MOCHA Executive Director John Morgan, left, with award winners Bill Kamp and Sherwin Bethel and MOCHA Program Director Craig Pannell at the awards ceremony at the Hyatt Regency on Aug. 12.

**REGENCY BALLROOM**

James Bowers leaves school board; reflects on gay rights advances

By Susan Jorden

Commissioner James Bowers is stepping down after a four-year term on the Rochester City School Board. During his time on the board, several meaningful advances were made in the area of equal rights and an end to discrimination for LGBT students and staff in city schools.

Bowers was instrumental in founding an ad hoc Task Force on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Bias, which included members of GUSEN (Gay Lesb­bians in a Straight Education Network), PFLAG, the Empire State Pride Agenda, the Rochester Teachers' Association and the Gay Alliance. The Task Force recommended, in August 2004 that the District give domestic partnership benefits to LGBT and unmarried heterosexual employees, and in November 2004 the Board approved the new policy. The benefits will go into effect in January 2006. The DP policy was the second Task Force recommendation adopted by the Board. In December 2005, it unanimously adopted protections for transgendered students, to be added to the school district's Code of Conduct.

Bowers told the Empty Closet that, "Just getting the District to recognize that there is bias and discrimination against our gay students and our LGBT staff was one of the most important accomplishments of the recent past. I think the domestic partnership policy sent a powerful message because it said we were going to treat all staff members equally. Some of my colleagues may be surprised by that, but for the most part it was enthusiastically received."

**COMmUNITY CENTER**

**GAGV Library: a vision comes true**

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

ImageOut Preview: Wild Side on Sept. 7

**NEWSBRIEFS**

LOCAL & STATE NEWS

Peggy Campolo to speak at CCF

Peggy Campolo, renowned Christian author and speaker, will be speaking at Community Christian Fellowship as part of the church's first anniversary on Sunday evening, Oct. 2. Ms. Campolo is an evangelical Christian who challenges evangelical churches to re-think their stand against gay and lesbian people. She is a member of the council of the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, and speaks frequently to church and campus groups. Peggy is a highly visible advocate for the full inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people within the church.

She is a member of PFLAG and Evangelicals Concerned. A graduate of Eastern College, Peggy is a writer and editor. She contributed to a book edited by Walker Wink, entitled Homosexuality and Christian Faith — Questions on Conscience for the Churches. Peggy is married to Tony Campolo, one of the most prolific evangelical authors and speakers in America.

The Rochester Rainbow Gospel Choir will also perform during the program. All are welcome to come and hear this important GLBT advocate. Community Christian Fellowship is a non-denominational, evangelical church, which fully welcomes all people for worship and fellowship regardless of sexual orientation. CCF meets at the East Avenue Inn, 334 East Ave. at 7 p.m. on Sunday evenings. The program is free and open to the public.

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Empty Closet update

The past year has been one of transformation for the Empty Closet. Graphic designer Jim Anderson created the “spiggle” (the Genesee Valley, or a reeling human form), has improved the look of the paper in general, and has worked with our advertisers to ensure that their ads reproduce as well as possible. And we have a new printer this month, Empire State Weeklies, which hopefully will also improve the EC’s format quality.

We’ve had an online edition for a while now (感激感謝, 其中, breaking news is immediately posted. The EC online also has a Photo Features section where you can see slide-shows of the albums or photo essays—often including photos that were not seen in the previous version. Check it out!

The GAGV Youth Group has created an interesting Youth Pages section, with columns, essays, photos, poems and comics—how new Buckin’ Mauveley started out? Thanks to the youth for sharing their talent.

The EC is grateful to national light writers and photographers who give us their work—such as Danielle Doctor Magazine of NYC, travel writer Mele Mear of N.J., filmmaker Renee Sardelle of Los Angeles, and journalist Sebastian White of Bos­

locally, we appreciate the excellent contributions of Brad Smith, Scott McCauley, Jeffery Young, Jennie Bowlizer, Brenda McDonald, Gerry Smyzniak, Tony Lesti, Ove Ocremayer and many others (too many to name) who donate their time and energy and have helped us improve the paper’s content. We plan to keep steadily improving— as much as a publication that relies on unpaid volunteers can. If you write, take photos, do a comic strip, want to sell ads or a commission basis, or can help with distribution or proofreading every month, please call 244-1090.

Some things, unfortunately, never seem to change. One of them is the nasty nature of certain homophobes who tamper with the EC at its various venues, by covering the papers with other publications, or just cramming them off to the nearest dumpster. At two local coffeehouses checked last month by the editor, the ECs were completely hidden under other stuff. Remember that if the paper isn’t visible at a site where it should be available (distribution sites are often listed in section C), you may need to root around for it, thanks to these self-appointed censors, whose activities can’t always be monitored by store personnel.

Then there is the problem of Borders. For several years, all free publications, including the EC and City newspaper, have been required to be placed in the restroom area, which is only vis­­-

ited by a tiny number of shop­­ers. This editor, in calls to local stores, and to corporate head­­quarters, tried to point out that this policy is especially offensive to light people, who have tradi­tionally been kept in the dark and back alleys of society. How­­ever, Borders HQ is apparently quite well informed about the feelings of their gay customers, as well as to the convenience of all cus­ tomers who are looking for their local free publications. So if you want to pick up your EC at Border­­ers, remember that the corpora­tion requires you to search the restroom area— where the papers may be hidden under stacks of Golf Weekly or Brides Today. There are several solutions to the problem of access. One is to pick up your EC at gay-owned places like the Pride Connection or Out­­landish, or at the GAGV Community Center. Another is to send in the form below and become a GAGV mem­ber, which means that you will receive the paper in the mail— and that you will be supporting the Gay Alliance in its mission to support YOU.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BY KRIS HINESLEY

Bringing It Home

In last month’s article I asked you to tell me more about gay history. Here is the story of the birth of our daughter.

Two weeks ago (and every day since) I learned that nine pounds, nine ounces sure can shake up your life. After some 80 hours of contractions and labor, my wife gave birth to our daughter on the sultry evening of Aug. 4. Maia is active, healthy newborn with bright eyes, strong hands, and a remarkable amount of hair. She had a difficult birth, but we had a great team who got us through. Initially blue and not breathing, within 10 tense minutes Maia was inhaling and exhaling, and getting blue to pink, and finally to a healthy pink. With little sleep and lots of adrenaline, we have begun our journey as proud paren­­ts of this tiny package.

It’s not surprising that this event has created urgency in her mom for matters like legal and medical. For example, you are reading the Empty Closet, from the Gay Alliance; to help you navigate and piece together your patchwork of protections while we do two important things: first, we are educating the busi­ness community, educators, the faith community and commu­nity groups so they understand the inequalities that exist for LGBT individuals and families in their midst; and second, we are pressing policymakers to create inclusive policies.

For those of you who are not concerned about your legal rights or who may never be, the Gay Alliance is here for you, too. For example, you are reading the Empty Closet. This newspaper from the Gay Alliance continues to inform and entertain us, and to connect us to one another.

The Youth Program assists teens with the difficult process of coming out and moving through the implications of living in a world that is not always welcoming to LGBT people.

The Anti-Violence Program is there for you should you or someone you know experience the complicated cycle of vio­lence in an intimate relationship, or become the target of a hate crime, like gay bashing.

There is more the Gay Alli­ance is doing, much more. And I will continue to talk to you about our work in future arti­­cles. In the meantime, keep telling your stories and contact us with the creative ways you are picking together your own patchwork of protections for yourself and your family.

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Become a Member. Support the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley

Full Name: ________________________________

Membership levels:

$30: Advocate (Individual, includes EC)

$50: Equality (Family, includes EC)

$100: Champion

$150: Stonewall

$500: Ally

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I would like to volunteer on a committee or project.

Enclose your check and send to: GAGV, 675 E. Main Street, Suite 500, Rochester, New York 14605

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Advertising policy: This publication does not print advertisements that contain nude drawings or photographs, nor does it print advertising that specifically targets a person pictured in this ad for sale, or that you will be that particular person if you patronize the establishment advertised. The above applies equally to support of racially, sexually, ageist, or homophobic will be refused. Advertisements from organizations that are sexist, racist, ageist, sexist, or antigay will also be refused.

Submissions: For publication in print issues, items like, ads, photos, letters, poetry, ads, photos, pitches for art in print, will “get” you right to the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, Inc., by the first week of the month. Design services for non-profit ready ads are available for a fee.

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The Empty Closet is mailed to members of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, Inc., as stated in the bylaws of that organization. It is unac­ceptable to inform the Rochester gay com­munity about local and national gay-related news and events; to provide a forum for ideas and creative work from the local gay community, to help pro­mote and expand local gay-related events and to be a part of a national network of local gay and lesbian publications that publish alike and compete. All material is copyrighted.

Part of our purpose is to maintain a political and cultural base within the entire community. We must be care­ful to the degree that multiple (and so in a way that takes into consideration the views of all that are present) do not represent a consensus view but are, instead, from a single viewpoint.

The opinions of columnists, editorial writers and other contributing writers are their own and do not neces­sarily reflect the collective attitude of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley or The Empty Closet. We shall not be liable for any type of expense that results from the publication (whether correctly or incorrectly) or omission of an ad. In the event of non-payment, your account may be assigned to a collection agency or attorney, and you will be liable for the charges paid to such collection agency or attorney.

Letters to the editor: The opinions of columnists, editorial writers and other contributing writers are their own and do not neces­sarily reflect the collective attitude of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley or The Empty Closet. We will print letters at the editor’s discretion and we reserve the right to edit letters for space availability. We shall not be liable for any type of expense that results from the publication (whether correctly or incorrectly) or omission of an ad. In the event of non-payment, your account may be assigned to a collection agency or attorney, and you will be liable for the charges paid to such collection agency or attorney.
Equality Leadership Conference 2005
Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley

Gay Alliance presents Equality Leadership Conference Oct. 21
By Emily Jones
Since close to 100 Fortune 500 Companies have 100 percent scores on the Corporate Equality Index (CEI) will be reported won by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the Gay Alliance will begin this year’s conference with a 90 minute workshop on the impact and importance of the CEI, the leading diversity benchmark for the LGBT segment.

Deputy Director Workplace Project HRC Daryl Herrschaft will lead a highly interactive discussion on the CEI its impact on policy change in corporate America that is leading to public policy and legislative change in the United States. In addition, Daryl will discuss how to engage your company in taking the survey and low HRC and other leading companies can help your company create the policy change in order to improve its CEI score and, more importantly, create a more equitable and fair workplace for all.

This workshop will be followed by two concurrent workshops: How to Create LGBT Allies in the Workplace and How to Support Individuals Transitioning in the Workplace. Key national and local business leaders who have successfully supported LGBT people will be members of the two panels.

Did you know that New York State is considering a Gender Non-Discrimination Act, GENDA, for passage in 2006? Are you aware that, as a result of the Homeland Security Act, we have established a policy that all drivers’ licenses will be the same in all states in two years? Are you aware that you will need four different forms of identity to secure your driver’s license? One of these forms of identity will be your birth certificate.

According to Hawke Firestone of the Empire State Pride Agenda board, this has implications of outing people who have lived as a different gender for many years and nullifying marriages of individuals under many of the newly passed DOMA laws. What are the implications of these changes in the business world? How can business lead in this discussion of public policy change that has the potential to bring harm to people in the workplace? Our keynote speaker will speak to these disturbing policy changes.

At this year’s conference, we are extremely privileged to have Margaret Stumpf, Senior VP at Prudential Financial, as our keynote speaker. Margaret Stumpf underwent sex to female gender transition while working as a senior vice president for Prudential Financial. At the luncheon, Margaret will discuss why Prudential felt it was a business imperative not only to support her, but to keep her in the same leadership position following her transition and why her clients were more concerned with her investment performance than her personal performance.

Margaret said in an article in the Washington Blade, “In the three years since my transition, business has never been better. I have met with corporate boards, chief executives, clients around the globe. My organization has taken roughly $3 billion in new deposits from institutional investors this year.” Margaret will address why it is good for business to affirm people for who we are in person and spirit.

At this year’s conference we hope to engage and enlighten ourselves and our business community through the voices of our experienced panelists and keynote speaker. Please join us at the Hyatt on Oct. 21, as we continue to educate ourselves and others to the day-to-day struggles and successes that we have had in making our work environments more equitable for all. See the ad for the conference agenda and registration contact information on the back cover of Section B, and see also the interview with Maree Myer and Daryl Blyu about the Finger Lakes Workplace Alliance, on page A 12.

Racism Under the Rainbow?
By Todd Plank
During MOCHA week last month, the LGBT community was provided with a rare opportunity to have a real conversation about what for many of us, is a sensitive and uncomfortable topic: racism.

Since most of us, at one time or another, have experienced bigotry, prejudice and discrimination because of our sexual orientation and/or deviation from stereotypical gender norms, we might assume that when it comes to distinctions of race, the LGBT community would be more easily able to see “beyond the color lines.” Based on remarks from the panelists and an audience of around 50 at the MOCHA forum on Aug. 11, it would unfortunately appear that the LGBT community is plagued by racism to the same degree as in the general population.

And while this may be disappointing news to hear, it is important to remember that the first step toward addressing any problem is admitting that one exists. The candid comments of the panelists, expertly facilitated by Jonathan Lang of the New York State Black Gay Network, were without fluff or blaming, thereby creating a safe space in which to examine the reality of racism under the rainbow in Rochester.

The panel was comprised of Evaughn Charles, Elier Ruiz, Joy Messinger, Joshua King and myself, as a last minute stand-in for a missing panelist. Each panelist was given the opportunity to share their personal experiences and observations on the issue of racism in the LGBT community. There would be no way to paraphrase all the panelists’ stories and do them justice; however, I will say that to varying degrees all the panelists had experienced and/or witnessed racism in the form of social segregation. You have only to visit a local gay club in Rochester to see that white people and people of color do not routinely mix in social settings.

MOCHA programming director Craig Pannell shared two compelling stories that underlined for me that we still have much work to do to erase the color lines that continue to divide our community. In the first anecdote, Mr. Pannell related how he had taken several visiting Black professionals who had traveled to Rochester to present at a conference to a local bar, with disastrous results. Some of the “regulars” at the bar were overheard to say, “It’s too dark in here tonight,” and some of Krig’s guests were rudely propositioned and treated as merchandise, as if sex was the only possible reason they could have for visiting this establishment. I was shocked, embarrassed and outraged to think that this is how Krig’s guests would be “welcomed” by people identified with the LGBT community.

The other story related by Mr. Pannell involved a recent drag show in which some queens performed in black face against a set meant to depict an inner city ghetto. Conspicuously absent from this night’s entertainment were any Black performers, leaving some African American individuals with the impression that the show was a misrepresentation and mockery of their people and culture.

Initiation is not always the highest form of flattery, particularly if it is done without the appropriate understanding of and sensitivity to the community a performer is seeking to emulate. While it is unlikely that any malice or disrespect was intended by the performance artists, this incident suggests that in the future there should be more thoughtful care taken in the portrayal of people of different races.

In the course of the evening, an interesting discussion arose dealing with the appropriateness of self-segregation. Are there occasions where people of color should be able to mix with people of their own race, to the exclusion of other races? For example, is it useful to have a youth group that is expressly for people of color?

Panelist Joshua King, heralding from Syracuse where he facilitated the group “Live and Let Live,” found himself having to struggle with this issue when he was asked to lead a support group for youth of color and felt that the youth would be better served by having a forum open to all.

(Continued on page 5)
Caregivers deny health care on "moral" grounds

Seven states are considering measures which would allow health employers to refuse medical care to lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgendered people on the basis of "moral".

Arkansas, Michigan, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont and West Virginia legislatures are looking at bills permitting pharmacists and other providers to refuse to mediate to anyone citing objections based on "ethical, moral or religious" grounds.

A Georgia law already states that "it shall not be considered unprofessional con­duct for any pharmacist to refuse to fill a prescription based on his or her ethical or moral beliefs."

In Michigan, the House of Representa­tives passed a similar bill last year, after it had sat in committee for six years. Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm, a pro-choice Democrat, said she could support a measure allowing anti-choice health care workers to refuse to provide women with RU-486, the "abortion pill." The bill, which was poorly phrased, caused an outcry by gays and women's groups. It was defeated in the state sena­tor. This year, according to Sean Kosofsky, director of policy for the Detroit gay rights group the Triangle Foundation, backers of the measure have filed two bills, one of which would allow health care providers to cite what the foundation calls a "conscientious objector" status, except for issues including sexual orienta­tion, marital status and "participation in high risk activities," but including reproduc­tive issues. The second bill permits all "healthcare facilities" to claim conscien­cious objector status and does not protect any patients, including gays, from discrimi­nation on that basis.

The Triangle Foundation is working with Planned Parenthood to prevent pas­sage of these laws.

In California, a lesbian and Lambda Legal are using San Diego obstetricians for deny­ing her services based on their fundamen­talist religious beliefs, which, they say, entitle them to protection under California's anti-discrimination law. The Califor­nia Medical Association is supporting the doctors.

Fred Kuh, The Advocate

Task Force report says LGBT Americans will be harmed by Bush Social security privatization

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force released a report Aug. 9 that finds that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) Americans, on average, have lower incomes than their heterosexual counterparts, which translates into lower Social Security benefits when they retire.

In addition, same-sex couples are not eligible for Social Security's spousal and survi­vor benefits provisions, making the LGBT community disproportionately vulnerable to the benefit cuts and risks inherent to the president's plan.

"There is a widespread myth that gay people are economically advantaged com­pared to heterosexuals. U.S. Census data and other national surveys indicate the opposite. In fact, gay and bisexual men earn anywhere from 13 percent to 22 per­cent less than heterosexual men," said Sean Cahill, director of the Task Force's Policy Institute, which published the study. "If we earn less, we receive a lower Social Security payment in retirement. Any proposals that cut retirement benefits will disproportion­ately hurt gay people."

"Selling Us Short" finds that LGBT people of color, in particular, face an income disadvantage that leads to lower Social Security benefits. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Black same-sex couples earn only $2,000 to $30,000 less in median annual household income than black married opposite-sex couples, and Hispanic same-sex couples earn roughly $1,000 to $4,000 less in median annual household income than Hispanic married opposite-sex couples.

Discriminatory government policies, meanwhile, place gay people in an even more economically disadvantageous position, increasing the critical need to main­tain the economic safety net Social Security is intended to provide.

"Gay people have to report domestic partner health insurance as income to the IRS, but they don't have to report their health coverage as income," explained Cahill. "Gay people can't inherit that partner's Social Security (or aid­eous widows or widowers can be a beneficiary. Not only do we earn less, we are less able to keep what we earn. These are the among many inequities that make same-sex couples particularly vulnerable to cut backs in Social Security benefits."

Added Many Hu, author of the report: "the Federal Defense of Marriage Act continues to deny same-sex couples access to more than 1,000 federal benefits and pro­tections of marriage that opposite-sex married couples currently receive, including Social Security spousal and survivor benefits.

Even though LGBT Americans pay in to the Social Security system at the same rate as everyone else, our families and chil­dren receive fewer benefits, often in times of crisis. If Social Security is to be changed it should be changed so that all families are treated fairly."

"Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are more likely to age alone and less likely to have children than their heterosex­ual counterparts," said Amber Hoffmuth, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's senior strategist and specialist on LGBT elders. "This, coupled with a lower rate of earning makes them particularly reliant on Social Security."

