Central Library honored Pride, County Office Building didn’t — or did it?

By Susan Jordan

Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks did not respond to a June 3 letter from Monroe County Legislature Minority Leader Carrie Andrews, asking that the County Office Building fly the Rainbow Flag on July 19-21 in honor of Pride and Rochester’s LGBT community. On July 16, after her office had received dozens of phone calls, she appeared on Channel 8 to say that the County never recognizes “issue-based” community groups.

The County routinely honors many other community groups with such recognition on their special occasions. On July 16, Brooks told Channel 8 that the Rainbow Flag representing Monroe County’s thousands of LGBT taxpayers could not be permitted to fly from the County Office Building because “we have never, for any group or organization agreed to fly a flag that represents an issue; an advocacy flag, as we call it.”

Brooks had also ignored a July 10 letter from Gay Alliance Acting Executive Director Scott Fearing, delivered personally after Brooks’ office told a caller who had asked her to fly the flag that the County Executive would need a “written application” from the event sponsor. Prior to this, Fearing had been told that the request had to come from the Legislature, not the event sponsor.

Fearing commented, “The county policy seems to be very unclear, possibly non-existent. Maybe this discussion will encourage clarification.”

He went on to say, “It is sad that a community leader like the County Executive would not believe what we have been saying through the years, and that to happen.”

Recent changes in City Hall policies as they relate to the LGBT community and additional steps the City is taking to promote continuous dialogue between the community and City Hall.

Mayor Richards said, “Every year is something to be proud of.” He announced that City Hall has a new LGBT liaison, Molly Swales, and also recognized the RPD liaison, Investigator Kim Rainbeck. Rochester will add gender identity and expression to its non-discrimination policy and investigate expanded health benefits for the transgender community. The city is also discussing adding protections for LGBT businesses in relation to city contracts.

Richards celebrated Pride Week-end by participating in the Pride Flag raising ceremony on July 19 and marching in the Pride Parade, as did Rochester Chief of Police James Sheppard and NYS Assembly member Harry Bronson. City Council members Matt Haag, Elaine Spauld and Dana Miller attended the Flag raising and the Parade, which was also attended by Councilmember Carolie Conklin.

At the Flag Raising, Mayor Richards and Matt Haag updated the LGBT community on recent changes in City Hall policies and asked county officials to respond to the County’s executive’s comments as a result of the most recent Pride events.

Richards commented, “The Rochester Police Department recognizes the continuing partnership of businesses within the community who support our mission and vision.”

Kasha does Broadway, page 27

GAY ALLIANCE

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The Gay Alliance appreciates the continuing partnership of businesses within our community who support our mission and vision.

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Proud Publisher of New York State’s Oldest LGBT Newspaper
Not all the news from the Roberts Supreme Court was good in June. As LGBTQ Americans of all backgrounds celebrated the downfall of DOMA and Prop 8, many were also outraged by the gutting of the Voting Rights Act.

Racism is over in America, Republicans said... even though in 2012 they tried every possible play to keep people of color from getting to the polls in many states. (See Faith Matters, p. 22.)

In spite of the good news on DOMA, homophobia and transphobia are still alive, GENDA, the bill to provide basic civil rights protections for gender variant lives and issues continue the struggle to make change. The Department of Homeland Security announced July 27 that it is reviewing green card applications denied to same sex couples. The Republican attempt in 1996 to deny federal recognition to LGBT families has finally been exposed for the unconstitutional ploy that it was. Now it's way past time to pass GENDA.
What does the downfall of DOMA mean to you?

By Susan Jordan

The Supreme Court decision to overturn the "Defense of Marriage" Act (DOMA) on June 26 was a landmark achievement in LGBT history. The law was put in place in 1996 by the Republican Party, "to permanently prevent federal recognition of LGBT couples and families." It was found unconstitutional by four federal courts before the Roberts Supreme Court. So put an end to it once and for all. A panel held at the Gay Alliance on July 30 (after EC, press time) discussed many of the questions people have about exactly how the change, and over 1,000 new rights and responsibilities, will affect them (see Empty Closet News, www.ecnews.org).

The Emory Closet talked to four local couples, who share their reactions: Here: Jameson and Brian O'Neill were the first couple to marry at Rochester City Hall in June 2011. Kayleen Rich is head of the Rochester NYCLU, and Zach Waf- fe is her husband. The Reverend Alicia Heath-Toby and her spouse Saundra Toby-Heath are a lesbian couple, with Saundra maintaining their home in New Jersey (where same sex marriage is not legal) while Rev. Alicia serves as pastor of the Unity Fellowship Church here. James Rosenthal and Jerry Gebb, married in 2011, are rais- ing a child. Each couple has a different yet similar take on the end of DOMA.

Brian O’Neill and James Hansen said, "The death of DOMA was a victory for gay rights and another step on the continued journey towards national equality. Our NY State marriage is now rec- ognized on a federal level with all the benefits that go along with it. Although the law may present new chal- lenge, there is an expectation of a level playing field in the purs- uit of marriage equality, and for that we are overjoyed."

Kayleen Rich, "We got married because we love each other, but also because as a couple one partner is cogen- der and one is transgender, we wanted to be sure we had access to as many legal protections as possible. The SCOTUS decision means that, regardless of gender identity or gender markers, all couples that wish to get mar- ried in NYS can now do so and be recognized and that means a lot to us. It makes the act of get- ting married simpler for couples who no longer have to 'work' around these issues or be afraid to protect the well-being of their spouse and family. Although the ruling may present new chal- lenge, there is an expectation of a level playing field in the purs- uit of marriage equality, and for that we are overjoyed."

Jameson Rich called it "a beautiful day for marriage equality. The SCOTUS decision means that, regardless of gender identity or gender markers, all couples that wish to get mar- ried in NYS can now do so and be recognized and that means a lot to us. It makes the act of get- ting married simpler for couples who have more than one partner and can identify as transgender or gender non-conforming."

"We still have a long way to go before trans people have full and equal protection in NY, but we see this as not only a victory for gay and lesbian couples, but for members of the greater queer community that want access to the validation and legal benefits that marriage can pro- vide."

James Rosenthal and Jerry Gebb said, "Paradoxically, the repeal of DOMA allows access to Social Security benefits of a deceased spouse as well as other tax benefits provided to other married couples. How- ever, just as important for us is the emotional benefits it gives our family. It reaffirms to our son that our marriage and our family are not ‘less than’ in the eyes of the government. As a discriminated class, we’ve often had to be on the cutting edge of civil rights matters and it’s nice, for a change, to seek less and less about being a discrimina- tized class and to see our spouses, families, and lives as just part of the regular fabric of modern family life."

Longtime Rochester activist David Newman, 78, summed it all up when he told The Empty Closet at the DOMA celebra- tion rally in Rochester on June 26, "Today is not just a day of gay rights – it’s a day of human rights, a day when everyone can rejoice. It’s a major victory."

Chautauqua to hold LGBT conference on Sept. 14

An LGBT conference will be held at Chautauqua Institute, Chautauqua, N.Y., on Sept 19-21. The gathering will feature workshops, a screening of the film “Gen Silent,” and a concert by the Buffalo Gay Men’s Chorus. Cost is $30 general admission and $25 seniors and students, and includes dinner and reception. See Rainbowpridesconnect- net, where a registration form is available.

The conference directors are Pat Collins and her wife of 36 years, Judy Lawrence, who live in Penfield.

LGBT Giving Circle accepts grant proposals

The LGBT Giving Circle of Rochester, housed at the Genesee Com- munity Foundation is now accepting grant proposals from qualified organizations.

"Our hope is that this sec- ond round of LGBT Giving Cir- cle grants will further enrich the programs of a diverse group of organizations and help make a difference in the quality of life for many in the Rochester region," says Angela Bonizaga, co-founder of the LGBT Giving Circle. "We expect to make an even greater impact than last year."

In its inaugural year, the LGBT Giving Circle awarded grants totaling $55,750 to five nonprofit organizations.

In order to qualify for a 2013 grant, organizations must be a 501(c)3 charitable organization, serve residents in Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne or Yates counties and have an LGBT nonprofit organizational mission or support the LGBT community. The activities and programs outlined in the grant request need to align with the mission and scope of the LGBT Giving Circle.

Proposed by the grants also should keep the grant money in the eight-county region and support the local economy; encourage communi- cation and cooperation among associations, organizations, agencies, and institutions in the community; leverage support from other sources and address a need, population, or issue that has been underserved or under- funded.

The Request for Proposal and Grant Application forms are available at www.tacc.org/LGBT and are due by August 30, 2013.

NYW Black Gay Pride runs Aug. 1-11, here, Buffalo

NYW Black Gay Pride takes place, with many events here in and around Buffalo. The opening reception is Aug. 1 at Shea’s Smith Theatre, 658 Main St. in Buffalo, from 5-7 p.m. For the rest of the Buffalo events, see www.mochacenter.org/nywblackpride.

The Rochester events are as follows:

Aug. 8: Patio Party, Abilene, 335 Liberty Pole Way, 6-9 p.m. Aug. 9: Health Workshop, MOCHA Center, 107 Liberty Pole Way, noon-4 p.m.


Aug. 11: Worship in the Park, Red Creek Park, Gen- esee Valley Park, 1000 E. River Drive, noon-1:30 p.m. UCF Chorus.

Cookout. Same location. 3:30-6 p.m.

First-ever Black Gay Day at Darien Lake is Aug. 3

The MOCHA Center and Evergreen Health Services of Western New York will be host- ing the First-ever Black Gay Day at Darien Lake on Saturday, Aug. 3, as part of the celebration of the 2013 Western New York Black Gay Pride. Do not miss this opportu- nity: Darien Lake at a reduced cost, buffet lunch, and hanging out with the LGBT communi- ties of Western New York.

Tickets need to be purchased by the close of business on Fri- day, Aug. 2. Tickets are $30 for adults (Black continues page 13)
Lesbians are first to file for Arizona civil union

Back in April the small town of Bisbee, Arizona legalized civil unions for same-sex couples over the loud protests of the state Attorney General. On July 5 a lesbian couple became the first to file. Kathy Sowden and Deborah Grier went to Bisbee City Hall to file the papers to recognize their 21-year relationship as a formal civil union. They went to Bisbee City Hall to file the papers like a contract to recognize their 21-year relationship as a formal civil union. The documents spell out how they want to handle some of the privileges that come with marriage, like the ability to make medical decisions for each other. Deborah Grier says, “I think it didn’t feel like a big deal at all. It felt like how they want to handle some of the privileges that come with marriage, like the ability to make medical decisions for each other.”

ACLU challenges North Carolina marriage ban

In addition to action in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Illinois, the ACLU and the ACLU of North Carolina’s Legal Foundation (ACLU-NCALF) announced plans to take on North Carolina’s same-sex marriage ban. The ACLU is asking North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper to agree to allow an additional claim challenging the state’s ban on marriage for same-sex couples to be added to Fisher-Borne v. Smith, a lawsuit filed last year in Greensboro in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina that challenges the state’s ban on second parent adoption, a process by which one partner in an unmarried gay or straight couple adopts the other partner’s biological or adoptive child. If the Attorney General’s office does not agree to the addition of the new claim, the ACLU will petition the court to allow the claim to be added.

ENDA passes Senate committee by 15-7 vote

The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions July 10 adopted the Employment Non-Discrimination Act by a bipartisan vote of 15-7. ENDA would prohibit employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in most American workplaces. “Coming on the heels of the landmark Supreme Court Marriage rulings, today’s strong, bipartisan vote in favor of expanding workplace non-discrimination protections to include those who are LGBT is yet another sign that the tide has turned,” said Ian Thompson, American Civil Liberties Union legislative representative. “Advocates have been working for nearly 40 years to pass these basic protections to ensure that all American workers, with their side-by-side contributions to the workplace and contribute with equal measure in their jobs, will stand on the same equal footing under the law. In 2013, it is completely unacceptable to force individuals to hide who they are out of fear of losing their livelihood.”

Although we firmly oppose the religious exemptions in the current form of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, the cries from the millions of LGBT workers who face workplace protections are thunderous. We are counting on leadership from Senators Nelson, Pryor, and Portman as we move forward and continue to hold accountable those who attempt to set the clock backwards in our community and pass the most sweeping piece of legislation, such as Senator Rubio. We have taken a historic step forward today, but we know the work will continue.”

National Center for Transgender Equality Executive Director Mara Keisling said, “We are extremely heartened by the Senate HELP committee passed ENDA today, moving it to the full Senate for action sometime this fall. With every Committee Democrat and three Republicans voting ‘yes,’ we are increasingly optimistic that we will have the 60 votes in the Senate and move further along towards winning relief for trans people who still face shocking amounts of job discrimination.”

