Two concerts to mark World AIDS Day 2005

Two concerts are scheduled this year to mark World AIDS Day, Dec. 1 and Dec. 3, along with an art exhibit and sale and an interfaith service. The World AIDS Day theme for the concert on Dec. 3 is “Stop AIDS... Keep the Promise.”

The AIDS pandemic receive direct support with their educational, medical and food needs. Key areas include HIV/AIDS prevention/awareness campaigns, life skills training on how to live with HIV/AIDS, with one third of your donation, children will be saved one child at a time.

It is my intention with these concerts to help us remember that the children of the world are our present and our future and we are interrelated. As we support their growth and development today we ensure a brighter, more prosperous and hopeful future for all of us.

The concert features international performing artists Thom- as Warfield, singer Michael Lee, the Choir of the First Unitarian Church, the RIT/UNIDDLE Dance Company, James D. Live and others, as well as information about volunteering for the HIV Vaccine Trials Unit, Liberty Research Group, MOCHA Project, Inc.; New York State DOH AIDS Institute/Peace Art International, Inc.; Project WAVE.L.E.; Rochester Area Task Force on AIDS, Unity Health System/McCree McCallor Wellness Center; Westside Health Services; WDKX.

For more information on other World AIDS Day events, including the art exhibit and sale, see Section B and the Calendar, page C10, III.

INTERVIEW

Harry Bronson is a candidate for Monroe County Legislature.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

QTV comes to town

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In this issue

Joan Giuffre memorial gathering is Dec. 13

Gay and women’s rights activist Joan Giuffre died on Sept. 29, after a long illness. A memorial service, “Celebrating the life of Joan Giuffre,” will take place on Sunday, Nov. 13 at 2 p.m. at Joan’s apartment. Call Susan David at 244-7659 or RSPG or for further information.

Donations are being collected to pay for head­stones.

A tribute to Joan will be published in the December-January Empty Closet.

Stem cell research: the theological and medical perspectives

“Stem Cell Research: Why Christians, Jews and Muslims All Embrace It.” Both the theological and medical perspectives will be presented on Nov. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Rodeh, 2311 Elmwood Ave.

The presenters are Rabbi Donald Rosen, the YVS Director of Concerned Clee.

(Continued on page 3)
Science vs. faith: serving the right’s agenda

More than 30 years ago, every medical and mainstream health organization said that homosexuality is not a disease. In the mainstream scientific and medical communities, this is not a point of dispute.

So said David Fluback, former curriculum consultant in the Montgomery County, Va. schools, responding to anti-gay activities at a hearing in September, as quoted in The Advocate. He might as well have saved his breath — the right will always dispute the objective findings of the mainstream scientific and medical community at least those that challenge the right’s p.c. line.

A confused mix of emotional needs and political goals also lies behind the wingnut refusal to accept Darwin’s theory of evolution. Never mind that real scientists accepted it as proven many years ago, based on very real evidence, and that it is no longer a theory or a point of dispute.

Cornell President Nathan Ransfled III said on Oct. 21 that “intellectual design” has “put rational thought under attack.” To fundamentalists, the Father God created the world’s cosmos in seven days, literally. Right from the beginning, monkeys were monkeys and men were men — “manly” and women were inferior. The Protestant church agenda is similar to that of the Catholic Church, which silenced early scientists for saying that the earth spins around the sun, rather than vice versa.

In our society, people have every right to be angry if they think they need to believe, and preach what they believe from their pulps. Churches have the right to exclude people they don’t like from their congregations, and from the ranks of their denomination’s clergy. Churches also have the right to deny sacraments, including marriage and communion, based on their political beliefs.

But the Founding Fathers, presumably devout Christians, drew a constitutional line between church and state. Churches do NOT have the right to tell you and me, as American citizens, what to do or to be. They do NOT have the right to deny you and me equal civil and human rights. They do NOT have the right to control our lives or our bodies. Yet that is precisely the agenda that neo-fascist demagogues like Richard Vigerie and Karl Rove, and would-be ayatollahs like Pat Robertson, have planned for years.

Who can prove the existence (or non-existence) of God, much less of a personal god — i.e. “Intellectual Design”? How can matters of faith be equated with facts that can be tested, and why should they be? Deviltry religious scientists seem quite capable of disregallowing between what they know is factual and what they think is true. So what’s the point?

The point is, as usual, total political control of society by the Traditional Values Democratic and the Republican Party. Webster defines “demagogue” as “a person who tries to stir up the people by appeals to emotion, prejudice, etc., in order to win them over and quickly grab power.” Sound familiar?

Nothing punctures demagoguery like laughter, as the Bush jokesters have found; they have been circulating on the Internet, showing a grid of photos of George W. Bush, interspersed with photos of chimpanzees, whose expressions unmistakably mimic Bush’s expressions — except for a few Bush gaffes that apparently normal chimp can reproduce.

The title is, “Evolution or Intellectual Design you be the judge.”

Are We Winning Yet?

Mariah Burton Nelson wrote a book, “Are We Winning Yet: How Women Are Changing Sports and Sports Are Changing Women” about the progress women are making in the sports world, and how far we have yet to go to achieve full equality.

Lately, I’ve been re-reading Ursula Vaid’s 1995 treatise on the status of our march toward equal rights, “Virtual Equality: The Mainstreaming of Gay and Lesbian Liberation.” She describes the integration of (or simply the outing of) lesbian and gay people into the larger culture, taking place simultaneously with our continued marginalization and victimization.

This month’s issue of The Advocate quotes Pat Robertson, the me-so-philosophical right-winger, as saying he supports equal housing and employment rights for lesbians and gays.

Conservative Republicans are arguing over a Supreme Court nominee who has no judicial record of opinion on social issues like choice and gay rights.

According to the Human Rights Campaign, 26 states have some form of state-wide anti-gay initiative pending (6), approved (8) or defeated (12). One state allows gays and lesbians to marry (Massachusetts) and two states offer domestic partnership (Vermont and Connecticut).

One nearby country (Canada) offers equal marriage to its citizens and allows couples from any country to marry there. Locally, our own Gay Alliance held its fifth annual Equality Leadership Conference with a keynote speaker who described her experience transitioning from male to female in the workplace with the full support of her Fortune 100 employer.

Panel discussions explained how to create inclusive cultures for transsexuals, more tips on how to nurture allies for LGBT people, and reported on this year’s Human Rights Campaign Corporate Equality Index. Four- teen corporate sponsors and 180 registered attendees supported the event (all of them knew what the speakers would be talking about).

Time Magazine dedicated a recent issue to gay youth, and reported that they are coming out earlier, experimenting with more fluid sexual expression, and are more accepting of LGBT people.

The past few years have brought a tremendous backlash against our efforts to achieve equal rights, showing us into the center of controversy. In fact, we have a political backlash.

But would we be at the center of controversy if we were not making progress?

Backlash happens when there is something to lash back against. When Pat Robertson didn’t blame us for 9-11, he was taken by the mainstream is expanding to include all of the Genesee Valley, Inc., a forum for ideas and creative work from local artists, writers and those from various other organizations. It’s to inform the Rochester gay community; to help promote knowledge and be a part of a national network of lesbian and gay publications that assists and supports its members.

Part of our purpose is to maintain a monthly forum for ongoing disputes about the entire community. We must be careful to be a forum of ideas and work from the local gay community, to help promote knowledge and be a part of a national network of lesbian and gay publications that assists and supports its members.

The Empty Closet is the official publication of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, Inc., as listed in the 101st of the month. Some by mail in a niggardly envelope and I think it’s time to pause and realize we are winning. We are out, and we are taking our rights seriously.

We are on television, in the news and in the movies. We are getting married. Our issues are part of the mainstream, and the mainstream is expanding to accept that we are a part of it.
ACLU asks end to NYS state law banning marriage equality

ALBANY - The American Civil Liberties Union of New York has asked a federal appeals court to strike down a state law that bars same-sex couples from marriage and the hundreds of family protections afforded to married couples.

"It was a great relief to be in court and hear our lawyers explain to the court the very unfair and discriminatory way we've dealt with where we're treated as legal strangers to our partners," said Alphonse Gerber, legal director of the New York Civil Liberties Union. "Despite the fact that lesbians and gay people make the same kinds of commitments to their partners and children that straight people make, the New York court has held that families that keep families apart during difficult times. That's not equal treatment.

"It is unknown when the court will issue its ruling. However, the Court of Appeals, New York State's highest court, will almost certainly have the ultimate say over the issue."

Biographical information on all of the parties, and the legal documents, and other background materials about Samuels and collaborators, et al. New York Department of Health, are available at www.aclu.org/cases.

The New York Law Journal's coverage suggested that the state conceded that New York has no compelling interest in preventing same-sex marriages and stated a rational basis claim. In 90 minutes of arguments before the Appellate Division, The Department of State abandoned its rational basis defense and argued to sell the other.

"This is not a case about abstract principles," Kaplan said. "This is a case about real people... who are deprived of benefits by the state of New York."

"We Employees are partners in the marriage of two people who love each other and agree to look out for each other during the good times and the bad," said James Ewals, Litigation Director of the ACLU's national Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. "Two adults who make this personal choice to form a long-term commitment should not be denied the right to marry just because they are gay or lesbian."

Among the couples who were present for the arguments:

Cindy Bink and Ann Pachner of West Hurley, who have been together for 17 years. Bink had to leave her job as a counselor at a community college in New Jersey, where she had worked for 17 years, because the college did not offer domestic partner benefits. Forced to search for a job that would allow her to cover Pachner on her health insurance policy, she finally found a job working for the City of New York that provides health care for both of them.

Regina Cicchetti and Susan Zimmer, who have been together for 17 years, recently celebrated their 35th anniversary. Cicchetti has survived two life-threatening illnesses — breast cancer and a pulmonary tumor — and says that she could never have made it through these crises without Zimmer's support. The couple wants the security of knowing no questions will be asked about their relationship should one of them be hospitalized in the future.

"The New York constitution requires that the state treat all couples equally," said Art Eisenberg, Legal Director of the New York Civil Liberties Union. "Despite the fact that lesbians and gay people make the same kinds of commitments to their partners and children that straight people make, the New York court has held that families that keep families apart during difficult times. That's not equal treatment.

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After the judge supervising the child's foster care placement realized that her prospective adoptive parents were lesbians, the court ordered the State-child welfare agency to schedule a hearing for the couple to adopt instead.

Lamb Legal argues that the Morgan Juvenile Court must honor the adoption decree by the Marion Superior Court because that court had proper jurisdiction over the matter and the adoption was lawful and in the child's best interests.

"The adoption decree compels Morgan in a stable and loving home where she has an active and respected role to remain," according to the judge's order. "Lamb was powerless to prevent this from happening in hopes that another will be better because the couple can marry," the judge said.

Lamb Legal

Oregon Christian Coalition leader faces family sex abuse charges

Lori Beres, longtime leader of Oregon's anti-gay Christian Coalition, faces sex abuse charges after three female members of his family told police he had molested them.

Multnomah County officials are investigating the claims by the three members of Beres' family who are now adults, and who alleged that Beres molested them when they were pre-teens. Their families called a sex abuse hotline in September, after the three women met with help from an anti-gay group with family members for the first time.

Beres has blamed "personal and political enemies" for the allegations.

Beres was a major advocate for the Oregon constitutional amendment to ban same sex marriages, which was overturned by the Oregon Supreme Court last year when the court began issuing marriage licenses to same sex couples.

Beres and his ex-wife also tried to enforce a recall vote for two county commissioners who approved issuing the licenses.

The Washington Blade

Millions More organizer refuses to let Black gay activist speak at rally

WASHINGTON - The National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC), the nation's Black gay civil rights group, is close to settling a lawsuit filed by Millions More March executive director Reverend Willie Wilson over his decision to rescind the agreement to include an openly gay speaker at the Oct. 15 Millions More March in Washington D.C.

Breaking at the National Press Club in a meeting the previous week, the Million More March organizers opened an openly gay gay rights activist to speak at the rally. Wilson, who organized originally balked at including a gay speaker, a meeting Oct. 12 with gay and lesbian African-American leaders and Minister Louis Farrakhan and Rev. Willie Wilson resulted in an agreement that long-time openly gay the two women, who are

Boikyn would speak.

During the meeting, Minister Farrakhan and NBNC president Keith Boykin spoke at the Millions More March. Boykin agreed to speak.

Payne and Boykin arrived at the march on Oct. 15, Boykin was not featured on the speakers list. Rev. Wilson told the two that Boykin would not be appearing on stage, saying they hadn't called back to confirm. The group had confirmed with Minister Farrakhan and Rev. Willie Wilson as Boykin had agreed to during the meeting.

"The march's goal was unity but the recent division said D. Parisi, executive director. The group was split between Rosa de la Fuente, senior director advocate for the Human Rights Campaign and a participant in the Oct. meeting. "Minister Farrakhan and Rev. Willie Wilson went back on their word this morning. It was past time for us to speak the truth and this means being honest about the diversity within the African-American community."

"There is no way we're going to come together as a community if people like this are allowed," the executive director continued. The National Black Justice Campaign. "Minister Farrakhan has previously kept his word and we need an apology and a commitment to be cooperative. Regardless of who's responsible, it's time for someone to step up and apologize."

Lamb Legal

Conservatives hint that Miers will overturn Roe v. Wade

On Oct. 17, the Wall Street Journal reported that presidential advisor Karl Rove arranged for two of Harriet Miers' closest friends and professional colleagues -- Justice Nathan Hecht of the Texas Supreme Court and U.S. District Court Judge Ed Kinkeade -- to speak with members of the executive committee of the Anti-Harriet Group, an umbrella alliance of 60 religious conservative groups, to discuss marriage equality for lesbian and gay people.

It's a change. All of that is cause for alarm. Now the one thing you must be prepared to do is to keep fighting for what you believe. You can lose the battle, but you can't lose the war."

The following is a statement from Eleanor Acheson, Director of Public Policy and Legislation for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

"It is an outrage that White House aides and sitting judges are assisting right-wing leaders like James Dobson of Focus on the Family and Gary Bauer of the Family Research Council in their crusade against marriage equality for lesbian and gay people.