"Selling Us Short" finds that LGBT elders could be negatively affected by privatiza­tion. By 2030, the estimated population of LGBT seniors will range from two to eight million. LGBT elders may be espe­cially dependent on public services for the elderly, including Social Security, because they may be without the same family sup­port systems as heterosexual seniors.

"It would be wrong to support privatiza­tion in exchange for opening a portion of Social Security to same-sex couples while overlooking the fact that marriage equality - which the Bush administration vehemently opposes - would guarantee all Social Secu­rity benefits to all same-sex couples. We are un­willing to trade illiberal benefits against the benefits and rights of other Americans," said National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Executive Director Matt Foreman.


The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute is the gay community's preeminent think tank dedicated to research and policy analysis on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues.

"Justice Sunday" endorses injustice

The Human Rights Campaign empha­sizes the independent role of the judiciary following Aug. 14's "Justice Sunday" event, that featured speeches attacking fair-mind­ed judges. Gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans­gendered people were at the center of these extremist attacks on the courts, said HRC.

"Degrading prejudice as justice is un­American," said HRC President Joe Sol­monese on Aug. 15. "The extremism on display this weekend dangerously ignores the Court's more than 200-year-old responsi­bility of independence. In rallying against this liberty, the speakers last night railed against one of our democracy's greatest qualities."

Solomonese continued, "All fair-minded Americans should take note that those who want to use the Supreme Court to silence fair­minded women and men should be listened to. We must ensure that our Supreme Court justices understand the role of the Court in ensuring equal protection for all in the face of loud political egos."

Hold Sunday, Aug. 14, in Nashville, Tenn., the event featured a dozen speak­ers from the far right, all but two of whom spoke out against equal rights for LGBT Americans. The following quotes highlight the event's anti-gay rhetoric:

"Forer Sen. Zell Miller said that the court was "ready to discard the constitu­tion."

"Former Sen. Zell Miller said that the court was "ready to discard the constitu­tion."

"Justice Sunday" is the gay commu­nity's most powerful tool to rally the general public to its cause, said Connecticut Sen­ator John States, a long-time supporter of fair-minded judges. States is the chairman of the Senate's Committee on Homeland Security, which has the power to confirm or deny the appointments of federal judges.

"HRC is proud to lend our support to Justice Sunday," said HRC President Joe Sol­monese. "We will continue to rally our supporters to support fair-minded judges in the Senate."
seekers to Iran.

Current regulations in Sweden do not include gays as a persecuted group. It is not known how many gays are affected by the freeze on deportations.

Conservatives disputed the story about the executions, claiming that the youths were executed for gay rape. The story about the hangings was first reported in the English press by Andy Harlcy in London. Harlcy's article was simultaneously syndicated to PageOneQ <http://www.pagenoq.com>, Veteran independent journalist Doug Ireland also reported on the hangings on his site, Direland <http://www.direland.typepad.com>.

Lesbian and gay organizations, including the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Human Rights Campaign, posted items on their sites about the executions. As reports from a number of conservative outlets reported that the boys were executed for committing an act of rape on a 13-year-old boy, the groups removed the items from the front of their websites.

When contacted by PageOneQ, Harlcy, editor and publisher of UKGayNews <http://www.ukgaynews.org.uk/latest.html>, said he was aware of the conflicting reports from various sources. "We stand by our original article published on Thursday, July 21," Harlcy said. "The basis of that article was a information we received from Peter Tatchell of Outrage, the gay human rights organization in London. Peter clearly pointed out -- and we repeated it -- that subsequent to the first report, with three graphic pictures, from the Iranian Students News Service that the two teens were executed for 'being gay'; another agency then removed 'nuclear' issue in Iran, there is often a gap in our community. Judith Bauman pointed out the importance of diversity in our community. Panelist Doug Ireland also reported on the executions, claiming that the youths were executed for 'being gay'; another agency then removed the story from its website. We have every reason to believe what we are going to do about it.

Harlcy continued, "As in any form of intelligence gathering, including the current 'nuclear' issue in Iran, there is often a lot of reasoning and judgment to be done. Peter's reasoning on the executions was included in our report. We have every confidence in Peter Tatchell, who has his contacts not only inside Iran, but also in many other countries. He is active in general human rights matters as well as specifically gay human rights."


LOCAL AND STATE

Racism (continued from page 3)

LGBT youth, regardless of their ethnic background. Another panel member offered a different perspective and reminded the audience of the historical context in which blacks had arrived in America. They were systematically stripped of their cultural heritage and forbidden to speak in their native tongues. After having been robbed of the opportunity to gather as a community of color and celebrate their shared history, it is understandable that some members of the African American community would see it as healthy and necessary to have venues to come together and reclaim what was lost to them.

The challenge of crossing the color lines runs both ways. Just as people of color may feel uncomfortable visiting a predominantly "white" establishment, whites can experience the feeling that they are intruders when seeking entry into a black environment. Roles are involved on both sides, but someone has to take the first step to cross the color divide if we are to begin to bridge this gap in our community. Judith Homan challenged the audience to avoid the use of the generic term "community" in favor of a new definition that is broad yet inclusive of the real diversity that exists among people.

Finding one word to capture the essence of what we seek to communicate when we speak of the LGBT community is not a simple task but perhaps more important than the word is the sentiment felt by the listener. What do we feel in our hearts when we speak of our community? Are we using this term in an inclusive or exclusive way?

Dr. Sheldon Fields encouraged the audience to take an honest look at themselves, admitting to any isms (racism, ageism, sexism, etc.) that consciously or unconsciously could be influencing their attitudes and behaviors. He referred to this as the "Iron Prisms." Rather than shameing ourselves when we identify something in ourselves that we don't like, we ought to welcome the chance to grow and move beyond limiting class. Because the same thing adding their special spice to the pot.

Hopefully, this will be the first of a number of forums for members of the LGBT community to explore the issue of racism and thereby create a more comfortable climate for having the honest interactions necessary for us to collectively move beyond the color lines, so that we can exchange more than glances at each other across the color divide.

In the meantime, I'd like to invite all of our readers to step-aside our comfort zone and seek out people who appear different from you. Get to know them. Be real and open and don't shy away from bringing up the proverbial pink elephant. It's too big to step over and the longer we try ignoring it, the larger it gets, so let's admit that it's there and talk about what we are going to do about it.

Hats off to MOCHA for having the courage to start the conversation. Now let's keep it going!

Big Macs & Baguettes: What Americans and Europeans Think About Sex

On Sept.19, Barbara Huberman, the current National Director of Education and Outreach for Advocates for Youth, will be presenting "Big Macs & Baguettes: What Americans and Europeans Think About Sex" at the Rochester Memorial Art Gallery. The lecture will focus on comparing the cultural differences between Americans and Europeans in their attitudes towards sexuality.

Barbara Huberman is the coordinator of the Rights, Respect, Responsibility National Campaign, which was developed from annual study tours to Western Europe, for educators, health providers, policy makers, and youth advocates. She has been actively involved in sexuality education and adolescent sexual health for almost 40 years.

She has served as a president of the National Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Parenting, and Prevention and has lectured at colleges, universities, and conferences around the world. In 1996, she was a founding board member of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

Ms. Huberman has authored several books on teen pregnancy prevention and is the founder of Let's Talk Month, an international campaign each October to support parents and families in their role as sexuality educators of their children. She has developed curricula and videos on parent-child communication and recently completed a curriculum specific for the workplace on sexuality and parents-child communication.

The reception is from 5-6 p.m. and lecture from 6-7:30 p.m. Admission is $25 and free to students. For registration or more information contact Gabrielle McKamy at 303-307 or email gmckamy@prrs.org.

Speaking of Women's Health holds conference Sept. 16

Speaking of Women's Health (SWH) will host a day-long conference in Rochester, for the third year in a row, as part of the 9th National Tour. Speaking of Women's Health is presented in Rochester by WXXI Public Broadcasting, and is sponsored locally by Strong Health, Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, Senator Joseph Robach, PHA Health, Wellness and Fitness Center, WHAM TV 13, WHAM 1180, and Mix 100.5. The conference will be held on Friday, Sept. 16 at the Rochester Riverfront Convention Center.

Early bird tickets are $30 until Sept. 1, and can be purchased by calling 585-258-0203 or visiting wxxi.org/swh.

The day-long Speaking of Women's Health Conference includes national speakers, health screenings, a continental breakfast, and a gift bag for every attendee. This year's health initiatives are focused on adolescent health and anemia.

The reception is from 5-6 p.m. and lecture from 6-7:30 p.m. Admission is $25 and free to students. For registration or more information contact Gabrielle McKamy at 303-307 or email gmckamy@prrs.org.

The Empty Closet's annual gala is a wonderful way to and is sponsored locally by Strong Health, Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, Senator Joseph Robach, PHA Health, Wellness and Fitness Center, WHAM TV 13, WHAM 1180, and Mix 100.5. The conference will be held on Friday, Sept. 16 at the Rochester Riverfront Convention Center.

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Continued on page 13}

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Interview

Randy Raetz on being a gay dentist and a gay dad

By Sauret Jordon

Randy Raetz runs his own dental practice at 2257 South Ave. Just over a year ago he left his old practice to start the new one, and simultaneously adopted his second child. A year later, he reflects on the challenges and accomplishments.

Empty Closet: What’s new with the practice?

RR: I left the practice I was at in Henrietta after six years, and opened my own practice last Aug. 26. We’re on South Clinton Ave. -- it’s busy over there. Everybody seems to have some kind of doctor’s office there, so it was the right move for me. I’m the big cheese.

EC: How do you get medical care? Are you originally from Rochester?

RR: I’m from Lockport. I graduated there. For the better. It really changes everything. A lot of our friends are having kids as well, so it’s great… Cooper has just learned how to say “NO”!

EC: Do you have a lot of gay patients?

RR: Yes. Some probably aren’t out to me -- there are some older ones I have my suspicions about! I’m not out to all my patients either. Some of them are pretty conservative, and I work a lot with kids – you know how that stereotype goes.

EC: What do you like best about your new office?

RR: The office is high tech -- we have intra oral cameras and digital x-rays, which means you get exposed to a lot less radiation. Everything else is basically computerized. We have Tuesday evening and Saturday hours.

EC: Is being gay irrelevant to being a dentist?

RR: It’s pretty much irrelevant. But it’s more comfortable for gay people who know they can talk about their partner rather than their “roommate”. A lesbian physician in my town came out to me and my partner and that made it so much more comfortable. Now she’s my physician and my kids’.

EC: What do you recommend to people in regards to dental health care?

RR: (Laugh) See your dentist twice a year! I always tell my patients, you only have to lose the ones you want to keep!

EC: How do you get medical care?

RR: I get mine through Allen at Strong. It’s pretty much irrelevant. But it’s immoral. It’s ridiculous. It’s the White House – I can’t believe he got elected again.

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Opinion

Articles of Faith: Spirituality at Pride

By Christian de la Huerta

The Pride celebrations of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community across the country during June must seem strange ritual to outsiders. With a wild mix of go-go boys, drag queens and topless lesbians, all thrubbing to tribal drumbeats, this seemingly self-indulgent display causes outrage for social conservatives, and chagrin for those in the gay community who would like to see us acting more conventionally. But there is perhaps another way to look at Pride besides as an exercise in hedonism; perhaps it represents the press back of cultural boundaries by a people uniquely qualified for spiritual exploration.

Throughout history, people we today label lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender have been honored for their roles of spiritual service and leadership. In many cultural contexts, gay people have been the healers, teachers, shamans, keepers of beauty, mediators and peacekeepers. Those who “walked between the worlds.”

For queer spiritual practitioners, not only is their homosexuality or gender identity not a sin, sickness, or aberration, it is a gift, a blessing, and a privilege. It is the element of their personality that has pushed them outside the realm of comfort and conventionality and into the place of mystery inhabited by those who fulfill roles of sacred service. If there is any doubt about the pervasiveness of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in religious leadership roles, it would be a compelling exercise if, on some weekend, every single queer minister, rabbi, music director, teacher or other spiritual functionary stayed home from religious services.

The term “Gay Pride” hardly begins to capture the sense of honor and respect this rich spiritual heritage deserves. According to the Dagura tribe in Africa, certain people Westerners would identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender are uniquely physically and energetically suited to be “gatekeepers,” the guardians of the doorways into other worlds, realms and realities. The Dagura believe that much of the pain and wounding of the world can be traced to a lack of respect for these spiritual gatekeepers. In fact, author and speaker Malidoma Some says that part of the reason the world is in the shape that it is because the gatekeepers “have been fired from their jobs.”

Similarly, among Native American peoples, the Two-Spirit were thought to have special powers and played key roles in tribal ceremonies. These people, who lived on the edges of tribal life, were associated with the gift of prophecy and the implementation of rituals, and were said to possess healing powers. Today Two-Spirits are reclaiming their place of honor among many Native American communities after being annihilated or forced to go underground during the European invasion.

Is it any wonder that mystics and visionaries of many spiritual traditions can often find those with whom they can commune? Perhaps, beyond “healing” the poor, the religiously unclean, and the sexually different, these prophets were among those people a spiritual kinship that sustained their ministries. If the historical figures of Elijah, Buddha, or Jesus were to come back today, I would not be surprised to find them in gay bars, with “welfare moms,” or with AIDS orphans in sub-Saharan Africa. For it is people in the boundary places of the world who are often closest to the Divine.

All this does not mean that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are better than straight people. (After all, heterosexuals should not be blamed for not having a “choice” about their sexual orientation!) It does mean, however, that queer people should have a sense of responsibility to continue bringing light, healing, and spirit to the world, even if the world does not yet realize or fully appreciate our value and contributions.

Furthermore, it is time for religious leaders to stop asking queer people to apologize for who we are and to recognize our innate spiritual offerings of service and leadership. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people have gravitated to and fulfilled spiritual roles throughout history, in numbers that far exceed our proportion to the overall population. We have contributed tremendously to the evolution of humanity.

For those who shudder or cringe at the fabulous excess of Gay Pride events, realize this: these are the outsiders, the spiritual warriors, the scouts of consciousness who are integrating spirit and sexuality for much of the rest of society. We owe these modernday shamans the latitude they need and the respect they deserve to do this crucial work.

And for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, the world is crying out for us to speak from a place of real power and pride. We must know, in the deepest necessities of our souls, in the very fabric of our tissues, in every one of our cells in every part of our bodies, that we are blessed in the ways we express our love and our passion. Our blessing is that we know love, and we must love deeply, passionately, and selflessly. It is our calling as a people. It is our calling as human beings.

This spiritual calling is what I celebrate during Gay Pride. I invite all of you who hear this call within you to do the same.

Christian de la Huerta is a member of the National Religious Leadership Roundtable of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the author of Coming Out Spiritually, and founder of Q Spirit and Revolutionary Wisdom.

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SAVE US FROM ROBERTS: Rally to Save the Court at Union Square Park on July 20. Judge John Roberts Jr., nominated by President Bush to replace Justice Sandra Day O’Connor on the Supreme Court, openly opposes Roe vs. Wade. Above: Margarita Lopez, candidate for Manhattan Borough President. NYC News continues on page 19.

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The Empty Closet • The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley • Number 383 • September 2005
Thank You . . .

...to all of you who came out to join us in Pride.
...to all of you who stayed and braved the rain.
...to the members of the Community Business Forum of Rochester and especially the Pride Parade and Festival Volunteers to many to name.
...to Mary Ann's handy man, friend and jack of all trades Wayne Olshark.
...to the Saturday Morning Painters.
...to the Set-up Crew.
...to Rob LaFave and Peter Garbacik and their cast of judges.
...to the Entertainment Committee.
...to DJ Hector and DJ Mighty Mike for bringing us the energy of music.
...to Eriq Johnson, for all the support you gave us.
...to the Performers who rallied and did there show on the small stage at Muther's.
...to our Hostess and Mistress of Ceremonies, Miss Aggy Dune.
...to our stage designers Carlos Cruz and Brian Lipscomb.
...to the lemonade stand volunteers.
...to Lori Lippa for sticking it out in the rain to video the events of the day
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Women's Health (continued from page 5) sponsored by Actonel and beauty spon­
sored by L'Oréal Paris and Maybelline New York/Garnier. Conference attendees will
have more than 12 breakout sessions on topics including nutrition and diet, Tai Chi, diabetes and ovarian cancer.

The morning keynote speaker is Debrah Kern, Ph.D. who will present Keeping Your Life Power Full — Desire, Vitality and Balance, sponsored by P&G. Dr. Kern, author of Everyday Wellness for Women and Create the Body You Soul Desires: The Friendship Solution to Weight, Energy and Sexuality, will talk about the power women have and how to harness that power for their own health and well-being.

The afternoon keynote speaker is the internationally acclaimed motivational speaker Barbara Braunstein. In Make Your Charge and Embrace the Personal, Physical and Create the Body Your Desire, she will have more than 12 breakout sessions on topics including nutrition and diet, Tai Chi, diabetes and ovarian cancer.


**Rabbi, Muslim doctor talk on stem cell research**

The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice is sponsoring a presentation on stem cell research, featuring Rabbi Dennis Ross and Dr. Sayeda Zain, M.D., Ph.D. The lecture will introduce both the medi­cal and theological perspectives on stem cell research and explore why Christians, Muslims and Jews embrace it. Rabbi Ross leads a congregation in Worcester, Mass. and serves as the Family Planning Advocate’s Director of Educa­tion for the Concerned Clergy for Choice in Albany, Dr. Sayeda Zain is an associate professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics at the University of Rochester and a member of the Islamic Center of Rochester.

The event will be held on Nov. 9 at the Temple B'rith Kodesh at 2311 Elmwood Ave., from 7:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. with a small reception following the presentation. Please RSVP by Nov. 1 to Judy Schwartz at (585) 442-5111.

**Workplace Alliance is resource for businesses, LGBT employees**

By Susan Jordan

Marge Myers of Lambda Network at Kodak and Daryl Bleau of Bausch & Lomb's GLOBEX are members of the Finger Lakes LGBT Workplace Alliance, which was founded in 2004 to serve as a resource for area businesses and employee resource groups. The organization's mission is primarily educational; it has no political affiliations and is not involved in political organizing or lobbying.

The goal is to combine experiences and talents to create welcoming and safe work environments for LGBT employees. Work­place Alliance representatives go to com­panies to talk with LGBT employees, alliances, human resources personnel and manage­ment. The group meets every two months, with each time at a different member company site. The host group sets the agenda for the meetings, which always includes a dis­cussion period focusing on one topic of interest. While the group is not politically affiliated, discussion topics often are relat­ed to political problems that group mem­bers face, or may face, in their workplaces. There are no dues. The next meeting is Sept. 8, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. For location, email info@fllwa.org.

Marge Myers said, "We don't have all the answers, but we can do things like connect a Kodak human resources person with a Bausch & Lomb resources person." Daryl added that the group wants to be a resource for other companies where LGBT employees want to start resource groups.

Daryl Bleau said that he and Brian Summers of Kodak first discussed the idea of creating such a group then began contacting other employee resource groups in the Rochester area. Membership has grown rapidly. The companies currently involved are Kodak, Xerox, Bausch & Lomb, GE Capital, US Airways, Johnson & Johnson Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, Thompson West and Corning Glass.