The 2011 National Transgender Discrimination Survey revealed the troubling reality for transgender workers: 70 percent reported facing mistreatment, harassment or discrimination at work and more than one third said they had to hide who they are in order to keep their job because of their transgender identity. On a July 10 conference call, transgender advocates and civil rights groups said they were thrilled by the vote and were planning to push the Senate to pass the bill quickly. “This is a major victory for transgendered people,” said Michelle Richards, National Center for Transgender Equality. “This is a major victory for transgendered people.”

ENDA must pass the Senate to become law. The Senate action is a major victory for transgendered people.”

Mark Roos, LMT

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The group adds that Lembembe’s murder has been preceded by a number of attacks, unchecked by the government, on LGBT and human rights organizations.

Lembembe’s killing follows several attacks on the offices of human rights defenders, including those working for LGBTI people. On June 26, unidentified assailants burned down the Dosaqua headquarters of Alternatives-Cameroun, which provides HIV services to LGBTI people. A few days earlier on June 16, the Yaoundé office of human rights lawyer Michel Togué, who represents clients charged with same-sex conduct, was burgled, and his legal files and laptop stolen. Both Togué and Alice Nkom, another lawyer who represents LGBTI clients, have received repeated death threats but no investigation into threats to kill their children. Although activists have reported all of these incidents, the Cameroonian authorities have not apprehended a single suspect.

HRW is urging authorities to conduct an immediate and thorough investigation.

Lembembe contributed to the blog 76 Crimes, which notes that one of its most popular articles was “What traditional African homosexuality learned from the West”. They add: “The full article is included in the book From Wrong to Gay Rights, along with his articles with Roger Mbele, who was imprisoned in Cameroon for sending an anonymous text message to a man; Franky Djembe and Jonas Kumie, who were imprisoned because they are a transgender couple; anti-gay blackmailer/exterminator Albert Edward Ekobo Samba; and the homophobic attack on last year’s IDAHO celebration in Yaoundé.”

He formerly worked as a writer and editor for the monthly Tribune du Cameroun in Yaoundé.

Stem cell transplants may have halted HIV in two patients

Dr. Timothy Henrich, a medical researcher with Harvard Medical School and Boston’s Brigham and Women’s Hospital, announced in early July that two patients had been on long-term anti-retroviral therapy and performed several tem cell transplants, however, came from an individual with a specific genetic mutation that makes humans almost completely resistant to HIV infection. The two Boston patients did not receive donations from individuals with this mutation. As amfAR noted, this is unclear at this point whether or not the virus could return in the two patients over time. A previous patient in a different National Institutes of Health study went 50 days without treatment before experiencing what is known as “viral rebound”; both of Dr. Henrich’s patients are at or past this threshold. Further monitoring of the two patients will undoubtedly be needed to determine the long-term effects of stem cell transplants for HIV-positive individuals.

“These findings clearly provide important new information that might well alter the current thinking about HIV and gay marriage,” amfAR CEO Kevin Henricks said. “Dr. Frost said in a statement: “While stem-cell transplantation is not a viable option for people with HIV on a broad scale because of its cost and complexity, these new cases could lead us to new approaches to treating, and ultimately even eradicating, HIV.”

FRC cancels dinner for new “ex-gay” groups

The hate group Family Research Council was to hold a dinner and reception to announce two new “ex-gay” organizations and make “ex-gays” out as victims, and a line-up of familiar anti-gay wingnuts was invited to speak. However, the Washington D.C. event was canceled due to lack of interest, although organizers blamed it on “anti-ex-gay extremism.” (See Opinion, page 15).

The event was to be held at the Embassy of Peru in Washington, D.C., on July 31, just over a month after the Supreme Court’s landmark rulings in favor of gay rights.

The American Psychological Association was deemed to be an “honorable” attendee. “Come celebrate the lives of former homosexuals and hear about their singular story of achievement” read the invitation.

In spite of the debacle, the Family Research Council’s legislative council was to hold a dinner and reception to announce two new “ex-gay” organizations. “Voice of the Voiceless” and “Equality and Justice For All.”

In addition to Bachman, the Heritage Foundation’s Jim DeMint, the Liberty Counsel’s Matthew Staver and Rep. Tim Huelskamp (R-Kan.) -- who on June 27, the day after the overturn of DOMA, introduced a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage -- were invited to speak.

Pa. Attorney General won’t defend state marriage ban

Pennsylvania Attorney General Kathleen Kane won’t defend the state’s ban on gay marriage in court, according to a court filing with the Philadelphia Daily News:

Multiple sources confirmed on July 10 that Kane, who is named along with Gov. Corbett as a defendant in the suit to overturn the ban, plans to make the argument to the Ninth National Constitution Center.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed the lawsuit, known as Whitewood v. Pennsylvania Attorney General Corbett, on behalf of 21 state residents. The plaintiffs are 10 couples and one widow who want to marry in Pennsylvania, want the state to recognize their out-of-state marriages or want equal protections granted to straight married couples.

Queen signs bill to permit British marriages

Marriage equality has come to Great Britain, the UK House of Lords gave its final approval to the marriage equality bill July 15, on its third reading, Bloomberg reports:

“The upper, unelected chamber approved the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill without a vote in London…. Some members of the house wore pink carnations to mark the occasion.”

The bill had already been passed by the Commons amid opposition from more than 100 lawmakers from Prime Minister David Cameron’s Conservative Party. The bill was passed and then returned to the Commons, where amendments introduced by the Lords were accepted. The bill was sent to Queen Elizabeth II for her signature before becoming law. Marriages will begin next summer.

Pink News reports on the bill’s amendment:

“The amendments include a provision to hold reviews of equal rights for survivor rights, human rights and civil partnerships for opposite-sex couples. At Report Stage in the Lords, the bill was referred to scrutiny, and many government amendments were added, in order to tidy it up.”

Colombian court warns marriage equality law must be observed

Colombia’s Constitutional Court has told Inspector General Alejandro Oviedo to drop his campaign to block same-sex marriages. J. Lester Feder reports at Buzzfeed:

Ordoñez had been threatening disci-
Interview

Dr. Chris Barry

Dr. Chris Barry of URMC specializes in organ transplants. He has written on his blog about HIV positive organ donors and said that it is now seen as safe for HIV positive people to donate organs to HIV positive people with excellent results – although it is still illegal in the U.S. to do such procedures. A bill to change that has just passed through the US Senate and is slated to be presented to Congress soon.

Dr. Barry writes on his blog, “Ever since the past 10 years it has been illegal to transplant organs from HIV+ donors. The absolute exclusion of HIV+ donors by the National Organ Policy Equity (HOPE) Act was initially meant to protect recipients from contracting HIV. But there is increasing evidence that HIV+ transplants is possible with good outcomes, so there is an effort to modify the law in this regard.

In South Africa, HIV+ people are not allowed to undergo dialysis as a matter of public health policy and so they are left to die of end stage renal disease. Dr. Elimi Muller, a transplant surgeon, and her colleagues lobbied the Hospital Ethics and the Government Health Agency to allow a pilot experiment of kidney transplantation between HIV+ donors and recipients beginning in 2009. Their first four patients did very well, as reported in a letter to the New England Journal of Medicine, with all patients surviving past one year without rejection or the need for dialysis after transplant. Since then Muller’s group has reported six more successes, with 100 percent survival and only one patient suffering a rejection episode that was successfully reversed.

In 2011, Dr. Dorry Segev of Johns Hopkins published a study in the American Journal of Transplantation estimating that 500-600 HIV+ donors could become available per year if transplantation to HIV+ recipients if the ban on HIV+ donors was lifted. There remain concerns about different HIV strains acting more aggressively in HIV+ recipients and the remote possibility of accidentally transplanting to an HIV+ donor, but there is a growing consensus that allowing HIV+ donation to HIV+ recipients would benefit the public good. Donor organs are precious resources, and any intervention that would allow potential benefits to be removed from long waiting lists should be welcomed.

On June 17, 2013, The Un Senate passed the HIV Organ Policy Equity (HOPE) Act by a unanimous vote. The HOPE Act would permit HIV+ donor organs to be transplanted into HIV+ recipients. It also amends federal criminal law regarding HIV transmission, thereby clarifying that HIV+ donation to HIV+ recipients transplant should no longer be banned. The House bill, H.R. 698, is sponsored by Congresswoman Lois Capps (D-CA) and Congressman Dr. Michael Burgess (R-TX).

Dr. Barry said the HOPE Act would benefit thousands of transplant candidates awaiting transplant, both HIV+ people who would receive HIV+ donor organs and HIV-people who would enjoy shorter waiting times for HIV- donor organs. In addition, he pointed out that in order to ensure that our society is a dynamic and intelligent one, responding to medical advances and appropriately amending legislation to maximally benefit our citizenry.

"Please consider contacting your Congressteam Representative (the House of Representatives’ switchboard is (202) 225-5123) to encourage support for H.R. 698, The HIV Organ Policy Equity (HOPE) Act.

Dr. Barry told The Empty Closet, “It is hard to say. It is difficult to say. I think it’s really important to garner support for this bill. I called Louise Slaughter’s office and I know she will be very supportive.”

As far as he knows, conservative Republicans in the House have not yet targeted the bill as something to oppose, Dr. Barry said. The bill has bipartisan sponsorship. However, The Empty Clover has learned that although all major religions support organ donation, some individuals are reluctant to register to become organ donors due to a belief that their deity wants humans to die with all the organs they were born with. Unfortunately, if damaged or dysfunctional body parts are not replaced, those humans are definitely going to die.

Dr. Barry said, “Potentially, the fearmongering hook would be the unlikely possibility that an HIV negative person would accidentally be given an organ from an HIV positive person. Our response is that with appropriate checks and balances in place, this would be an exceedingly unlikely event. Importantly, whenever you are able to take someone off the transplant waiting list, someone else is moved up. So thousands of people would get life-saving transplants and HIV negative people would move up the list for HIV negative transplants.”

There is also the concern that some strains of HIV are more aggressive than others -- what effect would it have if an HIV positive person with a less aggressive strain received such a transplant? Dr. Barry said, “The scientific argument is that the current medical therapy we have for HIV is so good that’s unlikely to happen.”

Dr. Barry said, “The tagline is that transplantations works, and works very well, even in HIV positive recipients. And organ donation saves lives. It’s important for everyone to consider organ donation.”

New York State is the 48th lowest out of 50 states in organ donations. “This is in large part because of the difficulty of registering.” Dr. Barry commented. “There is legislation to change that, but the NYS Department of Health is blocking the bill in the NY Senate which would turn online registration over to a private not-for-profit, because they fear job loss. The Department of Health runs the Donate Life registry, so they blocked the bill in a Senate committee at the last moment, although there is bipartisan support in Albany for non profit registration. The Department of Health may ultimately do online registration as they have not moved forward with that.”

Currently, to register as an organ donor, anyone can go to the Department of Health website, but they must print out the form, fill it out and mail it in. Apparently that is too much trouble for many people, and a large part of the reason why New York ranks 48th in the country. The NYS legislation, which would ensure that a not for profit take over online organ donor registration, is NY bill S.5946. Dr. Barry urges people to contact their senators and assemblmen and ask that they support this bill.

The other issue and legislation here is the federal HOPE Act, which would make it legal for HIV positive people to donate organs in the first place.

Dr. Barry said, “I think the HOPE Act is very exciting legislation which will help save and improve the lives of thousands, both HIV positive and negative.” The bill is slated to be presented in Congress soon. It is House bill HR698, and EC readers are again encouraged to contact their representatives and urge their support for the HOPE Act.

UPDATE: House committee approves HOPE Act

The House Energy & Commerce Committee on July 17 approved the HIV Organ Policy Equity (HOPE) Act, H.R.698.

The bipartisan bill sponsored by Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA) would lift a federal ban on the donation of HIV-positive organs to HIV-positive recipients, making it possible for researchers to study the safety of such procedures.

The bill passed the Senate in June.

“The HOPE Act represents sound public health policy,” said HRC legislative director Allison Hersekin. “The action by the House Energy & Commerce Committee is a major step forward in removing an outdated barrier which impedes access to lifesaving transplants for persons living with HIV and AIDS.”

Today, more than 100,000 patients are actively waiting for life-saving organs and about 50,000 more are added annually. Permitting organs from HIV-positive donors to be used for transplant in HIV-infected patients with liver or kidney failure could save as many as 1,000 people each year. As organs from HIV-infected donors would only be transplanted to HIV-infected transplant candidates, the waiting time for HIV-infected people who accept HIV-infected organs would most certainly decrease, as would the general waiting list for uninfected people awaiting transplants.

