

RECEIVED

U of LI THE EMPTY CLOSET

LOCAL NEWSBRIEFS

Empty Closet wins award

By Susan Jordan

The *Empty Closet* received one of two community service awards from the Empire State Pride Agenda at a "Gay-la Benefit Performance and Awards Ceremony" on May 6 at Albany's Capitol Rep Theater.

The award, presented to the *Empty Closet* by Gay-la Committee member Lois Urtley, was given "in recognition of its longterm service of informing the Genesee Valley and helping the region establish a sense of community."

Other honorees were Matt Foreman, executive director of the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project (Mark Turkel Political Leadership Award); State Assemblymember Deborah Glick (Person of the Year); Lance Ringel, director of the Office of Lesbian and Gay Concerns at the New York State Division for Human Rights (Government Service); The Pink Panthers, a gay defense patrol in the streets of Greenwich Village (Organizational Achievement); the Damien Center, an Albany hospitality center for people living with AIDS/HIV (Community Service), and New York State Attorney General Robert Abrams (Friend of the Community).

The evening included a performance by Holly Hughes and numerous jokes by m.c. Michelle Crone, who reported, "I survived the National Lesbian Conference."

Picnic on June 30 at Genesee Valley Park

By Susan Jordan

The annual Gay Alliance Picnic will be held on June 30 at Genesee Valley Park, on the same site as the 1990 picnic. Festivities will kick off at noon.

The gathering will feature entertainment by the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus and others, and a disco by Infinity.

The menu will be barbecued chicken and ribs, salads, corn on the cob, and vegetarian dishes.

Tickets are \$12 if purchased before the picnic, and \$15 at the event. Tickets may be bought at Wild Seeds Bookstore, and area bars. Organizers say that volunteers are still needed. For more information, call 244-8640.

Celebrate diversity at Pride March

By Lori Matocha

"Celebrating Our Diversity" is the theme of this year's Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Pride Parade and Rally, which will be held on Saturday, June 29 at 3 p.m.

Planning for this celebration began months ago, and organizers are looking forward to a great afternoon of fun, solidarity and affirmation. Negotiations with the city are still taking place concerning the route and rally site, but hopefully we will gather at Park Ave. by Berkeley St. to march to Cobbs Hill Park for the rally.

The parade organizers are encouraging people to really camp it up this year! Rosemary Hillard and Ramona Santorelli (who can be reached at 454-6277 or 244-1640) are coordinating floats, poster distribution, and sign making.

A work party to help produce banners, posters, etc. will be held on June 8 at 7 p.m.; for location call Rosemary at 454-6277. Work parties will be held every Wednesday in June.

Kicking off the parade will be Jo Cummings and her percussion assembly, who have in past years been one of the highlights of the parade. Everyone is invited to bring some sort of noise maker or instrument (a pot and spoon will do) to the parade, but if you want to march at the head of the parade with the other percussionists, leave a message for Jo at 244-1640.

LOCAL NEWS continued on p. 3



Left: Queer Nation members burn an effigy of State Sen. Ralph Marino. Above: Part of Rochester contingent at the Albany march. photos by Mark Stwicz

Over 1,000 march on Albany

By Susan Jordan

A cloud of smoke rose in front of Albany's Capitol Building on May 5, as members of Queer Nation burned an effigy and photograph of State Sen. Ralph Marino, one of those most responsible for preventing the bias-related crimes and gay civil rights bills from coming to the floor for a vote.

Soon all that was left of the image of the Republican legislator was a smudgy black spot on the pavement.

The incident was one of the highlights of the 1991 March and Rally for Gay and Lesbian Rights, sponsored by the Empire State Pride Agenda. Around 1200 lesbians, bisexuals and gay men, as estimated by ESPA Executive Director Dick Dadey, marched from Washington Park to the Capitol, where the rally took place.

Rochester City Councilmember Tim Mains was one of the first to address the rally. He introduced Deborah Glick, the first openly lesbian or gay member of the New York State legislature, who was elected last November to represent Greenwich Village. Glick told the crowd that life in Albany as the only out legislator can be lonely, but that she feels community support through events like the rally.

Libby Post, chair of the board of ESPA, said, "We have to have a voice. We need to make sure our issues are constantly at the top of the agenda."

Performance artist Holly Hughes was the m.c. for the rally. She is suing the National Endowment for the Arts for denying her a grant during the Jesse Helms-inspired attacks on the NEA for funding "homocrotic" art. Hughes said, "Homocroticism (a new word for me) automatically became obscene in Congress. What is homocroticism? The way my girlfriend makes coffee in the morning

is homocrotic — the drip method, you know?"

Hughes said she decided to come out to the NEA. "I told the NEA I had a 10-point plan to advocate lesbianism globally, through song, dance and monologue." She suggested that everyone present develop their own 10-point plan to increase lesbian visibility.

Glenn Magpantay, vice president of the Student Association of the State University of New York, and a national organizer of the United States Student Association Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Caucus, urged the crowd to think about issues of diversity. Quoting Urvashi Vaid of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, he asked whether the gay rights movement was one of legitimization or liberation.

"We're a movement of liberation," he said. "All classes, all races and all groups. I'm very proud to be Asian, to be gay, to be queer. Please ask questions. Think about diversity!"

Magpantay said that students have an agenda which includes leading the fight to keep ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corps) off campus until the Defense Department rescinds its policy against gays and lesbians serving in the military.

Students also want lesbian/gay/bisexual studies, faculty and administration; an increase in AIDS awareness, and an end to bias-related violence, Magpantay said.

Matt Foreman of the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project introduced two young men, Damien, 18, and Patrick, 19, who had been chased through the rally crowd by four teenagers throwing rocks and bottles, while the Queer Nation effigy burning had been going on.

Police, instead of arresting the attackers, told the two gay men to come to the station house the following day and report the in-

cident. The crowd responded to this information with hisses and boos, and with applause in support of Patrick and Damien.

Foreman listed three things everyone can do to contribute to the struggle against anti-gay violence. "First, call Ralph Marino and say, 'We don't care if you're a homophobe. Simply allow the hate crimes measure to come to the floor for a vote.'"

"Second, work on internalized hate. If you hear someone say, 'If he wasn't so blatant, if she wasn't so butch, it wouldn't have happened,' call them on it. We are never, never, never to blame for homophobic violence."