Daryl said, "Each group we contacted was having difficulties getting members in their companies, so we decided to come together, work together and support each other. We're all about education and shar­ering best practices." Marge Myers said, "A lot of it grew out of the Out & Equal conference (an annual national conference on workplace issues). Ralph Carter, David Rowd and I met and talked about starting a chapter of Out & Equal. The various employee resource groups had already been meeting every year; we've had parties together, and there were meetings before the parties where we would talk about some of the issues."

The Workplace Alliance will be giving two of three workshops at the Gay Alli­ance's Leadership Luncheon next month. The workshops will be on transgender issues in the workplace and on the impor­tance of being an ally to LGBT co-workers. The third workshop will be presented by Darril Herrschaft of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), who will talk about HRC's Corporate Equality Index scale and why the ratings are important for busi­nesses.

Daryl said, "HRC and our group fit well together because not enough Rochester area companies meet the HRC standards—only three have made it to 100 percent: Kodak, Bausch & Lomb and Xerox."

Marge said, "It's about showing compa­nies what they need to do to meet the stan­dards. HRC raises the bar, though—100 percent a few years ago would be only 75 percent or so today."

The two agreed that the CEI ratings are used both by LGBT people looking for jobs in a gay-friendly environment, and by companies ensuring that the companies work with are gay-supportive. The rat­ings are a way to attract and retain talented people, and attract business from other companies.

Daryl said, "That 100 percent score can be a marketing tool. We have more and more companies look to supply and diversity pro­grams to determine such things as whether businesses are minority-owned, gay-sup­portive, etc., when making decisions on which companies to do business with."

While some corporations may have backed off from support of LGBT rights after the backlash of the past election year (such as Microsoft, which then reversed itself when a fistfight of protest broke out), Daryl and Marge said that neither Bausch & Lomb nor Kodak has backed out. (Continued on page 14)
Bob is proud supporter of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community, and he will be proud to have your support on Election Day.

Democratic Primary September 13, 2005

“As your Mayor, I’m going to put every ounce of passion and energy into three things: economic development, education and safe streets. We’re not only going to build bridges; we’re going to walk across them together. I’ve walked the streets and I know the problems we face, and I also know our potential. I believe we can create a better future; as one community, with no limits for anyone and a common destiny for everyone.”

-Bob Duffy

Primary Day September 13th
Polls Open Noon until 9:00 P.M.
 Workplace (continued from page 12)

off at all. Daryl said, “In fact, it has made us that much stronger.” Marge pointed out that the new Lambda Network website at Kodak represents a major victory for the LGBT resource group.

The Workplace Alliance plans to set up a website by the end of the year. Right now, those who are interested in more information can email info@bw.org. Workplace Alliance member Ralph Carter will then get back to them. The hope is that the website will ultimately provide information on upcoming meetings and discussion topics.

Daryl said, “We ask people when they come to our meetings to bring along a human services representative or another person from their company, if possible. That’s not a requirement.”

Marge said, “The meetings themselves are open to everybody.”

Group members come from both private and public sectors, corporations, privately held businesses, educational institutions, not for profits, and more.

Daryl concluded, “We’re fortunate in this area to have the companies we do have supporting us 100 percent. Without that support we wouldn’t be able to educate others.”

Black gays and church leaders hold REVIVAL to end homophobia

Hundreds of Black gays and lesbians packed the Assembly Hall at Manhattan’s Riverside Church on Sunday, July 31 for “REVIVAL! Victory Over Spiritual Violence Through Grace,” to call for an end to the homophobic rhetoric coming from many Black ministers in recent months.

The speakers were clergy and secular, gay and straight. Riverside’s Senior Minister James Forbes spoke at the event, and assured the attendees that there was nothing deficient about gays or lesbians, and that “Your job is to get up every day and be grateful to God for your DNA,” Forbes said.

Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields spoke about her recent efforts to bring together clergy of all faiths to combat the recent rise in hate crimes in New York City. She told the crowd about how one Black minister in attendance, who had been known for making disparaging remarks against gays and lesbians, decided to join in the fight to end anti-gay violence.

Many of the speakers refuted the notion often promoted by conservative Black ministers, that rights of gays and lesbians have nothing in common with Black civil rights struggles. Reverend Valerie Holy of Unity Fellowship Church in Brooklyn recounted her experience seeing graphic photographs of lynchings of the Black victims of homophobic violence, whose bodies are often desecrated. Rashawn Brandi’s body was found in trash bags spread across Brooklyn in February, and Marvin Paige’s body was severely burned after his throat was slashed in his Bronx apartment in March.

As more African American gays and lesbians become vocal in opposing homophobic rhetoric, it has become harder for ministers to make those comments without responses from the Black gay community. After protests from Black gay journalists and African American leaders like Eleanor Holmes Norton, Washington D.C.’s Reverend Willie Wilson, the executive director of the Millions More March, was pressured to apologize for his recent disparaging remarks against the lesbian and gay community. (However, a Black minister who criticized Wilson has received death threats, and her car was damaged.)

“We are beginning a spiritual movement,” Elder Joseph W. Tolton, the event’s keynote speaker, told the spirited audience. “We firmly understand that we will see victory over violence because we’re fighting with the power of the Holy Ghost.”

REVIVAL is the first event in a campaign targeted to end violence against gays in the African American community.

ACHC presents Evening of Great Taste

AIDS Community Health Center (ACHC) will present An Evening of Great Taste, a fundraising event, to be held on Wednesday, Oct. 5, from 6-9 p.m. at the newly renovated Gatherings at the Daisy Floor Mill. 1880 Blossom Rd. in Brighton. The evening will feature wine, beer and water tasting, delicious hors d’oeuvres, and a silent auction. The festivities will take place. Over 80 auction items will include original artwork by local artists, unique jewelry, vacation getaways, themed baskets, and much more.

Tickets are on sale now for $30 each or $40 at the door. Purchase your tickets online at www.achcRochester.org or call the ACHC special events line at 244-9000 ext. 465. All proceeds from this event will go directly to fund AIDS Community Health Center’s expert medical care, on-site services, and clinical research. Event underwriters include ACM Medical Laboratories.
Pride Agenda Primary endorsements are online

On Aug. 17, Empire State Pride Agenda,
New York's statewide nonpartisan lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights organization, announced endorsements for the Sept. 13 primary elections. They can be viewed online in the Pride Agenda's Primary Voter Guide at www.prideagenda.org.

Local endorsements include (for City Council) Bill Pritchard, Peter Buckley, Carolee Conklin, Paul Maneiro, and Dana Miller and, for County Legislature, Travis R. Heider.
The voter guide highlights 16 candidates in contested races and includes the previously announced endorsement of Ford Miller for Mayor of New York City.
Specific endorsements are based on responses to Pride Agenda candidate questionnaires, an examination of a candidate's voting record (in the case of incumbents), his or her public acts and statements, and consultations with other organizations throughout New York State, including local LGBT organizations.

Incumbents who demonstrate their strong support for issues important to the LGBT community are usually endorsed. Candidates seeking open seats are evaluated based upon the criteria above, as well as visibility of their campaigns.

Many elected officials who are friends of the LGBT community are not profiled in the voter guide because they have no primary opposition and are not on the Sept. 13 primary ballot. These candidate races will be profiled in the Pride Agenda's General Election Voter Guide issued in October.

Those wishing to volunteer their time with the Pride Agenda on Primary Day or on campaigns heading up to the primary should contact Elizabeth Bullard at 212-627-0305.

Stonewall Democrats survey mayoral, council candidates

By John Noble

The Stonewall Democrats of the Genesee Valley, a group of GLBT Democrats in the Rochester area, want to invite you to join us in the fight for equal rights at all levels of government. We need to ensure that the political process is open and fair and keep the Democratic Party committed to justice for all.

The candidate survey identifies the issues that are of concern to our voters. We appreciate the completed candidate responses. Four of 13 candidates surveyed last responded to the survey.

No endorsements will be made at this time. The information is being provided for the LGBT voters to evaluate candidates' positions and provide a tool for your decision making for Primary Day.

All registered Democrats are welcome to attend our monthly meeting on the fourth Wednesday of the month, at the Gay Alliance Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave., at 7:30 p.m. The survey questions and the answers received by press time follow:

1. Do you support full marriage equality for same-sex couples?
"Of course..." Buckley, Conklin, Santiago, Warren: no response
"Yes." Mains: Yes
"Yes." Norwood, Lightfoot, Miller, Loewke, Buckley, Conklin, Santiago, Warren: no response
"Yes," Pritchard: Yes
"Yes" Maneiro: Yes

2. Do you support full adoption rights for gay, bisexual and transgender couples?
"Absolutely." Buckley, Conklin, Santiago, Warren: no response
"Yes." Mains: Yes
"Yes," Norwood, Lightfoot, Miller, Loewke, Buckley, Conklin, Santiago, Warren: no response
"Yes," Pritchard: Yes
"Yes." Maneiro: Yes

3. In the absence of marriage equality, are you in favor of expanding the rights provided to domestic partners to ensure equality between people in these committed relationships and those who are legally permitted to marry in New York State?
"Sure." Buckley, Conklin, Santiago, Warren: no response
"Yes." Mains: Yes
"Yes," Norwood, Lightfoot, Miller, Loewke, Buckley, Conklin, Santiago, Warren: no response
"Yes," Pritchard: Yes
"Yes." Maneiro: Yes

4. Do you support equal rights and treatment for people of transgender experience?
"Absolutely..." Buckley, Conklin, Santiago, Warren: no response
"Yes." Mains: Yes
"Yes," Norwood, Lightfoot, Miller, Loewke, Buckley, Conklin, Santiago, Warren: no response
"Yes," Pritchard: Yes
"Yes." Maneiro: Yes

5. Would you support having the City's health insurance program pay for sex,-reassignment surgery for its transsexual employee? We understand that this might be subject to labor contract negotiations.
"Absolutely." Buckley, Conklin, Santiago, Warren: no response
"Absolutely." Mains: Yes
"Absolutely," Pritchard: Yes
"Absolutely." Maneiro: Yes

6. Would you support efforts to conduct more widespread HIV screening and partner-notification even if this may require a relaxation of privacy protections?
"Absolutely..." Duffy: Yes
"Absolutely..." Mains: Yes
"Absolutely," Pritchard: Yes
"Absolutely." Mains: Yes

7. Do you support actions to encourage more education and prevention around use of crystal methamphetamine?
"Absolutely..." Buckley, Conklin, Santiago, Warren: no response
"Absolutely." Mains: Yes
"Absolutely," Pritchard: Yes
"Absolutely." Mains: Yes

8. Specifically, would you propose money in your budget (Council-support money in the City budget) for crystal methamphetamine programs?
"Absolutely..." Duffy: Yes

Mains No. County Health Department would be encouraged to do so; I would do public service announcements since the City has no Health Department.
"Absolutely." Maj: Yes
"Absolutely," Mains: Yes

9. Would you introduce (Council-vote for) a proposed ordinance that would mandate the posting of the human rights law, in multiple languages, which includes prohibitions against discrimination against people on the basis of protected classes?
"Absolutely." Duffy: Yes
"Absolutely," Mains: Yes

10. Do you support curricula reform to ensure that respect for diversity is taught in our public schools?
"Absolutely..." Buckley, Conklin, Santiago, Warren: no response
"Absolutely..." Mains: Yes
"Absolutely..." Norwood, Lightfoot, Miller, Loewke, Buckley, Conklin, Santiago, Warren: no response

11. The LGBT community is in great need of senior housing for many of our aging population. Would you help with the funding of senior housing or program planning for the LGBT community?
"Absolutely..." Buckley, Conklin, Santiago, Warren: no response
"Absolutely..." Mains: Yes
"Absolutely..." Norwood, Lightfoot, Miller, Loewke, Buckley, Conklin, Santiago, Warren: no response

12. If endorsed, will you display the endorsement of the Stonewall Democratic Club of the Genesee Valley in your literature whenever you list other endorsements and will you display the endorsement on your website?
"Absolutely..." Duffy: Yes
"Absolutely..." Mains: Yes
"Absolutely..." Norwood, Lightfoot, Miller, Loewke, Buckley, Conklin, Santiago, Warren: no response

13. Will you hire openly LGBT staff and/or designate a liaison to our communities if elected?
"Absolutely..." Duffy: Yes
"Absolutely..." Mains: Yes
"Absolutely..." Norwood, Lightfoot, Miller, Loewke, Buckley, Conklin, Santiago, Warren: no response

14. Please state concrete achievements for the LGBT community that you are responsible for in your current, previous, elected offices (Please attach extra pages as needed).
"Absolutely..." Duffy: Lists numerous achievements
"Absolutely..." Mains: Lists numerous achievements as open gay elected official since 1985
"Absolutely..." Pritchard: Lists numerous achievements as our gay candidate

Mains Listed work with Senator Dollinger on the passage of SONDA in the New York State Senate.

Stonewall Democrats Endorsements for Genesee Valley Voter Guide

The MOCHA Picnic was Aug. 13 at Genesee Valley Park. Photos by Keith Powell
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*Based on third quarter 2004 statistics from Inside Mortgage Finance 11/19/04. Wells Fargo Home Mortgage is a division of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. © 2005 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. All rights reserved.

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ERA FIRST TEAM REAL ESTATE
2712 EAST HENRIETTA ROAD
HENRIETTA, NY 14467
585-359-2000 ex 17

Laurie Schulman
Associate Broker
Count me as proud
To the Editor: Mr. Solotoff’s letter, “Nothing to be proud of?” requires a response. I have sung proudly in the Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus and the Empty Closet Community Business Forum and the Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus for off­ending the sensibilities of hombres we‑re­ ing, dresses, wig, and makeup as part of their Pride Parade entries. Mr. Solotoff is entitled to his opinion, but I think his suggestion that we discontinue the Pride Parade is a little strong, especially since he chose not to attend the parade.
Now, I’m not going into a discussion of what is or is not appropriate attire or behavior for the parade. Just those who participated were free to behave as they wished, and dress as they wished. That’s one of the points of a Pride Parade, cele­ brating our individuality and diversity. However, Mr. Solotoff doesn’t seem to see it this way. He wants us to use “proportional diversity” as a model for our parade.
First, Mr. Solotoff evidently knows little about the Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus and our commitment to diversity. We have members of the Chorus who exhibit an open­ness that will support our singing. We do not subscribe to quota systems supposedly represented by “Normal Gay Male.”
Mr. Solotoff’s choice of “normal” is very painful to many readers. Count me as proud to have marched in the parade. I’m a proud member of the Chorus. Perhaps Mr. Solotoff might discover a more enlightened approach to celebrating our sexuality would serve no useful purpose. Even if, as Mr. Solotoff wants to include bisexuals? We do not subscribe to quota systems supposed­ly represented by “normal gay male.”
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Disappointed by Solotoff letter
To the Editor: I was very disappointed with both the content and the tone of the letter “Nothing to be proud of?” in the August EC. I applaud the writer for being an out gay man in the workplace. I’m sorry that he finds it so difficult. Unfortunately, for those of us who choose to be out and proud GLBT persons, the fact is that life will always be difficult because of that choice.
The writer would have us believe that one way to make life easier is to be “normal” (i.e. dress just like straight folks) in appearance and actions. I disagree, believing that to portray us is a media issue and will not be solved by us being ourselves. The writer also claims to be “proud” but I have to ask what he means by that.

Who defines “normal”?
The Editor: In his letter in the August 2005 issue of the Empty Closet, Wayne Solotoff attacked the Community Business Forum and the Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus for offending his sensibilities by having men wear­ing dresses, wig, and makeup as part of their Pride Parade entries. Mr. Solotoff is entitled to his opinion, but I think his suggestion that we discontinue the Pride Parade is a little strong, especially since he chose not to attend the parade.
Now, I’m not going into a discussion of what is or is not appropriate attire or behavior for the parade. Just those who participated were free to behave as they wished, and dress as they wished. That’s one of the points of a Pride Parade, celebrating our individuality and diversity. However, Mr. Solotoff doesn’t seem to see it this way. He wants us to use “proportional diversity” as a model for our parade.
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Wearing your sexuality on the outside
To the Editor: Mr. Solotoff’s letter to the Editor, “Nothing to be proud of?” requires a response. I have sung proudly in the Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus and the Empty Closet Community Business Forum and the Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus for offending the sensibilities of hombres we-re­ ing, dresses, wig, and makeup as part of their Pride Parade entries. Mr. Solotoff is entitled to his opinion, but I think his suggestion that we discontinue the Pride Parade is a little strong, especially since he chose not to attend the parade.
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Who defines “normal”?

—a—a—b—b—L—L—Ways considered myself a human being first. It’s a step above being gay. I’ve had a broken neck, and still do I walk. I’ve had a stroke, I still function. I’ve had a cancer scare. I still live. I just believe people should be accepted for who they are, not because of the community they are in. The community should love and care for all individuals.
I will leave you with this French quote: Oui, c’est déshabille au vol au nu visage, ‘We stop loving ourselves when no one loves us’.
Acceptance and love to all, Todd Fogle

What have you done today to make yourself feel proud?

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What have you done today to make yourself feel proud?
If sports is the subject, any community is that kind of bonding that ground or race is, or what political beliefs join in. When it comes to sports and men, only equate it to a guy thing, where you can’t be a guy’s. You don’t have to like sports to see each other in our community all the time, down and it’s just guys watching a game; so young gay people who are having rough community leaders need to address. I know at you will.

Holding this back from happening and I wise. Having said that, I think, ultimately, it is our responsibility to take care of our each other. We could extend help even to our own and find a way to help, because certainly no other group is going to do it.

To the Editor:

In 1985 Tim Mains made history by becoming Rochester’s first openly gay elected official. This year he can make history again by being elected mayor of Rochester.

Twenty years ago I had the privilege of being Field Campaign Coordinator for Governor Mario Cuomo, a campaign that had a different world back then, both socially and technologically. Gay and lesbians in Rochester were still fighting for basic civil rights. Our transgender brothers and sisters were still ignored by most of us. And equal pay was a dream for him and me.

I am an economist by training, as recommended by the Task Force. Brennan added that he feels it would be a mistake to decide that light issues have been settled. “I’d be in favor of continuing the work of the Task Force.”

As far as his future is concerned, Jim Bowen said, “I don’t plan on going away. I think it will be a part of my personal life. As long as I feel good about it and it helps others.”

Bowers said he is starting a consulting business, Success Consulting and Coaching.

“I was raised to be a helper and a teacher, and that’s what the consulting business will allow to do,” he said.
SWEETS TO THE SUITE: Artist William Medina launched an independent art event and solo exhibition in the penthouse suite at 944 8th Ave. on July 12. He displays a work titled “Ivonne,” named after his mother. See www.medinaclt.com.

PARTY IN THE PINES: The 2005 Pines Party on Fire Island at 5 a.m. on July 30.

FALL FASHION: Fashion Square helped kick off the haute couture fall fashion line in Times Square on July 28. Pictured is designer Robert Verdi.

Saul A. Maneiro

- President, Monroe County Young Democrats
- Director, PRYD Summer Youth Employment Program
- Coach, Rochester Youth Baseball
- Program Manager, The Housing Council
- Legislative Assistant, NYS Senator Richard Dollinger
- Graduate, Wilson Magnet and the University of Rochester

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music, spoken
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Tim Mains

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to purchase tickets.
ARTWalk announces performers for Sept. 18 festival on University Ave.

The dancing Street Sweepers will be back again this year! ARTWalk is pleased to formally announce the selected performers and artists for the fifth annual ARTWalk Alive! festival to be held Sunday, Sept. 18 from noon to 4 p.m. along the 700 block of University Ave. These groups and individuals were jury selected from an annual area-wide open call for performers.