The HOPE Act directs the Department of Health and Human Services and the Organ Procurement Transplant Network (OPTN) to develop and institute standards for research on HIV-positive organ transplantation and permits the Secretary to permit positive-to-positive transplantation if it is determined that the results of research warrant such a change. The Secretary would be required to direct OPTN to develop standards to ensure that positive-to-positive transplantation does not impact the safety of the organ transplantation network.

The Centers for Disease Control issued draft Public Health Service Guidelines in September of 2011 that recommended research in this area, but noted that federal law has blocked this important research from taking place in the United States. The United Network for Organ Sharing, which manages the nation’s organ transplant system, and over 40 other patient and medical advocacy organizations have endorsed the HOPE Act.
The Rainbow Flag raising in Manhattan Square Park took place July 19. Outlandish donated the 30x50 flag to the Gay Alliance. Most photos this page: Ove Overmyer.

Emcee Kasha Davis and Pride organizer Michael Lill with Grand Marshals Zahra Langford and Jennifer Posey.

Honorary Grand Marshals Patti Evans and Whitey LeBlanc.

Rainbow Riders arrive. Photo: Jill Frier.
The Pride Parade heads down Alexander St. on July 20.

Thomas Warfield as the Tin Man. Photo: Bess Watts

Jeannie Gainsburg as the Kansas Twister. Photo: Jill Frier

GAGV Youth Pride King Alexx and Queen Kikki. Photo: Jill Frier

The empty closet • The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley • Number 470 • August 2013

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Emcee Kasha Davis. Samantha Vega was co-emcee. Photo: Jill Frier

Zach Waffle and Kaelyn Rich. Photo: Ove Overmyer

Pandora Boxx.

Leading the Flower City Pride Band.

Arianna Dumont, Miss Gay New York.
The Pride Picnic took place in Genesee Valley Park on July 21. All photos: Ove Overmyer.

First place picnic site design winners: “Oz on the River” by Kate Sweeney and Philip Andrew Rawleigh. L-R: Zebulon Hounslea, Gia Boersma, Philip Andrew Rawleigh, Kate Sweeney, judges Michael Gamilla and Thomas Warfield.

DJ Hector ruled the Roundhouse.
Executive Brooks. After extreme pressure requests have all been ignored by County Pride Week in years past, but those Martinez vs. Monroe County, resulted in benefits. Despite a widespread com- munity illegally denied a same-sex couple health and be on the right side of history.” County Executive to change her position (D-Rochester) said on June 26. “But with the Rochester community.

1996 anti-gay legislation known as the 40th anniversary of the Gay Alliance of the flag to honor Gay Pride Week and the have released the letter sent on June 3 to LGBT families are more than a politi- cal issue.

Democrats in the County Legislature have released the letter sent on June 3 to Maggie Brooks (a Republican), asking that the County fly the Rainbow Pride Flag to honor Gay Pride Week and the 40th anniversary of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley. Democrats said they had hoped that the June 26 ruling from the Supreme Court, overthrowing the 1996 anti-gays legislation known as the “Defense of Marriage Act” or DOMA, might spur the County Executive to finally recognize this important part of the Rochester community. “It’s no secret that this administra- tion has fought against marriage equal- ity,” Democratic Leader Carrie Andrews (D-Rochester) said on June 26. “But with today’s ruling and public opinion clearly favoring equality, the time is right for the County Executive to change her position and be on the right side of history.”

In 2008, the New York Court of Appeals ruled that Monroe County had illegally denied a same sex couple health benefits. Despite a widespread com- munity outcry, the County Executive fought against providing benefits to the hun- dreds of taxpayer dollars (including LGBT taxpayers) on what ended up a futile effort. Fortunately, this decision, made by the Court of Appeals, resulted in a landmark ruling that helped pave the way for marriage equality in New York State.

Democrats have requested that the Rainbow Pride Flag be flown during Pride Week in years past, but those requests have all been ignored by County Executive Brooks. After extreme pressure in writing and cited the policy prohibit- ing Legislative Staff from flying the flag. “The deputy then stated that the flags needed to be removed or the Democratic Staff would be arrested. Democratic Staff indicated the deputy would need to go ahead with the arrest, at which time the deputy went to the windows and forci- bly removed the flags. The deputy was informed that a new flag would be put up, to which he said the Democratic Chief of Staff would be arrested if the flag went back up. The new flag has been flying since approximately 2:30 p.m. and neither the County Executive nor the Sheriff has asked for the new flag to be removed.”

The second flag was not removed. The first flag had been confiscated because, Democratic staff was told, there is an ordinance that bans attachments to the building which might cause damage, and the second flag was not removed because the authorities had determined that the flag was not “causing damage” to the building.}

Central (continued from page 1)

County Executive refuses to accept that LGBT families are more than a politi- cal issue.

Democrats in the County Legislature have released the letter sent on June 3 to Maggie Brooks (a Republican), asking that the County fly the Rainbow Pride Flag to honor Gay Pride Week and the 40th anniversary of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley. Democrats said they had hoped that the June 26 ruling from the Supreme Court, overthrowing the 1996 anti-gays legislation known as the “Defense of Marriage Act” or DOMA, might spur the County Executive to finally recognize this important part of the Rochester community. “It’s no secret that this administra- tion has fought against marriage equal- ity,” Democratic Leader Carrie Andrews (D-Rochester) said on June 26. “But with today’s ruling and public opinion clearly favoring equality, the time is right for the County Executive to change her position and be on the right side of history.”

In 2008, the New York Court of Appeals ruled that Monroe County had illegally denied a same sex couple health benefits. Despite a widespread com- munity outcry, the County Executive fought against providing benefits to the hun- dreds of taxpayer dollars (including LGBT taxpayers) on what ended up a futile effort. Fortunately, this decision, made by the Court of Appeals, resulted in a landmark ruling that helped pave the way for marriage equality in New York State.

Democrats have requested that the Rainbow Pride Flag be flown during Pride Week in years past, but those requests have all been ignored by County Executive Brooks. After extreme pressure in writing and cited the policy prohibit- ing Legislative Staff from flying the flag. “The deputy then stated that the flags needed to be removed or the Democratic Staff would be arrested. Democratic Staff indicated the deputy would need to go ahead with the arrest, at which time the deputy went to the windows and forci- bly removed the flags. The deputy was informed that a new flag would be put up, to which he said the Democratic Chief of Staff would be arrested if the flag went back up. The new flag has been flying since approximately 2:30 p.m. and neither the County Executive nor the Sheriff has asked for the new flag to be removed.”

The second flag was not removed. The first flag had been confiscated because, Democratic staff was told, there is an ordinance that bans attachments to the building which might cause damage, and the second flag was not removed because the authorities had determined that the flag was not “causing damage” to the building.

Page 1 Improved Roads, Better Community

Rainbow from page 3)

Bere Miller tribute artist Donna Maxon, Pandora Box fresh from her emcee gig at the NYC Pride Rally and her successful one-woman show “Live This Box,” which recently ran off-Broadway, and 98.7X’s headline DEV.

“RGMC” by Daryl Killingsworth and Becky Abplanalp and third prize to

in the picnic site decorating contest went to “Oz the Movie” by Kate Sweeney & Phil Rawleigh, while second place went to “Roc Pride Games” by Chris Woodworth and Becki Abplanalp and second prize to “RGMCS” by Daryl Killingsworth and Kenen.

After weeks of humidity and heavy rains, the weather cleared on Saturday by 1 p.m. and the LGBT community enjoyed sunlight and a cool breeze – it was a gorgeous weekend in Oz!

(Continued from page 1)

Dennis O’Brien, an East End resi- dent and a staffer for the Monroe Coun- ty Legislature Democrats, raised the issue of mingling with political types and elected officials near the festival vendor tables late on Saturday afternoon. The group paused to reflect on how far the LGBT commu- nity has come past few years and Montecito has been a political type to re- member that a new flag would be put up, to which he said the Democratic Chief of Staff would be arrested if the flag went back up. The new flag has been flying since approximately 2:30 p.m. and neither the County Executive nor the Sheriff has asked for the new flag to be removed.”

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The EC that Pride is very important to us — especially Mayor Tom Richards.”

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We Do It Without Sharts

The Rochester Pride Picnic Sunday morning at Genesee Valley Park. Johnson said, “It’s important to celebrate Pride every year, but 2013 has special significance for us because I feel like we are entering a new era of acceptance. The level of oppression I used to feel has drastically improved. We are better off simply on the basis of a fairer federal tax structure. I feel less burdened, and I can’t tell you how much more optimi- 

(Continued from page 1)

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Among many topics, O’Brien and his circle of friends were discussing the effects of DOMA’s downfall, and how local LGBT families are seeing themselves in a whole new light. The repeal of DOMA and the right to marry seemed to be on the minds of many people during Pride weekend this year.

“I’m still trying to get a handle on how this affects my marriage and my family — but I do know this,” said Rochester resi- dent T. Judith Johnson, who married her wife MaryAnn Sanford four years ago. “It feels real good to be out and proud.”

The EC caught up with Johnson and Sanford as they unpacked their car at the Rochester Pride Picnic Sunday morning at Genesee Valley Park. Johnson said, “It’s important to celebrate Pride every year, but 2013 has special significance for us because I feel like we are entering a new era of acceptance. The level of oppression I used to feel has drastically improved. We are better off simply on the basis of a fairer federal tax structure. I feel less burdened, and I can’t tell you how much more optimi-

(Continued from page 1)

Dennis O’Brien, an East End resi-
**LOCAL AND STATE**

(Black from page 3) the park admission, buffet lunch, and parking. Both the MOCHA Center and the mocha center.

**NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL**

( Colombian from page 5) plenary action against any official who took up this authority.

**Texas regulates women’s bodies, not factory safeguards**

Texas, whose lax regulatory climate has come in for scrutiny in the aftermath of the deadly West fertilizer factory explo-

**LGBT coalition sends open letter: Trayvon deserved justice**

A coalition of 35 national LGBT rights groups have issued a joint denouncement of the Zimmerman verdict. Via press release:

An Open Letter: Trayvon Deserves Justice

We cannot begin to imagine the continued pain and suffering endured by Trayvon Martin’s family and friends. We stand in solidarity with them as they continue to fight for justice, civil rights and closure. And we thank everyone who has pushed and will continue to push for justice.

Trayvon Martin deserves justice and his civil rights. We support the organizations and community leaders who are urging the federal government to explore every option to ensure that justice is served for Trayvon and that his civil rights are honored and respected. But our work does not end there; we will honor Trayvon Martin by strengthening our commitment to end bias, hatred, profiling and violence across our communities.

We represent organizations with diverse lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender constituencies. Our community has been targeted of bigotry, bias, profiling and violence. We have experienced first-hand the heart-breaking and heart-rending journey of young people targeted for who they are, who they are presumed to be, or who they love: Jennifer Berman Lawrence King, All Forney, Brandon Teena, Brandon White, Matthew Shepard, Marco McMillan, Arick Zatta, Anthony, Gwen Araujo and countless others.

Every person, regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity, must be able to walk the streets without fear for their safety. Justice delayed is justice denied and in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. “a right delayed is a right denied.” We honor Trayvon by seeking justice for all people.

The letter is signed by:


**Indiana school district settles with bullied, expelled student**

Darnell “Dynasty” Young, the openly gay Indianapolis teen who was expelled after bringing a stun gun to school to defend himself against bullies, subsequently sued Indianapolis Public Schools for free speech, and negligence, alleging that school officials did nothing to protect him.

According to WTHR.com, Young has agreed to settle for $65,000.

The proposed settlement filed July 9 in U.S. District Court in Indianapolis also calls for the school district to remove all references of Darnell “Dynasty” Young being expelled from school from the 18-year-old’s academic record. The agreement still must be approved by a judge.

Young also told WTHR.com in a telephone interview that “he’s pleased with the settlement,” and that he plans to use the money to launch an anti-bullying magazine.

**Iceberg cuts ties with Moscow over gay ban**

While many nations have formally denounced Russia’s ban on “gay propaganda,” Rekyjavík is doing something about it.

According to the contract between Rekyjavík and Moscow drawn up in 2007, the cities were going to cooperate on equality issues. But now, a statement from the city council reads: “In light of the development concerning the affairs of gay, bisexual and transgender people that have taken place in Russia over the last few months, the district attorney, Human Rights Office, Office of the Mayor of Reykjavík, and City of Reykjavík chief administrative officer propose amendment on the terms of further collaboration agreement between Reykjavík and Moscow, in cooperation with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.”

**Gay Dutch tourists are arrested in Russia**

Russian officials arrested three Dutch tourists on July 22 under the country’s new anti-gay “propaganda” ban.

GayNZ reports:

The Dutch trio are the first tourists to be arrested under the new law.

