doing this to each other.

One of the requests that I hear repeatedly is, "please show me where in the Bible it says, "reach up and grab it," "cause 'God has a miracle for you." And God has more than a miracle for each of us. God has love and God has healing and God has everything we need. We just need to have faith as big as a mustard seed and reach up and grab it. God has those miracles for each of us.

We all can see it, we just need to reach up and grab it, because God has all this for us.

And God has something special for each of us. Those in my congregation know I can't carry a tune, but I can make a lot of lively noise. Despite this, there are songs that minister to my soul. One of the songs that I love, says, "what God has for me in it." That is so true. God is not a one blessing fits all kind of God. God has something that is just for you. And God will make sure you receive everything that God has for you.

Sometimes we just make it hard to receive those blessings, because we can't believe that God would bless us that abundantly. But God so wants to. As a friend of mine, Reverend Kevin Taylor of UFC New Brunswick, always tells his congregation, "dream your fullest dream because what you have at the top of your prayer list is on the bottom of the list of what God has for you." That is the only thing that keeps us from experiencing the fullness of God's love for us is the walls that we have put up to protect ourselves from further experiences of biblical or spiritual abuse.

We end each service with a song that touches our soul. That some of us need each other to survive. We need to be praying for each other, because when one of us is hurting, we all are hurting. My survival is linked to the survival of others. We need to help each other not just survive, but to thrive and be stalwart protectors. We need to work at being supportive and loving with each other and not adding to the hostility in our own community. So each week, as we sing this song, we promise, "I won't hurt you, with words from my mouth" because we are committed to encouraging each other and building each other up. There are enough people hurting us; we do not need to be doing this to each other.

One of the requests that I hear repeatedly is, "please show me where in the Bible it says, "reach up and grab it," "cause 'God has a miracle for you." And God has more than a miracle for each of us. God has love and God has healing and God has everything we need. We just need to have faith as big as a mustard seed and reach up and grab it. God has those miracles for each of us.

We all can see it, we just need to reach up and grab it, because God has all this for us.

Counseling Services

Maxine McDonnell LCSW, CASAC

(585) 330-8891

Ontario, NY and ROCHESTER, NY

WEB: http://home.rochester.rr.com/maxmC

1431 Marsh Road

Pittsford, NY 14534

(585) 249-5990

Veterinary Hospital

Andy Fleming, DVM

Aida Aponte-Lann, DVM

1311 Marsh Road

Pittsford, NY 14534

(585) 249-5990
AIDS DIRECTORY

Monroe County Health Department at 655 W. Main St., offers testing and counseling for HIV and hepatitis. Confidentially, most insurances are accepted, TTY 585-464-5968.


Elizabeth Wendel Breast Clinic 207 Clough Dr. Dr. Wendel Logan-Yang and an all woman staff provide mammograms.

AIDS Rochester Women's Health

Outreach Department, 1530 University Ave. AR has services for HIV positive women and others in the lesbian community. 585-442-9442.

Community Health Network

87 N. Clinton Ave., 244-9000; TTY (585) 461-9002. HIV and Primary care medical services for HIV positive women, their negative partners and family members. 800-456-1172. Office 315-331-1171; fax 315-331-1189.

Mary Magdall House

Women’s outreach center for HIV positive women and girls ages 12-25. 601-304-9310. Open Mon.-Fri. 6:30-9:30 pm 455-5728.

Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse Region

11 University Ave., Rochester, NY 14605; Toll-free: 1-866-603-6886. Planned Parenthood has led the way in providing high quality, affordable reproductive health care since 1916. Our experienced and compassionate medical staff will talk to your concerns and answer your questions in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. All our services are confidential. We accept most insurances; including Medicaid. You may even qualify for free, low-cost family planning services. When you make your appointment, be sure to ask about our sliding scale fees. No one is turned away for lack of ability to pay.

Monroe County Health Department at 655 W. Main St., offers testing and counseling for HIV and hepatitis. Confidentially, most insurances are accepted, TTY 585-464-5968.


Elizabeth Wendel Breast Clinic 207 Clough Dr. Dr. Wendel Logan-Yang and an all woman staff provide mammograms.

AIDS Rochester Women’s Health

Outreach Department, 1530 University Ave. AR has services for HIV positive women and others in the lesbian community. 585-442-9442.

Community Health Network

87 N. Clinton Ave., 244-9000; TTY (585) 461-9002. HIV and Primary care medical services for HIV positive women, their negative partners and family members. 800-456-1172. Office 315-331-1171; fax 315-331-1189.

Mary Magdall House

Women’s outreach center for HIV positive women and girls ages 12-25. 601-304-9310. Open Mon.-Fri. 6:30-9:30 pm 455-5728.

Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse Region

11 University Ave., Rochester, NY 14605; Toll-free: 1-866-603-6886. Planned Parenthood has led the way in providing high quality, affordable reproductive health care since 1916. Our experienced and compassionate medical staff will talk to your concerns and answer your questions in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. All our services are confidential. We accept most insurances; including Medicaid. You may even qualify for free, low-cost family planning services. When you make your appointment, be sure to ask about our sliding scale fees. No one is turned away for lack of ability to pay.

Monroe County Health Department at 655 W. Main St., offers testing and counseling for HIV and hepatitis. Confidentially, most insurances are accepted, TTY 585-464-5968.


Elizabeth Wendel Breast Clinic 207 Clough Dr. Dr. Wendel Logan-Yang and an all woman staff provide mammograms.

AIDS Rochester Women’s Health

Outreach Department, 1530 University Ave. AR has services for HIV positive women and others in the lesbian community. 585-442-9442.

Community Health Network

87 N. Clinton Ave., 244-9000; TTY (585) 461-9002. HIV and Primary care medical services for HIV positive women, their negative partners and family members. 800-456-1172. Office 315-331-1171; fax 315-331-1189.

Mary Magdall House

Women’s outreach center for HIV positive women and girls ages 12-25. 601-304-9310. Open Mon.-Fri. 6:30-9:30 pm 455-5728.

Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse Region

11 University Ave., Rochester, NY 14605; Toll-free: 1-866-603-6886. Planned Parenthood has led the way in providing high quality, affordable reproductive health care since 1916. Our experienced and compassionate medical staff will talk to your concerns and answer your questions in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. All our services are confidential. We accept most insurances; including Medicaid. You may even qualify for free, low-cost family planning services. When you make your appointment, be sure to ask about our sliding scale fees. No one is turned away for lack of ability to pay.

Monroe County Health Department at 655 W. Main St., offers testing and counseling for HIV and hepatitis. Confidentially, most insurances are accepted, TTY 585-464-5968.


Elizabeth Wendel Breast Clinic 207 Clough Dr. Dr. Wendel Logan-Yang and an all woman staff provide mammograms.

AIDS Rochester Women’s Health

Outreach Department, 1530 University Ave. AR has services for HIV positive women and others in the lesbian community. 585-442-9442.

Community Health Network

87 N. Clinton Ave., 244-9000; TTY (585) 461-9002. HIV and Primary care medical services for HIV positive women, their negative partners and family members. 800-456-1172. Office 315-331-1171; fax 315-331-1189.

Mary Magdall House

Women’s outreach center for HIV positive women and girls ages 12-25. 601-304-9310. Open Mon.-Fri. 6:30-9:30 pm 455-5728.

Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse Region

11 University Ave., Rochester, NY 14605; Toll-free: 1-866-603-6886. Planned Parenthood has led the way in providing high quality, affordable reproductive health care since 1916. Our experienced and compassionate medical staff will talk to your concerns and answer your questions in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. All our services are confidential. We accept most insurances; including Medicaid. You may even qualify for free, low-cost family planning services. When you make your appointment, be sure to ask about our sliding scale fees. No one is turned away for lack of ability to pay.

Monroe County Health Department at 655 W. Main St., offers testing and counseling for HIV and hepatitis. Confidentially, most insurances are accepted, TTY 585-464-5968.


Elizabeth Wendel Breast Clinic 207 Clough Dr. Dr. Wendel Logan-Yang and an all woman staff provide mammograms.

AIDS Rochester Women’s Health

Outreach Department, 1530 University Ave. AR has services for HIV positive women and others in the lesbian community. 585-442-9442.

Community Health Network

87 N. Clinton Ave., 244-9000; TTY (585) 461-9002. HIV and Primary care medical services for HIV positive women, their negative partners and family members. 800-456-1172. Office 315-331-1171; fax 315-331-1189.

Mary Magdall House

Women’s outreach center for HIV positive women and girls ages 12-25. 601-304-9310. Open Mon.-Fri. 6:30-9:30 pm 455-5728.

Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse Region

11 University Ave., Rochester, NY 14605; Toll-free: 1-866-603-6886. Planned Parenthood has led the way in providing high quality, affordable reproductive health care since 1916. Our experienced and compassionate medical staff will talk to your concerns and answer your questions in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. All our services are confidential. We accept most insurances; including Medicaid. You may even qualify for free, low-cost family planning services. When you make your appointment, be sure to ask about our sliding scale fees. No one is turned away for lack of ability to pay.

Monroe County Health Department at 655 W. Main St., offers testing and counseling for HIV and hepatitis. Confidentially, most insurances are accepted, TTY 585-464-5968.


Elizabeth Wendel Breast Clinic 207 Clough Dr. Dr. Wendel Logan-Yang and an all woman staff provide mammograms.
Please let me introduce myself. My name is Ralph Padilla—sales and leasing professional for Bob Johnson Chevrolet. As an automotive veteran, I am proud to be working at the #1 Chevy dealership in Rochester—Bob Johnson Chevrolet.

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

- We have more Chevy inventory—all colors—all options.
- We provide the best prices upfront—you'll receive low, low financing, the highest rebates possible, our exclusive Platinum Plus Program, and special incentives provided exclusively by Bob Johnson Chevrolet.

For ADDITIONAL SAVINGS, call me and mention this ad!

At Bob Johnson Chevrolet, You’ll get more for your money...

You’ll get much greater value... It’s a better place to buy a car!

1271 Ridge Road West
Rochester, NY 14615
1-888-362-2422 x224
ralphp@bobjohnsonchevy.com

HOURS: Mon.-Thurs. 9am-9pm
Fri. 9am-6pm, Sat. 9am-5pm
CLOSED SUNDAY
Newport, the great escapade

By MerleExit

It was smooth sailing as the sun shone on the Madeleine in Newport's Narragansett Bay. The breeze blew back my curly hair as I held the edge of my sheet, sitting on the boat, focusing on one of Rhode Island's many mansions.

Shortly after the 72-foot schooner docked, I was invited aboard the Freedom, a 12-meter 1980 Americas Cup winner. A group of avid sailors from England chartered the boat and each participated in its glorious journey. All except moi.

As the vessel sped along the waters, I thought about tennis but golf, and not at the Tennis Hall of Fame, but at the Newport Country Club. Arikana Secretanum and Sce. Ri Pak will join Meg Mallin, Jalie Inkster and Karrie Webb. I highly recommend booking tickets, if the the ticket prices are going to increase on Jan. 1, 2006.

Mansions, been there, done most. I keep asking why I would pay someone to remind me of what I can't afford. This time around I was interested in two of them: the Elms and Rough Point.

It was the Elms Lunch and Garden Tour, rather than the mansion itself that drew my attention. The tour of the elegant restored gardens and grounds of the Elms was just perfectly compatible with the day's climate. Lunch on the terrace transported my imagination to the possibility of living there. An extremely knowledgeable representative of the Preservation Society was on hand to share her expertise.

Hearing the sound of the alarm buzzer, I awoke, jumped out of bed and pushed the button to turn it off and I considered simply pulling out the plug. But then I awoke from the dream of shutting it off. I was at my second accommodation, Yankee Peddler Inn, one of five Historic Inns of Newport. Located on Touro Street, the inn has quite comfortable rooms and a rooftop deck overlooking the city. The inn that may have the best view is Harborside Inn at Christopher Landings and the more unique one would be Jailhouse Inn, a modernized former jailhouse.

With a city of events, the one that I was privy to attend was the annual Snapple Summer Music Festival held at the Newport Yachting Center. Singer/pianist Peter Cincotti and jazz trumpeter Chris Botti were on the bill that evening. I was familiar with both artists, as I had seen Cincotti as an opening act for Elton John and Botti has made several appearances on the Caroline Ria show.

The tented VIP area had food and wine. Local wines from Greenvale Vineyards, Newport Vineyards and Sakonnet Vineyards & Winery. Beach Bum Don's was on hand to have us indulge in "the best chocolate chip cookies on the planet" Examples: Rum Coconut, a hint of butter rum, coconut flakes and slices almonds; BVI Toffee, white chocolate chipoles, pecan and soft English toffee bits; Cherry Almond, almonds instead of nuts, with chunks of dried sweetened cherries. If I were smart I would have gotten my exercise by walking back to Queen instead of taking Amtrak.

Newport has become the newer Prow scene with its Gay & Lesbian Travel Guide. The guide lists both gay-friendly and gay-owned businesses. Aside from Hydrangea House, Inn Bliss at 18 Bliss Road sounded like a great place. With 1 and I had great conversation. Too bad the place was booked that weekend. For further information on Newport go to www.GoNewport.com. Times into Merle's Who's Who... etc. again begin her internet radio program on Dec. 1. Topics include travel, entertainment, food and humor. Go to www.merlepictures.com.
Chef Lisa’s Cranberry Salad
Chef Lisa Cunliffe of Jonathan’s Choice, 122 Main St. in East Rochester, is AFC Chef of the Year for 2005. She is sharing her favorite holiday recipe with EC readers: a colorful Cranberry Salad.

1 pkg. raspberry jello
1 pkg. lemon jello
1 cup sugar
2 cups ground cranberries
1 cup chopped celery
1 can mandarin oranges, drained
1 can crushed pineapple, drained
1/2 cup nut meats, chopped

Method: Mix jellies as usual, using 1/4 cup less liquid and substitute port wine as part of the liquid. Add the rest of the ingredients in order and cool. Pour into a mold and let the salad set up overnight.

Chef Tip: This recipe makes a large amount. So you can put what you need aside for your holiday table and package the rest into decorative jars for your guests to take with them. They will absolutely love this!

This Cranberry Salad is totally delicious with any poultry. Happy Holidays, see you soon!

Chef Lisa

Niagara-On-The-Lake Ice Wine Festival Tour

Do some shopping and eating, plus enjoying the Ice Wine from the local winery’s. You do not need to drink to enjoy this event. There lot’s of things to do and see apart from the Ice Wine Tasting.

Date: Saturday, January, 21, 2005
Leave at 9:00am • Return at 6:00pm
Pick and drop off location is in front of 121 N. Fitzhugh Street, across from the Downtown United Presbyterian Church.
Ticket Cost: $40.00 Single, $70.00 Double
Tickets can be purchased at www.thergmc.org or the Chorusline (585) 425-0650 and Outlandish.

Find Your Next Volkswagen or Audi Here!

Specialist in Volkswagen and Audi Automobiles
Sales & Service • 315-789-9368
www.selecteurocars.com
Selling your house: is it worth it to pay a realtor?

By Jeffrey Hammerberg

One of the biggest—and most often cited—expenses related to selling a home is the commission paid to professional real estate brokers. There is a perpetual debate over the value of services provided by real estate sales professionals.

In real estate marketing campaigns this controversy is sometimes confronted head-on by those agents who are courting you for your business. After all, getting listings (contracts to sell properties for a commission) is the bread and butter of the real estate sales profession. In this article we’ll examine the underlying factors that come into play when a house is sold with or without a real estate salesperson, so that you can make your own informed decisions about the subject. After all, it’s your money, your property, and your choice.

Selling your house by yourself, or “for sale by owner” (people in the real estate industry use the slang acronym “fsbo”) is worthy of consideration, and can save you five percent or more of your sales price. To sell your house, you will need to advertise, and these days you can include your property in the Realtor database or Multiple Listing Service for a fixed fee, which will give you access to the greatest number of potential buyers and will ensure that everyone in the real estate business knows your property is on the market.

But many brokers are hesitant to show houses to clients unless they can expect to be paid for their efforts, and for that reason it is a reasonable and common practice to offer at least a three percent commission to those who find you a buyer and help to close the sale. So even as a “fsbo,” you may have expenses of over $2000 in order to find and secure buyers in a competitive market.

For buyers to view your house, someone has to show it to them. Normally this is coordinated by the realtor, but if you sell your house yourself, you will have to take calls and e-mails, set appointments, and conduct tours of your home for prospective buyers.

You have to negotiate with those who want to see your house on short notice, while you are at work, or at other times when it’s convenient for them but inconvenient for you. After finding interested buyers, you negotiate the price, through offers and counter-offers. If they want to sign a contract, you should have attorney-approved contracts available, but you will also want to ensure that they have adequate financing, which can involve running credit reports or meeting with mortgage lenders. Many “fsbo” find these logistics not only inconvenient but also stressful.

