

INTERVIEW

Matt Foreman

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■ AIDS Rochester's bingo night.
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THE EMPTY CLOSET

Number 302

May 1998

New York State's Oldest Gay & Lesbian Newspaper

Chief Duffy names new gay liaison

Sgt. Cheryl Franks of RPD reaches out

By Susan Jordan

Newlysworn-in Chief Robert Duffy of the Rochester Police Department has appointed Sergeant Cheryl Franks as the new liaison to the gay and lesbian community.

Duffy told the *Empty Closet*, "The reason is that I want to reaffirm the importance of the liaison position, and I want all community liaisons to be in my office and associated with my office. Cheryl has a really strong desire to be the gay liaison. My decision is not based on any problems with (past liaison Capt.) Ray Mosher. But I want to make the liaison role more proactive."

Sgt. Franks said, "I'm excited, excited, excited. I'm hopefully going to reach out to the community. I'd like to introduce myself first. This is very close to my heart, because I deal with issues of diversity all the time."

Sgt. Franks, who is also co-liaison with the Deaf community, said that she hopes to write a regular question and answer column for the *Empty Closet*, which would answer questions posed by readers as well as offering crime prevention tips and dealing with issues involving the police and the gay community. The first column will appear in the June issue, and Sgt. Franks proposes a contest to find a name for it.

Franks said, "I've already worked with the Gay Alliance for several years. I put together a program for the police department on diversity, and two or three years ago I started a teaching block for the Police Academy on sensitivity training and di-

versity. Just last month two individuals from the GAGV speakers bureau talked to the group. They do a very good job — they show a video and have activities to get the class involved. Then they go into perceptions on how to better deal with individuals, like in cases of same-sex domestic violence."

Sgt. Franks also plans to have a series of meetings with individuals from the gay community. "I'd like to have ascertainment meetings — meetings with individuals from varied backgrounds to ascertain who they are and where they're coming from and then to bring them to the table — if they want police support, or to participate in upcoming meetings, or just to say what they think of the police department."

The phone numbers to reach Sgt. Franks are her office number, 428-7033, and her pager, 529-0416.

Gay men, lesbians, bisexuals or transgender people who have experienced gay-bashing incidents should of course call the nearest officer for help, but if there are problems with police officers' response, the liaison is the person to call. Sgt. Franks said that she can help, "if services aren't rendered appropriately, or at all; if people proactively need open dialogue and communication, I can help with that."

"I'm looking forward to this," Sgt. Franks said. "This is going to be a wonderful relationship. I enjoy this sort of work, and I enjoy people. I don't like categories. I'm interested in what people are like and what they bring to the table."

Saturday Night Out



Doug Meador

Leslie Nuchow performs at Out & Equal's entertainment event on April 18, which starred comic Kate Clinton. For coverage of the evening, see Page B1.

NewsFronts

■ LOCAL AND STATE

Inner Loop Skate-a-thon to benefit CHN

Knock AIDS for a loop at the second annual In-line Skate-a-thon to be held in the Inner Loop on May 17.

The event will take place between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Registration begins at 9 a.m., at a booth set up on Howell St. across the Loop from the Strong Museum. Skaters should ask family and friends to sponsor them, pledging at least \$5 for the loop (about 3.5 miles). The minimum pledge from each skater is \$10. Proceeds go to the Community Health Network, and all donations are tax deductible.

Free parking will be available at the Washington Square Garage and adjoining lots, and beverages will be provided along the route. Prizes will be awarded after the race, and a party is planned.

For more information call the CHN development office, 244-9000.

Organizer Jeffrey Barhite, an HIV positive man who is on the board of directors of CHN and also on its patient advisory committee, says, "The face of HIV/AIDS changes daily; advances in technology and medicine may even take this disease to a manageable chronic illness instead of a death sentence. CHN has kept me alive and healthy for nine years and I want to give something back."

Rosie's gay brother Daniel O'Donnell

tries for NYS Senate
Rosie O'Donnell's openly gay brother is one of about half a dozen Democrats considering a run for the vacant state Senate seat of retiring Sen. Franz Leichter (D-Manhattan).

Daniel O'Donnell, 37, is a former public defender. He has formed a campaign committee and said that he will "begin actively reaching out to the voters of the 30th Senate District to share with them my history of community activism and my vision for the future of our neighborhoods."

Rosie said that she is ready to help "in any way I can." She said, "He is really one of the most selfless and dedicated people I know. I have no doubt that he will make a fantastic legislator."

Sen. Franz Leichter commented
Local news continued on p. 3

Pataki declares support for hate crimes legislation

Governor George Pataki told a meeting of the Log Cabin Republicans in late March that he finds it "incredible" that the Republican Party is blocking a hate crimes bill because it includes protection for bias crimes based on sexual orientation.

Pataki, who proposed hate crimes legislation himself in 1997, said that the failure to pass the bill has been one of his biggest disappointments.

"It's simply, to me again, incredible that our party, which believes in a tough approach to violent crime, will not have tougher sanctions for

those who engage in violent behavior against any group and particularly groups because of their sexual orientation. And I can tell you that we are going to fight as hard as we can this year to try and convince the legislature that now is the time to pass the bill."

The hate crimes bill has been passed by the Assembly every year since 1989, but the Senate Republican caucus has not allowed a Senate vote on the bill.

Log Cabin Republican chairperson Stephen Scherock said that he was "bowed over" that the govern-

nor had said that a political party which values individual rights and responsibilities should not "regulate the bedroom." Log Cabin northeast regional director Michael Aronowitz said, "I don't think conservatives will change the governor's position... he is very passionate about the Republican Party being an inclusive party."

Matt Foreman, executive director of the Empire State Pride Agenda, said, "I appreciate that the governor said he supports the passage of the hate crimes bill. And I did appreciate that he recognized

that it is the Republican Party in the Senate who are holding up the hate crimes bill."

Foreman added that he hopes Pataki will also talk about supporting the gay civil rights bill, which has been kept from a vote by the Republican Party for the past 28 years. "My disappointment is that the civil rights bill wasn't addressed," Foreman said, "because it is on the top of everyone in the community's agenda, regardless of their political affiliations."

—Christina Dinsmore, *The New York Blade News*

Perspectives

viewpoints that matter



Ancient values

Susan Jordan

The distinguished Diné (Navajo) poet Luci Tapahonso read from her work at the Native Voices cultural conference held at RIT in late March. In one poem she says that Native Americans "believe in ancient values and new ideas." The phrase made me think about the differences between "ancient values" and "traditional values."

The ancient values Tapahonso refers to include respect for Earth, women and elders; harmony with Nature's cycles; egalitarian decision-making, and close family ties — meaning the family of all living things as well as one's personal family or clan, which in many Native American societies is matrilinear.

By contrast, the "traditional values" of today's conservative extremists represent alienation from Nature — heterosexual males of European descent as "Masters of the Universe" who own and exploit Earth and its lifeforms from outside and "above." "Traditional values" also exalt the nuclear family unit owned and controlled by the Father, over the extended family/clan.

Not all Native American nations are or were matrilinear, or, for that matter, free from gender and class partitions. There are many First Nations, and each is unique. Here in upstate New York, however, the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) do have a matrilinear system (descent by the motherline). In traditional Haudenosaunee culture, decisions were basically made by consensus, with chiefs and elders having most influence. It was the clan mothers who ultimately made crucial decisions such as who would become chief.

Many Native American nations (including the Diné) accepted, and even especially valued, gay or Two Spirit people. As with respect for female leaders, European influence corroded the respect for (or tolerance of) sexual and gender difference that was often part of "ancient values."

These values are "ancient" because they date back for not merely thousands but tens of thousands of years. The date for human arrival on this continent (as established by white scholars) keeps getting pushed back. Some archaeologists are now saying that people have been here in "Turtle Island" for at least 30,000 years; that is, at the same time when Europeans were living in the Stone Age. Both ancient values and new ideas enabled indigenous peoples to survive here for millennia, adapting to changing conditions, but retaining core beliefs.

Too often, European Americans either have hostile, racist attitudes toward Indian people, or else romanticize Native American culture in a racist way, while simultaneously ripping it off. Certainly white folks should learn about Native American cultures, but we should also support current Indian causes and issues in a useful way — without trying to appropriate

fragments of religions and cultures we aren't part of and don't understand. European Americans need to feel proud of our own heritage and appreciate the fact that we too have "ancient values." But in the midst of the totalitarian enforcement of "traditional values" that oppress women, gays, non-whites and working people, it is hard to feel that the European heritage, glorious as it is in some ways, is an entirely positive one.

The white heterosexual male poet Charles Olson opposed patriarchy, and in his *Maximus Poems* he advises us to "hunt among stones." That is, search among the ruins of pre-patriarchal European culture for our own ancient values. Some say that there was a time, long ago, when European societies were not exclusively focused on war, male supremacy and social hierarchy. The late archaeologist Marija Gimbutas has written of "Old Europe," the Neolithic, pre-Indo European cultures that evolved from Stone Age hunting societies between c. 10,000 and c. 2,000 B.C.E. (Before Common Era).

Judging from Old European (and megalithic culture) burials, distinctions were not made between male and female, rich and poor. Everybody in a Neolithic longbarrow was family. Archaeologists have found many images of women who seem to have been powerful shamans, clan mothers or divinities. There are also some sacred or shamanic male figures. No doubt conflict existed, but there is no archaeological evidence for an "arms race" until after 2000 B.C.E. It is impossible to know exactly what these ancient societies were like, and often today, for instance, we find that cultures which continue to worship goddesses are nonetheless oppressive to women.

Still, when we "hunt among stones" we find more and more evidence that until the arrival of sky-god-worshipping Indo Europeans in the early Bronze Age, Old European societies (and, indeed, some early Indo European cultures) had values similar to those of Native American societies. Women were often asso-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

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nor will we print letters that are abusive, obscene, libelous or defamatory. We will print anonymous letters if the name and phone number are provided to the Editor; confidentiality will be respected. Submissions are due by the 15th of the month at: The Empty Closet, 179 Atlantic Ave. Rochester NY 14607-1255

From Our Readers

Appreciating GAGV partners workshop

To the Editor: My life-partner and I recently took the class offered by the GAGV called "Permanent Partners." This class was for gay and lesbian couples to gain some tools to build a stronger and long-lasting relationship. It lasted eight weeks and included six other lesbian couples and the leaders, also partners, Lisa and Amanda.

I would like to thank the GAGV for facilitating this class. It was a great experience in which I learned some valuable insights about couples, in particular same-sex couples. I also learned about myself and how my feelings/thoughts affect us as a couple. An added benefit was meeting the other women and learning we all have a lot of the same concerns and issues. I met some very giving and caring couples with whom we will continue to keep in touch.

I would especially like to thank Lisa and Amanda for the excellent job they did in making us feel comfortable enough to share our feelings freely. They also shared their own thoughts, feelings and experiences as a couple. They were always well-prepared and enthusiastic.

I hope that the GAGV will continue to offer this program and I would encourage those in a same-sex longterm relationship to take advantage of this valuable opportunity to strengthen your relationship. It is good to know that the membership money is being used for such excellent programs as this one.

Thanks again to the GAGV and to Amanda and Lisa and all the couples in the group.
Darlene L. Russell

Former march organizers oppose "Millennium march"

To The Editor: Recently, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) announced their intention of organizing a "March on Washington for Equal Rights" in the year 2000. Aside from the fact that there would be no actual marching as part of this event, the announcement has raised a number of disturbing and profound questions regarding the organizing process, meaning and proposed outcome of this event.

As individuals who were intimately involved in the national discussion and planning of the 1979, 1987 and 1993 national marches, we feel it necessary to interject our observations, reflections and experiences in order to further this dialogue, and to correct the distortions and misrepresentations which have been circulated. What saddens us most is the distorted images which have been presented of our previous marches.

Foremost among concerns raised by the two groups' plans are the manner by which they seek to organize the event, and its anticipated outcomes. The differences between the current effort and the past ones reveal a clear lack of respect for an organizing strategy that

Letters continued on p. 8

ciated with the moon and her cycles. Gimbutas shows how the Lady of the Beasts of the Paleolithic hunters became the Lady of Harvest in agricultural societies, and how the images of powerful, possibly divine females in Stone Age paintings and carvings evolved as the Old European Bird and Snake Goddesses, and then continued into the Bronze and Iron Ages as Athena, Hera, Demeter, Artemis and the whole pantheon of classical goddesses familiar to us from Iron Age myth, which depicts their violent overthrow by male gods of war.

However, the ancient reverence and need for sacred female images persisted among European peasants well into the Christian era, as the many "Black Virgin" cults suggest — cults that were either appropriated, disowned or trivialized by the Vatican through the ages.

On the staggering timescale of "ancient values," the "traditional values" of our modern patriarchy seem comparatively new. The conservatism of the Goddess makes Buckley and Buchanan look like revolutionaries. But let's not forget the other part of Luci Tapahonso's statement, the part about "new ideas."

Today the old is new again. Through rediscovering ancient values like tolerance of diversity and respect for women and Nature, Americans of European descent can find our own connection with planet and cosmos, our own paths to social justice and spiritual fulfillment, whether Christian or non-Christian. How ironic that when European-descended people reach out to these apparently new ideas, we may be going back to the most traditional European values of all.

THE EMPTY CLOSET

Editor-in-Chief Susan Jordan

Business manager Harlow Russell

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Submissions: For publication, submit news items, letters, stories, poetry, side, photographs or art by mail or in person to the Empty Closet office by the 15th of the month (photos and camera-ready ads by the 20th). Design services for non-camera ready ads are available for a fee.

Publication Information: The Empty Closet is published 11 times a year (December and January combined) by the Empty Closet Press for the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, Inc. Approximately 5000 copies of each issue are distributed during the first week of the month, some by mail in a plain sealed envelope. The publication of the name or photograph of any person or organization in articles is not an indication of the sexual or affectional orientation of that person or the members of that organization. For further information, please write to the Empty Closet, 179 Atlantic Ave., Rochester NY, 14607-1255, or call (716)244-9030.

A Publication of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley

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The Empty Closet is the official publication of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, Inc., as stated in the bylaws of that organization. Its purpose is to inform the Rochester gay community about local and national gay-related news and events; to provide a forum for ideas and creative work from the local gay community; to help promote leadership within the community; and to be a part of a national network of lesbian and gay publications that exchange ideas and seek to educate.

Part of our purpose is to maintain a middle position with respect to the entire community. We want to be able to please all participants in a way that takes into consideration the views of all — women, men, people of color, young and old, and those from various walks of life.

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Newsfronts

LOCAL AND STATE NEWS

25 years ago this month... From the Empty Closet, May 1973

Two Buffalo bars were closed in May 1973 by the State Liquor Authority because their premises had become a "gathering place for homosexuals, degenerates and other undesirable." The bars were fighting the action in court.



WE SHALL ENJOY IT AS FOR HIM WHO ENJOYS FULLY MAY ENJOYERS AND CONDOLENTS HIM

Patrick Doyle, a writer for a new publication called *The Advocate*, was in Rochester on May 15 to interview members of the Gay Liberation Front at the University of Rochester for an article entitled "Gays on Campus," which was expected to appear in August or September.

Candace Gingrich speaks at U.R.

By Diana Parker

The woman came to town with a fire in her belly and a message for everyone — come out because you matter. Come out in large ways and small ways; come out today, tomorrow and every day; come out because you're needed.

As the keynote speaker for Gay Pride Week '98 at the University of Rochester, Candace Gingrich was an example of "practice what you preach."

In the past perhaps best known for being the "lesbian sister of the Speaker of the House," Gingrich has become something of an icon herself. But it was her relationship to Newt, and her abhorrence of his politically-motivated attacks on the gay community, that led to her activism and prominence.

Newt's anti-gay comments "started a little fire in me" in 1994, she said. Fanning those flames with help from the Human Rights Campaign, this blue-collar, hard-working, rugby-playing, redheaded bit of a woman now evokes fear in the hearts of the Religious Right.

Gingrich's opening statement, "I look forward (to the day) when we look at a whole year, all 365 days, as Pride Days," struck a chord with the audience that continued to resonate as she described her working-class background, her family's unconditional love, and her own coming out stories.

One of Gingrich's goals is to get people to be more politically involved. "People don't realize how easy it is to be making a differ-

ence — and how important it is." The segment of the American population that doesn't personally know someone who is gay is susceptible to the influence of what Gingrich terms "sensationalized sources" — "The 700 Club" or inflammatory mass-mailings.

"Most people who know someone gay... understand the civil rights we seek, and support us. By being open, we help ourselves... I don't believe that people come from a background of hatred," Gingrich said. "People fear the unknown and (for many people) we are the unknown."

Gingrich says that when we come out to those people, "when we live our lives honestly and openly, they come around to us." According to Gingrich, it is important to combat the misconceptions of the American public, many of which are manipulated by anti-gay forces. Overcoming these misconceptions will help gain support for issues facing the gay community.

As an example, Gingrich points to the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). She sees job-related discrimination as an issue that strikes home in American, but the misconception of "special rights"

Gingrich continued on p. 10

Out & Equal continued from p. 1

rate vice president of human resources Hector Motroni on Friday evening. Allaire affirmed the Xerox commitment to diversity, including sexual orientation, and congratulated GALAXe and Out & Equal for the extensive work they are doing to promote discrimination-free work environments. Later in the evening, conference attendees were entertained by famous New York drag entertainer, Hedda Lettuce.

Saturday and Sunday of the conference focused on LGBT employees in the workplace. Cindy Martin, President Global Customer Support at Eastman Kodak, started the weekend on a high note by sharing wonderful Kodak moments with the audience. PFLAG was again in attendance to discuss the joy and cost of self-acceptance. Other workshops included homophobia and racism, transsexuals in society, political correctness gone awry, seeking respect in the corporate environment, sexual harassment, deaf and gay in the workplace, and many others. Noted speakers came from local and national companies, consultants and organizations. Representatives from both the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Human Rights Campaign were in attendance throughout the weekend. Kim Mills, coordinator of HRC's workplace initiative project, offered hope for a better work environment during her luncheon address on Saturday.

Throughout the weekend, various welcoming messages were extended to the conference attendees from the Mayor's office, the office of the County Executive, Rochester City Council, and Congresswoman Louise Slaughter's office. As part of his welcome message, City Council member Tim Mains acknowledged the hard work of the entire conference organizing committee, and in particular, conference chairperson David Kosel of Eastman Kodak. Mains said it was a genuine tribute to the city and the people of Rochester to have this conference come here for its east coast debut, building on the legacy of tolerance and progressive thinking demonstrated by local leaders of the past, Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony. Rev. Ron Helms of the Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church extended greetings and welcome from all the churches of Rochester.

The Out & Equal Conference is an annual event. The location for the 1999 conference has not yet been determined, but based on the success of its Rochester experience, the future of Out & Equal is assured.

O'Donnell continued from p. 1 that although he is staying neutral in the battle to name his successor, he thinks O'Donnell should be taken seriously, and not just seen as "Rosie's brother."

If O'Donnell wins the election to the Senate, he will become the first openly gay male in the state legislature.

-Associated Press

Brita M. Lilius 1927-1998

Brita M. Lilius died on April 2 after a two-year struggle with ovarian cancer. She is survived by her loving partner of 24 years, Peggy Meeker; by family members in Sweden, Finland and Canada; by adopted Meeker family members in the Rochester area, and by many dear friends.

Brita was born in Hollywood, Calif., in June of 1927, and spent much of her childhood traveling with her parents throughout the world. She received her early schooling in places as varied as Manila, Helsinki and Johannesburg, and then finished her education in New York and New Jersey. In the early 1950s she moved from Morristown, N.J. to Rochester, where she was employed by Eastman Kodak Co., primarily as a technical illustrator, until she retired in 1984.

Brita's interests included camping, hiking, canoeing, scuba diving, gardening, birding, "wildflowering," traveling and reading. Over the years she did volunteer work for FISH, the Rochester Museum and Science Center, and WXXI, and was active with the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, the Episcopal Diocesan Homophile Commission, Out and About, and Omega, a group for older gays, which she co-founded with Horace Lethbridge.

Brita dealt with her cancer diagnosis and treatment with courage, determination, optimism and good humor. During a remission last year, she and Peg were able to enjoy trips to Key West and Costa Rica, and were proud to make the final payment on their 20-year mortgage. In her last weeks Brita was feeling well. She would be sorry she didn't get a chance to let all her friends know that she was fine and to wish them all the best.

Contributions may be made in Brita's memory to the Oncology Fund, Rochester General Hospital Cancer Center, 1425 Portland Ave., Rochester N.Y. 14621.

Rosemary Cahill

Rosemary Cahill, former editor of the *Empty Closet*, passed away on April 20. A memorial service will be held on May 23 noon at Corpus Christi Church, E. Main St. A full obituary will be published in the June issue of the *Empty Closet*.

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Newsfronts

▶ NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bella Abzug dies at 77; championed women, gay rights

Former U.S. Rep. Bella Abzug (D-NY), an outspoken feminist who introduced the first national gay civil rights bill in 1974, died on March 31 in Manhattan after heart surgery.

Abzug was 77. When she was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1970, she campaigned on a platform advocating equal rights for women, gays and other minorities, and an end to the Vietnam war. Her district on Manhattan's West Side included Greenwich Village, and many gays campaigned for her whenever she ran for public office, including her unsuccessful 1976 race for the New York Senate seat won by Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

Abzug lobbied for passage of a gay rights bill in N.Y. City Council in 1973 and early '74, and was one of the first members of Congress to regularly appear at the N.Y.C. Pride parade and rally. She and then-Sen. Alan Cranston of California were the first Congress members to hire openly gay staffers.

An assertive and powerful person, she was penalized for that in a way that her male colleagues were not. Nonetheless,

she continued to fight for the rights of women and gay men, and was an inspiration to activists like Virginia Apuzzo, now assistant for Management and Administration at the White House, who said of Abzug, "She saw it as her fierce responsibility to target oppression and speak out against it."

-Lou Chibbaro Jr., *The Washington Blade*

Golfer Patti Sheehan, partner adopt baby

Golf champion Patti Sheehan, 41, and her partner and business manager Rebecca Gaston, have announced that they adopted a baby girl, Bryce, last July.

The announcement came on March 27 in Sheehan's column in *Golf World*, when she wrote that she has become part of an LPGA statistic she is not accustomed to — one of 26 player-mothers on the tour. Sheehan and Gaston have been together for 12 years.

Openly lesbian golfer Muffin Spencer-Devlin said, "I want to congratulate Patti for making the decision to be open about her sexual orientation, and especially for sharing her feelings about the process of adopting Bryce."

-*Golf World*, GLAAD

Canadian rights code must include gays

The Supreme Court of Canada ruled on April

2 that the province of Alberta's human rights code must provide explicit protections for gay men and lesbians.

Alberta is one of three Canadian provinces that had not included gays in their human rights codes. The other two, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, have said they will make the change.

Darwin Vriend, 32, brought the case against the Alberta government after he was fired as a lab instructor by a Christian college in Edmonton in 1991, because he is gay. At that time, Alberta's Human Rights Commission told him he had no grounds for a complaint.

The Supreme Court rejected Alberta's argument that it should be up to elected officials to decide whether special protection for gays should be included in human rights codes. The court said that Alberta must immediately amend its code to add sexual orientation to the list of protected categories.

The court stated that excluding gays sends a message that discrimination against gay people is permissible, and even acceptable. Alberta's government may respond by invoking a rarely used constitutional clause that allows provinces to defy certain Supreme Court rulings.

-Associated Press

Military not observing "don't ask don't tell"

On April 7, Defense Secretary William Cohen ordered new guidelines to explain and enforce the Clinton administration's "don't ask don't tell" policy on gays in the military.

Cohen said that "some commanders haven't gotten the message." Any commanders who engage in witch hunts pursuing and harassing gay military personnel, Cohen said, will themselves "be the subject of their own investigation" and may be charged with sexual harassment.

An internal review of the policy by the Department of Defense (commissioned by Cohen) was said to show that there was an increase of 67 percent in the number of gay-related discharges since 1994, when the policy went into effect.

Cohen said, in an interview on National Public Radio, "I have tried to make it very clear that we want this policy fully and fairly implemented. That means there's to be no pursuit, and if it's taking place, it's something I'm very concerned about."

Cohen also recommended that military commanders consult with their superiors and military legal authorities before embarking on investigations of suspected gays; that authorization for investigations of "coming out cases" must be approved by the service secretaries, and that commanders and investigators should receive more training about the policy.

The report claims that in only three cases had the policy not been properly enforced, and that 80 percent of those discharged as gay in 1997 had stated that they were homosexual. Cohen ordered the report in response to three annual reports by the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a group that assists lesbian and gay military personnel and monitors the "don't ask don't tell" policy.

The reports for 1995, 1996 and 1997 indicate not only the dramatic increase in discharges, but also that witch hunts and unauthorized investigations continue to take place at U.S. military installations.

Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign, said "Any policy that asks people to lie is bound to fail. The policy itself is not being followed down the chain of command and the core problem of anti-gay bias goes completely unaddressed. The policy is not working

because commanders in the field are continuing to ask and pursue, hunting down gay servicemembers unabated. The military's explanations for the dramatic increase in discharges are self-serving and disingenuous. Anti-gay bias continues to be the core issue, and the Pentagon has done nothing to address it... Lying cannot be the cornerstone of any U.S. policy. We need a policy that respects performance, ability, commitment and privacy."