They were arrested in Murmansk, and Gay Star News says confirmed reports suggest gay activists in the city protest Russia’s position on human rights. They have been told they have broken the law of ‘non- traditional sexual relations’ propaganda among children, which was signed into law by President Vladimir Putin last month.

A hearing was scheduled for July 22. The Rekyjavík LGBT Network is providing legal assistance.

Patriarch: gay marriage brings apocalypse

That wasn’t the only bit of anti-gay news out of Russia on July 22. Patriarch Kirill, head of the Russian Orthodox Church and a strong supporter of the ‘propaganda’ bill, told parishioners this morning that same-sex marriage is leading to the end of the world.

According to News.com.au, he said: “This is very dangerous, a path of self-destruction,” Patriarch Kirill told worshippers at Razan Cathedral in Moscow’s Red Square.

Fierstein calls out Putin

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Fierstein calls out Putin

Harvey Fierstein took on Vladimir Putin and his homophobic policies, writing that the Russian president has “declared war on homosexuals. So far, the world has mostly been silent.”

He concludes: “Mr. Putin’s campaign against lesbian, gay and bisexual people is one of distraction, a strategy of demon-

iz ing a minority for political gain taken straight from the Nazi playbook. Can we allow this war against human rights to go unanswered?”

Although Mr. Putin may think he can control his creation, history proves he cannot: his condemnations are permanent—constantly vilified against gays and lesbians. Last week a young gay man was murdered in the city of Volgo-

grad. He was beaten, his body violated with beer bottles, his clothing set on fire, his head crushed with a rock. This is most likely just the beginning.

“Nevertheless, the rest of the world remains almost completely ignorant of Mr. Putin’s agenda. His adoptions restric-

tions have received some attention, but it has been largely limited to people involved

**Texas regulates women’s bodies, not factory safeguards**

Texas, whose lax regulatory climate has come in for scrutiny in the aftermath of the deadly West fertilizer factory explo-

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National and International

(Gay Dutch from page 13)

in international adoptions.

“This must change. With Russia about to hold the Winter Games in Sochi, the country is open to pressure. American and world leaders must speak out against Mr. Putin’s attacks and the violence they foster. The Olympic Committee must demand the retraction of these laws under threat of boycott.”

Read more: http://www.towleroad.com/?p=2225

Employer harassment violated trans woman’s rights, EEOC says

Freedom to Work and Lambda Legal have reached a settlement on behalf of a transgender woman employed by a government contractor in Maryland.

The woman filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and alleged that she was subjected to physical and verbal harassment in the workplace over a two-year period. Co-workers also allegedly made comments such as “tranny,” “drag queen,” and “faggot.” After conducting an investigation, the EEOC issued a September 2012 letter with a determination of reasonable cause to believe the company violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.

“The investigation revealed that Charging Party was subjected to derogatory gender-based comments that were frequently made by both co-workers and supervisors. Both Charging Party and witness interviews revealed that Respondent’s management failed to take corrective action despite being fully aware of the harassment. Charging Party was being subjected to. This lack of corrective action enabled the harassment and offensive atmosphere to continue.”

“We applied the EEOC for conducting such a thorough investigation and interviewing so many witnesses to the anti-transgender harassment,” said Tico Almeida, President of the LGBT organization Freedom to Work. “Coming just a few months after the EEOC issued its historic decision that transgender people are protected by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the EEOC’s reasonable cause determination in this case is, to our knowledge, the first time in history that the EEOC has investigated allegations of anti-transgender harassment and ruled for the transgender employee. This case shows that the EEOC takes very seriously its role in protecting LGBT Americans’ freedom to work.”

“Slowly but surely, we are gaining recognition of the rights of LGBT employees, but this case shows that employers and employees need laws that spell out gender identity and sexual orientation protections specifically, to help prevent discrimination in the workplace.”

(Employer harassment continued page 16)
Opinion

Ex-Gay Pride Month gets cancelled...
By Wayne Besen, Truth Wins Out

Truth Wins Out laughed at the cancelled "Ex-Gay Pride Month," which was organized by the newly formed group, Voice of the Voiceless (VOV), which announced it was canceling the event due to "legal and logistical reasons." The group had planned with the Family Research Council on July 31.

The event had sought to portray "ex-gays" as victims and had invited Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-MN, and other members of Congress to attend. They could not find real "ex-gays" to participate and had to cancel to save face. This was nothing but a desperate publicity stunt intended to revive a failing industry that has repeatedly embarrassed anti-gay organizations.

VOV's Christopher Doyle offered unsubstantiated charges of "anti-ex-gay extremism" as his reason for terminating the much-ballyhooed event. According to Doyle, "Due to some anti-ex-gay extremism that has occurred since we first announced Ex-Gay Pride 2013, the July 31 Lobbying Day on Capitol Hill and Evening Dinner/Reception at the Family Research Council has had to be moved and postponed to an undisclosed location in September. The harassment has caused several security threats which has forced us to change plans, and that is unfortunate."

We challenge Doyle to come forward and release the names of LGBT activists and organizations that have allegedly jeopardized his organization's security. Until concrete allegations are made, we can only assume Doyle is making an excuse for his organization's abject failure to produce a viable Ex-Gay Pride Month event.

Doyle is downgrading his effort and rebranding it "Ex-Gay Awareness Month." This way, he can pretend there are legions of so-called ex-gays in press releases, without actually proving they truly exist. According to Doyle, "...We believe it is necessary not only to hold events in July for Ex-Gay Pride, but also to declare September as the First Annual Ex-Gay Awareness Month. Ex-Gay Awareness Month in September will be a time to reflect on the discrimination and marginalization that form the core of the anti-LGBT extremist story..."

There was never going to be an actual "Ex-Gay Pride Month" because ex-gays are as rare as the Dodo bird. They simply could not find real "ex-gays" to participate and had to cancel to save face. This was nothing but a desperate publicity stunt intended to revive a failing industry that has repeatedly embarrassed anti-gay organizations.

Who is Bradley Manning?
By Maria Scipione

During this year's Pride Parade, I carried a sign with the Veterans for Peace and Iraq Veterans Against the War that said, "For all the war protesters, the War Crimes – FREE BRADLEY MANNING."

Many people were supportive, chanted, gave a thumbs-up, thanked me, yelled "YEAH!" But more people looked at me with a blank look and had no idea who Bradley Manning is and no idea what my sign was about.

Bradley Manning is a 25-year-old gay man, who is a Private First Class Army Intelligence analyst. He stands 5'2", weighs 105, blonde hair, blue eyes, and is brilliant. He joined the Army in 2007 after his father wanted him to "fit in for being gay." And he is, in my opinion, a hero like Daniel Ellsberg (who leaked the Pentagon Papers in 1971).

Manning was deployed to Iraq in 2009. He released the video "Collateral Murder" to Wikileaks in 2010. The video shows the killing of unarmed civilians and two Reuters journalists by an US Apache helicopter in Iraq. He was very disturbed by the war crimes he witnessed and he knew that the American people were being kept ignorant of them.

He also leaked Army field reports from the Iraq and Afghanamian Wars as well as US diplomatic cables. He did this to inform the people of the United States what their government was really doing. These leaked documents (which contained treasonous evidence in a Lady Gaga CD case) have illuminatated the true number and cause of civilian casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan (the number of human rights abuses by US-funded contractors and foreign militaries, and the role that spying and lies play in international diplomacy. This was a moral and courageous act.

Manning was arrested May 29, 2010 and spent the next year in Quantico, Virginia in solitary confinement. He was deprived of clothing, of access to food, of allowed to sleep or lean against the wall, and denied reading material or exercise – in other words he was tortured. Manning's treatment sparked a probe by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture, Juan Mendez, who issued a statement saying that PFC Bradley Manning's treatment had been "cruel and inhuman."

Partially in response to public outcry, on April 21, 2013 Bradley was moved from Quantico to Fort Leavenworth, KS, where his conditions greatly improved.

His Court Martial is underway right now in Fort Meade, Maryland. The mainstream media has blacked out coverage of the trial. There is no electronic media allowed in the courtroom. But regular citizens and a few journalists have been showing up, most of them international.

While he has plead guilty to releasing information, he is fighting the charge of "Aiding and Abetting the Enemy." The prosecution states that because Al-Qaeda could read Wikileaks, Manning helped them. But this is a ridiculous argument given that in the internet age Al-Qaeda can read anything – the New York Times, the London Times, even The Empty Closet. Does that mean whistleblowers can never expose the wrong doing of governments in the press?

The following are two quotes from an online chat with Manning about why he leaked the information:

"If you had free reign over classified networks... and you saw incredible, awful things... things that belonged in the public domain, and not on some server stored in a dark room in Washington DC... what would you do?"

"God knows what happens now. Hopefully worldwide discussion, debates, and reforms... I want people to see the truth... because without information, you cannot make informed decisions as a public."

In my book, Bradley Manning has done a lot more for his country than those who would follow orders they know to be immoral and illegal. Manning has followed the international mandates given by the Nuremberg trials after WWII – when soldiers or citizens witness war crimes they have a legal and moral obligation to try to stop them. That is what Bradley Manning has done and that is why he is fighting for his life. He needs our help.

Now that you know, what can you do? It is important to act because the Military Judge Col. Denise Lind will rule soon and she thinks no one is watching. This is a dangerous situation.

1. Don't take my word for it - search "Bradley Manning," find "Collateral Murder" on YouTube and watch it, go to www.bradleymanning.org and find out more specifics.
2. Sign the Stand with Bradley petition online: http://www.standwithbrad.org/
4. Submit your photo to the "I Am Bradley Manning" campaign: iam.bradleymanning.org
5. Ask all of your friends to write a letter to the editor, have a house party, be creative – but get the word out.
6. Attend the court proceedings at Fort Meade. Manning's lawyer, David Coombs, recently issued a statement thanking all of Bradley's supporters for their efforts, and especially those who have attended the court proceedings. In a meeting with little public transparency, the more public supporters who participate as observers and activists, the better. Bradley Manning has risked his life and freedom because he believed in our right to know. We need to support him and get the charge of "Aiding and Abetting the Enemy" dropped. If we don't, this young man may spend his entire life in jail for telling the truth.
first place,” said Greg Nevins, Supervising Staff Attorney in Lambda Legal’s Southern Regional Office in Atlanta. “We need action by the 113th Congress to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), and even more immediately, President Obama should sign the executive order banning LGBT discrimination by companies that get federal contracts. This executive order should have broad support across the political spectrum, since federal dollars should neither fund discrimination nor go to employers whose personnel and productivity suffer because discrimination and harassment are tolerated.

Although denying admission of any wrongdoing, the government contractor agreed to re-publish its non-discrimination policies and conduct anti-discrimination and anti-harassment training at its facility, including a focus on transgender and other LGBT issues. In light of the constructive steps taken to move past this episode by this contractor, and because of our emphasis is on a systemic resolution to the problem of LGBT discrimination in federal contractor workplaces, Freedom to Work and Lambda Legal are not publicizing the name of their client or this particular government contractor.

Mob brutally slays 17-year-old trans Jamaican at party

By Dwayne Browne, Minority Insight

On July 22, Dwayne Jones, a Transgender otherwise known as “Gullly Queen” and “Dwayne Gagatar Trenetsa,” was shot and stabbed to death in the Irwin community, St. James. According to Iriejam news report, “the 17-year-old was dressed as a female and was dancing with a male, when a woman at the party recognized him and told other passengers that he was not a woman, but a male. One of the men at the party accosted the teen and conducted a search where he discovered that the teen was not a female. A mob then descended on the teen and chased and stabbed him to death, before dumping his body in bushes along the Orange main road.”

Furthermore, the Jamaica-Gleaner reported that “a number of explosions were heard and the police were summoned. They discovered Jones’ body on the roadway, with multiple stab wounds and a gunshot wound.” No arrest has been made.

The brutal killings and public execution of gay, lesbian and transgender Jamaicans is a disheartening reality for many who live in the open and shadows. In December 2010, the Jamaica Forum for Lesbians All-Sexuals and Gays (J-FLAG) called for a thorough investigation of a case in which the body of a reported cross dresser was found with stab wounds in St. Andrew. However, the murder remains unsolved due to a lack of interest demonstrated by the investigation team and police authorities due to the victim’s sexual and lifestyle (gay).

The lack of respect and protection for the life of gays living in Jamaica demonstrates a systemic and cultural dislike and hatred for homosexuals and the air they breathe. The government and its leader Prime Minister Portia Simpson continue to disregard the interest, safety and the right to life of gay, lesbian, and transgender Jamaicans.

The punitive laws of Jamaica, such as the Offences Against the Person Act (Buggery law) which criminalizes the act of consensual sex between gay men, and public demonstration of homosexual nudity, mandates up to 10 years in prison with hard labor, along with the moral concept of normality, empower and motivate anti-gay civilians and mobs to attack, beat and kill gays, as well as rape lesbians.