The article reports that the two judges will rely on a law based on their personal knowledge of Miers, if the judge would vote to overturn Roe v. Wade. Kinkeade is reported to have said "absolutely," Hecht confirmed.

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"Although we have been a steadfast partner in the fight to defend GLBT rights, those who wish to defeat a third attempt at repealing Maine's non-discrimination law, the Human Rights Campaign has been providing on-the-ground staff support, fundraising assistance and direct financial contributions.

"The November 8 election is about defeating extremism, strengthening anti-discrimination laws in Maine and simultaneously making sure more voters know this is an issue of fairness," said HRC President Joe Solmonese.

"We are proud to partner with Maine Won't Discriminate to ensure important protections that are already law in Maine will not be better because the couple can marry," the judge said.

Lamb Legal

Taiwan marchers demand marriage rights; Hong Kong wants to jail young men for life

About 2,000 people marched for marriage equality in front of the city's legislature, capital of Taiwan, on Oct. 1, in that country's third annual gay pride parade.

A total of 13 volunteers from different outfits. One group of men wore togas with angel wings, while others wore masks or feather boas. One group of men carried banners and leaflets. The march passed by the government building.

Meanwhile, in Hong Kong, the city government appealed a High Court ruling that had overturned a law saying that men under 21 could not marry, a decision that was first overturned when the law was first passed. By Election Day, over 25 Human Rights Campaign staff members will have traveled to Maine to work directly with the campaign in addition, the Human Rights Campaign has made approximately $150,000 in direct cash contributions to Maine Won't Discriminate.

"The Human Rights Campaign has been a steadfast partner in the fight to protect GLBT Mothers," said Jesse Connolly, executive director of America's Profane - Discriminate. "One of our greatest strengths is the depth and breadth of our coalition reaching out to millions of voters - religious and Republican leaders; religious leaders including the Council of Churches and for the gay and lesbian African-American leaders and meanwhile the two mothers, who are

The Washington Blade

Rainbow World Fund aids Guatemala

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 19 /U.S. Newswire/ -- Rainbow World Fund (RWF) has returned from a humanitarian aid trip to Guatemala. A team of 13 volunteers
collected and delivered more than 1,000 pounds of medical and school supplies – including antibiotics, IVs, eye drops, and medical equipment – along with much-needed financial assistance for organizations working to improve the lives of Guatemalans.

During its trip, RWF met with groups and individuals fighting to improve the lives of Guatemalans through better health care, education, safe water, labor rights, Indigenous (Mayan) rights, and LGBT civil rights.

Hurricane Stan, which hit Central America in early October during RWF’s trip to Guatemala, killed more than 2,200 people in Guatemala and El Salvador, caused hundreds of landslides and widespread flooding, and left millions more than 200,000 people homeless. The hurricane destroyed entire villages and critically damaged the country’s roads, communications, and healthcare systems.

In response to this devastation, RWF is launching a campaign to help the people of Central America recover. To donate, go online to www.rainbowfund.org and specify “Central America.” 100 percent of funds will be directed to RWF-CARE’s relief efforts in Central America.

RWF’s campaign for Central America follows RWF’s fund-raising for Hurricane Katrina (which generated $250,000). “RWF’s work is about serving humanity, gay and lesbian families. The American Civil Liberties Union on Oct. 20 denounced the proposal, and called upon lawmakers to reject – yet again – this assault on gay and lesbian Americans.” Congress has already rejected this amendment, and it must do so again,” said Christopher E. Anders, an ACLU Legislative Counsel. “Disenfranchisement has no place in our federal laws, and certainly not in the Constitution. Such legislation does exist to protect rights, not deny them.”

The Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights met today to examine the proposal, offered by Senator Wayne Allard, (R-CO). It would amend the Constitution to define marriage as “between a man and woman” and would deny all “legal incidents” of marriage to unmarried couples. While this proposal is called the “Marriage Protection Amendment,” it is almost identical to the “Partial Marriage Amendment” that was proposed – and defeated – last year.

Senators heard on Oct. 20 from a panel of experts, including Dr. Christopher E. Harris, an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. In his testimony, Harris noted that the Pro-Family Pediatrics, a collection of over 750 pediatricians, has urged Congress to oppose any federal marriage amendment to the Constitution, citing concerns over the potential harm to children and their families.

The ACLU said that anti-gay activism would use the amendment’s broad language to attack same-sex civil unions and domestic partnerships. Similar state-level constitutional amendments have been used to undermine legal protections afforded to gay and lesbian couples and their families.

A similar amendment stalled in Congress last year when neither chamber came close to the required two-thirds majority needed to pass a constitutional amendment. Opposition to the amendment came from unusual sources: former Congressman Bob Barr (R-GA), the author of the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, was joined by Vice President Dick Cheney, Representative Christopher Cox (R-CA), Senator John McCain (R-AZ) and others.

“With all the issues facing Congress right now, there is no reason to focus time and energy on denying marriage protections to same-sex couples,” Anders added. “Hardworking, taxpaying Americans in loving relationships don’t need lawmakers playing political games with their families.”

To read more about the ACLU’s concerns with the Federal Marriage Amendment, go to http://www.aclu.org/marriageamendment.

HRC condemns “political games”

“They’re playing cynical political games that threaten the security of American families,” said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign. “While some Senators are trying to appease their extremist base, millions of Americans who support equal rights and responsibilities for all families will see through these hearings. Not only would the amendment ban marriage for same-sex couples, but it would threaten domestic partnerships and civil unions. It’s time for Washington to get back to helping all families, not harming them.”

Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., called for the hearing on the so-called “Marriage Protection Amendment.” Despite intense pressure from the White House and extreme right-wing organizations, the amendment, which requires two-thirds approval in each chamber, failed last year in the House by a 227-186 margin and in the Senate with a vote of 58-50.

-ACLU, HRC
Harry Bronson is a candidate for Monroe County Legislature

By Susan Jordon

This year has seen an unusual number of openly lesbian and gay candidates for local political office. Tim Main is running for Mayor, Bill Pritchard for City Council, Judge Ellen Yacknin for NYS Supreme Court, and Joanne Melaca for Greece Board of Supervisors. Last but certainly not least, attorney Harry Bronson, who ran for New York State Senate in 2002, is back on the campaign trail.

Bronson, a Democrat, is running for the 24th District seat in the Monroe County Legislature, formerly held by Kevin Murray for 20 years. Term limitations now are restricted to 10 years. The 24th District includes the Southwedge, Swillburg, upper Mt. Hope Ave., parts of north and west Brighton, and the town of Henrietta. Information about his campaign is available at electbrson@aol.com and 585-455-3393.

Empty Closet: Why did you decide to run for the Legislature this year?

Harry Bronson: Kevin Murray’s seat was the one I thought about running for back in 2002, as a starting point for my political career. Instead I ran for state senate, although I had no chance of beating Joe Robach.

EG: Who is your opponent now, and how is your campaign going?

HB: I have John Maurer, who is running on the Conservative and Republican lines.

The campaign is going very well; the reaction I’ve been getting, going door to door six days a week, has been very good. Most people have indicated that their greatest concern in the district is the state of the economy and loss of jobs, the lack of opportunities for young people, and the deficit the county budget has been running for the last couple of years. We have a net loss of 7,100 jobs in 2004. Young people are graduating from high school or higher institutions of learning, and they’re not finding job opportunities. Over the last 10 years in our area, we’ve had the greatest loss of population among ages 25 to 44. Most economists consider that age group to be the group that drives the economy. This is setting us up for economic problems as we go forward.

EG: What did you think of County Executive Maggie Brooks’ budget?

HB: I’m pleased to see the Brooks administration is interested in continuing at minimum the same level of services the county provides. Also I was pleased to see some movement in assistance to poor working families with children to have day care assistance. It’s moving from 140 percent to 150 percent. I’d like to see them move it even further.

The 10 percent increase will cost the county $600,000. The county has, from state and federal childcare funding, a reserve of $3 million. I’d like to see that increased amount go even further, and use more of those reserves, because those families are in need.

EG: If elected, what will your priorities be?

HB: My priorities will be economic development, closing the budgetary gap or deficit we’ve faced for three years, and then affording county residents better access to healthcare.

In relation to county employees and individuals receiving Medicaid, we need to make sure that if we revamp that area, we do it in such a way that we make the system more efficient, but keep the quality of service that people need.

EG: Do you feel Democrats can be more effective than in the past, considering that they are so out-numbered by Republicans?

HB: The short answer is yes. We have a great opportunity right now, because, number one, term limits will mean a lot of turnover in the county legislature, so there are a lot of us coming in with new and fresh ideas and motivation to solve the county’s problems.

Number two is that Maggie Brooks, in her short tenure as county executive, has started to do a better job of including various stakeholders in the decision-making process. She has started doing outreach to the current mayor and my expectation is she will continue that in the next administration. So this is an opportunity for Democrats to reach across the aisle and share ideas, and listen to Republicans, and move forward with true solutions to the problems we all face.

EG: Is metro government not really an issue any more?

HB: I think metro government in a technical sense is a dead issue here in Monroe County. However, more collaboration between various levels of government is
needed, has been done and has been successful. I think we'll see that collaboration between government agencies will provide more effectiveness in government services.

EC: Do you feel same sex marriage rights will ultimately be granted, and will that be done by legislatures, courts or both?

HB: This is an area where I will go out on a limb. I think same sex marriage will ultimately be achieved. I'm not sure how that will happen. As an attorney who has studied a lot of constitutional law cases, I think the court in Massachusetts got it right when they said civil unions are analogous to "separate but equal". It's all about offering all citizens equal opportunities - treating a second class of same sex couples, whether you call it civil unions or whatever, is ultimately "separate but equal," and that's unconstitutional.

It's the same as when, back in 1969, the court said it was unlawful to say a person of color can't marry a white person. The courts won't say that people can't marry a person of the same sex.

EC: What gay rights issues might come before the Monroe County Legislature?

HB: After SONDA was passed at the state level, offering non-discrimination protection for the LG community, one might at first glance say that at the county level, many of those issues affect the gay community just as they do other communities. The reality is that many working people do well during their working years, but as they age, they find themselves more and more in need of government services, and we need to make sure those services are available on a fair and equitable basis to the gay community.

EC: Does Monroe County give benefits to domestic partners of employees?

HB: No.

EC: What would you say to those who are not planning to vote this month?

HB: I think it's imperative, in this experiment we in America call democracy, that every individual is afforded the right to vote. People have died to give us the right to vote. It's our civic duty. When we don't exercise that right, we aren't taking advantage of our opportunity to determine the direction we go in on a county, state or federal level. If we want to see this change, or that status quo remain, one way to do that is to exercise our voice through our vote.

EC: Anything you'd like to add?

HB: Just that I moved to the greater Rochester area some 15 years ago, and one of my first exposures was to folks at the Gay Alliance, who helped me through my coming out process. When I became a member of the GAGV board of directors, and then president of the board, that was a very rewarding life for me. Running for elective office is a way for me to give back to a community that has offered me a rewarding life, and I take this opportunity very seriously.

Gandhi said, "The truest way to find oneself is through service to others." That's how I perceive being an elective official.
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Stonewall Democrats of the Genesee Valley urge strategic voting

By John Noble

The Stonewall Democrats of the Genesee Valley, at the post primary meeting in September, debated the final choice of candidates for the November General Election. The decision was to select only those candidates with a strong record of support for GLBT issues as our endorsed candidates.

The clear outstanding choice for NYS Supreme Court is Judge Ellen Tachnick, a currently elected Rochester City Court Judge. She is running for one of two Supreme Court seats. If you vote just for her in this contest and skip the other race, your vote is more valuable in the final cumulative vote totals.

The race for Mayor of the City of Rochester has been a disappointment to many citizens. Mary K. Detmer, at the post primary meeting in September, debated the final choice of candidates with a strong record of support for GLBT issues, including full marriage rights. She is not like the other candidates whose personal religious issues condemn us to second class citizenship. With our support and that of other progressive voters, Tim can win and move this city and region ahead.

The Rochester City Council campaign also has produced very little to be proud of this year. Only two candidates responded to the Stonewall Democrats campaign survey. The Stonewall Democrats strongly urge “bullet voting” for those two candidates, Bill Prichard on the Democratic line and Saul Maniero on the Independence Party line.

Bill is an incumbent City Councilman and a former officer in the GAGV. Saul has been an activist in the Young Democrats. Voting for these two, not the five possible choices, make the final totals for these response candidates more valuable.

Three County Legislature candidates deserve strong support in this critical election cycle: Travis Haddor, Paul Haney and Harry Bronson.

If you do not know what Leg. District you live in, you can call the Board of Elections at 428-4950.

In the Town of Greece, the Democrats have a strong and committed candidate in the Third Ward (southeastern and southern part of the town). “Jo” Melas will start to bring some democracy and new ideas to a town which has had one-party rule for over 50 years. Many GLBT people live in Greece and should support her; she will support us.

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GAGW conference (cont. from page 1) 20,000 in the 1990s through 2010), much remains to be done. A company may have a beautiful policy of inclusion, but it may never filter down to the workforce, so that transgender employees remain closeted out of fear. Corporate culture ultimately depends on the attitude of the CEO. Maggie Stumpff’s comments were echoed by panelists on the workshop on supporting people who are transitioning to work. The consensus seemed to be that much depends on the culture of the individual’s workplace, and transsexuals need to make wise decisions based on that reality.

The transition workshop was organized by the Finger Lakes LGBT Workplace Alliance. Human Rights Campaign board member Donna Rose and Andrea Dobasje of NYTRO (New York Transgender Rights Organization) and Pat Pittino of Our Press were the panelists. Along with Amy Friend of the Lambda Network at Kodak, Margaret Clements of Nion Peabody LLP and Virginia Merlino, a former human resources director for Kodak Research Labs. Pat Pittino was working for a large firm when he came out in 1997. The human resources department there was very supportive and helpful, and Pat had no problems at all. A few years later, working for a small firm, he ran into problems and was even challenged to fight another worker to “prove you’re a man.”

Pat said that at the time, full of new testosterone, he was ready to comply, but “it never really happened because somebody told him he’d been in martial arts for years.” He concluded, “You can have a negative or positive experience depending on where you work and how you handle things.”