But the real stress usually comes after the contracts are signed, and the push for a quick and efficient closing begins. Sellers have an emotional attachment to their home and the hard work and investment they have put into it. Buyers are emotionally charged because they are making the biggest financial decision of their lifetime. For four to six weeks, there is a potentially strained series of ongoing but separate miniature “tug of war” procedures, as the buyer and seller compete with each other to get the best deal possible, while trying to maintain businesslike emotional composure.

You will negotiate the dates for completion of inspections, loan approval, and closing. There may be a lien on the property you didn’t know about, or an issue with an easement that could become a deal-killer. You might need an extra weekend to pack and move, but have to get written permission from the buyer. Without quick and professional resolution of these types of problems, you could lose the sale or even end up in court for violation of a contract.

For these reasons, the most overlooked, undervalued, and valuable justification for hiring a broker is that it gives you the opportunity to negotiate through a professional, experienced, and emotionally objective third party who has your best interest in mind.

Because the real estate salesperson will be negotiating on your behalf, it is essential that you hire a trusted real estate expert who can trust, communicate with, and rely upon. Many GLBT sellers feel most confident when they are able to choose a broker from their own community, and until recently it was not always easy to locate GLBT real estate professionals. But within the past few years a worldwide community of GLBT real estate professionals was organized as a network to serve customers throughout the world. You can find a professional dedicated to equality and integrity in services to the GLBT community by visiting www.GayRealEstate.com. This network database is capable of locating real estate sales professionals offering services in your own hometown.

The decision to hire a broker or go it alone as a “fsbo” is a complicated and important one, and there are many variables to take into consideration. But if you hire a skilled mediator and negotiator to help you sell your house, you will probably get your money’s worth, and may save enough money along the way to cover all or part of the sales commission.
rochester spa & body club

109 Liberty Pole way Rochester NY 14604 .585.454.1074

open 24/7

wireless internet available
no membership required

bar nights
december, 17th
january, 21st

play
 IT Safe FOR life

www.rochesterspa.com

serving the gay community since 1961

photo by: christopher Bacon
GAGV launches new website

By Don Allegra

The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley will soon be launching a new website to better serve the agency’s mission and community. The new website, including the EC online edition, will be accessible at www.gayalliance.org.

Most noticeably, the new site will be an improved design and organization which will make information easier to find. Special content areas will highlight programs and issues, and a comprehensive search engine will index all EC articles.

Other improvements will allow for a searchable community calendar, a detailed resource directory, and the ability to sign up for regular EC newsletters. Additionally, the GAGV Library and Archives catalog will be going online. At first, visitors will be able to browse through a listing for one of the largest LGBT literature collections in the U.S.

Over the last six months, the quality of content on the Empty Closet site has caused search engines like Google to dramatically increase the number of visitors to the site. The EC online now reaches three times the audience of the print edition and draws readers from around the world; hits for October totaled 444,867 visits 3,627 and unique visitors 25,966. The new site will allow for the sale of banner advertisements, providing additional revenue for the agency.

The GAGV technology committee is actively seeking feedback back on the new site. Any comments, criticisms or feature requests can be sent to webteam@gagv.us.

Pride & Joy Families

Conference was a big success

By Todd Plante

Seven families attended the 2005 Pride & Joy Families weekend conference in Binghamton, held at the Victory Plaza Convention Center, 107 Broad St., Nov. 11-13. Parents, children and prospective and/or transgender parents gathered from across the Hudson Valley and beyond to share their experiences and learn from one another.

On Saturday morning, early birds who arrived on Dec. 18 we look forward to eating to our heart’s desire. The fun never stops at the Youth Center. As always, check our youth website at http://youth.gayalliance.org for all December groups, activities and updates.

On a final note, I just want to recognize several youth who stood up and spoke at the Rochester City School Board meeting last month in support of the importance of Gay Straight Alliances in high schools (see page A 4). Garland, Josh and Loretta – you were amazing and you spoke for all LGBT youth out there. Thanks for making a difference.

Have a great holiday.

Anti Violence Project: ANTI-GAY ASSAULTS

By Alexandra Cobus, Anti-Violence Project Coordinator

You know what they said in LaRome. “This doesn’t happen here.” For the second time in four months, Lakeshore Community Church has been the target of anti-gay and anti-Semitic vandalism. (See page A 1.) The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley’s Anti Violence Project has called for a community response to hate violence in the greater Rochester community.

Another especially troubling fact is that the Lakeshore Community Church was used as a polling site for voters on Nov. 8, while the hateful graffiti was still there for all voters to witness.

We understand that many in this community are hoping that these are random acts by teenagers, but we can’t afford to ignore any kind of hate or bigoted expression. We must stand up and say in unity that any kind of hate, prejudice or discrimination of any group of individuals in Rochester.

Youth Update

BOWLING PARTY, HOLIDAY FEAST & MORE!

By Toby Greenfield, Youth Services Director

Happy Holidays to all you EC readers out there. The holidays mean one important thing to our youth, and that is – no school (sorry, parents).

To attempt to fill up those endless hours, the Youth Program has a fun-filled December planned. On Dec. 11 we’re going bowling for our second annual Winter Bowling Party, sponsored by GLEN. On Dec. 18 we look forward to eating to our heart’s content at our first annual Holiday Feast!

And, that’s only the beginning of the week: Christmas and New Year’s, we’re extending our drop-in hours and will feature several movies and a pool tournament. The fun never stops at the Youth Center. As always, check our youth website at http://youth.gayalliance.org for all December groups, activities and updates.

On a final note, I just want to recognize several youth who stood up and spoke at the Rochester City School Board meeting last month in support of the importance of Gay Straight Alliances in high schools (see page A 4). Garland, Josh and Loretta – you were amazing and you spoke for all LGBT youth out there. Thanks for making a difference.

Have a great holiday.

Pride & Joy Families

Conference was a big success

By Todd Plante

Seven families attended the 2005 Pride & Joy Families weekend conference in Binghamton, held at the Victory Plaza Convention Center, 107 Broad St., Nov. 11-13. Parents, children and prospective and/or transgender parents gathered from across the Valley and beyond to share their experiences and learn from one another.

On Saturday morning, early birds who arrived on Dec. 18 we look forward to eating to our heart’s desire. The fun never stops at the Youth Center. As always, check our youth website at http://youth.gayalliance.org for all December groups, activities and updates.

On a final note, I just want to recognize several youth who stood up and spoke at the Rochester City School Board meeting last month in support of the importance of Gay Straight Alliances in high schools (see page A 4). Garland, Josh and Loretta – you were amazing and you spoke for all LGBT youth out there. Thanks for making a difference.

Have a great holiday.

Meet Fantastic People!

Visit our online youth group, The Empty Closet. You are looking for reporters, photographers, distribution volunteers who can give two hours per month to the cause. Please call Susan at 244-9030. Thank you.

Syracuse U. student TV in trouble

Upstate

Groups

RMGC plans icewine trip

C 3

C 4

C 6

Youth

Mia’s back

Calendar

Community churches hold services.

Dec. 24, 25

C 9

Al-Anon inactive for the winter

The LGBT Al-Anon Support Group has that been meeting on Tuesday nights at the GAGV Community Center will be disbanded for the winter months. Individuals interested in resuming this group in Spring 2006 should contact Community Relations Director Todd Plank at (585) 244-8640 ext. 24 or email toddp@gagv.us.

Meet Fantastic People!

Visit our online youth group, The Empty Closet. You are looking for reporters, photographers, distribution volunteers who can give two hours per month to the cause. Please call Susan at 244-9030. Thank you.
Anti-violence from page 1

and Monroe County will not be tolerated. The question we should all be asking and looking for answers to is, what will any of us in the community do?

On average, the GAVGV receives about four reports a month of anti-light activity. National statistics suggest that for each report made, four others go unreported. Some of these are physical or sexual assaults, while others are incidents such as vandalism or destruction of property.

As in many other parts of the world, the AVP has documented a local increase in hate activity around Pride events in July, and when equal marriage rights came into the forefront of political debate. At this point, there don't appear to be any documented geographical areas that have a higher incident of violence than others. The GAVGV-APV conducted an online survey on our website, which posed the question, “How safe do you feel being ‘out’ in the greater Rochester area?”

Results showed that 39.5 percent of the respondents reported feeling safe being out anywhere in the community; 40.5 percent felt safe being out only in places they knew 10.4 percent felt being safe only at LGBT places/events, and another 10.4 percent didn’t feel safe being out anywhere in Rochester.

The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley's Anti-Violence Project (AVP) has directly served hundreds of victims of bias crimes against the lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual, and HIV-affected community. AVP provides counseling and advocacy for victims of bias-motivated violence as well as for survivors of domestic violence, rape and sexual assault, harassment, HIV-related violence, and police misconduct. AVP documents incidents of violence against and within LGBT communities, educates the public about the effects of violence against or within our communities, and works to reform public policy by involving all lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual, and HIV-affected people. Since 2004, AVP has directly served hundreds of victims of violence.