-Associated Press; Human Rights Campaign

HRC, MCC to go ahead with March

The Human Rights Campaign and the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches have said that they will go ahead with plans for a Millennium March on Washington D.C. in 2000, despite criticisms from some segments of the gay community.

Elizabeth Birch of HRC and the Rev. Troy Perry of MCC said that they are trying to gather support for the march, which is scheduled for spring 2000. Perry said, "What we want to accomplish is to again show America that we're a very strong minority group that is asking for everything everybody else has."

Organizers say they want to show the discriminatory barriers that gay men and lesbians and their families face, rather than to celebrate gay culture in the way that many pride marches do.

Birch said that the march would be organized by a small five-member board of directors which will include HRC, MCC, the Latino group LLEGO, and two others to be decided. She said that this board will have primary decision-making responsibility, although a larger group will "discuss and debate" and make recommendations

to the board. She said that organizers want to avoid "past missteps" about "the messages that get pumped out to the nation."

Organizers of a nationally coordinated series of marches or actions to be held in 1999 in all 50 states are now re-considering their plans. The coordinated marches were to be planned by the federation of Statewide Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Political Organizations, which the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) helped to found and provide staff support for. Federation co-chair Paula Etzelbrick, who is also legislative counsel for the Empire State Pride Agenda, said that many of the state groups felt "quite defeated" when they heard about the Millennium March, since they fear that it will "suck a lot of the money and energy" that would have gone to the state marches.

Kerry Lobel, executive director of the NGLTF, said "HRC and MCC have made a decision that they're going ahead no matter what, and people can join the parade or not... I feel distressed about the process."

Mandy Carter, a former HRC staffer who is now a consultant to the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum, said, "I've just really been taken back by the process. This notion of there being two predominantly white organizations self-selecting themselves to put on this march is not an inclusive process at all."

Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass), said that he thinks the time and money involved would be better spent on other forms of political work.

Perry said that the march will avoid things that made "middle Americans" shake their heads at the 1993 march; he cited as an example Lea Delaria's '93 stage routine about having oral sex with Hillary Clinton, which was broadcast on C-SPAN. However, Perry said that he did not want a "sanitized" image, simply one that would show gays as "everybody's next-door neighbor."

-Peter Freiburg and Rhonda Smith, *The Washington Blade*

IRS: lesbian breast cancer group must change mission

The Internal Revenue Service has been challenged on its demand that a lesbian support group re-write its mission statement to replace "lesbians" with "all women" as a prerequisite for tax-exempt status.

The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund wrote a demand letter to the IRS on April 14, charging the Service with acting improperly, and calling for it to withdraw the requirement and immediately grant 501(c)(3) status to Kathy's Group, a Rhode Island support group helping lesbians with cancer.

An IRS agent had ordered the group to alter its mission of addressing the needs of lesbians, and to define its target population as "all women."

"The only appropriate question before the IRS is whether the group meets the legal criteria for educational and charitable groups entitled to tax-exempt status, and Kathy's Group fits those criteria perfectly," said Lambda staff attorney David Buckel.

Kathy's Group, founded in May 1996, was named for two partners, both called Kathy, one of whom developed breast cancer. The group's mission is to provide information to lesbians with cancer and their families, and to run a bi-monthly support group with an average of 12-14 patients. President Laurie Garvin said, "Dealing with the IRS is a scary thing, so we thought we'd have to give up our mission. Lesbians have a higher rate of breast cancer than women in general, and with the added difficulty presented by many doctors who have anti-gay attitudes, a focus on the needs of lesbians is vitally important."

Lambda successfully challenged the IRS in a case in 1997 in which the IRS had demanded that a North Carolina youth group prove it

would not "promote homosexual attitudes" as a precondition to being granted tax exempt status. The youth group also had considered giving up. Lambda is urging the IRS to issue a policy directive and conduct education throughout the organization to eliminate anti-gay bias.

-Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund

Bahamas crowd protests gay cruise

A ship with lesbians on a trip organized by Olivia Cruises was greeted in the Bahamas on April 13 by a crowd of over 100 people waving signs which read, "No gay ships."

Several months ago the Cayman Islands banned gay cruises from docking.

On March 8, the Right Hon. Hubert Ingraham, Prime Minister of the Bahamas, made a speech over national television which included the following statements:

"The Bahamas government believes that hysteria is dangerous; it breeds a mob mentality which ignores fact and frequently leads to disregard of the rights and liberties of others. My government rejects bias in any form and finds discrimination repugnant. My government repudiates hate mongering, whether directed at individuals or groups, local or foreign... I have been chilled by the vehemence of the expressions against gay persons made by some of our newspapers and over our radio talk shows... I believe that the hysteria being created by certain individuals against gay persons visiting the Bahamas and who represent themselves as the leadership of the Christian Council, is becoming irresponsible. I believe that the hysteria is... unfounded. It is also un-Christian..."

Ingraham said that the Bahamas government welcomes gay cruise ships.

-Associated Press; BSMG Worldwide



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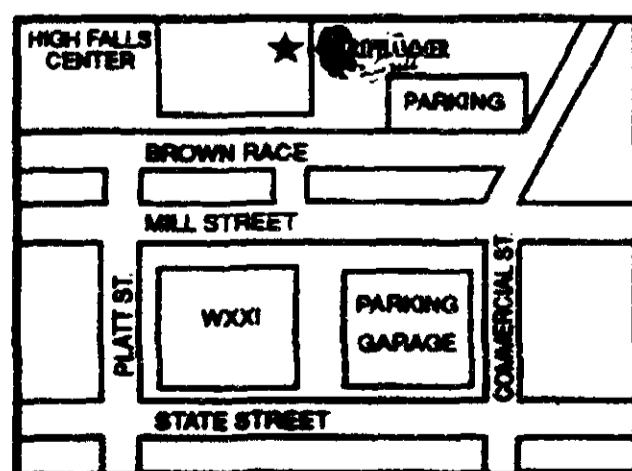
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Interview:

Matt Foreman, executive director of the Empire State Pride Agenda

By Susan Jordan
 Matt Foreman, the new executive director of the Empire State Pride Agenda, was in Rochester on the weekend of the "Night of 100 Parties." He spoke with the *Empire State* about many of the concerns facing gays and lesbians in New York State, and about his vision of the gay movement as it moves into the 21st century.

EC: What do you consider the most urgent issues facing the gay community right now?

MF: The most urgent crisis right now is the HIV-punitive bills — mandatory contact tracing, criminalizing HIV transmission, and reporting names in general. There is an incredible amount of pressure on the Assembly to pass one or more of these pieces of legislation, because, I think, we've been outflanked by Netty Mayerson. She's a fanatic who led the fight on the "baby AIDS" legislation, which would mean that mothers would be tested for HIV against their will. The problem is there were people on both sides of the issue, but now there's disarray. And that little bit of disarray in the HIV community opened the door for mandatory contact tracing and discussion of criminalizing HIV transmission.

EC: Was the Nushawn Williams case a factor in this?

MF: It was Nushawn, but the law dealt with him, his name was disclosed and his partners were notified. Criminalization of transmission isn't needed. "Reckless" transmission of HIV is already a criminal offense. It's really about homophobia and it's AIDS phobic still primarily because of racism and homophobia. It's urgent to stop that legislation or at least make it as least harmful as possible.

EC: What's the biggest challenge for you personally as the new head of ESPA?

MF: I think the challenge is getting the word out about what ESPA does, so people understand it in a personal way. People are a little confused about our mission and about what

part it plays in our lives. I'm not talking about money, but how ESPA can be a vehicle for increasing our power. You go to Albany and it's amazing what doors will open when you say "ESPA."

Albany is so much about bare knuckle politics. Setting aside the issues, it's about "This seat is up and we've got a candidate, can you provide volunteers." The gay community has provided volunteers for particular races, like in Westchester County. In Nassau County, we might have lost that race, but we were there. It was an uphill struggle for Doreen Banks in a heavily Republican area. The same with Naomi Matusow in Westchester. Those are two races where gay volunteers made the crucial difference. The reality is that a lot of the traditional foot soldiers of the progressive movement aren't there anymore — unions, etc. Here in Rochester it's more evident than anywhere in the state, the influence we can have.

What's so interesting about New York State is that we have Rochester, Ithaca and a little part of New York City where the lesbian and gay community is incredibly well-organized and powerful. It tends to lead to complacency in the best-organized communities. You go five minutes or two minutes outside your little safe area, and you think you can walk down the street holding hands? I don't think so. One thing I learned at the Anti-Violence Project — people feel it's not a problem until it happens to them. How do we replicate Rochester everywhere?

EC: What can be done in your opinion to change the stalemate with the gay rights bill in the Senate?

MF: You know, it's moving. I have to say things are moving for the first time in the 28-year history of this bill, and the sixth year it has come up for vote in the Assembly. On March 23, the Codes Committee of the Assembly voted to move the bill forward to the floor, and two Nassau Republicans voted for the bill —

Thomas Alfano and Kathleen Murray — the first time any Nassau Republicans have voted for the bill, not to mention two. (Note: Alfano and Murray, under heavy pressure from the Conservative Party, are now backtracking and claiming that votes in the Codes Committee are not the same as votes on the floor.)

There has been this lock in Nassau County on civil rights and hate crimes bills, due to the Republican Party; Nassau County is their power base in New York State. So that is incredibly significant. The hammer of the Conservative Party has already come down on these people. They've basically threatened people, "If you don't vote for us, we won't endorse you." The Conservative Party got seven percent of the vote, so they have nowhere to go — who would they endorse, a liberal Democrat? That's

The other thing I think is helpful is that our focus now is shifting to D'Amato. We're going to meet with him again this year and the message is, "You like 99 other U.S. Senators can directly influence legislation. You did it last year on rent control and the rights of same-sex couples to inherit apartments from deceased partners." D'Amato flew to Albany and the next day Joe Bruno (Majority Leader in the Senate) is saying, "Gays have families too."

Another incredible thing that happened (in March) is that the Assembly put the re-appropriation (of the funding for gay social services) in our budget and they put a new lump sum. The Senate then passed their budget and it included the million in re-appropriation. That's extremely significant, because things in the Assembly budget are considered the Assembly

I'm just so impressed with Rochester. Wow — great community. I think the longterm goal of the Pride Agenda is to have a network of lesbians and gays across the state who respond the way the right does. We're outnumbered, but the thing is we're right and our victory is inevitable.

movement. The Assembly passed the civil rights bill by the largest majority (over 92 votes) in the last six years because of Republican support.

budget. Then they sit down and do horse-trading about who pays for what. The significance is that I feel strongly that as of June 1 it will be one million in re-appropriation and one

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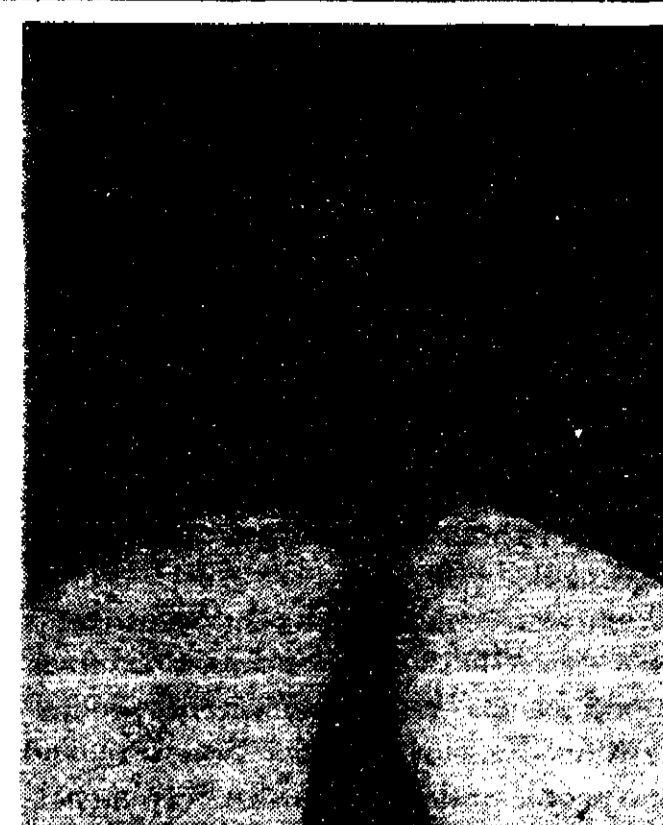
million in new money — perhaps more.

EC: How would you assess the state of the Religious Right now? Do you think they're as strong as ever nationally?

MF: They are getting stronger and stronger. The Christian Coalition is picking up steam in New York State. They're using us to make money. The "Coalition for Constitutional Freedom" is lobbying against the gay rights bill, against choice. They're scary people, and they just had 800 people lobbying in Albany. They pick a harmless sounding name and people say, "Oh, I'm in favor of constitutional freedom..."

EC: Do you think the anti-same-sex marriage bill is a threat right now?

MF: I don't think this year, I don't think Pataki wants it. Their main focus is late-term abortion. If they didn't have that, it would be anti-gay issues. Now, if Hawaii goes through, cancel that!



Matt Foreman

There is lots of anti-gay legislation in Albany. It's hard to explain to people that our victories often come in stopping bad things from happening.

EC: A personal question — what got you started as an activist and what inspired you to do political work?

MF: I started working for a Democrat, Jay Rockefeller, in West Virginia in 1972, and I was still in high school. I worked on his campaign in '76 and worked in his office. It was disillusioning because we thought he was going to turn West Virginia into something, and we never saw that happen. But it's educational to see that he couldn't do everything he wanted, but you also see what government can do. I'm not hooked on politics. I see its potential for change and its potential for ruining people — like imprisoning people forever for minor things, creating a hostile social services environment, things like that.

EC: It seems that a lot of queer people here and nationally are not only uninterested in politics, they say "I'm not political" as if they were saying "I'm innocent." What if anything do you say to gays and lesbians who are apolitical?

MF: I don't feel I'm political. I don't have any particular attachment to either party. I don't

trust either party. But when people aren't political they aren't alive. Just being gay — I'm sorry, but the rest of the world thinks that's political whether you like that or not. There are political consequences that come down on you. They don't want you to see your partner in the hospital, and so on. If you want to be a full citizen with equal rights, you can be political with a small "p." Vote — write a letter — give money to the community. That's being political.

EC: How do you see the Pride Agenda evolving in the 21st century? What are your long-range goals?

MF: I'm just so impressed with Rochester. Wow — amazing community. I think the longterm goal of the Pride Agenda is to have a network of lesbians and gays across the state to respond the way the Right does. We're outnumbered, but the thing is that we're right and our victory is inevitable. I honestly think they (the Right) know they're on the losing side in history. That doesn't mean the fight is any less hard, but we are on the right side. That's what we're saying to legislators — do you want to be on the wrong side in history? And if more people get involved, that day will be in our lifetimes.

OPINION

Confronting racism

Mistinguette Smith addressed the National Gathering of the Council of the United Church Coalition for Lesbian/Gay Concerns plenary on July 1, 1997, in Columbus, Ohio. The following is the text of her remarks.

By Mistinguette Smith

I was asked to speak to you today about confronting racism. I want to begin by letting you know that this will not be an opportunity to feel guilty. Confronting racism is work we must do to survive. Feeling guilty is not a good strategy for survival. It is an outstanding way to paralyze change.

Your guilt is of no use to me, and ultimately, of no use to you. So I invite you to abandon it as we move forward.

Now, we have that out of the way.

In November 1996 I met with the Council of the United Church Coalition for Lesbian/Gay Concerns as it planned this year's Gathering. They told me that they wanted this Gathering to look more like the diversity that is the church, and that they saw their own racism as the first obstacle in making that diversity a reality. They spoke of a willingness to move beyond the paralysis of guilt; an aspiration to stretch and challenge themselves.

I was strongly touched by their desire to reduce their individual and collective shame over their collusion with white supremacy. Their desires for integrity, wholeness, a bigger piece of The Truth encouraged me. There was a strong consensus that this group was prepared to learn to be good allies to, and form strong coalitions with, same-gender-loving people of color.

We began by discussing what racism is. Racism is the belief that peoples belonging to, or possessing the characteristics of, one "race" are superior to, or more desirable than, those of another group, coupled with the power to enforce this belief system.

There are four important things I'd like you to remember about racism.

Racism means white skin privilege plus power. This is different from prejudice. Racism is not an individual act because it is enforced through collective use of power. Just as racism requires collective use of power to enforce, it also requires collective work to deconstruct.

No, people of color cannot be racist. People of color may sometimes think and behave in ways that support racism, — we call that oppression sickness or internalized. Yet even if they hold prejudicial beliefs about race, people of color don't have the collective power to enforce those racial beliefs, to make them so.

The kind of racism that we have here in the United States, the kind of racism that we are confronting now, is called white supremacy. If we were living in another country and culture, in Japan for example, it would be different. But we aren't. I like to use the phrase *white supremacy* precisely because folks are uncomfortable with the phrase. Racism is a more polite word, and does not make us think of men wearing white hoods. I will use, and will encourage you to use, this phrase when talking about racism.

White supremacy is a phrase that makes things clear. It keeps us from deceiving ourselves about what the problem is, and whether it is urgent, and whether it is our job to do anything about it. The phrase "white supremacy" makes clear with whom we are allied when we are too tired, or too confused, or too guilty, or too ignorant to resist racism.

Race has nothing to do with melanin, or color. As a biological concept, race does not exist. Race is a state of political alliance. Japa-

nese men with money to invest in apartheid South Africa were legally considered white. In 1850, non-Protestant immigrants to the United States were considered nonwhite. Race is a state of political alliance. Confronting racism is to choose different alliances.

Finally, we need to remember that racism is political, economic, and cultural in its manifestations. When I speak of politics, I mean who holds power, who decides. I mean more than just electoral politics, but the politics of who controls local organizations, your Open and Affirming congregation, your lesbian/gay community center.

Why is confronting racism a concern for lesbian and gay folks? I'm sure that some of you are still wondering, "Why can't we all just be homosexuals together? Why do we have to talk about racism here? I thought that we were here to address lesbian and gay concerns."

The need for antiracism work is immediately apparent when we remember that lesbians, bisexuals, and gay men are a racially diverse group. Our rainbow flag tells a truth that as a community we may not yet truly acknowledge. As we begin antiracism work, we come to understand that our current construction of lesbian and gay identity and community has been ethnocentric at best, informed by and conformed to white supremacy.

Antiracism work is in our best political interests in these times when alliances between homophobes and white supremacists are disguised as religious revivalism; these alliances are not good for people of color or queer folk. We must never forget that a community that fails to confront white supremacy, in overt or covert forms, is a community that values estrangement, and is built upon hatred.

I have three recommendations for allies in confronting racism and deconstructing whiteness. The first is to look at how racism and ethnocentrism affect you when you use the phrase "lesbian and gay." I would like us to take a few moments to describe eight specific ways that racism and ethnocentrism in the white lesbian/gay organizations affect your contact with same-gender-loving people of color. (This is the answer to that ever-present question "Why aren't there more people of color here?")

1) People of color who join integrated lesbian/gay organizations and communities are often asked to choose between their sexual and ethnic identities: are you queer first or colored? This is an absurd essentialist demand from a movement that claims to celebrate that "we are everywhere." This is the reason that churches like Unity Fellowship (a liberation theology church growing out of the Black lesbian and gay experience) are growing so rapidly. Its members don't have to choose between equally vital parts of themselves.

2) White lesbian/gay communities are equally, if not more, racist than straight white groups. I can tell you today which bars still charge a Black tax, have "Black" nights, have unofficial and often unspoken quotas about how many people of color can be admitted at once before the place begins to "tilt." White lesbian and gay organizations still shamelessly engage in tokenism for window dressing. "See, we have our one, we've done our antiracism work." Mistaking sexual interest and objectification of men of color for antiracism work is still popular among white gay men; racism is the reason that we have use for the term "dinge queen." Having a colored friend or lover of color is still politically on *vogues* for white lesbians, for which a white woman

gets political brownie points or increased social cachet for capturing something so exotic.

3) Ethnocentrism, reinforced by racism, is one reason it is so hard for same gender loving people of color and white queer folk to work or socialize together. From our cultural point of view, you all have loud music at parties, and then expect us to bring our own food! Yet your perspective may be that you're playing wonderful lesbian affirming music, and find a vegan poduck to be a form of entertaining accessible by all.

Another example of such ethnocentrism is the way that AIDS service organizations form "support groups" rather than activity groups for PWAs of color. African American and Latino people pride ourselves on keeping personal and family business private, and won't go to a support group. But we will get together and work on a project, and if we happen to talk about our troubles and share our triumphs while we work, so much the better.

4) All forms of oppression are interdependent and interrelated. People of color are disproportionately poor in this country. The kinds of class privilege that we have institutionalized as gay men and lesbians is very alienating to people of color.

5) Even as we begin to build alliances, the very language we use is often racist and ethnocentric. When we use the phrase "people of color" we should always ask ourselves "who are we talking about?" Not all people of color are the same. If you're talking about African-Americans, say that. If you mean Asian people, say so. Remember that we are not all alike: not all people of color read the publications that you do, socialize in the circumstances you do, speak the same language that you do. In our increasingly multicultural cities, culturally/linguistically appropriate materials rarely are available that target gay, lesbian and bisexual people of color.

Letters continued from p. 2

is built on an inclusive, accessible process and grassroots involvement. From this concern emerges a simple question that HRC and UFMCC should not be answering alone: should we march, and if so, why? Defining the goals of such a momentous event should be a process shared with many members of our community. Equally disturbing has been the inaccurate portrayal of the previous three marches, which were each historically defining moments in our lives as individuals, and as a political, social and cultural community. The disrespect which was shown by those who commented on the complex process of organizing the previous three marches can do nothing to help further the dialogue that is now necessary to ascertain the need for, the value of and the process surrounding a march in the year 2000.

Each march was organized by representatives from around the United States. Efforts were made to be inclusive of people of different genders, races, geographical backgrounds and ethnicities. Furthermore, voices were also given to those who might otherwise have been left behind (e.g., youth, differently-abled, veterans) had efforts not been made to make sure there was a place at the table for them. While these committees might have been large, and somewhat unwieldy, a common goal and shared vision helped to ensure that the mission of these marches were fulfilled. The Millennium March has already begun to incorporate itself and a director has been hired, whereas in planning for the previous marches, this process was reversed, making possible the largest and fairest participation of community activists and organizations.

No one would argue that these marches were easy, or simple, or ran like well-oiled machines. However, nothing worth doing ever is, or does. One cannot deny that when one looks at the big picture, the achievements of these marches (and the marchers) were staggering — hundreds of organizations, for example. Logistical snafus are to be expected when you gather a few hundred people together, let alone a million. To use this as a

reason for abandoning plans to march all together, and for holding in its place a large (and probably just as unwieldy) "picnic," smacks of throwing the baby out with the bath water.

The integrity of the process which was developed for the previous marches has been ignored. Past experience has taught us that an open and inclusive organizing process results — by itself — in an upsurge in long-term participation in our movement by our brothers and sisters. Neither HRC nor UFMCC have made any effort to either create such a process, or even to open a dialogue with the hundreds of activists around the country who work to change the way our fellow Americans regard our community. This betrayal of those who are committed to fighting for rights and liberation serves no one except those who, in an effort to show the "mainstream" face of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgendered people, seem to fear the presence and participation of those who might disturb their plans. Are they so afraid of diversity that they have cut it off at the root? This is only one of numerous questions that must be answered before anyone can call this march a "national community" event.

As individuals who once came together to create three successful marches, we are calling for a true dialogue to begin. To that end, we encourage your responses to this letter. Please e-mail us at mow-dialog@datahouse.com. We can only hope that this statement will serve to open a much needed national conversation. Steve Ault (718-399-7964) 1979 and 1987 Marches
Leahle Cagan (212-927-8342) 1987 March
Mandy Carter (919-688-7500) 1987 and 1993 Marches
Michelle Crone (213-993-7602) 1987 and 1993 Marches
Eileen Hansen (415-291-5472) 1987 March
Jason Hillier (212-505-5568) 1993 March
Joyce Husser (212-740-7291) 1979 and 1987 Marches
Pat Hussain (404-244-8784) 1987 and 1993 Marches
Kay Ostberg (310-264-6646) 1987 March

Even the words we use for self definition may betray us. To people of color, the word "gay" often means "white." The words people of color use may be different: "in the life", "same gender loving", "Two Spirit", "family", and they have different contextual meaning than the one-size-fits-all terms "queer" or "gay."

6) Not only is our language different, but our history and culture may be different too. We may honor the Harlem Renaissance instead of Stonewall; groove to Me'Shell Nidge Ocello, not Melissa Etheridge. The history of our folk has been left out of gay histories, unpreserved — we are still looking for Langston, very few copies of Bruce Negent's *Fires* still exist, and we have not yet seen major works by First Nation, Latina, and Asian lesbians and gay men. We know that our cultures have made great contributions to contemporary culture, but they may have been different contributions — not Broadway musicals, but Billy Strayhorn.

7) Outness has different meaning for same gender loving people of color. Like straight people of color, we tend to live, work, and socialize within our own racial and ethnic communities. On the other hand, white lesbian/gay culture has been founded on separation from the dominant culture to become visible; hence our queer neighborhoods, traditions, and sub-cultures. Yet gay and lesbian people of color are already marked as different, and in a white supremacist society, we know that leaving the protection of our racial/ethnic in-group is dangerous. To assimilate to white lesbian/gay political, social, and cultural values means to renounce the political, social, and cultural values and priorities of the community that sustain gay and lesbian people of color in ways that the white lesbian/gay community cannot. Being "out" for people of color often means letting the folks who matter to them inside

their own community know that they are lesbian or gay, rather than wearing freedom rings and a rainbow flag bumper sticker.