"Third, don't suffer in silence. If we internalize it, we accept it and allow it to get to us and eat at our pride as lesbians or gay men. We can banish hate. We will banish hate by starting with ourselves."

Other speakers included Joyce Hunter of the Hetrick-Martin Institute for Lesbian and Gay Youth, and Jeri Wells of the Pink Panthers, a New York City group which patrols gay areas in an effort to reduce anti-gay violence. Lesbian comedian Lea DeLaria was a surprise guest; she did a few numbers with an all-woman rock band.

May 6 was Lesbian and Gay Lobby Day. According to Dick Dadey, 150 gay men and lesbians from around the state stayed on in Albany to lobby their legislators for passage of the hate crimes bill and other measures.

Dadey said that the ESPA also recommends in-district lobbying, which entails visits and follow-up phone calls by gay constituents to the local offices of their legislators. "Creating on-going relationships between constituents and legislators is one of the most effective ways of making our issues visible and of getting the results we want," Dadey said.

Leather men



An introduction to Rochester's leather community. See page 7

Photo by Ellen Mahaffy

Lesbian diversity



Three reports from the National Lesbian Conference. See page 8

Interview with Mohawk writer Beth Brant. See page 6

Looking at tattoos



Rochester women's tattoos: a photo essay. See page 13

Photo by Peggy

Phone sex ads: a readers' forum

By Susan Jordan

At the time of going to press, we had received 14 votes in favor of banning phone sex ads from the Empty Closet, and seven votes in favor of keeping them (some recommending the use of a separate section for the ads). In all, eight respondents (some pro, some con) felt that having a separate section for the ads would be desirable.

Since we have agreements for the rest of 1991 with our advertisers, any ban could not go into effect until the February 1992 issue. So those on either side of the question have until Dec. 1 to make their feelings known; if we feel we have a mandate one way or the other, that will make our ultimate decision easier.

Meanwhile, for the rest of 1991, we will place the ads with sexually explicit art and copy on the same two pages each month. Anyone who wishes to can remove those two pages, although due to our layout and limited space, the pages with the phone sex ads will be attached to pages further toward the front of the paper, which will have to contain regular articles and ads. These too will have to be sacrificed if the phone sex ads are removed - however, cutting the four-page spread down the middle would be a possible solution, for those readers who have a sharp pair of scissors!

Following are some of the comments, pro and con, which we received. Two longer letters are printed in full below in the Letters to the Editor section.

First, the comments in favor of banning the ads:

"I find them offensive, and don't like the message they give to the straight world."

"I wouldn't be sorry to see them omitted; they reduce the quality for me."

"How can such an aware paper keep those ads? They perpetuate the distress that often happens. We need to keep our people

healthier, not enhance the problems. Thanks for asking, I've hated them ever since the EC started using them."

"Yuck. I don't like hetero sleaze either." "A person using a 900 number (gay or straight) has bad judgement and bad taste. The same can be said for the Empty Closet for running such ads. Accepting money from cheats and pimps is most distasteful."

"I would love to give the paper to new parents who come to our group (P-FLAG). I hesitate to do that because of the ads you spoke of. It's very hard to convince parents that the gay life style is not that much different from their own, and that sex is just one part of a gay relationship, when these ads are so prominent."

"I am openly lesbian, and my family is comfortable with my homosexuality. However, I will not leave the EC around because I feel uncomfortable about the phone sex ads. My father was reading a copy of the EC the other day (because I gave it to him and pointed out an article I wanted him to read), and when he finished he continued to page through and of course saw the phone sex ads. He said something like, 'Why should these ads be in your newspaper?' I said, 'I don't know.' Why are they so huge? Why can't they be, as the poll suggests, in a pull-out section? ... I agree that heterosexuals can be pretty blatant about their 'sleaziness' too, but I don't think I've ever seen an ad that says 'I want you.' Down and Dirty Line,' etc., with men or women wearing nothing but underwear in other newspapers. I would pay for a subscription instead of picking up free copies all the time if the ads were removed."

"I was disappointed with your reasons for running the phone sex ads, particularly because you don't want to censor and because, heterosexuals can be open with their sleaziness. First, there is a big difference

between censorship and editorial policy. Secondly, just because there are some sleazy heterosexual publications doesn't mean that the EC must be sleazy. ... There are many places for the gay to find sleaze, but few places to find information and news. The myth is that gay life is kinky. The truth is that there is much more to gay life than sex. I hope the EC sets an editorial policy which stresses the other aspects of gay life. Ultimately, there are good reasons for the EC to stay totally away from the sleaze, in order to help end the myths about gay life."

"It helps your paper with the cost (and other mags are doing it." "As an advertiser in the EC, I feel that the ads do not need to be banned. What I do feel is (that) a separate section is necessary."

Thanks to everyone who shared their opinions. I should note that the phone sex industry, by and large, is apparently owned and run by gay men, for gay and bisexual men. It seems to be fulfilling a male need. Every gay newspaper and magazine in the country is filled with these ads.

The discussion of these complicated issues is obviously just starting. Some of the questions that are raised by these responses, it seems to me, are: is our fear of what heterosexuals will say determining how we depict gay sexuality? Should we censor sexual material out of fear of homophobic backlash, or of perpetuating stereotypes? Is one person's stereotype another person's turn-on?

Is there that much of a difference between censorship and editorial selection? Should

all sexual material be banned from publications intended for a general mixed audience? The Gannett papers, for instance, publish ads for sex videos and porn movies, although they seem to have stopped using the ultra-sleazy, often violently woman-hating visuals and copy for the porn theater ads, since feminists (including me) protested a decade ago.

Do these ads really represent what most gay men want to see in the gay media? Do they represent what only a minority want, and are they being forced on the majority (both of gay and bi men, and of lesbians and bi women), who either are not interested or are offended by them? What exactly are these ads saying about gay male sexuality in the age of AIDS? Do they represent an attempt to cling to old practices of quick, anonymous sexual encounters, but in a safe, disembodied form? Do these ads actually provide a safe-sex outlet for men who otherwise might engage in unsafe behavior?

Does our (both male and female) discomfort with the ads come from their sleazy style, or from society's deep discomfort with, and repression of, all matters related to sexuality? Are we hypocritical to want our public face to be "decent" and our private fantasies to be stereotypically "down and dirty"? Is sexuality "dirty," and do gay and lesbian-created erotica have to be stereotyped or "sleazy"? Are we so repressed that any reference to sex seems sleazy or threatening to us? What qualities would make sexual material seem exciting and yet not offensive?