Donna Rose said, “Telling people is one thing, but seeing it happen is another. Each of us ends up being a pioneer in our companies.” She made a flashlight for people to express beliefs on morality, religion, etc. The key is feeling confident about that. She also said that being out at work is one thing, but seeing it happen is another. The consensus seemed to be that much depends on the culture of the individual’s workplace, and transsexuals need to make wise decisions based on that reality.

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in the Bronx. Nevertheless, he stood with our community then and continues to do so now when confronted with similar questions about Reverend Diaz’s views on LGBT matters.

“In that same Voter Guide, we also mentioned his support for the Equal Benefits bill and for marriage for same-sex couples. None, four years later, his public statements and letters to us on these two issues move beyond the generalities of simply being supportive and speak to the specifics of how he will exercise his support should he become Mayor. We appreciate this specificity and value his willingness to use the office of the Mayor on behalf of our community.

“The Pride Agenda has a policy of working with whoever holds elected office to advance the rights of the LGBT community. When we are in disagreement with elected officials on one issue or another, we do not walk away from them. Rather, we look for other areas where we can work together on behalf of our community.

“Despite Mayor Bloomberg’s decision not to fully support the LGBT community on three of the four key issues that have come before him during his term as Mayor, we looked for and were able to find areas where we could work together. These include his convincing four large insurers to begin providing domestic partner health coverage in the city for the very first time to the small business marketplace; putting the city on record treating marriages of same-sex couples performed outside of New York State like other marriages where marital status is a factor in the provision of city services and benefits, such as the benefits married city employees receive from the city’s five pension funds; and, convincing CUNY to provide spousal benefits rather than domestic partner benefits to LGBT employees who are married.

“While all of these actions are commendable and we said so at the time they were announced, they are not a substitute for the significant gains the LGBT community could have made had the Mayor used his power to implement the Equal Benefits Bill, the Dignity in All Schools Act and the court decision on marriage.

“Mr. Ferrer has shown during his career in politics, as well as stated to the Pride Agenda, that he will use the power of the office he holds to advance, without hesitation, equality and justice for the LGBT community in a way that Mayor Bloomberg is reluctant to do. This clearly distinguishes him from the Mayor and merits the Pride Agenda’s endorsement of Fernando Ferrer as the best candidate on LGBT issues.”
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Laurie Schulman
Associate Broker
Grassroots organizing in the churches: a local minister reports on State Clergy Coalitions Summit in D.C.

By The Reverend Willie J. Seals Jr.

As a member of the Coordinating Committee for Pride in the Pulpit, I was privileged to be part of a recent gathering of state clergy coalition leaders at the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) in Washington DC.

Harry Knox, the Director of the Religion and Faith Program at HRC, organized the summit. The National Black Justice Coalition, National Stonewall Democrats and the Log Cabin Republicans also joined in planning and implementing the event. Representatives from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and Freedom to Marry were also in attendance.

Progressive clergy leaders from across 16 states met for two days to learn, share and strategize about improving our efforts in grassroots organizing and advocacy for lgbt justice and equality in our states. During the summit, we learned from one another what is working, sharing our best practices and discussing some challenges we face in advocacy.

The Empire State Pride Agenda (ESPA) and the North Carolina Religious Coalition for Marriage Equality presented case studies. I am proud to say that New York is doing great work in organizing clergy for advocacy. For the case study, I had the pleasure of sharing the stage with Alan Van Capelle, the Executive Director of ESPA.

Alan spoke passionately about his work in leading ESPA and the formation of Pride in the Pulpit, which he described as “New York’s rapid response network to the religious right.” I spoke about my involvement in Pride in the Pulpit and the work we’re currently doing.

Roberta Sklar from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force spoke about media and message. We gained insights to improve media coverage of our activities. Jo Wyrick, Deputy Director of the National Stonewall Democrats talked about ways to improve our strategic planning practices.

She also had a special guest to present the keynote address – Reverend Jimmy Creech. Rev. Creech is a former United Methodist pastor who spent 29 years in ministry before being ousted by his denomination for officiating at a same-gender living commitment ceremony. He has since had an active career as a straight ally for lgbt justice and equality across the nation and has most recently served as the chair of the board at Soulforce.

Creech spoke from the heart about the need for marriage equality, starting with his own experiences in ministry. He made the important distinction that marriage doesn’t take place during the wedding ceremony, it takes place before that, when a couple agrees to be married. He noted the marriage ceremony is “a public declaration of a personal commitment.” The marriage license serves as a legal document indicating the couple is “legally responsible to one another” and to “enjoy the rights afforded by law.”

Creech also spoke about the evolution of marriage in society, citing its historical significance. He noted how religious institutions have “hijacked” marriage by making it something that has divine origin, when it actually originated with civil institutions. Creech concluded his remarks by speaking about the need to talk to people we can move – the moveable middle – in seeking to build a majority of support on this issue.

The summit concluded with us organizing into small groups to continue work on several issues of importance – recruiting more supportive clergy; building better relations with national denominational lgbt communities; development and fundraising; polling data; developing effective theological resources; technical assistance; identifying statewide campaign training models and mechanisms for sharing, and working on issues of race and class.

Together, they will bring a strong voice to the County Legislature to serve our community and to fight for Monroe County.

Rev. Willie J. Seals, Jr.
Thanks from Business Forum for help with Streets of Pride

To The Editor:

We would like to thank some special participants in this year’s Streets of Pride Parade (July 16).

Over the years we have greatly appreciated the participation of the Rochester Police Department and the Rochester Fire Department, with both personnel and equipment.

Thank you for your ongoing and enthusiastic support.

We would like to thank the Webster and Greece Police Departments for their participation this year as well. Your presence added to the overall enjoyment of the parade.

We are sorry that the Monroe County Sheriffs Department could not participate this year, as they have in the past. We missed you and hope for your continued participation in the future.

Thanks again for everyone’s participation in making Streets of Pride a success again this year.

Sincerely,

The Board of The Community Business Forum

Trans sisters do find love

To the Editor:

Thank you for interviewing the articulate Margaret Stumpf. However, I take exception to the statement “transsexuals often live very lonely lives” and “neither men nor women find us attractive.”

Speak for yourself, Maggie! I know many transsexuals in long term relationships, and many lonely straights. And as far as attractiveness, I, and many of my trans sisters, get hit on daily by both men and women.

Some transsexuals transition early, in our teens or early twenties (this NOT a new phenomenon); some transition later in life. The latter group tends to be well educated and possess a high degree of professional success. However, these women tend to speak for all of us, which is neither fair nor accurate.

There are many, many transsexuals who transitioned at an early age. We have our own stories to tell.

Bianca Leigh
Making the Scene

Todd Murata, producer of “The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green” and ImageOUT programming co-chair Michael Gamilla. Photos by Gerry Szymanski, except where noted.

Joe Wlodarz, Peter Hobbs and Erik Libey were members of a panel that took questions from the audience about gay sexuality in the 1970s after the film “Saturday Night at the Baths”.

Amy Schwartz (ImageOUT board member), her partner Fran, Alex Cobus, Paul Allen, at the ImageOUT closing party at the Eastman House, Oct. 16.

Actor Nick Pozentieri from the film “WTC View” and ImageOUT Board Member Dan Humphrey.

Natalie Frame and Todd Perkins, two stars of Gerry Szymanski’s short “Model Home” which played at “Flower City Flicks”.

Rita Rudnick, Carl Talbot, and actor Charles Busch at a reception for Busch, who received the first ImageOUT ImageMaker award at a showing of a documentary about his life and career, “The Lady in Question is Charles Busch”.

Jay O’Neill (ImageOUT board member, right) with Sam Roberts at the closing party. (Photo by Alex Cobus)
NOVEMBER 2005 • NUMBER 385 • GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESSEE VALLEY • THE EMPTY CLOSET

NYC News

Photos: Doug Meszler

CAPOTE IMPERSONATOR: At the New York Film Festival Premiere of "Capote" at Lincoln Center on Sept. 27, Rochester native, actor Philip Seymour Hoffman, stars as gay writer Truman Capote.

REMEMBERING JACK NICHOLS: "A Celebration of His Life" for pioneer gay activist Jack Nichols (1938-2005) was held Sept. 25 at the LGBT Community Center in Greenwich Village. Pictured is David Carter with copy of "Gay" (first gay weekly newspaper), which Nichols published.

BREAKING THE CYCLE: Closing Ceremony at the LGBT Community Center in Greenwich Village on Sept. 17. Actress Lili Taylor welcomed 100 bike riders home from a 275-mile journey to fight HIV/AIDS.

END IRAN EXECUTIONS: A demonstration against President of Iran took place across from the United Nations on Sept. 14. The protest condemned Iran's execution of people for engaging in homosexual activity. Iranian exiles also joined the protest. Pictured is gay journalist Andy Humm (with sign).

PROPS ON BROADWAY: 19th Annual Broadway Flea Market and Auction in Shubert Alley on Sept. 25 benefited Broadway Bares/Equity Fights AIDS. Pictured is a prop used on Broadway.

TALK TO ME: A Conversation with Larry Kramer, The Tragedy of Today's Gays, was moderated by The New Yorker's Michael Specter at the Strand Bookstore on Sept. 29.
For 20 years Tim has been the city’s best advocate for issues that concern you.

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The Democrat running for the Working Families Party.

Mains for mayor

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Is Q for you?

By Brad Smith and Susan Jordan

Does Rochester want a gay and lesbian cable channel? Time Warner Cable in Rochester will find out. On Oct. 1, TWC added Q TV, a new local cable lineup. QTV is available 24 hours per day, seven days per week, with a complimentary video on demand (VOD) option on channel 453 for all QTC subscribers.

QTC made deals with Time Warner to launch in both Rochester and Syracuse, as its potential audience grows through expansion on TWC systems across the country.

“We are delighted that Time Warner Cable has chosen to add QTV to their channel lineup in Rochester and Syracuse,” said Carol Hinnant, QTV Vice President, Affiliate Sales and Marketing. “And we’re confident that gay and lesbian viewers in these areas will benefit greatly as we continue our quest to capture and deliver the voice of the GLBT community through quality live and origi- nal programming.”

“Recognizing the diversity that Rochester shares with its market with its truly unprecedented roster of creative, entertaining and high-energy live programs, Q Television meets the needs of the gay and lesbian community,” said Susan Warner, Rochester Division President Jeff Hirsch. “We look forward to a long and successful relationship.”

Q Television Network is also available to subscribers via satellite TV networks. QTV offers unique programming including gay and lesbian sports, movies and original programs. Much of Q Television’s programming is also covered lifestyle events. The channel, which began its service in September 2004, this summer covered gay pride marches in seven cities. It also airs Q on the Move, a trav- elogue of gay events around the country, and aired the annual Gay Games sporting event from Chicago in mid-July.

Q Television currently offers its customers five hours of live programming daily, kicking off its morning late, with the new hit show “Branch”, which stars Honey Labrador and Scott Fish- ers.

The day ends with QTV’s signature series “On Q Live,” a fun-filled adventure of news, guests, sports and (Continued on page 2)

Reach for the stars: Christa McAuliffe film premiers at High Falls festival

Christa McAuliffe: Reach for the stars by Renee Sotile and Mary Ann Gogges, premier in Rochester at the High Falls Film Festival on Nov. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Little Theatre.

Sotile and Gogges are Los Angeles filmmakers/producers. Sotile is originally from Roch­ester. Their film not only deals with the Challie ter disaster, but also offers an in-depth look at McAuliffe’s life and career, and her career as a teacher. Familiar faces in the story include the Wall, the Casuals, and prominent NASA and government figures were interviewed for Sotile and Gogges’ documentary.

Check the festival website at http://www.highfallsfilmfestival.com for more information.

The film is the most complete documentary ever produced on the life of our nation’s first Teach­ er in Space. Lesbian filmmaker Renee Sotile wanted to tell the story of Christa McAuliffe, a courageous woman and passionate teacher, and her lifelong commitment to education, a commitment so great that she gave her life for the cause.”

Christa’s story also gained the interest of legendary singer-songwriter Carly Simon, who composed an original song for this year’s Miss Gay Rochester pageant.

What do you feel were the highlights of your performing career?

Winning Miss Rochester 1986, taking the chance to be one of the very first people to perform in straight clubs, and to be one of the first to be in drag on TV. I am most proud that my work and the work of others have paved the way for the next generation, so that they would have an easier time to walk in heels in public.

You’ve run clubs in Roch­ester and now Buf­ falo. What makes a really exciting and suc­ cessful club?

Loving what you’re doing. I’ve always enjoyed entertaining people, and I’ve always been a people person, plus a warped mind helps a lot. Most importantly, I was fortunate enough to work with two great friends (Mike and Wendy) as partners in the Marcella business.

What are the hard parts about being a club owner/manager?

Dealing with performers. It’s difficult because sometimes you have to make decisions that not everyone is happy with.

Where is your hometown?

I was born in Pa­ le­ rmo, Sicily, and my family and I moved to Rochester in 1972.

What was it like for you being a gay kid?

What do you mean I’m still a gay kid. It was really hard in high school, I went to Benjamin Franklin in Rochester and gradu­ ated in 1977. It was hard because I came out in 1976. But at that time, people didn’t know what gay people looked like, and I was so effeminate looking that I was harassed quite a bit.

What were the factors that helped you survive?

Street smarts and taking noth­ ing personally.

Who are your favorite drag performers, and who influ­ enced you as a performer?

There are so many that listing them would take up too much space. Some have passed on, like Nicole and Rhondrette others are still here with me – Lisa, Ber­ nel, Sandy and Freddy Bass – I wish that I could remember them all.

Did you base your drag per­ sona on a particular star?

Bette Midler.

What do you think characterizes a really great drag artist?

Well, beauty is number one; stage presence, you have to capture the audience. Throwing a wig on does not make you a great queen, it takes a lot more.

What characterizes a really BAD drag artist?

Someone with a lost soul. Someone who does it just to grab attention. That’s the wrong kind of attention.

Did you and Lisa, Torre and Vicky (MLTV) start the Miss Gay Rochester pageant 35 years ago, in 1976?