8) Finally, a word about family values. A less ethno-centric discussion of gay and lesbian families might reveal that queer people of color come from very different definitions of family, from which white lesbians and gays might learn much. We are likely to be part of intergenerational households made up of extended family, adoptive family, and fictive kin. This is significant also in what it means for political alliances because our family structures are already outside what the mainstream validates. Issues like gay marriage and other public validation of relationships are not good issues around which to make common cause with gay and lesbian people of color.

A second recommendation I have for white people discovering boundaries of their whiteness is to increase their contact with same gender loving people culture. (NB: This does not make you an expert. Don't act on your excitement by going around sharing our culture with us. Really, we already know.) Here are some things to get you started:

See the film *Set It Off* in a Black theater. Attend an event sponsored by SALGA, LLEGO, BGLLF, Asians and Friends, Black Gay Pride. If you're perplexed, find out what these acronyms mean.

Subscribe to *ComMoon* or *Other Countries*. Find a back copy of *Kick or Trikone* or *Du Juice* or *BLK*.

Attend an Eid al-fitre, or a service at Unity Fellowship.

Identify all of the lesbian and gay social groups (not political groups) in your community. Find out how to get on their mailing list.

Rent *Paris is Burning* from your local video store.

See Marlon Rigg's *Black Is, Black Ain't* or Thomas Allen Harris's *Vintage Families of Value*. Read *Piece of My Heart: A Lesbian of Colour Anthology*, especially Sharon Lam-Hing's play "Superdyke, The Banana Metaphor, and the Triply Oppressed Object." Buy *Afrikete* or *Does Your Mama Know: An Anthology of Black Lesbian Coming Out Stories*.

Go to the library and check out *Go the Way Your Blood Beats*.

Now, I would like each of you, right now, to

choose one really do-able simple way that you can increase your knowledge of, and contact with, same-gender-loving people color. And really do it. If you are a person of color, choose a culture other than your own. After you have succeeded with this assignment several times, I would encourage you to read works by other white antiracist activists, such as Mab Segrest's book *Memoirs of a Race Traitor*, or works from the recent national conference on deconstructing whiteness.

My last recommendation is probably the most difficult. This recommendation comes from years of experience, and reflects the observations of people of color and white antiracist activists. It is to *Shut Up and Listen* to people of color.

This may be harder than you think. Remember the guilt I invited you to lay aside when I opened? You may find that it, or its cousins, come back to visit when you start to listen to people of color.

It is uncomfortable to hear about how racism affects people you care about. I invite you to shut up and listen anyway. It is embarrassing to be corrected, especially publicly or urgently. Do it anyway.

Shutting up requires practice, but you may find the words of people of color taking up the expected silence. You may be sure that you know what people of color think or feel because you have a colleague, friend or partner who is a person of color. You may learn new and surprising things if you can close your mouth and open your ears. In your silence you will begin to learn who you are, and what thoughts and beliefs you hold that support white supremacy. Resist the urge to share these discoveries with gay and lesbian people of color. I assure you, we already know. Within this silence, you will find a new kind of courage. And in the end, you will find a new kind of community, one in which all of us can survive, and thrive, healthy and whole.

Originally printed in WAVES, the national newsletter of the United Church of Christ coalition for Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Concerns, September 1997, Vol. XXIV, No. 3. Reprinted by permission of the author.

Mistinguette Smith has taken a three-year leave from her life as a health educator and diversity trainer to become a student at Smith College.

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Gingrich continued from p. 3

has held up the passage of ENDA.

Gingrich says that most people believe that all Americans are equally protected by the First Amendment. "It's a question of ignorance. Most Americans think we already have what they have, so if they hear we're asking for something, it's easy for them to believe the cry of 'special rights'."

"Most Americans don't realize that a gay person could lose their job... simply because they're gay. They don't think that happens in America — and they don't think it should. The more the American people know of the truth, the more supportive they are."

Other issues face similar difficulties. "People heard the word 'marriage' and thought of the ceremony — not the legal contract between two people," says Gingrich. "(It) is not about reorganizing society or changing the definition of family. It is about giving our unions the same benefits and the same securities as heterosexual couples... If you sit down and talk to (people) and explain, it's about being able to extend your health insurance to your partner... they do get it... they understand why your family needs those protections," says Gingrich.

Gingrich also wants the Hate Crimes Prevention Act passed, with inclusions for disability, gender and sexual orientation, both real and perceived. She says it is important to include the question of perception. "We are singled out because of who we are, and who we are perceived to be, and terrorized because of it."

For Gingrich, the key to success on these and other issues is in coming out and becoming activists. Like Dr. Sue's Whos down in Whoville, we must let people know. "We are here."

Politicians have told Gingrich that they don't have any gay people in their districts. She says gay people must make themselves visible to their representatives. "People don't realize the power of one hand-written letter — many people in Congress consider that one letter equal to a thousand letters" representing the people who feel the same way but who didn't take the time to write, says Gingrich.

Each person "must acknowledge the power that (they) do have," especially when it comes to legislation. "We've been working in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, but it's in-between... where the work is going to be done... The work will be done not just by gay people, but by our non-gay allies... people that care about fairness, and that care about us."

Gingrich encourages all non-gay supporters to also come out. "When do you stick up for someone you care about?" she asks. As examples, she asks, "Will you call to correct a deejay who just made a homophobic comment?" Or will "Millie" come out at her bridge club and say that she loves her gay grandson?

Gingrich's passion for encouraging activism led her to become director of HRC's National Coming Out Project, which is linked to the more familiar National Coming Out Day. "We realized that people don't come out on just one day. There are opportunities to come out every day" whether you're filling out a credit card application, or talking to co-workers.

Although one purpose of the Project is to encourage people to come out, another was to create a Resource Guide and make it available to people coming out, or to people who have had someone come out to them. The Resource Guide contains the coming out stories of celebrities, and directs the reader to sources of information and support. Gingrich works to distribute the Guide through national and local organizations. (Copies can be requested by calling 800-866-COD). The HRC wants to be able to reach and support a struggling 14-year-old in Iowa on more than just one day of the year, says

Gingrich.

Gingrich would like people to become activists, rather than "re-activists." She says, "In most cases, people don't make conscious decisions to be activists — something happens to them (such as) having a nuclear power plant proposed for their neighborhood."

In a question-and-answer session, Gingrich acknowledged the risks involved in coming out, but added, "We don't gain things of importance unless we're willing to risk something."

Coalition for Lesbian Visibility (CLV):

Moving and shaking in the heart of the lavender triangle

By Becky Bly

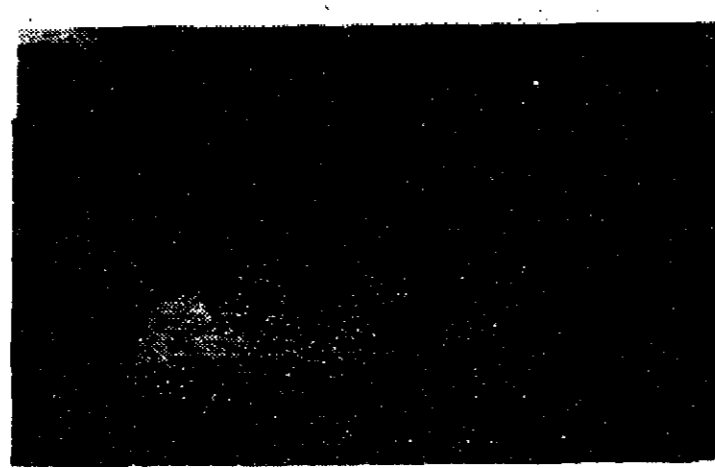
There has been a lot of shaking and moving going on for lesbians in the Finger Lakes area during the last couple of years. The main vehicle for this new growth and interest has been the group known as The Coalition for Lesbian Visibility or CLV to those who are regulars at functions and events sponsored by the Coalition. What CLV is, what it does, where it is going and who the shakers and movers of this group are, are some of the questions about to be answered.

The Coalition for Lesbian Visibility started out not being a coalition at all, but a group of friends meeting for coffee every so often at the local coffee bar in Seneca Falls. Some times six women would gather to schmooze about their week. Some times 10 or 12 women would show. As time went on, friends would tell other friends about the gathering and new faces would appear and another table would be pulled up. Pretty soon word spread as far as Rochester, Syracuse and Ithaca that the lesbians were meeting every Thursday night in Seneca Falls.

In December 1995, when the Superintendent of the Woman's Rights National Historical Park quietly removed a picture of a woman holding a sign proclaiming *Black Lesbian Feminist* from the visitor center lobby, these latte-drinking Seneca Falls lesbians jumped to action. My partner Maureen Owens and I (who had been community activists on Long Island before moving to the Finger Lakes in 1991), started the ball rolling. In an attempt to rally national attention to what we saw as a blatant act of homophobia, we called a meeting to discuss the situation, plan a course of action and begin our national campaign to put the picture back.

Thus, The Coalition for Lesbian Visibility was born. The many months that followed included meetings with the Park Superintendent, national letter writing campaigns, petitions and countless newspaper articles (including *The Empty Closet*), all of which were spearheaded by CLV. Eventually the pressure brought about by CLV's actions helped to return the photograph back to its rightful place in the museum. Once all the hubbub had settled down concerning the National Park, it was evident to us that we had a pretty powerful tool in our hands, the power of lesbians! It was also evident that the growing number of women gathering for coffee needed and wanted more than just caffeine, they were looking for community. They were looking for dates. They were looking for potluck!

In April 1996 CLV began having monthly potlucks at the First Presbyterian Church in Seneca Falls. We requested a small donation to cover expenses and rent for the space, and women began attending from all over the Finger Lakes area and beyond. Potlucks average around 25 women, with many new faces monthly. Most potlucks do not contain any particular theme, although we occasionally will have a planned fun event or discussion topic. For last year's Mother's Day potluck, many women brought their mothers or daughters



Members of the Coalition for Lesbian Visibility

ters along and talked about the lesbian/mother/daughter relationship. The group has played the Gayly Wed Game for Valentine's Day, as well as employing other ice breakers. Whether or not an activity is planned, time for introductions that usually include telling a bit about oneself is a CLV must. CLV is very big on networking. Name tags which contain information such as occupation and town are very much a part of the social scene. It is much easier to approach someone you are meeting for the first time if you already have information with which you can begin a conversation.

Although I serve as the Coalition director, hosting potlucks and writing the newsletter, a core group of CLV members make up the various committees necessary to produce events.

The Coalition sponsored its first Women's Coffeehouse/Dance in the spring of 1997. More than 130 women attended from all areas of Central New York. The summer events that followed included a camping trip and a picnic followed by an all-women boat cruise on Seneca Lake. The boat cruise was a huge success. We sold out, and had to disappoint quite a few women who didn't get their reservations in quickly enough. Plans are already being made for another boat cruise scheduled for September—this one on a larger boat which will accommodate over 200 women.

It has become apparent to CLV organizers, judging from the responses received, that events of this type are very much needed and wanted. The Coalition finds itself located in what we

perceive as a very convenient location to serve the lesbian community of central New York. Get out your map and see where Seneca Falls is in relation to cities of Syracuse, Ithaca and Rochester. Seneca Falls is smack in the center, less than an hour's drive from any of these cities. We are the heart of a lavender triangle and any event we sponsor has the potential to draw from these cities, the towns in between and beyond!

Our second women's coffeehouse/dance, held on April 18, was just a taste of what is yet to come this summer in Seneca Falls. Celebrate '98, the summer festival celebrating the 150th anniversary of the first women's rights convention, will take place during the month of July. Over a year ago, at the same time the Celebrate '98 committee in Seneca Falls began making plans for this summer's celebration, CLV began planning for the many hundreds of lesbians who would be visiting the area. We knew if we were visiting, we would want there to be things for lesbians to do. We also knew that the only way this would happen was for us to take on the responsibility ourselves, so we decided to become the "welcome wagon" for lesbians.

The Coalition has just announced two colossal events for July 17 and 18. On July 17, *The Women's Event*, a women-only dance party limited to 250 women, will take place. It will involve four hours of DJ mixed dance music at the exclusive KenCin Manor overlooking Cayuga Lake. The Concert, July 18, will combine the talents of New York lesbian comic extraordinaire Sara Cytrok with the rock-solid voice and versatile guitar playing of Toshi Reagan. Both of these performers are top notch. We are thrilled to be bringing them to Seneca Falls as the Coalition celebrates lesbians' enormous and unrecognized contribution to the women's rights movement.

For more information on the events sponsored by The Coalition for Lesbian Visibility you may contact them at CLV, POB 517, Seneca Falls, NY. (315) 968-9364.

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Socialize at Gay Bingo Night

By Jennie Bowker

When the doors swing open at the School of the Arts every third Wednesday at 6 p.m., fun-seekers will tell you that the best Wednesday night social event around upstate New York is right here, at AIDS Rochester's Bingo Night.

In fact, over 300 persons have been attending these monthly games, which Bill Pritchard, director of development at AIDS Rochester, has called "the largest recurring non-alcoholic and smoke-free event for gay persons" in existence.

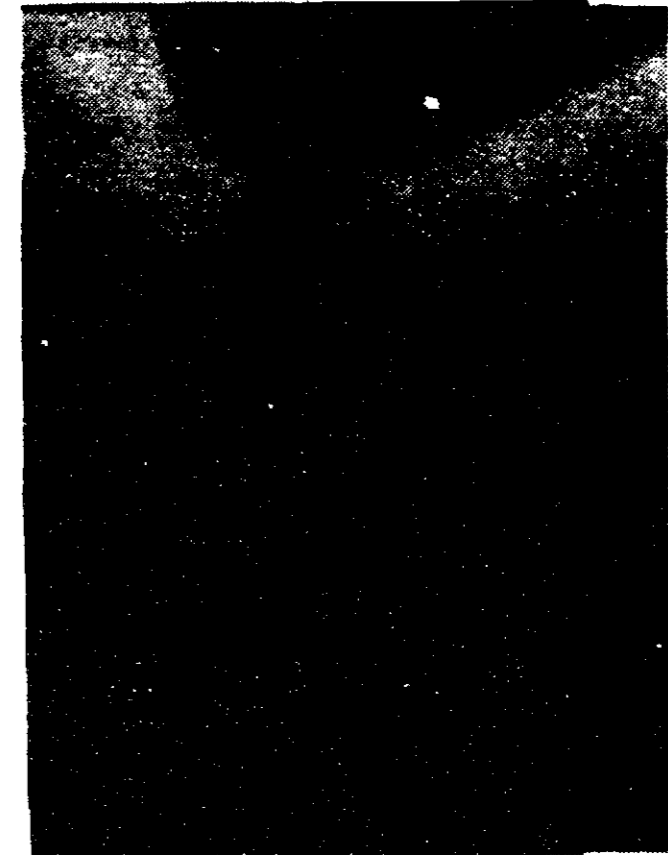
Started this year as a fundraiser for ARI, Wednesday night bingo is very gay, very lesbian, hugely successful, and even something of a singles night. The games have become "quite popular" with the deaf and hearing-impaired crowd, adds Pritchard, as Brian Ambrose has provided interpreting services. In keeping with diversity, many gay-friendly people round out

the crowd, perhaps unintentionally vying for the informal "Straight Person of the Evening" award.

Surprises are plentiful, with visitors such as the Easter Bunny, Carmen Miranda (Carlos Leal, Gay Alliance Board Member), and real life notables such as city clerk Carolee Conklin.

Bingo has become so popular that reservations for tables of six players are being taken by calling ARI at 442-2220, on the preceding Monday and Tuesday. A new policy has been enacted so that "we will never be sold out ahead of time again," says Pritchard. A portion of tables now will be reserved for walk-ins, he says.

When doors open at 6 p.m., admission of \$5 will provide not only game boards for 12 games, but a chance to take home some of the \$900 payout, to play two specials, and to enter free drawings for prizes.



Upon the 7 p.m. start, it seems that pull tabs have been purchased faster than moms buy Beanie Babies. Food and drink are available, smoking breaks are provided, and safer sex stuff, including free condoms, make bingo the hottest weeknight ticket around.

Four birthdays were celebrated last month, and people have even been known to get a date, including one formerly "forever single" kind of guy.

The lucky person who wins the first game becomes Queen of Bingo for the evening. His or her winning number being repeated later in the evening causes scores of players to chant, "Hail Queen!"

Everyone benefits from ARI Bingo: money is raised for ARI programs and services; players can have a good time for a few dollars; and local businesses looking for exposure to the community can donate to the event and be noted in the monthly program.

Watch for May Motorcycle Month, June Gay Pride Month and other monthly themes. Remember, ARI Bingo is at 7 p.m. every third Wednesday, at School of the Arts, corner of Prince St. and University Ave.

AIDS Rochester sponsors monthly gay bingo at the School of the Arts, featuring prizes, entertainment, and special guests. Profits go to help ARI programs and services.

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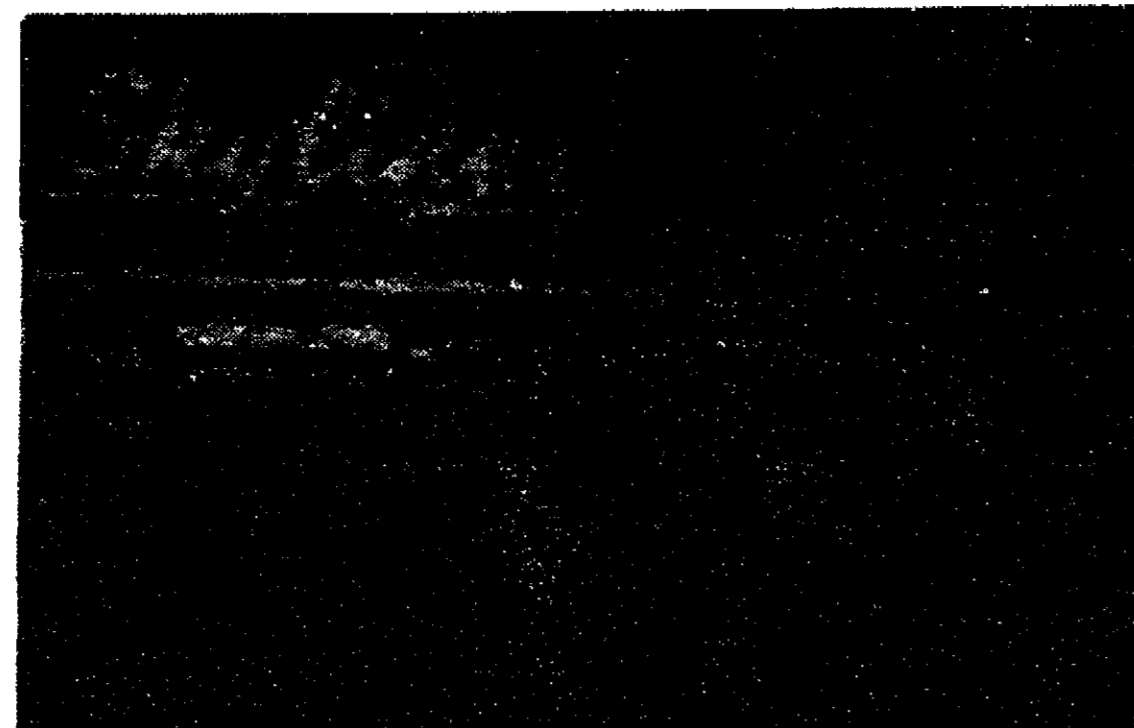
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Doug Meister



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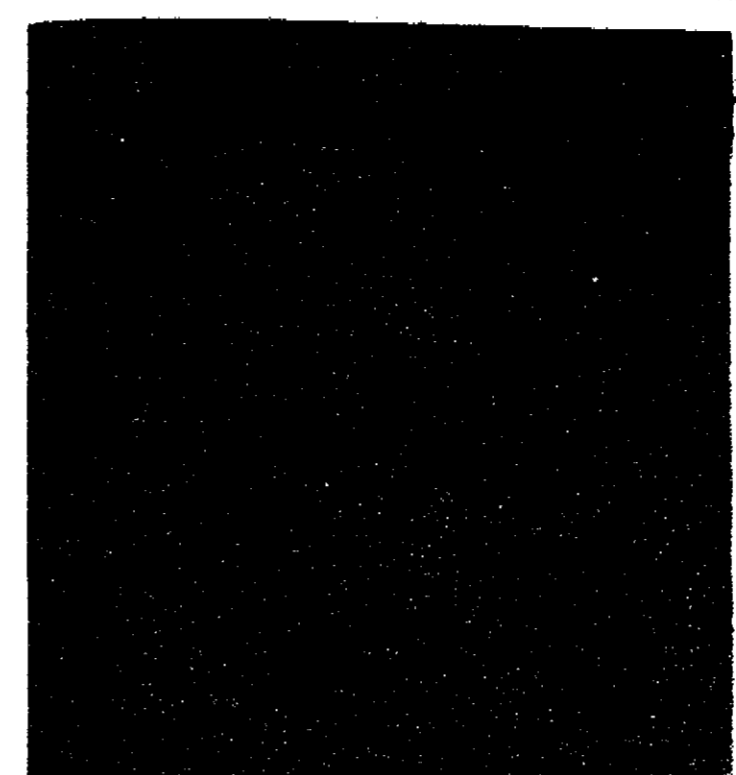
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Colleen Emrich

Rochester lobbyists (left to right from top): Allan Richards (ESPA upstate field manager), John Altieri (ESPA Board member), Cynthia Adam Junias, Elen Yacknin, Tom Privitere, Neil Floar and Savannah Proulx.

Rochester lesbian, gay activists attend Albany Lobby Day

By Roberta Sklar
On March 31, at the break of dawn, lesbians, gay men, friends and supporters across New York State climbed aboard buses, trains, vans and cars to convene in Albany for Lesbian and Gay Lobby Day. This year the effort, organized annually by the Empire State Pride Agenda, drew nearly 200 people intent on lobbying state legislators on critical family, civil rights, hate crimes, health and human services funding, and HIV names reporting issues.

By 10:30 a.m., our hearing room in the Legislative Office Building of the state capitol was filled. Matt Foreman, ESPA Executive Director, and Paul Eitelbrick, Legislative Counsel, kicked off the morning program with a welcome to all the participants.

Guest speaker Senator Nicholas Spano from Westchester addressed the group. He characterized himself as a rare Republican who is with us on the issues. Arthur Malkin of Malkin and Ross, a leading Albany lobbying firm, followed. He shared insights, encouraging tips for the day, and a round of good cheer.


Paula Eitelbrick, armed with an understanding of how Albany works and the obstacles and issues before us, briefed the participants for the tasks of the day. She queried the audience as to where they were from. Groups of hands shot up: Albany, Buffalo, Rochester, Utica, Syracuse, Binghamton, Hudson Valley, New York City, Westchester, Long Island. There were students from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, the Hetrick Martin Institute and SASU. There were seniors from Sage Queens. There were members of People of Color in Crisis, the Loft, Log Cabin Republicans, Long Island Democrats and many others.

Eitelbrick presented a lively "How To," with talking points on each of the key issues and legislation. The focus was on the civil rights bill, the hate crimes bill and a bill that would require reporting the names of people diagnosed with HIV and contacting their sexual

partners. This year, the emphasis was on pushing for a Senate vote on the civil rights bill and stopping the partner notification bill. Appointments with legislators had been arranged for each participant by the Pride Agenda.

Following a quick lunch, people started to work in small groups to do their lobbying. Each participant visited two or three legislators, with over 100 legislative offices visited. Assemblymembers and Senators were asked about their position on our issues. "Undecideds" were asked to commit to a yes vote on the civil rights bill. Those on record as being against the bill were asked to change their minds, and vote for equality.

At the end of the day, participants shared their experiences. Some had been rebuffed by officials such as Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno who canceled appointments with them. Other participants were energized by the dialogue with legislators. This was the first Lobby Day for about half of the participants. Novices and veterans alike said they would be back. Meanwhile we are turning up the heat on the Legislature with in-district visits, phone calls, and letters for an open vote on the civil rights bill.