AVP provides free and confidential assistance to crime victims. Call 585-264-8640, ext. 17. III.

Families from page 1

gay, intersexual families often received from other people of color; whereas white people would make ignorant and condescending remarks.

One dad became visibly emotional when he shared a personal story about how a black female bus driver, upon seeing how excited the daughter was at spotting her bus across the street, waved the family over and proceeded to let the child ride the lift and take a tour of the bus. The little boy was thrilled and the dad felt validated without a word of explanation having to be made about the nature of their relationship. The one dad described what he called a “silent army of support” that is out there for gay families, that has been an amazing and unexpected source of strength for him and his partner.

After lunch the group disbanded for a workshop on How Queer: Diversity within the LGBT Parenting Community.

by Todd Hunk

As we approach year’s end, it’s time to reflect back on 2005 and recognize those individuals who have made notable contributions to Rochester’s LGBT community. The volunteer awards for 2005 will be presented at the Sweet 16 in February. The oldest of these awards, the Vicki and Vinny Cups, were established in 1975 by Arnie Regish, in memory of Vinny Wheeler and Vicki Russo. These awards are given to honor two individuals whose contributions have enhanced the progress of Rochester’s gay community.

The Kevin Campbell Award was introduced more recently to celebrate the "unsung heroes" of the Gay Alliance -- to acknowledge the valuable contributions of a person without whom our experience would not be quite the same. This award is given in recognition of tireless service "behind the scenes" on behalf of the LGBT Community.

The Susan Jordan Award, established in 2003 in honor of the Empty Closet’s Editor (in 2005 she received a personal landmark of “nearer sixteen” years of continuous service), is intended to recognize a volunteer for outstanding service to the Empty Closet.

The Youth Leadership Award is given to a youth who has demonstrated courage, determination and vision through bold initiatives to improve the quality of life for young people and serves as a role model for others.

The Gay Alliance will be accepting nominations for these five awards through Jan. 15, 2006, so take a few minutes during the busy holiday season to assemble your list of nominees to Todd Plank, gagy, 875 E. Main St. Suite 500, Rochester, NY 14605. You may also email your nominations to todd@gagv.us.

Gay Alliance seeks nominations for volunteer awards

The annual Volunteer Awards will be held Saturday, May 21, 2006, at The Schoolhouse, 800 East Avenue. The Awards Banquet for Volunteers will start at 6:30 p.m. with an open house to meet board members and volunteer leaders at 5:30 p.m. The Schoolhouse is located in the heart of Rochester downtown, next to Lotus Plaza, and on the corner of East Avenue and Lake Street. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Gay Alliance is now forming a coming out workshop for 2006. If you are interested please contact Todd at (585) 244-8640 ext. 24 or email: TODDP@gagv.us.

Liturgy:

Thursday: 7:00pm
Saturday: 5:00pm
Sunday: 9:30am (at Hochstein, 50 Plymouth Avenue)

Rainbow Bridge Meetings:

2nd Monday, 7 – 8:30pm
www.rainbowbridgegroup.org

Elaine Elkins, M.S.
Psychotherapist
244-4837

Individual & Relationship Counseling
Anxiety & Depression
Loneliness & Separation
Resolving Conflicts
Communication Skills
Sexual Abuse Recovery
Drug & Alcoholism
Grief & Loss

Together we will create an environment that promotes healing, provides support for exploring your personal journey and empowers you to make self-respecting choices.

Elaine Elkins, M.S.
Psychotherapist
244-4837

Individual & Relationship Counseling
Anxiety & Depression
Loneliness & Separation
Resolving Conflicts
Communication Skills
Sexual Abuse Recovery
Drug & Alcoholism
Grief & Loss

Together we will create an environment that promotes healing, provides support for exploring your personal journey and empowers you to make self-respecting choices.

Elaine Elkins, M.S.
Psychotherapist
244-4837

Individual & Relationship Counseling
Anxiety & Depression
Loneliness & Separation
Resolving Conflicts
Communication Skills
Sexual Abuse Recovery
Drug & Alcoholism
Grief & Loss

Together we will create an environment that promotes healing, provides support for exploring your personal journey and empowers you to make self-respecting choices.

Elaine Elkins, M.S.
Psychotherapist
244-4837

Individual & Relationship Counseling
Anxiety & Depression
Loneliness & Separation
Resolving Conflicts
Communication Skills
Sexual Abuse Recovery
Drug & Alcoholism
Grief & Loss

Together we will create an environment that promotes healing, provides support for exploring your personal journey and empowers you to make self-respecting choices.
Rainbow Seniors of Niagara Frontier hosts holiday parties

On Dec. 4, Rainbow Seniors of WNY will host a Christmas party. The group will be putting together Christmas baskets to give to AIDS patients.

Rainbow Seniors ask that guests please bring non-perishable items like toothbrushes, toothpaste, and similar items. Snack items are good, too!

Last year the Seniors made up 35 baskets, and they hope to do more this year.

"For the dinner: bring your favorite family holiday foods and cookies," the group says. "We also need canned food items for the AIDS food pantry!"

The Rainbow Seniors will hold a "First Sunday" event on Jan. 1, 2006: "We will have a meeting New Year's Day. If you can't stay up to welcome the new year, come and join us for games to bring in the new year. We hope to see you at some or all of our holiday events."

For time and place, see http://profiles.yahoo.com/rainbow_elders_of_the_niagara_frontier.

Syracuse U. student TV station punished for offensive programming

The following e-mail was forwarded to the Gizmo.

Dear SU Alumni:

You may or may not already be familiar with a recent situation involving our student-run television station, HillTV. The University recently rescinded the station's status as a recognized student organization. This action was taken in response to repeated behavior in violation of the University's Code of Student Conduct and non-discrimination policy, as well as HillTV's own internal policies on content sensitivity.

At issue specifically was programming that disparaged, offended and, in some instances, frightened members of the University community. In all cases, those targeted were women, people of color, and members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. These issues involving HillTV have created extensive coverage locally in The Daily Orange and The Post-Standard. Chancellor Carter sent several campus-wide messages and addressed a capacity crowd gathered for a "spoke out" event at Hendricks Chapel.

As loyal alumni of Syracuse University I want to share with you how our University is addressing this issue. Copied below is Chancellor Carter's most recent message on the issue, which she asked me to forward to you. It is important to note that this is not about freedom of speech, but rather repeated violation of University policy that has impinged on the well-being of our community. Syracuse University is committed to providing the infrastructure for responsible student media and is forming a task force comprising students, faculty, and staff to advise on best practices for the establishment of a new student-run television operation. Our great University is also committed to providing a safe and welcoming campus culture for all students and it is drawing upon its numerous resources to take positive action in this regard. More information can be found by clicking here:

http://www.alumniconnections.com/
l ink?link=935622x94356E3SYR-20051021190708-
or through a link on the University home page at http://www.syr.edu/ or http://www.alumniconnections.com/

As HillTV is no longer a recognized student organization, we are changing the name of our broadcast facility to "Watson Studios" and have temporarily placed it under professional management. Most of the student broadcasters already know Andy Robinson, general manager of The Orange Television Network, who has agreed to oversee the studio. This will provide an opportunity for all our talented broadcast students to create and air reasonable programming over Orange TV.

To address the immediate and troubling issue of campus culture, I have asked Kal Alston, associate provost for academic affairs, to assemble a Task Force on Institutional Culture, drawing on the huge resources of our University faculty, deans, staff and students. I have tasked them with suggesting ways to change our institutional culture and expect a preliminary report by the end of the fall semester.

I am requesting a range of measures that will help us use our University resources and experiences to expand — not narrow — our horizons, even if it means stretching ourselves beyond our zones of comfort and convenience. Syracuse is a great university, and we can do this.

University life has never really been about comfort — it is about excitement, discovery, transformation and the vital exchange of people and ideas. We need ideas and support. Please join this conversation:

Goddard, Nancy Cantor
Chancellor and President

PRIDE Sunday T-Dance

January 22nd 4 - 9pm

Dance Music of the 70’s, 80’s, & 90’s featuring DJ Len

$3 Donation for Pride

Drink Specials

Long Island Ice Teas S4 Domestic & Well S2

Other Fun Surprises!