The questions seem endless, and clearly any decision about the use of sex ads in the EC will prove unacceptable to many readers. Nonetheless, simply asking the questions and discussing the issues feels like something we need to do. Stay tuned for further developments.

Letters

"FDM"

To the Editor:

On a beautiful spring evening about five weeks ago, my lover, five other women friends and I went to get some frozen custard and stroll on Charlotte Beach. Five of us walked on the sand and then down the pier while two from our group wandered down the boardwalk at the edge of the beach.

The five of us became aware after a little while that passersby were staring and laughing at us. My lover and I were wearing black leather jackets, and a few of us have short haircuts, but I don't think anything else about us was particularly unusual. I thought perhaps I was just being paranoid until our two friends joined us and said, "We knew you were down at the end of the pier because every group that passed us made a comment. One guy said, 'God! Fucking dyke mayhem!'"

We laughed about that one, decided we'd have "Fucking Dyke Mayhem" printed on T-shirts or "FDM" made into buttons to wear every time we went somewhere. We repeated the phrase, laughed some more, linked arms in a display of public affection. This, of

course, made us feel better but elicited more stares and comments from passersby. One group of young men passed us, walked perhaps 100 feet to the end of the pier and yelled twice as loudly as they could, "Lesbos!"

We laughed some more, but by the time we returned to our cars, I'd stopped finding it amusing and had begun to wonder what would have happened had we not been in a group of seven. What if my lover and I had been the only ones on the pier and had been threatened with violence? I began realizing that we can't even walk in a group in a public place without people making comments, that the boys probably wouldn't have yelled "Niggers!" or "Spics!" but they know it's still socially acceptable to make anti-lesbian and anti-gay comments at the top of one's lungs in a public park.

The local political organization for which I work, Metro-Act, received a form last week from the Empire State Pride Agenda, New York's gay and lesbian political lobbying group, asking for reports of anti-gay harassment and violence. I hadn't consciously thought of the incident on the pier as harassment until I looked at that form, and then I decided to fill it out and send it in.

The form asked whether I'd reported the incident to the police or organizations like the Gay Alliance, and I realized I hadn't because those who verbally harassed us didn't threaten violence and my friends and I had laughed off the incident.

But isn't making someone feel like shit for being who she is a form of violence? And what would it take for an incident like that to escalate into violence?

I thought it ironic that we were called "dykes" and "lesbos" because four of the seven women in our group are bisexual, but as speakers at the Gay/Lesbian Pride Rally in Albany in early May reminded us, queers don't care who you are or what your sexual orientation is. A group of teenage boys in New York City recently killed a heterosexual classical musician who looked effeminate to them.

The speakers also said that, like rape victims, those who have suffered anti-lesbian and anti-gay violence are often asked, "What did you do to provoke that attack?" We blame the victim, ask why my friends and I were wearing leather jackets and dyke haircuts and why we touched each other on the back or the arm a few times in public, instead of asking why it's seen as OK for presumably heterosexual people to make

hurtful comments about us while we walk in the park.

I write this letter for a couple of reasons. I want everyone - lesbian, bisexual, gay and heterosexual - to enjoy the parks and other public places this summer, but I want you all to be careful.

I'd also like everyone who suffers abuse like that which my friends and I experienced a few weeks ago to report it - to the Gay Alliance, the Empire State Pride Agenda and the Rochester Police Department. You don't have to reveal your name when you report these incidents, but reporting them helps the Gay Alliance warn others to be careful in certain parks or areas of the city. Some of these incidents seem trivial; the one in which I was involved did, and sometimes still does. But the Pride Agenda is trying to prove to stubborn New York state legislators that we need a law against bias crime that includes sexual orientation, and every instance of these crimes, however unimportant it seems, helps the organization in its documentation process.

Michele Moore, Rochester Member, Focking Dyke Mayhem

LETTERS, Continued on page 11

The Empty Closet is published eleven times a year (December and January combined) by the Empty Closet Press for the Gay Alliance of Genesee Valley, Inc. Approximate 4000 copies of each issue are distributed during the first week of the month by mail in a plain sealed envelope. The publication of the name or photograph of any person or organization in articles or advertising is not an indication of the sexual or affectional orientation of that person or the members of that organization. For publication, submit news items, letters, stories, poetry and art by mail or in person to the Empty Closet office by the 17th of the month. Design services for material not camera-ready are available for an additional fee. For further information, please write to Empty Closet Press, 179 Atlantic Ave., Rochester, NY 14607-1255, or call (716) 244-9310.

Advertising Policy: The Empty Closet does not print advertisements that contain nude drawings or photographs nor does it print advertising that suggests that the person pictured in the ad is for sale or that you will get that particular person if you patronize the establishment advertised. Advertisements that are explicitly sexist, racist or agestist will be refused, advertisements from organizations or businesses that are sexist, racist, agestist or anti-gay will also be refused.

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

No listing persons' HIV status will be published without written or taped permission from that person.

Editor: Susan Jordan

Typesetting/Printing: Blue Heron Type & Design Co.

Part of our purpose is to maintain a middle position with respect to the entire community. We must be careful to present all viewpoints in a way that takes into consideration the views of all - women, men, those of color, young and old, and those from various walks of life.

The Empty Closet

NEW YORK'S GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER PUBLICATION

Yes, I want to Subscribe! Renew!

1 year: \$10 (\$18 Canadian; \$20 International) 2 years: \$18 (\$35 Canadian; \$38 International)

Name _____

Address _____

A one-year subscription includes 11 issues. Papers are mailed in plain envelopes. Return to: E.C. PRESS, 179 Atlantic Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607-1255.

State and local news

Parade, continued from p. 1

Marge Booker and Ramona Santorelli will emcee the rally immediately after the parade, which will feature performers Jo Anne Casey and Katherine MacIntyre, Anne Seale, marz, Sasha Hedley, Diane Conway, and speakers Martin Hiraga, Sally Borate, and Lydia Bayoneta.

Organizer Paul Scheib is beginning to recruit parade marshals for the event, so anyone interested in helping to keep the peace should call him at 473-9948. In general there is still lots of work to do, so if you want to help out, call any of the above mentioned, or call Wild Seeds at 244-9310.