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10 Mommy Dearest Tea Dance (hangers optional) 5pm-midnight Happy Mom's Day! 2 for 1 Well/Dom DJ Sammy	11 Adult Alternative Dance \$1.50 Rolling Rock \$1 Pints 10pm-2am DJ RMan	12 Retro Dance DJ Damian 10pm-2am 2 for 1 (includes top shelf) Cheryl & Tommy	13 V.I.P. HUMP NITE! Show your card enjoy 1 hour open bar 11:30pm-12:30am \$1 Pints All Night TECHNO 10pm-2am DJ Damian	14 Top 40 Dance \$1.50 Coors Lite \$1.50 Well Drinks 7pm-2am DJ T.R.T.	15 Under Gear Party every 3rd Friday Dance to Club Sounds 10pm-3am DJ T.R.T.	16 Dance to Club Sounds 10pm-3am DJ Len		
17 Knock A.I.D.S. For A Loop! Complim. continental breakfast \$3 Donation benefits C.H.N. Tea Dance 5pm-midnight 2 for 1 DJ Sammy	18 Adult Alternative Dance \$1.50 Rolling Rock \$1 Pints 10pm-2am DJ RMan	19 Retro Dance DJ Damian 10pm-2am 2 for 1 (includes top shelf) Cheryl & Tommy	20 V.I.P. HUMP NITE! Show your card enjoy 1 hour open bar 11:30pm-12:30am \$1 Pints All Night TECHNO 10pm-2am DJ Damian	21 Women's Nite 1st & 3rd Thursdays \$1.50 Coors Lite \$1.50 Well Drinks 7pm-2am Top 40 DJ T.R.T.	22 Troy Entertainment Presents F.B.I. (Fabulous Bodies, Inc.) 3 Dancers - 3 Hours 10pm-1am \$3 Cover 1st Drink Free	23 WHITE PARTY Dancing till 4am DJ Len		
24 Tea Dance followed by 7th Annual Miss Chubby Rochester show at 11pm	25 Memorial Day Picnic 2pm-till Free BBQ Altern. Dance \$1.50 Rolling Rock \$1 Pints 10pm-2am DJ RMan	26 Retro Dance DJ Damian 10pm-2am 2 for 1 (includes top shelf) Cheryl & Tommy	27 V.I.P. HUMP NITE! Show your card enjoy 1 hour open bar 11:30pm-12:30am \$1 Pints All Night TECHNO 10pm-2am DJ Damian	28 Top 40 Dance \$1.50 Coors Lite \$1.50 Well Drinks 7pm-2am DJ T.R.T.	29 Dance to Club Sounds 10pm-3am DJ T.R.T.	30 Club Sounds 10pm-3am DJ Len	31 Tea Dance 2 for 1 5pm-midnight DJ Sammy	

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Columnists

■ Growing Up: Eric tours
Miami's gay South Beach
(SoBe).

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Calendar

■ Get in the Loop with the in-line
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on May 17.

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Gay Groups

■ Educators Action Alliance is now
a chapter of GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian
& Straight Educators Network).

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Check it out

■ Lesbians in sports: a review of
Strong Women, Deep Closets.

Coming up...

Adrienne Rich to read here May 2

Celebrated lesbian feminist poet Adrienne Rich will read from her work on May 2 as part of the Writers & Books Visiting Writers Series, at the Eisenhart Auditorium of the Rochester Museum and Science Center, 657 East Ave.

The reading will begin at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for the general public and \$10 for Writers & Books members and students, and are available at Writers & Books, 740 University Ave.

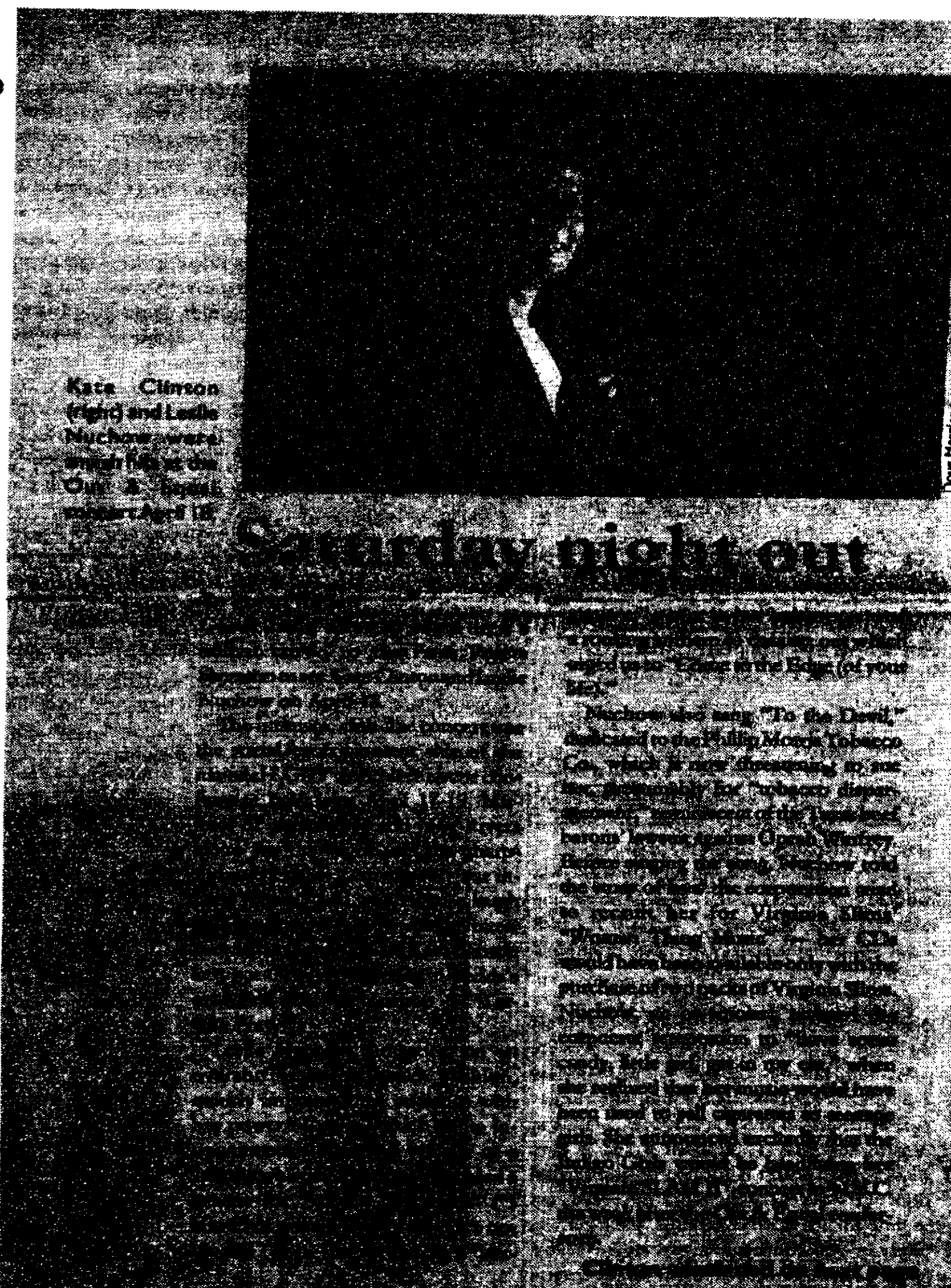
Rich is the author of 14 books of poetry, including her most recent collection, *Dark Fields of the Republic*. She has received the National Book Award (1974) and many other honors, including a MacArthur fellowship in 1994. Her work has consistently addressed political issues including the oppression of women, gays and people of color. In 1997 she refused to accept the National Medal for the Arts because of what she called "the radical disparities of wealth and power in America... I could not participate in a ritual which would feel so hypocritical to me."

ImageOut starts '98 festival with June fundraiser

Although the sixth annual ImageOut: The Rochester Lesbian and Gay Film and Video Festival is still a few months off, volunteers have started work. This year, the ImageOut runs from Oct. 16 through Oct. 24. As always, numerous feature films and videos, short works, and special events will be presented throughout the week.

Festival organizers say they are glad to see among the volunteers many new faces working alongside dedicated veterans. There is still time to join the festival as a volunteer on a range of committees; individuals interested in advertising are especially encouraged to contact the festival. If you would like to volunteer or would like more specific information, please call ImageOut office at 271-2640.

Throughout the summer months, ImageOut plans to have several special event fundraisers. On June 20, ImageOut, along with George Eastman House, will present Deepa Mehta's critically acclaimed film, *Fire*. *Fire* tells the tale of two sisters-in-law who meet as part of an extended Indian family and eventually fall in



Kate Clinton (right) and Leslie Nuchow were...
...at the...
...April 15

Film review: Bent is powerful

By Tony Leuzzi
Although director Sean Mathias's film adaptation of Martin Sherman's 1979 play *Bent* is almost identical to the original script, the film visually commences in a consciously cinematic fashion. Dramatic shifts in celebration and mourning are illustrated by sharp cross-cuts from lavishly photographed scenes of the previous evening's "Night of the Long Knives," to more sobering glimpses of the proverbial "morning after." The effect is haunting and powerful, as is the rest of Mathias's full-length feature about the persecution of homosexuals in Nazi concentration camps.

The "Night of the Long Knives" refers to an actual historical incident: on this night members of the Gestapo swept through Berlin intending to kill any homosexual associated with Nazi commander Ernst Rohm and his S.A. troops (rivals of the S.S.). This murderous rampage was, of course, only one among hundreds that eventually, and effectively, tore the once vigorous homosexual "underground" to shreds in Pre-World War II Germany. But it's of particular importance to Max (Clive Owen), the hero of *Bent*. A sexy, care-free partygoer, Max unknowingly beds a soldier -- one of Ernst Rohm's former lovers -- and therefore implicates himself with the Fascist police. The aforementioned cross-cuts in the opening scenes lead to a domestic quarrel regarding the infidelity between Max and his jealous partner, Rudy. Meanwhile, the unnamed soldier recovers from his recent sex trip and hangover on the couple's couch.

Soon enough, the police, tipped off by Gretta (a torch-song-performing drag queen played skillfully by Mick Jagger) find their apartment and promptly cut the soldier's throat while Max and Rudy escape. Welcome to the world of *Bent*.

The ensuing 30 minutes of the film document some nauseatingly realistic tactics used by the Gestapo when dealing with queers -- considered by them the lowest of all deviants. Once Rudy and Max are found, they are placed on a train going to Dachau. Because Rudy wears glasses, he is singled out as useless and promptly taken to an adjoining room to be tortured. To test Max's endurance, the Nazi soldiers force Max to beat his lover to death. He is then required to rape a dead girl's body to prove that he isn't queer.

In conjunction with these relentlessly dreadful scenes, Sean Mathias adopts a fast-paced camera technique. In fact,

love. Part of the proceeds from this screening will help support our 1998 ImageOut festival.

ImageOut also announces a new facet of the festival: a youth project that is made possible by funding from the Wilson Foundation. Festival organizers plan to develop three or four film and video programs that focus on issues of importance to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered youth. Also, as part of the youth project mandate, several discussions are being planned in addition to the film and video programs.

As in past years, ImageOut is conducting a national and international Call For Work in a continuing effort to grow in new directions. Last year, as a result of the Call for Work, ImageOut received approximately 100 films and videos from as far away as New Zealand, and as close as Ithaca.

In a mid-sized urban location, ImageOut not only represents a stimulating week of film and video, but also signifies the entrance and visibility of queer culture into smaller urban regions across the U.S.

ImageOut is currently seeking films and videos for its sixth annual Festival to be held Oct. Last year the Festival screened 31 programs that included over 75 films and videos, exhibited at venues such as the Dryden Theatre at the renowned George Eastman House, the Little Theatre in downtown Rochester, and the University of Rochester. ImageOut accepts and showcases work that includes short and feature length films and videos which range from narrative to documentary to experimental from across the United States and

ImageOut continued on next page

Bent continued on next page

Clinton continued from p. B1

And what's this about the esteemed Hetrick Martin Institute for gay, lesbian and bi youth not giving domestic partner benefits to its queer employees? Sounds unbelievable, but it must be true, because Leslie Nuchow said so, and her partner of six years is an employee. As Nuchow said, "It's a workplace issue."

The splendid Kate Clinton (who says she is always out in her workplace) then sailed through her material with amusement and aplomb, soon reducing the audience to helpless laughter. Some highlights follow.

Kate on politics: "Pataki has had a complete charisma bypass, hasn't he? And how about D'Amato?" (singing) "You say D'Amato, I say — asshole." On the subject of Oprah and the beef barons, Clinton noted that George Bush's negative comments about broccoli have never caused him to be sued by the broccoli industry for "food disparagement." She added, "Every time he said 'broccoli' it was probably a code word for invading another Central American country."

Kate on "post feminist": "It makes me think of women tied to posts. Joan of Arc was the first post feminist."

Kate on what to call her "partner" (activist/author Urvasi Vaid): "We've tried 'consort,' we've tried 'inamorata,' right now we use 'ATM.' She's always asking 'Got any cash?'"

Kate on Xena and Ellen: Clinton said that Xena (Woman Warrior) and Gabrielle ("Queen of the Amazons — helo") take a lot of baths together because "you got dirty in the Dark Age — all that dirty build-up under your breastplate." She added that if Ellen DeGeneres had put on a breastplate and announced, "I am Ellen of Morgan, Queen of all the Lesbians," her show wouldn't be getting cancelled by an upright ABC.

Kate on being a "recovering Catholic": Clinton claims to be an expert kisser, which she attributes to her Catholic education: "I can always get the wafer off the roof of my mouth." She also described her "typing class without typewriters," and told how "Sister Mary Python would pull down a diagram of how a keyboard would look if the chocolate ingots had sold better."

For those who missed the performance, or would like to re-live it, Kate Clinton's new book, *Don't Get Me Started*, is just out from Ballantine (200 pages, \$22). Leslie Nuchow's new CD *Tenderland* is also just out; in fact the first copy arrived on her doorstep at noon on the day of the Out & Equal concert.

ImageOut continued from p. 1

around the world. ImageOut is also pleased to continue its "Third Coast" call for work, a sub-category of the larger call for work which highlights the work of film and video makers in the U.S. and Canada who live within a 200-mile radius of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway.

The deadline for entries is July 10, 1998. A 1/2" VHS preview format is required along with a completed entry form. There is a \$5 processing fee to enter. Exhibition formats include 35mm, 16mm, 3/4", 1/2". Please address all inquiries to the following: ImageOut, Attn.: Call For Work, 713 Monroe Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14607; phone (716)271-2640; fax (716)271-3798.

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reserved and reservations are available by calling the box office at 454-1260. MasterCard and Visa are available at no additional charge. Box Office hours are Monday - Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturdays noon to 4 p.m. The Blackfriars Theatre Box Office is located in On Stage at 248 East Ave. near the Little Theatre. Student rush tickets are available at \$5 for the Thursday May 7 and 14 performances only. These tickets are available with a full-time student ID at the door beginning 15 minutes prior to the curtain. *Blood Brothers* is not recommended for young children.

Bent continued from previous page

We never actually see Max raping the girl. We only learn of it later, when he has entered the camp and befriended a "pink triangle" by the name of Horst. Acted with genuine feeling by Lothaire Bluteau, Horst is not ashamed to wear his pink triangle and suffer the consequences that correspond to that "crime." On the other hand, Max convinces the Gestapo that he's only Jewish; therefore, he dons a yellow star, and receives lighter punishments.

At this point in *Bent*, the director's cinematic style undergoes a drastic change. Shifting from swift, dramatic lighting and editing, Mathias records Max's and Horst's time together in the camp with an eerily slow and intentionally monotonous pace that represents both the meaninglessness of their imprisonment and the torturous redundancy of their lives. Many reviewers have commented that *Bent* loses much of its power at this point, but I disagree. In fact, the latter section of the film is so brilliant and apt that it essentially lifts the narrative out of its fairly traditional framework into a psychological realm so difficult to represent in cinema.

Because Max wants Horst, he bribes a Gestapo guard with money from his closeted uncle (played with typical intelligence by Ian McKellan) to get Horst to be his partner "moving rocks," a pointless job which is intended to drive the rock movers crazy. Nonetheless, Max and Horst use the time to develop a friendship which leads to mutual sexual attraction. They even manage to have sex without touching or looking at each other. Through monosyllabic grunts and key words, Max and Horst are able to reach orgasm without anyone

else knowing. The scene is clever, well-timed, authentic, and very hot. It also signals the only time in the film when a male-to-male sex encounter is represented without cinematic interruption. Despite the charged eroticism of Max and Horst's "fuck" — as Max calls it — I can't imagine why *Bent* received its ominous NC-17 rating.

While their budding relationship teaches the otherwise selfish Max to love, Horst contracts an illness that threatens his life. Max contrives to get him medicine, but in due course is found out by the guards. As a punishment, Horst is killed while Max is ordered to "relax and watch."

After Horst's murder, Max is told to bury the body and return to his rock pile. Unable to go on living his lie, Max takes the pink triangle from Horst's shirt and exchanges it with his yellow star. Perhaps knowing that the acknowledgment of his identity would certainly lead to his own death, or perhaps feeling he couldn't go on without Horst's love, Max kills himself.

The downbeat ending is ironically juxtaposed by a suffusion of light that overtakes the screen, which incidentally contrasts with the mysterious darkness of the film's opening sequences. Coming to terms with his own identity, Max has entered a new state of consciousness that floods his psyche like brilliant light. At the same time, however, there is no place for his kind in *Bent*'s world. Thus the visual brightness represents life and death, everything and nothing.

In a time when gays and lesbians often think they have earned their equal rights, *Bent* reminds us that the tragedies experienced by Max, Horst, and Rudy transpired less than 65 years ago. Despite the fact that we have made considerable gains in both political and social spheres, the backlash we face — even in late 20th century America — is all too real. (Incidentally, the underground party/orgy that transpires in the opening scenes shows that many "circuit queens" today seek recreational and sexual outlets in the same settings and milieus as homosexuals did in pre-war Germany.) If *Bent* serves any purpose beyond brilliantly documenting a challenging and under-represented subject matter, it forces its viewers to place themselves not so much in the distant past but in the stark reality of the present.



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Book review: Lesbians and sports

By Esther Rothblum

Until recently, there was little open discussion about lesbians in sports. The media focused on Billie Jean King's "palimony" suit, Martina Navratilova's break-up with her romantic partner, and the "lesbian presence" in professional golf. Of course, lesbian sports fans could give you the names of lesbian athletes, coaches, and media sports reporters — but these women were very, very closeted.

Now Pat Griffin has written the book *Strong Women, Deep Closets: Lesbians and Homophobia In Sports*. "I've been a lesbian athlete and coach myself so a big part of this book came from my own experience," she told me in a recent interview, "and over the last 15 years or so I've taken on this topic as a semi-crusade."

Pat herself played sports in high school and college, and then went on to coach high school and college students. She lived with her lesbian lover, but dated the high school wrestling coach for "cover." As she writes in her book: "I remember a teacher evaluation meeting I had with the principal of the high school where I taught and coached. He complimented me because I 'presented such a good image for physical education, not like some of the other women P.E. teachers and coaches in the country.' Though he never explicitly mentioned

being a lesbian, I knew exactly what he meant and covered further back in my closet."

Later on, Pat began to come out, first by attending lesbian events and then by speaking openly about homophobia at women's athletic conferences. After a lifetime as an athlete and coach, she is currently a professor at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst in a program on social justice education. "I see myself as an educator/activist," she told me, "and a lot of that comes from my sport and physical education background. I have coaches in my classes now, and some of what I say blows their minds, particularly when I talk about heterosexism. In athletics, this topic is so silent."

Strong Women, Deep Closets focuses on the fact that homophobia doesn't just affect lesbians, but all women athletes and coaches. "The main message that I'd like women to get is how lesbians are demonized in sports, and how that works to the detriment of women's athletics in general," says Pat. "There is so much divisiveness among women in sports — heterosexual women are afraid of being called lesbians and they resent lesbians and blame them for having caused this 'image problem.' I want women in sports to realize that it's to their advantage to work together against that kind of intimidation — that's how women's sports is going to grow."

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"... homophobia doesn't just affect lesbians, but all women athletes and coaches. The lesbian label is used to intimidate women."

femininity or compulsory heterosexuality. There will be no need to apologize about muscularity, physical competence, or passion for and commitment to sport... In my vision of sport, women will value our relationships with other women. We will not be self-conscious about loving teammates and competitors as friends or lovers."

Bibliography
Strong Women, Deep Closets can be obtained from Human Kinetics, 1607 North Market St., P.O. Box 5076, Champaign, IL 61825-5076.

More Books About Lesbians In Sports
If it's a rainy day, or your favorite sport is over for the season, here are some books with a lesbian sports theme to enjoy:

Sportsdykes: Stories From On and Off The Field, edited by Susan Fox Rogers. St. Martin's Press, 1994.

Sweet, edited by Lucy Jane Bledsoe. Seal Press, 1995.

A Whole Other Ballgame: Women's Literature and Women's Sport, edited by Joli Sandoz. Noon Day Press, 1997.

Lesbians in Basketball
The Necessary Hunger by Nina Revoyr. Simon & Schuster, 1997.

Lady Lobo, by Kristen Garrett. New Victoria Publishers, 1993.

Lesbians in Tennis
Courted, by Celia Cohen. Naiad Press, 1997.
Forth Love, by Diana Simmonds. Naiad Press, 1997.

Lesbians in Swimming
The Sea of Light, by Jennifer Levin. Penguin Books, 1993.

Esther Rothblum is Professor of Psychology at the University of Vermont and Editor of the Journal of Lesbian Studies and can be contacted at the Department of Psychology, John Dewey Hall, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405; email e_rothbb@uvm.edu.

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Growing Up by Eric Bellmann So Be It

God in her generosity (I hope that was her mood) enabled me to see Provincetown before the onslaught of rental car tourism, Fire Island in the '70s and the Hamptons way back when. I saw what beauty was in its finest incarnation and my dears, nothing prepared me for South Beach, or SoBe as they are trying to tag it, a cloyingly cute acronym that I hope quickly withers. Why anyone needs the trendy labeling typical of New York (SoHo, TriBeCa) is beyond me. Well, it's merchandising of course. Makes it easier to market. And merchandising is the bottom line in Miami's South Beach. Girlfriend, just wait till you see what's for sale. So Be is definitely IT.

The ocean is grand, the restaurants are ostentatious, the beach is packed sand, easy to walk on (Her work again), and the air, in March, balmy. The beach gets a little too *Beypatch* for me with four wheel gizmos whirling around and lifeguards doing sit ups on the decks of their portable sheds. When you realize there are better sights than watching lifeguards, you know you are *someplace*.

So here it is. I have never seen such magnificent looking men in my life. Well-built five-foot-ten numbers are not rare. But when you see a galaxy of six-foot-plus men, you make an effort not to blink. And, I must add, not a feather boa nor a rhinestone thong in sight. And no damn overstuffed fossils in leather harnesses either. The terrain is consistently a visual upsurge.

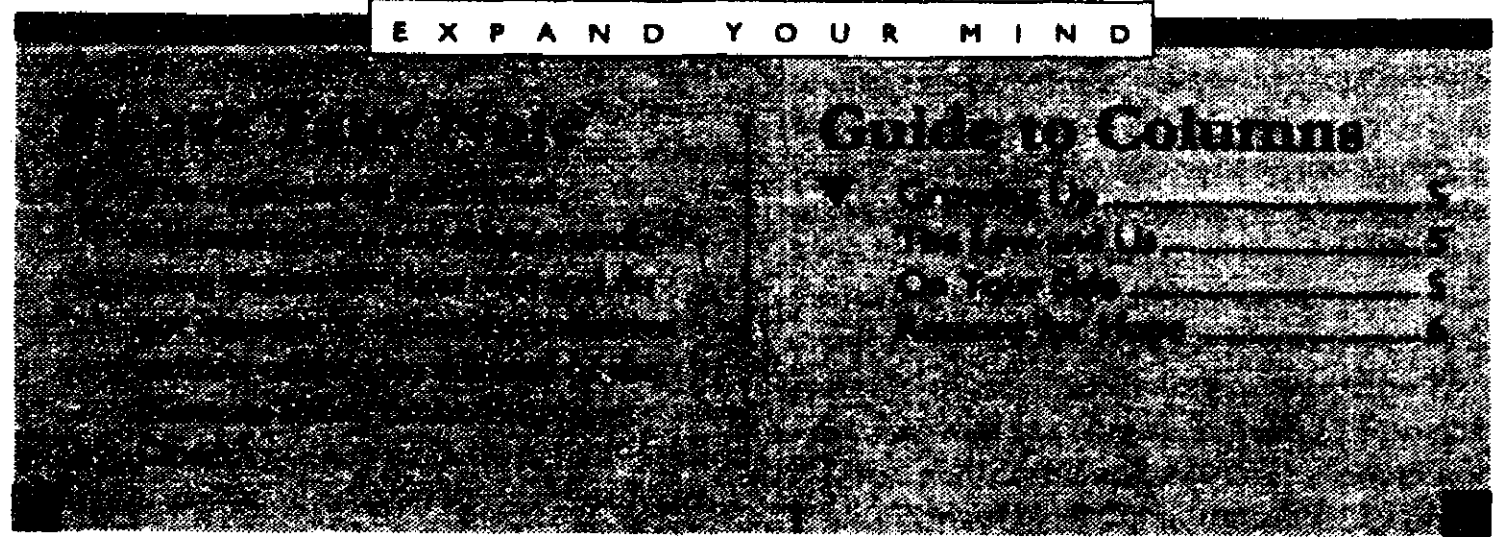
This is what I can report. They only wear black, red, or acid yellow bathing suits, wee but not tacky. Baseball hats are not overdone. Gold chains are everywhere and tit piercing is as common as mustaches are rare. Everything is waxed. Bicep tattoos are the norm; there are enough brambles and lightning bolt chains that, if unwound, they would stretch to the Keys. Beach people endlessly anoint themselves with lotion; a ritual of perpetual self validation verging on masturbation. I plunk down to enjoy myself. Beach etiquette is simple. Heads popping up and swiveling like prairie gophers mark the tourists; the locals, the bronzed never look. They don't need to.

Being without a car is probably a good idea. I must experience South Beach as a pedestrian walking along Collins and Ocean Drive, Washington and Espanola. The Deco buildings surprise me. I didn't think there would be so many. It's a glorious clip of Americana, exactly what a queen who prefers the past would relish. The smaller buildings a few blocks inland, however, look for all the world like South American jails, tiny windows covered with grill work. I realize that for half the year here, being outside probably isn't much fun.