The Community Business Forum of Rochester & Mudder’s are your host this Pride Parade & Festival T-Dance, All proceeds support Pride events.
ARTSY-FARTSY FILM GROUP

You need a break from holiday preparations. So why not escape the winter blues with a trip to the movies? Join the Artsy-Fartsy Film Group, an outreach of Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church, on the afternoons of Saturday, Dec. 17, and Saturday, Jan. 21, to view a film at the Little Theatre (240 East Ave., Rochester). We meet on the third Saturday of each month (except during the summer) to enjoy a film together.

To learn the film selection and the time and location of each meeting, please call one of the following or ask the church secretary at www.frontier.net/oame or email oame@frontier.net.

The next film to be shown will get you coffee and keep the cold at bay a little longer. Please join us!

BASICALLY TREBLEMAKERS

By Tim Stallman, Band Manager

We did it again, finishing up our summer Pride season with members marching in Gay Pride in Syracuse, New York City, and Rochester parades and two days marching in the New York State Fair. It was another awesome year. It was also an awesome year from New York, Florida and Cleveland this year during Rochester Pride. We are one big happy band!

This year's international conference of Gay Bands was held in Palm Springs during their Pride the first weekend of November. With more than 150 musicians, the conference hosted a concert at the Palm Springs HS auditorium and marched as a massed group in the Pride Parade, los Angeles and Palm Springs bands hosted the conference, which featured guest speakers, workshops, readings, excursions and parties. This year's excursions included, besides the new Arial Tram, jeep tours through the desert learning the indigenous culture.

Next year's conference will be in conjunction with Gay Pride in Chicago, where the bands will have a key feature performance opportunity in the opening ceremony and then look for us as well as concert at the new Millennium Park on Tuesday, July 18. The bands will stay through July 22. More details of the August ceremonies will follow on the 22nd.

BT is also proud to have two Lesbian and Gay Band Association board members, including its president. The president for her second term is Judy Ames of Ironde­ cough Park, and Deputy Band Director, resident of Syracuse, is a board member. The federation just announced that the 2010 games will be held in Cologne, Germany.

The band is getting ready for the holiday season and you can catch us in a couple of our annual events, including the Park Avenue Holiday Open House on Thursday, Dec. 1, strolling along Park Avenue 6:30 to 8:30, and for our annual Arthur Bearnight, Saturday the 10th.

As always, our membership is always open for any new TREBEmakers who play a wind or percussion instrument. If you would like to call, please Tim @ 242-0237 and leave a message.

COMMUNITY BUSINESS FORUM OF ROCHESTER

We have had an awesome year so far providing a great network of men and women every second Thursday of each month. Occasionally, we host or invite different organizations to come join us to share what they have to offer. This is a great way to learn more about our organization and our goals.

In November we hosted the Atlantic 50 group, which is a social group for men over 50 and their friends. As a business organization, we try to put together groups of members to promote their business. In November, in this tradition, we hosted a Parker Bearnight.

This month, in December, we annually host our Holiday Social with members and guests, which this year is scheduled for Dec. 5, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a coffee house social at 6:35 p.m. We will gather to celebrate Christmas on the 25th at 5 p.m., with a festive Entertainment service (complete with Chaplain Michael's infamous dough balls), after which a group of members will share a meal.

We’ll welcome in the New Year on Jan. 1 with an Episcopal-Eucharist. The Parish Triangle, including Highlights, is your yearly welcome.

Have a wonderful brainstorming what our joint event with 2 Saints will be on Jan. 29, but it’s sure to include fellowship and food, glasses of wine, and fun further information on our website at www.dorchester.org or call our recorded info line 234-5922.

EMPIRE BEARS

The Empire Bears are ten years old! Who'd have thought in 1995, as we gathered to form a club of men who liked other men who were hairy, hearty, and happy that we'd still be around in 2005? If you're a man who likes men who are hairy, you'll be welcomed. We've got an average man, who wants to meet, travel with, go to dinners with, hang out with, and get guests into a social night, then go out to dance at the EMPIRE BEARS.

Check out our website at www.empirebearclub.com, or call our board members to apply. The Community Business Forum members will be here to organize all that support the LGBT community and business. Whether you are employed, seeking employment, or just looking for a way to enjoy a social group with friends in a great, friendly atmosphere where people who like to learn about each other and what they are doing.

Keep your calendar open for a special tea dance at Mother's on Jan. 22. There will be a special attractive Topless Bachelor auction with lots of fun. All monies raised will go to support the Festival and Parade.

The 11th annual Day of Silence is Friday, May 20th, in honor of those perceived to be gay. An interview on this day will air on WXXI at 10 p.m. Please check out our website www.streetsofpride.com for more information or call our information line, 585-234-8706.

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

So come celebrate Christmas this year by singing those classic songs and hearing the nativity story told once again!

Community Christian Fellowship will celebrate Christmas, Sunday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. with "Lessons and Carols." As the story of Christ's birth unfolds, familiar carols will be sung, Special snacks and refreshments will also be served following the service.

Community Christian Fellowship is a non-denominational, inclusive church fellowship, meeting at the East Avenue Inn, 364 East Avenue, in Rochester. For more information, e-mail CCRochester@hotmail.com or call 585-520-6949.

DIGNITY INTEGRITY

"Mary Magdalene and Women in the Church." Mary Magdalene has become a symbol of empowerment and mission for women in today's church, affirming her role as evangelist and even their claim to priestly vocation.

Come hear why at this month’s presentation/Discussion, led by Gloria Ultimiro, on 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11, as part of Dignity Integrity’s ongoing Second Sunday Presentation Series.

Director of the storytelling troupe Women in Storytelling in the Glory is a Catholic pastoral minister, narrative preach­ er and author with a wealth of knowledge on the influence women have in the Church.

The talk will be at St. Luke and St. Simon Cyrene Church, 17 South Richthofen St. in downtown Rochester. Discussion will be followed by our weekly coffee hour social.

Other Dignity-Integrity events for the month will include the Episcopalian Eucharist, on 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 4, followed up with a short coffee social and our month­ly Community Council Meeting, which is open to all. On Sunday, Dec. 16, there will be a Carols on Carthage Living Room (at 10 p.m.) to get you into the mood for Christmas.

Do you have ideas or some of the places you have been involved in and would like to share? Please contact the current coordinator for the last few years, as he would be interested in hearing what you have to say. In all the busy times planned for the fourth or fifth Tuesday of the month.

The group consists of men and in some cases their same sex partners. We are all at different ages in our lives. Some are married, some are going through separation/divorce, some have custody of their children and some don’t, and all are at different points in the coming year. This is a support group (not therapy) intended to help support those who are feeling the push and pull of our identity. If one is already offered the opportunity to seek support and to give it. Issues we discuss are very personal, and we invite our spouses, relationships with our partners, family, the coming out process and the consultation from our friends and desire to participate since we are not a very large group (usually about 12 men) and all the conversation is confidential.

Please call GAGV at 244-8640 if you are interested in finding out more about GAGV, which also boasts a website and archives available at our group at GAGV.

GLSEN

GLSEN Rochester and the GAGV Youth Program will host its second annual Bowling Party on Dec. 11 (see Youth Page on the GAGV website). In late January, GLSEN Rochester will hold its third annual No Name-Calling Week. In addition to GLSEN, more than 40,000, mental health and other organizations across the U.S., have joined forces to address the problem of name-calling and verbal bullying in schools. More information can be found at www.nonamecalling.org.

GLSEN Rochester encourages the community to support efforts to create safe schools for LGBT Youth, including school staff and students in need of support. For more information, please call 585-234-8640. Our newsletter eMailing list is at http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/585_244_8640.

GLSEN has met with the Rochester City District School Board and high school administration to discuss GLSEN and the harassment of LGBT youth and those perceived to be gay. An interview on this issue will appear in the Empty Closet.

The 11th annual Day of Silence is scheduled for May 20, 2005. GLSEN invites your support for student organizers in the Rochester area and across the nation, we're asking schools to stop bullying and harassment, and their attitudes about coming out. Please help us! GLSEN organizes that this bill supported to bullying based on physical appearance, anti-LGBT bullying, and harassment in high schools across America. Go to www.glsen.org/gdl/­bicycle/all/new/385199.html to see more.

If your school or organization is interested in making schools safe for all students, consider learning more about GLSEN. GLSEN has to offer. We offer programs that provide teachers, administrators and students with the knowledge and appropriate tools they need to create safe schools. To schedule a program for your school, organization or church, please call 585-244-1509 or GLSEN@rochester.ornl.com.

GLSEN Rochester is the leading local organization dedicated to ending bullying and harassment in our schools. We strive to assure that every member of every school community — regardless of real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. To make a donation to GLSEN Rochester, contact us at GLSEN@rochester.ornl.com or 585-244-1509.