No, Miss Rochester started a small gathering of drag queens, when it was really hard to go out of your house in drag without getting beat up or getting arrest­ ed. It took place at small bars. The first place I ever saw Miss Rochester was at Jim’s Place on Liberty Pole Way and the owners were Tommy Catone and his lover Rob. They brought it to the next level – more grande, more eventful. They took it to the com­ petition center – a larger space beyond the bar; unfortu­ nately, they passed on and left the title in good hands with Rhondrette (Beardsley).

She worked really hard and it became the most important thing in her life. She did so many positive things for the gay community, but really, she finally succombed to AIDS herself. What a great person was that to me. And I will always be grateful that she left her legacy to the four of us. Lisa, Torre Ade, Vicky and I. Each year in memory of Rhon­ drette and the others, we try to do our very best to honor their hard work.

How have you kept it going over three decades?

Drifting, three decades, I don’t look that old, am I that old?

What’s coming up at the pageant in November?

Well, first of all it’s going to be at the Harro East Ballroom on Saturday, Nov. 13, and this year it will be our 20th anniversary, where I will be performing and I’m a nervous wreck. I started my Nutrisystem to lose weight, so I hope to be the same weight I was when I was crowned 20 years ago. And then try my best (Continued on page 2)
**Marcella (continued from page 1)**

to get into character. I would love to see all of my old friends come down and support the pageant.

**Any special surprises you can reveal?**

Well, yes. I think there will be my 20th anniversary at Miss Rochester, and that evening will be my husband's birthday and my 10th year being together, so I will have a lot to be thankful for that evening.

In case you have a meter or set of beliefs that have helped you through life?

Yes, (1) fuck them if they can't take a joke (2) if they'd come from streets (3) if they've tried to kill anybody and (4) it's not where you come from - it's what you do with it.

A lot of your performers at Club Marcella, (I especially like "V")

Do you tell them about being onstage and performing?

Perfection - looking your best from head to toe, and giving your all to the audience without them.

**What are the big issues in regards to quality of life for gay men?**

Not to allow other people like politicians and religious freaks who think they rule the world to dictate to us on how to live our lives. We need to never give the power of our lives to anyone else, and to take control of our own destiny.

**What about MTV's Logo gay programming options.**

It looks like the gay programming is live and original, and complements our viewers' regular programming. Our viewers' regular programming is live and original, and complements our viewers' regular programming.

**Q Television based, and how long did it take for Q Television Network to go from a concept to a reality?**

Q Television is the official network of Q Television Network to go from a concept to a reality. It launched at the Dryden Theatre, and will be preceded by an appearance by Jane Alexander, the festival's Web of Life Award winner.

**What about Logo and Here?**

What about MTV's Logo gay programming options. It launched June 30 across the country, but there is still no deal to bring it to Rochester. Time Warner Cable expects it might be able to add the channel at the end of the year. There's still time for some of its addition to come with the annual rate increase change cable gives us every year. Another queer cable channel is called Here! and there is no sign of that on the local cable at this time. It's recommended by Bruce Vilanch who especially liked "AIDS Across America," "Paris is Burning," and the gay noir detective show, "Third Man Out!"

We're watching.

**Who selects the old films you broadcast and what are their criteria?**

The movies we choose to offer on our network are either "classic" gay-themed films, or unique independent films from around the world that offer perspective to the entire rainbow of the community.

Your new show "On Topic with Chris Reichen" is the first-ever travel show for LGBT community. Chrisanne is very opinionated, but she is always fair to both sides of the issue.

Do you plan more traditionally "objective" news shows as well?

QTN is the only LGBT network to provide a nightly, 30-minute newscast focusing on the community. Each weekend, the QTN Newsweek covers LGBT issues around the world from a fair and balanced perspective, providing the community with the facts so that each person can be informed to make their own decision.

How hard is it to fill 24 hours of airtime? Is the daytime content basically the same for you or will have new day programs as well?

QTN is dedicated to continually create new programming. Our live programming kicks off with "Brunch" each day. Throughout the day, there is a mixture of classic movies, original QTN produced series and independent syndicated programming.

Do you have any new entertainment programming coming up?

We are always developing new programming. But until it is formally announced, we will keep all the details under the wraps.

Q Television is the official network of the Gay Games. What other sports coverage do you feature?

The games we choose to offer on our network are either "classic" gay-themed films, or unique independent films from around the world.

**What are the big issues in regards to quality of life for gay men?**

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**Do you have producers and crews developing new programs?**

Yes, we always cultivate new programming. Our studios are located in Burbank, California. Our studios are located in Lakeview, New York.

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**McAuliffe (continued from page 1)**

Information helps provide some much-needed perspective to this iconic moment in history. However, the documentary does not attempt to film the Challenger tragedy, but rather showcases a celebration of a life that continues to inspire.

Sotile and her co-producer Mary Jo Gogos worked closely with Christa McAuliffe's family, gaining access to exclusive family photos and home movies. The combination paints a new and more intimate portrait of the public and private life of McAuliffe. The result is a unique documentary that is both intellectually engaging and emotionally powerful. Christa was, and remains, one of NASA's most visible and beloved astronauts.

Diane Hygoud stars David Schimmmer and Jeanine Caradago. In a sweet and often humorous fashion, Schimmmer plays a down-on-his-luck, divorced but devoted father who works the night shift at a gas station on the border of his marriage to Linda (Garofolo), Diane confronts the realization that 10 years have passed since her life back on track.

Diane has a marvelous supporting role as Schimmmer's neighbor, one of the ladies in a gay relationship.

This film screens Thursday, Nov. 10, at 7:35 p.m. at the Dryden Theatre, and will be preceded by an appearance by Jane Alexander, the festival's Web of Life Award winner.
This season, Geva Theatre Center introduces two new programs to the public: Theatre Insights and Geva 101.

**Theatre Insights**

This new program will give a fresh angle on the plays in Geva’s line-up. Speakers from the worlds of theatre, religion, science, law and beyond will explore ideas and questions related to shows from the 2005-2006 season.

The first Insights lecture is "Mad About the Boy: a look at the enduring popularity of Noel Coward," which will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. in The Neststage. Geva welcomes British writer, teacher and lecturer Malcolm Jones (whose credits include London’s Theatre Museum and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts). Jones will talk about the brilliant, subtle and very gay Noel Coward, one of the most important British playwrights of the 20th century.

**Geva 101**

The who, what, how and why of theatre is explored in Geva’s second new series, called Geva 101. You’ll find out how an actor prepares for a role, what the director does in the rehearsal room and how Geva chooses the plays it produces.

The first Geva 101, “An Approach to Acting,” takes place Monday, Nov. 14 at noon and 7 p.m. Skip Great, Geva’s Art- ist in Residence, discusses his approach to preparing roles for the stage — equal parts textbook and comic book. Skip has performed in many Geva productions, including Hemlet (Ghost), 1776 (John Hancock), House and Garden (Giles), Twelve Angry Men (Pomaro) and The Illusion (Alcindor the magician).

This season, Geva 101 will cover topics including "An Approach to Directing," "Nurturing the Playwright’s Voice" and "The Director-Designer Relationship and Scenic Design for Theatre".

Tickets for the first Theatre Insights lecture cost $20. Tickets for Geva 101 are $8 each for the noon events or $24 for the whole series; $12 each for the 7 p.m. events or $36 for the whole series. Call the Geva Box Office at 232-Geva (4382) for reservations and information.

**Head for Key West via Sodus Point: Bonnet Party is Nov. 5**

It’s grey, gloomy November in upstate New York... time for a slice of Key West. The 10th annual Key West Bonnet Party will hit the Bay Street Hotel in Sodus Point on Nov. 5. Owners Anne and Doug McLeod invite all to don their craziest hats and drop by the Hotel for live music by PJ Elliot, a fabulous auction, and an optional three-course gourmet dinner, all for a $35 donation.

Over the past decade, the Bay Street Hotel owners and master chefs have raised nearly $100,000 for AIDS Rochester Inc. (ARI). All proceeds from the evening will benefit the HIV/AIDS agency. Dinner will be served from 5 to 9 p.m.; the auction will begin at 9. For more information, call Marty Gray at ARI, 505-442-2220.

**U.S.A. Mr. Gay captures first Mr. Gay 2006 international title**

PALM SPRINGS, Calif., Oct. 9 /U.S. Newswire -- In a cliffhanger competition, where a tie-breaker was averted on a second ballot, the first ever Mr. Gay 2006 International title was captured by San Diego's Jesse Bashem, who -- just one hour earlier -- had won the title of U.S.A. Mr. Gay. The Competition, which took place at the Riviera Resort in Palm Springs, California, Columbia Day Weekend, included 11 additional contestants from cities such as, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York and Palm Springs, and national representatives from the Netherlands, Norway, Lap­land, Bulgaria and Bolivia-Herzigovina. Australia’s Aaron Michael Jackson was the first runner up and Germany’s Suat Bahceci landed in the second runner up slot.

The title for Mr. Congeniality, voted on by his fellow contestants, was awarded to Palm Springs resident Robert (Bobby) Ficco Jr., leading Mayor Ron Oden (also a competition judge) to comment, “How gratifying to see a Palm Springs resident recognized for what the city prides itself on, a friendly nurturing community to all the world’s visitors.”

“Competitions such as these have been popular in Europe for years and we’re thrilled to now have a U.S. based competition looking for the ‘boy next door’ to represent the broader gay community,” said Producer Don Spradlin. “The winner will serve as a spokesman to raise the visibility of gay men, humanize gays in the media, create a positive role model and confront homophobia in today’s culture.”


**Zoom Girl Media accepting entries for lesbian-themed short films competition**

Zoom Girl Media of Culver City, Calif., invites filmmakers to submit original comedy, 10 minutes or under in length, dealing with lesbian themes and related cultural and social issues. Films will be judged on originality of subject matter, production values, technical excellence and overall merit.

“We are deeply committed to cultur­izing emerging indie filmmakers,” says Kate Stalter, Founder and President of Zoom Lens Media. “We’re excited about this first step toward launching the careers of 21st century innovators and unique voices.”

A panel of senior entertainment indus­try executives and creative talent will judge the entries. Winners in three competitive categories will receive cash prizes and their films will be screened at special events in Los Angeles and New York.

The contest opened Oct. 1 and will run through Nov. 30. To enter the contest, visit www.zoom­mensmedia.com, or send an e-mail to: contact@zoomlensmedia.com. Winners will be chosen by Feb. 1, 2006.

Zoom Girl Media is a division of Zoom Lens Media, which publishes books and DVDs about filmmakers and the business of independent film. Zoom Lens is pub­lishing its first book, The Indie Filmmakers: The Directors, which features question-and­answer interviews with 14 men and women who got independent movies made and into theaters.

The book will be followed by The Indie Filmmakers: The Cinematographers. The company will also offer DVD interviews along with other nonfiction film titles.

(Continued on page 4)
Pineapple House Productions Presents...

Men of Manpole

Featuring "7"
The Entertainer/Porn Star

Male Exotic Dancers

Direct from NYC

November 23, 2005

10pm til 2am

$2.00 at the door

Includes Two Drinks

In Association with...

Hosted by:

KEYS PIANO BAR

233 MILL ST. ROCHESTER NY

Think About This!

A car company can move its factories to Mexico and claim it's a free market.

A toy company can outsource to a Chinese subcontractor and claim it's a free market.

A major bank can incorporate in Bermuda to avoid taxes and claim it's a free market.

We can buy HP Printers made in Mexico...

We can buy shirts made in Bangladesh...

When I need to speak to someone about my computer, I talk to somebody in India.

We can purchase almost anything we want from 20 different countries.

But, heaven help the elderly who dare to buy their prescription drugs from a Canadian pharmacy...

That's called un-American! And you think that pharmaceutical companies don't have a powerful lobby?

Think again!

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PLEASE NOTE
The opinions of columnists, editors 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 Chair.

Growing Up

By Eric Budman

Or does it just submerge, go into hiding, bug out for a while? What happens when communication, having reached a level of honesty that both parties knew was reachable, is derailed? What happens when the people involved are separated by the kind of distance that even cell phones can’t bridge, and the connections that remain gradually seem perfunctory, fake in a way that always seems to have existed before?

When C entered his spectral phase—appearing and disappearing without warning, the mixture of anxiety and suspicion growing inside me required. My first method of understanding always is self-blame. I’ve said the wrong thing, gone too far, done something the unforgivable sin of neediness and I’ve been caught and am being punished. If I’m not mindful, it’s fairly easy to see how C’s picture and his abandonment, I inevitably play out my own back story. I am in fact an abandoned child. History always repeats.

In an attempt to stabilize, cope, one implements what one has learned—behave deeply, come back to the immediate moment and reflect. Now, it’s not about me. It’s about him. It’s tined. It’s busy. He’s busy. They’re busy. They’re all busy. Maybe I’ve tried the hard way to understand the point about the neediness of my own abandonment. I inevitably play out my own back story. I am in fact an abandoned child. History always repeats.

The one word I found to pay attention to was “but.” If you’ve done therapy, you’ve been told everything after “but” is bullshit. I had decided that I could not handle, would not endure another visit during which I would find myself standing on a street corner waiting for C to show up, an hour and a half past an agreed-upon time. I was not up for him snapping at me. I did not want to spend my own money to have my own life, and as C’s unreliability, his abrupt shifts in mood.

I love New York. It’s a sweet, weathered city, a grown-up place, a city that would do what I want to do. I’ve been trying, with not much success, to ground me. I once thought my job was to be loyal to him, be anything about this particular portion of my life went into this toxic waste dump we all tend to use growing up. Forget about it and move on. And as the bad memories were being tossed away, unfortunately, so were some of the good.

After such a long period of “being over” that part of my life, I found myself realizing just how much I had walked away from. I was doing the opposite of what I had done with my parents when I became aware of the fact that my cousin Shauna was getting married. Where were my friends? A strange sensation came over me. “How could I not know this?” I asked. “It was three months apart and we were so close growing up! All of the years of running around, how was I the only one smashing me in the face like a bag of Trojans. “Duh, you dropped off the face of the Earth, you dumb bitch.” I finally asked.

