Philadelphia's Equality Forum celebrates 40 years, 40 heroes

By Misty and Robin Angerpower-Walling and Susan Jordan

On April 26, Equality Forum kicked off its weeklong celebration in Philadelphia, commemorating 40 years of LGBT activism. The event included well-known entertainers and speakers and the activists of 1965 – the Gay Pioneers.

Between 35,000 and 40,000 people filled the space in front of Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell during the National 40th Anniversary Celebration on May 1 and attended the many parties, workshops, and events during the week.

Liam Deasy of Equality Forum told the Gay Pioneers, "It was extremely positive. I can't imagine anyone having a bad time. The protestor were kept at bay. We had a lot of help from the city and from the police and from the Metropolitan Community Churches."

Deasy said that organizers had gotten the media attention they had hoped for, although the event was not covered by CNN or the three national networks. He said, "We had a great story by the Associated Press, which went out across the country. That was something special – that the AP was there. In terms of other press, we were spotlighted by the national gay networks, Here TV and QTV (which was with us most of the week)."

On July 4, 1965, 10 men and women staged the first gay and lesbian demonstration in front of Independence Hall. This brave movement was stoked by the flames of 1950s groups like the Mattachine Societies and Daughters of Bilitis. Only two 1965 demonstrators would use their actual names – Barbara Gittings and Frank Kameny – for fear of becoming government targets. Gittings and Kameny, still activists, were both present at Equality Forum, along with many of their fellow Gay Pioneers.

Annual Reminders were held from 1965 to 1980. The Annual Reminders were the forerunner of the Stonewall riots in 1969 and the first New York City Pride Parade in 1970, when as many as 5,000 people participated.

The Equality Forum seminars during the week gave participants an opportunity to interact with the panel members. Talks of past versus present struggles came in many forms. The week was filled with diverse workshops and town hall-type meetings, including an open panel discussion with our lesbian columnist, Deb Price and a viewing of the critically acclaimed documentary Jim in Flord, after which there was a reception attended by members of Jim Wheeler's family.

There were many opportunities for participants to interact on a personal level with many of the gay icons and heroes honored during the week long celebration. Sunday, May 1, closed out the festivities with a block party rally and life-affirming interfaith service held at the historic Church. The homily was given by New Hampshire's Bishop Gene Robinson, who is the first openly gay Bishop to be elected in the Episcopal church.

There was a closing party at which Cyndi Lauper and other pop stars performed. Proceeds from the mostly-free celebration went towards funding the programs offered by the Equality Forum. For more information on the Equality Forum and how you can get involved locally, log on to www.equality.com.

In this issue

Section A
Interview: John Parrinello .......................... 6
Opinion: Soutoufe ................................... 8
NYC News .......................................... 16
Making the Scene: MOCHA open house ............. 18

Section B
Entertainment: Chorus Line .......................... 1
Columnists .......................................... 12
Travel/Food .......................................... 19

Section C
GAGV News .......................................... 1
Upstate Report: NYS Prides .......................... 3
Groups ................................................ 4
Youth Programs ...................................... 6
Classifieds .......................................... 19
Calendar ............................................ 19

See Page A6

John Parrinello
An interview with the Republican candidate
concludes our series on the mayoral race
Who is telling our story?

Who is telling our story now and for what purpose?

It was reported on April 21, 2005, that Microsoft took a position of neutrality and withdrew its support for a Washington State bill that would have barred discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Through all accounts in the media, it appeared that the company bowed to the pressure of a prominent evangelical church located a few blocks from its headquarters.

The pastor had threatened a national boycott of Microsoft products. Dr. Hutchinson, pastor of the Antioch Bible Church, is quoted as saying, “I told them I was going to give them something to be afraid of Christians about.” In a similar move, the American Family Association crowd that they had brought Proctor & Gamble to their knees earlier this legislative season. As I shared with you in my March editorial, the business community has been our current defense in this highly conservative legis­lative climate. This appearance of change is more smoke than it is actually a fire.  

We will continue to advocate for change and, most important­ly, advocate to continue to create a safe learning environment for all students. Since the early leadership in the area of civil rights for all and HRC continued its work behind the scenes with key congressional lobbyists to work behind the scenes with key Company leaders to shift Microsoft’s position. When it comes to the issue of marriage, education, financial and social services that our people and their partners and families need. Therefore, it’s appropriate for the company to support legislation that will protect and promote commitment to non-discrimi­nation in our internal policies and benefits, but our policies can’t cover the range of hous­ing, education, financial and sim­ilar services that our people and

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Men's Chorus plans food/beauty drive for ARI

The Rochester Gay Men's Chorus (RGMC), in conjunction with AIDS Rochester Inc. (ARI) has established the Bob Griffith FAB (Food And Beauty) Drive to assist the ARI Food Cupboard.

The drive was named after a long time RGMC member, Bob Griffith, who has been instrumental in getting Chorines to donate to the Food Pantry at rehearsals. Now that he is no longer singing, the Chorus felt it important to carry on Bob's important work while honoring his efforts throughout the years.

People making use of the ARI Food Cupboard have many needs. Obviously any non-perishable food items are appreciated. But of even greater need are items which cannot be purchased with food stamps or public assistance. These items make up the "beauty" part of RGMC's program.

- Personal hygiene products such as razor, shaving cream, deodorant, mouthwash, toothpaste, tooth brushes, and bar soap are especially needed. Beauty aids such as skin lotion, lipstick, cologne, perfume, the little things which help one feel better about one's self are not covered by food stamps or public assistance.

- Paper products such as tissues, toilet paper, paper towels and napkins are in great demand. And while having a pet is clearly recognized as health promoting, buying food and supplies for a cat or a dog is not covered by food stamps or public assistance.

The Chorus has undertaken a concerted effort to generate contributions to the Food Cupboard at rehearsals, our efforts are limited. Therefore, RGMC is asking each member coming to the June 18 concert at the Highasmhn Auditorium to bring one item, which can be donated to ARI.

The Rochester Gay Men's Chorus is proud to be able to assist ARI and honor one of its own through the Bob Griffith FAB Drive. Please join us in our efforts on June 18.

Meet the gay candidates June 9 at Business Forum social

The Community Business Forum is playing host to a group of openly gay Democratic candidates who are running for office throughout Rochester this fall.

Up to seven light politicians will be on hand during CBF's monthly social, June 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the Rochester Museum & Science Center. This will be an opportunity for the light community to meet and talk with openly gay candidates for public office in our city, country and state.

CBF (formerly GRLBP), is an organization that assists in maintaining a supportive environment for all individuals regardless of their sexual orientation or employment status. It is also the group that is responsible for organizing Rochester's 2005 Pride Parade and Cultural Festival at Highland Bowl, July 16.

Candidates who will attend the June 9 CBF event include Harry Bronson and Paul Haney, running for seats on the Monroe County Legislature; Deb Crowder, for City Court Judge; Jo Mullica as member of the Greece Town Council; the Honorable Ellen Macklin for New York State Supreme Court; Honorable Tim O. Mains for mayor; and the Honorable Bill Pritchard for City Council re-election.

Looking ahead: CBF is planning a special social event on June 23 (5:30 at RMS) in recognition of the beginning of the summer season -- and Gay Pride around the world.

To help celebrate Rochester Gay Pride Week, members and guests are invited to gather at Highland Bowl, July 14, for CBF's monthly social (5:30 p.m.). Special park-friendly beverages and snacks will be available.

And don't forget Rochester's 2005 Pride Parade and Cultural Festival at Highland Bowl, on July 16, starting at 4 p.m. This year's Pride Parade line-up will be on South Goodman Street from Eastwood and Highland Avenue (step-off at 5 p.m.). This year's parade and festival theme is "Broadway at the Bowl!" For information, go to www.streetsofpride.com or call 585-234-8706.

CBF membership is a diverse group of business owners, employees, retirees, and people seeking to find support, education, and networking to enhance their personal and professional lives. The group meets year-round on the second Thursday of every month at the RMS, 657 East Ave., 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Annual CBF membership dues and a monthly admission fee of just $10, which covers hot snacks and cold drinks and raises money for various community organizations and events, such as the annual parade and festival. Members consist of networking, socializing with new and old friends, and a brief program during which you can learn of community happenings and business news. Drawings for door prizes also take place. For information, call the CBF voice-mail line at 585-234-8706, or drop an email at www.streetsofpride.com.

Pride Week (continued from page 1)

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For full information on the June RGMC concert, see B 2, Entertainment Section.

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Pride Week takes to the streets on Saturday, July 16, with a new route, starting at 5 p.m. at the corner of Highland and Goodman, and heading to Highland Bowl for the Festival, "Broadway at the Bowl," which runs till 10:30 p.m. and will feature many outstanding performers. For more info, go to www.streetsofpride.com.

Pride Week will also take to the streets that day, with their 9 a.m. Fun Run. Meet at George Eastman House parking lot. Run in the morning and march in the afternoon, then dance all night -- very aerobic.

Finally, on Sunday, July 17, those who have survived the week can join Rainbow Seniors for a pitluck at 4 p.m. All the details and updates will be in the June Empty Closet, out and about by Friday, July 1. And watch for those amazing picnic spots around town (thanks to Richard Young).

GAGV Board Fundraising May 2005

Funding Goals: $200,000

| Individual donations (Incl. United Way) | $32,911 |
| Memberships | $3,500 |
| Sponsorships | $15,000 |
| Events | $4,209 |
| Year-to-date Raised | $83,000 |
| Year-to-date Goal | $55,620 |


The event is sponsored by the MOCHA Project and AIDS Community Health Center.

CORRECTION

Michelle Strawbridge was not credited for the following photos in the May Empty Closet:

- Kate Clinton in performance (pages A 1 and B),
- Kate Clinton in Tim Mains and David Gardner (page A 18).

Our apologies to Michelle.
Black AIDS Institute says Medicaid cuts will raise death toll

The only African American HIV/AIDS think tank, the African American HIV/AIDS think tank, has called for a 10% cut in Medicaid and Medicare. The Institute, which is the largest privately funded AIDS agency in the United States, is concerned about the implications of such cuts on the health of African Americans living with HIV/AIDS.

Medicaid and Medicare are critical sources of funding for the care of people living with HIV/AIDS, providing medications, hospitalization, and other services necessary for managing the disease. The Institute estimates that the proposed cut could result in a loss of $10 billion over the next five years, putting the lives of millions of Americans at risk.

The Institute also points out that as a result of these cuts, key programs such as the Ryan White CARE Act, which provides funding for HIV treatment and care, will be severely impacted. The Institute calls on Congress to find alternative ways to reduce spending without compromising the health and well-being of people living with HIV/AIDS.

In addition, the Institute highlights the disproportionate impact of these cuts on African Americans, who are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. They argue that these cuts will further exacerbate health disparities and lead to increased mortality rates among this community.

The Institute is urging Congress to take action to protect the health and well-being of all people living with HIV/AIDS, and to ensure that the needs of this vulnerable population are not sacrificed in the name of budget cuts.
Americans that it is unfair to deny legal protections to the families of same-sex couples. The poll found that nearly 60 percent of Massachusetts residents support marriage equality one year after the landmark decision. The state is expected to appeal the case to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 1st Circuit.

The Court noted in its ruling that the plaintiffs in the case had requested any and all forms of legal recognition for same-sex couples, including domestic partners' rights and the right to marry. The court also emphasized that the state's ban on same-sex marriage was unconstitutional.

Mass. Democratic Party puts marriage equality plank in their platform

On May 16, the Massachusetts Democratic Party (MSDP) approved a plank to its state platform that endorses marriage equality for same-sex couples. The platform was adopted by voice vote with 14, during the state party's convention in Lowell, Mass. Massachusetts now joins the Democratic parties of Colorado, Iowa and Maine in adopting such a plank.

The Massachusetts Democratic Party has already voiced support for marriage equality through a resolution adopted more than a year ago. Since then, the Democratic Parties of California, New York State, Washington State and many country parties have issued similar resolutions.

"The Massachusetts Democratic Party understands that family is fundamental to the way we live our lives," said State Chair Matt McGlynn. "Ernst & Young wins praise for protections

The Human Rights Campaign praised Ernst & Young LLP for recognizing the need to expand their protections policy based on gender identity and expression. The firm becomes the first of the Big Four accounting and consulting firms to reach 100 percent on HRC's Corporate Equality Index, ranking companies based on policies and practices that promote equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender employees and consumers.

"Gender identity is irrelevant to how we treat each other," said President Joe Solmonese. "Ernst & Young understands this is an issue of basic fairness that every firm should address. We are pleased that Ernst & Young has become the leader in their industry."
By Susan Jorden

Attorney John Parrinello is the Republican candidate for mayor of Rochester. He says, “I’m running for mayor because there’s been one party in office for approximately 30 years, and ‘one-party rule does not lend itself to the proper checks and balances that should be in city government.”

However, Parrinello feels that the situation in Monroe County, which has had an entrenched Republican Executive for several administrations, is different, since Democrats in the county legislature are able to challenge Republican policies and initiatives.