The Wolfsonian Museum is magnificent. Three floors of furniture and artifacts from Arts Moderne and Deco to Nouveau and Biedermeier. The 11th Street diner is fabulous, although you have to body slam the door to dislodge (yet another) fashion shoot under way. Photographers are everywhere. As the days pass, you realize seeing and being seen is the local pastime. Cars move slowly along Ocean Drive. An intersection sign: "No cruising when lights is blinking." Another sign posted outside the beach men's room warns against lewd and lascivious behavior. Next to a Quik Kopy shop I see a Rolls Corniche. On Collins I see a Cadillac with gold trim. The Europeans sipping drinks under umbrellas reek indifference. Fellini would like this place.

Speaking of Italians, the Versace house is unavoidable, *right there*, an anomaly really: a magnificent private home wedged among the posh hotels and exactly across from the gay beach. I imagine no one will ever know the real deal. As good looking as he must have been - even in newspaper photographs he looked good - Andrew Cunanan couldn't have measured very high on the scale here. Beauty, the cynical visitor is pleased to note, is sometimes spurned.

Columnists



The Law and Us By Ellen Yacknin Follow the Money

After the Oscars, I lie in a bed and flip once more through the local mag. The back pages are filled with ads for sex ("Playgirl model available"), many with explicit pix. This isn't an 800 scam; this is it. So Be it.

In recent years, several states and municipalities throughout the United States have proclaimed, through laws and ordinances, that discrimination against gays and lesbians is prohibited. Unfortunately, proclamations rarely change behavior, and most entities that discriminate before legal proclamations are made continue to do so until they are sued by someone who suffers discrimination and who is lucky enough to have the resources to hire a lawyer who will sue.

So it's the Cubans. What do I know? I come from a culture where racism is hidden, nurtured. I'm up for ethnic cuisine, but what about the people? I invented a strategy at the beach. I'd stumble or drop something, any ruse to bend closer to the beauty that transfixed me most. Inevitably he was speaking Spanish. It isn't news that Miami is a major Spanish culture, but seeing how beautiful the people were was a revelation, another reason for travel.

While the hot Latins dazzle me, away from the sun's glare I seek other folk. A man who could pass for an Elite model asks me for spare change as I walk along Lincoln Mall. Early in the morning I see men packing up bedrolls in the park. On Lincoln Street Mall I see a bizarre loony, long blonde dreadlocks, wearing an overcoat. What parts of his flesh that show reveal an enviable tan.

Walking from my hotel looking for a place to eat, I came upon Wolfies, a New York City-style Jewish restaurant. It's Christmas Past: one waiter, tall and way too thin, looks like she invented drag, that old. Another has one touch of glamour, only one, excessively streaked long hair, her crowning glory. Another, a pasty-faced blonde kid, is wearing, I think, the same black jeans he had on when he left Iowa. What's more, he's working the old man next to me. Telling him his apartment burned and that he has no place to stay. The diner, wearing lizard boots and a leisure suit, thoughtfully mashed his baked potato, and strung the kid along! He's no tourist; he knows the drill.

A friend who comes here often shocks me with his dismissive crack, "Muscle fags on welfare and skateboards." I can't match his cool. Everyone rollerblades everywhere and they're so gorgeous. A touch of depression is creeping into my heart. (I was cruised three times, and no one was worth it, so it's not sour grapes that forms my new opinion.) I conclude that what's come to pass for hot may be sexy but it's also soulless. There isn't any urgency, any naivete, not that I can see. What's missing is the joy of sex, the playfulness that marked the good old days in the dunes at Provincetown. We are living in a salesroom. Everything is a

commodity.

In June 1997, however, San Francisco enacted an ordinance that did vastly more than proclaim the illegality of discrimination based on sexual orientation. Choosing to put its money where its proclamations are, the City adopted the Equal Benefits Ordinance that prohibits San Francisco from contracting with businesses that do not provide employee benefits regardless of marital status and sexual orientation. The Equal Benefits Ordinance means that if Xerox wants San Francisco's business, it must provide health care benefits to unmarried as well as married partners of employees. The Ordinance means that if General Motors wants San Francisco's finest to use its cars, it must permit workers to take sick leave to care for their domestic partners if it permits workers to care for their spouses. And it means that if Marriott wants the food business at the San Francisco airport, it better offer the same benefits to the domestic partners of their workers as they do to the spouses of their workers.

Predictably, a lawsuit was immediately filed. Refreshingly, this time the lawsuit didn't have to be filed by a gay man or lesbian alleging that some agency or company was violating the anti-discrimination laws. Instead, because San Francisco's Equal Benefits Ordinance flexes muscle rather than rhetoric on the side of equality, the lawsuit was filed by businesses that wanted to be able to continue to discriminate against gays and lesbians and still contract with San Francisco.

In *Air Transport Association v. City and County of San Francisco*, the passenger and freight airline industry sued in federal court to stop the implementation of the Equal Benefits Ordinance. After all, if the Ordinance is legal, airlines and carriers would have to adopt relatively inexpensive domestic partnership policies or be denied contracts with the San Francisco airport - and why comply when you can spend hundreds of thousands of dollars paying a lawyer to try to attack that requirement?

On April 13, 1998, Judge Claudia Wilken issued her answer in a 96-page decision. Judge Wilken held that San Francisco's Equal Benefits Ordinance was both constitutional and legal, and therefore could be implemented to San Francisco's heart's content.

The Judge's opus magnum opinion rejected the airlines' arguments that San Francisco's Ordinance violated the Constitution's Commerce Clause, which prohibits a governmental body from imposing undue restrictions on commerce. After all, the Ordinance doesn't require all companies in San Francisco to have domestic partnership policies; it simply says that San Francisco won't do business with them. As the Judge put it, San Francisco is as much a participant in America's free market economy as any private company is, and like other participants in America's free market, it can make its own decisions about what kinds of businesses it will choose to do business with. (Hooray for capitalism for the good guys!)

The Judge's decision is a clear victory for San Francisco, not to mention the gay and lesbian community. It paves the way for the implementation of domestic partnership benefits from hundreds more businesses. Even before Judge Wilken's decision, according to the Lambda Legal Defense Fund, Inc., which had filed a Friend-of-the-Court brief along with the ACLU, the ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights project, and the National Center for Lesbian Rights, San Francisco's Equal Benefits Ordinance had already spurred major businesses like the San Francisco 49ers, Pacific Bell, and Chevron Oil Corporation to adopt domestic partner benefits.

Following the decision, Kevin Cathcart, Executive Director of Lambda, declared, "This finding is the go-ahead other cities have been waiting for. Domestic partner packages are increasingly popular with public and private employers. The vision of workplace equality behind San Francisco's new and landmark step is not only keeping with the growing trend, it is clearly sound legal practice." So what about it, Rochester City Council? Being the trendsetter it is, it's about time that Rochester put its money where its oratory is!

There is, nevertheless, an ironic twist to the Court's decision. While the Judge generally upheld San Francisco's Equal Benefits Ordinance as legal and constitutional, she exempted airlines from the Ordinance's provisions to a significant degree. The Judge found that because the airline industry is subject to considerable governmental regulation (whatever happened to airline deregulation when you want it?), it is not exactly a free participant in America's free market economy like other business are. As a result, San Francisco could not impose the same criteria on the airlines with which it contracts as it does other free market businesses.

Given this twist, it will be interesting to see whether the airline industry appeals the decision. To a great extent, the airlines have no legitimate basis to appeal, because the decision largely exempts them from compliance with the Ordinance. On the other hand, the decision didn't exactly accomplish what the airlines intended their lawsuit to accomplish - that is, the wholesale invalidation of the Equal Benefits Ordinance. And what about those other businesses that were relying on the airline industry's lawsuit to stop the law against them? It's maddening, isn't it, that the decision just doesn't cut it for them! They may just have to bring their own lawsuit, won't they? We shall see.

On Your Side By Christine Simons Mother's Day is for step mothers too

My stepchildren (ages 12 and 14) sometimes say I'm the meanest mom in the neighborhood. The comment usually follows a task that I have asked them to do at least three or four times. I'm not sure how they would describe me. I

would hope they would say I am kind, loving, hardworking, care about people, and probably would say I am too serious at times. Somebody has to be in our family! I am learning to lighten up.

They would also add, "She makes us make our beds, do the dishes, pick up after ourselves, use good language, make good choices about TV and movies, say nice things about other people, etc..." Oh and another thing they might say, "she hates violence and the X-Files..."

Do I ever feel unappreciated in my household? At times, yes. Then there are the times when they are so loving and caring, that I look at them and think, are you the same child? I don't know how my mother raised six children. How do single women do it? I guess you do what you have to do.

I remember getting my first Mother's Day card from the kids. My sister even gave me one too! That made me feel like my parenting was really recognized, even though it was only a card. I may not have given birth to my step kids, but I certainly am there for them every hour of the day! Yes, I make mistakes, but I also learn from them. When I am wrong I admit it.

In the last five years, only two times have I heard "You're not my mother." I quickly respond, "I know I am not your mother, but I am an adult who loves and cares about you. Now eat your vegetables!" Being a step mom is not easy. Sometimes I want to take an early retirement, but I look at the big picture and it is far more beautiful. I actually think when I am old and gray they will thank me for following through on all the mundane responsibilities they had as kids. Well... I hope so.

Happy Mother's Day to the step moms, moms, and grandmas out there! Well done good and faithful servant!

The buzzer on the dryer went off... gotta go!

Reasons for Hope

By the Boston AIDS Writers Group

New questions about therapy

Two years ago, new HIV antiviral combinations became available. These drugs have been very successful in containing the virus and restoring immune function for those infected. Deaths and opportunistic infections continue to decrease. The damaged immune systems of those on therapy appear to be making remarkable comebacks, especially when the drugs are started early in infection. All this was confirmed by presentations made at the winter's Human Retrovirology Conference in Chicago. Yet other data revealed the limits of the currently prescribed regimens, and some surprising benefits. The data show that there are still many questions about HIV therapy that need to be answered.

Viral Load
At least for the next two years, HIV infection will have to be contained through non-stop use of antivirals. However, the question remains: how low must a regimen decrease viral load in order for it to prevent the development of drug resistance and the return of measurable virus? It was hoped that testing undetectable on the widely used Roche Amplicor HIV RNA test, which detects down to 400 copies of virus per sample of blood, would insure prolonged suppression of HIV. Unfortunately, at the Chicago conference there were reported cases of viral load rebound in those who had once tested undetectable at 20 viral copies per sample, using the new Roche "ultrasensitive" viral load test. Although the numbers are few, this is still discouraging news.

The cause may be ongoing, low-level viral replication, which over time creates drug resistant HIV. One conference presentation con-

firmed that virus capable of replicating could be found in cells of those with viral loads under 20 copies per sample. These patients were on a protease inhibitor, double Nucleoside (nuke) combo for two years. As long as such a drug regimen is strong enough to keep the virus from reproducing, there is probably no threat of resistance developing. However, the new ultrasensitive is not "sensitive" enough to detect all virus in the blood, let alone tell whether HIV is reproducing elsewhere in the body. In fact, although it measures down to 20 viral copies per sample, its accuracy is unreliable below 50 copies. Still, despite the ultrasensitive's limitations, reaching undetectable on the test will be the latest goal of HIV antiviral therapy.

There was further troubling viral load data presented in Chicago for those on therapy. It now appears that many who have tested undetectable in the Amplicor test (again, detects virus down to 400 viral copies per blood sample), have detectable virus levels in the ultrasensitive (20 copies). Other data, published in the March *Journal of Virology*, confirm that such virus can be drug resistant. The data suggests that many with viral loads in the 20-400 copies range are at risk of drug resistance

and viral load rebound. This is probably no surprise to the many that adhered to their regimens, achieved undetectable viral levels at 400 copies, only to have their antivirals "fail" shortly thereafter. HIV was not fully suppressed, so their virus became resistant to the drugs. Action will have to be taken to prevent this from happening to others who are now discovering detectable virus on the new test.

With the ultrasensitive test becoming more widely available, many who once thought themselves to be undetectable may now find detectable, possibly drug resistant virus, in their blood. This being the case, it is obvious that the current combinations, now so widely prescribed, have not been doing an adequate job in suppressing HIV for these people. But what does this all mean for those choosing therapy? Probably that even stronger antiviral combinations will have to be used in order to further guarantee viral suppression and prevent the development of resistance. Even the new federal guidelines on HIV antiviral therapies are being called "obsolete on arrival" by some. They recommend a protease inhibitor, with a double nuke combo, as first line therapy. Yet, clinicians are already dissatisfied with these



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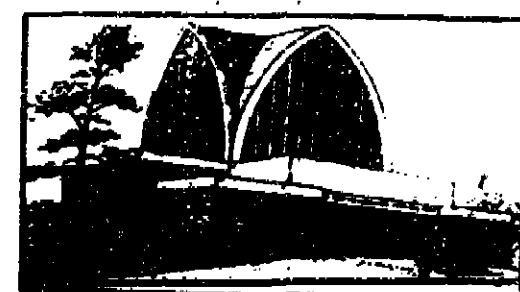
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recommendations. Some are prescribing stronger regimens, such as double protease, double nuke combos, especially for patients with high viral loads. Of course, taking more drugs means greater drug toxicities. The choice between drug side effects, or better viral suppression, will not be an easy one for doctors and patients to make.

Uncertainty

If your virus is currently below the limit of detection on the older Amplicor test, and you are having the ultrasensitive test done for the first time, something should be remembered. If detectable virus is found on the new test, do not base any treatment decision on it. At least one other test should be done within two weeks to confirm the results of the first test. That will ensure that it is correct and not due to a lab error, or a viral load "spike" resulting from an infection.

If virus detectability is confirmed, some tough decisions will have to be made before

resistance develops and viral levels rebound. Should your current drug combination be maintained with the hope that resistance is slow to develop (assuming some resistance has not developed already)? Should your combination be reinforced by adding additional drugs? Will those drugs be powerful enough to suppress the virus and stop resistance from developing? Or should a switch be made to a new, more potent regimen altogether?

If your new viral load levels begin to trend upward, you may not have a long time to decide. HIV can become resistant to some antivirals within weeks. In addition, because of cross-resistance, acting too late could limit the number of other drugs that can help you. Thoroughly discuss your lab results with your doctor. Together decide what action, if any, should be taken, according to your overall health, antiviral history, and long term treatment plans.

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Unfortunately, some with detectable virus may not have a choice in what to do. Too few drugs will work for them. Clearly, for these people new antivirals are needed. Fortunately, there are drugs now in clinical trials showing interesting, if not impressive, effectiveness. These drugs may be of help to those who currently have little or nothing to choose from. New protease inhibitors like Glaxo's 141 and Abbott's 378, which will hopefully stop protease drug resistant virus. Broad-spectrum drugs like the nucleotide PMPA, which seem to work even on some nuke resistant viruses.

There are also therapies that attack the virus in new ways, like the fusion inhibitor T-20, which stop the virus by not allowing it to enter a cell. Of course, more needs to be learned about the resistance profiles of these drugs, as well as their side effects. Still, it is likely that these drugs, along with others now in clinical trials, will eventually increase the number of antivirals available for everyone.

Redefining drug failure

Until the new drugs arrive, other data could be of great importance to all those on HIV therapy. Data which may redefine the term "drug failure." Dr. Stephen Deeks of San Francisco General Hospital followed 143 patients on various antiviral combinations. All responded to therapy with decreases in viral loads and increases in CD4 cell counts. After drug resistance developed and their viral load rebounded, they continued on their antivirals for over a year. In that time, there was no reduction in CD4 counts, despite viral load returning to pretreatment levels. What is encouraging is that just about all those patients have remained healthy, without opportunistic infections. Other doctors are confirming that this is also happening with their patients with CD4 increases on antivirals, who have remained on their regimens after viral load rebound. In fact, there are now reports of improved health in those who have had significant CD4 increases with therapy, whose drugs

had only modest effect on viral load. Why this is happening for these patients is not clear yet. Studies suggest the significant increases in the number of CD4 cells resulting from combination therapy can improve immune function. On the other hand, it may be that the drug resistant virus being produced is less fit and therefore less destructive to the body. Or it could be both. Research is now being done that will help answer these questions, with more to be known later this year.

A Final Warning

Along with this good news on so called "drug failure" comes a new warning. Although for some there now appears to be clinical benefit from antivirals even if HIV is not completely contained, how long people will remain healthy under these circumstances is unknown. There are also too few drugs in the antiviral arsenal to risk taking drug resistance less seriously than before. Maintaining complete HIV suppression on an antiviral regimen should still be the primary goal of therapy. Doing so will better insure prolonged good health, as well as a greater choice of antiviral options later.

The Boston AIDS Writers Group consists of Robert Folan-Johnson and Lou Pesce of ACT UP Boston; David Scondras, Robert Krebs from Search For A Cure. The Review Panel consists of Dr. Cal Cohen, Research Director of CRI, New England; Stewart Landers, Senior Consultant at John Snow, Inc.; John James, editor, AIDS Treatment News and Greg Flynn. The ideas expressed in this article are those of the Boston AIDS Writers Group and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Review Panel.

The AIDS Writers Group is coordinated by Search For A Cure, a non-profit HIV Treatment Education organization. If you have any questions or would like to receive the Reasons For Hope series in its entirety you can contact Search For A Cure at 58 Burbank St., Boston, MA 02115. They can also be reached by phone at 617-536-2474, by fax at 617-266-0051, or by e-mail at cshp@search-cure.org.

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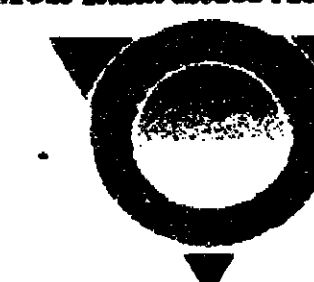
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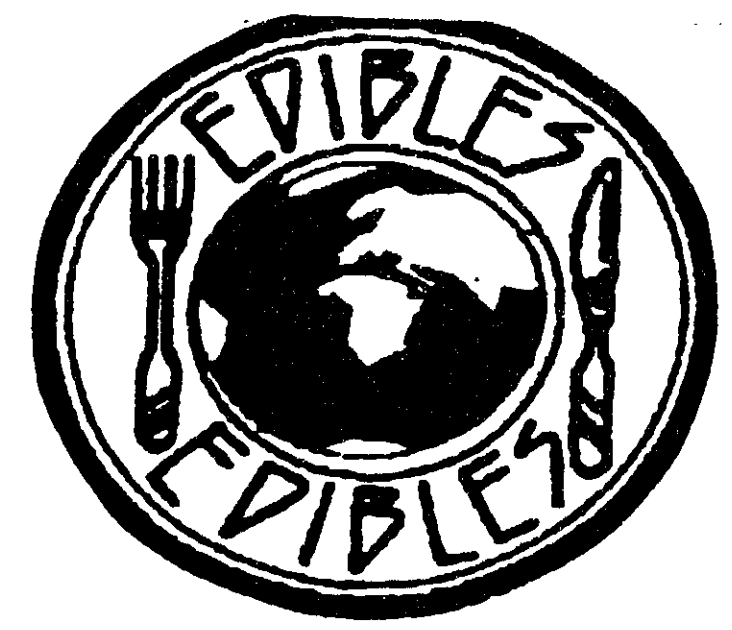
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RESOURCES FOR WOMEN

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Monroe County Women's Health Partnership. 111 Westfall Rd., Rochester NY 14692; (716)274-6978. Comprehensive breast cancer screening services for uninsured and underinsured women.
Elizabeth Wende Breast Clinic. 1351 Mt. Hope Ave. 442-2190. Dr. Wende Logan-Young and an all-woman staff provide mammograms.
AIDS Rochester Women's Health Outreach. HIV prevention. Contact Christine Simons, 442-2220, ext. 3026. AIDS Rochester, 1350 University Ave. ARI also has other services for HIV positive women.
Community Health Network. 758 South Ave. 244-9000. Support group for HIV positive women, "Making Connections." Contact Lyn Blackburn. Meets first and third Mondays, 9:30-11 am. Pre-interview required. "Moms Etc." support group for all female caregivers: contact Sydney Metzger. CHN has many other focus groups and services for HIV positive women and HIV negative partners.
Alternatives for Battered Women. 232-7353. Shelter, counseling. Lesbians welcome.
Victim Resource Center of Wayne County. Newark N.Y. Hotline 800-456-1172; office (315)331-1171; fax (315)331-1189.
Mary Magdalene House. Women's outreach center for HIV positive women and women at risk. 291 Lyell Ave. Open Mon-Fri. 6:30-9:30 pm 458-5728.
POLITICAL:
Women Against a Violent Environment (WAVE). Issues of violence against women. PO Box 15650, Rochester NY 14608. 234-9709. www.mooreresults.com/WAVE
National Organization for Women

(Greater Rochester NOW.) PO Box 93196; (716)461-1310. E-mail: RochNOW@aol.com Web page: www.mooreresults.com.NOW
Women's Action for New Directions (WAND). Empowering women to reduce militarism and violence and redirect military resources toward human and environmental needs. Meets each Monday at noon at Blue Sunday, 3118 E. Henrietta Rd. Also last Wednesdays at 7 pm. Chapter president Julia Fausette: 334-0758.
CULTURAL:
Rochester Women's Community Chorus. 924-4144. (See Ongoing calendar).
Women's Community Performance Project. (Wild Wimmen) All-female performance group. Sharon Jeter, artistic director. 740 University Ave. 654-7709.
SPORTS:
Women's basketball. Monday, Thursday nights, 7-9 pm. Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 S. Fitzhugh St. Ramona. 244-1640.
GENERAL:
Women's Resource Center. YWCA, 175 N. Clinton Ave. 546-7740.
Slice of Life Cafe. Feminist vegetarian restaurant. 742 South Ave. 271-8010.
Silkwood Books. Women's bookstore. 633 Monroe Ave., 473-8110.
Coalition for Lesbian Visibility. Diverse group of women holding pods/socks in Finger Lakes area. Second Saturdays. Becky Bly, (315)568-9364.
Women's social. Fourth Fridays. GAGV Community Center, 170 Atlantic Ave. A program of the GAGV. 244-8460.
Check our monthly and ongoing calendars for more groups and events, and call the Gaysource Infoline for referrals, at 244-8640. And send us your information!

AIDS Directory

Free testing for HIV exposure is available from New York State Department of Health: call Rochester Area Regional Hotline at (716)423-8081, or 1-800-962-5063 for pay phones or calls outside Rochester. Deaf or hearing impaired people should call (716)423-8120 (TDD). Oral testing now available. Statewide information can be obtained by calling 1-800-541-AIDS. Other organizations which provide AIDS-related services are as follows:

AIDS Rochester, Inc., 1350 University Ave., provides education, referrals to appropriate service agencies, client and family services, advocacy for people facing HIV-linked discrimination, and other services, including financial assistance and a public education speaker bureau. (716)442-2220 V/TDD (business line) or (716)442-2200 V/TDD (hotline). Free, confidential testing and counseling for women by a lesbian counselor, second Thursdays. No appointment needed; drop in between 5-9 pm. Free, confidential testing every Thursday night, 5-9 pm; no appointment necessary. Outreach van testing available on weekends.

Helping People with AIDS, Inc. (HPA) P.O. Box 1543 Rochester NY 14603-1543 is a non-profit, volunteer organization. HPA raises and distributes funds to support programs that provide services to people living with HIV and AIDS. Funding is provided to agencies located in the counties of Monroe, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Livingston, Chemung, Steuben, Wayne and Yates. Hotline (716)987-1853.

Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley peer facilitators can provide referrals to physicians and service agencies. Person on duty Monday/Thursday 6:30-9:30 p.m. Message machine other times. (716)244-8640.

HIV/STD Coordination Project of Monroe County. 111 Westfall Rd., run through Monroe County Department of Health, provides information, education and training, and maintains a resource library. (716)274-6114 (V/TTY).

Community Health Network (CHN). 758 South Ave. Aggressive early intervention medical care for all aspects of HIV/AIDS care. Clinical trials, programs for women, mental health and social work/case management. (716)244-9000.

Rochester Area Task Force on AIDS (RATFA) is a collection of agencies providing a multiplicity of resources and services to the upstate New York community. Their offices are located through the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency, which also provides medical literature and newspaper clippings, as well as demographic and statistical data for use in developing health care services. (716)461-3520.

Men of Color Health Awareness Project (MOCHA). HIV prevention focus for men who have sex with men (MSM) in the minority community. Support groups, one on one peer education, safer sex workshops, referral services, buddy testing. Rochester Center for Independent Living, 758 South Ave. 442-6470.

Monroe Community College maintains an AIDS Resource Library in the Leroy V. Good Library, 1000 E. Henrietta Rd. 424-5200.

Monroe County Health Department, at 855 W. Main St., offers testing and counseling for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. (716)464-5928.

Strong Memorial Hospital provides a complete range of HIV medical care, including access to experimental treatment protocols, and HIV testing. Also provides individual and group psychotherapy. Training of health care professionals also available. Infectious Disease Clinic, (716) 275-0526. Department of Psychiatry, (716) 275-3379. AIDS Training Project, (716) 275-5693.

AIDS Remembrance Garden. Highland Park South, Rochester. Infoline: (716)234-1640. Mailing address: 935 East Ave., Rochester NY 14607.

Planned Parenthood of Rochester and Genesee Valley offers testing and information (716) 546 2595.

Threshold Youth Center provides confidential testing for young people ages 12-25. Fees on sliding scale, no one denied service. Threshold Center for Alternative Youth Services, 80 St. Paul St. 454-7530.

Finger Lakes Family Care will provide confidential or anonymous free testing in Ontario/Wayne Counties. 1-800-650-9853.