The “Dances on the Avenue” portion of the program includes dance works performed outdoors along ARTWalk. The selected “Dances on the Avenue” performers are Pywakkid, Waldman Sisters, Sahara Shimms, & Kastion, Evan Goodberry and The Celtic Music Society. “Artists at Work” will feature visual artists showing their creative process along the ART-Walk Trail. Selected Artists Jeromy Scintaclini, Artpeace, Morgan Slinker and Genevieve Pottery, Kathy Malta, Barbara Litterio, and Richard Russell. Dozens of area arts organizations will also be providing free interactive activities for the entire family.

ARTWalk Alive! is a great opportunity to get familiar with many area organizations in one afternoon. Organizations wishing to participate should contact ARTWalk (see information below).

Many other activities will be provided by Writers & Books, Snappy Nines Cafe, Craft Company No. 6 and the Rochester Fire Department, among others. Food will be available from area businesses and Dinosaur Bar-B-Que, Abbott’s frozen custard and Snapple, with proceeds going to the Dryden Theatre. Snapple hit, Come Undone. Like that film, Wild Side is a sumptuously erotic drama about love and sex on the margins (or “wild side”) of society. Focusing on a trio of outcasts involved in an exceedingly untraditional three-way relationship — Jamal (Continued on page 2)

ImageOut launches 2005 festival catalog at George Eastman House

By Dan Humphrey, Chair, ImageOut Publicity Committee

To officially unveil the lineup of its Thirteenth Annual Festival, ImageOut, The Rochester Lesbian and Gay Film and Video Festival will co-host a special evening at the Dryden Theatre at George Eastman House on Sept. 7 at 8 p.m.

ImageOut and the Dryden will present the award-winning French film Wild Side in the first of a series of occasional “Snapshot” screenings considered to be of interest to both Rochester’s lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered communities, as well as to the general art and independent film audiences who frequent the Dryden Theatre regularly.

At this event, beginning at 7:30, hard copies of the catalog of the 2005 ImageOut Film Festival will be distributed to the general public for the first time. The lobby of the Dryden Theatre will therefore give the community its first opportunity to see the long-awaited lineup for what was called the best Film Festival in Rochester by City newspaper in their 2004 “Best of Rochester” issue.

In addition to the free catalog, the public will be treated to a special introduction to the upcoming ImageOut lineup by the organization’s programmers, along with a number of short one-screen previews of Festival films. Then, with the Snapshot Presentation of Wild Side, attendees will be offered one of the most provocative and controversial films of the year in its Western New York premiere. No one under 18 will be admitted. Wild Side is director Sébastien Lifshitz’s follow-up to the 2001 ImageOut hit, Come Undone. Like that film, Wild Side is a sumptuously erotic drama about love and sex on the margins (or “wild side”) of society. (Continued on page 2)

ImageArt brings a feast for the senses with exhibit, open mic poetry reading

By David Heffern

The Sixth Annual ImageArt Gallery exhibit will open on Sept. 23 at a new gallery space at 182 West Main St.

The new gallery is owned and operated by Rochester Art Supply, a long time sponsor of ImageArt. The space has its own storefront that looks out onto West Main St.

The entire staff of the company is proud to be hosting ImageArt 2005. The gallery space was donated free of charge, and there is no censorship or size limitation on the artwork that can be on display.

The owners of Rochester Art Supply hope to aid in the revitalization of the West Main Street area, and opening the gallery space will be a step towards that goal. Rochester Art Supply has been a sponsor of ImageArt and ImageOut (Continued on page 2)

Ember Swift to perform fundraiser for Youth Group Oct. 4

Singer Ember Swift can be described as “eclectic” — which Webster’s defines as “selecting from various systems, doctrines or sources.” She describes her music as “folk, jazz, punk, Middle-Eastern, Spanish, Latin and pop with classical and reggae undertones.”

Swift, a Canadian who appeared at Buffalo Pride in June, will perform at the GAGY Youth Centre, 875 E. Main St., at 8 p.m. on Oct. 4. (Use the Prince St. entrance to the Auditorium building.) Tickets are $8.

Swift proudly says that she is part of “Fire! Lights! Sound!” — independent artists who speak boldly and without fear about diverse political issues from stages across Canada, the U.S., and Australia. For more information, call 344-2843 ext. 13.
Losing:

Losing: A new book by William Giancursio

By Susan Jordan

Local artist William Giancursio’s Losing is a fable about a town called Blockport, where everything is colorless and four-cornered. The Blocks who live there rigidly maintain the law that says, “Everything in Blockport must be square. Even the flowers and trees.”

Do what you do if you are an egg living in Blockport? What do you do when round shapes are labeled Losing and thrown into “the Lowest Spot in Town”? Eggs oval and Shelley are faced with danger when their politically incorrect cookies are exposed to the Blocks.

Giancursio’s fable is an anthem to acceptance of diversity, and the colorlessness difference adds to its richness. Children will enjoy this booklet, and adults of all ages will appreciate the message: Light Only Shows Truth. Only Blocks could object. See www.hulu.com.

Scissor Sisters can cut it

By Sherrill Fulgham

For Scissor Sisters, it’s all about making a number one song. It was about making a good, consistent sounding quality record,” said Ana Matronic, the only female member of the New York band the Scissor Sisters.

Band members are more interested in making a song that works, in getting its music by Sonam Targee. Free will offerings are welcome. For further details, contact Harttine Royer: 585-436-9734, laurels@frontiernet.net. Hallie Saywood: 585-967-0009, hallie@sunmags.com, www.soul-songs.com or kay topple: 325-3601 or www.mysubwinds.com.

The Labyrinth is an ancient geometric pattern that, over centuries of use, has become an archetype for healing, transformation and wholeness. The labyrinth used is a 36-foot diameter replica of one that was laid in the nave of Chartres Cathedral in France in the 1200's C.E. (Labyrinths can also be found in carvings going back to the Stone Age in Europe.)

Riki and chair massage will be provided by Rochester area practitioners, and music by Sonam Targee. Free will offerings are welcome. For further details, contact Harttine Royer: 585-436-9734, laurels@frontiernet.net. Hallie Saywood: 585-967-0009, hallie@sunmags.com, www.soul-songs.com or kay topple: 325-3601 or www.mysubwinds.com.

The dramatic performance, featuring The Last Session played by the late Kurt Vonnegut’s orchestra, will take place at the Charlotte Church, 220 Win­­er St.

It will benefit First Unitarian’s Social Justice Outreach Grants program, which provides funds to Rochester-area nonprofit institutions. The production is also endorsed by the American Civil Liberties Union, United for Separation of Church and State. For more information, contact 585-203-0110 or by email at dan@giancursio.net.

The Big Voice comes to Downstair Cabaret thru Oct. 2

Steve Schaklichen’s production of The Big Voice God or Merman in Rochester will begin Sept. 21, and run through Oct. 2 at the Downstair Cabaret Theatre. Schaklichen is a composer whose semi-autobiographical musical The Last Swimmer was presented here in 2003. The Big Voice was presented at Downstair Cabaret in 2003; it won the 2003 Oscar Wilde Award from GLAAD and was nominated for the GLAAD Award for outstanding L.A. theatre production. Its run was extended several times in L.A.

The musical, written by Jim Brochu with music and lyrics by Schaklichen, tells the story of two New York transvestite Catholic School Brooklyn and a Baptist from Texas, who search for God and find musical theatre.[1] Every Merman! View the way.

For more information, see Schaklichen’s website at http://www.bigsound.com.

Ellen to host Emmys Sept. 18 on CBS

Ellen DeGeneres Award winner Ellen DeGeneres has been set to host the 57th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards broadcast from the Shrine Auditorium in Los Ange­­les, Sunday, Sept. 18 (8-11 p.m., live ET/5-8 p.m. PDT) on the CBS Television Network.

You now have a choice to put on a dress and sit in regards to this year's hosting duties.

There is no more perfect choice to host the Emmys," said "Ellen," said Executive Producer Ken Ehrlich. "She brings her own distinct style and talent to everything she does, and in particular, with some of the most exciting nominations in years—and hopefully a show to remember. We're thrilled to have her bring those talents to the show."

DeGeneres was lauded as the host of the 36th Annual Emmy Awards on CBS for giving her with her nine-time Primetime Emmy Award-winning syndicated talk show, The Ellen DeGeneres Show, which is entering its third season. This year, DeGeneres won the Daytime Emmy Award for Outstanding Talk, Entertainment, in June.

On Monday, Sept. 19, join Ellen for her very first ever live episode of The Ellen DeGeneres Show. In a departure from the entire hour to the Primetime Emmy Awards including exclusive behind-the-scenes footage from the Emmys. The show will air in the U.S. on CBS.

First Unitarian presents “Clarence Darrow: The Search for Justice”

First Unitarian’s Social Responsibility Council is sponsoring “CLARENCE DARROW: The Search for Justice” on Sept. 19 at 7 p.m.

The dramatic performance, featuring Gary Anderson of California, will take place at the Unitarian Church, 220 Win­ner St.

It will benefit First Unitarian’s Social Justice Outreach Grants program, which provides funds to Rochester-area nonprofit institutions. The production is also endorsed by the American Civil Liberties Union, Federal Judicial Commission and Americans United for Separation of Church and State. For more information, contact 585-203-0110 or by email at dan@giancursio.net.

Clarence Darrow fought against racism, sexism and economic and political inequality and civil liberties violations 100 years ago, but these issues are just as relevant today.

To reserve your ticket to pick up at door, mail a check, payable to First Unitarian Church, memo line “Clarence Darrow,” to Nancy Fitts, 4 Windmill Road, Poughkeepsie NY 12604 (585-381-4846 — NHFE@prod.com).

“The Happy Barber” to film here in October

An all-American gay college freshman goes to “The Happy Barber.” In this new project, with the group of patrons to help him answer questions for his “Homosexuality 101” class project.

The project is set in the 1930s in G. C. or T. The filmmaker meets a farmer, a cabaret performer, and a construction worker. He leaves with the truth about LGBT lives and with the tools to unlock prejudices.

Cranes says, "This film is specifically targeted for the international and domestic LGBT film community. The overall project is to have a film that will educate and entertain the heterosexual community regarding LGBT issues and teachings. This is a great way to dispel stereotypes and enlighten. This film will ultimately be a great learning device.
In the Life looks at war on AIDS, youth and HIV

We are embarking on a quarter century since the first diagnosis of AIDS in America. The lives lost or now touched over $24,000 and Counting. On this edition of In the Life, we explore just how far we have come in the war against AIDS.

Two-time Emmy Award-winning actress Sharon Gless (Cagney & Lacey, Queer As Folk hosts. The August episode will be aired here on Sunday, Sept. 11, from 10:30 to 11:30 p.m., on WXXI.

The beginning, public perception viewed AIDS as the 'gay illness,' an epidemic specific to gay men, rarely them out one by one. Now 25 years later, the seriousness of the crisis has seemed to disappear while HIV statistics continue to rise. Interviews include leading medical expert Dr. Howard Grossman, the Center for Disease Control's Deputy Director Dr. Ron Valdiserri, and author/AIDS activist Larry Kramer.

HIGH ANXIETY: Methamphetamine, heroin, crystal meth, "Crych Mountain" has gone beyond the nation. It's cheap, easily accessible, and extremely addictive. Its use in one facet of the LGBT community is particularly alarming because it dramatically increases the risk of contracting HIV. In "High Anxiety," The State of AIDS: In the beginning of the crisis, the question is asked and answered, through the facts and personal stories the audience will see, learn and be entertained by both stereotypes and challenges to the stereotypes: Leather, Butch Dyke, Bear, and African American, Latino and Asian people.

As the questions are asked and answered, through the facts and personal stories the audience will see, learn and be entertained by both stereotypes and challenges to the stereotypes: Leather, Butch Dyke, Bear, and African American, Latino and Asian people.

"524,000 youth and young people each year becoming infected with HIV. In "Vulnerable Youth," In the Life hits the streets from New York to Los Angeles to hear the realities about being gay and surviving on the streets.

REAL TO REEL: In the Life goes behind the scenes of the Haitian document­ary "Of Men and Gods." This provocative film explores the nature of homosexual orientation within the context of Voodoo under the shadow of AIDS.

For more information, go to our web site at http://iliv.tv.

Empire State Roar fights hard but loses three
By Jennie Bowker

The Empire State Roar, Rochester's professional women's football team, lost their season opener at home against the NY Dazzles on July 30 in a cloudy fought con­test, 0 to 6. Although the Dazzle is partly coached by the NY Jets, the Roar held them to only six points.

Following a bye week, the Roar (9-1) was away Aug. 13 against the Albany Ambush (1-0), and was home again Aug. 20 at East Rochester High School for a re­match with the Dazzle.

Amidst this summer's chaotic sud­ders, Aug. 13 didn't stand out much. Just another sticky Saturday, boat spilt in the swimming pool. To the Empire State Roar, though, it went down as a heartbreaker, a learning experience, a distinct downer, to the women who went to Albany to play tackle football that evening.

The Roar had all but expected to win against a beatable Albany Ambush, and they nearly did. Coach Melissa Butera's post­game thoughts reflected both the coaches' and the players' disappointment in the outcome. Her first words weren't spoken, but rather, gested, in the tiny space left between her thumb and index finger. "So close," she whispered, recalling the Roar's strong offensive performance, its outright defensive domination, and then the team's slip to the losing side of the 14-3 score in the waning minutes of the game.

"It's the fourth quarter, and it comes down to the last 15 minutes," Butera said, before lamenting that "we missed a two point conversion in the beginning," which would have kept the Roar's lead to win the game. In the game's second half, Albany was able to capitalize on the Roar's los­ing its steam on that steamy, hot night. Although Roar's Jill Smolinsky had a great night intercepting an Albany pass, others fared worse. Running back Nikia Speed and receiver Jane Kobes came out of the game due to exhaustion and the heat, as did "Allie" Nowicki and Shereese Jones, from the defensive line. But, only minutes after each came out, they all stepped in again to fight for a win they never got. Albany scored its second touchdown and extra point to creep ahead by a point. In the end, Roar's running back/lifeguard Geneviève Plourde desperately dove to try to connect to a final pass from Jenna Herington, but Albany soon reclaimed the ball, as well as the win.

One of the questions we are asking ourselves is: "How do we keep the firefighters out of the fire?" Another one is: "How do we keep the medical experts out of the equation?" But the lessons they learned were more important: how to toughen up, to play as a team, and to persevere. And to maintain a sense of humor. After the game was treated to a meal at an Italian restaurant. "GZP" Mary Palermo decided to hide in an overhead compartment on the team bus (she really does fit), and to scare each player as they boarded the bus. Albany would now be behind the team, New York Dazzles would be arriving at the field a week later, but for that trip home, it was simply life between football games.

The Aug. 20 Roar game was a rematch with the New York Dazzles, a team regard­ed as accomplished group that will stop at nothing to win. The Roar used its home turf advantage and the large crowd at East Rochester High School to force the Dazzles into a corner, in what became the second low-scoring matchup this year between them. The Roar's defense was able to squeeze the Dazzles in the Roar's end zone, forced a fumble, then scored a touchdown when Shannon Lamie recov­ered the ball. New York was trailing 8-6 when lightning delayed the game for 45 minutes. When play resumed, Nikia Speed drove Rochester's ball downhill, within easy scoring range.
Disaster struck when Speed got injured, and the seemingly obvious first down was denied to the Roar (referees refused to use the chains to measure it). The Dazzles then regrouped strongly in the drenching rain to score a 16-10 victory over the Roar 12-6. While the Roar didn’t win, Coach Butera added, “I think they played fantastic, we’re getting maybe a little more overconfident, and (when) two teams merge, you would hope they will blend.” The coaches are also from former Rapture’s Sting teams, and their efforts are paying off in developing a skilled, cohesive team built out of experienced players as well as many rookies who are still learning the ins and outs of the game.

The Roar finished its home season against the Albany Ambush Aug. 27. Because the game was played after the Sept. 15 Ambush went to press, the score will be online only. The game results will be on the Empty Closet website, at ec.gayalliance.org, as soon as they are available. The Roar plays the New York Dazzles Sept. 3, in New York - in an unprecedented third matchup in the Roar’s exhibition season in the WPFL. The Roar’s 2005 games versus Northern Ice were cancelled when the Wisconsin team folded, but a final away game has been added to Roar’s original schedule on Oct. 8, against the Minnesota Vixen at Augsburg College in Minneapolis.

Rochester’s own Professional Women’s Football team, the Empire State Roar is a new member of the WPFL, a league with 18 teams in 12 states. The team plays TACKLE football, following NFL rules. The coaches members say, “The very existence of this team is an accomplishment -- and as a radical pronouncement that not only we CAN do it, but that we ARE doing it. That is, with day jobs, volunteer coaches, players who are paying lots of money AND doing fundraising, just to meet expenses. (It costs over $1,000 to each time we rent the field). There are lots of girls who dream of playing football, we know because we remember being them -- and they can see another way of being them...and dreams.” For more information about the Empire State Roar, contact Sandra Rogers at 585-722-5290 or email emperison@ro.com or go to www.theempirestateroar.com.

GREGG COFFIN’S FIVE
Course Love goes to off-Broadway in October

Fire Centre Love, a musical by Gregg Coffin (interviewed in the Empty Closet last year) will open off-Broadway on Oct. 16, produced by Geva Theatre.

The musical, which will be at the Minetta Lane Theatre, is about the experiences of 15 people seeking food and romance at a restaurant. All 15 characters are played by three actors.

The musical premiered last year at Geva, and the Rochester theatre company and local investors will venture into the world of off-Broadway production for the first time.

Previews begin on Oct. 1. Discount tickets at $35 can be purchased at Geva’s box office, at 232-4382.

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS
ROSE GETS HARVEY

By Sherrill Fulghum

Talk show host and actor Rosie O’Donnell is returning to the stage in the Broadway production of “Fiddler on the Roof” at the Minnelli Theatre.

O’Donnell will play opposite long time friend Harvey Fierstein as Golde, asking the question “Do you love me?”, Fierstein, who plays Tevye, the milkman who talks of Tradition and asks God if it would be such a crime if he were a sinner.

Melissa Etheridge

Fiddler tune and cancer free is how rock star and mother Melissa Etheridge describes her life these days. To celebrate the good news, Etheridge and partner Tammy Lynn Michaels are planning an addition to the family. While no one is officially pregnant yet, it is in the works, according to Etheridge.

Etheridge has two children from a previous marriage -- Daily Jean and Beckett. The nude donor for the children was rocker and friend David Crosby, however, Crosby will not be involved this time around.

“Been there, done that,” says Etheridge. It is currently not known to who the male participant will be for the new baby.

Etheridge is planning a new addition of a different sort in October. While Etheridge’s album “The Road Less Travelled” is a greatest hits collection, it will contain four new works including a cover of Tom Petty’s “Refugee” and Janis Joplin’s “Piece of My Heart”, which Etheridge performed live at the Grammy Awards in February.

Etheridge credits her partner Tammy Lynn Michaels’ love and support as being instrumental in her recovery. Etheridge said that when she came home, there was a bouquet grocery bag full of “in sickness and in health” -- “and she means it,” said Etheridge.

Queer Hendrix?