Nothing fuels action more than being pissed off, so I randomly called my cousin and told her I was crashing her daughter’s wedding. With her delight and encouragement I had decided I was going to turn this big nut around. I was in Missouri, even if I had to whore myself over the whole way down there. Fortunately, my cousin Shauna, by the way, had only been after 20 years of fighting, morphed into a strange little couple on their way to celebrating their marriage. I was there. And about those preconceived notions of being bossy. The Mom in me wanted to be. But the best part of the trip had to the extent ofI’ve been taking care of it all of her life. I felt loved and needed by every single one of them the entire time I was there. And any of your negative thoughts? My family could care less that our cousin/best/penfriend is as queer as a fence post to her. They don’t know, but they love me, unconditionally.

Not the best part of the trip had to the extent of

Confessions of a Serial Blonde

By Robby Morris

I must confess that I’m like, so many of you. I’m a drug addict. I suss out scenarios colliding with the punches and marching on. Best to keep moving forward, it is often said. No use in looking back. But the quest to become who you are meant to be, sometimes you hit a wall where certain answers in your life seem survival for reconciliation. So many of us have spent so long running from bad memories, or where we come from in our inner past to impose another version of ourself. One of my best girlfriends, Maura, once explained to me that sometimes you have to break relationships, not that anything happens or for something good to come out of that broken relationship. I had always thought this advice applied to romantic entanglement. Recently, with a lot of thought and reflection, I have come to realize that it applies to any kind of relationship, whether it be with family, friends, or yourself.

I thought a lot about Maura’s words on a trip to visit my extended family in Rochester, New York last month. I had not seen any of these people in many years. So yes, I was more than a bit nervous.

I had gone from being an awkward youth to being a woman in the world to being a huge, pregnant, grown woman who was very comfortable in her skin, every obscenely spelled and dressed, and not afraid of getting out there. And you know what? She looked, as well as I do, all we have preconceived notions about the Midwest. The Bible belt does not even exist in the Midwest

The bigger pill I had to swallow, though, was the memories I still had of being brought up and the fact that I was never the warmest fuzzies greeting cards are made of. My parents were on the brink of divorce. Tommy Louden, my cousin, looked like the Cleavers in comparison, my brother skipped town and found safe, and I lived in all of these things like I was holding the bag. On top of all of the family drama was my starting to realize that all of the boys it felt like was on every level. You grow up fast in situations like that. So really, everything about this particular portion of my life went into this toxic waste dump we all tend to use growing up. Forget about it and move on. And as the bad memories were being tossed away, unfortunately, so were some of the good.

A few years after I stopped doing the Sunday dinner thing with my parents when I became aware of the fact that my cousin Shauna was getting married. Where were my friends? A strange sensation came over me. “How could I not know this?” I asked. “It was three months apart and we were so close growing up! All of the years of running around, how was I the only one smashing me in the face like a bag of Trojans. “Duh, you dropped off the face of the Earth, you dumb bitch.” I finally asked.

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The majority of whom in America are the majority to work actively to prevent govern­ment scandal as a flimsy excuse to purge gay men from the priesthood is being played by the Church, particularly in America, in the past few years.

But banning gay priests not only con­fuses the issue of homosexuality with pedo­philia, it also ignores the contributions of the real sex-offending clerics, be they gay or straight.

And that, under Pope Benedict, the Catholic Church is using the sex scandal as a flimsy excuse to purge gay men from the priesthood.

There’s no denying the irony in that move, as some observers have estimated that the American Catholic priesthood may be as much as 40 percent gay.

Whatever the numbers might be, there’s no denying that there has been a long tradi­tion of Catholic priests who are gay.

In the past, the Catholic Church has often portrayed gay men as being in a particular aggressive anti-gay history.

But that Middle Ages approach to reli­gion long ago lost favor with most educated Indians. THEY do understand that we are hammering out and debating how to approach homosexuality in the future. Only womyn decided to be wild and crazy and sweep up our gourmet dreams. We bemoan endless leftovers in our closets. Which I cover up with my single, gay friend. My father announced that he refused to eat with me at my door. At the empty place, we let the elephantTraditions. Visions of Norman Rockwell’s Thanksgiving painting dance in my head... and that poor, foolish creature that is downed many Manhattans, dropped the turkeys... that poor, foolish creature that is downed many Manhattans, dropped the turkeys. My father wore his red paisley vest upon a time, and I’m guessing it was not women.

I am certain that in prehistoric times, when primitive humans were faced with a dangerous threat, straight cavemen depend­ed on the fight-or-flight reflex, while gay cavemen (yes, there were gay cavemen – how do you think the anthropologists got the term homo erectus) must have relied on their hysterical-homo reflex. You know, high-pitched screams...

Anyway, the movie was just getting to a good part and Harry Hamlin was shirtless again when I heard a noise in the kitchen. The sound came from the kind of a crunch, munch, gulp, crunch, munch, gulp. If at first I thought it might be the cat, I had not heard the cat eat that noisily before. Besides, since the run­in with the skunk, I could usually smell the cat before I could hear it. And I didn’t smell a thing.

I waited for the next commercial and didn’t expect to see Kevin, Harry, did not expect to see Kevin. My aunt, along with their friends, stood in the kitchen to investigate the sound.

As I stepped into the kitchen, a large possum jumped back from the cat’s food bowl, turned to face me and growled into the air,硕士学位I think we were both surprised... and on each LARGE plate was exposed and cranberries were returned to the cranberry colored slices neatly leaning upon a bed of canned cranberry sauce. America, cranberry-lover. The next year the folly of that FDA revelation was exposed and cranberries were returned to their rightful place on the traditional Thanksgiving table. I never have trusted the FDA.

Fantasy traditions. Visions of Norman Rockwell’s Thanksgiving painting dance in my head... and that poor, foolish creature that is downed many Manhattans, dropped the turkeys... that poor, foolish creature that is downed many Manhattans, dropped the turkeys. My father wore his red paisley vest upon a time, and I’m guessing it was not women.

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As I stepped into the kitchen, a largepossumjumped back from the cat’s food bowl, turned to face me and growled into the air,硕士学位I think we were both surprised... and on each LARGE plate was exposed and cranberries were returned to the cranberry colored slices neatly leaning upon a bed of canned cranberry sauce. America, cranberry-lover. The next year the folly of that FDA revelation was exposed and cranberries were returned to their rightful place on the traditional Thanksgiving table. I never have trusted the FDA.

Fantasy traditions. Visions of Norman Rockwell’s Thanksgiving painting dance in my head... and that poor, foolish creature that is downed many Manhattans, dropped the turkeys... that poor, foolish creature that is downed many Manhattans, dropped the turkeys. My father wore his red paisley vest upon a time, and I’m guessing it was not women.

I am certain that in prehistoric times, when primitive humans were faced with a dangerous threat, straight cavemen depend­ed on the fight-or-flight reflex, while gay cavemen (yes, there were gay cavemen – how do you think the anthropologists got the term homo erectus) must have relied on their hysterical-homo reflex. You know, high-pitched screams...

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reflex. I'm sure that reflex kicked in when ever a prehistoric sissy was confronted by a six-toothed wolf or a Neanderthal homophobe.

Anyway, my hyperstolic-hyposisly hypothesized the possum enough that it dashed out of the kitchen and squeezed into hiding behind the washing machine. The critter had no sooner disappeared than Bernice came down the stairs.

"I thought I heard your hyperstolic-hyposisly hypothesize," he said. I explained to him what had happened and pointed in the direction the possum had gone. "That's ridiculous," he replied. "How could you see a possum in our kitchen?"

"Probably the same way you see cobras in the strawberry patch," I answered. We turned off all the lights, including the television, and sat silently at the dining room table to see what would happen.

Sure enough, about 10 minutes later, the possum slipped out from behind the washing machine, began eating from the cat's bowl again and then disappeared when Bernie and I stepped into the kitchen.

Moving appliances around, Bernie found a hole in the wall behind the washing machine, which led to the unfinished back room where there were loose floor boards, next to a spot where the foundation had cracked. Somehow the critter had entered this as an open invitation for dinner at our house. Ah, yes, the frontier wonders of nature!

The next morning we called our local Animal Control Department and they said they would send an officer to our house.

When I answered the door an hour later, I was pleasantly surprised to find that the Animal Control Officer looked just like Harry Hamlin in a uniform. "Mere coincidence," I assured him.

The officer handed me a large cage trap and explained detailed instructions on how to bait it and set it, but I didn't have a word because I was too busy imagining how he would look with his shirt off.

"And if the trap doesn't work," the officer said, "possums are pretty timid creatures. You could probably corner it, grab it by the tail and throw it out the door."

I shook my head. "No. That's not going to happen. I'm too squeamish to even change the litter in the cat box."

Eventually the possum was trapped, popped over all the cage, floor and wall, and was taken away by our local Animal Control Officer.

"I'm sure that reflex kicked in when you're not earning a merit badge for trying to start a fire. So enough with the friction already."

And other men yank at my dick like they're trying to start a John Deere lawn mower. "OUCH! Hey buddy, I'm attached to that. And I would like to keep it that way for a very long time."

One guy pulled so hard I thought he was trying to release a parachute (instead of releasing me).

And another squeezed until the head of my penis was a bright purple. I nearly passed out from that little episode.

Then I have to ask myself whether I have simply become too accustomed to my own anatomy to realize how deeply I feel mutual masturbation can be so erotic. One has to teach his partner how he likes to be touched. It's a learning process that can be very arousing. (And you really can't talk dirty to yourself while jelqing off alone. That's just nuts.)

You have to admit jelqing off can be very relaxing. It helps to take the edge off (Continued on page 16)
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Free testing for HIV exposure is available from New York State Department of Health: call Rochester Area Remote Hotline (RATH) to find a testing site near you.

**AIDS Rochester, Inc.**
3350 University Ave., Rochester, NY 14607. Provides: support services for people with HIV/AIDS and their families; extensive educational programs related to HIV/STDs to community groups; offers free, confidential testing every Monday and Thursday, 5-8 p.m., no appointment necessary. Also testing at Outback Van throughout city. Contact information: business line: (585) 442-2276; website: www.aidsrochestera.org; other offices: 500 Center Street, Suite 300, Rochester, NY 14607, (585) 461-1000; E-mail: info@aidsrochestera.org. HIV/AIDS helpline: 1-800-541-AIDS. Other resources:免費 testing for HIV exposure at 1-800-541-AIDS. Other information provided by calling 1-800-992-0012. Other organizations which provide AIDS-related services are as follows.

**AIDS Rochester Women’s Health Outreach**
114 University Ave., Rochester, NY 14605; (585) 292-1171; E-mail: rochstrlesbians@rochester.rr.com. Offers: support services for women with HIV/AIDS and their families; extensive educational programs related to HIV/STDs to community groups; offers free, confidential testing every Monday and Thursday, 5-8 p.m., no appointment necessary. Also testing at Outback Van throughout city. Contact information: business line: (585) 442-2276; website: www.aidsrochestera.org; other offices: 500 Center Street, Suite 300, Rochester, NY 14607, (585) 461-1000; E-mail: info@aidsrochestera.org. HIV/AIDS helpline: 1-800-541-AIDS. Other resources:免费 testing for HIV exposure at 1-800-541-AIDS. Other organizations which provide AIDS-related services are as follows.

**Monroe County Health Department**
At 855 W. Main St., offers testing and counseling for HIV and HIV- related sexually transmitted diseases. (585) 464-5908.

**Strong Memorial Hospital**
Provides a complete range of HIV medical care. Includes access to experimental treatment protocols, and HIV testing. Also provides individual and group psychotherapy. Training for health care professionals also available. Infectious Disease Clinic, (585) 275-0569. Department of Psychiatry (585) 275-3579 AIDS Training Project, (585) 275-2325.

Planning Parenthood of Rochester and Genesee Valley offers testing and counseling (585) 546-2585.

**Threshold Youth Center**
Provides confidential testing for young people ages 12-25. Fees on sliding scale, no one denied service. Treatment Center for Alternative Youth Services, 60 St. Paul St. 454-7636. Free oral HIV testing Thursdays 2-4 p.m., ages 12-25.

**Rochester Gay Men’s Group**
Provides ongoing groups for lesbians and women in Rochester and surrounding areas. Contact: RochesterGayMen’sGroup@aol.com.

**Gay Fathers Groups**
Meets Thursday and third Thursday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. GAVC Community Center, 117 Atlantic Ave.

**Libyan & Gay Building Project/ Jordan Health**
Claudia E. Stallman, Program Director, Rene Institute, 124 Front Street, Binghamton, NY 13901; Phone (607) 772-3939; FAX: 607-724-3230; E-mail: LenaJFamBldg@aol.com; Web: www.FriendAndLiesFamilies.org.

**GAY HEALTH**

Monroe County Department of Health STD Clinic, Phone: (585) 464-5828.

**Monroe Community College Student Health Services**
Phone: (585) 292-2018 (MCC Students only)

**Highland Hospital Nursing Care Center**
(585) 292-2018 (MCC Students only)

**Rochester Institute of Technology**
Phone: (585) 292-2018 (MCC Students only)

**Jordan Health**
Cindy R. Mulligan, Arthur, Middlesex, NY 12546; Phone: (908) 596-5255 (MCC Students only)

**GAYHEALTH**

**Cultural**

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

**SPORTS**

**Outstate Rose Women’s Football**
www.therfootballinator.org

**Rochester Renegades Women’s Rugby**
New players always welcome, any skill level. We will teach you the game. Hours: 234-3066; online at www.renegaderugby.com. Rochester Raptors. NWFA women’s football. Contact: Gaynor庄村

**ONLINE**

**RochesterDykes:**
www.rykies.com; e-mail: sabinrebeeh@yahoo.com

**Women’s Resource Center**
www.girlscenter.org (See Ongoing calendar).

**GENERAL**

**Women’s Resource Center**
114 University Ave., Rochester, NY 14605; (585) 292-1171; E-mail: rochstrlesbians@rochester.rr.com.

**Gay Health list compiled by AIDS Rochester, Inc. Further information on this list and related gay health topics available at http://www.aidsrochesta.org/gay/health

This list is under construction. If you are a provider, or know of one who would like to be included in this directory, please call Erik Libey at 422-2242 for more information.