LAMBDA NETWORK AT KODAK

The Lambda Network at Kodak is a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgen­ der employee network at Eastman Kodak Company.

We are planning our first annual Lamb­ da Membership meeting for Dec. 8, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 1651 Main St., Bldg 28/KP. Bob Berman and Charlotte Brown will address the members at about 9:30.
If you are interested in helping or attending, please contact Theresa "T" Miller (716) 432-7500 or YAWNS at 6697; Fax: 6697; Email: YAWNS@pllagal.com for more information. Box 332922 DC 20033-233-2697; FAX: 202-265-9737; pllagal.org; Rainbow Pl slag: Donna Marie Kearney, 585-594-2699.

RAINBOW SENIORS
DEALING WITH GOLDEN YAWNS

By Donald B. Zaur

If you are thinking or talking about it soon, you may want to consider what you will do with all that extra time you have on your hands. Many of us look forward to our "golden years" and when they arrive, we become bored after a while.

A good idea is to fill up your free time. You can do this in a few ways, according to people who have had a long and fulfilling life. It is advised that you keep your mind and body active.

Your hobbies can be projects you can work on. Make a schedule of regular times to work on them. If you have had a very structured work schedule and had to make appointments to do even pleasurable things, you may find that a schedule will help transition you to less imposed structure.

There are social groups that center around hobbies and interests. LGBTI examples are Gay Men's Cooking Group, Lesbian Gardening Foundation, Business Forum, and Rainbow Amateur Radio Association. To get more information on this topic, check out the "Ongoing Calendar" or "Resources" elsewhere in this newsletter.

I have left out the youth groups because this column is devoted to those contemplately aged. For more information on this topic, you can read more websites, brochures, or books. Many are available at your local library or bookstore. You can also find information on websites related to LGBTI issues.

There are social groups that center around hobbies and interests. LGBTI examples are Gay Men's Cooking Group, Lesbian Gardening Foundation, Business Forum, and Rainbow Amateur Radio Association. To get more information on this topic, check out the "Ongoing Calendar" or "Resources" elsewhere in this newsletter.

I have left out the youth groups because this column is devoted to those contemplately aged. For more information on this topic, you can read more websites, brochures, or books. Many are available at your local library or bookstore. You can also find information on websites related to LGBTI issues.

There are social groups that center around hobbies and interests. LGBTI examples are Gay Men's Cooking Group, Lesbian Gardening Foundation, Business Forum, and Rainbow Amateur Radio Association. To get more information on this topic, check out the "Ongoing Calendar" or "Resources" elsewhere in this newsletter.

I have left out the youth groups because this column is devoted to those contemplately aged. For more information on this topic, you can read more websites, brochures, or books. Many are available at your local library or bookstore. You can also find information on websites related to LGBTI issues.

There are social groups that center around hobbies and interests. LGBTI examples are Gay Men's Cooking Group, Lesbian Gardening Foundation, Business Forum, and Rainbow Amateur Radio Association. To get more information on this topic, check out the "Ongoing Calendar" or "Resources" elsewhere in this newsletter.

I have left out the youth groups because this column is devoted to those contemplately aged. For more information on this topic, you can read more websites, brochures, or books. Many are available at your local library or bookstore. You can also find information on websites related to LGBTI issues.

There are social groups that center around hobbies and interests. LGBTI examples are Gay Men's Cooking Group, Lesbian Gardening Foundation, Business Forum, and Rainbow Amateur Radio Association. To get more information on this topic, check out the "Ongoing Calendar" or "Resources" elsewhere in this newsletter.

I have left out the youth groups because this column is devoted to those contemplately aged. For more information on this topic, you can read more websites, brochures, or books. Many are available at your local library or bookstore. You can also find information on websites related to LGBTI issues.

There are social groups that center around hobbies and interests. LGBTI examples are Gay Men's Cooking Group, Lesbian Gardening Foundation, Business Forum, and Rainbow Amateur Radio Association. To get more information on this topic, check out the "Ongoing Calendar" or "Resources" elsewhere in this newsletter.

I have left out the youth groups because this column is devoted to those contemplately aged. For more information on this topic, you can read more websites, brochures, or books. Many are available at your local library or bookstore. You can also find information on websites related to LGBTI issues.
Gay teen superheroes abound!

By Mark McCracken

(FROM TIECIBLE2@YAHOO.COM)

Youth Pages

Gay teen superhero adventures abound! It's a spin-off from X-Men that doesn't have an "X" in it, but it was the first time a main character came out. For the most part, it is always supporting cast characters who come out or are established as gay to begin with. But Northstar is also a prime example of how not to handle a gay character. He revealed he was gay, and they did nothing with it. He never had a boyfriend, never did anything queer, and his outing was more of an attempt to sway the fear of AIDS. He recently joined the X-Men and has a secret crush on licem. One issue did focus on children's fears that being around a gay person would make you gay too. Then, they killed Northstar off and brought him back as a zombie the same way they did Elektra. And probably hindered the gay rights movement, since while he was evil, he started attacking straight conservative people.

In the years following, there have been tons of other gay characters, either supporting or main, some of which had more of an effect on others than others. A crude book but something proactive is DC's "The Authorised", which contains a gay couple, Midnight, and Apollo. Not only were they very obviously affectionate and outward, but they also went on to get married and adopt the rechristianization of the team's founder, Jenny Sparks.

I was always a fan of Willow and Tara from the Vampire Slayer. The lesbian couple went on to have at least three comic book one-shots and mini-series all the way to the end. I felt that was very supportive. My favorite form is Go Glee Flasico from DC's Codename Knockout. He is the only character who looks incredibly gay and goes out of his way to make things completely over the top, and always flirts with the every man he meets, even if it's the enemy. Spider-Man's Black Cat, X-Men's Mystique, John Constantine himself, and so many more are out in some form or another. Now another milestone in comic book homosexuality has arrived. The inclusion of gay teenagers. It all began earlier this year in a new Marvel comic book called "Young Avengers". They are the would-be teen sidekicks of the Avengers fighting in their absence.

Hulkling, a young shape-shifting teen version of the Hulk, and Wiccan, formerly called Asgardian and entertaining costume and abilities similar to Thor, were presented as very close, early in the series. Within the first few issues, it was actually hard to tell if Hulkling were male or female, since the Hulk form itself is so masculine it could be either. But it was indeed both boys and they were certainly presented as a couple. First it was a subtle hint in issue 6 in a discussion about the whole team "coming out" as support for same sex marriage.

Then in #7, while the boys, Billy and Teddy, were about to tell Billy's parents about their relationship, they got jumped in and turned it into a conversation of existing homosexuality in their own. They openly accepted the two, and as Teddy put it, "They think I'm the perfect son-in-law." Then shortly thereafter in the issue, two of their female teammates, Cassie and Kate, commented they make a cute couple.

I was so impressed by their open acceptance of homosexuality and the general vibe that "gay" is not something to be ashamed of that I thought they might follow up on that and show some self-hate. Not only have they introduced gay teen role models further into the storyline, but also they are a gay couple and not the mega popular jaded gay character who does nothing further with his homosexuality than the close relationship of Hulkling and Angelica.

And right afterwards, letters of hate and disgust began to pour in around issue #5 as speculation was already arising about the close relationship of Hulkling and Angelica. And surprisingly, letters of hate and disgust began to pour in around issue #6 as speculation was already arising about the close relationship of Hulkling and Angelica.

But Marvel didn't listen, thankfully, and two months ago in "Young Avengers" they came to the conclusion that they aren't afraid to support gay characters in their comic books and they are going to continue to explore this relationship. Now it is up to the readers and tales to keep the series going.

Surprisingly, only one month later, a shocking revelation came out in Marvel's other teen book, "Runaways". The premise of the series is that a handful of teenagers discover their parents are secretly a team of superheroes. So, they set out to stop them. They succeed. But end up in hiding to avoid being put in foster care and seek to take down any villains associated with their parents' organization.

While I am not a regular reader of the series, I have read all of the current volume and did not see any hints of this coming. Karolina Dean, an alien girl with the ability to turn into a light form, nearly kissed her female teammate, Niko, professing a crush she has harbored for some time. Niko, a goth girl with a talking living cat called "The Stuff of One", backed away from Karolina and feared her pursuit. Karolina had no clue what she was doing, and was surprised when Niko in her absence Niko admitted she felt alone and hollow without Karolina there. What a complete turn on! This was the first open confession of a love interest in the series.