Action Front Center (Action for a Better Community.) Provides HIV prevention education and case management services. Training and technical assistance to service providers. Resource library open to public. All services free and confidential. Multicultural and bilingual staff. Rudy Rivera, program manager. 150 N. Clinton Ave. Hours 8:30-5 pm, Monday-Friday. 546-6180; fax 546-5669. Free anonymous HIV testing on walk-in basis, Thursdays 9 am-4 pm, provided through NYSDOH at Action Front Center, 242 Andrews St. Carmen Hau, 262-4330.

Catholic Charities AIDS Services. Provides linkage with other service providers, transportation and financial assistance for housing. Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:40 pm. 1150 Buffalo Rd. 328-3210.

Anthony Jordan Health Center Prevention and Primary Care Program. HIV counseling and testing (free if uninsured), community outreach, Center in-reach with strong focus on education. Comprehensive HIV care and services, including medical treatment, CD4 and viral load monitoring, medications (on-site pharmacy), OB-GYN care, ophthalmology, dental, nutrition, mental health and substance abuse services, case management, community service referrals, support groups, assistance with medicaid and disability. 82 Holland St., Rochester NY 14603; 423-2879.

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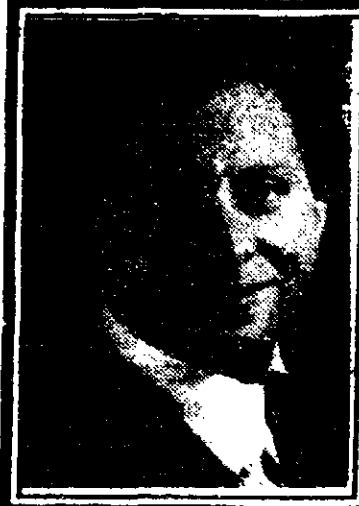
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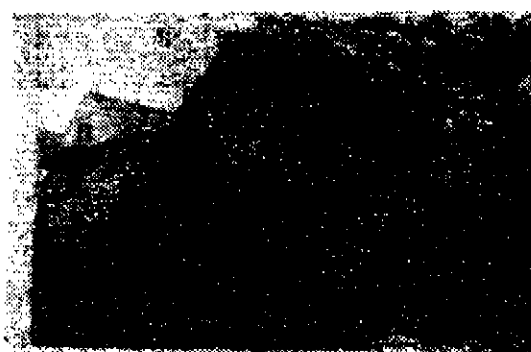
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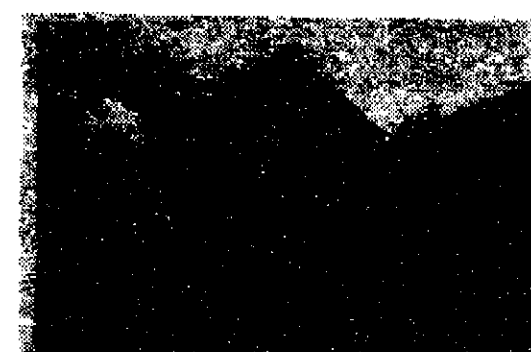
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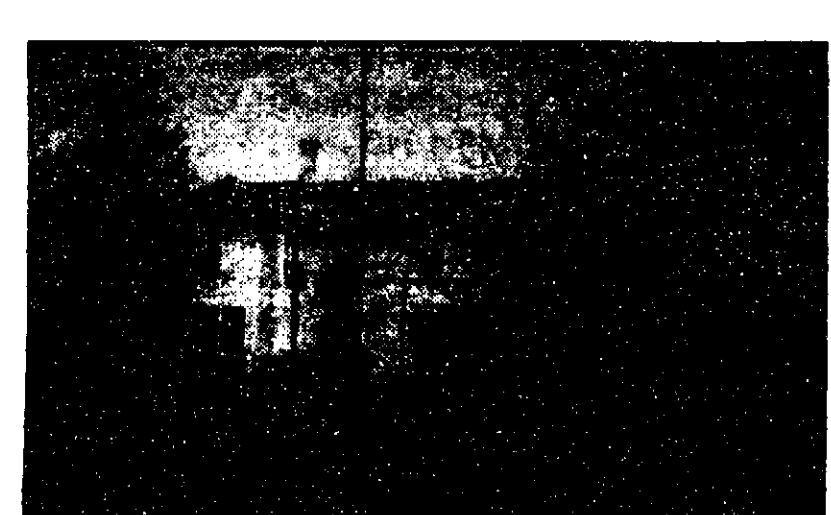
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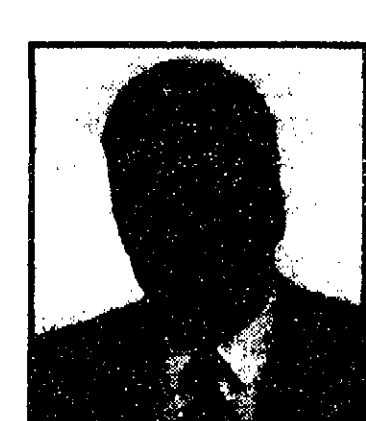
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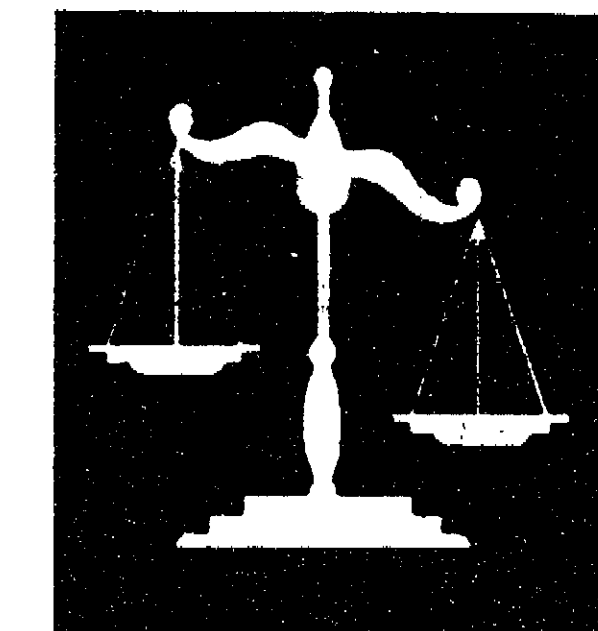
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GAY GROUPS

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Check this section and our ongoing calendar to find the group that's right for you. If you are already in a group, send us monthly news updates to the Empty Closet, 179 Atlantic Ave., Rochester 14607, by the 15th of the month.

GLSEN

By Jeff Long
A teacher finds "Mr. _____ is a fag" written in chalk on the carpet of his room; a gay student in the process of coming out attempts suicide due to despair and alienation; colleagues accuse a lesbian teacher of flaunting her private life in school when she attempts to create a safe space for gay, lesbian and transgender students. Incidents such as these can create a feeling similar to that of swirling helplessly in the midst of a vortex, especially if a teacher is taking the first tentative steps toward coming out in school. On the other hand, teachers who choose to remain in the closet out of fear or guilt can suffer alienation, stress and burnout. For gay students, the lack of support

can lead to dropping out, drug use, despair and suicide. Gay educators and their supporters no longer have to resign themselves to entrenched homophobia in our schools. The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Educators Network (GLSEN) is a national coalition of grassroots organizations dedicated to making schools safe for all people. Through education, public attention and political action.

Rochester now has a GLSEN chapter, born from the work of Educators Action Alliance, a group of local teachers who began meeting in September 1997 to discuss issues of homophobia in our local schools and to provide a supportive environment for each other. In March, the group was granted preliminary chapter status by GLSEN, allowing access to the powerful resources of the national organization and connecting our region to thousands of teachers in hundreds of schools across the country. Now, the new GLSEN Rochester is gearing up to begin a local campaign to make schools safe for all.

If you are a teacher burdened by the fear and silence surrounding gay issues in your school; if you are a parent frustrated by the lack of support and acceptance in school for your gay child; if you are a member

of the business community who sees the need for diversity education directed at future employees; if you remember with bitterness your own experience of homophobia as a student and want to add your voice to the movement toward change, join GLSEN Rochester now, and come together as allies to end the destructive silence that fills our schools concerning gay, lesbian and transgendered people.

The next GLSEN Rochester meeting is on May 20 at 7 p.m. at the Gay Alliance Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. For more information, call me at 256-2840.

Frontrunners/ Frontwalkers

Rochester Frontrunners/ Frontwalkers held their spring potluck dinner at the home of two of our most gracious members. It was certainly a grand time, with two special highlights -- a visit by the spirit of Ethel Merman, and the unveiling of our 1998 Frontrunner/Frontwalker T-shirts (modeled by our own vice-president -- a part time runway model). Watch for these fashion statements to be available at the summer GAGV picnic and at fine couture salons.

Now, on to more serious business. Two important running events in

April included the seven-mile Marathon Key Run along the Florida Keys, and the Spring Fling Weekend hosted by D.C. Frontrunners.

The Marathon Key Race was held on April 18 and was limited to 1,500 registered runners. Ft. Lauderdale Frontrunners did a superb job of submitting all Frontrunner applications in time for registration. In addition to the members from Ft. Lauderdale, approximately 40 runners from other clubs (including Rochester, Atlanta, Tampa, and San Francisco) met in Marathon, Fla., ran the race, and then traveled on to Key West to spend the rest of the week-end recuperating and having fun.

The Spring Fling Weekend in Washington, D.C. (April 24-26) included a kick-off reception at the home of two D.C. Frontrunners, and a gala dinner held at the Washington Plaza Hotel on Saturday night. The D.C. Sallie Mae 10K was run on Sunday morning with a post-run brunch at a nearby restaurant for D.C. Frontrunners and out of town guests. Hosted housing was graciously offered by the D.C. club.

If all this sounds like too much fun, Rochester Frontrunners/ Frontwalkers are busy organizing their weekend visit to Toronto for the "MegaPride Weekend" on June 26-29. As part of the week-long Toronto Gay Pride celebration, a 5K race will be held on Saturday morning. A good representation from Rochester is already committed to the events, joining Frontrunners/Frontwalkers from Buffalo, Toronto, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Chicago, and others, to make this weekend the largest Gay Pride celebration in North America!

Thanks in advance to the Toronto Gay Pride Committee for an outstanding job and for opening up their city to literally thousands (really, over a million) gay men and lesbians for the festivities.

Gay Family Outing

Gay families with children ages five to 10 years old are invited to join others at our first spring outing.

We will meet at the Cobbs Hill Park playground adjacent to the basketball courts on May 17 at 2:30 p.m. Bring a blanket. If it is raining, we will meet at the carousel at the Strong Museum. This is an opportunity to meet and socialize with other gay families with children of similar age. If there is enough interest, we will plan monthly activities. For more information, please call Julie and Tanya at 244-4754.

Do you like to socialize? Meet others in their late teens and 20s? Do you like food?

Gay Box

We have it all at the new "Gay Box 20" group at the Gay Alliance Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Meetings are the first and third Fridays of the month at 7 p.m. For more info contact Marc at 271-0919, or just come!

Rehearsals for June's concerts began in April. Rochester Gay Men's Chorus is bigger and better than ever. The stage at the School of the Arts will be packed on June 20 as three choruses unite in song for your pleasure.

Men's Chorus

RGMC will be sharing the stage with the Rochester Women's Community Chorus in hosting a sister chorus, Singing Out, on their trip south from Toronto. Plan to be there. It will be a full house; get your tickets early. Call the Choristine at 423-0650.

Prior to that concert, RGMC and RWCC will be traveling to Toronto for a concert on June 6 with Singing Out. RGMC will also be recording the weekend of June 13-14 for the final tracks of our premiere CD. Order yours soon to get the pre-sale discount.

Every Monday night, a group of Bears continues to go to the movies. Brunches, ball games, picnics and camping weekends are scheduled. Call the Bearline at 234-3381 to find out more, to ask questions, to make reservations. Our monthly business meeting is always the first Wednesday at the GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave., 7:30 p.m. You can also join us at the Forum on the second Saturday of the month (next one is May 9) for Bearnight.

Car Club

The Lambda Car Club Finger Lakes Chapter will hold its Spring Fling planning meeting on May 16 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Members are encouraged to bring along their classic cars, now that the salt is off the roads.

At the meeting plans will be unveiled for the "Hot Wheels '98" car show to be held in conjunction with Rochester's Gay Pride weekend, July 18-19. Participants and spectators can look forward to more cars, more prizes, more awards and more fun! Club membership is not required to show your car. For more information, contact Rob at 225-0769.

UnBroken Threads

If, like me, you enjoy fiberart, sewing

back and forth to work. We'll have it all to ourselves, along with the pool and cabins. We cook up a weekend's worth of great meals, and everyone goes home happy. Other clubs and independents are welcome. We guarantee that any man can have a good time at BearCamp III.

June marks the end of RGMC's 15th Anniversary Season. We hope that all our loyal followers will come out to celebrate with us at SOTA. Bring your friends. Tell your pals. Buy a t-shirt. Let's celebrate RGMC together. The chorus needs your support to continue to give quality performances, recognized nationally as among the highest quality for innovation and artistry.

Empire Bears April saw a dozen Empire Bears travel north to Montreal to spend a weekend frolicking with the Montreal Bears and their other guests, the Ursamen. We made many friends and look forward to another visit north in the summer, as well as visits from these gente bears.

In May, EB plans a trip to Toronto for Memorial Day weekend. If you can make it, visit the Toolbox for our barnight on Saturday, May 23. The Toolbox has a full weekend of events planned, so it will be a great getaway. Looking ahead to June, Empire Bears will host its third annual Bearcamp from June 26 to 28. We've again rented a private campground, close enough to Rochester to allow for a whole weekend, one day, or

or any other type of arts and crafts, or if (frankly) you need a safe space to work on that tom prom gown or (my goodness, you rogue!) that ripped leather harness, come to UnBroken Threads' May 4 and May 18 meetings!

Yes, gay men and women can and do dabble in arts and crafts! Want to know more? Bring a current/new project to work on, and all needed supplies, and come out of the fiberarts closet you've been hiding all that talent in!

The group meets the first and third Mondays of the month at the GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. from 7-9 p.m., is open to artists of all levels (from beginner to advanced), and is open to all LGBT persons and their friends. For further information, contact me at (716)865-6761, send e-mail to kjcater@servech.com, or look under "Announcements" at http://gayrochester.com. Hope to see you there!

Dignity-Integrity

Activists needed! Are your spiritual gifts being stifled by attending a non-affirming church? Dignity-Integrity offers many opportunities for you to actively participate in the Sunday celebration. In our small community, your contributions will be welcomed and will make a difference -- both at the Sunday liturgy and in our social outreach.

Dignity-Integrity is a living faith community of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender people and friends who worship openly with each other. We celebrate mass in the Episcopal and Catholic traditions, and welcome all to come, regardless of your reli-

gious affiliation (or lack of one). Worship with us Sundays at 5 p.m. in St. Luke-St. Simon the Cyrene Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St., across from the Monroe County Office Building. After services each week, we socialize at a coffee hour or potluck dinner, where you are welcome to join us!

We will have a potluck dinner on May 17 after mass. Please bring a favorite dish to share with the friendly people who will be there. D/I will provide beverages and place settings as usual. For the D/I info-line call 262-2170.

The Gay Alliance wants to improve its services to all the diverse members of our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. The GAGV Diversity Committee will host a series of forums and events to discuss diversity. If you are interested in attending or have ideas to help, call Allen Fox at 271-4937.

Bassically Treblemakers

March 15 was BT's fifth anniversary as Rochester's lesbian and gay Community Band that is as diverse as its members. Over the past five years BT has seen members come and go, both gay and non-gay friends with our primary mission to support the lesbian and gay community with music, enthusiasm and pride. In those five years as a community band we have performed as a Concert Band, a Big Band, a Marching Band, and as a Pep Band. From BT a Brass Ensemble and recently a newly formed

Combo Group have been created. We are a band for all occasions. Just ask us!

This past month during our anniversary we were having rehearsals and sectionals (saxtionals too!) to prepare for the Night of 100 Parties event held at the Strong Museum this year to raise funds for the Empire State Pride Agenda. Under the direction of Patrick Mason we were just awesome, just ask anyone who saw us there. Patrick is getting ready to start college this year, so we are now under the baton of one of our fabulous trumpet players. We will be looking for a new conductor and assistant conductor in the near future. If you would like to audition to be one of our conductors, please contact the band president April (654-7709). Also, our Dance Band has an opening for a piano player and vocalist. Please contact April for more information.

On May 17 at 3 p.m. we will be holding our annual fundraising dance to benefit the band. This is our Annual Swing Into Spring performance with dance lessons and a special appearance by a newly formed Combo Group. This year's dance will be held at Cafe Gecko at 40 St. Paul St. between Mortimer and East Main St. Tickets are \$5 and you can get them from any band member or at the door.

This is also the time of year when we start preparing for the Pride marching season, with our goal being to march in Toronto's Pride Parade, June 28 and Rochester's Pride Parade, July 18. Members of our band have also been invited to join Boston's Freedom Trail Band in their

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parade June 13. BT is always looking for new members and especially this time of year we need many extra instrumentalists and percussionists. We also look for people who would be interested in marching in our color guard or flag corps. Please call our marching director (Tim Rhoades 242-0237) if you are interested in joining us this year.

PFLAG

By Maxine McDonald
April 17-19 was an exhilarating weekend. The sixth annual Out & Equal conference took place here in Rochester. This national conference focused on gay, lesbian, bi and transgendered issues in the workplace.

PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) presented a workshop on "The Joy and Cost of Self-Acceptance." We used the Cass Model of gay and lesbian sexual identity formation and the impact the stages have on the workplace and vice versa. We were very excited to have a gay man who recently has come out to share his story. It made quite an impact. He was able to use this workshop as part of his coming out process. We also looked at the process parents have in coming out, and how that relates to the Cass Model.

Another exciting event was providing refreshments for the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus concert on March 21. We were able to make a profit which will go toward our mission of support, education and advocacy, by providing a place for our support group to meet, advertising for our organization, ability to publish our newsletter, and various other things to promote the health and well-being of our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered family members. We are especially indebted to Florence who hawked our wares, and to those who bought from her. We will be doing it again at the RGMC June concert. As always, RGMC did a superb job!

Ed and I, along with others from the gay community, have recently met with the new police chief, Robert Duffy. It was an informative meeting and we were impressed with his vision and management style. He asked for the meetings, and it appears that he will stay in touch with the gay community.

In early April we went to SUNY Geneseo to talk to a group of students. Also in early April, Mary Lynn, Florence, Ed and I attended a meeting of the Youth Group at the GAGV Community Center. It was an enjoyable afternoon meeting with the youth of the community. It was impressive to see a number of young adults who are able to be in touch with their sexual orientation and not hiding. Some are not out to their parents or classmates, but at least they are out to themselves, and that is a big step. We are proud of them and admire their courage. Some brought their parents. Hats off to the parents who are supporting their children on their journey. As parents, we are also on a journey.

On April 24 we spoke to a group of students from MCC at the invitation of the gay student group. We were unable to attend an event sponsored by the student group at SUNY Brockport, but sent information for them to pass out.

You can visit our new web site at www.ggw.org.pflag. We want to thank John Passaniti for his continued work on this site. This was a wish/dream I had and it has now come to pass. Thanks again John!

Members of the Rochester Women's Community Chorus sang for us at our April 26 meeting and shared their coming out stories. This was an enjoyable Sunday afternoon. Please join us this month at the Friends Meeting House, 41 Westminster Rd., at 2:30 p.m. Our meetings are always on the last Sunday of the month, and our Helpline is 234-0156.

Getting Out

We're two support/social groups. One for men. One for women. We meet every Tuesday for a free format discussion.

Discussions can range from issues confronting gays and lesbians to NAFTA. Social activities can include anything the group wants to do. Some of the things the group has done: rollerblading, biking, dining out, beach parties, skiing, boating, movies, and vacations to P-Town.

If you're dealing with coming out, new to Rochester, or simply trying to enlarge your circle of friends, our group could be the answer. Guys call Kevin at 227-6675. Ladies call Marge at 787-9254.

Hospital visiting

We visit people at Monroe Community Hospital at varying times. We meet awesome people who love visitors and need friends. This is a great way, as a gay and lesbian community, to bring happiness and joy into others' lives and bring credibility to our community. Call Marie at 442-6399 for more info.

Latino Mission

Latino Mission is a gay and lesbian group for Hispanics, although everyone is welcome to join (we hate discrimination)

The group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at the GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

Our goals include socializing, learning about different issues of common interest, and making friends in a supportive atmosphere. For information write us at P.O. Box 20510, Rochester N.Y. 14602-0510, or just come to our next meeting.

Believe it or not, this month we will be celebrating our first anniversary. We want to have a big party, for time and location call 442-2220, ext. 3051.

YSAM

YSAM -- young, single, and male -- is a new singles club for gay and bisexual men under 30.

It meets every Tuesday from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the cellar "speakeasy" at Moon Beans, 696 University Ave. A charge of \$5 at the door includes coffee and dessert or wine. For information call Don at 232-8232.

Women's hiking

Join the Women's Hiking Group on our bi-monthly hikes. We have a great bunch of fun women who love the outdoors. (We love children too, so bring them!)

We explore various parks and have a great time. We always look forward to new women joining the group. Call Donna, 442-6399, noon - 9 p.m.

Transgender Organization

The Rochester Transgender Organization will hold a "Spouses Day" meeting on May 9.

Members are encouraged to bring their significant other to the meeting that day. Meetings are held from 2-5 p.m. at the Gay Alliance Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. For more information, see our listing in the Ongoing calendar.

PLAGAL

PLAGAL (Pro-Life Alliance of Gays, and Lesbians) meets monthly. For information call N.Y.S. representative Donna Marie Kearney at 442-6399, PO Box 10035, Rochester NY 14610 or PLAGAL National office, PO Box 33292, Washington, D.C. 20033; (202) 223-6697.

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Please contact Rev. Gail Ricciuti for more information.