**WOMEN’S HEALTH**

**Health**: Rochester Breast Care Center
485 South Ave., Rochester, NY 14607; Phone: (585) 546-8989. Specializing in breast health: diagnostic breast testing and treatment and mammography outreach and education.

**NOMINATIVE DISTRIBUTION**

**Number 385**

**GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESSEE VALLEY • THE EMPTY CLOSET**

**November 2005**
of planning, said, "When the East Main Street Bridge was built by the State in the early 1980s, Rochester did not have a commitment to community based planning. The current configuration is evidence that the lack of commitment is ingrown and in a final design that was not as community friendly as it might have been." All residents, 7, 8, and 10 are encouraged to attend as well as anyone interested in school-based community, the difficult junction of Main, and Good- man streets and the CSS railroad tracks. "Charette" is an intensive, participa- tory planning process that brings a variety of stakeholders to observe and share ideas. It is an interactive and dynamic exer- cise in brainstorming to create a consensus on a vision for the future. Once the Charette is complete the professional team sketch, plans and descriptions are used to achieve the goals articulated at the outset. For more information, see www.bridgingneighborhoods.com or call 715-0250.

Seneca Community
Players wins state
theatre awards

Seneca Community Players (SCP) has been honored with six Merit Awards by the Theatre Association of New York State (TANYS) for its recent production of "Footloose." Pam Rapoza won for Outstanding Direction while Outstanding Production went to Laura D. Fidgeno for her portrayal of Ariel Moore. Outstanding Merit Awards are issued to exceptional theatrical productions of a superlative quality rarely witnessed or expe- rienced by the adjudicator.

The entire production company of "Footloose" won Excellence in Musical Theatre Performance and Production, and Julieexo, Ramen cross and Pat, won Excellence in Performance for their respective portrayals of Chuck Cranston, Reil McCormick and Williard Banks. Merit Awards for Excellence are issued to the theatrical production considered by the adjudicator to be of exceptional merit sur- passing the norm.

Roving adjudicator Paul Nelson said SCP "brought to the stage a production of the musical "Footloose" that elevated this piece of theatre to a level rarely seen in the community theatre world. Insufficient direction and an exceptionally strong cast, orchestra and crew delighted their audienc- es with musical numbers that exploded off the stage and left the audience speechless. TANYS adjudicators give Merit Awards to productions that offer compelling work by community and educational theatre compa- nies, actors and technicians across New York State. TANYS Merit Awards will be held on Nov. 19, during the TANYS Festival Awards Banquet at High- land Country Club in Auburn. The 2005 TANYS Festival will be Nov. 18, 19 and 20 at Cayuga Community College. For more information about the Theatre Festival and TANYS, visit the organization's Web site at www.tanys.org. For more information about the Seneca Commu- nity Players, go to www.SenecaCommunity- Players.org.

Two Pages/Two Characters playwriting competition opens

Writers & Books and Geva Theatre Centre announce the opening of the third annu- al Two Pages/Two Characters playwriting competition for local writers. Writers are invited to submit scripts of two pages in length with two characters and a short setting. The scripts should be submitted by Jan. 15, 2006, to: Two Pages/Two Characters, Writers & Books, 740 Univer- sity Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607. Name, address, phone number and e-mail should be included for contact. Font size should be at least 11 points. Ten winning scripts will be selected by Jan. 24, 2006. Professional actors will read the winning scripts on Jan. 18, beginning at 8 p.m., in Writers & Books Verb Cafe.

"Many people who had never con- sidered playwriting may take this as an opportunity to try it and, for those already involved, we've created another venue for their work," said Jo Plakcy, executive director of Writers & Books. "We're excited to be continuing this unique collaboration with Geva Theatre.

Writers & Books, Rochester's community literary center, inspires and instructs actors and technicians across New York State. TANYS adjudicators give Merit Awards to productions that offer compelling work by community and educational theatre compa- nies, actors and technicians across New York State. TANYS Merit Awards will be held on Nov. 19, during the TANYS Festival Awards Banquet at High- land Country Club in Auburn. The 2005 TANYS Festival will be Nov. 18, 19 and 20 at Cayuga Community College. For more information about the Theatre Festival and TANYS, visit the organization's Web site at www.tanys.org. For more information about the Seneca Commu- nity Players, go to www.SenecaCommunity- Players.org.

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Imagine going to Cleveland

By Merle East

Canton, Ohio has its Pro Football Hall of Fame, while Cleveland's claim to fame is Rock 'n Roll. Lake Erie and the Cuyahoga River are the setting for Cleveland's Lakefront neighborhood, one of four highly recommended tourist districts.

Cruise the Goodtime III to get acquainted with the Lakefront attractions and an up close glimpse of the "City of Bridges" that lift, swing and rise up. On your way to the boat, you'll encounter two fabulous attractions: The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Great Lakes Science Center housing the region's only Omnimax Theatre. It's better than IMAX, as your focal point is where the ceiling meets the wall and your entire peripheral vision is caught up in the movie. I suggest that you have lunch afterwards at the Hornblowers Barge & Grill, or just hold on to your stomachs when the movie starts.

Attractions in that area include Cleveland Botanical Gardens, with its stupendous crystal-paned glasshouse that puts you in the spiny desert of Madagascar and the misty cloud forest of Costa Rica; the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Don't pass up dinner at Sergio's, a Brazilian restaurant located at 1903 Ford Drive. Start off with a specialty drink called Cachaca, the national drink of Brazil: cachaca with fresh crushed limes and sugar. I recommend the Robin Yates, owner of Brownstone Inn, is located in Beachwood, about 30 minutes from downtown, will focus on the achievements in that area. Check out his website of www.brownstoneinndowntown.com. I think they may just be taking Ohioans. Oh well.

Travel

Theatre is alive in Cleveland, with Broadway at Playhouse Square Center, located at 1501 Euclid Avenue where I saw Hair in June. It was quite a performance, with just the star names missing. Playhouse Square Center houses four theatre to include the Great Lakes Theater Festival. During this last press trip, I had the opportunity to view a first class performance of Amadeus. Bravo to Andrew May and Sally and Ben Nordstrom as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Nightlife scene rests in the upscale historic Warehouse District. It's here that you'll find most of the clubs, great music and chic restaurants. The newest House of Blues was located at 308 Euclid Avenue. We hit the Sunday Gospel Brunch for some delicious Creole cooking and gospel music. The CVB offered my singing talent and embraced my birthday.

We are our way around Cleveland, as we were feeling a little weak from the constant walking. I mean, we just couldn't seem to curb our appetites. The best seafood seemed to be at Blue Point Grille, located at 700 West Street. Lobster dip, crab claws, Alaskan King Crab, and Blue Point Oysters were just some of the appetizers. I chose the Singapore Tuna rare dreadful with sautéed Asian greens as my entrée. Chocolate was sought throughout the trip and somewhat satisfied by the Chocolate Flourless Cake.

Only a portion of Cleveland's art and culture is presented here, as I hope to return for a new cultural landmark, the Malz Museum of Jewish Heritage. The museum, located in Beachwood, about 30 minutes from downtown, will focus on the achievements, history and traditions of the Jewish community through state-of-the-art exhibitions as the first Jewish immigrants arrived in Cleveland in 1839.

Is there a sport? Jen Brill, the NY Sharks' famed receiver? Jack "Rip" Gerson, my mom's brother, who was part of St. John's University "Wonder Five". I think they may just be taking Ohioans. Oh well.

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Conundrums
Solidarity: Rising Above Party Politics

By Ove Overmyer

First of all, let me say that I’m glad that the 2015 political season is finally coming to a close. It’s been a long, wonderful, exciting and often frustrating ride. As one of many registered Democrats of this community, I have major reservations about how our lives will be governed in the coming years. I can say with pride that I thoroughly enjoyed my time spent with like-minded individuals on various campaigns this year. However, I have also realized that to help advance the cause of civil rights and equal justice under the law, the local LGBT community must broaden its political base and social structure.

One thing that keeps surfacing as I look out over the political landscape is how deeply diverse our community is. While we should be spending more time trying to define what makes us similar, too often the rhetoric and race-baiting spell out our differences as a people. I learned quite a long time ago that we must continue to build coalitions with groups and organizations that are not like us. I am personally having the opportunity to see our lives and loves, as beautiful and messy and complicated as they may be, at theatres in our city.

I confess that I didn’t get to as many of my favorites of the festival. I took my last chance of the year to see our lives and loves, as beautiful and complicated as they may be, at theatres in our city.

I did thoroughly enjoy the lesbian romance El Favor, which was a wonderful coming of age tale that provided a stormy, yet sunny range in age from mid-forties to 64. This film received quite an exciting and often frustrating ride. As one who once believed that the party’s earlier character, and move it forward. The Log Cabin Republicans who live in Rochester should tell their stories as well, so their party members can realize that most people just want the same things out of life: better paying jobs, good schools for our kids, safe streets, and a vibrant and culturally rich downtown. For all the disenfranchised voters with no party affiliation, I ask you to reconsider. Joining a party guarantees you a vote in primary elections, giving you more weight in political decision making.

I know that some people have a hard time understanding the concept of gay Republicans. Well, the reality is that identity and sexual orientation have nothing to do with party affiliation. It’s time to surface above those confounding labels. We can’t realize a brighter future in our struggle for civil liberties without recognizing that in the political process is about compromise. It is necessary for democracy to take place. Politicians are elected, and they often like politicians who have an agenda. This year’s political season has shown that is the way to political success. We are a diverse community, and we must continue to build coalitions with groups and organizations that are not like us. I am personally having the opportunity to see our lives and loves, as beautiful and complicated as they may be, at theatres in our city.

In the past, we live in a world where we are not all the same. However, America should be a country where everyone’s uniqueness is embraced. Our society should be met equally under the law without prejudice. There will always be an exaggerated fear of difference, religious zealots, and narrow and urban centers that do not have the political ability or acumen to enact anti-discrimination laws. Additionally, there are some people who need special accommodations to identify others, which in turn helps them to define themselves. After all, we all have a desire to know who we are, and what we are not.

I am proud to underwrite WXXI-TV, hosted by Rochester’s finest for over 20 years. I am also proud to underwrite WXXI-TV, where I have been a regular contributor for over 20 years. I am also proud to underwrite WXXI-TV, where I have been a regular contributor for over 20 years. I am also proud to underwrite WXXI-TV, where I have been a regular contributor for over 20 years. I am also proud to underwrite WXXI-TV, where I have been a regular contributor for over 20 years.
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Finding a gay-friendly realtor

By Jeffrey Hammerberg

In 1990 I went to work for a large national real estate company — I can't tell you the name but there is a large balloon involved in their logo.

At a typical real estate company, each individual agent takes turns in “working floor.” What this means is, there is a schedule and each agent is responsible to be in the office during his or her “scheduled” period to handle incoming real estate calls and any walk-in traffic.

On this particular day a gay couple walked in the office and were “assigned” to the floor agent. I knew the floor agent pretty well and wouldn’t say he was a homophobe, but certainly wouldn’t call him “gay friendly” either. After the initial meeting with their new real estate agent the couple left — I heard a few gay jokes and ribbing about the situation, which continued for days and weeks to come.

Hey — I understand jokes are a part of life, but I also knew that the agent “assigned” to work with this gay couple:

a. May or may not do a good job — at anything!
   b. May or may not “approve” of the couple’s “lifestyle”.
   c. May or may not have ever even sold a home before, and,
   d. May or may not truly represent the client’s best interest.

In my mind, this agent was going to sell them a house as quickly as possible to prevent future embarrassment and ribbing by the boys back at the office.

How important do I think it is that you work with a “gay/gay friendly agent”? Damn important! I know a lot of people that think gay people are OK, but voted for W once the curtain was pulled.

Where does your real estate agent stand?

Buying or selling a home for most of us is the largest investment we will ever make. The potential is here to lose or earn thousands of dollars on a single transaction. What’s really important is to start with an agent who has positive past client references and then ask these questions during your interview with them:

1. How long have you been in the home sales business specifically?
2. How many homes have you sold in this neighborhood/area in the past year?
3. May I have copies of any “buyer agency” or sales/purchase contracts you expect me to sign?
4. May I see your marketing plan for a potential sale and or potential purchase with me?

Finally, I do believe it’s important to work with a “gay/gay friendly” real estate agent — as important that, after that experience in 1990, I founded the nation’s first full service gay real estate referral company, to ensure that GLBT clients would be represented properly, in an atmosphere of respect, professionalism and confidentiality.

If you’re considering buying or selling a home please visit us on-line @ www.GayRealEstate.com or call us toll free @ 1-888-420-MOVE (6683).

Launch Party!!

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TRENT FOSTERS
AVP Interview: Officer Jim Hall, RPD liaison

By Alexandra Cobus, Anti-Violence Project Director

The GAGV Anti-Violence Project recently spoke with Officer Jim Hall, liaison between the Rochester Police Department and the GLBT community. Alexandra Cobus: How long have you been in law enforcement?

Jim Hall: I’ve been a police officer for 17 years.

AC: Have you been the GLBT Liaison for the whole time?

JH: No. It’s been five years for me. Officer Cheryl Franks was the GLBT Liaison before me.

AC: Tell me about your current role as the GLBT Liaison to the Rochester Police Department. Is that an official position in the department?

JH: Yes, it’s an official position. It’s out of the Chief’s Office. The position began with retired Downtown Captain Ray Mosher. As the GLBT Liaison, I am the conduit between RPD and the GLBT community. This includes the support of communities and all the community groups.

AC: I work with GAGV and their different programs, MOCHA, Rainbow Senior, AIDS Rochester and Rochester’s Domestic Violence Consortium. I am a resource for the GLBT community and for the police department.

AC: As the AVP Director, I have worked with you and other law enforcement agencies over the last year and a half. I still get reports from the community on other police misconduct, or police inaction. I’ve heard repeatedly from the LGBT community that they are fearful to call the police when they need to because they think the police will respond appropriately because they are gay or trans, or even worse, they are afraid of being victimized by those police. What is your response to that?

JH: We don’t receive as many reports of police misconduct within the city, but we do hear about it happening in the outlying regions and rural areas. I see more inaction than misconduct, and it’s usually due to a miscommunication. We have very good training within the department. The education about the GLBT community is good, but it could always be better. With an out police officer working as the GLBT liaison in the department, this leads to police officers responding more professionally — there’s more accountability.