Clearly, over the past years, we have seen the abuse of the rights and dignity of gays living in Jamaica. In January 2011, (J-FLAG) recorded fifty-one incidents of attacks against Gays’ including, home invasions, physical assaults and mob attacks.

In June 2012, members of the Jamaican LGBT community reported that eight gay men had been murdered in the prior three months.

The organization has also emphasized the lack of report being made by victims of homophobic attacks due to fear of future attacks or abuses, especially from the police officers, who often refuse to take or document self-identified gay victims incidents.

When will our gay brothers and sisters be free from bondage and persecution? How much more innocent blood will be shed before the government step in and protect the lives of GAY Jamaicans?

Besides the killing and beating of homosexuals, Jamaica is a violent and dangerous country. We cannot stand by and watch the culprits and anti-gay lynching mobs to get away with murder. Something needs to be done. Dwayne Jones deserves justice.

Indian couple applying for license may face three years in prison

According to an Indian politics blog, any gay couple in that state who applies for a marriage license faces up to three years in prison. A 1997 state law declares it a Class D felony to submit false information on a marriage license application or lie about the physical condition, including gender, of a marriage license applicant. Two men or two women seeking to marry inevitably triggers the law, as the state’s electronic marriage license application specifically designates “male applicant” and “female applicant” sections for gathering required background data. It’s not known how often Hoosiers, gay or straight, are prosecuted for submitting false information on a marriage license application. In any case, the recently approved reform of the state’s criminal code will, starting July 1, 2014, drop the crime to a Level 6 felony, punishable by a maximum of 18 months in prison and a potential fine of up to $10,000.

The law also penalizes clergyman, judge, mayor, city clerk or town clerk-matre- nist who solemnizes a marriage between two people of the same gender. Those who conduct a gay marriage ceremony can be charged with a Class B misdemeanor, pun-ishable by up to 180 days in jail and a fine of up to $1,000.

U.N. launches global LGBT rights campaign

The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on July 26 unveiled a global LGBT rights campa- ghn at a meeting in South Africa

The campaign is called Free & Equal. The multi-proposed campaign — announced at a news conference in Cape Town — will include videos and public-service announce- ments distributed through social media, a new website, a series of fact sheets, and engagement by celebrities well-known in different regions of the world.

“Changing attitudes is never easy... It begins with often difficult conversations,” said Navi Pillay, the high commissioner for human rights. “And that is what we want to do with this campaign. Free & Equal will inspire millions of conversations among people around the world and across the ideological spectrum.”

There were multiple reasons for choosing South Africa as the news conference venue. It is Pillay’s home country, and is a leading nation on a continent where dis- crimination and violence against LGBT people is widespread.

The UN office notes that the campaign is being funded by “outside contributors” and should therefore “skirt objections” from UN member states opposed to LGBT rights. #

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NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

(EMPLOYER FROM PAGE 14)
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women and male cancer survivors who partner with men.

To be eligible for this study, you must have had a diagnosis of
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radiation within the last 1-12 months, or have been a caregiver
to someone treated for cancer in the last 1-12 months. Please
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Thank you!
Sho ulders To Stand On: 
Giants
By Evelyn Bailey

“There was a very long time when I would walk into a store and there would be no goods for me.”

With that opening line, Evelyn Bailey sets the stage for her essay about the Gay Alliance and its founder, Nick Newcomb. Bailey describes Newcomb as a “visionary” who believed in creating a space for the LGBTQ community.

The Gay Alliance, or GA, was founded in 1973 by Nick Newcomb and a group of friends. Bailey notes that the Gay Alliance was founded on the basis of sexual orientation, and its mission was to stand up against homophobia and discrimination.

The Gay Alliance was not just a community center; it was a place where people could come together to support each other and work towards greater equality. Bailey notes that the Gay Alliance was a training ground for many political icons, and it remains an important part of the Rochester community.

The Gay Alliance has since evolved into a 501c3 corporation, and its vision and concept remain the same: equality and justice for all. Today, the Gay Alliance Board – Co-Presidents Bruce Gorman and Emily Horner – is committed to maintaining the vision and creating a better future for the LGBTQ community.

Bailey concludes her essay with a call to action, encouraging readers to support the Gay Alliance by volunteering, becoming a sustaining donor, and attending events.

Sho ulders To Stand On recognizes and celebrates these shoulders of giants on which we stand, and thanks the shoulders of giants in the future – YOU – for continuing to make the vision of equality and justice for all a reality.

History Corner
A monthly newsletter of the University of Rochester Gay Liberation Front, August 1973.

- SUN 5 AUG: “GAY TOWN MEET-ING” Deciding issues, priorities, directions and policy for Gay Alliance. GAY ALLIANCE CENTER, 812 Brown St., 7:30 pm.
- SUN 12 AUG: “GAYS AS PAR-ENTS” Natural, adoptive and foster children in the gay home. GA CENTER 812 Brown St., 7:30 pm.
- SUN 19 AUG: “VA AIN’T GONNA READ TO USE THE LIBRARY” A sampling of music, art and readings in our GA Library. GA CENTER, 812 Brown St., 7:30 pm.
- SUN 26 AUG: “DRAG, MALE AND FEMALE IMMERT COMDINATION” A videotape production and other things concerned with a popular gay subculture, GA CENTER, 812 Brown St., 7:30 pm.


August 19, 1973: “VA AIN’T GONNA READ TO USE THE LIBRARY”

August 28, 1973: “Jesus Christ Super Star” goes gold.

1973: year of “Jesus Christ Super Star” and Elton John’s “Crocodile Rock”.

SUN 3 AUG: “GAY TOWN MEETING”

SUN 12 AUG: “GAYS AS PARENTS”

SUN 19 AUG: “VA AIN’T GONNA READ TO USE THE LIBRARY”

SUN 26 AUG: “DRAG, MALE AND FEMALE IMMERT COMDINATION”

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My awe moment is Wednesday, June 26. It was a great day for me as a lesbian American. Historic decisions in both Windsor v. United States and Hollingsworth v. Perry were announced. Not only was DOMA finally struck down, but, too, so were the anti-gay proponents of Proposition 8.

In a 5-4 decision the progressive and moderate justices of the Supreme Court ruled Section 3 of DOMA to be unconstitutional, and "a deprivation of the liberty of the person protected by the Fifth Amendment." Finally all same-gender couples will be afforded the same 1,000 plus federal protections and benefits as opposite-gender couples.

The proponents of Proposition 8, finally told to cease and desist, meaning they no longer have legally a homophobia to legislate on. California same-gender couples now have the same rights to be recognized by the federal government as married couples in all cases where the federal government recognizes marriage in any state.

With advances such as hate crime laws, the repeal of the military’s "Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell," the thousands of same sex marriage in many states, DOMA struck down, Prop. 8 overturned, and the Supreme Court of course making the "right to marry" a Constitutional right. The perception of the distance the LGBT community has traveled in such a short historic time — from a disenfranchised group on the fringe of America’s mainstream time — from a disenfranchised group to a considerable voting block...
August 2013 • Number 470 • Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley • The Empty Closet

23

A remarkable mayor.

Gantt’s admission is quite revealing — but anyone who knows David Gantt knows he is still fighting a 20th Century battle. When he says that he is not a big fan of the Gantt camp is that equality folks don’t belong to his camp and that his camp is the club that under the bus or exclude anyone at the expense of a few. In Gantt’s never ending quest for tax dollars and narrow agenda, many Rochester area folk have been marginalized in the process and he could care less that Warren is an out gay person, off, gay LGBT folks of color, for a very long time, and have not yet come to the realization that we exist as a political equation to the side. Despite the iron Gantt and Warren shortcomings on equality issues, it is my hope voters will also look at some other issues that tell a more complex narrative.

The fact is Mayor Tom Richards has been the total package. I know this from personal experience. As a LGBT city employees and democratically elected union official who negotiates collective bargaining agreements, I have worked with four different mayors and dozens of city council persons spanning 16 years. I represent thousands union workers who live and work in the City, and I can honestly say that in my opinion, we have never had a better leader than Tom Richards.

Unlike his opponent, he has a great working relationship with the business community and the private sector and public sector trade unions. Richards already demonstrated a vision and ability to improve public safety, balance budgets, create private sector jobs and improve our educational efforts through literacy, supporting our libraries and facilitating open communication with the public. Richards is already doing this job. Just look at his record. It speaks for itself. Rochester is going places.

And, right now, is he partnering with City Councilman Matt Haag to champion a policy improving workplace equality for LGBT people, while every indication would tell us his opponent would not be as supportive. Everyone knows, he is without a doubt always the smartest guy in the room and respects everyone at the table.

The irony here cannot be overstated. For the Warren campaign to promote an inclusive “we the people” platform is just political hogwash and laugh-out-loud funny. LGBT people and our allies are smarter than that. And to be perfectly honest, it is offensive to suggest otherwise. For two local Democrats who have spent their entire lives in the same community, you would think they would have learned by now to use more diplomacy when offending constitu-

ents and trying to pare the vote by using identity politics. Their actions and voting record tell voters all they really need to know about their personal and political leanings.

In conclusion, please don’t lose your focus while the campaigns fight it out. Try to keep track of all the rhetoric, what remains is the notion that this is not really about the candidates at all. The question is about you and me, whether or not everyone will thrive and grow as a community. Think about that for a moment. Please do yourself and the people you love a favor — make sure all your voices are heard on Primary Election Day, and vote on Tuesday, Sept. 10.

A Few Bricks Short

By David Hull

Living in the country for many years now has certainly made me more aware of natural and seasonal changes around me. It is true, when I first moved to the countryside, I was used to knowing when to plant and harvest crops based on environments, but I was not accustomed to the natural world around me — early frost, not much snow, too little precipitation, insect infestations. I got used to it. Now, living in a rural, farming community, I’m much more attuned to the natural world around me — early frost, too much snow, too little precipitation, insect infestations of corn borers (gossy little insects that destroy sweet corn) and low grower temperatures. I know I feel like I could be a reporter for the Farmer’s Almanac.

This is David Hull reporting for the Farmer’s Almanac. The wooly bear caterpillars are especially large this year indicating a cold winter, and I’m noticing a build-up of cumulonimbus clouds in the Western sky, which could bring drastic changes to the weather for tonight. Also, Kohl’s is having a shoe sale this weekend that should be fabulous!

No, that won’t ever happen. Actually, I don’t know anything about caterpillars or clouds and my husband rarely lets me go to shoe sales anymore. Besides, the Farmer’s Almanac is an annual periodical, not a hip radio station, so the whole idea was actually:

However, I do know about one especially interesting and disturbing event in

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focus on trying to end war, famine and disease. I think of a brilliant scientist, Hawaii, that TV series will be a success. Then, perhaps, the bees will return.

Our home is a small one-room house beside the sugar cane field. I have been wondering if there is a way to get the bees to return to our sugar cane field. The bees seem to be attracted to the flowers on our property.

The decline of bee population is a serious problem. The loss of bees could have serious consequences for agriculture and the environment. Without bees, crops would not be pollinated, and this would affect food production and biodiversity.

In my opinion, the government should take action to ensure the health of bee populations. This could include regulations on pesticide use, support for beekeeping research, and education about the importance of bees to the ecosystem.

It is time for us to take action to protect bees. Let us work together to ensure that these important creatures continue to thrive for generations to come.
soul. You are the gifts the Infinite Pres- ence has reserved for you. You are who you were created to be and are in the process of becoming. You are the life force, which flowers in and through you. You are the strength, grace, mercy, wisdom, and com- passion you demonstrate and share with others. You are the life force that is carried by love, in the image of love, to be and share love with all other reflections of love in the world.

If you need to weigh something in your life, weigh the love that you produce in the world and carry it forever. We have for you. You are not a number on a scale; you are more than any scale can ever measure.

What’s Bothering Brandon?
WHAT IF GOD WAS GAY LIKE US?
By Brandon W. Brooks

Driving to work this morning, I was pleasantly surprised to see a very large rainbow flag hanging from the third Presby- terian Church on East Avenue. This is not a particularly common sight in LGBT Pride and unity, hung prominently amongst the dark-grays-brown bricks of the church and the trees immediately all to see. Presumably for Rochester Pride Week, I was quite pleased to see a church actively affirming and welcoming LGBT persons, a rare sight in this religious world, and ulti- mately, into the world of God.

As I was thinking about the interface between religious groups and the LGBT population, I cringe for two reasons; one being that many reli- gious groups as well as groups that claim to be religious in any form can only bring negativity to LGBT persons, and should not, be reli- gious in any way. This emphasizes the destructive force that religion can fuel, while completely neglecting to mention the many pos- sible positives this interaction can bring. And they have the nerve to talk about brainwashing. By focusing only on the negatives of religion, they have rendered any form in any way can only bring negativity to LGBT persons, Gays Against God’s (a supposed gay-friendly and gay-oriented group) message for LGBT persons echoes that of the Westboro Baptist Church; God doesn’t love you, and it’s because you’re gay.