Tee shirts with the "Celebrating Our Diversity" design, created by Rosemary Hillard, should be ready a week or so before the parade at the Gay Alliance, 179 Atlantic Ave., and Wild Seeds Bookstore & Cafe, 740 University Ave.

Business Association

On May 18, Greater Rochester's Alternative Business Association held their first organizational meeting.

The new group of nine gay and lesbian entrepreneurs, led by founder Sean O'Donnell of Contemporary Services, discussed the need for an association to unify and strengthen our area's gay and lesbian professional community.

Goals set for the Association include the publication of a member-sponsored "gay yellow pages," an informative bi-monthly newsletter, referral services, and low cost association-sponsored seminars.

"The Association's mission," O'Donnell said, "is to create a network of gay-owned/managed and gay-friendly businesses and services, thus providing a more comfortable standard of living within our community, without jeopardizing the privacy or integrity of individuals."

An informational meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on June 18. For more information, call Sean O'Donnell at 671-1855.

GAGV elections

The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley recently held elections of officers and board members. The new officers are Paul Schieb, president; Arnie Pegish, vice-president; Karin Baker, secretary, and Betty Dwyer, treasurer.

Newly elected board members are Ron Kwazman, Bob Stear and Karin Baker. Re-elected members are Ellen Yacknin, Evelyn Bailey, and Harvey Chasser.

Organizations elected to one-year board seats are Dignity-Integrity; Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Friends Association (GLBFA) of the University of Rochester; AIDS Rochester; Helping People with AIDS; Out and About, and the Rochester Rams.

Referral list

The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley wishes to expand its professional referral list. Any member of the lesbian/gay/bisexual community who would like to be on the list,

or who knows of a physician, therapist, dentist, accountant, etc., who might like to be listed, should call the GAGV at 244-8640 and leave the name, address and phone number of the professional wishing to be added to our referral list.



Evelyn Bailey, Arnie Pegish and John Kerr.

Bailey, Kerr win Vicki & Vinnie Cups

By Susan Jordan Evelyn Bailey and John Kerr are the 1991 recipients of the Vicki and Vinnie Cup awards, presented by Arnie Pegish at the Bachelor Forum on May 19.

Bailey received the Vicki Cup, named for the late Vicki Russo, for her work as co-chair of the Gay Alliance auction, and as head of the building committee for the GAGV Community Center, as well as for many other contributions.

John Kerr was honored for his work with the Men's Group, and in many areas of GAGV organizing over the years. He received the Vinnie Cup, named for the late Vinnie Wheeler. The cup has been given since 1975.

The awards ceremony followed a spaghetti dinner, hosted by the Rochester Rangers.

A Highland site for AIDS Park

By Bill Callahan A site in Rochester's Highland Park has been chosen for the proposed AIDS Remembrance Park. In April, a committee of interested people toured several possible locations with County Parks Director Dean Spang.

The committee agreed unanimously that a couple of acres in the new section of Highland Park would be most appropriate. It is the area closest to the Monroe County Extension Service building on Highland Ave. About half the area would be on a knoll which now has few trees or shrubs, and extends back into a beautiful undeveloped area, which is quiet land off the beaten path.

A 12-member committee has now had two meetings at the Gay Alliance Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. The next meeting is scheduled for June 6 at 7:30 p.m. Anyone interested in attending is welcome.

The AIDS Park committee sold small evergreens at various locations in the city during May to help raise money for the project. While it is expected that those who have lost a loved one to AIDS will purchase flowering trees or shrubs for the park in memory of the people they have lost, a general fund is necessary for park survey, drawings, walkways, plaque and other expenses.

Those interested in donating or bequeathing money to the park may do so through the Greater Rochester AIDS Interfaith Network (GRAIN), the sponsor of the project. Also, a logo competition is underway. For information on that, or on donations, call GRAIN, 889-8050.

Court says lesbian not a "parent"

New York's highest court ruled on May 2 that a lesbian non-biological parent may not have the right to visit the child she helped to raise.

The Court of Appeals decided that parenting rights are based on biological relationship only, and that emotional connections between children and non-biological parents may not be taken into account when defining family relationships.

The court's narrow definition of family may have far-reaching effects, and represents a grave setback for non-traditional family rights.

"The court focused purely on the definition of family; it did not even take the child's best interests into account," said Paula Etzelbrick, legal director for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, who represented the woman seeking visitation rights.

The case involved, *Alison D. vs. Virginia M.*, was between two lesbian partners who co-parented a child; Virginia M. was artificially inseminated and gave birth to a boy, who was raised by the women together.

Alison D. continued to visit and provide financial support for the boy when the couple separated two and a half years after his birth. This arrangement continued for four years, after which Virginia M. decided to end Alison D.'s relationship with the child.

The Court of Appeals said that it did not question Alison D.'s parenting skills, noting in its decision that she "nurtured a close and loving relationship with the child," and that her wish to maintain visitation rights came from "her understandable concern for and interest in the child."

However, in a 6-1 decision, the court ruled that she had no right to seek visitation because "she is not a 'parent'" within state law. Paula Etzelbrick commented, "I think (the ruling) indicates that these judges are deeply threatened by the idea that lesbians have children without men." She said that women judges had issued the only dissenting opinions in both the lower appellate court's and the appeals court's decisions.

Judge Judith Kaye of the Appeals Court, in her dissenting opinion, wrote, "The court's decision, fixing biology as the key to visitation rights, has impact far beyond this particular controversy, one that may affect a wide spectrum of relationships." She said that not only lesbian and gay parents will suffer injustice, but the majority opinion also adversely affects heterosexual step-parents and common-law parents.

"Our holding today firmly closes the door on all consideration of the child's best interest in visitation proceedings... unless the petitioner is a biological parent," she wrote. Gay and lesbian rights activists fear that the ruling will have a detrimental effect on similar cases around the country. Wayne Steinman, a gay father, said "Our next step is to fight this in the legislature. We need to pressure our elected officials to expand the definition of family to give legal standing to non-biological parents."

-Elizabeth Yukins, *Gay Community News*

Cuomo proposes comprehensive gay rights bill

Gov. Mario Cuomo proposed a bill on Apr. 24 which would bar discrimination against gay and lesbian citizens of New York. His proposal is similar to the comprehensive gay rights bill which has been pending in the state legislature for 20 years.