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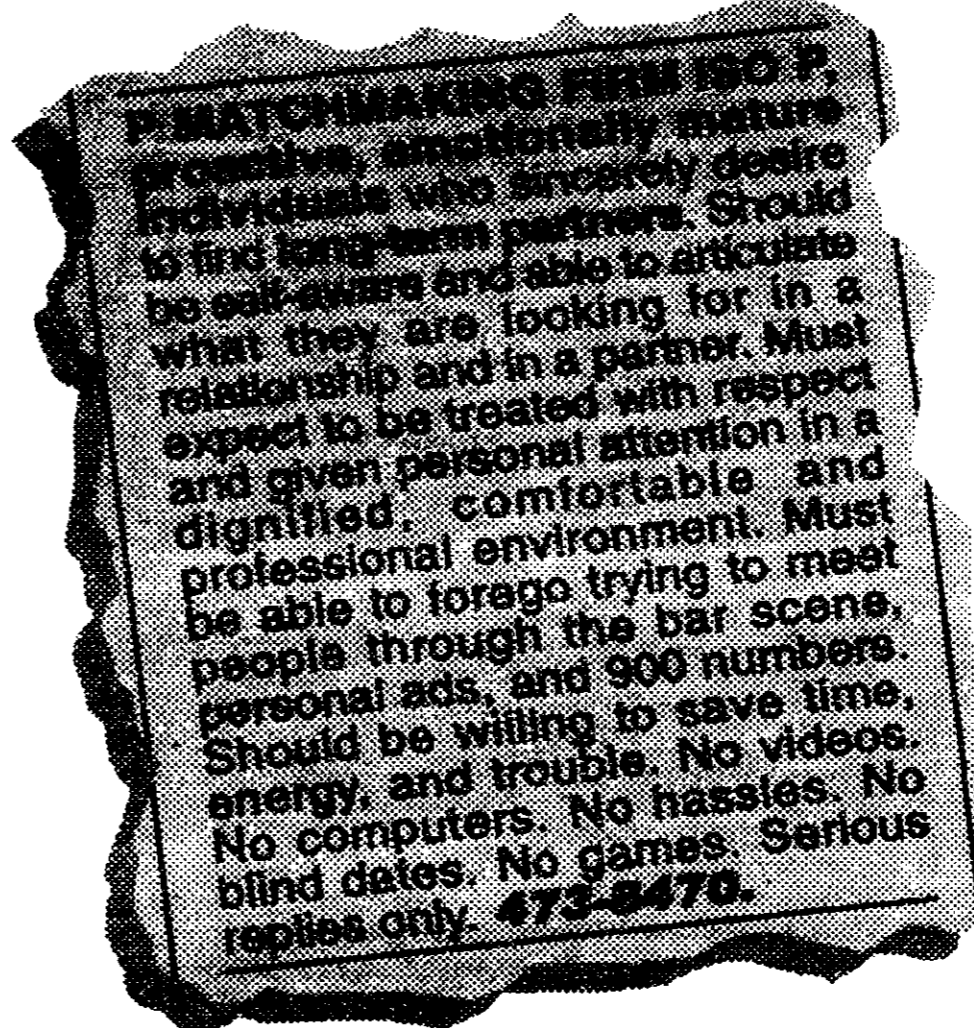
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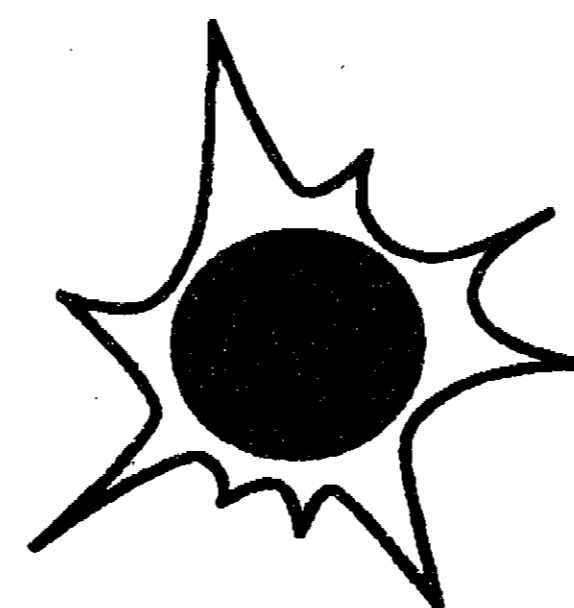
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Attractive, Bi-curious, W/F 21, ISO same (21-25). Must like kids. #2450

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MWC 32 & 36, F is very Bi-curious; ISO C's for friendship & fantasies. We want to please you! #2360

Attractive FWC, she's petite & Bi, he's tall, thin & straight. ISO attractive, adventurous, open minded, M/S BIF for LT, discreet relationship. #2355

Double the fun! WC 25 & 29 ISO for fantasy fulfillment. #2178

SGF petite, closing in on 40 pretty fast, ISO that special F. I would like some directions on how to find you! #1761

Bi-curious WF, 5'3", 180 lbs., blond/brown, ISO someone that's also Bi-curious for encounters & possible threesome. #1751

MBIWF 38, medium built, very attractive, Italian. ISO other B/WF's (25-38) for discreet, affectionate encounters. #1718

GWF 30, feminine, honest, caring, genuine & emotionally secure. ISO same for friendship, possible LTR. #1614

This extremely wild SWC is ISO F for hot times! #1468

Very attractive, sexy, athletic, humorous C. ISO same to watch & be watched. Must be discreet. Bi's are always welcome. #876

African American GF, 38, short brown/big brown eyes, medium build, 145 lbs. ISO someone to spend quality time with, enjoys walks, movies & working out. #1477

Pleasure loving PWC, ISO d & f free B/WF (30-35) that's willing to complete our menage a trois fantasy. #834

Hello ladies! I am a BIF, 26, measurements 38B-26-40, very pretty & open minded. ISO other similar F's who would like to have some fun with no strings attached. #141

MEN

BIWM 26, 5'10", 155 lbs., athletic, masculine, with normal looks; ISO BIM (19-28) with great body, looks & mind! #2564

GW CD, likes to wear wigs, high heels, make up & has silicone breasts; ISO well endowed top man who knows what he wants to do! If this is you, I'm clean, safe & discreet. Let's go! #2560

W/M 27, very nice looking, good body, kind of shy; ISO meeting someone that would like to teach me something new, maybe dress me up using silky, soft materials! #2553

WM good looking, real nice body & new to this; ISO a companion to give me body massages. If this interests anyone, then please leave a message. #2551

Very good looking WPM, 35, ISO well-endowed M's for hot encounters. Discretion is a must. #2546

CD 30's, nice legs, passive, ISO WC of any age & d free. Dominance, bondage & Bim are a big plus, but not necessary for casual encounters. #2538

A master ISO student! B/WF very discreet, ISO very submissive (+30) & under 180 lbs., race unimportant, but W/A is preferred. Students very welcomed. Are you ready to train? #2534

SM ISO hot times! If you want to know more then call. What are you waiting for? #2526

Good looking WM, ISO daytime activity. If you would like to know what kind of activity then give me a call! #2520

Very curious MBIWM, 27, black/green, mustache & beard, interested in learning something new; ISO other MWM's (25-40) who are well equipped to service. #2515

Bi-curious W CD, 27, hot, ISO other CD's/M's for dress up fun. Must be discreet. #2512

SWM ISO hairy WM (30-45) for encounters & summer time fun, mornings/afternoons. Privacy & discretion is assured. #2503

Very submissive BIWM, 19, ISO discreet, G/BIM (40+) to totally dominate & control me! No strings. #2502

M 21, ISO older M (40-60) for no strings, hot, erotic times. Must be discreet & free. Give me a call, you won't be disappointed! #2490

MWBIM 38, 5'10", ISO something new for early morning encounters. Must have own place. #2397

MWBIM ISO TVCD for early morning, weekday fun! #1742

FREE MESSAGE RETRIEVAL
24
FREE AD PLACEMENT

Submissive WM, very voyeuristic, ISO C's who like to watch a man please himself & possibly please others in the process! H/B/WC's or mixed C's welcome! #2396

WPM ISO well endowed M's for hot, erotic times on weeknights/weekends. #2392

BIWM 36, shy, naughty boy! Handsome, collegiate type, ISO M (40+) for old-fashioned discipline. #2384

Honest GWM, 36, 5'10", 250 lbs., brown/brown, stocky build & masculine, enjoys dinner, movies, biking; ISO GWM (21-32) for dating & friendship. #2380

Feet, feet, feet & panty hose! Hot WM, ISO hot conversations with F's who love to have their feet pampered & worshipped. #2379

Papa bear ISO cub (18-35) for fun times & dining out. Papa bear likes to cook, dance, hike, camp, or just lay around the den; Cub must be n/s, d & f free. #2367

GAM 23, ISO SWM (20-30) for friendship & fun times. #2364

Bi-curious DWM, late 40's, 5'11", 200 lbs., well equipped; ISO well equipped Bi/Bi-curious WM, (19-30) slim to average weight, for new experience. #2351

GWM 39, 5'11", 180 lbs., attractive, d & f free. ISO others who are searching for friendship & committed relationship with that special someone. Give me a call! #2333

MBIWM 40, 6'0", 230 lbs., long brown/brown, well equipped, tattoos; ISO B/GM that's well equipped. #2145

BIWM ISO slim M's that would enjoy receiving a full body massage. Must be clean, discreet, d & f free. Students welcome! #2286

I'm interested in learning something new! Bi-curious WM, 30, 6'3", 165 lbs. If you're interested in teaching, call now. #2197

Outdoorsman! 6'11", 180 lbs., dark/blue, lives in Genesee County, enjoys the outdoors; ISO someone that's loving, caring & fun to be with. #2195

Seeking Mr. Right! Dominant BIWM, 40's, ISO submissive, slender, BIWM in need of strict discipline & training. Inexperienced okay. #2282

MBIWM ISO M's who want to get together. Total discretion guaranteed! #2280

BIM hot, young, sexy, well built & submissive; ISO tall, S/M/DM's to please! #2277

Dominant BIWM, 32, tall, very good looking; ISO smooth, muscular, voyeuristic, ISO C's who like to watch a man please himself & possibly please others in the process! H/B/WC's or mixed C's welcome! #2270

Experienced, dominant, MWM, ISO open minded, submissive. Could this be you? #2269

Very Bi & CD curious M, 6'0", 160 lbs., blond hair; ISO other GCD's/CD's to teach me everything there is to know! #2257

GWM teddy bear! ISO cub for fun times & cuddling. #2223

Are you curious? Very discreet BIM, 5'7", 142 lbs., enjoys talking, videos & giving massages; ISO very curious M (+30). Race unimportant, students are welcome. Interested? #2234

Would you like a massage? BiM 5'7", 142 lbs., very discreet; ISO very curious, B/GM (18-27) & under 180 lbs., to enjoy full body massages. Race unimportant. Students welcome! #2233

I'm back in Rochester! H TS, 5'8", 140 lbs., blond hair, ISO M (20's-30's) who's well built, willing to have a friendship/relationship. #2230

Dominant WM, 38, 6'4", ISO submissive, slightly built, smaller M's to service me! #2226

BIWM 30, ISO daytime fun with young WM that's ready for action! #2217

BIWM 25, ISO B/GWM (18-25) for fun, friendship & whatever comes next! #2179

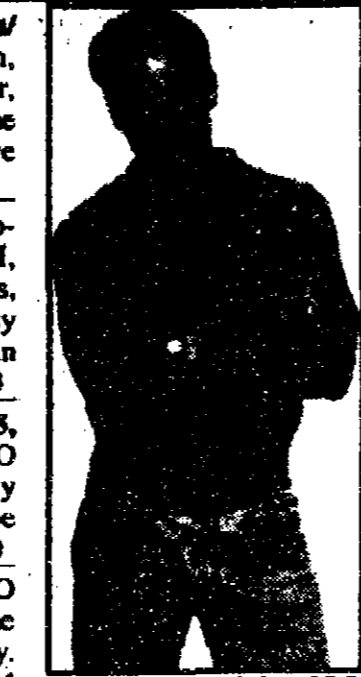
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DWM 45, 6'11", brown/hazel, mustache, trim, hairy chest; ISO taller, mountain man to carry me away occasionally. Are you capable? #2156

Attractive WC with submissive, Bi-curious M, ISO attractive, Bi-curious, M's for first time, fantasy fulfillment. If you can handle it, try us! #2153

Good looking BIWM, 35, very submissive, ISO dominant B/GM's of any age, race. Could this be you? #2150

Attractive MWM, ISO select S/C's for first time encounter. Daytime only. Will respond to all! #2024

Submissive CD, ISO dominant B/G CD/TV/T for fantasy fulfillment. Age, race unimportant, disease free & discretion assured. Toys are a plus. #1185

Submissive MBIWM, 43, ISO dominant S/C's for early morning/afternoon, weekday fun! #963

MWM CD, clean, discreet, sexy legs & likes to have a good time. Give me a call! #927

Handsome WM, late 30's, ISO feminine B/H TV/She-M for hot fun & fantasy fulfillment. #907

Cute BIWM, might consider CD, ISO M's (21-45) with a place of their own for hot times! #590

Fun, adventurous, WM, ISO C's (35+) with BIWM for hot, adult fun! #561

WM very good looking, nice body, ISO beginning swinging lifestyle with M's/F's. I'm new to it & shy, hopefully someone can show me the right direction. #486

WM 24, clean, disease free. ISO M to please me. I'm really hot & sexy, and I look forward to meeting you! #474

Bi-curious MWM, 32, 6'0", 225 lbs., brown/brown; ISO discreet, afternoon encounters. #466

MBIWM 44, open minded, clean & discreet; ISO G/Bi feminine M for early morning/afternoon, weekday encounters. #445

I'm a very interesting person to talk to & I'm ISO meeting someone special. Dial my number. #319

SWM 26, 5'8", 140 lbs., 30" waist, clean & discreet; ISO GWM (21-30) for friendship, possible relationship. #1658

Submissive BIWM, 45, ISO dominant C for early morning/early afternoon weekday fun. #1579

GPM 50, ISO G/BIM (25-50) for friendship & passionate encounters at your place. Race unimportant. #335

GWM 23, 6'11", 190 lbs., light brown/green, attractive, good shape; ISO B/GWM (18-24) for friendship, maybe more. #1161

ANNOUNCEMENTS
The Empty Closet needs word processors, reporters, reviewers, mailing volunteers and more. If you can give two hours a month, please call Susan at 244-9030.

Meet friendly people, share laughter, fun and food. Play euchre with us — 6 pm on second and fourth Saturdays. \$5. Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church, 175 Norris Dr. (off Culver at Cobbs Hill). 271-8478.

Submit original, unpublished story (2,500 words or less) relevant to gay rural life, with SASE and \$2 reading fee (or \$18 regular subscription) to JanNathan Long, RFD Rural Fiction Contest, 2325 W. Grace St., Richmond VA 23220. Include cover letter with bio and info (no name on ms.) \$75, \$50 and \$20 prizes and possible publication.

Guy and his dog moving to San Francisco in late June/early July. Looking for travel companion to split the cost of truck rental and gas. Must love dogs. Call 461-3394.

HELP WANTED
Phoenix Hill restaurant in High Falls Entertainment District hiring dishwashers, prep people, and line cooks. Full and part time positions. Apply in person. 104 Platt St. 262-5050.

Outreach/Resource Coordinator. Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church seeks multi-faceted individual as coordinator for community awareness program. Part-time contract position; one-year increments based on funding. Interface with church/community to develop and implement broad-based public relations program building networks with other community service organizations and GLBT tar-

geted populations. Duties include but are not limited to increasing the Church's visibility and presence within targeted populations; resourcing and networking with community organizations; creating and maintaining ministry resource databases and church web-site; organizing proactive responses to social injustice issues related to homophobia/civil rights; editing and desktop publishing educational, publicity and social justice communications; responding to incoming calls, faxes, e-mail etc. Applicants should possess exceptional organizational and interpersonal skills, be team-oriented and be an effective team leader. Strong desktop publishing and database development skills required. Fifteen hours a week with flexibility to work evenings and weekends as necessary. Please send cover letter, resume and three letters of reference by May 20 to Staff Development Team, Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church, 175 Norris Drive, Rochester NY 14610. AA/EOE.

Ultimate body/muscle rubs. May is here and you may have tried inexperienced new guys in town, been quoted outrageously high rates, or misled by "gay for pay." So stick with my six years experience serving our community, reasonable and negotiable rates, and get rubbed the right way! Let my skilled hands relax your muscles (especially after a workout or yardwork), soothe your mind and renew your soul. Athletic, handsome, healthy, youthful Italian GWM, 5'9", 150 lbs. accepts appointments in my home or yours. You won't be disappointed. Forget pagers, voice mail; call (716)235-6688 now!

Ultimate in body/muscle rub. Done by two good-looking males.

CLASSIFIED

BUY IT. SELL IT. TRADE IT.

Experience a full hour body rub done in your home. For appointment page 936-8485. Confidentiality assured.

Has clutter got you down? I will clean and organize your basement, attic, garage or house and find space you never knew you had. Will build shelves, do minor repairs. Insured, have references. 234-1896.

Remember the way Mom cleaned the house? Now have it again, without the bitching! Curran Cleaning Service, 647-6218; pager 921-8203. Ask for Sharon, References on request.

Pet-sitter/house-sitter. Responsible, love animals, will do daily visit or stay at your home. Have references. 234-1896.

Super blue-green algae. Commonly reported benefits: feelings of increased energy, vitality and stamina; improved memory and concentration; a stronger immune system. Local Independent Distributor, (716)367-9582.

PERSONALS
Lesbian, 52, likes walking (for miles), dancing (a variety), trips, relaxation, affection, selfimprovement through therapy. Looking for feminine lesbian who enjoys same. No drinking, drugs, cigarettes, drama. PO Box 10191, Rochester NY 14610.

Two handsome German gay boys, 26 and 29, visiting New York

from 21.6- 28.6 1998 for the first time. We are interested to meet guys, around our age, where we can sleep this time, and maybe more? Our fax number: 01149-541-22054. E-mail: Puschelche@aol.com

The following prisoners are lonely and would appreciate hearing from anyone who will write:
WM, 28, looking for longterm relationship. Must be honest and sincere. If interested please write to Gary Blevins, PO Box 5500-267-433, Chillicothe OH 45601.

GWM, 5'9", 155 lbs., 28, dark brown hair, eyes, slender but muscular. Seeks friendship/relationship with sincere gay or bi. Age not important. Jeff Stanley #R 150-339, PO Box 740, (J-3), London OH 43140.

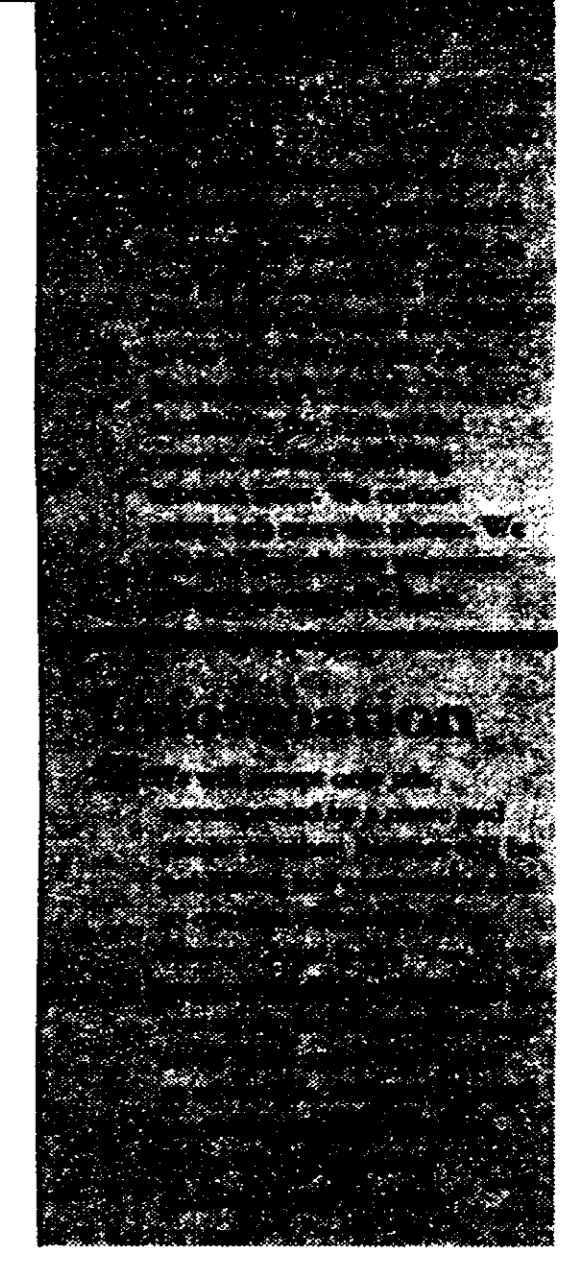
WANTED TO RENT
Wanted: house to rent as of 6/1. Three mature, responsible women and one cat looking to rent three-bedroom, one and a half bathroom house in clean, quiet and safe neighborhood. Off street parking and fireplace a plus. Please call 271-7712 and leave a message.

ROOMMATES / HOUSEMATES
Housemates wanted to share large, open and airy three-bedroom house, located on quiet street in Southwedge. \$200/month includes cable, washer and dryer, off-street parking. I'm a GM, 30, looking for M/F roommates who are stable, possess a sense of humor. No mental cases or freaks. Contact Patrick at 242-0398.

Fairport. Gay professional male seeks responsible and kind gay or gay-friendly male (non-smoker, no drugs/alcohol) to share home. Must like pets. Laundry, off-street parking. \$375 includes all. Serious inquiries only. 388-9230.

Roommate wanted. Non-smoking male to share a house with two others, includes laundry, storage, all located within walking distance to U.R., Strong Hospital and MCC. \$300/month. Call 461-9184.

Wanted: employed person to share house. Due to my work can only show on weekends. \$300 includes all. 458-5743. Leave message.
BiWPM seeking roommate situation. I will require storage. Open on Bi, Gay, TS, TV situation.

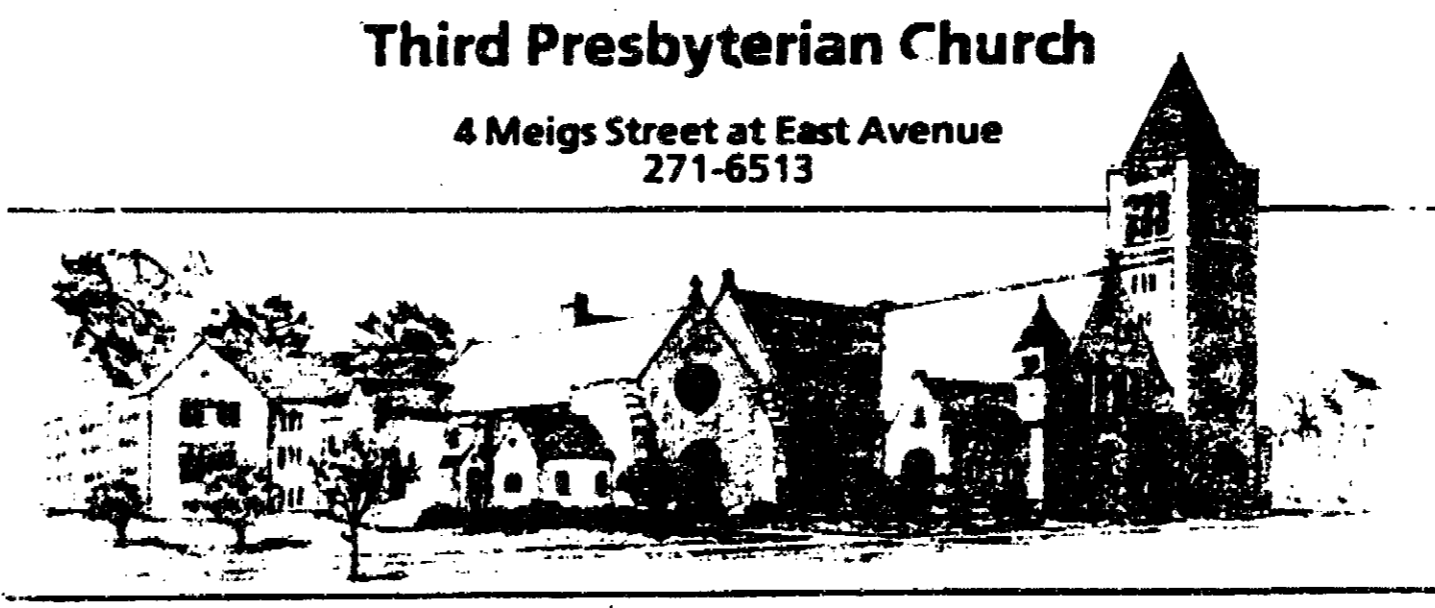


I'm in 40's, easy to get along with. 246-2977 pager.
FOR RENT
Culver/Main: Wonderful, bright and airy one-bedroom, full bath, appliances, off-street parking, freshly painted, busline, secure professionally managed building. \$425 plus. (716)453-1345.

Rent (or rent to own). Townhouse, 423 Broadway (City). Central air, two car garage, two bedrooms, one and a half baths, finished basement, rent, rent to own, or for sale. \$900 per month or best offer. (716)377-1665. First month plus security.

Perinton. Fantastic two bedroom half house with hardwood floors. Huge backyard viewing Midvale Country Club. laundry facilities, garage. \$650 plus utilities. 387-0913, Ray.

Cobbs Hill area. Two bedroom, hardwood floors, newly remodeled, washer/dryer, parking. \$650 plus, available immediately. 271-3247.
Cobbs Hill area. Three bedroom, master BR suite, office, jacuzzi tub, newly remodeled, parking, washer/dryer hookup, \$850 plus, available 7/1. 271-3247.



Third Presbyterian Church
4 Meigs Street at East Avenue
271-6513

A More Light Church
Where Gay, lesbian and bisexual persons are welcomed as partners in ministry.
Sunday 10:30 AM Worship
Monday 1st and 3rd 7:30 PM Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Support Group
Child care - Wheelchair accessible - Looped for the hearing impaired.

Maxine McDonald, CSW, CASAC
Counseling Services
Individual, Couples & Group Therapy
315-584-8907
1777 Penfield Road
Penfield, New York
Ontario, New York

Roly-Door
The Door Doctor
CELEBRATING OVER 45 YEARS IN BUSINESS
288-2867
668 BLOSSOM RD. (CORNER OF WINTON & BLOSSOM)
SIX MONTHS SAME AS CASH FINANCING ON ALL INSTALLED CLOPAY GARAGE DOORS AND OPENERS


Call 436-3333 Placing an ad and receiving your voice box is easy 100% automated and totally free! You never speak to anyone, and you never reveal your identity, not even to us! Your ad will be placed in multiple newspapers around the area at no charge.
You create three separate recordings to help entice people to respond to you.
1) A recording for a 20 word ad that gets published in Empty Closet, The One, Swap Sheet, Time Out and FreeTime.
2) A Scan box greeting that allows you to tell about yourself and can be heard by callers the very same day.
3) A Voice Box greeting which allows you to ask the caller for information you want to know about them. One FREE call does it all!
All messages are screened before being placed on the system. Any questions or comments, please call 464-0000. Monday-Friday 9:30 am - 6:00pm. We encourage you to use our automated help system.
You must have a corded touch-tone phone and the * and # buttons must be functional.

Call 971-9977 (\$2.49 per minute) Can't call 971-9977? Then try 1-900-726-6662 (\$2.49 per minute).
There is NO CHARGE for you to listen to your messages, you must call 436-3333 (24 hours a day) to retrieve your messages free.
To find out about how to purchase specially priced packages, please call 464-0000. We accept all major credit cards as well as Western Union Quick Collect and electronic checks. Even if you have 900 blocks on your long distance, you can still use our system. Charges apply to 540 and 900 numbers.
In addition to the ads published in this paper, each advertiser records a Scan box greeting, this allows you to scan the latest message before the ad actually gets published. Scan box gives you a jump on the competition and beats newspaper delays!
Comments or questions call 464-0000, Monday-Friday.



Calendar

FOR THE BUSY MONTH OF MAY



May 17: Knock AIDS for a Loop. In-line Skate-a-thon, inner loop, to benefit Community Health Network. 10 am - 2 pm.

244-9000, weekdays between 9 am and 5 pm.

Women, Word and Song. "The Music of Our Lives." Catered supper, 7 pm, \$5 per person. Reservations by May 13 to 325-4000. You may join the women of the Genesee Valley Presbytery at their gathering, 5-7 pm, in Celebration Hall; featured speaker Rose Mitchell, director of the Women's Foundation of Genesee Valley. Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St.

Basically Treblemakers Swing Into Spring. Annual fundraising performance/dance, 3 pm, Cafe Gecko, 40 St. Paul St. \$5.