Empty Closets: Did you grow up in Rochester? What are your early memories and how is the city different today from what it was during your childhood?

John Parrinello: I grew up in the Villa St. Eleanor St. neighborhood in the northwestern part of the city. It’s very different now. I lived in that neighborhood, I delivered papers, I went to school on Lyell Ave. I played in the J.P. Riley Playground, and participated in sports activities like KPAA (Kodak Park Athletic Association).

Then I went to Aquinas, and from there to the University of Rochester, and from there to the Marine Corps, and from there to the Boston Patriots. Then I went to Syracuse College of Law at Syracuse University. I moved back to Rochester in 1965 and lived on Berkeley St., between East and Park Avenues. In 1967 I moved to San Gabriel Drive off Whiton Rd. In 1997 I moved back to Berkeley St. to the same house, where I live now...

The main differences now are drug and deteriorated neighborhoods. With the exception of the Cinema and the Little Theatre, there are no movie theaters. I’d agree that there has been a flight to the suburbs.

I think our educational system in the city school district is severely deteriorated. Also, when I grew up, you could walk or take the bus downtown or ride your bike, and you didn’t need an escort, and there were no concerns for your safety.

EG: Why did you decide to run for mayor, and what would your priorities be if elected?

I’m running for mayor because there has been one party in office for 30 years, which is very unhealthy, because you aren’t open to new ideas. I’m running for mayor because I can run for mayor, not for economic reasons.

I feel that I can make a significant difference, especially in the economic development of downtown and the restructuring of neighborhoods. I can use the mayor’s bully pulpit to try to improve public education. I can close drug houses, I can set priorities like elimination of lead paint poisoning of about 3,000 children per year.

I grew up economically in a lower middle class family and have moved through the support of my family, and made something of myself, which could serve as a model for children, regardless of ethnic or economic background.

EC: Didn’t Mayor John Johnson and Wade Norwood also come from backgrounds of poverty?

Mayor Johnson is an invisible man. He’s invisible. He has shown no leadership in any positive way. Wade is a product of the political system and David Gantt. He has nothing to say for himself. Bob Duffy has no practical administrative experience and has not taken individual leadership in the war on drugs.

Tim Mains, of the three candidates, is probably the most decent candidate, who on occasion has had the temerity to make a stand independent of the Democratic Party – unfortunately he doesn’t have a chance.

Black ministers support Norwood, white suburbanites and liberals support Duffy. Who is left to support Mains?

EG: Would you take an independent stand in opposition to the local Republican Party on certain issues?

If decide on my own positions and don’t ask Steve Minarik before I take a stand. I do think that Minarik is effective. His method of operating may be rough, but he certainly knows how to win elections.
James has taken control of his life. As a gay man, he has taken a major step toward protecting the future that he wants.

If you could do the same, would you?

Working with his financial professional, James was able to:
• Ensure that he remains financially secure;
• Potentially reduce the amount of taxes he pays;
• Pay for medical needs, without depleting his savings, should he become ill;
• Retain control over his decisions, even if he becomes incapacitated.

As a financial professional, I understand the unique concerns facing gay men and lesbians. We will assess your present situation, explore your future goals, and develop a financial strategy that can help you get to where you want to be.

To set up a free consultation and to find out how I can help you achieve your dreams, please give me a call for more information.

*Consult your professional tax advisor before making any decisions.

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Advocates for Justice and Equality (NAJE) who have been in a committed, loving relationship for over six years and are the proud parents of an 18-month-old son. Judy Gibson and Barbara DiBernard of Lincoln, who have been in a committed relationship for over 14 years, are also participating in the lawsuit. Gibson has a severe degenerative disease that requires her to use a wheelchair, but because of Nebraska’s law, DiBernard, who works for the state university, cannot advocate for a policy authorizing her to take time off from work to take Gibson to her regular medical appointments.

Another couple who are members of the plaintiff organizations are Donna Colley and Margaux Towne-Colley of Omaha, who have been in a committed, loving relationship for over six years and are the proud parents of an 18-month-old son. With a child’s needs to consider, Colley and Towne-Colley are especially concerned about Section 29 because it blocks them from giving their family stability and structure through basic legal protections. “It has been four long years waiting to be allowed to lobby our own senators — it’s great to see that democracy may be back in action in our great state,” said M.J. McBride, president of CFEP. “Although equality in marriage may be out of reach now, there’s a lot we can do to help families cope better with financial responsibilities, medical emergencies and the loss of loved ones.”

The Court noted in its ruling that the plaintiffs in the case had not requested any recognition of their relationships through marriage or any other legal status, but merely sought an equal opportunity to persuade legislators of the need for protections. Judge Joseph F. Bastian went on to say, “The court finds Section 29 is a denial of access to one of our most fundamental sources of protection, the government. Such broad exclusion from ‘an almost limitless number of transactions and endeavors that constitute ordinary civil life in a free society’ is ‘itself a denial of equal protection in the literal sense.’”

“This anti-gay-union law, in effect, hinging on a sign of the door of the Unicaternity saying ‘Same-Sex Couples Not Allowed,’” said David Buckel, a senior attorney at Lambda Legal, one of the groups representing the plaintiffs. “It makes no sense that Americans who believe in commitment and want to be more responsible to each other and their children have to fight so hard just for the right to try to persuade legislators that protections for family are important — successful or not, all citizens should have an equal shot in the democratic process.”

The anti-gay-union law, Section 29 of the Nebraska constitution, was passed in November 2000 in a heavily debated election. Promoted to votes simply as protection of marriage, the law went far beyond restricting the right to marry to heterosexually coupled couples. The law explicitly barred any legal recognition of a same-sex couple in a “civil union, domestic partnership, or other similar same-sex relationship.” The judge was clear that states can’t enact amendments that bar gay people from the democratic process.

Amy Miller of ACLU Nebraska, “Committed same-sex couples need the same protections for their families that married couples enjoy, and we’re hopeful that the legislature will take up this issue soon. This decision doesn’t mean that gay people can marry, get a civil union or a domestic partnership, but it guarantees gay people the right to lobby their state law makers for those protections.”

The ACLU and Lambda Legal filed the lawsuit in federal court in Lincoln in April 2003, saying that the state law violated the U.S. Constitution. The plaintiffs are Citizens for Equal Protection (CFEP), Nebraska Advocates for Justice and Equality (NAJE) and ACLU Nebraska, three advocacy organizations in Nebraska blocked from seeking family protections for same-sex couples and their children because of the anti-gay-union law.

Members of the plaintiff organizations include Donna Moritz, who cared for her 10-year life partner until her death but had to request that an attorney rush to the funeral home to ensure respect of the legal documents giving Moritz authority to carry out her deceased loved one’s wishes. Judy Gibson and Barbara DiBernard of Lincoln, who have been in a committed relationship for over 14 years, are also participating in the lawsuit. Gibson has a severe degenerative disease that requires her to use a wheelchair, but because of Nebraska’s law, DiBernard, who works for the state university, cannot advocate for a policy authorizing her to take time off from work to take Gibson to her regular medical appointments.

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“Diplomatic” Donna Red Wing takes key position at Interfaith Alliance

On May 17, The Interfaith Alliance announced the appointment of Donna Red Wing as its Senior Program and Development Advisor. A long-time leader and activist for progressive causes, Red Wing has been called “the most dangerous woman in America” by the Christian Coalition.

“I am very pleased to announce Red Wing’s appointment,” Suzie Armstrong, TIA Vice President said. “This is a key role for The Interfaith Alliance and with her appointment we now have the full complement of our executive team.”

Armstrong said Red Wing will direct The Interfaith Alliance’s field organizing program, consult and support the creation and implementation of the annual development plan, and manage the major gifts program. She will also work with the president, vice president, and board of directors around the organizational culture and vision.

“Red Wing has worked with us as a consultant for a number of years and we felt it was time to bring her on board in a full time capacity,” Armstrong said.

In the 2004 presidential campaign, Red Wing served as the primary liaison to the gay and lesbian communities for the national Dean for America campaign. She was also the Democratic candidate for Colorado House District 25 in 2004.

In 1999, Red Wing was the first recipient of the Walter Cronkite Faith and Freedom Award, given annually by The Interfaith Alliance.

In a Des Moines Register article describing the presidential campaigns reaching (Newsfronts continues on page 12)
On the Front Range of the Culture War: Reflections on the Soulforce Action against Focus on the Family, May 1, 2005

By Richard Lindsay, Spokesperson, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force National Religious Leadership Roundtable

“We are all participants in same-gender relationships.”

—Rev. Gil Caldwell, a 72 year-old straight grandfather from Mississippi

Coming into Colorado Springs for Soulforce’s action against Focus on the Family, my quiet cab ride was disturbed by two signs that I had landed in a red state. The first was an impassioned plea on the radio from James Dobson encouraging Colorado voters to contact Senator Ken Salazar to tell him to end his support of the Democratic filibuster of Bush’s judicial nominees. The second was driving past the New Life Church, a massive shopping center house of worship with a giant neon sign out front proclaiming JESUS. I got that familiar sinking feeling as someone from a fundamentalist who is constantly trying to defend my heritage to East and West coasts: I guess we are really that bad after all.

The next day dawned with the reminder of the Front Range hidden under cover of snow and clouds. It was a freezing May first, surely not a good sign for turning out masses to what was billed as a “May Day family picnic” in front of the Focus headquarters. But as the time for the rally approached, clutches of people descended on the scene.

Stereotype stereotypes fell away as hundreds of Colorado residents, led up with the self-appointed spokespeople of family values, showed up to therally to protest this small contingent of peaceful protestors. And perhaps they were right to be upset about something.

As I participated in the activities over the weekend, I kept thinking about Jesus’ words to his disciples that they must shut down a multi-million dollar operation for a day, maybe they aren’t as strong as we think.

So the Focus leadership had continually denied requests to meet with Soulforce, claiming schedule conflicts and travel plans. Yet somehow, several of their vice presidents were open to the public, but because of the protest they had closed their doors and even covered the sign in the driveway with a tarp. After the Reitans read their letter, this small clan of hotdish Soulforce protesters sang “Amazing Grace.”

By the time we started marching around the Focus headquarters, the popular liberal church song, “We Are Marching in the Light of God,” had morphed into, “We Are Frustrating in the Light of God.” It was a long hike: Focus has a massive headquarters. As we rounded the first stretch of the march, we looked into windows at their in-house publishing department, a warehouse of books and pamphlets dripping with virtu.

“We Are Marching” is a statement that I had made, it would have meant more had coming from a 72 year-old straight grandfather meant anything. The most emotional speech came from Mary Lou and Bob Wallner. Mary Lou, a former fundamentalist Christian, lost her lesbian daughter to suicide in 1997. Next to her pleas for Christians to repent from their deadly homophobia, Focus’ statements in the local papers the next morning that they love gays but the Bible rejects homosexuality came off as especially ironic.

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FAMILY VALUES: Kelly Osbourne, second from left, performed songs from her upcoming new CD, "Sleeping in the Nothing," at Roxy on April 24 at 2:30 a.m. With Kelly are designer Richie Rich and her parents, Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne.

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1 box (15.25 oz.) Chocolate Cake Mix
12 Large strawberries
1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
1 cup white chocolate chips
2 tsp. shortening (divided)
2 (8 oz. ea.) frozen whipped topping thawed

Prepare cake mix and bake cake according to package directions for a 9-inch round cake.

To dip berries - In separate bowls, combine each chocolate with 1 tsp. shortening. Microwave each for 30 seconds or until melted. Dip 6 whole strawberries and 12 halves (see picture) and place on wax paper to dry. Cover cake with whipped topping and top with berries. Put remaining chocolate into separate resealable plastic bags. Snip a tiny hole in the corner of each bag and drizzle on berries.

Congratulations to our newest homeowner of the month: Cindi, who used our recipe for success! Just ask Cindi about our team!

FILM SOCIETY: Jennifer Beals at the Film Society of Lincoln Center's gala tribute to Dustin Hoffman on April 18. More NYC News on A 19.

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153 Liberty Pole Way (585) 233-4719 Rochester, NY
Gay social worker measures homophobic bias in colleagues

By Shawn Ryan, MSW

Growing up gay in a straight world offered me much perspective on the system of oppression here in the United States. Although I can tell horror stories like the generations preceding me, it is my elders who courageously laid the groundwork so my generation could more safely discover our authenticity.

After the torrent of high school, with peers placing gum in my hair and decorating my face with bruises, I set out to join the profession of social work, where the main guiding principle is to partner with and advocate for society’s most vulnerable populations. I am privileged to help give voice to the facing silence my sisters and brothers sometimes feel.

It wasn’t long into my undergraduate education before I learned some of my colleagues held similar biases as the general population. In light of this, I set out to measure homophobic bias in professional social workers. I was both enlightened and startled by some of the conclusions drawn from my research.

Let’s face it, even though social workers attempt to transcend societal ignorance, homophobia is in the water we drink — none of us can escape it. Considering homophobia was removed from the long list of mental illnesses in 1973, it is unfortunate that lesbian women and gay men can still receive less optimal care from medical professionals compared to our heterosexual counterparts.