Cuomo would add sexual orientation to the list of protected categories currently covered by discrimination laws. Protections would apply in public accommodation, housing, employment, educational opportunities, and many other areas.

Realtors would be forbidden to try to convince people to sell their houses because gay people might be moving into the neighborhood. Fire departments could not deny jobs to gays or lesbians on account of their sexual orientation, and businesses owned by gays could not be blacklisted or boycotted.

Penalties would be based on the nature of the discrimination. For example, a court could order that a person who has been denied a job be hired. Courts or the state Division of Human Rights could order compensatory awards.

Cuomo's bill stands little better chance than the already-pending gay rights bill, which, like the bias related crimes bill, has been blocked from coming to the Senate floor for a vote by the Republican majority caucus. Senate Codes Committee Chair Dale Volker (R-Erie County) said "We'll look at it. If it's only an extension (of current protections) that's one thing. But if it's an attempt to legitimize conduct, we've got a problem."

Cuomo said his bill is an attempt to combat "widespread and commonplace" anti-gay bias in the state. Members of the Empire State Pride Agenda, New York's gay and lesbian lobbying group, met with Cuomo in May to discuss issues including civil rights legislation.

-Some information from Associated Press LOCAL NEWS continued on page 12

THE GAY SOURCE
Gay Alliance Peer Facilitators can help you by providing:

- Information on Gay Alliance Events and Activities
- Group Information
- Referrals to Area Professionals
- Travel Information
- Or just Someone to Listen

Call 244-8640 VTTY
EVENING HOURS: Sat/Sun 6-8 pm
Mon/Thurs 6-9:30 pm

PIANIST NEEDED
For Rochester Women's Community Chorus
Please Call 436-2034 (leave a message)

The Empty Closet
is available at...

AIDS Rochester Inc., Anthony's 552, Avenue Pub, Bachelor Forum, Cheesy Eddie's Gay Alliance, Genesee Co-op, Mama Tacone's, Parkleigh, Paul's Grocery, Rochester Body Club, Rosie's, Tara, Video Channel, Village Green Bookstore, Wild Seeds Bookstore & Cafe, Worldwide News, Mike's State Street Pub, Jazzberry's Uptown, Whispers, Borders Book Store, Justice, Infinity and Silkwood Books.

Newsfronts

Judge rules against Karen Thompson

A Minnesota judge ruled on Apr. 23 that Karen Thompson will not be awarded guardianship of her lover, Sharon Kowalski, noting that Thompson has other female companions, that she "outed" Kowalski without her consent and put her "on public display," while obtaining contributions and publicity for her fight to win guardianship from Kowalski's parents.

Judge R. V. Campbell of the Sixth Judicial District court in Minnesota ordered that longtime Kowalski family friend and former high school coach Karen Tomberlin become Kowalski's new guardian.

Campbell acknowledged that Kowalski's health caregivers have reported that "Sharon interacts most and responds best to Karen Thompson," and that when asked where she would like to live, Kowalski has consistently said "St. Cloud with Karen." He said that, in spite of this, "The statements are not tantamount to a preference of who should be her guardian."

Kowalski was severely injured in a 1983 car accident; she has little or no short-term memory.

Karen Thompson, in appearances before the National Lesbian Conference in Atlanta, said that she would appeal Campbell's decision. "Sharon wanted to be here at this conference," Thompson said. "She typed a note and said she was angry that she couldn't be here with me. If we could have legally sanctioned our relationship, we never would have been in this situation."

Thompson said that Kowalski "really likes the person I am with," and added, "The system separated us, and we became strangers. For Sharon I will always be what I was years ago. She can never know me as I am today, but I will love her for the rest of my life."

Thomas Stoddard of the Lambda Legal Defense Fund called Campbell's ruling "a

deep offense not only to all lesbians and gay men, but to all Americans who choose their households by their own terms and not by the legal rules imposed by society."

-Lisa M. Keen, *The Washington Blade*

Hate group attacks gays at U. Chicago

A hate group called "The Brotherhood of the Iron Fist" has been threatening and violently assaulting gay men at the University of Chicago.

Over the past two and a half months, three gay men have received threatening phone calls and letters, and were sent envelopes containing an allegedly fatal neurotoxin. One man was attacked and threatened with death.

The University administration has been criticized for failing to prevent or discourage both the attacks and homophobic assaults and harassment in general. Campus support has grown for the men under attack; a group of academic advisors is urging appointment of a liaison with gay and lesbian students, and the implementation of workshops on diversity and intolerance for incoming students.

The Chicago Police Department has joined university police in the investigation, and because it is a federal offense to send toxic substances through the mail, the United States Postal Inspector's Office has become involved. The university's request for help from the FBI was denied because lesbians and gay men are not considered a "protected class" under federal civil rights statutes.

Threatening letters began to arrive for three members of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance (GALA) on Feb. 20. On Mar. 17, GALA member Chris Bauer was attacked on campus. He was struck and knocked to the ground, and his attackers, brandishing a syringe, threatened to kill him by injecting air into his veins. Bauer escaped, but soon received additional threatening letters.

On Apr. 16, the three men received envelopes containing a white powder and a message reading: "A gift: a poison neurotoxin in that can be absorbed through the skin. Three dead faggots!" None of the men were harmed, and the powder was turned over to the police for analysis. No results were available at presstime.

After the first incidents, the university posted memos condemning the harassment. After the receipt of the powder, administration posted announcements of a \$3000 award for information leading to arrest and conviction of the perpetrators.

Campus activists have held four rallies to protest the assaults and the university's perceived lack of reaction. They criticize the university for labelling the incidents as "sexual harassment" rather than violence based on homophobic prejudice, and also for backing out of an Apr. 30 town meeting after learning that local media were scheduled to cover the event.

A university spokesman said that additional security patrols have begun at the Cummings Life Science Center, where all three of the gay men have received threats in their mailboxes. Investigators suspect that the perpetrators have access to the building, and may work or take classes there.

-Deborah Schwartz, *Gay Community News*

Car dealer must pay for assault

An automobile dealer in Lynn, Mass. agreed in April to pay \$2000 to a lesbian couple and donate \$500 to an AIDS group, in recompense for an incident in which a dealer verbally assaulted the couple, calling them "whores, lezzies and fucking queers," and assaulted them physically.