WEDNESDAY 20
Open Arms MCC deadline. Application for Outreach/Resource Coordinator position. (See classified section).

Triangle Talk. "Setting Them Straight." Discussion leaders Ed and Maxine McDonald, PFLAG co-chairs. 7-8:30 pm, Borders Books & Music. Free. Co-sponsored by GAGV.

WEDNESDAY 27
Meeting on Toxic Waste Transportation. Women's Action for New Directions (WAND), 7 pm, Blue Sunday, 3118 E. Henrietta Rd. For information call Julia Fausette, 334-0758, or Nadean Young, 247-2034.

THURSDAY 28
COAP putt-putt. 7 pm, Dave S., 232-3012.

FRIDAY 29
Empty Closet mailing party. Label envelopes 2-5 pm; bulk mailing 6:30-8:30 pm. Upstairs at GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 244-9030.

SATURDAY 30
COAP picnic. With Mike & Co. Noon. For location call 344-5611.

JUNE
WEDNESDAY 3
Night Out at Geva. Pre-performance party for gay theatre-goers, 6:30 pm. *Famous Orpheus* by Oyama O with choreography by Garth Fagan, 8 pm. \$5 on top of ticket price, with one free drink, catered hors d'oeuvres. 232-GEVA.

SATURDAY 6
Marsha Stevens in concert. 7:30 pm, 175 Norris Drive, sponsored by Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church.

SUNDAY 7
AIDSwalk '98. To register, call AIDS Rochester, 442-2220, and see ad on page 5.

FRIDAY 1

May Day
Empty Closet mailing party. Label envelopes 2-5 pm; bulk mailing 6:30-8:30 pm. Upstairs at GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 244-9030.

COAP. WXXI auction, 9 pm. **Blood Brothers,** a musical by Willy Russell, at Blackfriars Theater, 28 Lawn St. off Broadway. May 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 17 at 8 pm; May 10, 17 at 3 pm; May 3 at 6:30 pm. \$20; discounts available for seniors, students; group rates available. 454-1260.

Jack H. Hellaby BFA exhibition. Opening reception 5:30-7:30 pm, Rainbow Gallery, Tower Fine Arts Center, SUNY Brockport. Show through May 16.

SATURDAY 2

Silent Vigil at Liberty Pole for Mothers in Prison - Children in Crisis Campaign. 12:15 pm. Call JoZ Powers, 244-5751, or Linda Brebner, 473-1414.

FRIDAY 8
COAP dinner. Savannah's, 7 pm. Dave M., 265-3186.

SATURDAY 9
Open Arms MCC euchre night. 6-9:30 pm. Prizes, great food. Donation \$5. 175 Norris Drive.

South Wedge Artistry Loft grand opening. 5-10 pm, Weider Building, 393 Gregory St. 10 percent of items sold donated to AIDS Rochester and other charities.

March and rally sponsored by Rochester Coalition for Mothers in Prison - Children in Crisis. Gather at Liberty Pole 1:30 pm, march to Public Safety Building 2 pm. 244-5751.

SUNDAY 10
COAP city bike hike. 10 am, Tom M., 654-7838.

WEDNESDAY 13
COAP Little movie night. 7 pm, Frank D., 720-9876.

FRIDAY 15
Empty Closet deadline. Articles, ad space reservation, classified ads, letters to editor, non-camera ready ads. 244-9030.

SATURDAY 16
Wallflowers women's dance. 9 pm-1 am, VFW Hall, 54 S. Union St. \$12 in advance, \$15 at door. Tickets available at Silkwood Books. Live DJ, cash bar, smoke-free, snacks. Call Jane, 342-0547.

International AIDS Candlelight Memorial and Mobilization. For information about observances contact Rebecca Hensler, (415)863-4676; candle@hooked.net

Gay Parents Group Activity. Parents and children (6 to 10 years old) meet at Cobbs Hill playground next to the basketball courts at 2:30 pm. If it's raining, meet at Strong Museum. Call Tanya and Julie at 244-4754 for more info.

Knock AIDS for a Loop. In-line Skate-a-thon on Inner Loop to benefit Community Health Network. Registration 9 am, Howell St. across Loop from Strong Museum. Event 10 am-2 pm. Minimum pledge \$10. Party to follow. For more information, registration forms, call CHN,

GAGV Community Center Forum presents "Women Loving Women: Having a Satisfying Sex Life." 7 pm, GAGV Community

Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Call 244-8640 for information.

SATURDAY 23
Open Arms MCC euchre night. 6-9:30 pm. prizes, great food. \$5 donation. 175 Norris Drive.

Empire Bears. Memorial Day weekend trip to Toronto. Barnight at the Toolbox, May 23. Call the Bearline, 234-3381.

Virginia Women's Music Festival. 10th annual festival with performers, workshops, kidcamp, boating, swimming etc. Through June 1. Contact Intouch, Rt. 2, Box 1096, Ken's Store, VA 23084; (804)589-6542; intouch@aol.com

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The ONGOING Calendar

Rochester Historical Bowling Society 7:15 pm, Mondays. Clover Lanes, 2750 Monroe Ave. 251-2175.

COAP Come Out and Play. Business meeting last Mondays, 7 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Tom, 232-4183.

Basically Treblemakers band Every Monday, 6:45-8:45 pm, School #12 (J.P. Duffy School), South Ave. opposite Highland Hospital. 527-9364. (changing to Wednesdays in January).

American Baptists Concerned Third Mondays, 7:30 pm. Webster House, 57 Ambrose St. 442-5486.

Unbroken Threads First, third Thursdays, 5:30-7 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 244-8640.

Gay Alcoholics Anonymous 7 pm, Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Rd.

Positively Sober AA group, closed meetings. AIDS Rochester, 1350 University Ave. Every Wednesday, noon to 1 pm. Support group for Parents Who Have Lost Children First, third Wednesdays, 11 am-12:30 pm, Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Meigs St. Sponsored by Genesee Region Home Care. Free. 325-1880.

Frontrunners/Frontwalkers 6 pm run/walk; meet George Eastman House parking lot. 461-4246.

Bisexual Discussion group Last Wednesdays, 7-9 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Men and women welcome. 232-2548.

Gay bingo Third Wednesdays, 7 pm, School of the Arts. \$5. Call AIDS Rochester, 442-2220.

THURSDAY
Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns 6:30 pm, first Thursday. For location call Ralph, 271-7649.

Rochester Freedom Singers Mixed chorus. Rehearsals 7 pm, Rochester Re-Hab Center. 334-8617.

Mercy Spiritual Companion Program Evening of reflection for those impacted by HIV/AIDS. 7-9 pm. Call 671-6070 or 473-6893.

Women's basketball Thursdays and Mondays, 7-9 pm, Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St. 7-9 pm. Ramona, 244-1640.

After AIDS Bereavement Support Second, fourth Mondays, 4-5:30 pm, AIDS Rochester, 1350 University Ave. Free. 442-2220.

YSAM Young, Single and Male. Every Tuesday, 5:30-8:30 pm, Moon Beans, 696 University Ave. For info call Don, 232-8232.

Oceans Rainbow Fellowship Support/social group, meets third Tuesdays, 7 pm. For location call Dale, 589-9107, or e-mail DLaubac186@aol.com

WEDNESDAY
Women's Community Chorus Rehearsals each Wednesday, 6:30-9 pm, Call for location. 924-4144.

Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley board of directors Meeting, second Wednesdays, 7 pm, 179 Atlantic Ave. 244-8640.

GLSEN Gay, Lesbian and Straight Educators' Network, third Mondays, 7 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 256-2840.

WAND Women's Action for New Directions. Every Monday at Blue Sunday, 3118 E. Henrietta Rd. Noon. 334-0758 or 247-2034.

TUESDAY
Rochester Gay Men's Chorus Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St. 7-9:30 pm. 423-0650.

Gay Alcoholics Anonymous 8 pm, Genesee Hospital, 244 Alexander St.

Finger Lakes Gay/Lesbian Support Group Third Tuesdays, first Fridays. Write PO Box 941, Geneva NY 14456, or call (315)536-7753, ask for Sam Edwards.

Atlantic Five 0 Gay men 50 and over. Second Tuesdays, 7:30 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 461-0821.

Getting Out Support/social group. Every Tuesday, 7-9 pm. Kevin, 227-6675; Marge, 787-9254.

Men Grieving Men First, third and fifth (if any) Tuesdays, CHN, 758 South Ave. 7-8:30 pm. 787-8351; 244-9000.

St. Mary's Connection For gays and lesbians, families and friends. Third Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm, 15 St. Mary's Place (near GEVA.) 454-4573.

Greater Rochester Gay and Lesbian Business Forum Professionals' social group. Second Thursdays, 5:30-7 pm, cash bar. Gallery Cafe, Memorial Art Gallery, 500 University Ave. 234-8706.

Caregivers Support Group First, third Thursdays, 5:30-7 pm, Episcopal Diocese House, 935 East Ave. 231-6808.

Latino Mission Second and fourth Thursdays, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave., 7 pm. Call Jerry, 442-2220.

FRIDAY
Finger Lakes Gay-Lesbian Social Group First Fridays and third Tuesdays. Call (315) 536-5573 and ask for Sam Edwards, or write PO Box 941, Geneva NY 14456.

Women's social Fourth Fridays, 7-9 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 244-8640.

SATURDAY
Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Rd. 7 pm.

Rochester Rams bar night Third Saturday, 8 pm-2 am, Bachelor Forum, 470 University Ave. 271-6930.

Lilac Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf Second Saturdays, 7 pm, Gay Alliance, 179 Atlantic Ave. Write PO Box 20093, Rochester NY 14618.

Lambda Health Sciences Sixth Saturdays, dinner/meeting. Call Steve, 271-8719.

Frontrunners/Frontwalkers 8:30 am run/walk. Meet George Eastman House parking lot. 461-4246.

Coalition for Lesbian Visibility Second Saturdays. Finger lakes area, potlucks/socials. Call Becky Bly, (315)539-6271.

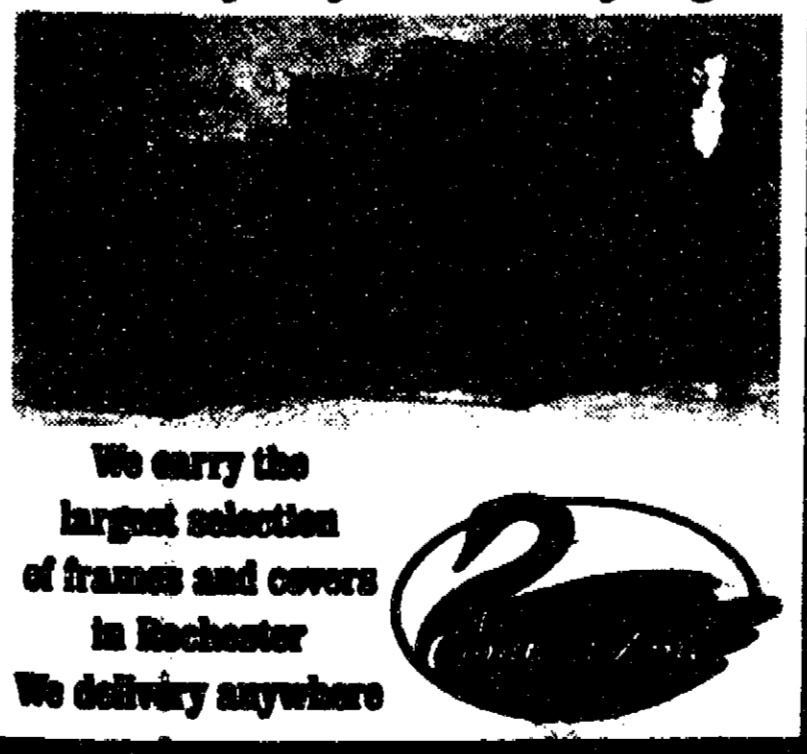
Transgender Organization Second and fourth Saturdays, 2-5 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 442-2425; http://www.servtech.com/public/perette/RochTrans.URL

Euchre Night Open Arms MCC, 175 Norris Drive. Second, fourth Saturdays, 6 pm. 271-8478.

Empire Bears Foraging at the Forum. Second Saturdays, Bachelor Forum, 470 University Ave. Bearline: 234-3381.

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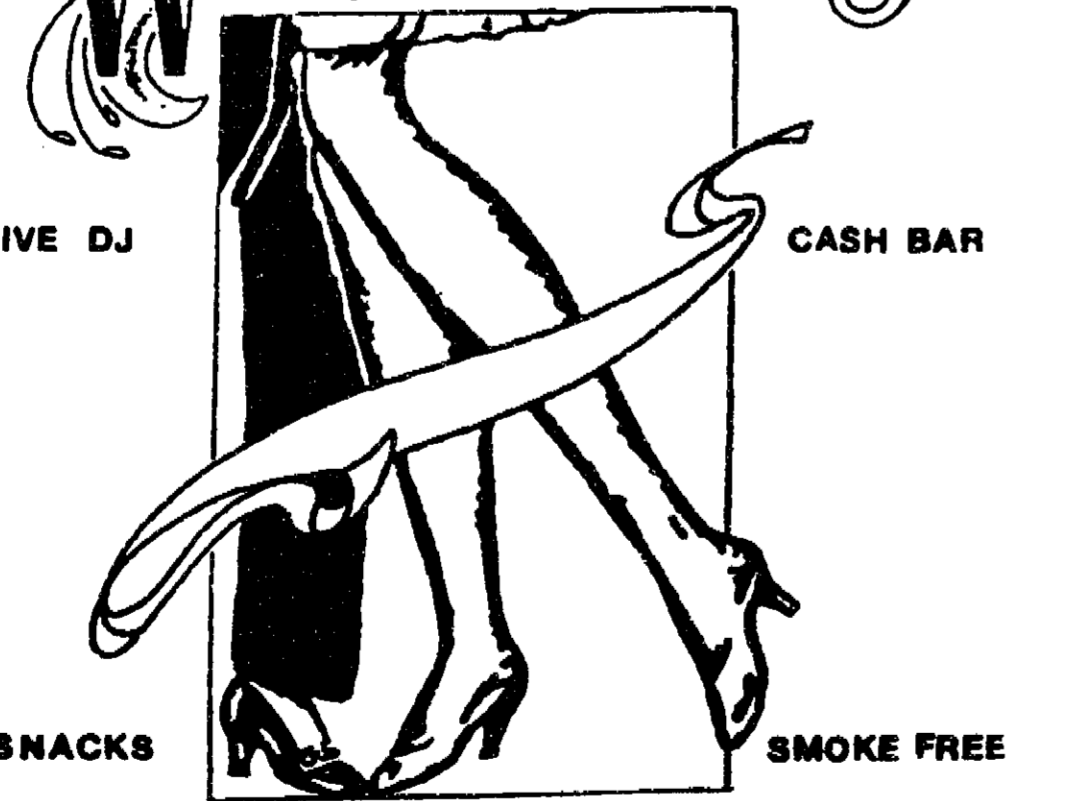
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Plus parking etc. Potluck entrance. Private space.
\$12 in advance \$15 at the door
Tickets available at Silkwood Books
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The Gay Alliance Community Center Forum Presents...

WOMEN 2 WOMEN SEX POSITIVE

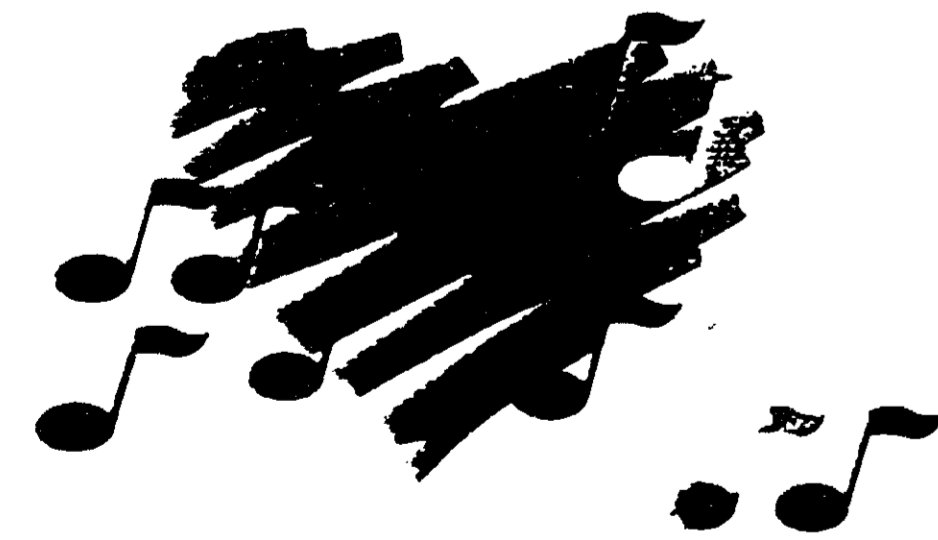
Barbara Shepard, MS, CASAC, AASECT will lead a discussion for lesbian and bisexual women on defining and practicing healthy and satisfying SEX.

THURSDAY, MAY 21 AT 7PM
GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

Sign language interpreters available upon request with at least one weeks notice—call 244-8640.

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GLEN UEHLEIN AND ROLANDO ALPHONSO
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Glen,
 Thank you for allowing myself and our staff the opportunity to take chances on exciting promotions and special events which has made Muther's what we are today, the Best, the Friendliest and Most Diverse Gay Bar in Rochester. Thanks for your confidence, you are our fearless leader!

Happy Anniversary from the staff,
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 Lenny, Jeff T., Dee, Paul, Sammy, Fred,
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In celebration, on May 1st,
 Muther's is offering everyone a
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Muther's is proud to present the 7th Annual
Ms. CHUBBY ROCHESTER PAGEANT
 SUNDAY, MAY 24th, 1998
 Show starts at 11:00pm
 (Following our Tea Dance!)

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 (Miss Chubby Rochester 1987-88)

FORMER MISS CHUBBY ROCHESTERS:
 Lana Falana 86-87
 Shaka Ashad 87-88
 Dale Ann 88-89
 Nikki Dupré 89-90
 Madison 95-96
 Marissa Flowers 96-97

Good luck to all the contestants!

THE SECOND ANNUAL
"Knock AIDS for a Loop!"
 SUNDAY MAY 17th, 1998
 Monroe Avenue and Howell Street
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10am - 2pm



Enjoy a Continental Breakfast at
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 CLASSIFIEDS**

NightOut Classifieds are \$5 for the first 30 words; every additional 10 words is \$1. The deadline is the 15th of the month for the following month's issue, and all requirements for the Classified section apply. Send or bring ad and payment to The Empty Closet, 179 Atlantic Ave., Rochester NY 14607-1255.

SERVICES

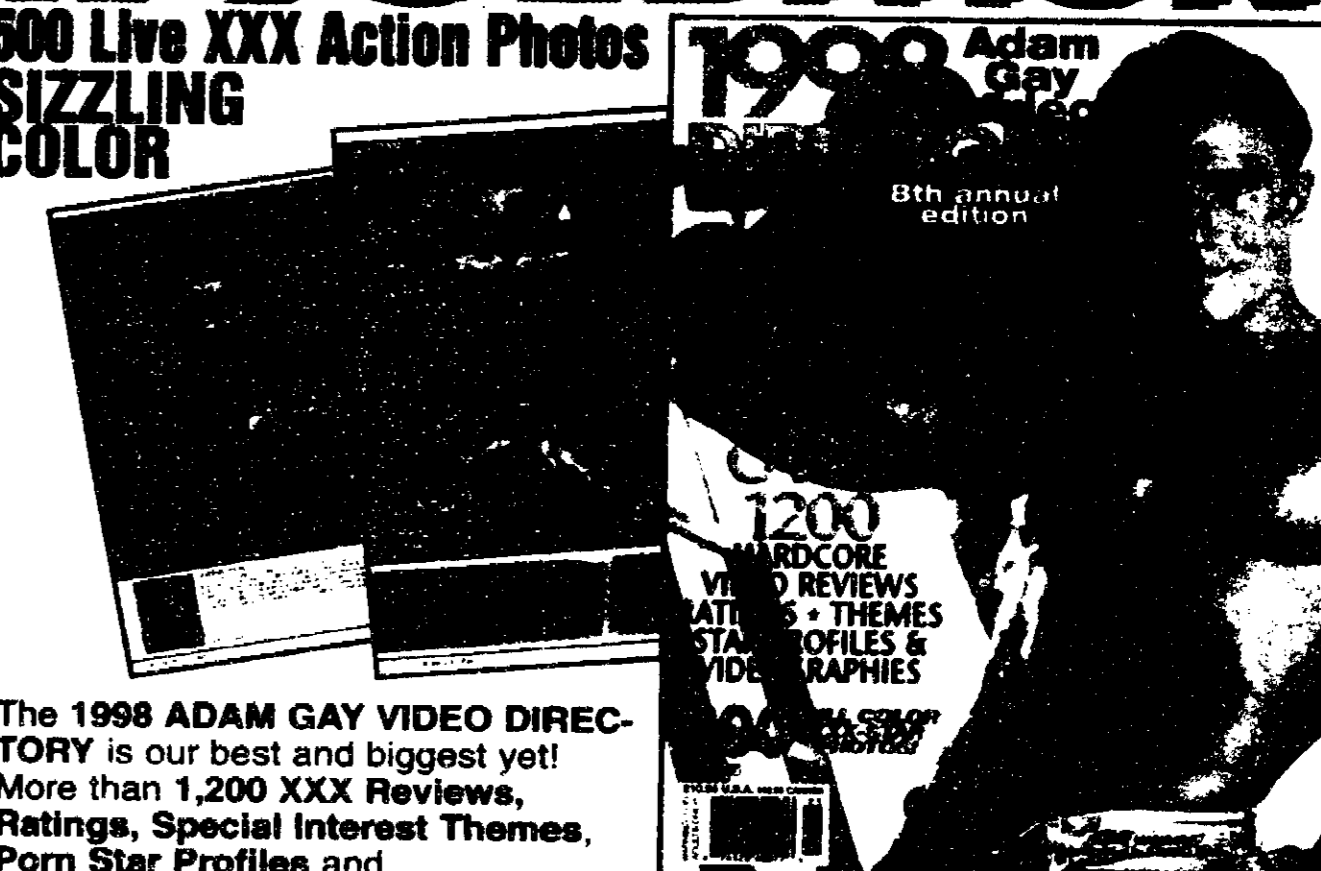
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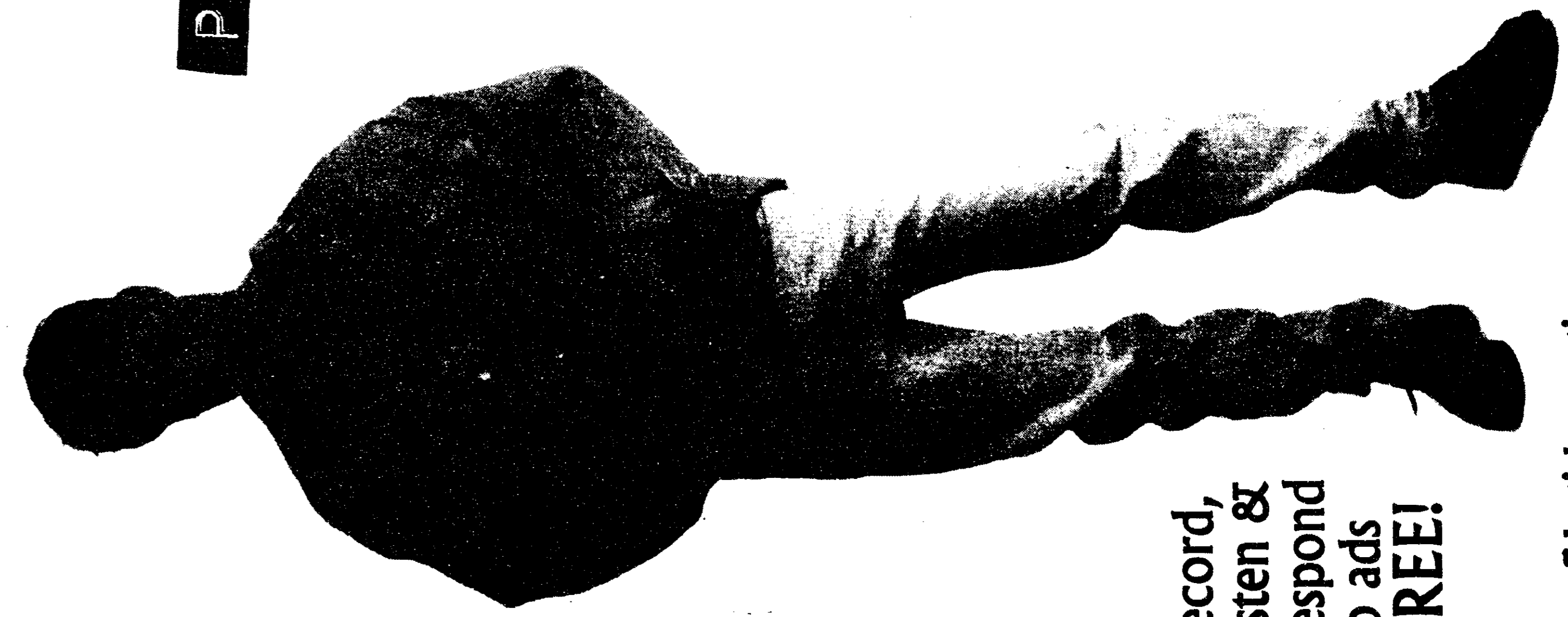
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