I measured homophobia in social workers from a large medical institution here in Rochester. I did so by combining a quantitative survey tool with some open-ended questions. There was a response rate of 77 percent, which is awesome by any standard. It was found that when using quantitative measures, 95 percent of social workers were not homophobic. This percent is similar to what other researchers found a decade before.

After analyzing the open-ended questions, however, it was found that 43 percent of social workers were delivering services from a disease model. One social worker said that “gay people may be putting more risk on themselves” another felt that “gay people need to be wary of STDS, which are relevant to their sexual preference,” and one more said sexual orientation was only important if the “gay person is HIV positive.”

While overall quantitative scores appear supportive of diverse sexual orientations, qualitative results offer a contrary perspective, informing social workers of areas for future development. Since the qualitative portion of the scale measured nearly 95 percent greater homophobia than the ATLG, these findings may indicate that quantitative measures alone are not enough to accurately measure homophobia in our society.

Social workers have great responsibility and must be accountable to oppressed and vulnerable populations. Having self-awareness helps social workers excel in specific areas of practice and the wisdom to refer for assistance in professional areas that are challenging. Social workers need to recognize that when one population is oppressed, we all lose.

It is time gay and straight vie together for social justice; after all, we are more similar than different.
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The Basics of Long-Term Care Insurance

By William R. Monte

In last month’s Empty Closet, I spoke of the many inequalities that same-sex couples face as compared to conventionally married couples, and the increased importance for domestic partners to proactively plan for their future long-term care. I hope that you found the article to be informative.

As a follow up, I thought it would be wise to spend some time delving into the basics of long-term care insurance (LTCI) and highlighting some of the key decisions that need to be made when designing an appropriate plan of protection. All of these design features will dictate what your annual premium will be for your policy.

To begin with, you need to understand that long-term care is paid for with dollars, but it is bought with your health. In other words, it’s a health-quality-product. Basic understanding of LTCI differs from that of life insurance underwriting in that there is no medical exam performed. An application for coverage is submitted, which gives the company a broad overview of your medical history, both current and past (current medica­tions, current medical conditions, hospitalizations, etc.). A nurse underwriter then follows up with you by telephone to review the application information and makes a determination if medical records from your primary physi­cian are needed for further information.

The underwriting process can be as short as a few days, or as long as a few weeks depending upon the scope of your medical history.

As far as the design of your LTCI policy, there are some key decisions that need to be discussed. Let me briefly describe each one.

Daily Benefit Amount

When you buy a policy, you are purchasing a certain daily benefit amount to cover the cost of long-term custodial care. In New York, you can purchase anywhere between $70 and $400 per day of benefit. Obviously, the more benefit you purchase the higher your premium cost will be. In order to make the decision needs to be made regarding how much of the current cost of care you are willing to pay yourself out of income and assets and how much you want the insurance company to pay for you. This daily benefit amount can be used in any state as well as a week to as long as four to six weeks, depending on the scope of your medical history.

Elimination or Waiting Period

This is similar to the “deductible” on your automobile insurance. The type of long-term care insurance policy that you purchase dictates how the elimination period

Inflation Protection

The cost of long-term care continues to rise after you take-out your policy. The only way to ensure that you can cover the costs of care in the future is to cover the rate of inflation. You can either represent the number of days of care that you have to pay out of your own pocket (called Gain) or a specific number of days on the calendar that you have to pay (called “calendar” days) before inflation begins.

Premium Discounts

There are three different discounts that are available to make your investment into this policy worthwhile. These three discounts are either a percent “Simple” or five percent “Compound” inflation.

Premium Discounts

These discounts are maximum/minimum assumptions that either make the policy more expensive or less expensive. In other words, it’s a health-qual­ity-product.

Transfer and Recordation Protection

When you buy a policy, you are buying a transfer and recordation protection. This protection does not guarantee that you will be able to transfer the property on the home they share.

Maryland governor vetoes protection for same-sex couples

The Human Rights Campaign condemned on May 20 Maryland Gov. Robert Ehrlich’s veto of two bills that would have extended limited protections to same-sex couples.

“Banishing a loved one at the hospital room door does nothing to serve Maryland’s greater good,” said HRC President Joe Solmonese. “These bills had bipartisan sup­port and were extremely limited in the pro­tections they would have offered same-sex couples. To vetoing these bills, Gov. Ehrlich signaled a serious disregard for the safety of Maryland families.”

“These bills sponsored by The Gay Alliance that the Legislative committee endorsed the Maryland legislature defeated.

“Equality Maryland and the bills’ spon­sors sit down with people on both sides of the aisle in attempts to pass them with broad support,” said Dan Furmansky, executive director of Equality Maryland, the statewide gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender advocacy group. “The Medical Decision Making Act, in particular, was a very open process, and we would have wel­comed the Governor’s input on this effec­tive measure that would have protected thousands of Maryland families.

Clearly, we were amenable to strengthening the bill as we accepted several amendments throughout the process.”

“HRC will work with Equality Mary­land to override the vetoes on these critical protections,” added Solmonese. “The group has done great work on behalf of Maryland families and the Legislature should ensure these protections become law.”

The Medical Decision Making Act would create a statewide life partnership registry for unmarried couples and extend 11 rights to registered couples, including the right to hospital visitation, to make medical decisions on behalf of a partner, to make funeral arrangements and to share in a zoning home. The Transfer & Recorda­tion Tax Exemption would exempt domestic partners from the transfer and recordation tax that is paid when one partner is added to the title of the other partner’s property on the home they share.

Pride Agenda for Equality–Justice Day
dells Albany that religion is not anti-gay

On May 21, the newspaper in Albany County, New York State government ran a full-page ad signed by religious leaders from across the state that asked the ques­tion: “Religion is Anti-Gay?”

The signers of the ad answered by saying, “We are 125 religious leaders who don’t agree.”

The ad came in conjunction with the Empire State Pride Agenda’s “LGBT Equality & Justice Day” on May 24, when hundreds of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) New Yorkers and their allies converge on Albany from across the state to talk to legislators about the issues that impact their lives and their families.

The Pride Agenda, New York’s state­wide LGBT civil rights organization, took out the ad in The Legislative Gazette, a daily newspaper that covers government and state policy makers.

“We ran the ad to show our elected officials that there is strong support among people of faith in New York for LGBT people, our families and our equality,” said Dan Van Capelle. “For too long on LGBT issues, religious conservatives have tried to own the discussion. They own the headlines and would have everyone think religion condemns LGBT people. This ad is part of an ongoing effort that we are conducting with people of faith to take back the pulpits and let New Yorkers know that many religions embrace LGBT people.”

The Reverend Steve Clunn, a signer of the ad and a United Methodist Church pastor, said, “It was great to have this opportunity to speak up for LGBT people. As community leaders and ethical guides, those of us that signed this ad have a perspective that must be heard on issues affecting LGBT people. To deny equality and justice for LGBT people is to engage in discrimination and discrimi­nation is immoral.”

The Pride Agenda, through its organ­izing initiative “Pride in the Pulpit,” has been working for more than a year with commu­nities of faith who are supportive of LGBT New Yorkers and their fight for equality. During this time, over 410 clergy and lay­people from the state representing over 20 denominations and faith traditions have joined Pride in the Pulpit.

For more information on Pride in the Pulpit, go to www.pridesagenda.org.

WorldPride to re­schedule after Gaza withdrawal

The WorldPride Festival planned for this summer in Jerusalem has been post­poned. Matt Foreman, executive direc­tor of the National gay and Gay Task Force issued the following statement:

“We support the decision to reschedule Jerusalem WorldPride so that we can avoid conflict with the new dates the Israeli gov­ernment has set for its Gaza withdrawal. Withdrawing the IDF from Gaza is the right decision, and as many as possible unfold, historic changes in Israel and Palestine will lead toward real peace.”

“Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender citizens in the United States understand firsthand what it is to be the target of those preaching religious intolerance and extremist as a justification for bigotry. We also understand how powerful it is when we stand in unity against such intolerance. To that end, we will remain honored to join under the banner of WorldPride with our
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Fri., June 17 ....... 8:00pm .............. Erev Shabbat Service
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To the Editor:

I would like to correct what I believe is a mistake made in The Empty Closet May 2005 article entitled “The Vagina Dialogues by Alicia Fraser: Women and HIV—the silent killer.” The author states “Despite the myth that HIV is transmitted by drug users, only a small number of transmissions actually occur this way, and more commonly, drug use is strongly linked to unsafe sex, an open door for STDs and STIs.” While I agree with her that drug use is strongly linked to unsafe sex, there are numerous studies that show HIV IS transmitted through actual drug use itself. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) lists “Injection Drug Use” as the cause of 246,546 AIDS diagnoses as of the end of 2003. With another 62,418 cases that could be sis. Ms. Fraser may be misinterpreting the information. The CDC’s information from 1999 to 2003, “the proportion of females among persons with heterosexually acquired infections (64 percent; 23,215 of 36,084) than the proportion of injection-drug use.” However, the proportion of females among persons exposed through injection-drug use was greater among persons with heterosexual infections than the proportion of females among persons exposed through injection-drug use. However, 12,000+ case out of a total of 36,000+ is still 1/3 and not a small number in any case. Direct drug use, including needle cooker, cotton and straw sharing, can and does transmit HIV to significant numbers of people.

Robert Quinn-O’Connor
HIV Coordinator
Franklin County House of Corrections
160 Elm Street
Greenfield, MA 01301

Veterinary Hospital
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Do one small, concrete thing to create change
Make amends if appropriate
Remember you always have choices
Pray for strength, courage, healing
Share what you’ve learned with others
Don’t give up hope or extinguish it in others
Forgive yourself. Forgive others.

Author Unknown

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MOCHA OPEN HOUSE: The MOCHA Project held an open house and auction of art work by Thomas Sommerville on May 18 at their office at 107 Liberty Pole Way. Top above: Melissa Waters and Mary Ellen Pannell; above: Paulette Hall and John Morgan; left top: Dr. Sheldon Fields, Alex Camacho and Elier Ruiz; left below, front row: Alex Camacho, April Little, and Camero Logan; back row: Don Bruner, Michael Booth and Kraig Pannell.

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Nancy Brown
40 YEARS, 40 HEROES: Above left: The Reverend Beth Stroud, defrocked lesbian Methodist minister, was recently restored to her position by an appeals panel, at least temporarily. Center: Bishop Gene Robinson of New Hampshire. Both are shown at the Equality Forum interfaith service on May 1 at the historic Christ Church in Philadelphia. PHOTOS BY DOUG MESZLER. PHOTO RIGHT BY ROBIN ANGEWINE-WALLING.

NYC News

Deborah Edel of the Lesbian Herstory Archive accepts the Publishing Triangle Leadership Award on May 10. The Herstory Archive is located in Brooklyn.

KRAMER BOOK SIGNING: AIDS author/activist Larry Kramer signed copies of his new book, The Tragedy of Today’s Gays, at the Union Square Barnes and Noble on April 27.

OUTSPoken; The Hon. Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland and former U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, won the OutSpoken Award at “A Celebration of Courage,” the International Gay and Lesbian Rights Commission’s 15th anniversary, at Union Square Ballroom on May 13.

TRIANGLE AWARDS: On May 10, Alison Smith, author of Name All the Animals, won the Judy Grahn Award for lesbian non-fiction at the 2005 Triangle Awards at the new School University.
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Broadway bound: A Chorus Line is at Geva through July 1

By Brendan McDonough

This is one of the last stops with bright lights. He appeared by Brendan McDonough

Day is a perfect gift idea for those returning to Broadway in 2006. After a 15-year absence, the show is back here, before its return to New York City. For the performers, it is a dream come true.

Kurt Domoney is familiar with bright lights. He appeared by Brendan McDonough

Kurt Domoney said.

"I've been waiting my entire life to do this," said Domoney. He wasn't part of the original production and says this time around "A Chorus Line" will offer something for everyone. "It is based on the original production, with a fresh approach," said Domoney.

His character Danny goes through many ups and downs throughout the performance and will no doubt keep the audience captivated. "It's an audition setting but it's not your typical musical, the dancing and singing is amazing and it would be hard not to make the audience happy," Domoney said.

Also in the cast is Lauren Kling. She plays the part of "Maggie." She is definitely the most innocent character of the group, but I did some of her scenes a few months earlier in New York City, so that made it a little easier," said Kling.

Audiences may recognize Kling: she was most recently in "Lauren Kling"

(Continued on next page)

June In The Life is Pride Edition; May episode also airs here in June

"This June, In The Life unskids its annual LGBT Pride Edition with "Setting the Record Straight." The show will be seen on WXXI on June 12 at 11 p.m., and WXXI will air the May episode as well this month, on June 5 at 11 p.m.

This hour long special explores the intersection of LGBT representation, cultural prejudice, censorship, media sensationalism vs. actual news and the big picture implications of it all. Hosted by actor, comedian, and Air America Radio talk show host Janeane Garofalo with PSAs from actor-comedian Rosie O'Donnell and young adult author Alex Sanchez (Rainbow High, Rainbow Boys).