In his new book “Room Full of Mirrors,” biographer Charles Cross is claiming that legendary rocker Jimi Hendrix used the excuse that he was gay to get out of the Army. Hendrix was a member of the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, where he claimed that he was discharged from the Army after breaking his ankle in a parachuting accident.

But according to Cross, Hendrix was making regular visits to the base psychobarge, claiming to be in love with a fellow soldier. According to military records, Captain John Halbert recommended that Hendrix be discharged from the Army citing homosexual tendencies. Hendrix, a Seattle native, originally joined the Army after several arrests for driving stolen cars.

The play supposedly used by Hendrix to escape military service is in order to pursue a musical career was made famous four years later by Arte Guthrie in the song “Alice’s Restaurant” as a means to avoid military service.

Cross also wrote “Heavier than Heaven,” the best selling biography about Nirvana front man Kurt Cobain. Cross sees a number of similarities between Cobain and Hendrix. Both rockers had enormous success as musicians, something they could not cope with, and as a result both turned to drugs. Cross’ book “Room Full of Mirrors” is scheduled to be released to coincide with the 35th anniversary of Hendrix’s death.

ImageOut film festival kicks off on Oct. 7

Western New York’s largest and oldest film festival celebrates its 13th anniversary Oct. 7, when it presents over 40 programs of world-class film and video for 10 days. Celebrity appearances, parties, panel discussions and acclaimed free screenings for young people will round out the festivities by the time the festival closes on Oct. 16.

For the first time, ImageOut will present the ImageOut ImageMaker award to recognize a unique individual’s courageous artistic vision and overall contribution to the arts, through their life and work. Playwright, actor, model, drag artist, and leading lady extraordinary Charles Busch exemplifies this standard and was chosen to be the first recipient of the award. He appears in The Lady in Question Is Charles Busch, the new documentary by John Catania and Charles Igacio, which will be screened at the festival on Saturday, Oct. 8. Charles Busch will appear at the festival to receive the award after the screening.

Moving far beyond the days when gay and lesbian cinema focused primarily on love stories and coming out, ImageOut’s offerings reflect a wider variety of issues, many of them torn right from 21st Century headlines. WTC View depicts New York City happenings of, and just after, Sept. 11, 2001, with a twist. Unrelated chronicles the odyssey of a young Lebanese transplant fleeing from Iran. Logerhead addresses the issue of parents looking for children they’ve given up for adoption and Mysterious Skin graphically with a gay man struggling with a childhood epiphanies.

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The Pleasures and Politics of Gay Memory: ImageOut Revisits the '70s

By Peter Hobbs

At the end of Joseph Lovett's new documentary Gay Sex in the '70s, we see a series of young men who are asked what they know about gay life during that decade. Most of them respond by saying something to the effect that there was plenty of sex and that AIDS put an end to the party.

Although I would probably respond in a similar fashion, I was struck by the brutality of these statements. My reason for drawing attention to this is not meant to be a disparagement of Lovett's film. Instead, I think the quotations are interesting because they speak to the politics of memory, the politics of not just what is remembered and what is forgotten, but the politics of how things are remembered. The politics of memory is a central concern in Lovett's film and is addressed directly by many of the older gay men who are interviewed at length about their experience of living in New York City during the '70s.

Gay Sex in the '70s is being presented with two other films as part of a series of films focusing on the gay male sex culture of the 1970s at this year's ImageOut festival. The two other entries are Jim Tushinski's documentary of the '70s gay icon Peter Berlin, entitled That Man: Peter Berlin, and a narrative film from 1975 entitled Saturday Night at the Baths, directed by David Buckley (one of the founders of Screw magazine). This modest series within the larger festival can be viewed as grappling with the pleasures and problems of gay memory. The films, in effect, give voice to two concerns that often conflict: the importance of preserving gay history and the dangers of smoothening out the complexities of life with a nostalgic gloss.

Each of the films in the series gives shape to the world of gay fantasy. Gay Sex in the '70s features period footage and photographs of famous gay cruising spots that have, for the most part, disappeared. The film uses this remarkable archive material to tell exciting stories of men hooking up and having sex in such locales as the lower Manhattan piers, the rambles in Central Park, and in the backs of trucks in the marauding district. There are also many shots of men just hanging out on the street and socializing with one another. These images serve as a geography lesson that maps what all the interview subjects remember as a libertine utopia.

These stories essentially give way to tearful memories of losing lovers and friends to AIDS. A number of these men also express the anger and sadness of having to suffer the mortal condemnations of politicians, doctors, members of the Christian right, and by a powerful anti-sex element within the gay community. It was clearly very difficult for them to watch as many of the establishments that they frequented and used to form their sense of identity and fantasy were condemned and forced to shut down.

That Man: Peter Berlin is much less sentimental in its presentation of gay life in the '70s. The film tells the story of Peter Berlin, who starred in the classic gay underground film, Night in Black Leather. The film, in effect, is a character study of Berlin, and his Dutch-boy haircut. With what seems to be little effort, Berlin quickly became a world-famous sex symbol. He did this by producing numerous self-portraits that were featured in magazines and that were available for purchase through his private mail-order company. As Tale of the City author Armstead Maupin explains at the beginning of the film, "Peter Berlin created an image that he lived 24 hours a day for the enjoyment of the rest of us." This is echoed by filmmaker John Waters, who reminisces that sporting Berlin on the street was always an occasion of excitement. "He was a great exhibitionist," Waters declares, "who had a crotch that looked like he had stuffed 15 rags down there."

Like Lovett, Tushinski also uses the documentary convention of mixing "talking-head" interviews with period footage and photographs. Along with Mappin and Waters, Tushinski's film also includes the present-day Peter Berlin, who still lives in San Francisco and continues to make money selling his self-portraits. What comes across in the interviews is Berlin's persistence in fashioning himself into a unique and glamorous figure. As Waters points out, "there was no camp to Peter Berlin." He was and continues to be completely earnest in his approach. And even though Berlin now lives in a mini-shrine dedicated to his fierce-youthful self, he continues leaves little room for sentimentality. Similarly, Tushinski's film also devotes less time to nostalgic feelings of loss, and focuses more on the theatricality and play involved in the production of gay sexuality and fantasy.

Finally, Saturday Night at the Baths is an archival gem. When the film debut in 1975 it received mixed reviews. It was faulted for its stinted acting and uneven plot, but was praised for its extensive use of New York's famous Continental Baths. The film presents the story of a heterosexual piano player, Michael (Robert Aberdeen), who lands a job accompanying the acts in the Continental's variety show. In real life these shows were often star-studded events and they helped to launch the careers of Bette Midler and Barry Manilow (who, believe it or not, would accompany Midler wearing only a towel). Michael struggles with his homophobic fears and his feelings of desire for the club manager, Scotti (Don Scotti). The identificatory story is that of the Baths. And the real owner, Steve Ostrow, also makes a cameo appearance. The cast is rounded out with Michael's girlfriend Tracy (Ellen Sheppard), who encourages him in his emerging friendship with Scotti.

The evenness of the story is the result of...
trying to be too much to too many people. Different scenes give the definite impression that the film was intended to appeal to both a heterosexual and gay audience.

For example, there are two sex scenes in the film, a prolonged scene in which Michael and Tracy playfully make love, and a quick shower scene featuring two hot, young men soaping each other up at the Baths. This mixed appeal is also evident in the main poster used for the film, which shows Michael, Tracy, and Scotti in an amorous embrace underneath the caption that reads "You might forgive him if he were with another woman. Could you go a step further?"

Although the poster would suggest that the film was very interested in securing a female, heterosexual audience, Tracy has a limited part.

But what *Saturday Night at the Baths* lacks because of its uneven plot it well makes for in its charm. The real star of the film is the Baths itself, as we get to see patrons getting down on the dance floor and we get brief glimpses of them getting it on in the backrooms. A number of notable real-life drag performers from the period (including J.C. Gaynor, Caleb Stone, and Toyia) also make appearances. Such pleasure palaces are sorely missed.

*Gay Sex in the '70s* will play Saturday, Oct. 8 at noon at the Little Theater, *Saturday Night at the Baths*, in what is billed as its final 35 mm presentation ever (the print is being donated to an archive which will no longer allow public screenings) plays Tuesday, Oct. 11 (followed by a panel discussion on this series of '70s gay sex culture films) at 8 p.m. at the Dryden Theater. Finally, *That Man: Peter Berlin* plays Saturday, Oct. 15 at 2:30 p.m. at the Dryden.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.imageout.org.
Misadventures in Boyland
THE GAY MAN'S HANDSHAKE
By Troy Robinson
I hate being hugged. I'm not sure if it's in the open. No more, denying it, I can't stand being hugged.
You're probably wondering what kind of a statement this is. I am a picky people for pleasure in my free time also.
Let me clarify my statement. I have the fact that "the hug" came to be the equivalent of the gay man's handshake when greeting fellow fags. I see it happening all the time. At a bar, after hours, in the alley, in a barbeque party, two gay men will hug one another as they say hello.
A New York Times committee decided that hugging was an acceptable way for gay men to greet each other and why am I not on the committee casting a vote to stop this madness?
When I see a gay friend coming at me, open arms, my arms are equally crossed against my chest in the hope that it will prevent him from touching me. What (touch) sometimes even lifted off the ground) while my arms are crushed between us. Or I turn around, direct my inner-theater of hope of escaping contact.
It's not like I don't enjoy body contact. I can be held by a man that I am wildly attracted to, whether it's on the dance floor or under the sheet of a bed, I want to be loved, to be seen and not to be ignored in hope of escaping contact.
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And spreads its shading summer arms
In deference to age.
But like all earthly things God made
His creations aren't forever,
Our friends are prone to fall as soon
As if we vriendened never.
Oh, lonely is the one who's lost
A love from friendship's tree,
But lonelier by far is he
Who missed the opportunity.
I cannot decide if the life
And have it abundantly.
I wrapped each day in newness
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Take time to plant a tree of hope
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To have - you may have to
With friends beyond compare.

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Confessions of a Serial Blonde

OLEAN THE PULSE TO BEGIN...
By Bobby Morris

I have to confess something. When Showtime's Queer As Folk ended after a five year run, I got really depressed. Actually, that's probably the understatement of the year. You would have thought Brad had just left me for Angelina the way I carried on.

"It's just a television program," a friend offered, trying to comfort me.

And she's right. It was just a television show. But, as I asked her, could you imagine what it would be like to live on a planet where it felt like there was no television aimed at your demographic?

So, we can. The gay community has been feeling this way forever.

I think that's why I've always been surprised at the gay community's reaction to this series.

I know there are people who see Queer As Folk as a disservice to the gay community.

"Oh, it's about nothing more than
to take this precious democratic freedom for granted.

The ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom received a total of 547 challenges in 2005. The number of challenges is down from 598 in 2004, written, verbal, and e-mail complaints, filled with a library or school requesting that materials be removed because of content or appropriateness. According to Dick F. K. Hymans, Director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom, the number of challenges reflects only initi­ations, not responses, for each challenge; if five or more remain unreported.

We therefore, in our capacity as the commitment of librarians, teachers, parents, and students, such titles as "Daddy's Roommate" by Michael Wittington, and "Two Mommys" by Leslie Newman, still are available to anyone with interest. Will­hite's book was number #1 on the Frequently Challenged Books of 1999­2000. Newman's book, which was origi­nally published in 1990, is ranked #11 on the list. Amazon.com calls it a moral classic about a pre-schooler with two moms, who discover that some of her friends have different sorts of families.

With several news reports just in the past summer of books like "Bless Me, Ultima," by Rudolfo Anaya being removed from schools, we must remain vigilant. However, says ALA President Carol J. Booth, "Not every book is right for every person, but providing a wide range of reading choices is vital in helping people achieve their own imaginations. The abilities to read, speak, think and express ourselves freely are a core American value.

Anaya's award­winning book was banned from the curriculum in New York High School, Columbus, Ohio, and were affected by it in a good way. With the library being gay has on us and our values. Regardless of how some delineate the defini­tion, "family" is a word that means much more than just mother, father and children," by Robie Harris and "Perfectly Normal," by Anonymous, is one of the 10 books on the "Ten Most Challenged Books of 2004" were cited for gay themes - which is the highest number in a decade. Sexual content and offensive language remain the most frequent reasons for seeking removal of books from schools and public libraries.

Off the list this year, but on the list for several years past, was the ALA Freedom to Read Foundation's "The Adventures of Buckeye Finn," by Mark Trail, Focus On The Family, a right-wing Christian advocacy group, takes credit for the role of the librarian. "Banned Books Week is nothing more than a promotion of intolerance toward librarians," said Tom Minnery, Focus on the Family's president and CEO. He adds, "Schools and libraries should be family oriented toward parents and safe places for children."

Personally, I can only respond by saying that the library is the quintessential family-friendly place. Moreover, libraries are friends to all members of every family, regardless how some delineate the defini­tion of "family." However, there is a greater conundrum. It's when parents get involved in what other parents' kids are reading. Book challenges are not simply an expres­sion of a single­person point of view; on the contrary, it's also an attempt to remove materials (objectable to only one person) from public use, thereby restricting the use to others. Censorship denies our freedom as individuals to think and choose for our­selves. For children, decisions made about what books are age appropriate should be made by the people who know them best -- their parents and guardians.

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Planned Parenthood of Rochester and Genesee Valley offers testing and information (585) 546-2585. Threshold Center offers testing for young people ages 12-25. Fees on sliding scale, no one denied service. Threshold Center for Alternative Youth Services, 80 St. Paul St. 844-2545. Free HIV testing on Thursday mornings 2-4 pm, 12 ages 14-21.

Rural HIV testing anonymous and confidential. In Allegany, Livingston, Orleans, Schuyler, Steuben, Wayne or Yates counties, call 1-800-962-5083.

Action Front Center (Action for a Better Community) provides HIV prevention education and case management services. Training and technical assistance to service providers. Resource library open to public. All services free and confidential. Multi-cultural and bilingual staff, Jeanette Noble, program manager, 3rd Floor, Second Street, Hours 9-3:30 pm, Monday-Friday, 263-4330; fax 263-4572. Free anonymous HIV testing on Wednesday, 4-7pm. Mailing address: Action Front Center, P.O. Box 709, Rochester, NY 14602. Additional testing is provided through NYSOCH, Thursdays 1-4 pm at Akron Baptist Church, 175 Genesee St.

Anthony L. Jordan Health Prevention & Primary Care Program Provides Medical Case Management, Mental Health, Primary Care, HIV Counseling and Testing using the Certificate of Need Test. English or Spanish presentations, and access to other Jordan services. Prevention & Primary Care is a work in program for all people who need help with housing, medical bills, and intusnions outreach. Karen nurses to coordinate home-care needs, educational resources and support groups, an active Patient Advisory Committee (PAC), access to clinical trials lab, and referrals to psychotherapy and other specialized health services. (585) 244-9000, TTY (585) 461-9020.

Rochester Area Task Force on AIDS (RACTA)
A collection of agencies providing a multitude of resources and services to the upstate New York community. Their offices are located through the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency, which also provides medical literature and newspaper clippings, as well as demographic and statistical data for use in developing health care services. (585) 461-3500.

Men of Color Health Awareness Project (MOCHAP)
MOCHAP calls for focus who have sex with men (MSM) in the minority community. Support groups, one on one peer education, safe sex workshops, support, weekly peer education, 607 Unity Pole Way. (585) 420-1400.

Monroe County Health Department
at 655 Main St., offers testing and counseling for gay and other sexually transmitted disease, (585) 464-9256.

Strong Memorial Hospital provides a complete range of HIV medical care, including access to experimental treatment protocols, and HIV testing. Also provides individual and group psychotherapy. Training of health care professionals also available. Infections Disease Clinic, (585) 275-0256. Department of Psychiatry (585) 275-3399. AIDS related information free: (585) 275-4863.

Planned Parenthood of Rochester and Genesee Valley offers testing and information (585) 546-2585.

Threshold Center offers testing for young people ages 12-25. Fees on sliding scale, no one denied service. Threshold Center for Alternative Youth Services, 80 St. Paul St. 844-2545. Free HIV testing on Thursday mornings 2-4 pm, 12 ages 14-21.

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Ontario is the scene for theatre

By Merle East

Theatre festivals are popping up all over the globe, and two are occurring in Ontario, Canada. Niagara-on-the-Lake sports the site of the Shaw Festival, only 15 minutes from Niagara Falls.

The Shaw Festival, running through the end of November, is said to be the only theatre festival in the world that specializes exclusively in plays by Bernard Shaw and his contemporaries, along with plays about the period of Shaw’s life.

There are three theatres in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The Festival Theatre stage is where the major works are performed. With its proscenium arch, the theatre seats 857 and is equipped with advanced technical facilities. There are three productions at this venue.

Bernard Shaw’s You Never Can Tell is a comedy of unexpected meetings, reunions and reconciliations. Another Shaw play, Major Barbara is a comedy of ideas in which a munitions manufacturer vies for the site of the Shaw Festival, only 15 minutes from Niagara Falls. Due to the blast of water was temporary and that I was totally soaked, I met Gary T. Burroughs, the Lord Mayor of NOTL. It turns out that he was the former owner of the Oban Inn where I was staying. The inn, located on Front Street, not only has fabulously decorated rooms, and a pretty good restaurant, but a great view of the lake. It’s also in walking distance of the festival, if the weather isn’t too hot!

The Royal George Theatre was originally built as a vaudeville house, turned cinema and now opera house. Four shows are being offered: Somerset Maugham’s The Constant Wife, a wryly comic centering on the shocking Constance who ignores society’s rules: Happy End, a Kurt Weill/Bernard Brecht musical about the antics of Bill Cracker’s hapless gang and fate of a rebels. Salvation Army officer: William Inge’s Bus Stop, a shattering tale of an unlikely group stranded in an all-night diner during a Kansas snowstorm and Something On The Side by George Feynman, a lunchtime one-act sexual comedy that takes place at a Paris restaurant.

So much for the theatre portion of NOTL. The main street has lots of shops, restaurants and art galleries and the area is dotted with loads of wineries. Due to the heat I didn’t spend much time walking about “downtown” except for popping into Poulin Art Gallery on King St., a venue for the French Canadian artiste.

The adventure portion I drove to Niagara Falls for Niagara Hali-Face Limited. It’s a Canadian $105 10 minute trip. Not only did I not feel the fear of heights, but I sat next to the pilot looking down upon the area via a glass-bottom window. We didn’t dip down into the falls as I did many years ago, but the ride was great and was the easy one.

Fear of water. Now that was different. Whirlpool Jet Boat Tours (www.whirlpooljet.com) operate out of NOTL. Here’s the scenario. You’re on a jet boat that speeds to 55mph along the lake with about 60 passengers. The boat not only does a sudden 360 degrees, but slows up to enter the rapids and then accelerates as water gushes into the boat. Not a dry body in the audience. I had to keep reminding myself that the boat of water was temporary and that I would not drown. After several experiences I sat back and enjoyed it. I highly recommend it!

Totally soaked, I met Gary T. Burroughs, the Lord Mayor of NOTL. It turns out that he was the former owner of the Oban Inn where I was staying. The inn, located on Front Street, not only has fabulously decorated rooms, and a pretty good restaurant, but a great view of the lake. It’s also in walking distance of the festival, if the weather isn’t too hot!

The Shaw Festival is big, but doesn’t top the acclaimed Tony-nominated Stratford Festival (Stratfordfestival.ca), located 90 minutes west of Toronto. In fact, it is North America’s largest classical repertory theatre that presents a six-month season in four district venues, where Shakespeare is only a part of it.