Katherine Duquette and Laurel Sport made a \$200 deposit on a car in September at the

Lynnway Auto Exchange. When the car they wanted could not be financed, the couple asked for the deposit back, but the dealer insisted that they buy another car instead. When the couple refused and repeated their request for the deposit, the dealer allegedly hurled homophobic abuse at them, struck Sport in the face with a car antenna, and pushed Duquette out of the office.

With the help of Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, a Boston-based gay legal firm, the women filed suit to retrieve the deposit, and charged the dealer with assault. Sexual-oriented discrimination in public accommodations was made illegal in Massachusetts in 1989, under the state's gay rights law.

The \$500 has been designated for the American Foundation for AIDS Research.

-*The Washington Blade*

Judge Gasch to stay on Steffan case

The judge who called Joseph Steffan a "homo" during a hearing challenging the military's policy of discharging gays from the armed services has refused to disqualify himself from the case.

U.S. District Court Judge Oliver Gasch overruled a motion by Steffan's attorneys that he disqualify himself because he three times called Steffan and other gay men "homos," arguing that this indicated prejudice on Gasch's part against gays.

Gasch and the Justice Department disagreed and accused Steffan of trying to prolong the hearing.

Attorneys representing Steffan said that Gasch's decision to stay on the case jeopardizes the outcome.

-*Philadelphia Gay News*

JUNE IS GAY PRIDE MONTH!

Visit **BORDERS** for a large selection of titles in the Gay, Lesbian and Feminist sections.

BORDERS BOOK SHOP

Monday-Saturday 9am-9pm

(716) 292-5900

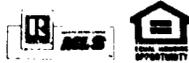
Sunday 11am-6pm

TDD (716) 292-0301

1000 Hylan Drive, J. Scutti Plaza South, Rochester, NY 14623

CANTERBURY, LTD.

918 Monroe Avenue
Rochester, NY 14620



Office: 716-383-5190
Residence: 315-462-3545

- Confidential Real Estate Consultation
- Residential
- Relocation
- Manufactured Homes
- Commercial & Residential Rental & Leasing

MICHAEL MAKULA

24 Hour Service

PROTECTION ALARMS PLUS, INC.

244-0360

**SALE!!
CALL ABOUT THE
\$399.00 SPECIAL**

Free Estimates
Personal Service By
Gary J. McLean

W
A
R
N
I
N
G

MANCUSO TILE & MARBLE

1000 Heritage Park Drive
Webster, NY 14580

"FOR AN ESTIMATE
YOU CAN'T REFUSE"

Ceramic Tile Installation & Design

716-671-3994

pager 716-783-8307

Film showing bi, lesbian killers draws protests

San Francisco activists are protesting a film being made in a gay bar in that city, saying that it is "extremely homophobic" and shows a bisexual woman as a serial killer who targets men, and a lesbian who slashes her brother's throat.

On Apr. 24, a judge granted producers an injunction against Queer Nation and others which would bar them from disrupting or attempting to disrupt filming.

The film, *Basic Instinct*, according to the Los Angeles chapter of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), "contains several lesbian or bisexual characters who are implicated in a series of gruesome murders." Protestors say that the negative portrayals of lesbians and bisexual women will incite anti-lesbian attacks.

The protest by a Queer Nation affinity group called LABIA took place in front of Rawhide II, the bar where filming is taking place. About two dozen protestors were arrested. One of the film's stars, Michael Douglas, pulled out of an AIDS benefit because of the controversy surrounding the movie.

Superior Court Judge John Dearman's injunction forbids protestors from coming within 100 feet of the filming area, bans "loud or boisterous actions" by protestors, and restricts their use of light — even glitter — to interfere with filming.

The producers, Carolco Pictures, declined to comment to the *Bay Area Reporter*. Protestors claim, however, that production crew members taunted them as "a bunch of queers," and "some faggot group."

Basic Instinct scriptwriter Joe Eszterhas has proposed changes in the script which he said would eliminate "insensitivities." The film's producer and director, however, rejected Eszterhas' suggestions, and released a statement saying that the movie "is not a negative depiction of lesbians and bisexuals," and that "censorship by street action will not be tolerated."

"Entitling (the film) *Basic Instinct* says that if you're a lesbian or bisexual woman your basic instinct is to murder men," said Phyllis Burke, a lesbian writer. "That's the message from this script. It frightens me that

they can come to this city, which is supposed to be a sanctuary."

Queer Nation members say that they will continue to harass Carolco at outside filming locations throughout the city.

-*The Washington Blade*

Nkoli said to criticize ANC on Mandela case

South African gay activist Simon Nkoli has reportedly criticized the African National Congress for failing to speak out against anti-gay statements made during the trial of Winnie Mandela, wife of ANC leader Nelson Mandela, on charges that she approved the killing of a man by her bodyguards.

Witnesses have testified that Mandela bodyguards beat them for engaging in gay sex with a white minister. Mandela's attorneys have argued that she took action only to "protect" the men from homosexual abuse.

"The ANC's failure to respond," Nkoli told a British newspaper, *The Independent*, "raises doubts regarding its stated commitment to the recognition of lesbian and gay rights."

-*Outlines*

Conn. passes gay rights bill; Maine says no

The Connecticut senate passed a bill banning anti-gay bias on Apr. 16. The day before, the Maine legislature had rejected a similar bill.

The Connecticut bill, which had been before the legislature since 1973, was approved by the House Apr. 11 on a 81-65 vote. The Senate vote on Apr. 16 was 21-14 in favor. Gov. Lowell Weicker has promised to sign the bill.

Connecticut joins Hawaii, Wisconsin and Massachusetts as the four states which have passed gay rights bills.

The Connecticut bill prohibits anti-gay discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and credit. Activists were overjoyed at the success. Shawn Lang, co-director of the Connecticut Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights, said "There

were over 200 of us in the gallery. There was an emotional release, a real emotional high."

Activists attribute the victory in part to Rep. Joe Grabarz (D-Bridgeport), a legislator who publicly acknowledged his gay identity at the beginning of the 1991 legislative session.

"He made an incredibly moving speech (during House debate on the bill) about being a gay man," said Anne Stanback, co-director of the Connecticut Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights. "He talked about receiving hate mail and death threats, (and) ended by saying that 'even if this bill only protects me, I hope that you as my colleagues would see fit to offer me that protection.'"