In The Life begins with a visit to PBS's "Postcards From Buster: Sugartime" Vermont couple Gillian Pape and Karen Pike to discuss the rippling effects of U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings' controversial episode in which their family was profiled. Spellings urged PBS to pull the episode, slamming the door on the "ivory tower" and the open dialogue she pledged to uphold in her inaugural address.

The traditional role of a journalist has been to act as an objective observer of our culture using a standard set of ethical guidelines in their effort to report the most factual information possible. Recent controversies have highlighted journalism with right-leaning agendas and the current U.S. government's packaging of Video News Releases as actual news, calling into question the accuracy of this information.

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(Continued on next page)

ABSC hosts "Cruisin’ on the Canal" boat ride fundraiser

The Gay Community Sculpture project (Atlantic-Beacon Sculpture Committee-ABSC) will be hosting a two hour "Cruisin’ on the Canal" boat ride aboard the "Sam Patch" on Sunday, June 19, from 2:45 p.m.

The cruise departs from Pittsford Port/Schoen Place. This mid-afternoon adult event on Father's Day is a perfect gift idea for those "Daddy and Boy" couples or even real Dads and their grown-up sons.

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(Continued on next page)

"Daddy and Boy" couples or even real Dads and their grown-up sons. Musical entertainment will be provided along with a live auction of special items to support ABSC. Delicious edibles and non-alcoholic drinks are included in the ticket price of $40 per person or $75 per couple. All ticket and auction proceeds will benefit the final stages of the gay community sculpture which is being dedicated on July 15 during Gay Pride Week.

Tickets will be available for purchase beginning June 1 at Outlandish Video & Gifts at the Village Gate, 274 North Goodman St. Ticket requests can also be arranged via E-mail at ABSC@4607@aol.com. This event will be sign interpreted for the deaf and hard of hearing.
Chorus Line (continued from page 1)

"Hairspay." She admits the dancing was a little different from her role in that musical.

"I am very excited, I've never done 'A Chorus Line' before, but I have always wanted to," she said. Klingen is originally from Southern California and says she likes what she sees in Rochester.

GEVA Theatre is round and really intimate, every seat in the house gets a really good view of the stage," said Klingen. The cast and crew rehearsed for six weeks to get ready for opening night. "I'm not nervous, I really don't get nervous, except for right before the curtain goes up. Then I think I'll be a little bit nervous, but then once the production starts I'm sure it'll all go away," Klingen said.

She added, "I don't think it will be hard to keep the performance fresh, the crew works well together and I'm sure there will be something that will go wrong, like a light going out or something, to keep us on our toes."
June 1 at 7 p.m. at Writers & Books, ARTWalk short dramatic presentations. Forms of creative visual art are encouraged, including, but not limited to, painting, drawing, caricatures, sculpture, computer, ceramics, sidewalk artists, installation artists, films, collage, jewelry. Collaborations including but not limited to, painting, poetry, storytelling, individual or ensemble performance or "slam" poetry, rap, and short dramatic presentations. Pieces may have rhythmic or musical accompaniment, but the word art should be dominant.

4. Visual Arts: Artist at Work: All forms of creative visual art are encouraged, including but not limited to, painting, drawing, caricatures, sculpture, computer, ceramics, sidewalk artists, installation artists, films, collage, jewelry. Collaborations are encouraged.

A group of independent jurors, made up of residents, business owners and arts professionals, will review submissions for all submissions, which must be received by Friday, June 17 at 4 p.m.

Other opportunities are available for ARTWalk's June 11 "Muse-a-Thon," where artists will line the street showing their work and musical groups will perform along the route. Student art will also be displayed.

Applications and guidelines can be downloaded from www.rochesterARTWalk.org, or picked up at the Edward Jones office at 750 University Ave., or the South East Area Coalition (SEAC) at 1045 South Clinton Ave.

ARTWalk is an interactive urban outdoor museum on University Avenue in the Neighborhood of the Arts. ARTWalk's mission is to foster, create and maintain a distinctive public walkway connecting art destinations and cultural centers in the neighborhood, in order to provide an environment that encourages exposed consumption to a variety of artistic experiences and build community.

ARTWalk has received the Common Good Planning Center's "Uncommonly Good" award and the US Conference of Mayors "2003 City Livability Award." For more information, visit www.rochesterARTWalk.org, call (585) 256-3336 or email ARTWalkrochester@ARTWalk.org.

ARTWalk 2002 featured city scoops doing a dance choreographed by Thomas Warfield. PHOTO BY GERRY Szymanski

Logo TV channel partners with Advocate publisher

Logo, MTV Network's new channel for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) viewers, and LPI Media, groundbreaking publisher of The Advocate, Out and The Out Traveler, the country's leading magazines for gay men and lesbians, have partnered to create co-branded television specials and a headline news service online.

The exclusive multi-year, multi-platform partnership was announced on May 16 by Brian Graden, President, MTV Networks Music Group Entertainment, and President, Logo, and James Franklin, President, LPI Media.

"I am very proud to partner with LPI Media not only because of its dominant role, but because the company is a true pioneer in the LGBT marketplace and the larger media landscape," said Graden. "They are continual proof that gay media is a real and visible business. Creatively, this deal has the potential to move our brands beyond television and the web and onto new and emerging platforms whenever it makes sense."

The partnership between Logo and LPI Media includes both companies collaboratively developing and producing at least five programs a year, with the first special to air fourth quarter 2005. The co-branded specials will be based on original content from the The Advocate, the LGBT community's newsmagazine of record; Out, which celebrates gay culture through fashion, style, trends and the arts and The Out Traveler, the nation's only magazine presenting the entire travel experience from a gay perspective.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for LPI Media to work with Logo to help create this exciting new multi-media LGBT venture," said James Franklin, president of LPI Media. "We are thrilled that Logo has emerged as a new television option for the LGBT community and look forward to working with them on developing content that serves our large and important universe."

The deal also includes the creation of The Advocate and Logo co-branded headline news service, which will feature a daily online newspaper, daily e-newsletter and a daily web log, Logo's web site, LOGOonline.com, beginning fourth quarter 2005. The service's content will come directly from the editorial staff of The Advocate, the gay and lesbian community's newsmagazine of record for nearly 40 years. Logo launches June 30 with more than one thousand hours of programming content and approximately 10 million subscribers across the U.S. The network will provide LGBT viewers with a place where they can see themselves and be themselves through a mix of original and acquired entertainment programming that is authentic, smart and inclusive.

Logo has assembled a library of more than 200 movie titles, from the majors to the independents, including HBO's Emmy Award-winning Angel, in America, Medium, Medium Land, Drive, Kissing Jessica Stein, High Art, Philadelphia, Letter's Days, Far from Heaven, A Home at the End of the World, Six Degrees of Separation, Chuck and Buck, and Prid Green Tomatoes. In addition, the network will launch an ongoing documentary series, Momentum, focusing on first person experiences within the distinct and different lives of the LGBT community, from a gay rugby team and gay rappers to lesbian surfers and gay Muslims and Latinos.

Additional series premiering this summer include Patrik-Ian Poli's Noah's Arc, an African-American gay man navigating love and life in Los Angeles with his three best friends; Open Bar, an original reality series following one man's coming out process as he works to open a Wine & Dine gay bar; Out and About (working title), a globe-trotting travel show; and The Ride (working title), a first person look at some of the participants traveling the 585 miles from San Francisco to Los Angeles in the annual AIDS/LifeCycle fundraiser; and First Name Last Name, a comedy/reality series from Canada hosted by actor/comedian Scott Thompson (Kids in the Hall) who has to fulfill the wedding dreams of gay and lesbian couples in just two weeks.

On July 26, the network presents the first-ever telecast of the GLAAD Media Awards, featuring Billy Crystal, Jessica Lange, Alan Cumming, Marcia Gay Harden, Felicity Huffman, Margaret Cho, Liz&Min.

(Continued on page 4)
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Q Television can be found on RCN on Channel 255. For further information on programming and subscriptions please visit www.qtelevision.com <http://www.qtelevision.com>.

Lincoln Center salutes Pride with three days of events

Lincoln Center will salute Gay Pride Week this year for the first time, with three days of arts-related events, June 21-23. On Tuesday, June 21, Kate Clinton will host “In Search of Family: an evening of gay and lesbian literature,” at 6:30 p.m. at Lincoln Center’s Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse, 165 W. 65th St. June 22 is the date for “Out at Lincoln Center: Midsummer night swing,” which will feature music by Nile Rodgers and Chic, with special guests. Disco dancing under the stars will take place from 8 to 10 p.m. on the Josie Robertson Plaza. On June 23, the series ends with “True Colors: a celebration of music and dance.” Gay actor/author Charles Busch will host an all-star lineup of performers from Broadway, cabaret, pop, rock, jazz, opera and dance. Most performers have connections to Lincoln Center. The evening will be in the Rose Theatre, Frederick P. Rose Hall, Time Warner Center, Broadway at 60th St. A benefit cocktail party follows the 7 p.m. performance, which will feature Wicked star Christine Chenoweth, Patti Labelle, Cyndi Lauper, and many others. ■

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The opinions of columnists, editorial writers and other contributing writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the collective attitude of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley or The Empty Closet.

Growing Up
ABOUT LAST NIGHT

By Eric Bellmann

It's the last night of vacation in South Beach. It has been a month of warm weather, exactly what I wanted, needed. Lots of walking, pool time, and on the weekends: Reading, swimming, but most important of all, reconsidering. Turn inward, making a personal inventory. My annual vacation here becomes a variation of a children's Time Out. Think where you've come from, think about where you are heading, talk about behaviors, strategies, goals.

I've considered those things during this visit and it pleases me that I can be objective about many issues. However, I seem this last night to want to drift towards romanticism, fantasy. I'll go for a moonlight walk along the ocean, only two blocks from where I am staying.

During the day the walkways are congested with power walkers, roller bladers, direct sales people. Don't there are hardly any people around. Days are noisy. Near one construction sight I notice a man in uniform. Maybe he is private security. A cop has always been a fantasy of mine. Like snagging a soldier for my final night in paradise. Sometimes I hope that would happen. It was a real opportunity to just give another soul. I registered for a co-ed volleyball league through an adult education program at a nearby high school. I love the sport of volleyball. In my senior year in high school, I played volleyball on the varsity girls team since there was no boys team. (The nicknames I endured during this period of my life are a whole other future column in itself) I play regularly at Hot Shots on University Avenue (where the competition can be fierce and I very rarely can even foresee), and throughout the summer I play outdoors every weekend that the Rochester weather permits (brewing up a batch of skin cancer that will surely result in my early demise). As I peruse the course catalog look­ ing for a fitness class (my options were limited to Salina Dancing, Line Dancing, Swing Dancing – that's a lot of dancing even for a man – and Learning to Play Bridge - can one really consider the card game Bridge as a fitness class? Is Bridge an aero­ batic activity that I'm missing out on? Are old ladies with blue hair breaking a sweat during Bridge demonstrations?), I stumbled across Intermediate Co-ed Volleyball. Immediately I thought, 'Sign me up!' The course description stated that different teams would be chosen each week (over an eight week period) and would play at a competitive, intermediate level. I play at an intermediate level at Hot Shots so I thought nothing about sending my check of $65. I registered the day before. I learned that the definition of 'intermediate' can have many different interpretations.

As I walked into the gym on the first night of Intermediate Co-ed Volleyball, I immediately sized up my 'competition.' My 'competition' consisted of: 1) A woman wearing maroon sweatpants and a back brace. 2) A veryIEWS man who was speaking in a language that sounded like a mixture of Swedish and Yiddish.

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JUNE 2005 • NUMBER 380 • GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESSEE VALLEY • THE EMPTY CLOSET
Volleyball. The Trekkie offered to get his walk the evening custodial was laughing with the for the missing pieces, but we luckily found er here that I was the new kid on the block. As we were about to start our match, walked the evening custodial staff. It was their dinner break, and for the next hour we were their dinner theater. During the first game of the match I had impressed the team with my passing, setting, and serving skills. The instructor stated "We've got a ring here tonight," when I spiked the ball into Safety Pin's face, which then resulted in a 15-minute delay of game as she re-assembled her glasses. I was afraid we wouldn't find all her pins and someone would fall on one resulting in the need for an emergency Tetanus shot. No way was I going to get locked away playing Intermediate Coed Volleyball. The Trekkie offered to get his metal detector out of his car to help look for the missing pieces, but we luckily found all of them before we had to call in the big guns.

I was awe with the surprisingly good depth-perception the Pirate had in passing the ball on and the team's setting position. I was also equally impressed with the TaXi Chi Master's serving skills and it was he who in later conversations an opponent's spike (he would follow each block with a "Frigheva faze zigz" outright which loosely translates to "In your face!"). I was also fascinated that the Cowboy never lost his hat all night.

The only other delay of game was when Turkleton and tube socks had to take an insulin shot break.