This year’s performances are running until the end of October, with the exception of Hello Dolly with its final show on Nov. 29. In a few that depart during the middle or end of September. Here is the basic rundown of theatre venues and plays.

The Festival Theatre is the largest, with a capacity of 1,824 seats, Shakespeare’s The Taming and As You Like It, the famed British musical Cabaret, and Lillian Hellman’s The Little Foxes. In 1,093 seats the Avon Theatre is the Noel Coward comedy Fallen Angels, and Stephen Sondheim’s musical Into The Woods is the bill of fare. (Three gay playwrights!)

It drops to 487 seats at the Tom Patterson Theatre (so named for festival’s founder) where Jason Segal’s The Brothers Karamazov, Waiting for Godot by Dan Nadel, Tennessee Williams’ Orpheus Descending, and Shakespeare’s Measure For Measure hit this stage.

The smallest, with a capacity of 260 seats is the Studio Theatre. James Beany’s The Dandy’s Stick & Stones, Nicolas Biller’s The Measure Of Love, Raymond O’Neill’s Both Dragon on Tour, and Christopher Marlowe’s Edward II delight the audience.

What’s most interesting about the shows is that you’ll find members of one cast on the stage of another show... but not necessarily at the same time. This is due to their being an extremely talented repertory group trained to perform several roles. More likely, however, you would not find the lead of one show as the lead of another.

We always compare both the shows and acting abilities to “Broadway”. In the case of talent at this venue, some have surpassed the comparison and many are happy to set their discipline and earnings to a six-month gig with a few months of rehearsal.

I stayed at A Hundred Church Street, a gay-owned/operated Bed & Breakfast (guess what the address is) whose location allowed the town to be walkable for me. Tim Dwyer and Garry McCubbin are the great hosts and display the rainbow flag. Excellent breakfast, too!

From here you can walk just a few blocks to Avon River. The Shakespearean Gardens are located across from the Court House. Nearby York Street is directly across from the river. Folks who know frequent the York Street Kitchen (she has a rainbow sticker on the window), not only for the food, but because of their take-out window. Double fisted sandwiches and benches to view the river. It’s one of those good-food and inexpensive eateries and even worth dining in for their dinner menu.

What draws people to the river are the Stratford Swans. These vegetarians are just adorable and approachable as well. On the same York Street block is a “find”. Distinctively Tea has the largest assortment of South African Rooibos teas that I’ve ever come across. The tea comes from a honey bush and is considered to be an anti-toxin. For me it is that they have a mail-order catalogue.

Another short walk will take you to one of the most unique restaurants in Canada. The Shakespearean Inn at 9 Cobourg St. is contemporary haute cuisine. They not only offer great food but a cooking school as well. My only beef with them is that I ordered a South African tea, no one, including the owner, knew what it was. So I ordered a Rooibos tea. Why is that important? To add to its properties, the tea is herbal and therefore naturally decaffeinated. Shouldn’t a restaurateur have information about what they are serving?

There are two excellent chocolate places that are not to be missed. Rex Thompson Candles are located at 35 Albert St. (888-271-0910). The candies are made on the premises. Machines do a lot of the work due to the demand. But the candy’s centers are prepared in the “kitchen” as well. They are noted for their Mint Smoothies. Those who are addicted to the mint chocolate Girl Scout cookies will appreciate them. The center is not grossly white stuff, but a soft chocolate with mint oil.

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Single-Family vs. Condo – A Side-by-Side Look

Deciding to buy a home is a major decision, but once you’ve made it then come all the other choices that go along with it. These include where you’d like to live, how many neighbors you want, how involved you want to be in the maintenance and upkeep, just for starters.

No problem, you say, you’ve always seen yourself driving up to a huge house with your own winding driveway and a great yard. Ah, yes, you can see it all now...you and your boy or girlfriend living happily ever after in your brand new gigantic home with a sprawling lawn and lovely gardens. You’ll be the envy of all your friends, won’t you?

Maybe at first you will be, but what about later?

If you’re only thinking about the right now effects of buying a home then you’d be doing yourself a favor to think a little further ahead into the future.

When you buy that big single-family house, you may be getting more than you’re actually bargaining for. The envy of your friends can pass quickly to their sighs of relief as they’re packing their bags for vacation while you’re putting your money into a new roof, landscaping a new coat of paint for the exterior.

Maintenance and upkeep are regular occurrences no matter what type of home you buy. But the type of home you buy does determine your direct involvement in that aspect of ownership, plus others.

Look at both sides of the coin before you decide whether to buy a single-family home or a condo. A condo may be the better choice for you, especially if you prefer to leave maintenance and upkeep to someone else.

What You Get with a Single-Family Home

If you buy a single-family home, you’ll get your castle, plus the land it’s sitting on. Your house won’t be attached to anyone else’s house.

From the front curb to the property line where your backyard ends, you get all of it and everything in between. This includes your house, the yard and any extra buildings. You own everything, which makes you responsible for everything, including maintenance and repairs for the house and lawn as well as any outside structures.

What You Get with a Condo

Buying a condo is like owning your very own apartment. Your castle extends inward from your interior walls, floors and ceilings. When it comes to outside areas of your home like exterior walls, the roof and foundation, plus the land, you’re a partner in ownership with all the other property owners who live there. You’re only responsible for any inside maintenance and repairs with a condo, while any external work is covered by the condo association.

Now that you know what you’ll be getting in general with either a single-family home or a condo, consider some of the specifics that can help you decide which type of home will not only best meet your current needs, but which will have a significant impact on your future.

SINGLE-FAMILY FACTS

Location: Single-family homes have long been a scarcity in most cities and suburban areas. You’ll probably be living in a suburb or rural area.

Adding-on: If you decide that you need more room, you can build an extra room onto a single-family home. Of course, your addition will be subject to your neighborhood/subdivision guidelines and applicable county ordinances.

Amenities: Single-family homes with pools and tennis courts can be very expensive, not to mention the cost of keeping them up. If you buy a house without these extras and plan to install them, you’ll have to buy a house with enough lot space to accommodate them.

Privacy: The single-family home provides the most privacy in types of dwellings. You can go days on end without seeing anyone.

Costs: If there’s one thing they’re not making any more of, it’s land, which is one of the reasons for the increased prices of single-family home. Even small lots have increased dramatically in price in recent years, and the bigger the lot, the higher the cost.

CONDO FACTS

Location: Condos are typically built in centralized locations. You’ll be within close proximity to areas of employment, shopping and clubs for socializing.

Adding-on: If you need more room in a condo, you’ll have to get creative in managing your space because you can’t just add an extra room. The upside though is that neither can your neighbors, so you’re all on equal ground here literally.

Amenities: Condos often include the favorite perks that most people enjoy. Some of the most popular amenities may include swimming pools, tennis courts, clubhouses, pet trails, play areas and walking/jogging trails.

Privacy: You have neighbors within close proximity if you buy a condo. If you prefer the security of having others close by, buying a condo is a practical option.

Costs: The same amount of square footage in a condo costs less then in a single-family home because more condos can be built on the same amount of land as it takes to accommodate single-family homes.

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Icelandic swimming champion gets on board with Outgames

Mark Tewksbury announced on Aug. 24 that Ingi Thor Jonsson, a former Olympic swimming champion from Iceland, has joined the Athletes’ Circle of the First World Outgames, Montreal 2006.

In addition to joining the Circle, Mr. Jonsson will act as an ambassador for the Outgames at many major gay sports events around the globe. Mr. Jonsson is currently in negotiation with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) to explore the possibility of having a film crew follow his travels to the various tournaments leading up to the First World Outgames in 2006.

“We are extremely pleased to have the support of Mr. Jonsson. His experience and expertise as an elite athlete will be a true asset to the First World Outgames. As well, having a media organization as respected and prestigious as the BBC involved would be an incredible bonus in helping us spread the word about the Outgames throughout the world,” said Mark Tewksbury, co-president of the First World Outgames and himself an Olympic swimming champion.

Ingi Thor Jonsson is currently an activist in the LGBT sports movement. Among his other accomplishments, he represented Iceland at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. He is passionately committed to the battle against homophobia in sport and enjoys media-winning performances at the Games in Munich in 2004 and at Utrecht in 2005, as well as at the Manchester Pride Games in 2005.

Going to Florida? Tampa Bay Gay Days tickets still available at gate

The Third Annual Gay Days Tampa Bay has announced that their supply of discounted Busch Gardens & Adventure Island tickets are now sold out! Remaining theme park purchases will be at the gate only.

On Saturday, Sept. 3, in a sea of red shirts, gay and lesbian visitors will descend on the jungles of Busch Gardens and the wild waters of Adventure Island. Visitors will have something new in store this year, as Busch Gardens unveils “Shark Week.” Widely considered the most unique new rollercoaster in the world, Shaka is 200 feet up and 90 degrees straight down!

Sunday, Sept. 4 boasts the color blue, as attendees cool their tans from the previous day with “Aquarium” – a day on the wild waters of Adventure Island. Visitors will have something new in store this year, as Busch Gardens unveils “Shark Week.” Widely considered the most unique new rollercoaster in the world, Shaka is 200 feet up and 90 degrees straight down!

The Tampa Marriott Hotel & Marina stands tall as the Official Host Hotel of Gay Days Tampa Bay 2005. With breathtaking views of the Tampa skyline and Channelside Port, the hotel is strategically located within walking distance of the Florida Aquarium, site of the second annual “Gay Day At The Florida Aquarium” – conveniently located within walking distance of the hotel. Special discounted tickets are available exclusively at www.GayDaysTampaBay.com and are available through the day of the event.

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Arts & Cultural Council announces $6,000 in grants available to individual artists for programs with public arts components

The Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester announced Aug. 23 that it will award a total of $6,000 in Individual Artist Grants to artists in Monroe County.

The grants are for programs that will be completed in 2006. The deadline for applying is Thursday, Nov. 10.

Individual Artist Projects need to result in new work that involves community members in its creation. This grant program is for creation, not performance. The Arts & Cultural Council’s Individual Artist Grants are a part of the Decentralization Grant Funded by the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York State Legislature.

All artists planning to apply for an Arts & Cultural Council Individual Artist Grant must attend one of three grant seminars scheduled in September and October. Attendance at a seminar is mandatory.

Seminars will take place at the Arts & Cultural Council, 227 N. Goodman St. on the following dates: Wednesday, Sept. 8, 1 p.m.; Monday, Sept. 19, 11 a.m.; Monday, Oct. 3, 4 p.m.

To register for a seminar or to make an appointment for grant-writing consultation, call (585)473-4000, x 210 or email cuangher@artsrochester.org.

Applications and guidelines are available at http://www.artsrochester.org/artscouncil/grants.htm.

GLAAD: LGBT representation on TV is poor

After a promising network pilot season that saw many new shows developed with gay and lesbian characters, the actual number of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) representations on the six major broadcast networks will comprise less than two percent of all characters on the networks’ 2005-06 schedule, according to an analysis conducted by the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).

GLAAD counts only 16 “series regular” and recurring gay, lesbian, and bisexual characters (there continue to be no transgender characters) scheduled to appear on 14 different scripted programs (out of 110 total) on the broadcast networks.

While this number is up from the 11 characters counted last season, the lack of representation is still cause for concern.

“Out of 710 ‘series regulars’ that will appear this season on the broadcast networks, gay, lesbian, and bisexual characters make up less than two percent,” says GLAAD Entertainment Media Director Damon Runyan.

“This is a shocking misrepresentation of reality and of the audience watching these programs.”

Of these 16 characters, 13 are male and three are female. 13 are white, with one gay character each representing African Americans, Latinos, and Asian Pacific Islanders. “If you’re looking at network television to see a good cross section of our community, you’re not going to find it. What you will find is primarily gay white men,” Runyan says.

Cable, meanwhile, continues to traverse boundaries by exploring our bi, families, and cultures in multi-dimensional ways.

GLAAD counts 25 LGBT characters that will appear on cable series in the 2005-06 season. “At this critical juncture in our struggle for equality, television’s potential for driving public understanding of who we are and what we’re fighting for is more important than ever,” Runyan says. “Since network television still captures a much larger audience than cable, GLAAD will continue to advocate for richer and more diverse representations from the broadcast networks.”

The report finds that male characters outweigh females 57 percent to 43 percent, and that the faces on network scripted shows continue to be predominantly white at 76 percent. African Americans make up 14 percent of the characterizations, Latinos/os and Pacific Islanders each represent three percent, with less than one percent representing Native American and other ethnicities.


Complete results of GLAAD’s “Where We Are On TV” diversity survey can be accessed at http://www.glaad.org/survey/ overview.php.

The Rochester Lesbian & Gay Film & Video Festival

OCTOBER 7-16, 2005

www.imageout.org

PRE-FESTIVAL EVENTS & NEWS

Advance Ticket Sales

Begin Sept. 7 for Members

Sept. 17 for General Public

Enjoy reduced pricing when you purchase your tickets in advance.

Screening & Program Release SPECIAL EVENT Wed, Sept. 7 @7:15pm Dryden Theatre

ImageArt Opening The sixth annual ImageArt Gallery exhibit will open on Sept. 23 Rochester Art Supply 190 West Main Street For more information: www.imageout.org

ImageArt Opening The sixth annual ImageArt Gallery exhibit will open on Sept. 23 Rochester Art Supply 190 West Main Street For more information: www.imageout.org

Wild side

ImageArt Opening The sixth annual ImageArt Gallery exhibit will open on Sept. 23 Rochester Art Supply 190 West Main Street For more information: www.imageout.org

Become A Member: Members of the 2005 film and shoes will be invited to a members-only reception attended by special guest Charlie Beaus on October 8.
Equality Leadership Conference 2005

Conference Agenda

7:30 – 8:15am  Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 10:00am  The Corporate Equality Index, CEI
Daryl Herrschaff, Deputy Director Workplace Project, HRC
An informative and educative session on the CEI, its impact and importance on corporate and public policy. Learn how to add your company to the 2005 Index or improve your current score.

10:00am……………… Break

Concurrent Workshops

10:15 – 11:45am  “How to Create LGBT Allies in the Workplace”
Panelists: Clay Osborne, VP, Global Diversity and Workforce Development, Bausch and Lomb; Marie Philippe, VP, President of Diversity, Excellus BC/BS; Laura Brooks, Operations Director, Engineering Research, Eastman Kodak Company; Cheri Wilkinson, VP, HR Production Systems Group, Xerox; Briana Foster, HR Specialist, Bausch and Lomb

“How to Support Individuals Transitioning in the Workplace”
Panelists: Donna Rose, National Center for Transgender Equality; Pat Piloni, Co-owner, Oser Press, Rochester; Amber Dobiesz, NY Transgender Rights Organization; Amy Friend, President of Lambda, Eastman Kodak Company; Virginia Meredith, Senior HR Director, Research, Eastman Kodak Company; Margaret Clemens, Partner, Nixon Peabody LLP

12:00 noon…………… Leadership Luncheon
Presentation of Business and Media Awards
Keynote Address
“Transitioning in the Workplace as a Senior VP of a Major Financial Company”
Margaret Stumpp, Senior VP, Prudential Financial, NYC

1:30pm……………… Conference Adjournment

Conference Fee:  $75 per person
Luncheon Fee:  $50 per person

The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley invites you to the 2005 Equality Leadership Conference
Hyatt Regency Hotel
125 E. Main Street, Rochester, New York
Friday, October 21, 2005
7:30am to 1:30pm
Keynote Luncheon Address:
Margaret Stumpp, Senior VP, Prudential Financial, NYC
DARIEN DAY: Around 50 members of the GAGV Youth Group enjoyed a day at Darien Lake amusement park on July 18. Photo by Toby Greenfield. The Youth Group will have drop-in hours 4-7 p.m., on Mondays and Wednesdays between 4 and 7 p.m. at the Youth Center, 875 E. Main Street. The Youth Center has new computers with internet access, as well as a new pool table!

Youth Update:
EMBER SWIFT, IMAGES: DROP IN HOURS, & MORE

By Toby Greenfield

The GAGV Youth Program is thrilled to announce that Canadian singer/songwriter Ember Swift will play a benefit at the Youth Center on Tuesday, Oct. 4 at 8 p.m. Tickets are $8 and proceeds benefit our Youth Group. Ember’s music combines folk, jazz, funk, punk, world (ranging from Middle Eastern to Spanish to Eastern European), pop, classical and reggae. Her songs shed light on issues such as globalization, consumer awareness, politics, disengaging from capitalist greed, feminism, queer politics, racism and environmentalism. Among recent honors, Ember Swift was nominated for Outstanding Songwriter of the year at the 2005 OUTMusic Awards in New York City. For more info on Ember, visit her website at www.emberswift.com. For info on tickets, call me at 248-8640 ext. 13. Please also see the ad and the article in section B.

On Sunday, Sept. 18, we will be hosting our first annual GAGV Youth Big Gay Garage Sale! It will be 9-5 at our Youth Center. Proceeds will benefit our Youth Program so come on out and buy some cool junk for a good cause!

For more info please contact me.
(585) 244-8640, ext. 17. III

Calendar Club to meet Sept. 29

Want to get your dates “straight” for the upcoming year? Want your group to avoid scheduling conflicts for the same day when other events will take place? Join the Calendar Club.

On Sept. 29, the Rochester LGBT Calendar Club will meet at the GAGV offices at the Auditorium Center (875 East Main St., Suite 500). This is an open meeting (5:30-6:30 p.m.) Members of local agencies and community groups are encouraged to attend and share dates and information about upcoming events.

For more information, call Todd Plunk at 244-8640, ext. 24.

Pride & Joy Families: Back to School

For light parents who have school age children, preparing for the new school year involves more than back to school shopping. As their children enter the school system, light parents are faced with the challenge of deciding if, when and how to come out to teachers and other school staff who will be interacting with their child.

Searching the Internet for ideas, I came across a personal account of one couple’s struggle to have their family structure understood and respected by their daughter’s teacher. The depaca (pre-K) teacher, upon overhearing Alanna tell a classmate that she was going to marry another little girl in her class, responded that “a woman could not marry a woman and a man could not marry a man because it was against the law.”

Alanna, knowing that people who break the law go to jail, returned home and proceeded to ask one of her moms if she was going to jail. The parents were understandably upset and took steps to remedy the situation and prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future.

This brief account illustrates the situations that same-sex parents may be forced to address when they have young school age children. Fortunately there are more resources now available through a variety of sources, including the Internet, LGBT community centers, and other state and national organizations.

See page C 3. (Upstate Report) for details about the upcoming November conference in Binghamton, hosted by the Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project.

 Locally, we have Rochester Pride & Joy Families, which provides education, support and fun social occasions for LGBT families. On Saturday, Sept. 17, Pride Families will be hosting a story hour and social at the GAGV Community Center on Atlantic Ave. from 1-3 p.m. Children are invited to bring one of their favorite stories to share with the group. Kids (and parents too) are encouraged to dress up as one of their favorite storybook characters. Prizes will be awarded to the best costumes, so be creative! Light refreshments will be served.