In the words of Cher Horowitz, “As it is!” As a gay American, I have the free- dom to choose and practice (or not to choose) whatever religion, faith system or sect I like. These anti-gay reli- gious factions as well as Gays Against God seem to forget this idea, that in America all people have the free- dom to practice whatever religion they choose to practice (or not to practice). I am disheartened to hear that some LGBT persons have arranged themselves into a group that chooses to address anti-gay religious hatred with anti-religious anti-gay hatred (try saying that five times fast), especially when there so many more positive ways of showing disapproval for anti-gay religious fervor.

Whether or not we as LGBT per- sons should choose to be atheist is not the question; my question is why must we completely deny the validity of reli- gion in any form in order to combat religious intolerance towards LGBT per- sons? Must we completely abandon all reli- gious beliefs in reaction to the hate-based doctrines of anti-gay religious groups?

Questions regarding biblical interpre- tations, translations or mistranslations, belief or disbelief I’m sure could go on forever. But in the meantime, I will take a page from our religious scriptures on kindness towards others, and actively (and genuinely) welcome those not like ourselves, or our friends and loved ones, on those who really need it: our adversaries.

Questions, comments, or critique? Please feel free to e-mail the author at brandonbrooks@aldeplh.edu.
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Kasha Davis, Diane Chevron to host benefit concert

By Susan Jorday

Broadway is coming to Rochester “Give to Live Rochester,” featuring an all-star cast, takes the JCC Hart Theatre stage Saturday, Aug. 17, with proceeds benefiting Trillium Health (formerly AIDS Care) in Rochester and Broadway Cares/Eighties Fights AIDS, based in New York City.

General admission is $15, which includes the reception before the performance, featuring an open bar, hors d’oeuvres, desserts, coffee, etc.

Rochester actress Diane Chevron and “International Celebrity Housewife” Mrt, Kasha Davis will emcee, as local stars perform pop and Broadway tunes.

Chevron told The Empty Closet, “I’m looking forward to hosting this with Diane Chevron. We’re friends but have never actually performed together.” Co-producer and performer Michael Ciaccia said, “We have show tunes and are putting together songs. Our arrangement is a writing arrangement inspired by ‘Glee.’”

Kasha said, “I am doing an adaptation of ‘Hello Dolly’—now it’s ‘Hello Kasha,’ with several male dancers. I’m going to improvise the lyrics!”

“My favorite is ‘Me and Jezebel’ with Kasha at the bar, with the male dancers. I’m going to have an unconventional rhythm and musicality. The vision for ‘Give to Live Rochester’ keeps HIV/AIDS visible in our community, reminding us of our history and compelling us to continue the battle against HIV.”

Michael Cataldi is writing an arrangement inspired by ‘Glee’.

Kasha added, “I look forward to any opportunity for a free glass of wine—and singing and dancing with friends—any excuse to get out of the house and away from housework.”


On Social Media: facebook.com/givelivetlerochester.blogspot.com

Geva hosts “Fight with Love” revue benefit Aug. 2-4

Geva Theatre Center will host “Fight With Love,” the annual musical theatre revue to benefit Broadway Cares/Eighties Fights AIDS, in the Geva Nextstage Aug. 2-4.

Now in its seventh year, “Fight With Love” stands as a symbol of the commitment of local youth in the theatre community to use their art to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

“Fight With Love 2013” is an endeavor that has been taken on with love, courage, and a compassionate eye on rhythm and musicality. The vision for “Fight With Love” is to take the emotional journey of people with AIDS and tell their story through an exhilarating combination of song and dance.

This year’s production showcases some of Rochester’s brightest and most talented young artists, each telling the story with vitality and eagerness. The show allows a wide audience to connect and relate to those affected by AIDS in both thematic and pragmatic ways. Now in its seventh year, “Fight With Love” draws a devoted audience to fight for people who suffer from AIDS by telling their stories and raising awareness.

Young performers are drawn from area high schools with many local performers home on summer vacation from attending colleges throughout the Northeast such as Point Park University, Pace University, The College at Brockport, SUNY Fredonia State, Fordham University, Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and University of Buffalo. Featuring songs from such popular standards as West Side Story, Rent, Side Show, Sweet Charity, Newsies, “Fight With Love” acts as an avenue for... (Geva continues page 28)

Pandora Boxx to star in episode of gay dramedy “People You Know”

Orchard Winfield Productions has announced that Pandora Boxx and Steve Hayes have signed on to play Adora Jarr and Patrick Carter, respectively, in the new gay dramedy “People You Know.”

Pandora is a break-out star of RuPaul’s Drag Race and was “Miss Congeniality” of the second season. Entertainment Weekly named her “America’s Next Drag Superstar.” Pandora created the stand-up comedy show “Lick this Boxx,” which recently ran off-Broadway. She emceed the NYC Pride rally, sharing the stage with Lady Gaga. She also performs other shows around the world. In People You Know Episode 3, she plays a washed-up has-been drag queen schlepping drinks at a gay bar.

Pandora is THE comedy queen, and in “People You Know” she plays a twisted parody of herself—tantalizingly hilarious! She’ll steal every scene she’s in!” says series co-creator Baltimore Russell, who plays Moses in the show.

Steve will play Patrick Carter in a recurring role for Episodes 3 and 6. “People You Know” Steve is a three-time MAC award winner and a long-time veteran of the NY stage. He is best known for his performances in the films Tick and Big Gay Musical. He hosts his own web show Steve Hayes: Tired Old Queen at the Movies.

“People You Know” is a new media series that exposes the ambitions and relationships of a tight-knit group of friends in the city that never sleeps. Episode 1 is complete, and filming began on July 8 for five new episodes. All six episodes are slated for release fall 2013.
NYC’s High Line gets a little bit gayer

By Out.com Editor

The gay art duo Gilbert and George will bring a version of their 1984 man-sized mural to Manhattan’s High Line. Opened in May 1990, Jones Pond has hosted other queer artists such as photographer Ryan McGinness — exhibits a version of Gilbert & George’s 1984 photographic, stained glass-simulating mural “Waking” (which is in the permanent collection of the Guggenheim Bilbao) that shows various sizes of the gay art duo surrounded by men and boys in flamboyant makeup and clothing.

Gilbert & George’s signature style coalesced in large, brightly colored photo montages, often backed to resemble stained glass and incorporating button-pushing symbols (swastikas, crucifixes, roses, flags) and provocative text (“cock,” “scum,” “fucked up”). At self-described “living sculptures,” they insist they live their whole lives as art; they’re prone to rude jokes, are rarely seen dressed in anything but marching suits or apart from one another, and keep slavishly to a peculiar daily schedule.

Although the original artwork seemed massive, at approximately 36-feet wide, the billboard is 75 feet in length, so does that mean we’ll get more boys to marvel at while strolling by?

“All with the talk today about urban life and gay marriage,” High Line Art curator Cecilia Alemani told the New York Times, “it seems even more appropriate now.”

The High Line Billboard will exhibit the bold work from September 3 through October 1, but we already wish it would be a permanent feature.

Jones Pond’s future looks bright

By Darren W. Plunkett

Nested in the hills of Genesee Valley in Western New York, Jones Pond Campground provides all-inclusive accommodations to a range of travelers from one another, and keep slavishly to a peculiar daily schedule.

The campground boasts many amenities including an in-ground swimming pool with deck, pond, shower house, café, lounge, barn, campfire pit, and memorial garden.

Campers travel from as far as Texas and Florida to visit Jones Pond. “This year we’re tapping into the Canadian market,” Schaefer remarked. “People don’t know what Jones Pond is in Toronto.”

The new owners have easily distributed their workload, as they each possess their own expertise. McCormick finds himself in a financial role while Schaefer is more adept in operational functions. “We have picked up Doug and Steve’s model,” said Schaefer. “They have very separate, distinct responsibilities.”

According to McCormick, the biggest challenge as owners of the campground is prioritizing the needs of the campground and campers while staying within a strict budget. The couple has developed a strong line of communication with the seasonal campers, aiding them in making these difficult decisions.

Both Schaefer and McCormick agree that the tradition requires commitment. “We need to keep the tradition of Jones Pond, at the same time putting our spin on things,” Schaefer commented. A current template for success is the themed weekends. “Themes attract certain groups such as bears, leather men and cowboys,” said McCormick. “These are some established things that will never change.”

“The infrastructure is here,” Schaefer added, “now we just want to build on that.” With fresh ideas and a respect for tradition, McCormick and Schaefer have ventured down the path to a successful future at Jones Pond Campground. If you haven’t checked it out yet this summer, there is still time!

White Party returns to Century Club Sept. 7

Rochester’s White Party, a fundraising event to benefit Trillium Health (formerly AIDS Care), will return to the historic Century Club of Rochester located at 566 East Ave. on Sept. 7.

The event will begin at 7 p.m. and will feature a variety of musical entertainment, food, drinks, and auction items. The event-planning committee is comprised of several volunteers from the Greater Rochester area. Chris and Lisa Cove, longtime supporters of Trillium Health, will serve as honorary chairs alongside James Wolk and William M. Valenti, M.D., co-founder and staff physician.

“HIV has not gone away and neither has the White Party,” says Valenti. “Last year’s event was a huge success for both Trillium Health and the Rochester community. We plan on making it even bigger and better this September.”

This year’s entertainment will include Krypton 88, Trinidad and Tobago Steel Drum Band, drag performances, and music by DJ Naps (Mike Napoli). Funds raised at this event will benefit comprehensive medical care, including HIV specialty care and research, as well as new programs such as LGBT and women’s health.

Allison Snyder-Nichols shows work at Equal-Grounds this month

The gallery @ Equal-Grounds is pleased to present "Pins and Paper," new work by Allison Snyder-Nichols, during the month of August. The opening reception is Aug. 2 at 7 p.m.

Allison is back at Equal-Grounds for her second show. Her mixed media work includes collage, paper cuts and painting, among others. Gallery director Beth Bloom says, "Allison’s work is cheerful and a delight for the eyes."
John Williams is named as ImageOut's first Development Director

John C. Williams has been hired by ImageOut, a Rochester LGBT and arts and cultural community organization, to fill the newly created position of Development Director.

"John is the ideal person for this newly created Development Directorship," says ImageOut Board Chair, Paul Allen. "About five years ago, we hired John as a volunteer, member and supporter of ImageOut because he has tremendous knowledge and appreciation of Rochester's LGBT and arts and cultural communities. He now brings six years of fundraising experience and a proven track record of success as a fundraiser for Literacy Volunteers of Rochester and Garth Fagan Dance. He also serves as Vice President of Professional Advancement for the Genesee Valley Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

"The campaign for the newly created Development Director position was led by ImageOut's current Development Director, William Ackerson. His experience will bolster our fundraising activities and bring professionalism to our volunteer-run organization." For Allen, the hire represents a crowning achievement of ImageOut's three-year strategic plan, which was developed using a Capacity Building Grant from the Arts and Cultural Council for Greater Rochester.

Williams is a longtime Rochester resident and was Principal Attorney Editor with Thomson Reuters prior to his second career in fundraising. He will commence his role at ImageOut on Aug. 12.

Party at Black Gay Pride!

Western New York Black Gay Pride will feature many events here and in Buffalo. The opening reception is Aug. 1 at Shea's Smith Theatre, 658 Main St. in Buffalo, from 5-10 p.m. Buffalo events: www.mochacenter.org/wnyblackpride.

The Rochester events include: Aug. 8: Patio Party, Abilene, 153 Liberty Pole Way, 6-9 p.m.; Aug. 9: Pajama Jam Parry, The Diplomat, 1956 Lyell Ave, 8 p.m.-1 a.m. Color Outside the Lines Crew; Aug. 10: Takeover Party, The Clarissa Room, 293 Clarissa St., 10 p.m.-2 a.m., Grind Time Entertainment; Aug. 11: Cookout Red Creek Pavilion, Genesee Valley Park, 1000 E. River Drive, 1:30-6 p.m.

Also, the MOCHA Center and Evergreen Health Services of WNY are co-hosting the FIRST Black Gay Day at Diamond Lake on Saturday, Aug. 3. See page 3 article for full information on events, tickets, etc.

Adirondack Road Trip

Part One

By Merle Exit

Adirondack Park covers a huge amount of land in the northeastern part of New York State and includes a number of lakes. My road trip began in Queens and on day 1, we arrived in the town of Glens Falls for lunch at Celia's Table. I had a chicken pot pie soup with sweet potatoes and added turkey stuffing and cranberry compote. We then went to the Hyde Collection, an art museum and historic house located at 16 Warren Street. The collection is of over 3,300 objects that span the history of Western art with photos, paintings and sculptures, www.hydecollection.org.