And although there was no way these teams would have survived an Intermediate level of competition at Hot Shots, everyone was having a good time and trying their best. Soon I had let my guard down and was laughing with the "fun" as the games progressed. Our team took four out of five games, but each one was a spadework.
"Women are changing society man, and change, and because the solution does, too. They role everywhere now. Look at that Hillary chick. That's why I don't want my son to spend all his time with his mother and her crazy sister. I don't live with my boy's mother, but I take him to the movies or to Adams St. rec to b-ball when I can. It think's it important, so I know the difference.

The difference in what?" I asked.

"The difference between a built man or a woman, you know what I'm talking about."

"No, not really." I replied. "But I do know that today's people of all breeding they can't care for — addicted babies, AIDS babies, and unplanned babies. These are babies being born into the cycle of poverty and hopelessness that their teenage parents are living in. Our generation has failed our kids."

"OK, brotha. Man, don't need a civics lesson from some smart ass white boy."

I became simultaneously angry and disturbed — a rush of blood singed the tip of my ears. What made me think this guy was bent to hear any of that? Was this possibly thinking? What was I to expect from him? I rationalized my comments, thinking he was the one that initiated the conversation. He seemed like he needed to talk to someone, anyone on this cold, damp rainy night.

"Hey — what about all these punks today?" he said. "Are they more asinine than ever?" I thought he was a little confused at first. "I mean — God, I could see a large looming figure — maybe even the Pope — out there..."

I was somewhat dumbstruck that he wanted to continue our conversation. Was he bating me? The tone of his voice seemed like he was genuinely interested in having an exchange of words, and I did appreciate his openness and honesty. Even though that little voice inside my head said 'keep your mouth shut!' I just couldn't help myself.

"I guess some people don't realize that this is the diverse natural order of things. Everyone has a unique and different orientation to their sexual desires. It's what makes the world go 'round.' It's my belief that sexual behavior is in part determined by the will of human nature... and human ignorance and the by-products of violence and discrimination. This was my personal tune that was pumping out of my ipod. It seemed to be speaking to me."

"But, I could no longer live on my own shit."

He abruptly interrupted our brief silence, blustering out, "You know, women are turning our sons into faggots, and our kids are ruling the world now. Every car that I see go by is driven by women folk. See! Look right there in that Escalade. They have so much contempt for their man..."

"Oh, really?" I said.

"Well, you don't talk or act all swishy. Swishy I thought.

"And you don't look like a faggot either," he added.

"No, it's true. I'm a same-gender-loving individual. It took me most of my adult life to come to love and appreciate myself for who I am. If your son grows up to be a same-gender-loving individual, it's not because he spent more time with his mother and his aunts and not with you. It will be because he has learned, like myself, to trust the natural expression of his character without guilt, fear, or shame. If he learns anything about faith and courage from you, he'll grow up to be a happy, well-adjusted man."

He sat there staring at me from our measured distance. He went back to sipping his drink. All of a sudden, it occurred to me I wasn't as uncomfortable as I was before. I felt a moment of peace wash over me. I told this guy exactly what was on my mind, and I'm still standing here."

He sat back in his chair and said, "I thought you were too brave of me, or extremely stupid."

"Don't be ridiculous, brotha. I'll think about what you've said."

He chuckled. Undoubtedly, I was somewhat disturbed — a rush of blood singed the tip of my ears. I thought this was either very true or false..."

"Steve, brotha, it you want to believe that."

"I'm not sure I exactly know what you mean."
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Queer & Healthy TESTING, TESTING, 1...2...3... By Erik Libey

June is a pretty happening month. It is the month we can be fairly certain the weather will get warm and stay warm. For many it is the first month of summer vacation. It is the month many cities around the nation and world (including our neighbors to the west in Buffalo) celebrate Gay Pride. It is also the month during which National HIV Testing Day falls - on June 27. So this month I wanted to spend just a few moments reflecting on the importance of HIV Testing - especially in our communities.

HIV and AIDS have been much in the news lately. We see issues ranging from how the new pope will address the issue of condom use for HIV prevention in the Catholic faith, to sensational stories of men on the "down low" spreading HIV throughout the community and a new "super-virus" being found in a gay man in New York City, to heightened use of crystal meth fueling alarming new HIV rates among gay men. One common theme to rise from all the dialogue around HIV, though, is the importance of getting people tested so that we can diagnose HIV as early and efficiently as possible.

More than two decades into this disease, however, it seems this ideal is still far from being met. Results from a recent study and survey done in England showed that amongst gay men alone, a national average of 30 percent of men who were infected with HIV were not aware of their infection because they had not been recently tested (and in some cities, including London, that figure approached 50 percent of gay men).

Here in the United States, the CDC estimates that one in three people who are HIV-positive do not know that they are.

So let's look at Rochester: the NY State Department of Health reports that in Monroe County alone there could be as many as 800 individuals who are infected with HIV... and of that figure it's estimated that anywhere from 30 percent to 40 percent could be gay or bisexual men. If the CDC's estimates are correct that would mean that in Monroe County alone there are approximately 1,600 individuals who are infected with HIV... and that of those individuals who are infected with HIV were not aware of their infection because they had not been recently tested (and in some cities, including London, that figure approached 50 percent of gay men).

The Vagina Dialogues Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse Region"}

The Vagina Dialogues Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse Region

SO MANY TOYS, SO LITTLE TIME!

By Alicia Fraser

Despite what some say, size definitely matters! With so many different styles, shapes, lengths and girths of dildos, whatever you want, baby, you can have it. If a toy is too small, it may leave you craving for more -- if it's too big, it may sit in your drawer. Twelve thousand years ago, women in China had dildos made of jade, ivory, and wood, which also served as pieces of art. Ancient Polynesian and Arab women util-
ized unique bananas. Early mid-eastern women creatively used dried camel dung coated in a hard resin, as a way to find pleasure. Today, your choices are much more appealing. Dildos range from the realistic phallic to the Virgin Mary -- swirls, veins, sparkles, the list goes on and on! Dildos can be made from silicone, rubber, vinyl, glass, acrylic, and metal. The shape and texture of a dildo is important to take into consideration, since the most sensitive part of the vagina is the outer third. If you're on a budget, rubber dildos are the most affordable. There is a wide range of rubber dildos, including "jellies," which are softer than plain rubber. Because rubber and vinyl are porous, condoms should always be used with these toys condoms should always be used when using toys with a partner, and changed when switching objects. Clean rubber and vinyl dildos with anti-bacterial soap, be careful not to submerge a dildo in water if it has any moving or rotating parts.

Cyberskin™ dildos are covered for their realistic texture and human-like feel. Warming quickly to your body temperature, Cyberskin™ is the choice material for those who wish to "pack" a dildo in their shirts (such as a Soft Pack), and stimulates a flaccid penis. A Soft Pack is not meant for intercourse, but for a realisti-
cide in your pants. The most realistic Cyberskins have a bendable, firm core to adjust to shape and position, as well as weighted balls for a realistic feel and balance when used for intercourse with a harness or solo. After cleaning your Cyber-
skin™ dildo with soap, dry it thoroughly and dust with cornstarch. It prevent it from getting tacky or sticky. Do not allow it to rest against other toys, as it will melt and stick to them.

Most dildos have a flanged bottom or balls, which allow you to secure your dildo into a harness with a metal or plastic "O" ring. Harnesses are made of vinyl, leather, or denim, and you can buy one or even make one of your own! You can also buy starter kits which include a harness, dildo and lube -- ready to go!

Silicone dildos are more expensive than rubber, since they are often handcrafted in small batches by independent manufacturer-
ers. Silicone is non-porous and therefore can be sterilized by boiling in hot water for five-ten minutes or by putting in the dishwasher. Silicone dildos last longer than other materials and come in a wide range of vivid colors. Vixen, a woman-owned company based out of San Francisco specializes in hand poured dildos in gorgeous colors -- including camo! Vixen make sure to use water-based or silicone-free lube with silici-
tone toys -- silicone lube causes a chemical reaction with silicone toys, causing them to disintegrate.

A little lube goes a long way with glass, acrylic and metal dildos. Handcrafted glass dildos can qualify as pieces of art, and their price reflects this. Blowfish has a wonderful selection of glass toys. Glass and metal toys are non-porous like silicone and great for the ease of cleaning and can be boiled like glass.

You have many more choices than our foremothers did when they ordered their dildos from the back of magazines and the Sears Rosbeck catalog, advertising to help keep women "relaxed and content." So peruse some of the woman-friendly stores listed below and seize the day!

For more information:

www.comasoryoureascoronto.com Toronto Store
www.tbland.com NYC and Seattle www.vixencreations.com San Francisco www.goodvibrations.com San Francis-
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www.blowfish.com online only Alicia Fraser is the VP of Rochester NOW and Chair of the N.Y.S. Lesbian Rights Task-
force.

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- Knowing your own status can help you make decisions about how best to protect your partner(s).
- HIV Testing has never been easier to access. Tests are available in so many locations and so many formats.

I want to strongly encourage everyone in our community to remember the significance of National HIV Testing Day. If you have never tested positive for HIV, consider getting a test done this month...especially if you have had any risk at all and it’s been a while since your last test. Regular screening and keeping informed about your own status are in incredibly important part of helping you...be queer, be proud, & be healthy.

Erik Libey is the Gay Health Coordinator at AIDS Rochester, Inc. and can be reached at 585-271-6513 or email at elibey@aidsrochester.org.

Acting On Faith

By John Wilkinson

This column is organized by Interfaith Advocates for LGBT People, formed in 1991 to seek increased awareness, understanding and inclusion of LGBT people by individual congregations and the larger community in Rochester.

Newcomers are encouraged to attend the next meeting Sunday, Sept. 18, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Ashby First United Methodist Church, 1050 East Ave. Call 585-271-7694 or visit www.interfaithadvocatesLGBT.org to find rescources, events, welcoming congregations, and to sign the Interfaith Statement in Support of Equal Marriage for All.

Guest columnist for this month is John Wilkinson, pastor of Third Presbyterian Church, Meigs St. at East Ave. John may be reached at jwilkinson@thirdpresbyterian.org. For more information about the congregation, call 585-271-6513 or visit www.thirdpresbyterian.org.

Can there be any "purple state" breakthrough in a church defined by "red state/blue state" polarities? That is the reality that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), along with many other mainline Protestant churches, is living with these days on issues of human sexuality and the LGBT community.

Current Presbyterian law effectively denies ordination to lesbian and gay persons. Our official teaching is that any sexual behavior outside the "covenant of marriage between a man and a woman" is contrary to scripture, and therefore a barrier to ordination.

There are many within the Presbyterian church, in fact, a sizable minority, who believe that teaching to be incorrect and our law in error. We are working for change. Several affinity groups are working for legislative change, as well as educational materials that will reach the hearts and minds of those who would support the current standards.

A network of congregations, called "More Light," has gone on record with its disagreement, with many more congregations expressing disagreement in many ways. Third Presbyterian Church, the congregation where I am privileged to serve as pastor, became a More Light congregation in 1993.

We do not think we have "more light" on this issue than those who disagree with us, though we do think we are correct on this. We do believe that God has "more light" to bring to all of us, in matters of human sexuality and in every conversation that we have dealing with the life of faith.

It is sometimes difficult to sustain hope in the face of the continuing Presbyterian teaching and practice. Many gifted people have left the church, dispointted and rejected. Yet many way, because their sense of call and the faith they have received has convinced them that the church is their home (even when its practices demonstrate otherwise) and that the church's change of heart and mind is inevitable, they will be so.

In the meantime, we look for glimpses of grace and moments of hope. Perhaps there are those in the majority of the Presbyterian church whose perspective may be changed, or who can determine a way to live in the church with their GLBT fellow travelers even if they are not so sure about their own perspectives on this.

Like many denominations, the Presbyterian church made decisions on ordination several decades ago, in some ways determining ordination policy prior to a full consideration of the broader, and more central, conversation about human sexuality. We have benefitted more recently from scholarship both theological and secular, as well as the steadfast, persistent witness of so many GLBT friends.

"Nothing is impossible," Susan B. Anthony, Rochester suffragist, said in another context. I believe failure is impossible here as well, because the justice of God and the hospitality of Jesus tell me so. Our work continues, as does our prayer.
Women's Resources

Health:

Highland Hospital Breast Care Center
1000 South Ave, Rochester, NY 14620.
315-341-6869. Specializes in breast health, diagnostic breast imaging and treatment and mammography outreach and education.

Monroe County Women's Health Partnership
111 Westfall Rd, Rochester NY 14620;
(585)274-6978. Comprehensive breast cancer screening services for uninsured and underinsured women.

Toll-free Helpline:

To no­

women's outreach center for

Ohio Breast Cancer<br>

Center, 175 N. Clinton Ave. 546-7740.

Community Health Network of Monroe County
593 Clinton Ave, Rochester NY 14607; (585)461-9202. TTY (585) 464-5928, Comprehensive breast cancer screening services for uninsured and underinsured women.

Elizabeth Wende Breast Clinic
170 Sawgrass Drive, Rochester NY 14623; (585)274-6978. Breast health, diagnostic breast imaging and treatment and mammography outreach and education.

AIDS Rochester Women's Health Outreach
1350 University Ave, Rochester NY 14620.
(585)274-6978. Comprehensive breast cancer screening services for uninsured and underinsured women.