Bill supporters also said that a crucial factor was the agreement reached with Catholic Archbishop John F. Whealon not to lobby against the measure as the church had done in the past. A compromise was worked out whereby the bill would exempt religious institutions in situations involving statements on the tenets of the church and an amendment was attached to the bill saying that it does not "endorse or promote, very specifically, a homosexual lifestyle as normative."

Coalition lobbyist Betty Gallow said "They were statements that said what the bill wouldn't do, things that the bill had never said it was going to do. If the bill had been purple and they (legislators) wanted an amendment saying the bill wasn't blue, I would have given them an amendment that said the bill wasn't blue."

Maine activists said that the defeat in that state was largely due to Republican Gov. John McKernan's threat to veto the measure. His statement influenced Republican legislators to oppose the bill. "The right wingers are arguing that they will not support (McKernan) on budget issues if he doesn't trash this bill," said Ed Shannon, president of the Gay and Lesbian Political Alliance of Maine.

Opposition was led by the Christian Civic League of Maine, a coalition of fundamentalists. By contrast, the Catholic Church dropped opposition to the bill this year, stating that it opposes anti-gay discrimination, although also opposing "the gay lifestyle."

-Nick Bartolomeo, *The Washington Blade*

Students protest against ROTC in national action

Students across the country protested military discrimination against gays on an Apr. 10 "Day of Action," focusing on the campus presence of ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) scholarship programs, which pay for students' education in return for military service, and which openly exclude lesbians and gays. Three students were arrested in San Jose, Calif.

The three were part of a protest at San Jose University's Pride Week. They were arrested after raising a rainbow flag symbolizing gay liberation in front of the campus ROTC building. They were released without charges after campus police determined that no harm had been done to the flagpole or its lock.

Protests also took place on over 80 campuses around the country. The protests involved letters to campus newspapers and university presidents; petitions; educational flyers; street theater with students in military fatigues holding the famous "Uncle Sam wants You" poster, with new text referring to discrimination against lesbians and gays.

In Wisconsin, student groups sent delegations to protest at the state capital. Protesters also zapped the White House with letters, faxes and phone calls. "Rumor has it the phones in the White House were going all day," said Glenn Magpantay, vice-president of the State University of New York Student Association, and one of three coordinators of the Day of Action.

Some activists, however, were disappointed that more radical actions did not materialize. Ted Comerford, one of the three activists arrested in San Jose, said, "Nationwide, it's been a very conservative movement." He commented that "the younger students haven't seen radical tactics being successful, and they see ACT UP and Queer Nation as alienating" the public.

Administrative and faculty support for the protests was seen only at the University of Minnesota, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the California State University system.

-Carrie Wofford, *Philadelphia Gay News*



Casualwear for Men & Women

Lavant Laarbe

25 State Street Pittsford, NY 14534 - 248-0440

40 UNION

Lunch: Thursday & Friday 11:30-2 pm
Dinner: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday 5-10 pm Friday 5-11 pm
Open Sunday: 4-11 pm Light menu until 8 pm

ROZ IS BACK ON PIANO
Entertainment on Saturday nights.

40 South Union Street
325-6216

Fabrics & Findings

FABRIC WAREHOUSE



A TREASURE-PACKED WAREHOUSE OF FASHION FABRICS AT CLOSE-OUT PRICES

Remnants • Piece Goods • Mill ends • Decorator Fabrics • Foam
 Custom Made Upholstery • Drapery • Slipcovers

Shop at Home • Free Decorator Service

ROCHESTER
 50 Anderson Ave. 461-2820
 Corner N. Goodman

BROCKPORT
 80 Clinton St. 637-9187
 (On the Canal)

INTERVIEW:

Beth Brant, Mohawk lesbian grandmother: "We will not let you steal our spirit"

By Victoria A. Brownworth

She writes about death, alcoholism, pain and degradation. Yet the words Beth Brant puts to paper in her latest book, *Food & Spirits*, are tales of struggle, survival and, ultimately, hope. Her stories are a chronicle of the life of Indians in America. Many of her characters are women, all of her main characters are lesbian or gay. Two of the stories in the book were submitted for a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). In spite of the recent censorship debates within the NEA, Brant was awarded a grant for \$20,000 "for two very gay, very Indian stories."

In a recent interview Brant talked about what it means to be a Mohawk lesbian grandmother about to turn 50 in straight, white male America. She spoke about the impact of this year's Oscar-awarded "Best Picture" on her people, about the impact of being a writer and about the daily struggle against racism that has formed the foundation of her art and life.

"People say I write a lot about death, about dying," said Brant. "Death is a familiar companion to my people — it's always with us and has been for the last 500 years" since the colonization of the Indian peoples by the white man. "But ha ha for them — we're still around. We're writers and artists and healers and we're still around."

Dances with Wolves, said Brant, takes this same attitude. "It's assumed that these people — my people — are dead. I went to see the film because I know two of the people in it — Native actors from Canada. But it's a myth. [Kostner] has some good intentions, but he hasn't thought them through."

Brant explained, "The way Indians were presented was as this group that was and now isn't. All the Lakota are gone. But they aren't. A sequel ought to be made and show how things are now. The pretty stereotype that people have robbed from us — spirituality, bodies, clothes, the way we lived our lives. We didn't put those things up for sale and we never have. My favorite scene in the film is when [Grahame Green] comes

up to Kevin Kostner and shakes his stick at him and says, 'I am not afraid of you white man.' It's how we feel who are trying to keep our culture alive: We still resist you, we still will not let you steal our spirit, our minds."

The impact of racism on the lives of Native Americans is a central theme in Brant's work — although it is rarely stated in other than subtle or oblique terms. "What's really sad about it is racism is only seen in this country as black-white. Indian people are indigenous to this continent, it's our place and I think we've been very graceful in allowing other people to share it. People mistake generosity for passivity. If only the history books would tell. We're always the afterthought and the women's movement is just as bad as anyone else in this regard. We're not afterthoughts to ourselves. This is one of the reasons why I write. Not to remind white people that we are still alive, but to remind ourselves."

Brant views her writing as both a gift and a responsibility. "I feel a great responsibility for what I write. I write for my own people. They are foremost in my mind, in my heart. But I have to worry when I'm finished, how are they [whites] going to use this against us. Every Indian writer wrestles against this."