We stayed at the Copperfield Inn and Resort in the town of North Creek. Large comfortable rooms, with great amenities including a microwave, wet bar and refrigerator. Free continental breakfast, exercise room and outdoor pool. There are two restaurants, Lorenzo's and Trapper's Tavern, home to a large moose head over the fireplace, said to have been shot by Teddy Roosevelt. www.copperfieldinn.net.

Lake George Village was the destination for the next day. Adirondack Pedal Cab took us around for a tour. There is no charge as you simply tip the driver what you think the ride is worth. www.adirondackpedalcab.com.

We were first taken to the docks along Lake George for a lunch cruise aboard the L.L. du Saint Sacrement. It was quite a relaxing tour of the lake. www.lakegeorgesteamboat.com.

The pedal cab then took us to Adirondack Winery located on Main Street. This company makes their own wines with grapes from vineyards all over the United States. For a small fee you can taste seven different wines and keep the wine glass as well. I love white wines. www.adirondackwinery.com.

On our way back to the hotel, we stopped at Barkereater Chocolates located on Route 28, where they create their own chocolate bars, truffles and items such as a dark chocolate covered "Reese's" with a chocolate and peanut butter filling. www.barkereaterchocolates.com.

That evening we dined at Basil and Wicks, also located on Route 28. The restaurant looks more like a lodge with "American" cuisine. www.basilandwicks.com.

We headed for Gore Mountain Farm to see some overly cute alpacas. Farm is owned by Barry Finer and Virginia French. Sheared like sheep, the wool produces a much warmer and "non-itchy" piece of clothing that feels more like cashmere. Tour is free, products sold at gift shop. www.goremountainfarm.com.

Nearby Gore Mountain is next on the list. Located at 791 Peaceful Valley Road, in North Creek, we arrive and board a gondola to near top where several ski slopes are located. Off season you can hike, mountain bike, mini-golf, and more. www.goremountain.com.

Continuing north to the town of Speculator and Lake Pleasant, where Lake Pleasant Lodge is located on the main road with a view of the lake. Michael Welch is the manager who lives on the property. More than a motel looking place with clean and comfy rooms each having a fridge and microwave. Take out a cano or rent a kayak nearby. It's all about relaxation, so take the time to sit in the gazebo or spend a cool evening around the fire pit. www.lakepleasanthound.com.
The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley is a non-profit agency, dedicated to cultivating a healthy, inclusive environment where lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people are safe, thriving and enjoying equal rights. We are a coalition of individuals and groups working to empower LGBT people, to affirm their identities, and to create an atmosphere where the diversity of our community can thrive both collectively and separately. We educate and advocate for civil rights for all and for the eradication of homophobia. 875 East Main Street, Rochester, New York 14605 Phone: (585) 244-0460 Fax: (585) 244-8246 Web: www.gayalliance.org E-mail: info@gayalliance.org Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm Board Co-Presidents: Emily Jones, Bruce Gorman Acting Executive Directors: Scott Fearing Director of Intergenerational Programs: Kelly Clark Outreach: Jeanne Ginsburg Databases: Kat Wiggal Bookkeeper: Christopher Herrenly

The Empty Closet: Editor: Susan Jordan Graphic Designer: Jim Anderson E-mail: susan@gayalliance.org Phone: (585) 244-9030 Fax: (585) 244-8246 Advertising: (585) 244-9030

The youth themselves will write the script, which must be educational in some way. As director, I challenge them—What do you expect the audience to learn from that? Then our expectation is that at the end of camp they will put on a public performance, for family, friends, and the general community. That is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 24, the day after camp officially ends. For time, directions and updates, see our website.

“There will also be a daily swim, a nature hike, and a rope course, but for the most part we’ll be working on getting the production together.”

The youth camp runs Aug. 12-24 in Mendon; register now

By Susan Jordan
Gay Alliance Youth Group members, LGBT youth and allies can register now for a two-week summer day camp at the Jewish Community Center’s Camp Sisol in Mendon.

This marks the second year for the Gay Alliance’s Out Loud Out Proud Summer Camp. Last year the camp ran for five weekdays, one of which was spent at Camp Sisol. This year the GAGV has partnered with the JCC to run a two-week camp featuring social action theatre on 10 weekdays, entirely at Camp Sisol.

Camp begins Aug. 12 and runs on weekdays until Aug. 24. It is $100 for the full two weeks, which includes transportation, lunch, snack, etc. Scholarships are available. Participants must commit to the full 10 days. The camp is for LGBT and allied youth entering 9th through 12th grade. To register, go online to www.gayalliance.org and scroll down under Youth to find the application form. To apply for a scholarship, indicate that on the application form or call Kelly Clark at 244-8640.

Camps will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the GAGV Center to depart by bus for the camp, returning around 4:15/4:30 p.m.

Kelly Clark said, “What we’ll be doing is social action theatre. It’s a peer education model that uses the experiences of the participants to create performances that educate the audience and the youth. Groups come together and start writing about their lives, in this case focusing on LGBT issues. In relating their stories, a theme emerges and that’s typically what we go with. The theme could be parents, working with their GSAs in school, bullying, etc. Then we’ll take that theme and begin to create skits or scenarios and will act some things out — What happened when the bully did that? Show me what it looks like.”

“From there we start writing the script.”

The youth camp runs Aug. 12-24 in Mendon; register now

For information: 244-8640 or www.gayalliance.org/events/summercamp

Gay Alliance Youth Program is on summer hiatus.

By Scott Fearing
Gay Alliance Community Center Auditorium, Theater Blvd., 875 E. Main Street, 1st Floor, Rochester, New York 14605 Phone: 585 244-8640

Check out our weekly programs descriptions and special events: www.gayalliance.org/events/summercamp

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The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley
Empowering pride for 40 years

DOMA OVERTURN: Happy people gathered at Equal–Grounds on June 26, the day DOMA was declared unconstitutional. L-R: Courtney Michie, Rep. Harry Bronson, Denise Finnerty, Zach Waffle, Kaelyn Rich, Jo Meleca Voigt, Chris Meleca Voigt, Carrie Vernon, Scott Fearing.

TOWN MEETING: RPD Chief James Sheppard met with the LGBT community on June 26 at the Gay Alliance to discuss the Fatima Woods murder and other issues. L-R: Rep. Tom Decker (Open Arms MCC), Scott Fearing (GAGV), Chief Sheppard, Investigator Kim Rasbeck, Bruce Small (MOWCA Center).
Rainbow Sage Annual Picnic

Rainbow Sage is bringing back our infamous annual picnic. The date is Saturday, Aug. 24 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the location this year is Powder Mills Park at the Wadhamoms Lodge. Powder Mills Park is located at 154 Park Road, Pittsford, southeast of Rochester. Enter the park from Route 96 South of Bushnell’s Basin near Interstate 490.

Please bring a dish to pass. We will supply the hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks, paper products and condiments. Please RSVP to our newest volunteer Jessie at jes-siekel793902@yahoo.com so we know how much food to bring. If you can, let her know the dish you plan to bring as well.

But wait, there’s more! We are also bringing back our brown bag auction, so bring a bag with an item inside (in good shape please) to auction off to raise money for the Gay Alliance. It’s going to be a summer time blast so see you there and RSVP soon.

Wit and Wisdom (or Witless and Wizten)

By Jonathan Wolfinger

Did you know that the month of July was named after Julius Caesar? It is a little known fact that Julius Caesar developed the world’s first Miracle Ear and hearing aid franchise. He got start-ed and got his inventory after his famous speech – “Friends, Romans, countrymen – lend me your ears.”

The Declaration of Independence did not go into effect until August 2, when most of the delegates signed it. Happy 2nd of August!

Two antennae meet on the roof of a bar, fall in love, and get married. The ceremony wasn’t so hot but the reception was great.

What is a fliibertigibbet, a nin-nyhammer, and a dingus?

Which of the following words do you find most euphonious? Aardvark, elysian, or crapola?

Can you translate this German tongue twister: Wir Wiener Wash-frauen waerden weisse Washe waschen, wenn wir wussen, wo waermes Wasser waere. (Email me your answers and win a prize and acknowledgment in this column!)

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other. -Mother Teresa

The more connections you and your lover make, not just between your bodies, but between your minds, your hearts, and your souls, the more you will strengthen the fabric of your relationship and the more real moments you will experience together. -Barbara de Angelis

Never forget the three powerful resources you always have available to you: love, prayer, and forgiveness. Feelings are not facts. -Abraham Low

August Calendar – Rainbow SAGE at The Center

The Center is open for adults 50+. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11-3. Yoga every Tuesday and Thursday 11-11:30. Hot Lunch $3 (suggested).

Tuesday, August 6
Yoga 11-11:30; Lunch 12 noon. POTLUCK. Speaker from Alzheimer’s Association. Come hear about Alzheimer’s and what we can do to keep it at bay.

Thursday, August 8
No Yoga Today. Lunch 12 noon. POTLUCK PICNIC. Come join us for a picnic potluck at noon at Ontario Beach Park. We will supply the hamburgers and hot dogs. Please bring a dish to pass. Sign-up is required at Senior Center!

Tuesday, August 13
Yoga 11-11:30; Lunch 12 noon. BROWN BAG. Join us as we go on a field trip to George Eastman House and have a brown bag lunch in the gardens. Sign-up is required at Senior Center!

Thursday, August 15
NO YOGA TODAY. 11 a.m. field trip and lunch provided by Maplewood YMCA. Come see what their community center has to offer. Sign-up is required at Senior Center!

Tuesday, August 20
Yoga 11-11:30; Lunch 12 noon. POTLUCK. Game Day. Bring your favorite board game, card game, any game you’d like to play. Sign-up is required at Senior Center!

Saturday, August 24
SAGE Picnic, Powder Mills Park, 12-5 p.m.

Yoga 11-11:30; Lunch 12 noon. POTLUCK. It is our July/August Birthday Party! We’re celebrating with cake decorating, balloons, and much more.

Thursday, August 26
Yoga 11-11:30; Lunch 12 noon. BROWN BAG. Scrapbooking/Crafts – have any pictures that tell a story? Come learn how to share their story through the cutting craft of scrapbooking.
Volunteer Legal Services Project (585) 232-3051. Rochester Regional Health, 1 West Main St., Suite 500 Rochester, NY 14614. Free services for low-income HIV positive clients seeking legal advice in cases. Appointments are scheduled at area medical provider locations. 9am-5pm, Mon-Fri.

Trillium Health
Trillium Health is the primary provider of HIV/ AIDS services in Rochester and Finger Lakes. Their main office at 255 West Main Street is the hub of a network of projects offering a wide variety of services. Call for information: (585) 753-5481.

Cultural HIV/AIDS Resources
Check our monthly and ongoing calendar as well as the community section for more groups and events. For further information, call the New York State Department of Health HIV/AIDS Hotline at 1-800-547-1450 or visit www.gayandlifes.net. And send us your information.

BISEXUALITY RESOURCES
AMLs Los Angeles; American Institute of Bisexuality; Bay Area Bisexual Network; Bi Cafe; Bi Definitions: Milwaukee; BiNet USA; Bisexual Organizing (BOP); Bisexual News Network; Cambridge Gender Network; Carbin-Em — Columbus, Ohio; Dallas Fort Worth Bi Network; Bi Pals Project; Los Angeles Bi Task Force: New York Area Bisexual Network; Robby O’Herli’s; Seattle Bisexual Resource Center; Witters Association: The Bisexual Resource Center (email brc@bisexualnet.net)

CULTURAL RESOURCES
Rochester Women’s Community Center 234 Marshall Road, 14624. 1-3pm. PFLAG@ Lesbian & Gay Family Building Project nabe mommies in Rochester and surrounding areas. Support group for lesbian mommies and wannabes. Visit the Rochester Gay Moms’ Group. (716) 585-244-8640. x27. 740 Marshall Rd. 14624. 1-3pm. PFLAG@ Lesbian & Gay Family Building Project

ELDERS
Gay Alliance Rainbow Sage Senior Center Mon/Tue 11am-3pm, 675 E. Main St. First floor. 234-8840; info@gayalliance.org

FAMILY
CNH Utility Center Integrating Family Care. Support meetings, workshops, classrooms. information: cnhtc@cnhfamily.org; 585-290-3600

Rochester Gay Moms’ Group Support group for lesbian mommies and wannabes in Rochester and surrounding areas. Support group for lesbian mommies and wannabes. Visit the Rochester Gay Moms’ Group. (716) 585-244-8640. x27. 740 Marshall Rd. 14624. 1-3pm. PFLAG@ Lesbian & Gay Family Building Project

LGBTQI+ STRAIGHT ALLIANCE
Spectrum LGBTIQ & Straight Alliance info@groups.facebook.com. Advocacy for Abused Deaf Victims (email brc@biresource.net) • Biversity Boston; Boston Bisexual Women’s Network; Bi Café; Bi Definition: Milwaukee; BiNet USA; Bisexual Organizing (BOP); Bisexual News Network; Cambridge Gender Network; Carbin-Em — Columbus, Ohio; Dallas Fort Worth Bi Network; Bi Pals Project; Los Angeles Bi Task Force: New York Area Bisexual Network; Robby O’Herli’s; Seattle Bisexual Resource Center; Witters Association: The Bisexual Resource Center (email brc@bisexualnet.net)

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August

THURSDAY 1
WNY Black Gay Pride. Opening reception, 5-10 pm. Shea’s Smith Theatre, 658 Main St., Buffalo. For more Buffalo events, see www.mochacenter.org/wny-blackpride.