For more information about Pride & Joy Families, call Todd at (585) 244-8640 ext. 24, or contact Claudia Stallman with the GAGV (585) 244-8290.
Youth Update (from page 1)

we very excited to host an ImageOut pre-

festival youth event on Sept. 25, from 2-4 p.m. at our Youth Center. ImageOut will show several short youth films that Michael Gernell, Co-Chair of ImageOut’s Programming Committee, promises will be ‘some of the best LGBT Youth Shorts this Year.’ No event would be complete with-

out pizza, and of course, fabulous prizes! If you’re a youth ages 13-23, please come by and join us for this screening. Tickets for the Youth Project Film Series for this year’s fes-

tival will also be available at the event and are FREE to anyone under 18.

Other Youth Programs note... With the arrival of our new eMac computers, and the start of the school year we are very pleased to announce the beginning of drop-in hours this month at the Youth Center. Hours are Mondays and Wednesdays from 4 to 7 p.m. Check our youth website at: http://youth.
gayalliance.org for updated information.

We would like to extend our thanks to our guests every Sunday, this month we also say a fond farewell to many of our kids who are flying the coop and heading off to college. You will all be greatly missed, though we do expect periodic drop-ins to group over Thanksgiving, Christmas, and any other weekends you come back home.

I mean, you’ll have to come home to do laundry, right!!!

GAGV Library: a vision is coming true

By Tony Lewetz

In early 1994, I made my first visit to the GAGV Community Center on Atlantic and Eliot for a group function that took place in the main activity room. While waiting for the meeting to start, I spotted a modest collection of books on a shelving unit against the far wall. As an avid reader of gay literature, I was thrilled and dismayed by what I saw.

Several hundred books — many of them rare titles — were piled against the wall behind open windows. The books were not systematically arranged in any discernable order, and though some were in good condition, many appeared to be carelessly discarded on the sills of the windows, where they were exposed to moisture and harsh light, or were mixed alongside magazines and janitorial supplies in a trash can. What could be done? The first obstacle was the library’s role as a viable resource for LGBT persons and the mainstream community at large. I recently met with Plank, Szymanski, and Overmyer to assess their progress and discuss their combined vision for this project. I was encouraged to see their genuine commitment to the endeavor and was further impressed by their plans for future growth.

Tony Lezard巧, why didn’t you start the library renovation project?

Todd Plank: My first day on the job was Oct. 1, 2003 and our offices at that time were in the community center upstairs, while the library was in the community room. With one book, I could see the library had been neglected. What really got me up was the depository for return books was a trash can. This distressed me greatly because I thought it was sending the wrong message. So I mention that garbage could be thrown into the can and spill any books there.

My first initiative was to create a proper book drop. However, I became a bit more pessimistic. In pursuing this idea, I thought it was a wonderful resource and it needed to be preserved, expanded, and reorganized. What could be done? The first obstacle was its location — an open space where several groups met. There was no control over the borrowing and returning of books. When the GAGV offices relocated in April 2004, I immediately saw an opportunity to move the library to what had been a conference room on the first floor.

I looked for help to do this and was referred to Ove and Gerry. I also put a call out in the EC for volunteers to help move the books from one room to another, and got a lot of help. That created the impetus for the first-scale project of restoration, reorganization, and expansion. The few volunteers who did show up felt as passionate as I did that we had a responsibility to take care of this gift we had. It also represented an outreach and educational opportu-

nity to encourage people to come in and access the library. We wanted to see it used, but used responsibly in a way that we could monitor what goes in and what comes back. I jokingly related to the Lending Library as the Leaveing Library since, according to several observers, many of the books had left before I arrived.

Tony: What do you think happened?

Ove Overmyer: Theft.
Gerry Szymanski: Also, and I wouldn’t necessarily call this theft—some people see a book that speaks to their needs and because no one was around to check out the book for them, they would keep the book because it spoke to them.

As a former high school librarian, I know that books about gay and lesbian subjects were some of the highest sold books. It wasn’t that someone went to the library and thought “Gee, I’m gonna steal this book.” Instead, they were at a point in their life in which it would have been good for them, to have books about what was embarrassing or painful for them to have seen before an intervention with a librarian. If they took the book, it was probably for a good reason.

Tony: What do you think about the GAGV library? Some of those lost books went to people who really needed them; while it’s sad we don’t have them in our collection, they were probably well used.

Ove: And I think of the management problems with the books that were part of the GAGV collection at that time was due to the fact that those volunteer-

ers working for the GAGV were only with the agency for so many years, so there was a lack of institutional memory and responsibility to the collection. When someone left, they never handed over to the next person in charge information about what they had done or what they knew. When new people came in, it was like starting from zero again.

Todd: In our restoration efforts, we did find an old card catalogue and an old log book. So at one time (in the 90’s) there was some sort of control.

Ove: Yes. Six months into the project we ran into a guy named Michael Robertson, a retired librarian from RIT who was one of the people who started the library. He was the one who initially cataloged these books.

Todd: I have come across people who saw the health of the books was in dan-

ger and so they took them home and sat on them until a time when they might be more secure. We’ve had old books come back with the GAGV sticker on the binder, which was proof that they were once here.

Ove: This is happening with donations, too. Now that people see there is an effort to restore the library and take care of the holdings, people are coming forward with books.

Gerry: The community has always been a resource for free materials. You go in there today and you can see piles and piles of free magazines, brochures. It’s not a big leap to think the novel on the wall is free, too.

Tony: Yes, having the library exposed in an open, uncontrollable area was sending a mixed message.

Gerry: No, not saying we’re control freaks, but as librarians, we are in the busi-

ness of making sure we know where our books are at all times.

Tony: How did you first meet up and what was your plan of action for the project?

Ove: Todd had a huge need to restore the library. He called me to meet and for individual reasons we responded. For two years prior to this, I’d been mulling over the thought of pursuing gay history in some regard, but locally it wasn’t something I was interested in; it seemed too ambitious, over everybody’s head, so I thought probably wouldn’t be enough people to get on board. But for some reason I got up that Saturday morning at 9 a.m. and I thought for me — and I came here and I looked at the collection and said to myself, “It would be a shame if we didn’t do something general to turn my back on this collection.”

Gerry: Todd had been with me for longer and he bias me to start thinking of the library. I knew about the collection because I had been a member of members from the beginning. For a list of different goals for how the library should work: we should have a catalogue and a list of books. It should have basic times for when the library is open, etc.

In one sense, we were creating a library for an already-existing collection. Most places where people create a library, they build a building and they buy the books and they build a collection and a list of different goals for how the library should work: we should have a catalogue and a list of books. It should have basic times for when the library is open, etc.

Tony: You have all mentioned the library as a resource. Other than using it to check out informational books, how might you see the library functioning?

Gerry: Most obviously, it’s a source for public meetings. There’s a significant fic-

tion section...

Todd: We have a lot of children’s books, too, who take on the road with me to do presentations.

Ove: And family-oriented books, too. We have a calendar of meetings for families and have referred people to our collection when they’re interested in starting their own families.

Ove: Health issues are important, too. Gay men, for example, often have a hard time finding specific information — for very specific things: “I’m interested in reading more about gay adoption,” that sort of thing. And then we enjoy being in to browse and discover things that please their interests, mainly with the fic-

tion section.

Ove: I consistently receive e-mails and telephone calls with regards to the collection as a possible resource. I’ve just got a call from the Democrat & Chronicle, a woman staff writer was doing an article on the movement, and she called me to access our collection to see if we had any books on lesbian bereavement.

Todd: The three men are also eager to expand their interest in volunteering. There’s a significant fic-
tion section...

Here’s a call to action for very specific things: “I’m interested in reading more about gay adoption,” that sort of thing. And then we enjoy being in to browse and discover things that please their interests, mainly with the fic-

tion section.
Faith community news from Buffalo

On July 17, Rick Danielson was voted in at Trinity United Church of Christ in Buffalo, where 97 percent of the congregation voted to calling him as an openly gay pastor.

According to Rick, this is the first for a gay man in the UCC in Western New York.

A multi-faith roundtable is planned in Buffalo for this fall. The roundtable will provide an opportunity to organize local faith communities and to help members build their skills as advocates for LGBT equality and justice. The Empire State Pride Agenda invites all community members to attend a planning meeting at the Pride Center of WNY on Monday, Sept. 19, at 6 p.m., at the Pride Center of WNY, 18 Trinity Place, Buffalo.

For more information or to confirm your attendance, please contact Chris Barden at 212-627-0305, ext. 116.

Buffalo’s Rainbow Elders plan transgender panel

The upcoming meeting of Rainbow Elders of WNY will be held on Sept. 4, at 3 p.m., at 206 South Elmwood at Chippewa, the Room at the Home.

The topic will be “Transgender Issues,” with a panel discussion presented by Yvonne and friends. It will be an honest and frank discussion of the issues surrounding individuals who consider themselves transgendered. The panel will also have a short business meeting, followed by a potluck dinner for all. Theme for this month is “Harvest Moon.” Please bring some fresh vegetables and dishes that we can make this time of year, bringing your favorite and your appetite. And don’t forget to bring some canned goods for the AIDS pantry. It is for ‘rent’ for them letting us use their space. Don’t miss it, you will see there.

At the meeting in October, however, the group will be addressing the arrest of individuals in Elliott Creek Park and what Rainbow Elders can do to provide a social and support outlet for those who feel they have nowhere else to go, and how the Elders can reach out to this and other segments of the community. The panel discussion will be led by Dr. James D. Hayes.

Reportedly, many of those arrested in the past few years have been in the Elder age group and the group wants to reach out to them and others and tell them there is an alternative social outlet for those who choose not to go to other gay oriented gatherings.

Rainbow Elders says, “We all know that advanced age is an issue in our community and we are trying to show that it does not need to be a reason why people should not participate, there will be more information to come later.”

For those who missed the original story, click on: http://www.buffalolgbt.com/edittor­ial/20050807/106010.asp and to read a follow-up letter sent by Rainbow Elders founder Madeline and Danny, please click on: http://www.buffalolgbt.com/editori­al/20050801/35o5808.asp. III

Library (from page 2)

Gerry: Our interests in the archives aside, most of our focus is on organizing the archives, splitting the materials into cataloging. Our vision for the archives is to keep every issue of The Empty Closet with the exception of the issue of reprinted materials that we’re shifting through should start in Rochester or go to Cornell, to the local Michigan archives. Digital is the end goal of this project with the U of L. It’s possible that we could have this space be a repository for community archival materials from the different LGBT community groups here in town and find out what kind of materials they have—newspapers, letters, program recordings, videotapes, posters, things from ImageOut, things from AIDS Rochester, Rochester RAMs...and we could be the repository for this sort of overarching historical survey of groups that exist in Rochester, and of groups that are interested in talking about this. We could create a box with the bare facts: description, how the event happened, and the event. Then we could be the house for that information.

Tony: How might one go about donating materials? Todd: Call me at 244-8640 (ext 24) or e-mail me at todd@ppedge.us. The sheer magnitude of documents, newspapers, reports, newsletters, posters, things from ImageOut, things from AIDS Rochester, Rochester RAMs...is so vast, and the difficulty in finding people who are interested in this work, that by us, I might add, that we’ve been receiving from people is remarkable.

Tony: Are you making an attempt to create a kind of social group for the archivist? We are looking for an archivist who has been trained in this area, and I think we’ve already trained 50 percent. We went from 2,000 books to 5,000 book a year, without any solicitation.

Ove: And that’s the kind of thing I think a lot of people forget. My feeling is that the library is now on the GAGV’s annual report. The library project has increased the quality of the GAGV significantly.

Gerry: Plus, community groups within and beyond the LGBT population are now thinking of us as a bona fide entity. We were contacted, for example, to come set up a table about using some books from the archives to teach political history of historical materials at the Pride festival. Before the rain washed everyone out, we had 1,000 people stopping by and talking enthusiastically about our materials, taking brochures, and people are actually visiting the library.

Ove: And this is incredible because we hadn’t tried to go out and sell the place yet. All we were doing was setting a foundation to tell people that we exist.

Todd: Completing an online catalogue will be the key to getting a lot of community members to use the library.

Gerry: It’s amazing to see how this project, which began as a way to organize a bunch of neglected books, has become so much more. Each time we get together we talk about the future of the other project. “We’ve got so much work done tonight.”

Tony: What are the library hours and how can we contact you?

Gerry: We’re open every Wednesday from 6-8 p.m. Usually at the moment, a book can be found out of the archives but the online materials can be viewed but not taken out.

Since April, we have been cataloging and digitizing primary source materials from GAGV has put some library software. So far we have 300 items cataloged, which will be digitized in the next couple of weeks. It’s a long, painstaking process but we volunteers are working on it. Until we can learn how to use the current digital library systems, so if you’re searching a catalogue in the public library system, we’ll be there.

We want to be on OCLC, Worldcat. If somebody in Albany is looking for a particular book and the search engine shows one library in the entire U.S. that has (Continued on page 7)
ARTSY-FARTSY FILM GROUP

Enough of this summer heat! Enjoy an air-conditioned, almost-full afternoon at the Drill Theatre with the Artsy-Fartsy Film Group, an openshout Arts Metropolitan Community Church.

Meet us at the Little (240 East Ave, Rochester) on the afternoon of Saturday, Sept. 17, for a film and coffee- and enhanced discussions afterwards. To learn the film selection and the time to meet at the theater, please do one of the following: once or twice the Thursday before the film: call 271-8748 to hear a recording, check www.frontier.net/~suxve, or call the group facilitator (287-6004) to be recom­mended back or welcome for the first time!

DIGNITY INTEGRITY

Don’t forget our annual picnic with Dignity in Medina on Saturday, Sept. 3; call 234-5092.

Our schedule of services and events for the Sunday of Ally Week!

Sat: 7:30 Arts in the Park at Larkin Plaza
Sat: 11:00am Lecture/discussion Presentation/discussion, “Families With Lesbian Children Are Unfortunate,” by Casey and Mary Brown
Sat: 1:00pm Roman Catholic Liturgy of the Word with music
Sat: 25 Evening prayer (common to both traditions) with or without music.
Potluck dinner to follow.

Attend for our 30th Anniversary celebration in early October:
Oct: 8th 30th Anniversary Dinner/Dance at the American Association of University Women meeting hall on East Avenue.

Please check out our display advertising on the next page for more information. And be sure to come join us over at the church with the pink steeple sometime!

GAY FATHERS

The Gay Fathers’ Group will start meeting again on Sept. 20 for the 2005 – 2006 year. We meet on the first and third Tuesday of every month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

In general: The group consists of men and in some cases their same sex partners. We are all at different stages in our lives. Some are married, some are going through separation/divorce, some have custody of their children and some don’t, and all are at different points in the coming out process. This is a support group (not therapy) intended to discuss all these issues and more. Every one here is offered the opportunity to seek and to give support.

A social night is sometimes planned for the fourth or fifth Tuesday of the month. A holiday potluck gathering is planned at a member’s home in December.

The GAGV is at 244-8460, ext. 24 if you are interested in finding out more about us. Confidentiality is important, so our facilitator will need to meet with you before you attend any meetings and to be sure that your expectations are also met.

There are also brochures available about our group at the Community Center.

GLESN
JUST THE FACTS: EX-GAY CAMPS

In 1999, GLESN created the resource, Just the Facts, which was immediately endorsed by a consortium of national organizations, including the American Psychological Association, the National Association of School Psychologists, the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers, among others.

There is renewed interest in this resource following a New York Times article (Gay Teenager Stirs a Storm, July 17, 2005) chronicling the dangerous experience of a young gay student in Memphis at a so-called reformation therapy center inaccurately named “Love in Action.” To read more please click the link: http://www.glesn.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/news/view/278.html.

Working Assets Customers Vote for GLESN

Working Assets is a long distance, wireless long distance provider company that donates a percentage of its revenue to progressive nonprofit organizations.

Last year, the Working Assets Corporation gave over $160,000 to GLESN to support our critical work ensuring safe schools for all, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students.

We are delighted to report that GLEN has again been selected for receiving funding next year! To read more please click the link: http://www.glesn.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/news/view/1823.html.

Don’t Miss Out on Ally Week Sept. 15

Who can help us to end anti-LGBT bullying and harassment in our schools? LGBT students, our school community is valued and respected, regardless of real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. To join us or make a tax-deductible contribution, contact us at GLESN Rochester@aol.com or (585) 244-1509.

LAMBDA NETWORK AT KODAK

By Donna Tiefenthaler

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

We were thrilled that Donna Rose (MTP post-op transsexual) gave a training for the Lambda Network at Kodak in July and also filmed it for a story on Transgender employees in the workplace. The session was attended by Human Resources, the Office of Diversity, and Business and Network leaders.

The event was another step Kodak was taking in its journey to create a more safe and equitable workplace for Transgender employees.

A woman who will be a panelist at the GAVG Leadership Conference on Oct. 21, is nationally known for her work in educating corporate America about the needs of the Transgender community in the workplace. A former Rochesterian, she has worked at Kodak for 15 years and currently works with her local business. She also serves on the HRC Business Council. She was joined by a colleague, Jay Smith Brown, Director of Business Strategies. Lambda coordinated this event. Many thanks to Donna Rose, HRC and CNN for joining us!

Be sure to check out The New York Times in September. They are running a story on diversity and protect them from harassment.

The paper will also feature a special supplement that will be distributed at the Equal Payday Summit, Sept. 22-24, in Denver, Colorado.

Lambda is planning its first Member-ship Meeting, which will be open to all members and allies of the network. For more information, please contact Theresa Miller at theresa.miller@kodak.com.

For information about becoming a Kodak employee or about Kodak’s benefits, please email us at lambda@kodak.com or have a message on the Lambda voice mail (585) 293-3888. Lambda’s internet site for Kodak employees is http://lambda.kodak.com. More details on Kodak’s global diversity activities, visit us at www.kodak.com/gldiversity. Visit us at www.kodak.com/gldiversity.

MEN’S COOKING GROUP

The Gay Men’s Cooking Group has had a “summer in the sun”.

Each month we had food from across the world and outdoor. Our themes have ranged from a Luau to the Fabulous Fifties – complete with a hula dancer! We are now getting ready for the fall season. Anyone is welcome at a meeting. We generally meet on the third or fourth Sunday of the month at a member’s house on a rotating basis and we share a meal once a month.

Next Sunday, June 6, we will have a picknick or cook it yourself or with a chef. If you are interested in joining us or would like to help plan a menu, please contact Andy’s Men’s Cooking Group, or if you have questions about the group, please contact Dick Connell at 463-2273.

PLAGAL

PLAGAL prides itself on the diversity of its membership. One of the core functions of our pro­fessional organizations that accept all those who are professional. PLAGAL members come from diverse social backgrounds, different political affiliations while others do not. We provide resources, including workshops, bi­sexuality, singe, those in long term relationships and social and economic backgrounds and we have heterosexual individuals in our group. Contact us for more information. PO Box 33292 Washington DC 20032; 202-233- 6576; info@plagal.org; http://www.plagal.org; Rochester liaison: Donna Marie Kearney, 589-594-2099.

ROCHESTER RAINBOW GOSPEL CHOIR

The RRGC will begin its sixth season with a rehearsal on Saturday, Sept. 11, from 5-6:30 p.m. at the East Avenue Inn, 384 East Avenue. New and returning singers are encouraged to come and meet at this first rehearsal.

The choir is planning some big events this year, including opening for Peggy Campolo on Oct. 2 at 7 p.m at the East Avenue Inn. The choir is also planning to record its first CD this year, including great songs by Black gospel legends Kurt Carr, Kirk Franklin, Israel Houghton, and Richard and Smallwood.

A gospel concert in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is also being planned. For more information, please contact the choir at RainbowGospelChoir@kodak.com or call 289-4508.