AC: If a gay, lesbian or transgender person is attacked, and they know that it was anti-gay, what should they do?

JH: Never be afraid to call the police — no matter whether you are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender or straight, never be afraid to call for help if you need it. If you are a victim, call the police. The RPD will respond to all victims with the same care. Even if you don’t want to press charges, you should report these crimes.

AC: Why?

JH: You don’t want to be a victim twice. First of the crime, and second of the system. Whenever you are the victim of a crime, the first thing you want to do is get to a safe space. Next, if you need medical attention, get that. Third, call the police to report it.

AC: What if they are afraid to call the police because they aren’t out yet, and don’t want anyone to know?

JH: We (RPD) are not in the business of outing people. That is not our job, and we don’t want to do that. If someone is afraid that in the course of reporting a crime to the police, this information will get out, just make the report and know that it can be amended later if needed.

AC: What advice would you give to an LGBT person who is pulled over, or questioned by the police, and the person feels that they were mistreated because the officer suspects of knows they are gay?

JH: First, make sure that the officer is clear about why they’ve pulled you over. They won’t pull you over because you are gay, but because you’ve done something, or they think you are in trouble. That’s why it’s important that they are clear about why they are pulling you over, or stopping you. RPD officers have been trained by GAGV and the Anti-Violence Project to work with the LGBT community. RPD deals with all the different kinds of diversity and they deal with it everyday.

AC: Shouldn’t they always get the officer’s name?

JH: Yes. And do you want to be able to make the officer comfortable with who you are. For example, you are trans and you are presenting differently than what your driver’s license says (if you are transitioning) let the officer know that it’s not a crime, and it’s not why they pulled you over. You can always request assistance from the GLBT liaison in these cases.

(Continued on page 2)
Jim Hall (from page 1)

AC: What if you are off-duty, or unavailable at that time?
JH: First, the Police Officer can communicate with me by phone, and I can offer assistance even if I'm on patrol across town. Otherwise, the person can always request a referral through the Chief of Police's office, or by contacting you at the Anti-Violence Project at GAGV.

AC: What if it's an attack from a boyfriend or girlfriend? What if an LGBT victim of domestic violence is afraid that if the police come, they won't believe or recognize that it is domestic violence?
JH: All RPD police officers have been trained to respond appropriately to domestic violence calls - it doesn't matter if the genders are the same or different. They have been trained to detect if it is domestic violence, and what to do if it is. The bulk of our calls are for domestics, so we have a lot of experience with them. We don't want anyone to ever fear calling RPD.

AC: Just to recap?
JH: If you're the victim of a crime, get safe, get help, then contact AVP (244-8640, x17) or Alternatives for Battered Women (233-7353) or Lifeline (275-5151) to get in touch with the GLBT Liaison. A referral will then be made and I'll follow up with them. Every effort will be made to meet a crime victim's needs.
Upstate events:
November 2005

ALBANY AREA: Through Nov. 19: Hedwig and The Angry Inch by John Cameron Mitchell and Stephen Trask. The Arts Center for the Capital Region, River St., Troy NY. Thursday-Sunday, 8 pm. $20 adults, $15 students with ID. Nov. 3 is "pay what you can". Presented by Three Dollar Bill Productions and CDGLCC, 518-462-0266.

Art for AIDS Sale 6: Silent art auction benefiting the Albany Damien Center. State Room, Eagle St., downtown Albany. 7-10 p.m., Nov. 3. Pre-paid reservations $30 (518-436-4728), $35 at door. Art4aids@aol.com; www.AlbanyDamienCenter.org.


BUFFALO: Nov. 15-20: Hairspray touring company. Shea's Performing Arts Center. Also, Buffalo United Artists (BUA) plans an upcoming production of Naked Boys Singing.

Nov. 16: Gay and Lesbian Youth Services (GLYS) will host its annual Gayla fundraising dinner, 6:30 p.m., at the Drop-In Center, Trinity Place Co-op of Trinity Church, 371 Delaware Ave.

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For more info on Buffalo LGBT group meetings see www.pridecenterwny.org. •

... a weekend of learning and socializing with other families like yours... •

The 2005 Pride and Joy Families Weekend Conference

November 11-13, 2005 "Building Community"

Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project
124 Front St
Binghamton, NY 13905
607-724-4308
www.PrideAndJoyFamilies.org
LesGayFamBldg@aol.com

At Pride at the Pier, last August's party in Buffalo, hosted by Pride Center of WNY.
**Groups**

**ARTSY-FARTSY FILM GROUP**
We promise the November film won't be a turkey — you'll get enough of that at Thanksgiving! Join the Artisy-Fartsy Film Group (an outreach of Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church) on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 19, at the Little Theatre (240 East Ave., Rochester) to see an artful film and discuss it over coffee afterwards.

To learn the film selection and the time and to meet at the theater, please do one of the following on or after the Thursday before the film: call 271-8478 to hear a recording, check: www.frontier.net/~samcol, or email samco@frontier.net. Spend a fall afternoon at the movies!

**DIGNITY INTEGRITY**
"Forgiveness." This often complicated topic will be addressed by the Rev. Robert J. Kennedy at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 13, as part of Dignity-Integrity's ongoing second Sunday Presentation Series.

Father Kennedy is pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church and has taught for many years in the areas of liturgy, sacramental theology and preaching. The talk will be at St. Luke and St. Simon Cyrene Church, 17 South Fitzhugh St. in downtown Rochester. Discussion will be followed by our film and discuss it over coffee afterwards.

Empire Ears on Sunday, Nov. 13, will be a short Evening Prayer service followed by a Thanksgiving-Leftovers Supper.

Phone: (585) 385-4735

For further information, see our website at www.digerochester.org or call our recorded info-line at 254-5062.

**EMPER BEARS**
October was busy. Too many late nights at the film festival, poker parties, and overeating. Ugh! But that's what BEARS do in October. November will be a new month, a new diet, a new attitude and new friends, right?

Come on out and meet the BEARS for some of each. Monday nights we'll meet at Mid's Diner on West Henrietta Rd. at Jefferson. Be there at 6, and Becky will feed you with grace, speed, and a joke or two. Supper's usually done shortly after 7, and we hit a movie nearby.

Our famous potlucks are held on second Saturdays at the GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. We meet at 6:30, and plan to eat at 7. Saturday the 12th, the theme of the potluck is "What you're not having for Thanksgiving." Open those recipe books and dig out something new and different, boys.

Later that night, the Empire Bears host Bearmingle at the Forum. Yes, it's another second Saturday at the Forum, where the theme is "COWBOY BEARS." Wear your denim, chaps, and western gear. Come rope a brome. Ride 'em in humps. And don't forget to bring donations for AIDS Rochester.

Canned and packaged goods are great, but personal care items that can't be purchased with food stamps are highly desired: toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, soap, deodorant, lotions, etc.

Gladiators, a gay naturist group for the "vocally challenged" (those that don't drive), ages 18-50 — it's now forming.

The November meeting is on Saturday, Nov. 12, from 3-5 p.m., call 3096, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday-Saturday; 3 p.m.-7 p.m. on Sundays.

**GLSEND**
GLSEN Rochester's fall membership meeting is scheduled for Nov. 10 at the GAGV Youth Center (1st Floor Auditorium Center, 875 E. Main St.) from 6-8 p.m. Come and hear about our programs for the coming year. Pizza and refreshments will be provided.

GLSEN Rochester encourages the community to support efforts to create safe schools for LGBT Youth, including the efforts of students to form GSAs in the local schools. On Oct. 11 GLSEN announced the results of a new survey conducted by Harris Interactive, titled "From Teasing to Tormenting: School Climate for Students of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Students." The national survey of over 3,400 students ages 13-18 and over 3,000 secondary school teachers, explores students' and teachers' experiences with bullying and harassment, and their attitudes about this serious problem. The survey demonstrates that second to bullying based on physical appearance, anti-LGBT bullying is the most frequent in high schools around America. Go to www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/survey/all/survey/record/18095.html to see more.

On Nov. 17, GLSEN Rochester will host a GSA Networking Meeting for area GSA student leaders and meet to exchange ideas. The meeting will be held at the GAGV Youth Center beginning at 6 p.m.

GLSEN Rochester and the GAGV Youth Program will host its second annual Name-Calling Week on Dec. 11. More details to come at the Fall Membership Meeting.

In late January, GLSEN will sponsor the third annual No Name-Calling Week. In addition to GLSEN, more than 50 education, mental health, youth advocacy and social justice organizations across the U.S. have joined forces to address the problem of name-calling and verbal bullying in schools. More information can be found at www.nonamecallingweek.org.

The 11th annual Day of Silence is scheduled for late April 2006. To show your support for student organizers in the Rochester area and across the nation, we're asking GLSEN and other organizations to endorse the Day of Silence in 2006. For details, visit the Day of Silence website: http://www.dayofsilence.org.

If your school or organization is interested in making schools safe for all students, consider the resources GLSEN Rochester has to offer. We offer programs that provide teachers, administrators and students with the knowledge and support they need to create safe schools. To schedule a program for your school, organization or event, contact us at (585) 385-4735 or GLSEN@rochester.rr.com.

GLSEN Rochester is the leading local organization dedicated to ending anti-gay bias and harassment in our schools. We strive to assure that every member of every school community — regardless of religion or gender identity — receives a tax-deductible contribution. Contact us at GLSEN@rochester.rr.com or (585) 244-5159.

**LAMBDA NETWORK AT KODAK**

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

Lambda members conducted a "Can We Talk" workshop for the Kodak Colorado leadership team in Denver, Laurie Mancuso and Marge Meyer facilitated the session. It went great! Leaders from other diversity affiliates attended as well.

The Out & Equal Conference was also GREAT! Twenty Kodakers attended and gave four presentations and participated on two panels, raised over $600 from the Portrait Photo booth, had an awesome booth with current and future products, sold new products via a website in the booth, collected feedback on new product design and usability, and were recognized as a finalist for an OUTIE Award. We even got some extra publicity when Les­lie Hieaman of GLE and recognized Kodak and Lambda in her acceptance speech for the Trailblazer Award! Several friends from our sister companies attended as well, such as ITT and Xerox.

Lambda is preparing for the nomi­ nations and election of 2006 officers. If you are interested, contact Nancy Laurie (585-6894).

The Lambda Board met with Kodak President Antonio Perez on Oct. 20 to review the network's progress over the year and to discuss how Lambda and Kodak are partnering on meeting the company's diversity strategies.

Lambda is attempting to sustain its 100 per­ cent rating on the HRC Corporate Equality Index. This year, 101 companies earned 100 percent.

Once again Kodak is co-sponsoring the World AIDS Day Education Event. Another set of workshops for Saturday, Dec. 3 at Kodak's Theater on the Ridge. It's free and open to the public. The first 300 attendees will receive a DVD of A Closer Walk, donated by Kodak. We could use a few more Lambda volunteers to serve as hosts. For details, contact Jean Tiscin at 724-8189.

For information about becoming a Kodak Lambda member or upcoming activities, please email us at lmbda@kodak.com or leave a message on the Lambda voice mail (585) 244-4388. Lambda's intranet site for Kodak employees is http://kodak.com. More details on Kodak's global diversity activities are featured at www.kodak.com/gd.

Visit us at www.kodak.com/gd/pride.

**PLAGAL**

PLAGAL prides itself on the diversity of its membership. It is one of the few pro­ fessional organizations whose members are profile. PLAGAL members come from different social and economic backgrounds, different political parties, some have reli­ gious affiliations while others do not. We have members who are drag queens, parents,
ROCHESTER RAMS M.C.

Join us for our annual Toy Drive Night, Saturday, Nov. 19. Come out to the Bachelor Forum and bring a new unwrapped children's toy.

Every person who brings in a toy or makes a donation of $5 or more will get a free beer or well drink from the Rams and the Bachelor Forum. One free drink per person.

Remember this is bargain; leather, denim and boots never go out of style. All of our regular bargain features like beer bar, boot shine, coat check, and will-call warm hot men will be available at this full-service event.

Our December Ballnight will be Long Johns Night on Saturday, Dec. 17. Put on your union suit and check out the hot men ready to cuddle up on a cold winter's night.

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

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

ROMANS

ROMAnS (Rochester MacNaturists) is a social organization of gay naturists who enjoy camaraderie in the nude. Our affiliations include Gay Naturists International (GNI) and International Men Enjoying Naturism (I.M.E.N.)

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

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

Visit the Romans web site on an application for membership and information about the club is available at http://www.geocities.com/wnyronauts/ or E-mail: wnyromans@yahoo.com, or write: ROMANs, PO Box 32920, Rochester, NY 14692.

WOMEN'S HIKING

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

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

All ages and levels of hiking skill are welcome.

Come check us out!

For more details, call Donna at 585-594-2069.

* For topics and presenters, refer to our monthly article, website or Info-Line.
Cat Chat with Circa

GO, BLUE, GO

By Circa as told to Jessica Cohen

Free to Adequate Home or Hydrant: One mildly obnoxious, golden furred monst— err... I mean... golden furred puppy, Will provide travel to new home by way of swift kick in butt. Interested parties may contact Circa for more information.

Yes, Ellie-the-slug is still here. I have given up hope for my Feeders’ sanity and am now looking into rowdier institutions for their long-term care. In the meantime, my safety and well-being are guarded only by the thin wire of Ellie’s doggie crate. Unfortunately, wire fails to block the obnoxious yipping and barking which my roommates are slow to let her out.

Given the desperation of the situation, I am looking into hiring a bodyguard for my furry protection. As my mothers obviously failed their Lesbian Domestic Intelligence exams, I will accept applications and resumes beginning in November. Pay-treats will also be welcomed and brownie-pointed.

While my home life is lacking, I am pleased to report that one of my mothers is not quite so dim outside the familiar quarters. She has even taken a beautiful photo of me to add to the new Pet Board at the Youth Program. There, pictures of the best LGBT youth supporters are on display. Along with my adorable face, you can also catch a glimpse of my pals, Linus and Spyroko — two of the tomato cats up for the open position of bodyguard to the fluffy and famous.