Victim Resource Center of Wayne County
Newark Ave. 601-456-7172; office (315)331-1117, (315)331-1169.

Mary Magdalene House
Women's outreach center for HIV positive women and women at risk.

Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/ Syracuse Region
114 University Ave, Rochester, NY 14605; Toll-free Helpline: 1-866-360-6888. Planned Parenthood has led the way in providing high quality, affordable reproductive health care since 1917. If you are experiencing compassion, our medical staff will listen to your concerns and answer your questions in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. Our services are confidential. We accept most insurances; including Medicaid. Planned Parenthood can even lower the cost of 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.

Political:

National Organization for Women (General Chapter)
PO Box 619610; (585)461-7131. E-mail: info@rochesternow.org Web page: http://www.rochesternow.org

Cultural:

Rochester Women's Community Chorus
234-4441. (See ongoing calendar.)
H-2b program in trouble: may affect P-Town
By Merle Exit

Over the past 14 years, the H-2b Visa program has been a major source of year-round labor for employers in businesses where they are diligent, committed and hard-working during the peak season and leaving after Thanksgiving. Americans that are dependent on this program are willing to work for considerably less than the going rate. We tried continuously to recruit American workers, but most Americans preferred to work for a living. We were forced to curtail hours, range and quality of business, or even close our doors, having no other choice for our economy. It seems that they pay full taxes, including social security, and do not receive benefits... no unemployment or disability. Employers don't even have to advertise to attract foreign workers. They are excellent employees, well trained, dependable, and their program of sponsoring workers to fill seasonal and semi-skilled positions that Congress will perform one of its basic functions and help meet the labor demands of our economy. We tried to recruit American workers, but most Americans preferred to work for a living.

H-2b Visa program has been challenged. McNulty is looking at three solutions:
1. A three to five year renewable visa subject to annual renewal. 2. Visa should target entry level and semi-skilled workers, not those with professional degrees. 3. Any visa should be linked to state unemployment rates so that there would be ample workers available during periods of low employment while at the same time ensuring that no American would be denied an opportunity to work because of too many foreign workers.

Obviously, much time has passed since the H-2b Visa program was enacted. There was a recent editorial in a Colorado newspaper that read, "For the second summer in a row, many Colorado businesses are out of luck securing the workers they need to keep their doors open, wait tables or trim hedges. The best they can hope for now is that Congress will perform its basic functions and help meet the labor demands of the economy."

"The problem is that the statutory cap of 66,000 H-2B visas for temporary foreign workers was reached Jan. 3, the second day in a row the quota was hit during the first few months of the fiscal year. That means many employers who rely on immigrant labor to supplement the limited number of Americans interested in seasonal work will again be grossly understaffed."

"Fortunately, the haggling has started over a modest but helpful bill co-sponsored by Colorado Sen. Ken Salazar that would reserve 35,000 visas for employers needing workers during the summer."

As I write on May 14, 2005, there is still no decision on the matter. I will be writing about what's new and exciting there. Hopefully I'll get some good news from Joy McNulty. Hey, I can't imagine The Lobster Pot going out of business.

CASTAWAYS, 244 Lake Rd., Webster — on the far side of Sea Breeze (take 104 to Bay Rd. and make a left on Lake; O'REILLY'S, Main St. in Sodus Point; PAPA JOE'S, also Main St., Sodus Point; CONNELLY'S COVE on the far side of Sodus Bay; MR. DOMINICK'S, 4609 Lake Ave, Charlotte.

O'Reilly's in Sodus Point, which has two levels overlooking the harbor. The food is tasty and unpretentious (PD enjoyed a Cajun burger and lobster bisque), but once again, the view is the thing here, which distinguishes O'Reilly's from Papa Joe's on the other side of the street. Papa Joe's inside area has more expensive and elaborate food, including a nice lobster bisque, while the outdoor deck area is for the burger crowd. Although Papa Joe's does not have a water view, it is just a skip away from the bay on both sides. Both Sodus Point places have live music on weekends.

Dr. McNulty and her staff are going out of business. She has just opened a new restaurant called Whining and Dining on the dock at Castaways is a great idea on a hot summer evening. If you can get the ultimate tables at the end of the dock, you're sitting almost in the water. The seafood, while not gourmet-standard, is good, and the lake view at sunset is great. A recent special of crab cake, coconut shrimp and baked salmon was tasty, although the salmon was clearly farmed, not wild. PD's dining companion enjoyed her stuffed haddock.

Summer paradise is also to be found at

Whining and Dining

By The Phantom Diner

It's time for waterside dining, whether by the lake or by Soph's or Irondequoit Bays. What could be finer than escaping from the city, sipping a tall iced drink, taking in the scene of white sails on blue water, and feeling a cool lake breeze as your appetizers arrive? The Phantom Diner lives a few spots with good food, low prices, and, of course, location, location, location.
ATTENTION ROCHESTER!!!

SAVE THE DATE FOR
SAVE THE DATE FOR

NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY

When: Friday, June 24th 2005
Where: St. Joseph’s Park
Time: 10:00 am—4:00 pm
Cost: FREE!!!

LIVE MUSIC!
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YOUTH UPDATE: QUEER, PROUD & HEALTHY

By Toby Greenfield

May was an eventful month as we had singer Jason and deMar­co here to perform for our Youth Group on May 15. They were a class act and we want to thank them very much for taking time out of their schedule to visit and sing for us. A special thanks also to Chris H. who helped arrange and set up all the sound equipment. You rock Chris…

We also had 20 youth get on a big gay bus at 5:45 a.m. to attend the Pride Agenda’s Equality & Justice day in Albany. Who knew teenagers could get up that early? Who knew I could? It was worth it though, as we had an inspiring day meeting and talking with legislators and sharing our stories.

This month will be continuing our Queer, Proud & Healthy curriculum done in collabora­tion with AIDS Rochester. This curriculum covers topics such as substance abuse, HIVSTDs, body image and self-esteem, and healthy relationships. The Youth Group will also be participating in the AIDS Walk on June 5. If anyone out there is interested in sponsoring us for the AIDS Walk, please contact me at 244-8640 ext 13. We would appreciate it.

As always, please check our youth website at http://youth.gayalliance.org for all groups, times and events.

Antivi­olence Project: Donate Used Cell Phones

By Alex Cobus

Last month, a community mem­ber generously donated several used cell phones to the Anti-Vio­lence Project (AVP). We learned from Verizon’s HopeLine program that any properly charged, working phone can dial 911 for emergency services. So if you are getting a new cell phone, and don’t know what to do with the old one, you can donate it to the AVP for another domestic-violence program of your choice. The AVP is able to distribute these phones to domestic violence survivors to use for safety purposes.

Additionally, we are also an approved domestic violence program for Verizon’s HopeLine program. Marking its 10th year in 2005, HopeLine today collects wireless phones and accessories from any wireless service provider, and then refurbishes the phones or recycles them in an environmentally friendly way.

As a result of HopeLine, and related phone recycling programs the company has organized since 2000, Verizon has collected more than two million used wireless phones for the benefit of domestic violence victims and advocacy groups.

If you are being abused by your partner, and interested in obtaining one of these phones, call GAGV’s AVP at 585-244-8640, x 17.

FAMILY MATTERS: FOSTERING

By Todd Plazek

May was National Foster Care Month, so I thought it would be appropriate to interview a local couple who have become foster parents. Meet Alicia Kibitlewski and Channyn Quinn.

Alicia and Channyn have been together for over four years. A couple of years into their relation­ship they began to talk seri­ously about introducing children into their family. As a first step in that direction they purchased their first home in the summer of 2004. (Little did they know at the time how quickly their house would be full up!)

Alicia and Channyn attended the mandatory eight-week train­ing for prospective foster and adoptive parents. Several home­ studies were required and detailed personal histories were taken.

Channyn (age 27) remarked that it felt awkward describing past relationships in front of her partner Alicia (age 39), but that overall it was a very positive expe­rience working with the foster care system. It helped that their caseworker was an out lesbian and that several other employees they encountered in the social services system turned out to be “family”.

Alicia noted that the fact that they were a same sex couple was a non-issue and that she and Chan­nyn were treated with the same respect and sensitivity that would be expected for anyone embark­ing on the perilous journey to parenthood.

During my conversation with Channyn and Alicia, it became clear that they were on the foster parent fast track. Since August of 2004 they have welcomed 11 different children, ranging in ages from two years old to 16 years old, into their home.

They received their official papers from Monroe County Authorities authorizing them to serve as fos­ter parents on July 31, which coincidentally was when they held a housewarming party to celebrate their new digs, and on the very next day, before they had even had a chance to sign the papers and mail them back, Channyn received a call inviting them to take in three sisters, an infant and two 12 year olds, all with her sister ages two and 10.

On Aug. 1, Alicia found her­ self at Walmart in a state of “overwhelm” as she tried to sort through the myriad choices of diapers and purchase beds for the new arrivals. The three sis­ ters were in their home for only a week, but Alicia and Channyn had been initiated into their new roles as foster care parents.

Currently our dynamic duo are caring for five boys, ages six and a half months, 22 months, three, four and a half, and 14. Three of these boys are broth­ers. Some of these children pres­ent special challenges, due to the neglect they suffered before arriv­ing at the safe haven provided by Alicia and Channyn.

Explaining their motivation for becoming foster care parents, Channyn relates, “It was our empathy and a desire to reach out... (Continued on next page)
Above: Pam Barres repels an attack; Paul Brew is on the receiving end at the Transgender Group safety demonstration. (see article page 1) PHOTO BY TODD PLANK

FAMILY (continued from page 1)

and help kids who had nothing and who were desperately in need of stable homes where they could be safe that prompted us to open our homes and hearts to these kids.

I asked Alicia and Channyn how their lives had changed since they became parents and their answers weren’t surprising: “Cleaning our house and taking a shower have become luxuries,” and “It’s difficult to find time for just the two of us.”

A trip to the grocery store is now a major production, with the family resembling a small parade as they wind through the store with three shopping carts and five kids in tow. Channyn, who at present is the stay at home mom, now needs a good half hour to assemble her crew for an outing, whereas before, when it was just her, she could be out the door in five minutes.

What advice would they offer other couples contemplating foster care?

“Communication between spouses is critical. Kids are smart and they will try to play one parent against another to get what they want. It’s important for the parents to be consistent in their dealings with the children.”

When I asked Alicia and Channyn if they would do anything differently now that they have become seasoned foster care parents, she offered this: “You can never have enough supplies on hand. Our attic is now loaded with surplus items, because you never know what you’ll need. Our house has become a department store of sorts.

With the additional stress and extra demands on their time and energies, do they have second thoughts about their decision to become foster parents?

Channyn’s reply: “Being foster care parents has been a great experience! If you have a stable home and love kids, you should consider foster care. Don’t deliberate about it too much. Start the process and you will figure things out as you go along.”

Is foster care a stepping stone toward creating a more permanent family? Channyn shared that adoption may become an option if their foster kids cannot be returned to their families of origin. Having biological children of their own is still a possibility, and their long range plans will quite likely involve adopting a couple of children.

Whatever choices they make with respect to family planning, it appears likely that Alicia and Channyn will be busy parents for many years to come!

NOTE: The Pride and Joy Families meeting for July will be at the P&J Families area at the GAGV Picnic on July 10, where there will be special activities for kids. We look forward to seeing you there!

Elaine Elkins, M.S.
Psychotherapist
244-4837

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We support WXIX’s "In the Life" airing June 5th and 12th at 11 p.m.
Suede to perform at Ithaca's Common Ground

Suede is an electrifying pop/jazz/blues vocalist. Imagine a cross between Ella Fitzgerald and Bette Midler, throw in a little Rosie Clooney, add a dash of Louis Armstrong, and you might get some idea of Suede’s unique musical talents.

Think sophisticated pop/jazz, think naughty blues with a sizzling trumpet, think love songs that will make you swoon, think funny, think Wow... what a voice!

This consummate entertainer sings original material and pop, blues and jazz standards like nobody you’ve ever heard. Suede accompanies herself on piano, trumpet, and guitar.

Suede will perform at Common Ground (2350 Daubny Road, Ithaca) at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 18. Tickets are $20 per person. Advance ticket purchase is recommended. Tickets will be available at the door only as space permits. Tickets are available at Common Ground and online at www.ithacacommonground.com.
LAMBDA NETWORK AT KODAK

By Destine Teufenthal


For more information on meetings or helping with team photos at the AIDS Walk on June 5, please contact Amy Friend at 244-2621.

Lambda is participating in the Outriders Annual Boston to Provincetown ride on June 19. If you’re interested, this is a great opportunity to ride, have fun, and meet new people. For more information contact Amy Friend at amyfriend@kodak.com or 244-2621.

Match with Kodak Lambda at the Pride Parade on June 26. Over one million people will attend. For more information, contact Paul H. Smith at 244-1509.