I suppose my reason for writing this column is to invite possible interest in any of these comics. I know comic books are generally unpopular and going out of style, but aren't they what we used to be. The content limitations have been pushed aside, they deal with myriad issues amongst the fictional universe of superheroes, and cause politics/opinionated uppers. If you already read comic books, none of this is new to you. I advise you to please consider adding Young Avengers and Runaways to your pull list, and let your support of homosexuality in comic books.

Cat Chat with Circa

JINGLE BELLS, ELLIE SMELLS

By Andy to Lady in Cadem

Ohhhhh! Ellie’s gettin’ murrin’ for Christmas. My two mummies are mad. Ellie’s gettin’ murrin’ for Christmas. Because Ellie’s been murrin’ but bad. Seriously, Santa Paws has already went sent a word that all Ellie is getting is puffy poop for Christmas!” I, on the other hand, have already gotten my gift! This Jewish kitty already experienced a great miracle of the season.

Last week, my two feeders went away. While I let them believe it was for a nice gay vacation, the truth is that I reserved two beds in a feline-recommended treat ment facility for lesbians who have lost their sense of self. During this week, they participated in themed activities designed to alter any unhealthy perceptions they may have. With the soothing music of Indigo Gits at night, meals consisting of plenty of fish and a resident feline washing the facility, my feeders returned last week with a new energy and appreciation of life. And Ellie is one of the cats who will be leaving a mealtoporker-begger outside of Brazil.

I must admit that the week away from my feeders was quite the furball. I spent much of the week liberating in my secret spots, while our home-sitter bonded with the paws. However, this was a carefully planned maneuver in my mission to give Ellie the boot. If the dog turns her tail on my memories for a new feeder, I will be rid of her for good. I expect that by my xmaside chat in February, Ellie will have been shipped off to a life of multiple good, being one of our fur and training for her new role as side-pup to our households Anti-Violence Chick. Happy Hanukkah to me!

In the meantime, however, I have hired a part-time (no cat would commit to full time, last they lose their afternoon nap) bodyguard to keep me from any danger within my household. As Ellie is not just a chunker butt pugly anymore, any fur, could be matted at any minute. My new security, Linus, promises protection from any potential poaching. (Linus is featured above in place of my usual lovely countenance this month.)

And in the unfortunate case that I must continue to co-exist with Ellie through the holiday season, my readers have no need to worry. This Serror doesn’t forget where her kitty treats come from. I am, admittedly, looking forward to the first snow and snowy sour cream from Hanukkah lakes. And historically, I am the one mugging my mummie’s awake on Christmas morning. (I always have the ability to open the discarded wrapping papers."

And even if Ellie’s been nothing but bad, I know she’ll get something for Christmas. Even if I have to wrap up my own fur ball for her. Peace and hot cocoa, Circa
"It's raining," was sitting in my pumps on the sofa and I got up and there comes a fetus gushing out. Honestly I just thought I was a tad bloated, my dramatically long vacation... I was in a hanger to the situation a long time ago. Honestly I just thought I was a tad bloated, my dramatically long vacation... I was in a hanger to the situation a long time ago.

I had no idea whatsoever that I was pregnant. "If I did I would have taken a coat hanger to the situation a long time ago", Honestly I just thought I was a tad bloated, and a little butch looking... until one day I was sitting in my pumps on the sofa and I got up and there come a fetus gushing out. Honestly I just thought I was a tad bloated, my dramatically long vacation... I was in a hanger to the situation a long time ago. Honestly I just thought I was a tad bloated, my dramatically long vacation... I was in a hanger to the situation a long time ago.

I had no idea whatsoever that I was pregnant. "If I did I would have taken a coat hanger to the situation a long time ago", Honestly I just thought I was a tad bloated, and a little butch looking... until one day I was sitting in my pumps on the sofa and I got up and there come a fetus gushing out. Honestly I just thought I was a tad bloated, my dramatically long vacation... I was in a hanger to the situation a long time ago. Honestly I just thought I was a tad bloated, my dramatically long vacation... I was in a hanger to the situation a long time ago.
The price of gas has gone up...

1995: $1.20/gallon
2005: $2.56/gallon

The price of HIV testing has NOT!

After 10 years...Still FREE. Still CONFIDENTIAL.

Groups from page 5

est 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.

TAWA PANO UNITY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Tawa Pano Unity Fellowship Church holds services each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. at the Clarion Riverside Hotel, 120 E. Main St., under the leadership of the Reverend Dr. Sharon Jacobson. The gay-friendly church upholds the traditional forms of worship used in many African American churches.

The church’s calendar of services and events follows:

Dec. 2 - Open Youth Chat with Rev J., 3 – 5 p.m., at The MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way.
Dec. 4 - World AIDS Day Service, 7 p.m., Clarion Riverside Hotel, Gleason Room.
Dec. 7 - Talk Back/Bible Study, 6:30-8 p.m., Mt Hope Diner, 1511 Mount Hope Ave.
Dec. 9 - Open Youth Chat w/Rev J., 3 - 5 p.m., The MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way.
Dec. 11 - Worship Service, 11 a.m., Clarion Riverside Hotel, Carlson Room.
Dec. 14 - Talk Back/Bible Study, 6:30-8 p.m., Mt Hope Diner, 1511 Mount Hope Ave.
Dec. 16 - Open Youth Chat with Rev J., 3 – 5 p.m. The MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way.
Dec. 18 - Worship Service, 11 a.m. Clarion Riverside Hotel, Gleason Room.
Dec. 21 - Talk Back/Bible Study, 6:30-8 p.m., Mt Hope Diner, 1511 Mount Hope Ave.
Dec. 24 - Worship Service, 10:30 p.m. Clarion Riverside Hotel, Gleason Room.
Dec. 28 - Talk Back/Bible Study, 6:30-8 p.m., Mt Hope Diner, 1511 Mount Hope Ave.
Dec. 30 - Open Youth Chat with Rev J., 3 – 5 p.m. The MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way.

WOMEN’S HIKING

Hey ladies... are you queer? Then grab your hiking gear!

We have lots of fun hiking at local parks. Great way to meet new friends or maybe find romance. New ladies always joining. Kids welcome!

All ages and levels of hiking skill because we hike at an easy comfortable pace. Come check us out!

For more details, call Donna at 585-594-2699.

Dignity-Integrity

Sundays at 5:00 p.m.

1st Sunday:
Episcopal Eucharist with Music
2nd Sunday:
Presentation or Discussion*
3rd Sunday:
Roman Catholic Liturgy of the Word
4th Sunday:
Evening Prayer & Pot Luck Supper

St. Luke / St. Simon Cyrene Church
17 S. Fitzhugh St. (corner of Broad St.)
—the church with the pink steeple
234-5092 Info-Line
Recorded information and voice mail
info@di-rochester.org
www.di-rochester.org

Each gathering is followed by Social Hour
*For topics and presenters, refer to our monthly article, website or Info-Line.
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Volunteer for the Empty Closet. Can you give two hours a month? We need more people to get your work in print, make a contribution to your community! Call Susan at 244-9300 or e-mail emptycloset@gagv.us.

**SERVICES**

Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year from Rochester's best body rub! To all you men who have not yet led your skilled, strong hands work their magic on you - call me! I'm a fit, friendly, healthy Italian man. My 10 years plus experience ensures your relaxation and satisfaction. Hand out calls or central location in calls. Reasonable rates. Discretion assured. Don't delay, call today at 585-235-6688, or e-mail me at muckloverman@rochester.rr.com.


Hirute husky men in need of stress-relieving body rub by talented masseurs. Call 442-9077, or bodyrubs@hotmail.com.

**Weekly GLBTI AA Meetings in Rochester**

There are four 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 predominantly straight society, so we encourage our members to include "straight" meetings in their program.

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.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**CLASSIFIEDS**

Classified ads are $5 for the first 30 words; each additional 10 words is another $1.

We do not bill for classifieds, so please send or bring ad and payment to The Empty Closet, 220 S. Winfield Rd., 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. We will accept only ads accompanied by name and phone number. Neither will be published, but we must be able to confirm placement. The Empty Closet is not responsible for financial loss or physical injury that may result from any contact with an advertiser. Advertisers must use their own box number, voice mail or personal address/phone number.
DECEMBER 1

THURSDAY 1

World AIDS Day Prayer Service. 11-30 to 12:30, Interfaith Chapel, Inntoelop Drive, U.R. River Campus.

Reminders of the Children. Concert sponsored by PeaceArt International. 7:30 pm, First Unitarian Church, 220 St. Benedict Rd. Donation $10 in advance (OutLandish, Pride Connection, Parkleigh Unitarian Church), $12 at door. Basically Telemenhers Band caroling on Park Avenue, 6:30-8:30 pm.