FRIDAY 2
“Fight With Love.” Benefit for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. Geva Nextstage, 75 Woodbury Blvd. 7 pm. Aug. 1, 2 and 7 pm; Aug. 4, 5 pm. Social action theatre; youth-written production performed for public Aug. 24. Bus leaves 8:30 am from Auditorium Center parking lot; returns c. 4:15 pm, $100 for 10 days, scholarships available. Call Kelly Clark at 244-8640 or go to www.gavalliance.org.
Opening reception for Allison Snyder-Nichols show at The Gallery @ Equal-Grounds, 7 pm.

SATURDAY 3
WNY Black Pride at Darien Lake. See page 3.

SUNDAY 4
Dignity Integrity Episcopal Mass/Healing Service, with music. 5 pm. St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St.

THURSDAY 8
WNY Black Pride Patio Party, Athletica, 153 Liberty Pole Way. 6-9 pm. Out & Equal Second Thursdays Networking. Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, 365 Court St. from 5:30-7:30 pm.

FRIDAY 9
WNY Black Pride Health Workshop, MUCHA Center, 107 Liberty Pole Way, noon-4 pm.
WNY Black Pride Pajama Jam Party, The Diplomat, 1956 Lyell Ave. 8 pm.

SATURDAY 10
WNY Black Pride Takeover Party, The Clarissa Room, 293 Clarissa St., 10 pm–2 am.

SUNDAY 11
WNY Black Pride Worship in the Park, Red Creek Pavilion, Genesee Valley Park, 1000 E. River Rd., noon-1:30 pm. Unity Fellowship.
WNY Black Pride Cookout, Red Creek Pavilion, Genesee Valley Park, 1:50 pm.
Dignity Integrity Roman Catholic Liturgy of the Word, with music. 5 pm, St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St.

MONDAY 12
Out Loud Out Proud GAGV Youth Summer Camp. Runs 10 weekdays at Camp Sisol, Mendon, through Aug. 24. Social action theatre; youth-written production performed for public Aug. 24. Bus leaves 8:30 am from Auditorium Center parking lot; returns c. 4:15 pm. $100 for 10 days, scholarships available. Call Kelly Clark at 244-8640 or go to www.gavalliance.org.

THURSDAY 8
Empty Closet deadline for September. 244-9038; susan@gavalliance.org.

SATURDAY 17
“Give to Live Rochester.” Benefit for Trillium Health, Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. General admission is $15, including reception before the performance. Emcees Kasha Davis, Diane Chevron; cast of local stars perform Broadway hits and more. Auction of Broadway memorabilia. JCC Box office (585-461-2000) or at www.jccrochester.org.

SUNDAY 18
Dignity Integrity Quiet Episcopal Mass in the Chapel, 3 pm. St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St.

SATURDAY 24
SAGE Picnics. 12:5 pm, Wadham Lodge, Powder Mills Park, jesse73942@yahoo.com.

SUNDAY 25
Dignity Integrity Evening Prayer, followed by a Potluck Dinner (wrap sandwiches). 5 pm, St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St.

Classifieds

Classifieds are $5 for the first 30 words; each additional 10 words is another $1. We do not bill for classifieds, so please send or bring ad and payment to: The Empty Closet, 875 E. Main Street, Suite 500, Rochester, New York 14605.

PAING BY CHECK: checks must be made out to Gay Alliance. The deadline is the 15th of the month, for the following month’s issue. We cannot accept ads over the phone. Pay when you place your ad. We will accept only ads accompanied by name and phone number. Neither will be published, but we must be able to confirm placement.

The Empty Closet is not responsible for financial loss or physical injury that may result from any contact with an advertiser. Advertisers must use their own box number, voice mail, e-mail or personal address/phone number.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children’s Ministry thriving at Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church for toddlers to tweens. Join us for vibrant, inclusive, progressive worship on Sunday at 10:30 am. 740 Marshall Road off Chili Avenue. info@openarmsmcc.org (585) 271-8470.

SERVICES

Man to Man Rubdown. Relax with this experienced, fit, healthy, middle-aged, non-smoking GWM. Central location. Private home. Incalls/outcalls. Reasonable rates. call#585-773-2410 or home#585-235-6688 or email: magichands@rochester.rr.com.
Ask questions. Established life coach opens your direction about goals, questions, issues using classic tarot symbology and fascinating, confidential discussion. $45 hr. in your office/home. kivawyan-dote@gmail.com.
Wedding Space and clergy services available. Celebrate your special day at Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church 740 Marshall Rd. off Chili Ave. info@openarmsmcc.org (585) 271-8478.
Hamptonian. Simple repairs or full renovations, no job is too large or small. Carpentry, Plumbing, Electrical, Interior & Exterior. 35 years experience. Call Alan & Bill 585-204-0632 or cell 304-547-6832. Hate to paint or clean gutters? I have tall ladders! Dale’s Pleasure Painting and Gutter Cleaning has very reasonable rates for painting year-round and gutter cleaning in the spring or fall. 585-576-5042. Email dale.furong@yahoo.com.
Martin Impolito master electrician. Electrical work, telephone jacks, cable TV, burglar alarm systems, puddle fans. 585-266-5337.

ROOMMATE WANTED

Seeking employed housemate to share large suburban home. All conveniences, near expressways. Call 266-4582.

FOR SALE OR RENT
Park Ave. area: 284 Westminster Rd. This beautiful turn of the century colonial is 3577 square feet with four bedrooms, four 1/2 baths with an updated kitchen w/ hardwood floors. Spacious living room, dining room, family room and a third floor bonus room. The master bedroom has its own bath and walk-in closet. The house has its own bath and walk-in closet. For sale $525 per month, one bedroom, heat included. Off street parking for one car. No pets. 520 Monroe Avenue -- above the Avenue Pub. See bartender to schedule an appointment.
Kylie’s Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox

WHOA, THESE ADVERTISIN’ INDUSTRY FELLAS SHUCK, DON’T SKIMP WHEN THEY THROW A SHINDIG, HUH... ACTUALLY...

...THIS YEAR’S AWARDS DINNER IS KINDA SCALDED DOWN.

BETWEEN THE STRUGGLING ECONOMY AND THE STATE OF ADVERTISING IN GENERAL...

...A LAVISH CELEBRATION ISN’T QUITE CORRECT FOR ME. ANYWAYS...

...I’M GONNA HIT THE SANDBOX. BE RIGHT BACK.

OH, IS THAT HOW YOU WANT TO PLAY IT? FINE

OMG, I’M OVER IT. BUT, I HAVE TO SAY POWERS... I’M A BIT SURPRISED YOU HIRED AN ESCORT TO ACCOMPANY YOU TONIGHT.

NELSON...I AM SERIOUS, HE’S NOT AN ESCORT, HE’S A SOCIAL WORKER.

HAHAHA, IS THAT WHAT HE TOLD YOU?

I MEAN, YOU STILL THINK I’M AN IDIOT?

SO, NELSON, YOU’RE CONFUSED. YOU THINK YOU’RE DRUNK.

WHOA, YOU THINK I’M DRUNK.

AM I? TELL ME SOMETHING, POWERS, DOES YOUR “SOCIAL WORKER” HAVE A “PIXY PEACH” TOO ON HIS LEFT BUTT CHEEK?

SHORTLY...

WHO YA’ CALLIN’?

A CAB TO TAKE YOU HOME.

YEAH, BUT... WE’RE NOT EVEN HAVING OUR EATS YET!

YOU’RE GOING TO NEED TO GET YOUR EATS SOMEWHERE ELSE TONIGHT...

MEAN YOU STEALING IT OUT FROM UNDER ME?

I’M SORRY, THAT ISN’T MY STYLE.

Nelson, I’m serious. He’s not an escort, he’s a social worker.

Hahaha... is that what he told you?

All I know is, I once hired that man for some of the best sex of my life.

Am I? Tell me something, powers, does your “social worker” have a “pinx peach” too on his left butt cheek?

Shortley...

Who ya’ callin’?

A cab to take you home.

You’re going to need to get your eats somewhere else tonight...

You have mail. No, you don’t have mail.

You have a call. It’s not an escort.

So, Nelson, you’re confused. You think you’re drunk.

Whoa, you think I’m drunk.

Am I? Tell me something, powers, does your “social worker” have a “pinx peach” too on his left butt cheek?

Shortley...

Who ya’ callin’?

A cab to take you home.

You’re going to need to get your eats somewhere else tonight...

Website - www.kyleconomics.com
E-Mail - kylesilks@jeroel.com

Bed & Breakfast

WHERE THESE ADVERTISERS IN THE BED & BREAKFAST
DON’T SKIMP WHEN THEY THROW A SHINDIG, HUH...

ACTUALLY...

... THIS YEAR’S AWARDS DINNER IS KINDA SCALDED DOWN.

BETWEEN THE STRUGGLING ECONOMY AND THE STATE OF ADVERTISING IN GENERAL...

OH, IS THAT HOW YOU WANT TO PLAY IT? FINE

OMG, I’M OVER IT. BUT, I HAVE TO SAY POWERS... I’M A BIT SURPRISED YOU HIRED AN ESCORT TO ACCOMPANY YOU TONIGHT.

NELSON...I AM SERIOUS, HE’S NOT AN ESCORT, HE’S A SOCIAL WORKER.

HAHAHA, IS THAT WHAT HE TOLD YOU?

I MEAN, YOU STILL THINK I’M AN IDIOT?

SO, NELSON, YOU’RE CONFUSED. YOU THINK YOU’RE DRUNK.

WHOA, YOU THINK I’M DRUNK.

AM I? TELL ME SOMETHING, POWERS, DOES YOUR “SOCIAL WORKER” HAVE A “PIXY PEACH” TOO ON HIS LEFT BUTT CHEEK?

SHORTLY...

WHO YA’ CALLIN’?

A CAB TO TAKE YOU HOME.

YEAH, BUT... WE’RE NOT EVEN HAVING OUR EATS YET!

YOU’RE GOING TO NEED TO GET YOUR EATS SOMEWHERE ELSE TONIGHT...

MEAN YOU STEALING IT OUT FROM UNDER ME?

I’M SORRY, THAT ISN’T MY STYLE.

Nelson, I’m serious. He’s not an escort, he’s a social worker.

Hahaha... is that what he told you?

All I know is, I once hired that man for some of the best sex of my life.

Am I? Tell me something, powers, does your “social worker” have a “pinx peach” too on his left butt cheek?

Shortley...

Who ya’ callin’?

A cab to take you home.

You’re going to need to get your eats somewhere else tonight...

You have mail. No, you don’t have mail.

You have a call. It’s not an escort.

So, Nelson, you’re confused. You think you’re drunk.

Whoa, you think I’m drunk.

Am I? Tell me something, powers, does your “social worker” have a “pinx peach” too on his left butt cheek?

Shortley...

Who ya’ callin’?

A cab to take you home.

You’re going to need to get your eats somewhere else tonight...

You have mail. No, you don’t have mail.

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So, Nelson, you’re confused. You think you’re drunk.

Whoa, you think I’m drunk.

Am I? Tell me something, powers, does your “social worker” have a “pinx peach” too on his left butt cheek?

Shortley...

Who ya’ callin’?

A cab to take you home.

You’re going to need to get your eats somewhere else tonight...
CARE HAS MANY FACES. AND ONE HOME.

Healthcare, as some may see it, is a big, faceless system. Impersonal. Indifferent. One size fits all.

Trillium Health is different—different from that perception. More like you. Of every culture. From every background. Warm, welcoming and caring.

Most of all, we’re like you in that we want a clear solution when it comes to our healthcare options. You may have known us as AIDS Care. Now we’ve expanded our focus to provide a more comprehensive, inclusive and proactive approach for everyone seeking better health.

We figure that might be you.