Kodak has been named Image Sponsor for OUT & EQUAL, which strives for workplace equality. This year’s event is Sept. 22-24 in Denver. Check out outandequal.org. We may also go out early to do some training at the Kodak Colorado site. If you’re interested in participating this year’s Kodak OUT & Equal teams, please contact Gayrage Sale.

For information about becoming a Kodak Lambda member or upcoming activities, email us at lambdahq@kodak.com or leave a message on the Lambda voice mail (585) 234-1388. Lambda’s intranet can be found at intranet.kodak.com. More details on Kodak’s global diversity activities are featured at www.kodak.com/diversity.

ROCHESTER GAY MEN’S CHORUS

Warm weather brings not only flowers and green grass, but also shopping! Spectacular sales throughout the area in June brings the return of the ever popular Gayrage Sale! Help support the Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus (RGMC) and find some treasures for your home.

This year the Gayrage Sale will be held on Saturday, June 25 at 38 Riverside St. in Rochester. We will be open 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. for all of your shopping needs. From inexpensive to light fixtures, garden items to glassware, antiques to athletic equipment, and even an upright piano, last year’s Gayrage Sale brought in something for everyone. You never know what you will find in our collection of donated items. Items to fulfill your every home need can be purchased for bargain prices at the Gayrage Sale!

The Gayrage Sale serves as a major fundraiser for the RGMC and over the years has grown by leaps and bounds. We now offer literally thousands of items for sale! For more information email us at info@thergmc.org or call The Chorus Line at 585-425-0660.

2005 marks the 25th anniversary of the Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus. For information and directions, call 271-6749. To receive email announcements of upcoming events email TCPPunchbunch-subscribe@yahoo.com groups.

The Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus has joined with other churches to promote inclusive ministry and seeks the full participation in church life by all who are called of God regardless of sexual orientation or any other human condition. For more information, visit www.rhodejohn.org. Check out “Outreach,” then click on “Diversity” for full information about the church’s mission at both the LGBT and fundraising links to other organizations, such as More Light Presbyterians.
Pride Week in Toronto, and the RGMC is going to be there! We are hosting an over­
night bus trip as a fundraiser so that you have a chance to experience this landmark
year at one of the largest Pride Festivals in
the world. See the sights during the day on
Saturday, dance the night away on Satur­
day night at one of the many Pride Festival
parties, and then attend the annual Pride
Parade on Sunday.

Our luxury motorcoach departs at 7 a.m. on Saturday, June 25, and returns at
10 p.m. on Sunday, June 26. Transpor­
tation to and from Toronto in a luxury
motorcoach is covered by the ticket price
of $60 per person, but hurry! We have only
have a few seats still available and they must
be reserved ASAP! For more information or to purchase tickets, please email us at
info@thergmc.org or call The Chorus Line
at 585-423-0500.

Mark your calendars! Saturday, June 18 is the date of our summer concert, Songs of the '80s. This concert brings to you
the music you grew up with as the RGMC
sings the most popular tunes of the '80s.
Remember Polyester Leisure Suits, Atari,
and the MULLET? Let the music of the
British Invasion, Heavy Metal Hair Bands,
and the RAMPS! transport you back to
that magical decade. It's 8 p.m. at Hochstein.
This is going to be a blast!

Advance general admission tickets are
$15, $12 for seniors and students, and $6
for children. Tickets may be purchased at
The Chorus Line or to purchase tickets, please visit our website at www.thergmc.org
or call our office at 585-423-0500.

Join us for Daddy's Night on June 18 at
the Bachelor Forum. Come out and show
your Daddy how much you appreciate him
on Daddy's Night.

If you have a Daddy then maybe you will find one. If you are a Daddy then
this night is for you. Bring your boy or pick
one up at the Bachelor Forum on Daddy's
Night.

Remember, this is barnight; leather,
denim and boots never go out of style. All
of our regular barnight features like beer
bar, boot shine, raffle and wall-to-wall hot
men will be available at this full-service
event.

Our July Barnight will be XXX Night
on Saturday July 16. Come out and join
the Rams in preparation for our third anni­
versary Run XXX.

Tickets are $12 in advance or $15 on the
day of the tour and include a souvenir
brochure. If you purchase your tickets in pairs
you save even more: $20 for two tickets in
advance or $25 on the day of the tour! For
more information or to purchase tickets,
please visit our website at www.thergmc.org
or call our office at 585-423-0500.

ROCHESTER RAMS M.C.

Our individual, couple, group tickets
for children. Tickets may be purchased at
The Creator's Hands, Parkleigh, Outland­
ish, The Pride Connection, from chorus
members, or by calling The Chorus Line
at 585-423-0500. You can also visit our
website at www.thergmc.org or email us
at info@thergmc.org. Additionally, tickets
will be available for purchase at the door
for $18 on the day of the performance.

The RGMC will be hosting a tour of
some of the most unique private gardens
in Rochester on Saturday, July 30, from 5
p.m.-9 p.m. Our third annual Garden Tour
will include several gardens in the South­
edge, Cornhill, and University Avenue
areas. Become inspired for your own gar­
den or just admire the botanical beauty.

What makes this event truly special is the
time. Instead of walking about in the blaz­
ing afternoon sun, enjoy strolling through
the gardens in the cooler hours of the early
evening. You will even catch a special per­
fomance of The Cosmopolitans at one of
the stops! At our March concert they made
their world premier and were truly the
highlight of the show.

Tickets are $12 in advance or $15 on the
day of the tour and include a souvenir
brochure. If you purchase your tickets in pairs
you save even more: $20 for two tickets in
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ROCHESTER RAMS M.C.

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If you don't have a Daddy then maybe
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one up at the Bachelor Forum on Daddy's
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or call our office at 585-423-0500.

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

Geri Stanton
Counseling Services
595 Blossom Road Suite 315
Rochester, NY 14610

Office 585.325.8180
TTY 585.333.2041

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Coming home and staying out

By Cynthia Stallard

For a college student, the middle of June holds a lot of promise. It's the end of a long school year, with tests, papers, and seemingly endless other assignments. For those of us who go away to college, the days leading up to June 21st, the end of the freedom that comes with living on campus, is bittersweet. On one hand, the freedom of being away from my Brooklyn home is not simply being rid of the shackles of overbearing parents. In fact, my parents were always amazing in that respect. At home, I had more freedom than anyone I knew. All that was asked of me was that I always keep my parents informed. If I wanted to come home at 3 a.m., it was OK, as long as I gave a call home to let mom and dad know I was not abducted by the pyramids on the subway or murdered by the monsters in dark N.Y.C. alleys.

The freedom I love this summer is very different from those simple parental rules. I lose the freedom I've taken for granted this past year on SUNY Geneseo's campus. When I go home, I go back to being the single girl next door who just hasn't found the right guy yet. I go back into the closet.

The last time I was home was for spring break back in March. After being pressured to explain the quotes that I had gotten under my tattoo (frankly I didn't want to), but I'll never forget about here at home, if I'm already out of the woods. It was one thing to be accepted. I wasn't going to care about that. I just picked out the ones I liked, reworded them some, and pulled them together. Consider this my work cited.

Let you just stare at the onset of the fact, we are meant to be a stepping stone ONLY. If you read this, incorporate three of them into your life, and never speak to a youth any more. Best friends we shall remain. Maybe you can still be at the same place we are now. But hopefully this will put to rest the question "what can I do?" so that the adult community can focus on doing it instead.

All right -- Alex's Top 12 Ways to Be a Youth Ally

1. Have a real conversation with a young person (in or OUT of a group setting).
2. Be an older mentor to youth who could figure this out, maybe they just don't have the time, and are using their activist powers in some other realm that needs (what can I say, perpetual optimism). So I have created a list.

For now, I will love myself. First and foremost, I will be proud of me. Like it or not.

Top 12 ways to be a youth ally

By Alexander Rochzenko

Ever since the Sweetheart Ball, there has been an attempt in the youth community to have a conversation with the adult community. Although this has been met with what I believe to be a mixed response, the refrain that I hear over and over again from the adult community is, "so what can I do?"

Although I want to say that the adult community is chock full of creative people who could figure this out, maybe they just don't have time, and are using their activist powers in some other realm that needs (what can I say, perpetual optimism). So I have created a list.

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2. Be an older mentor to youth who could figure this out, maybe they just don't have time, and are using their activist powers in some other realm that needs (what can I say, perpetual optimism).

By E. Toreny

In the fourth grade, I had always known that something about me wasn't "normal," and I didn't know why. I was so confused. I couldn't put my finger on it. Until the sixth grade, I had no explanations for how I was. I had no idea what was happening to me, and what I was experiencing was happening to me, because I truly don't remember. I guess that I always knew it, but as a fourth grader, I didn't have a name for it.

Eryn with a "Y"

MY STORY

Spring has sprung -- summer is near. And all the excitement of my new home, the warm weather and upcoming Pride have made me one happy pussy. Mew-ow.

Wherein thepressing MUTThER mentorship program begins. For those kittens not fortunate enough to have this ame-ney, do not fret. I have a plan. First, place yourself on a newspaper and nap on the Carrier advertisement. Move only to meow pathetically into the fan. Use your Kitty Eye and turn to me if you are feeling lost. And then's more. No unflattering tan lines. No leg-ging-sting jellyfish. No chlorine, dry hair or allergies about little kittens. I am the perfect pool. And no, my dear Tuna, no terrible sights of those European taxa in bright blue blooms.

And don't worry, your feminine felines. The summer heat can still be squelched without minding one's self under like a submarine. The best, most reliable relief comes without even leaving your home. Air conditioning. For those kittens not fortunate enough to have this ameni-ty, do not fret. I have a plan. First, place yourself on a newspaper and nap on the Carrier advertisement. Move only to meow pathetically into the fan. Use your Kitty Eye and turn to me if you are feeling lost. And then's more. No unflattering tan lines. No leg-ning-sting jellyfish. No chlorine, dry hair or allergies about little kittens. I am the perfect pool. And no, my dear Tuna, no terrible sights of those European taxa in bright blue blooms.

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Generation of Trannys
RESPONDING TO "CHRISTIAN GENDER IDENTITY CORRECTION"

By Mia Carrero

Hello ladies and gentlemen "and everybody in transition or in between!" I'm once again terribly sorry for my absence in last month's issue... Of course Mia was until the very last minute to exert the physical energy to create her column... and on the night of her deadline she has one or six too many green apple martinis... and wakes up in her own vomit the next morning without her weigh and surrounded by a group of "unusually" happy Mexican migrant workers.

Aaaahahaaa... I thought for this month's column, instead of rambling on, passing time with random chat, I would share with you all an email that I wrote to a website owner who claims to be a Christian professor of sexuality and gender identity correction... "giggle". This person claims that he and his methods can steer you away from that "unnatural" way of thinking and lifestyle... I read a lot of his stuff... I couldn't help it, I just intrigued me how ridiculously some people think. Before you read, here is just a tiny little sample of what this man thinks about us...

"works have been significantly altered to portray my version of this sick little story and don't worry, nobody's getting the FK'ing brain because I can't even remember it. To be honest I was kind of a little "stuffed" while I explored it, so don't even think of suing me, because I and daddy's lawyers will DESTROY you!"

Science has become the Western World's GOD. That being the case, those who should know better, are going about fostering lies drawn from wrong studies in order to explain their personal failures in either sides of their own, or their patient's self-destructive course... fostered in Homosexuality & Transsexuality.

My response: Hello my name is MISS Carrera, I am a 17-year-old male to female transsexual who began my transition when I was 13. I read quite a bit of your work on this website and have come to believe that you are extremely uneducated and supremely ignorant on the subject of Gender identity. If you had opened your mind beyond completely theoretical, until scientifically proven! religious beliefs and done actual scientific research, you would have discovered that the cause of transsexualism is not from a fantasy or from our own self delusion, but is caused from a REAL scientific condition called Gender Dysphoria, which has been proven to be a real live thing.

I agree that all transsexuals, unless they are "interspersed", are genetically male or female. This means their chromosomes are the same as the gender they were born, but when a genetic chromosomally male or female is in the womb thing happens and something happens through the fetus and the amount of estrogen and testosterone is determined by the chromosomal mix on the child's DNA for girls, which causes the body and brain to remain and develop into female, or more testosterone changes the body and makes it into male. Although sometimes there is hormonal imbalance and the fetus receives just enough of the hormone to forge the body but not enough of the certain hormones to change the brain... which in result causes a gender dysphoric child.

There are, however, many levels to gender dysphoria. The hormonal surge and development could have just been enough to alter the child to a homoessential... transvestism... or in the most extreme case, an actual God. I am exactly young, maybe two or three, I remember feeling like a girl long, long, before I was conscious of what exactly it was to be a sexual entity, and as I grew, I was always female and enticed the girls for their "life".

Eventually, as soon as I could dress and move like a girl, I was always naturally female... I would have never felt like a boy and undergo the extreme discomfort. I tried to be a boy - I really did... until the absolute realization hit me that if I live in this FALSE reality that I was a boy and go against the self of my fundamental instincts and emotions and try to tap into any truly non existent male characteristics of my personality and character, and try to become what I physically was... I knew it would eat away at me like it had done for the last few years since my discovery of my maleness... and I knew that living such a lie would kill me.