RAINBOW SINGERS

SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER AS LIFE GOES ON

As we mature, we begin to develop an awareness of self that brings us to realize that the bars, hot spots, and clubs are not as close as they used to be. There are also gay and lesbian clubs, neighborhoods, sports teams, restaurants, bars, and businesses. People coming to our monthly pot­ lucks have made new friends and met old
Together we will create an environment that promotes healing, provides support for exploring your personal journey and empowers you to make self-choosing choices.

Path M. Williams, M.S.Ed.
Nationally Certified Individual, Couple, Adolescents, Families Sign Language Proficient
(585) 585-4735

An active faith community since 1975
Dignity-Integrity

Sundays at 5:00 p.m.
1st Sunday:
Episcopal Eucharist with Music
2nd Sunday:
Presentation or Discussion*
3rd Sunday:
Roman Catholic Liturgy of the Word
4th Sunday:
Evening Prayer & Pot Luck Supper

St. Luke / St. Simon Cyrene Church
17 S. Fitzhugh St. (corner of Broad St.)
The church with the pink steeple

234-5092 Info-Line
Recorded information and voice mail
info@di-rochester.org
www.di-rochester.org

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

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Being Gay
By Garland Miller

People think being gay
Is something u choose 2 b
But it's not
It's not like 1 morning you wake up – n– say
"I'm gonna be gay" and then the next
"I think I'm straight"
It's hard being gay cuz
You get ridiculed a lot
People don't accept you for who you are
They accept you for who you do
The minute you say
"I'm gay"
It becomes another day
Your friends shun you
You no longer fit in
You're looked at differently from the outside in
Girls don't mind but
The boys are harsh
They feel weird being around you for fear
That you'll take a peek
They also become afraid that you'll
Become attracted to them so
They kick you to the curb
Girls see that they have someone else
That they can talk to about boys
It opened new worlds
And 5 a.m. pawings at my feeder's face for
"I wish u would stop being gay" Only if they could get their wish
I sometimes wonder
Is being gay strange?
Is being gay OK?
Is being gay gonna make me
Lonely everyday?
There's times I wish
That I were straight
So I can make friends
w/o they asking/wondering
"Are yougay?"
My life has changed
Since I've been gay
I've lost friends just about everyday
I'm no longer girls
"Pepi Chulo" But boys
"Novio"
I just wish my life would end at times
But others I'm glad to be alive
I just don't understand people who
Can't accept you for who you are
But who accept you for who you do
I can't understand why/how
I became gay
But only that I am
No one can change me
And I can't change myself
All I know is
This is who I am and
This is who I be!
We're not apologizing. We're not hiding.
We know what we want and we know what we deserve.
We're proud of who we are. We are the groundbreakers for tomorrow...
Want a quick easy way to post community events for others to see? Still ch elegant but wanting to meet more people who you can talk to? Want to meet others for social gatherings and to organize events? Join us!

Now I'm grown up and I love myself in ways I could never imagine before. I didn't think my life would ever be so sweet. I throw at them; I believe in the strength of my friendships; I believe in the good of faith.

As a New York Mets baseball fan, Cynthia Stallard has been featured with Warren, Alan Harris, Doug Wright and Alison Smith have all been featured with the publishers and the writers themselves. Gerry and Todd are getting any remuneration for their hundreds of hours of work.

Yes, and our mission statement is posted on the GAGV web site. Todd: Finally, I think readers should know neither Gerry nor Ove are getting reader support to the library. It's become a public relations coup for us insofar as it has increased our visibility and our collection. It's also given us financial support.

Tony Ove, tell me about your column "Wordsmith" and how its success is linked with the library.

Ove: "Wordsmith" is a regular column in The Empty Closet that introduces its readers to authors of LGBT-related literature. Each month, I interview a different author as the column's focus. Patricia Nell Warren has become a great contributor to our collection and offers us words of encouragement continuously: she just sent 62 books from her personal library to us, wishing us good luck. Last month's featured columnist was Christopher Rice. I had a great response from his publisher, who has promised to donate each of Rice's books to our library.

The column is our link to the literary world, but it has also increased our community's reputation. When artists communicate with us, they're seeing us as a respectable resource that will take care of their work. It's become a public relations coup for us insofar as it has increased our visibility and our collection. It's also given us financial support.

Tony Ove: I hear you guys have even drafted a mission statement. Yes, and our mission statement is posted on the GAGV web site.

Todd: Finally, I think readers should know neither Gerry nor Ove are getting any remuneration for their hundreds of hours of work.

Gerry: And although the care and maintenance of the library is part of Todd's job description, it is only one of the many responsibilities he has. None of us is being paid for this, and we love the work we're doing.

For more information about the GAGV Library, visit the GAGV website at http://gayalliance.org.
Learn to:
- Give voice to your emotions
- Develop your strengths
- Improve your relationships
- Conquer your fears

Edith Bernstein, CSW

Flexible hours
Sliding fee scale

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- What effect does my past have on me?
- What can I do about my future?
Individuall and couples therapy (sliding fee scale)
500 Helendale Road, Suite 155, Rochester N.Y. 14609
Classifieds

Classified ads are $5 for the first 50 words; each additional 10 words is another $1.

We do not bill for classifieds, so please send or bring ad and payment to The Empty Closet, 875 E. Main St., Rochester, NY 14605. The deadline is the 19th of the month, for the following month's issue. We cannot accept ads over the phone. We publish free ads for prisoners on a space-available basis. Pay when you place your ad.

We will accept only ads accompanied by name and phone number. Neither will be published, but we cannot be held responsible for financial loss or physical injury that may result from any contact with an advertiser. Advertisers must use their own box number, voice mail or personal address/phone number.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteer for the Empty Closet. Journals, reporters, reviewers, photographers, proofreaders, distribution volunteers. If you can give two hours per month, please call Susan at 244-9030. Thanks!

SERVICES

Rochester's best body rub. To all you who have not yet let my skilled, strong hands work their magic on you — call me! I'm a fit, friendly, healthy Italian GM. My 10 years plus experience ensures your relaxation and satisfaction. Hotel out calls or central location in calls. Reasonable rates. Discretion assured. Don't delay, call today at 585-235-6688, or email me at muscleloverman@rochester.rr.com.

Martin Ippolito, master electrician. Electrical work, phone jacks, cable TV, burglar alarm systems, paddle fans. Call 585-266-6377.

Humble buddy men in need of stress-relieving body rub by talented masculine hands, call 442-9677 or paulyoso@rochester.rr.com. 7-11.

I'm a fit, friendly, healthy Italian man. I'm a permanent need. 585-235-6688; email hands, call 442-9677 or paulyoso@rochester.rr.com.

I offer muscle massage therapy. Specializing in weekly full body rub. Lockable, secured ester.rr.com. For appointment only. Call evenings for students $13/hour, others $25/hour. I can give two hours per month, please call muscleloverman@rochester.rr.com.

 empty closet, storage space needed, in exchange for satisfaction. Hotel out calls or storage. Call 442-9677 or paulyoso@rochester.rr.com.

WANTED

For a responsible male friend to share small quiet street. 266-4582.

FOR SALE

Prefer relieves body rub by talented masculine hands. 266-4582.

FOR RENT


FOR SALE

Built-in Dishwasher. Hotpoint, beige, runs great, $95. Box springs: One queen, one twin, new, call for price. Carpeted display: pedestal-caster wheels, 48-inches square, 12-inches, B/O. 585-235-6688; e-mail: muscleloverman@rochester.rr.com.

Weekly GLBTI AA Meetings in Rochester

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

What makes GLBTI recovery a bit different is that we recognize: issues surrounding our sexuality can contribute to our alcoholism and addiction; coming out and coming to terms with ourselves as alcoholics or addicts can be as traumatizing as coming out and coming to terms with our sexuality; other drugs of abuse run rampant in our community and we do not exclude those so addicted (you will not be shunted down for speaking words like pot, cocaine, crack, heroin, ecstasy, K, speed, meth, pills, etc.).

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

Open meetings are open to alcoholics and addicts as well as 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.

Saturdays

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

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

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

Sundays

Rochester Gay Men: 8:30 a.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 15 E Fitzhugh St. Bus riders use the Fitzhugh St stop on Main St at the County Office Building and walk south one block.

GLBTI recovery, we include "straight" meetings in their program. If you are shy about meeting people or speaking up in a group, you will find this meeting particularly warm and inviting because everyone gets their turn to speak (or pass). As a result, this meeting often runs long, so plan on more than the usual hour.

Geri Stanton Counseling Services

MS.Ed., MS.Ed.
Nationally Certified Counselor
Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor
Sign Language Skilled

Individual • Couple • Group

Serving the GLBTI community for over 10 years

Office: 585.325.7180
TTY: 585.533.2041
THURSDAY 1
Transcending Boundaries Third America's Conference on Bisexuality. Hartford, Ct. Nov 4-6. Early registration by Oct 1; $50; after Oct 1 $60. Email transcending@bisonline.com; Shu­ron at 860-599-6500. web: www.transcendi­ngboundaries.org.


SATURDAY 3
Dignity and Integrity Picnic with Digni­ty/Buffalo, Medina, 234-5092.

MONDAY 4

WEDNESDAY 7
Shipping Dock Theatre auditions, 7 pm at the Visual Studies Workshop audi­torium. The requirements are: “Soldier’s Heart” by David French: one young M to play 16, two M to play mid 30 – 40s, runs 11/18 – 12/18. “Kid” by Jonathan Wilson: two M to play 20s, one M to play 70s-80s, two W to play 40s-50s, runs 3/3 – 4/2; “The Year in Review,” an evening of improv and scenes energetic, fun, leaving, creative people of all ages and genders. Vol­unteers are always needed.

ImageOut evening, Dryden Theatre at Eastman House, 8 pm. Snapshot Review,” by Jonathan Wilson; two M to play 20s, one M to play 70s-80s, two W to play 40s-50s, runs 3/3 – 4/2; “The Year in Review,” an evening of improv and scenes energetic, fun, leaving, creative people of all ages and genders. Vol­unteers are always needed.

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FRIDAY 9

SUNDAY 11
Clarence Darrow the Search for Jus­tice. 7 pm, First Unitarian Church. With Gary Anderson. $10 in advance; $12 at door; students $8; $25 family maximum. 381-4846.

In the Life. Topic: war on AIDS. 10:30-11:30 on WXXI. Rainbow Gospel Choir, first rehearsal of season, 5-6:30 pm, East Avenue Inn, 284 East Ave. Rainbowchoir@hotmail.com: 288-6508.


TUESDAY 13
Primary Day. Go to the polls and vote!

THURSDAY 15
Empty Closet deadline for October issue. Ads, articles, everything. 244-9300; emptycloset@gagv.us.

FRIDAY 16
Speaking of Women’s Health. Roch­ester Riverside Convention Center. 258- 0203; wxxi.org/swh.

SATURDAY 17
Army Parry Film Group. Little Thea­tre: For film and time, call 271-8478.

Pride & Joy Families story hour, 1-3 pm. GAGV Community Center. 179 Atlantic Ave. 244-8640 ext 24.


SUNDAY 18
ARTWalk Alivel Festival along 700 block of University Ave., noon-4 pm. Artists, poets, food, music and dance – including dancing Street Sweeper choreo­graphed by Thomas Warfield. 473-9505; ARTWalkrochester@com­munityartgallery.org.

Rainbow Seniors Back to School. Box lunch foods. 4 pm, First Universalist Church, 150 S. Clinton Ave.

Dignity Integrity Roman Catholic liturgy of the Word with music. St. Luke/ St. Simon Cyrene Church, 1221 S. Fitz­hugh.


GAGY Youth Group Big Gay Garage Sale. 9 am - 5 pm. GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main St., Prince St. Entrance.

MONDAY 19
“Big Macs & Baquettes: What Amer­i­cans and Europeans Think About Sex,” 6 pm at Rochester Memorial Art Gal­lery; featured speaker Barbara Huberman, Director of Education & Outreach, Advo­cates for Youth in Washington, DC. $25 per seat, free for students. For registration and more information contact Gabrielle McKay at (585) 546-2771, ext. 430, or email gmckay@pbyn.org.

TUESDAY 20
Gay Fathers Group. First meeting of fall. 6:30-8:30 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

WEDNESDAY 21
Coming Out workshop eight-week series begins. Call Todd, 244-8640 ext 24.

Labyrinth walk, free reiki and chair massage. music. 7-9:30 pm. Auditorium of Strong Hall, Colgate Rochester Center Divinity School. 436-9714; 367-0019; 392- 3801.


FRIDAY 23
ImageArt Gallery Exhibit, Gallery of Rochester Art Supply. 152 W. Main St.

SATURDAY 24
ImageArt poetry reading, Visual Studies Workshop, 30 Prince St. Open mic; audience votes for People’s Choice.

SUNDAY 25
Pre-ImageOut Youth Festival. 2-4 pm, GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main St., Prince St. entrance. Youth shows. Pizza and prizes. 244-8640, ext 13.

Dignity Integrity evening prayer in Episcopal and Catholic traditions. 3 pm. Poet/McCoy follows. St. Luke/St. Simon Cyrene Church, 1221 S. Fitz­hugh.

THURSDAY 29
LGBT Calendar Club. GAGV office, 875 E. Main St. Suite 500, 5:30-6:30 pm, 244-8640 ext 24.

FRIDAY 30
Empty Closet distribution of October issue. If you’d like to take bundles of papers to distribution sites around town, come to GAGY Youth Center, 875 E. Main St., Prince St. entrance, between 1 and 4 pm. Help is greatly appreciated! 244-9303.

OCTOBER
SUNDAY 2
Peggy Campolo, pro-gay evangeli­cal Christian speaker. 7 pm. Community Christian Fellowship, East Avenue Inn, 384 East Ave. Free. open to public.

Dignity Integrity 30th Anniversary Liturgy. Eucharist celebrated by Bishop Jack McKeil.

TUESDAY 4
Emile Swift in concert. 8 pm, GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main, Prince St. entrance. $8 to benefit GAGV Youth Group.

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THURSDAY 7

Ongoing Calendar

MONDAY
Gay and Lesbian Support Group
Third Presbyterian Church, 34 Meigs St., (July meeting only; house next to church.)
First, third Mondays, 7:30-9pm, 338-3468
Rochester Historical Bowling Society
7:30pm, Mondays, Clover Lanes, 2750 Monroe Ave. (Group is full)
CODAP
Come Cut and Play. Business meeting last Mondays, 7pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Tom M. 454-3650, MAY ONLY. Meeting May 23.
American Baptists Concerned
Third Mondays, 7:30pm, Webster House, 57 Ambrose St. 424-5466
HIV Positive Gay Men Support group
Every Monday, 6pm, AGS Rochester, 1350 University Ave. 442-2222, x2051
Green Party (political)
Second Mondays, 7-9pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave, 244-8640
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 Pole Way, 403-1400
GAGV Youth Drop In Hours
Mondays, Wednesdays, 4-7pm, 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, 6:30-9:30pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave, 461-0821
Pride GLBT Al-Anon
Every Tuesday, 7pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Call Tom Park, 244-8640 ext 24
Gay Fathers’ Support Group
First and third Tuesdays, 6:30-9:30pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Call Ralph, 242-0237
The MOCHA Youth Group
3-5pm, MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400
MOCHA Hepatitis Clinic
Free Healtit A & B vaccinations, third Tuesdays, 5-7pm, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400

WEDNESDAY
Women’s Community Chorus
Rehearsals each Wednesday, 6:30-9pm, Call for location, 234-4441
Gay Alliance of the Geneseo Valley
Board of Directors’ Meeting, second Wednesday, 7pm, 675 E. Main St., fourth floor Blue Room, 244-8640
New Freedom New Happiness AA Gay meeting
7pm, Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Rd. Men and women. Open meeting
Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost Children
First, third Wednesdays, 11am-12:30pm, Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Meigs St, Sponsored by Genesee Region Home Care. Fees: $20-100
Frontrunners/Frontwalkers
6pm run/walk; meet George Eastman House parking lot, 9 am, 442-7412
Empire Bears
First Wednesdays, 7:30pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Info:empirebears.org
Transgender Group
Third Wednesday, 6:30-9pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.
Multicom-Coffee Talk
7pm, 5pm Date, 729 Park Ave. Social for former Multicom-C members. other gay/lgbt people welcome. every fourth Wednesday, 7pm
GAGV Library & Archives
6-8pm every Wednesday, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave, 244-8640. Books can be returned to GAGV offices, 875 E. Main St, Suite 500, from 9am-8pm
Butch Femme Connection
Fourth Wednesday, 7-9pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.
Brothers Keeper
Support group for men over 30. Second Wednesdays, 6-8pm, MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400
AGA
Support group for transgender of color. Third Wednesdays, 6-8pm, MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400
GAGV Youth Drop In Hours
Mondays, Wednesdays, 4-7pm, 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, 7:30 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

THURSDAY
Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns
6:30pm, first Thursday. For location call Ralph, 271-7649
Community Business Forum
Gay and Lesbian Professionals’ social group
Second Thursdays, 5:30-7:00, 244-9706
GLOBAL
(Gays and Lesbians of Bausch & Lomb.) Meets every third Thursday in Area 67 conference room at the Gupric Center. Voice mail: 338-9877
Rochester Gay Men’s Choir
Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St. 8:30pm, 423-0650
Free confidential walk-in HIV testing
Every Thursday night, 9-8pm, AGS Rochester, 1350 University Ave, 442-2220
MOCHA Chat
Second, fourth Thursdays, 6pm, MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400
Glen Board meeting
7-9pm, second Thursday, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.
GAGV Anti-Violence Project Support group for LGBT victims of domestic violence. First Thursdays, safe location. Call 585-244-8840 ext 17.

FRIDAY
Gay Men’s AA meeting
Every Friday, 7:30-9pm, Closed meeting, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

SATURDAY
Rochester Rams Bar Night
First Saturday, 2-5pm, Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave, 271-9693
Frontrunners/Frontwalkers
9am run/walk; Meet George Eastman House parking lot, 442-7412.
Empire Bears Bar Night
Second Saturday, Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave, 271-9693
MOCHA Community Board Meeting
Second Saturdays, 9am-noon, GAGV, Meets every second Saturday in Area 67, 9am-noon.

SUNDAY
More Light Presbyterians
for gay and lesbian people and friends.
12:15pm last Sundays, Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St. 925-4000
Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)
2:30-5pm, Last Sunday. Call for location: 234-0156
Dignity-Integrity
5pm. St Luke’s/ St. Simon Cyanic Church. 17 S. Fitzhugh St. Every Sunday, 234-5092
Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church
175 North Drive. Cobbs Hill, 11am.
Gay Men’s Alcohliics Anonymous
5pm. St. Simon’s Episcopal Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. 8:30pm, 232-6720.
Wecky. Closed meeting.
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Friends Association (GLBFA)
2:30-5pm, Last Sunday. Call for location: 234-0156
SACRED SPACES MEDITATION
Second Sundays, 7:30, MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400
Rainbow Seniors
Third Sundays, Pacific or First Universalist Church, 150 S. Clinton Ave., 4pm.
Men’s Cooking Group
Third or fourth Sundays, 461-2273.

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Rainbow Gospel Choir
Every Sunday, 5-6:30pm. East Avenue Inn, 336 East Ave. Info: 288-4508.
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Ralph Padilla
Sales and Leasing Professional