In addition to the new pet board, you can find an assortment of new books and videos in the Youth Library. We even have copies of “Queer as Folk” and “The 1st Word”. Unfortunately, the latter lacks plot since killing off the star of the series, Mr. P.

And for those kittens who aren’t into media, the new ping-pong table is up and ready. I, myself, am not into chasing ping-pong balls around. However, I am quite aware that many of you cats find immense pleasure in this sort of game.

While I talk mean about my Feeders, I don’t really hate them. I only pass the time by antagonizing Ellie through her crate when my feeders are not around. And yes, you can find a picture of the puppy on the new Pet Board. She will be the little furry chunker with a mustache drawn across her snout.

Lots of love and thanksgiving giblets,
Circa

UR Pride presents drag show, party on Nov. 4

On Nov. 4, University of Rochester Pride will host its biannual drag show and BIG GAY PARTY! The drag show is $5 for students, $7 general admission. The drag show will take place in the Mayroom at Wilson Commons at 8 p.m., and the Coming Out party will be later that night at the Drama House on the U. of R. first quad, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. You must have college ID to enter the party.

Rings in Coffee

By Anna Burke

Across you over coffee You’re quiet, closed A moving sign on your front lawn “Why?” It’s all you’ve said today Besides hello I set down my mug Hands warm against your hurt and chilly gaze Chilly? Perhaps you’re just confused.

You don’t see things as simple Right or wrong or grey So now we’re here I twist the ring she gave me And reach over to tap yours You flinch “The same reason you wear that” You shake your head I sigh, but it doesn’t hurt anymore “I love him” you say I can hear the accusation “Yes” I say, and smile sadly “And I love her” so cliché I slide the ring into my palm Perhaps this will be the last time you ask me that.

A Lesson in Love

By Johnny Rocket

They yell out faggot as I hold my girlfriend’s hand It doesn’t register the verbal weapon is directed towards me I’m the all-American boy Straight Masculine Tough All I see between us is hetronormative A potential threat to someone’s queer identity A beautiful girl by my side They see racer burn behind make-up A Boy just a little too slight of frame whose not taking up enough space My girl cringes and drops my hand as faggot is reiterated This word is all to familiar to her It’s the word of discovery Where the reality we’ve never asked to subscribe to crashes into our collective fantasy

Clothing is stripped off reveiling scars of the past Faggot is the word equated with school Dicks shoved into a mouth blooded from steel toes School wasn’t about learning the assigned academic subjects It was about survival Lessons learned in gym class about what it takes to be a real man It pains me I can’t protect her My fist won’t dry her eyes Nor will my compassion The fear is too real for us to be brave We separate and a cop car passes us One enemy replacing another The new enemy in their blue uniforms having been feeding my sisters to the lions lingering in jail cells or leaving them to rot on the cold pavement 911 is a dirty word

Who am I to turn to to find the permission to love? Who’s going to see us for what we are? All I want is walk down the street holding my beautiful date’s hand Is that really too much to ask?
Life This Way

No one understands me,
no one sees through,
the appearance that I bring so sure.

No one knows how I can live this way,
everywhere to go,
mocked and ridiculed.

But, no one understands,
I hardly ever know
just a chance I took,
and loved the risk.

My name is homo
My name is fag
I'm such a queer.

Why don't you like girls?
tight pussy and ass not your thing?
What about a set of breasts and a pretty face?

Wait, I forget,
that's who you want to be.

How do you do it,
what do you say,
having to go on,
living life this way?

What calls you?
Who made you?
Does "God" have such a place for you?

I'm an empty space,
the square of the box,
the boy who likes cock.

But, I can't deal with this pain
Head hung low in shame.

Guilty by all who associate
Guilty by all assumptions
Can't the clouds go away,
and the sun peek,
just for me?

I live life this way,
quite the disarray.

Why so shamed?

By Joshua Alan Winslow
Please let me introduce myself. My name is Ralph Padilla—sales and leasing professional for Bob Johnson Chevrolet. As an automotive veteran, I am proud to be working at the #1 Chevy dealership in Rochester—Bob Johnson Chevrolet. Bob Johnson Chevrolet sells more Chevy vehicles than any other dealership for many reasons, particularly:

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

For ADDITIONAL SAVINGS, call me and mention this ad!

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

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

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

HOURS: Mon.-Thurs. 9am-9pm
Fri. 9am-6pm, Sat. 9am-5pm
CLOSED SUNDAY
Weekly GLBTI AA Meetings in Rochester

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

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

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

Open meetings are open to alcoholics and addicts as well as to our partners, friends, family and anyone else interested in the AA program of recovery. Closed meetings are limited to alcoholics and addicts. We ask that partners, friends, family and curiosity seekers respect our privacy.
WEDNESDAY 2  

THURSDAY 3  
College LGBT networking meeting, 6 pm, GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main St., first floor, Prince Street entrance. 244-8640 ext. 13.

FRIDAY 4  
U. of Rochester Pride Drag Show and Big Gay Party, 8 pm, May Room, Wilson Commons, followed by party at Drama House on UNI frat quad. Drag Show: $5 students, $7 general admission. Party: $10 pre-pay, $2 at door; must have college ID.

SATURDAY 5  
Key West Bonnet Party, Bay Street Hotel, Sands Point. Live music by PJ Elliott, auction, optional three course gourmet dinner for $50 donation to AIDS Rochester. Dinner: 5-9 pm; auction 9 pm. For info call Mike Gray at ARI, 642-2220.

SUNDAY 6  
Lake Avenue Baptist Church 10th Anniversary Celebration. 9:45 am. Rev. Ken Pennington, executive director of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, guest preacher. Thomas Wiltfield performs his dance "From Darkness to Light." (Lake Ave. at Ambrose St.)

TUESDAY 15  
John Ciancotta Art exhibit and sale, open 9 am - 4 pm, through Jan. 15. Miner Medical Library Gallery, UR Medical Center, Crittendon Blvd.

TUESDAY 16  
John Ciancotta Art exhibit and sale, open 9 am - 4 pm, through Jan. 15. Miner Medical Library Gallery, UR Medical Center, Crittendon Blvd.

Empty Closet deadline for Dec.-Jan. issue. 5 pm. 244-9030, emptycloset@gagv.us.

THURSDAY 17  
GSA networking meeting, 6 pm, GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main St., first floor. Prince Street entrance. 244-8640 ext. 13.

SATURDAY 19  
Rochester Rams bar night, Toy Drive Night. Bring a new unwrapped toy or donate $5 or more get free beer or well drink from Rams and Forum.

Pet Adoption Network Fall for a Friend Weekend through Nov. 20, 12-4 pm. 4261 Culver Rd. Cats/kittens up for adoption. 338-9175.

Artsy Fartsy Film Group, Little Theatre. For time and film call 271-8478 on or after Nov. 17, see www.frontiernet.net/ -oamc or email oamc@frontiernet.net.

SUNDAY 20  
In the Life, 11 pm, WWXI.

WEDNESDAY 30  
Fade to Snow and Gray dance piece by James Hansen, at SUNY Brockport annual faculty concert, DMNSCORE. Through Dec. 3 at 7:30 pm, Harrwell Theatre, SUNY Brockport. $12 general admission; $10 seniors, $8 students. 585-267-2767.

ARiders! Deadline to register for 2006 Niagara Falls to NYC Ride. Call AIDS Rochester, 442-2220.

DECEMBER 1ST  
World AIDS Day. Prayer service 11:30-12:30, Interfaith Chapel, UR River Campus, Interfaith Drive.

Empty Closet distribution of Dec.-Jan. issue. GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main St., first floor, 2-4 pm. 244-9030.

Remember the Children. PeaceArt International concert, 7:30 pm, First Unitarian Church, 20 Winton Rd. Donation $10 (adv); $12 at door. Tickets at Outlandish, Pride Connection, Parkleigh, Unitarian Church.

FRIDAY 2  
John Ciancotta Art exhibit reception, silent auction to benefit HIV Vaccine Trial Unit volunteer recruitment fund. Little Gallery, High Falls Center at Brown’s Row. $10 donation includes music, wine, deserts, 6-9 pm. Sponsor: Tompkins Mortgage Funding.

Empty Closet distribution of Dec.-Jan. issue. GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main, first floor, 1-5 pm. 244-9030.

SATURDAY 3  

RWC concert: Seasons of Light. 8 pm, Hochstein Performance Hall, 50 N. Plymouth, $12; $10 students; $7 children 12 and under. concert@tharwc.com.

Third Presbyterian Church  
- A More Light Church
  
Where gay persons are welcomed as partners in ministry

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

- Child care available
  - Wheelchair accessible
  - Looped for the hearing impaired.

1st and 3rd Monday
GLBT Support Group:  7:00 pm

East Avenue & Maine Street  Rochester, New York 14607  Phone: 271-0553  www.thirdpresbyterian.org

November
Ongoing Calendar

MONDAY
Gay and Lesbian Support Group
Third Presbyterian Church, 344 Meigs St., First, Third Mondays, 7:30-9pm, 338-9496
Rochester Historical Bowling Society
7:15pm, Mondays, Clevelane Lane, 2780 Monroe Ave. (Group is full)
CODAP
Come Out and Play. Business meeting, last Mondays, 7pm, GASV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Tom M. 454-3650
American Baptists Concerned
Second Mondays, 7-9pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 338-8977

TUESDAY
Third Mondays, 7:30-9pm, 338-3466
GAGV Positive Gay Men Support group
Every Monday, 5pm, AIDS Rochester, 1350 University Ave. 442-2220, x0561
Green Party (political)
Second Mondays, 7-9pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 234-0470
Rochester Frontrunners/Frontwalkers
Run/walk every Monday, 6pm, meet George Eastman House parking lot, 442-7412
MOCHA Chemical Dependency Group
Support group for men of color. MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pkwy. 420-1400
GAGV Youth Drop In Hours
Mondays, Wednesdays, 3-7 pm, GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main St. Prince St. entrance, first floor, 244-8640 ext 13.

TUESDAY
Atlantic Five 0
Gay men 50 and over. Second Tuesdays, 6:30-9:30, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 461-0821
Pride GLBT At-Ann
Every Tuesday, 7pm, GASV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Call Todd Park, 244-8640 ext 24
Gay Fathers’ Support Group
First and third Tuesdays, 8:30-9:30pm, GASV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.
The MOCHA Youth Group
3-5 pm, MOCHA Project, 137 Liberty Pkwy, 420-1400, 244-8640
MOCHA Hepatitis Clinic
Free hepatitis A & B vaccinations, third Tuesdays, 5:30-7pm, 107 Liberty Pkwy. 420-1400

THURSDAY
Presidents for Lesbian and Gay Concerns
Every Wednesday, 6:30-9pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

WEDNESDAY
Women’s Community Chorus
Rehearsal each Wednesday 6:30-8:30pm. Call for location, 234-4441
Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley
Board of Directors’ meeting, third Wednesdays, 7pm, 875 E. Main St., fourth floor Blue Room, 244-8640
New Freedom New Hope AA Gay meeting
7pm, Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Rd. Men and women. Open meeting
Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost Children
First, third Wednesdays, 11am-12:30pm, Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Meigs St. Sponsored by Genesee Region Home Care. Free. 325-1880
Frontrunners/Frontwalkers
6pm run/walk, meet George Eastman House parking lot, 9m, 442-7412
Empire Bears
First Wednesdays, 7:30pm, GASV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. info@empirebears.org
Transgender Group
Third Wednesday, 6-8pm. GASV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.
Multicultural Coffee Talk
7pm, Spin Cafe, 739 Park Ave. Social for former Multicum 4-685 members; other gbt/cyber geeks welcome. every fourth Wednesday, 8pm
GAGV Library & Archives
6-8pm every Wednesday, GASV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave, 442-8640. Books can be returned to GASV offices, 875 E Main St. Suite 101, from 9am-8pm
Butch Femme Connection
Fourth Wednesday, 7-9pm, GASV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.
Brothers Keeper
Support group for men over 30. Second Wednesdays, 6-8pm, MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pkwy. 420-1400
AGA
Support group for transgender of color. Third Wednesdays, 6-8pm, MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pkwy. 420-1400
GAGV Youth Drop In Hours
Mondays, Wednesdays, 3-7 pm, GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main St. Prince St. entrance, first floor, 244-8640 ext 13.
Stonewall Democrats of the Genesee Valley
Meets fourth Wednesdays, 7-90 pm, GASV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

SUNDAY
Women’s group. Every second Saturday, MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pkwy, 420-1400
Pride and Joy Families
Third Saturday, GASV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Free, 234-8940 x 24. No meeting in November, due to Pride & Joy Families conference in Brighton

SUNDAY
More Light Presbyterians for gay and lesbian people and friends. 12:15pm, last Sundays. Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St. 6:30-9pm, 423-0650
Free confidential walk-in HIV testing
Every Thursday nights, 6-8pm, GASV Rochester, 1350 University Ave. 442-2220
MOCHA Chat
Second, fourth Thursdays, 6pm, MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pkwy. 420-1400
GAGV Anti-Violence Project support group for LGBT victims of domestic violence. First Thursdays, safe location. Call 883-244-9400 ext 17.
U. of Rochester Pride Network
Every Thursday, 9 pm. Morey 502 on River Campus of U.R. Web address: www.grimports.buffalo.edu

FRIDAY
Gay Men’s AA meeting
Each Friday, 7:30-8:30pm, Closed meeting. GASV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

SATURDAY
Rainbow Rams Bar Night
Third Saturday, 8pm-2am, Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave. 271-4930
Frontrunners/Frontwalkers
Run/walk. Meet George Eastman House parking lot, 442-7412
Empire Bears Night
Second Saturday, Bachelor Forum, 470 University Ave. Beerline: 334-5816
Cross Dresser Support Group
First Saturdays, 6:30-9:30pm. MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pkwy. 420-1400
Transgender Support Group
Last Saturdays, 2-5pm, GASV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.
Saturday Night Special Gay AA
7pm, Unitarian Church onClinton Rd. Men and women. Open meeting.
Lilac Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf (LRAD)
Fourth Saturdays, 6-9pm, GASV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

Something for da Sinzuh
Women’s group, every second Saturday, MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pkwy, 420-1400

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