That same year I attempted suicide four times... of course I was 12 and the bones of Sudafed, Tylenol PM and Tylenol Sinus I took just put me to sleep and the wounds on my wrists immediately scabbed over... but altogether I would have rather died than to have continued my life as a boy.

So at the age of 13 I went to my only option at the time and came out as homosexual. After the tiny amount of weight of that was off my shoulders, I realized that that was certainly not enough. I did extensive research and came to the most significant realization that the absolute truth to the matter was that I was born with a girl's brain but a boy's body, and I knew that it was absolutely true. That is what a true transsexual is... We are not handicapped "because we can completely independently functional in society". Although we are not the stereotypical "normality" either... and there are a lot more of us than people realize.

Our condition may be rare in comparison to "normal heterosexual" births, but the actual statistical population of us is far greater than one may expect... and if the hidden members of our community came out - either by coming out themselves and realizing what they are - or the ones that have already come out and transitioned coming out of the shadows and allowing themselves to be counted - if all of us were to individually number ourselves alone would result in the universal revelation that we are not just confused self delusion individuals with a real sexual or life induced gender crisis, but we are actually and literally the Third Sex... and being the Third Sex... could only make it true. And if there is an actual stereotypical God that fits all of your standards... that She created us as we were and we did not create ourselves and who are you to question her authority of creation?

We do not take what you personally do not know about and have not experi-
especially such a subject as this
What effect does
Atlantic Ave., between 10 and 10:15 a.m.
side the GAGV between 10 and 10:15 a.m.
side the GAGV Community Center, 179
social group for lesbians who enjoy (or want
so come out and play for the weekend with
have lots of fun, and you are never alone
because new ladies always are joining
our adventures. Meet new friends or
maybe find romance. For info call Donna Marie Kearney, 385-494-999.

Mia (continued from page 7) enced -- especially such a subject as this
where you are EXTREMELY uneducated...*giggles*

ROMANS

ROchester Male Naturists (ROMANS)
is a social organization of gay naturists
who enjoy naturism. Some of the clubs
include Gay Naturists International (GNI) and
International Men Enjoying Naturism (I.M.E.N.
If you have thought about social nudity
but were apprehensive about being nude at
the first chance, there are several clothed events
such as eating out as a group at restaurants,
gathering to go concerts, movies, where you can
meet other members of our club in a
clothed environment.
Our nude swims are the first Saturday
to the end of August and for group meetings
for dinner in a clothed environment. Our
Summer Camping will begin in July and
continue through August.
Membership is open to men over 21
years of age who have an interest in social
nudity. Most members come from the
greater Rochester area, though Buffalo,
Syracuse, Utica and the southern tier are also
represented.
Visit the Romans web site where an
application for membership and
information about the club is available. Contact
us at http://www.geocities.com/wnyromans/
or E-mail us at romans@yahoo.com, or
write ROMANS, PO Box 52925, Roches-
ter, NY 14692.

WOMYN'S FISHING

June 18 marks the start of New York's BASS season and the fishies are already
drawn out, from what we've heard (and seen).
This has been a GREAT fishing year so far,
so come on out and join us!
Fishing in the Fingerlakes is Rochester's
social group for lesbians who enjoy (or want to
try) freshwater fishing; we visit two
locailities throughout the Finger Lakes area
per month to fish the region's different lakes,
river, and creeks.
On Sunday, June 12, we will travel
to Hamlock Lake. Take Rt. 15A south
through Henrietta and keep going to the
town of Hemlock; pass through town, then
look for the north end of the lake and
turn left.
Visit the little booth for a fishing per
mit first, then take the dirt road up near
Rt. 15A about 3/4 miles to the parking area
and the boat launch to the lake.
Meet us there after 11 a.m. or out-
side the GAGV Community Center, 179
Atlantic Ave., between 10 and 10:15 a.m.
and after getting bit well head out for
day.
On Sunday, June 26, we'll stay a little
closer to home, and visit Summervale Pier
in Rochester at the east end of St. Paul Blvd;
park along the river near the bar's parking lot to
the entrance walkway that passes the Coast Guard station, marking on
pavement with white markers.
Meet us on the pier after 11 a.m. or out-
side the GAGV between 10 and 10:15 a.m.
For more info contact Cindy Kaye at 228-7208
or email FishingbyNyt@aol.com

Kung Fu Hustle is coming up at Genevan's Smith Opera House.
Chow's kinetic, exhausting, relentlessly
entertaining film throws scraps of a half-
century of international pop culture into
a fast-whirling blender. It is a silly, very
tact and like "Crouching Tiger, Hidden
Dragon," it is a subtitle movie for
who don't do subtitles.
The Smith Opera House is located at
82 Seneca St. in Geneva. The Smith is
supported, in part, with public funds from
the New York State Council on the Arts,
the City of Geneva, the Town of Geneva
and by contributions from individual sup-
portors.

Third Presbyterian Church a More Light Church
where gbt persons are welcomed as partners in ministry
Sun. 10:30 a.m.
(Child care available, wheelchair accessible
looped for hearing impaired)
Monday (1st and 3rd)
GLBT Support Group 7:30 p.m.
at East Ave and Meigs St.
Rochester, NY 14607
271-6153
www.thrpre.org

Susan SanFilippo, C.S.W.
234-3561
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- What effect does my past have on me?
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The Homages to Charlie Chaplin's lovable
baddie.

To obtain a yes, just cue the first scene as
"The Untouchables" to "The Shining"; and director after director
(Quentin Tarantino to Akira Kurosawa)
for "Hustle," twisting and reshaping his
pirlling into one of the funniest and most
enjoyable movies of the new century.

There's not much "Hustle" doesn't have.
Sweeping crane shots? Got it.
Well-used CG? You bet.
Difficult tracking shots?
To obtain a yes, just cue the first scene as
"The Untouchables" to "The Shining"; and director after director
(Quentin Tarantino to Akira Kurosawa)
for "Hustle," twisting and reshaping his
pirlling into one of the funniest and most
enjoyable movies of the new century.

The setting is mid-20th century China
as the notorious Axe Gang is making
mément of the Crocodile Gang.
There's that police station, full of
cowering cops and the remaining members of
the Crocodile. A seemingly endless squad
of Axe Gang members is massing outside
on the street, all dressed in black, some
sporting "Chim-Chim-Churro" stoopie
hats and wielding slice-and-dice axes like
they're ready for a干部职工's potluck
feast.

Everything works. The Wile E.
Coyote of the often 'roon-like action.
On June 26, we'll stay a little
closer to home, and visit Summervale Pier
in Rochester at the east end of St. Paul Blvd;
park along the river near the bar's parking lot to
the entrance walkway that passes the Coast Guard station, marking on
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Meet us on the pier after 11 a.m. or out-
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For more info contact Cindy Kaye at 228-7208
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LIVING FLOORS
**WEDNESDAY 1**  
ArtWalk, informational meeting, 7 pm, Writers & Books, 740 University Ave.

**FRIDAY 3**  
Buffalo Pride Week: Fabulous The Parry, The Troll, 9 pm, DJ dancing, Empire Bears. Camping at Hillside, through June 5. empirebears.org

**SATURDAY 4**  
Buffalo Dyke March. Starts 7 pm on W. Utica, marches down Elmwood Ave. to Bidwell Parkway for celebration, music. RGMG Gayrage Sale. Also June 5, 38 Riverside St., 9 am-5 pm. Thousands of items for sale. 423-0650; info@rgmg.org. COMC Brady Bunch Movie Marathon. Hosted by Mike H. at his house. Movies begin at 11 am.

**SUNDAY 5**  

**TUESDAY 7**  
COAP volleyball, every Tuesday 5:30 pm till dusk, Ellison Park. Often followed by going out for ice cream.

**FRIDAY 9**  
Meet the light candidates. Community Business Forum, 8551 Main St. 9:30 pm, Rochester Museum and Science Center.

**SATURDAY 11**  
Batch Femme Connection Dinner Night Out. Winfield Hotel, N. Winton Rd. south of Main function intersection. 8:05-4:05. Empire Bears final podium of season, 6:30 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Bring a dish - theme is “Home Cooking.” Followed by Bearmart at the Forum theme is “Red White and Blue.” empirebears.org. Women's Community Chorus concert, “ Forces of Nature,” 7:30 pm, Hochstein Performance Hall. ARTWalk Muse-a-thon. Art and music, University Ave. between Goodman and Eastman House.

**SUNDAY 12**  
Women's Fishing, Hemlock Lake (Rte. 280 S. Union St. 10:00 am-2:00 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave., between 10 and 10:30 am. 280-7208.

GAGV Annual Meeting, 6 pm, GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main St.


In the Life, June episode: (See Section B).

COAP Sunday Brunch at Mario’s. Hosted by Tom M. and Brian E. Meet at Mario’s at 12 noon. RSVP required.

**THURSDAY 17**  
Fourth Annual Eastern Ontario Women’s Drum Camp. Fee includes accommodations, vegetarian meals. Write Drum Camp c/o Judith Comartin, 1090 Kipps Lane #12, London Ont. Canada N5S23; 519-435-0861; info@drumcamp.ca; web www.drumcamp.ca/EOQDC.html.

**SATURDAY 18**  

Happy Bunch Third Presbyterian Glitz, Cocktail and poker match, 4 pm at Van and Ralph’s, 271-7649. Followed by WMC concert.

Outsiders Annual Boston to Province-town Ride. To join Lambda Kodak call Marze Meyer at 724-0216; email marmajo.meyer@hot.com.

Rochester Gay Men’s Choir concert: “Songs of the 80s,” 8 pm, Hochstein School of Music. Advance tickets $15.50 seniors/students, $20 children. 423-0050; therhgc.org, $18 at door.


COAP Dirty Shirt Contest. Hosted by Shawn W. Meet at Nasty D’s at 10:30 pm.

Bashing Back, Overnight Radio production, 3 pm, WXXI AM 1250. Stories of gays who stand up to their oppressors.

**SUNDAY 5**  
Festival of the sun; traditionally a night for festivities and celebration, music, parades, and stories of the history of Rochester’s Historic Public Market. In celebration of the Market’s Centennial, the City of Rochester is offering a book commemorating the history of Rochester’s Historic Public Market. The Hands That Feed Us is a comprehensive history of the market and includes many vintage and contemporary photos.

Available June 1, 2005. Allow 10 to 14 days for delivery.
MONDAY
Gay and Lesbian Support Group
Third Presbyterian Church, 3rd floor. Mondays, 7-9pm.

Rochester Historical Society
1st Mondays, 7:15pm, Rochester, 276 Monroe Ave.

COAP
Camp Out and Play. Business meeting: Mondays, 7pm, GAGV Community Center.

American Baptists Concerned
Third Mondays, 7-30pm, Webster House.

TUESDAY
Gay Men Support Group
Every Monday, 6pm, AES Rochester.

Atlantic Five
Support group for men of the LGBTQI community.

TRANSGENDER SUPPORT GROUP
Third Wednesdays, 6-8pm, GAGV Community Center.

MOCHA Chemical Dependency Group
Support group for men of color. MOCHA Project.

WEDNESDAY
Women’s Ministry/LGBTQI Support Group
Rehearsals each Wednesday, 6:30-9pm.

GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESEE VALLEY
Board of Directors’ Meeting, second Wednesdays, 7pm, 875 Main St.

THURSDAY
Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns
3rd Fridays, 6-8pm, First Presbyterian Church.

MOCHA
Community Business Forum
LGBTQI community professionals’ social group.

Friday Night at the Cafe
2nd and 4th Fridays, 8-11pm.

SATURDAY
Rochester Rams Bar Night
3rd Thursday, 8-11pm, Bachelor Forum.

MOCHA Chat
Second, fourth Thursdays, 7-9pm, GAGV Community Center.

SUNDAY
Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus
Downtown United Presbyterian Church.

MOCHA Anti-Violence Project Support group for LGBT victims of domestic violence.

GAYGAGV Charities
First Thursday, contact: 205-244-8640 ext 17.

FRIDAY
Gay Men’s AA Meeting
Every Friday, 7-10pm, GAGV Community Center.

TOURS OF THE GENERESE VALLEY
Saturday, 9am.

More Light Presbyterian Church
115 N. Fitzhugh St.

Opening of a Metropolitan Community Church
107 Liberty Pole Way.

Dignity-Integrity
Every Saturday, 7-9pm, Civic Center.

Gay Men’s Alcoholics Anonymous
St. Lukes East/S. Simon Grete Church.

Gay Lesbian Transgender Group
4pm.

Monday Night Silence
7pm, Spin Cafe, 739 Park Ave.

MOCHA’s Web Store
Monday.

BASICALLY TRELLENDERS BAND
Special Occasion.

Rainbow Gospel Choir
Every Sunday, 6pm, East Ave.

Ongoing Calendar

Martha M. Howden, CSW, CASAC
491 White Horse Raceway
Rochester, New York
716-272-1710 Voice, 716-272-9896 FAX

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Fri. 9am-6pm, Sat. 9am-5pm
CLOSED SUNDAY