FRIDAY 2

Fundraiser for HIV Vaccine Trials Unit recruitment fund. 6-9 pm, The Little Gallery, High Falls at Brown's Race. $10 donation. Art show, silent auction, music, desserts. Sponsored: TemplePlus Mortgage Funding, COAP Tea Night and Dessert. 7 pm, Cell Myers, 281-6999.

SATURDAY 3

Ganondagan Native American Winter Festival. 10 am-6 pm. Twelve Corners Middle School, Brighton, 264 Elmwood Ave. $3; $1 ages 11 and under. Crafts,itations required. Sponsored by Little Theatre Festival.

3:30-7 pm. Donations $10 in advance by 12/21.

SUNDAY 4

Dignity Integrity Episcopal Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St.

SATURDAY 5

Empire Bears barnight. Bring a teddy bear for donation to children. 10 pm, Bachelor's, 670 University Ave. www.rochesterrams.com.

SUNDAY 11

Dignity Integrity discussions: Mary Magdalene and Women in the Church. Led by Gloria Utunro. 5 pm. St. Luke St. Simon Cyrene Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. 234-5092.

MONDAY 12

COAP Christmas Cartoon Night. 7 pm, Cell Myers, 281-6999.

SATURDAY 17

Artzy Fartry Film Group, Little Theatre, 240 East Ave. For time, call Open Arts MCC, 271-8478, or see www.frontiernet.net/asmcc.

RENEWAL FESTIVAL

Youth Winter Bowling Party. Sponsored by GSSEN, 244-8460 ext 13.

SATURDAY 18

Dignity Integrity Catholic Liturgy of the Word. 5 pm. Coffee social 6:15 pm. St. Luke St. Simon Cyrene Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. 234-5092.

GAGV Youth Group Holiday Feast. 244-8460 ext 13.


Master's Ball. 5 pm. Coffee social 6:15 pm. St. Luke St. Simon Cyrene Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. 234-5092.

MONDAY 15

Empire Bears Inaugural First Saturday Barnight at the Forum, 670 University Ave. Themed bib overall.

COMP Movie Night. 6 pm. Cell Myers, 281-6999.

SATURDAY 14

COAP Korean Dinner night. 7 pm. Cell Myers, 281-6999.

SUNDAY 16

Emery Closet deadline for February issue. 244-9035. empycloset@gregus.com.

THURSDAY 19

Rochester Rainbow Gospel Choir, “The Dream Goes On!” Celebrating life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

JANUARY 5

SATURDAY 21

Rochester Gay Men’s Choir trip to Niagara-on-the-Lake Icewine Festival. Leave 9 am from Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 21 N. Fitzhugh St. return 6 pm. $40/person or $70/pair. www.threepmc.org.

Rochester Rams barnight. 6:00 pm. Bachelor’s, 670 University Ave. www.rochesterrams.com.

Artzy Fartry Film Group. 271-8787. omc@frontiernet.net.

SUNDAY 22

Dignity Integrity Evening Prayer, fol­lowed by “breakfast foods” potluck. St. Luke St. Simon Cyrene Church, 17 S. Fitz­hugh St. 234-5092.


In the Life. 11 pm, WWX.

FRIDAY 27

Emery Closet distribution. 1-5 pm. GAGV Youth Group, 875 E. Main, 1st floor. 244-9035; call before noon on Jan. 27.

SATURDAY 29

Dignity Integrity joint event with “Two Saints,” St. Luke St. Simon Cyrne Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. For details see www.divrochester.org or call info line, 234-5092.

264-A Pittsford-Victor Road Rochester, New York 14623

Tel: 716-586-8580 Fax: 716-385-0427

Learn to:
- Give voice to your emotions
- Improve your relationships
- Conquer your fears
- Indulges, Coupions, Family and Group Psychotherapy
- Develop your strengths
- Improve your health

Edith Bernstein, CSW

24 hours

Flexible hours Sliding fee scale

Barbara Debes, M.S.
Counselor/Lesbian

Encouragement

Caring

Guidance

Respect

Third Presbyterian Church
- a More Light Church

Where giving persons are welcomed as partners in ministry

Sunday Worship: Chapel 8:30am Sanctuary 10:00am

- Child care available

- Wheelchair accessible

- Looped for the hearing impaired

1st and 3rd Sunday GLBT Support Group: 7:30 pm

East Avenue & Meigs Street
Rochester, New York 14607
Phone: 275-1453
www.thirdpresbyterian.org

Temple Sinai

A Welcoming and Affirming Reform Jewish Congregation

December Shabbat Service Schedule

Friday, December 2........... 6:00 pm........... At Temple B’Rith Kodesh
Friday, December 9........... 6:00 pm........... Erev Shabbat Service
Friday, December 16......... 6:00 pm........... Erev Shabbat Service
Friday, December 23........... 6:00 pm........... Erev Shabbat/Channukah Service
Friday, December 30........... 6:00 pm........... Erev Shabbat/Channukah Service

363 Penfield Road, Rochester, New York 14625
Rabbi Alan Katz and Rabbi Amy Sapowith (585) 381-6890 • www.tsinai.org
Ongoing Calendar

MONDAY
Gay and Lesbian Support Group
Third Presbyterian Church, 34 Maple St., First, third Mondays, 7:30-9pm, 339-4966
Rochester Historical Bowling Society
7-10pm, Mondays, Clewer Lanes, 2750 Monroe Ave. (Group is full)

COAP
Come Out and Play. Business meeting last Mondays, 7pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Tom M, 454-3609.

American Baptists Concerned
Third Mondays, 7-10pm, Webster House, 57 Ambroise St, 442-5496

GLOBAL
(Gays and Lesbians of Bausch & Lomb) Meets every first Thursday in April 67 conference room at the Urgent Center. Voice mail: 339-9977

SUNDAY
More Light Presbyterian
gay and lesbian people and friends. 12:15pm, last Sundays, Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St. 326-4000

Tuesdays, 5:30-7pm,
Third Mondays, 7:30pm, Webster House, 57 Ambroise St. 442-5496

American Baptists Concerned
Second Mondays, 7-9pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave, 420-1400

Gay and Lesbian
Center, 179 57 Ambrose St. 442-5486

MOCHA Chemical Dependency Group
First, third Wednesdays, 6pm, meet George Eastman House parking lot, 9, 442-7412

Empire Bears
First Wednesdays, 7-9pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Info@empirebears.org

Transgender Group
First Wednesdays, 6-8pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Muitloop-4 Coffee Talk
7pm, 5pm Cafe, 75th Park Ave. Social for former Multicomp-4 BBS members: other gbt queer geeks welcome, every fourth Wednesday, 7pm

GAGV Library & Archives
6-8pm every Wednesday, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave, 244-8640. Books can be returned to GAGV offices, 875 Main St., Suite 500, from 8am-8pm.

Brothers Keeper
Support group for men over 30. Second Wednesdays, 6-8pm, MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400

AQA
Support group for transgender of color. Third Wednesdays, 6-8pm, MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400

GAGV Youth Drop In Hours
Mondays, Wednesdays, 3-7 pm, GAGV Youth Center, 875 E Main St, Prince St, entrace, first floor, 244-8640 ext 13.

TUESDAY
Atlantic Five 0
Gay over 50 and over. Second Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 461-0681

Gay Fathers’ Support Group
First and third Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. The MOCHA Youth Group
5-9 pm, MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 423-1400; 244-8640

MOCHA Hepatitis Clinic
Free hepatitis A & B vaccinations, third Tuesdays, 5:30-7pm, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400

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

Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley
Board of Directors Meeting, third Wednesdays, 7pm, 875 E Main St, fourth floor, Blue Room, 244-8640

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

Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost Children
First, third Wednesdays, 11 am-12:30pm, Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Naga St. Sponsored by Genesee Region Home Care. Free. 325-1680

Frontrunners/Frontwalkers
6pm run/walk, meet George Eastman House parking lot 9, 442-7412

GAGV Young Adult Drop In Hours
Mondays, Wednesdays, 3-7 pm, GAGV Young Adult Center, 875 E Main St, Prince St entrance, first floor, 244-8640 ext 13.

THURSDAY
Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns
6:30pm, first Thursday.
Sweetheart Ball 2006

Saturday, February 11
6:30pm to Midnight
Rochester Convention Center
Cocktails at 6:30 / Dinner at 7:30
Dessert and Dancing follow
$50 per person
Enjoy the music of Bassically Treblemakers as you sip cocktails with friends.

Register for the Sweetheart Ball by calling the GAGV at 244-8640, extension 20 or by printing and returning the registration form from the GAGV website by February 4, 2006. Please be prepared to select your dinner choice of Chicken, Beef, Fish or Vegetarian.