It was a bald eagle that led to Brant's beginning her writing career — at age 40. "I was on a trip with my lover and a bald eagle flew in front of our car, and in essence told me that I was to be a writer. I came home from that trip and started writing."

Brant's stories may make some whites feel guilty, or complicitous in the systematic destruction of the Indian peoples, but that is not the author's intent. "I don't want anyone to feel guilty about anything. Complicitous, yes." She believes that whites who read her work need to take the information they learn from it and disseminate it, that this is one way in which the racism can be eradicated.

"We become aware from our hearts easier than our minds. When human beings feel,

then it changes. Guilt is something to hold onto so that you don't have to do any work. I write my stories because I have to, because these people want me to write their stories. I don't want it to be just a chronicle of woes and ills. Racism has done this — created the pain and created the guilt."

Racism — and its impact — is constantly with Brant. She spoke eloquently about the obstacles to change — including how white women who begin to work against racism are treated. "They are told they think they're better than other people because they are trying to make these changes. There's a lot of pressure put on them to not change. And the same is true of white men — it's almost only gay men — who try and change and work against racism. It helps to keep the process [of racism] moving. North American people would rather read a self-help book than make change and they resent people who are trying to change."

One of the most grim effects of racism on the Indian culture is alcoholism. Many of the characters in Brant's work are alcoholic or recovering alcoholics. She talked about Michael Dorris's controversial book *The Broken Cord*, which he wrote about the effects of fetal alcohol syndrome on his adopted Indian son (Dorris is also Indian). Dorris had recommended strong action be taken against women who drink when they are pregnant — including imprisonment. The book received tremendous criticism from feminists. Brant said, "Some [Indian] reservations have talked and talked about this. He had to name it, he is an honest writer. To me it was just another example of genocide that we are actually thinking of this as a solution — doing this to Indian women. It shows the desperation that we face with this horrendous problem." But Brant thinks that Dorris's approach was problematic.

"He's not a woman for one thing, a woman wouldn't have taken that stand. But I would imagine that what he feels is somehow like what I feel when I meet an Indian person who has these horrible stories to tell me, for me to write — my God, this is our whole history. How do I as a writer who is a truth teller articulate this in a way that gives strength without further completing the act of genocide by giving white men more ammunition against us?"

Being a lesbian is as much a part of Brant's work as is being a Mohawk. One story in *Food & Spirits* is a retelling of the Mohawk creation story — as a lesbian love story. Other women in other stories are also lesbian; other Indians are gay men, one dying of AIDS helped by another who is an Indian medicine man.

Brant didn't come out until her mid 30s. "It happened really because of the women's movement. I had had some lesbian experiences as a teenager, but it was the '50s, and I just put them away as something I shouldn't think about." Brant married, had several children, and divorced her husband who was an abusive alcoholic. "I was always a feminist, all the women in my family are, but then when I came into my own the lesbian part of me came out again. It has not been easy to be an Indian lesbian because of the homophobia, which comes from racism. But to deny it would be like denying I'm a Mohawk. It's me, it's precious, it makes up my being. Maybe that's why I had to wait till I was 40 to write. To feel that kind of confidence and that adult way of being. To be able to tell the stories."

— Originally printed in *Philadelphia Gay News*



mitchell pierson jr, inc.

realtors

270 PARK AVENUE/ROCHESTER, NY./461-9200

PEGGY FELT

OFFICE
461-9200

RESIDENCE
461-4612

BACHELOR FORUM

670 University Ave

INFORMATION: 271-9023 (24 hrs.)

WEEKLY SPECIALS!

MONDAY
Mon-Fri 3 for 2 1-7 pm
Multi-Com 4 Public Terminal

WEDNESDAY
Drink Specials
Painters Party w/ Mark Groening

THURSDAY
\$1.99 Domestic Beer
Western Night

TWO for TUESDAY:
10 to 2, Beer & Liquor Only

SATURDAY:
2 for 1—3 to 9

SUNDAY: Bloody's & Screws \$1.50

Number One in Rochester Since 1973!

Home of the Rochester Rams
Bar Night 3rd Saturday every month!

271-6930

PET PIZAZZZ



— If we don't have it, we'll get it —

Introducing:

Chef Andrin natural canned cat food. No bi-products. Six original formulas — purely gourmet. Ash and magnesium lower than Science Diet. Highest recognized palatability. All fish used absolutely fresh; tuna is dolphin-free. Recyclable cans.

Summer Accessories for Cats and Dogs:

- Neon tees for cats and dogs
- Sunsplash and neon collars and leads
- Assorted retrieving toys
- Chocolate-flavored frisbees
- 10% off doggie sweats and 10% off NFL doggie tees
- Cosmic Catnip and Cosmic Catnip toys
- Harnesses for cats, rabbits and guinea pigs

Gift Ideas:

- Beautiful, hanging, soft-sculptured birds
- Various cat toys and drawings by local artist (blind contour)
- Note and greeting cards
- Famous Fido® cookies
- Assorted breed sweatshirts and tees, comical cat tees
- Tropical bird tees
- Mugs, keychains, earrings and pins
- Complete line of IAMS, Eukanuba and Science Diet
- Hamster, ferret, gerbil, rabbit, and guinea pig food

FREE Pet Pizazz T-Shirt

with purchase of \$30⁰⁰ or more.
Limit one per customer

Garfield Aquarium Raffle to Benefit Humane Society

(716)442-1080 Tues-Sat 11am-7pm Mon 1pm-5pm
1 SUMNER PARK, CORNER MONROE AVE, NEAR OXFORD ST.

Leather: myths & reality

By Chuck Antonelli

The leather community is one of the most misunderstood sectors of the gay community. Wearing leather (in general) emphasizes the masculine gender (the opposite end of the gay spectrum from the female impersonators). We're men and do not want to be confused with our effeminate brothers.

This does NOT mean that leathermen dislike or have anything against the more effeminate end of the gay spectrum. Wearing leather provides a quick and easily identifiable link with the fraternity of leathermen — a widespread community of gay brothers who are "into" leather in varying degrees. Many simply like the look, feel and smell of leather.

There are many myths associated with leathermen which are untrue; we're basically the same as you are. Some of these myths are: S&M — not everyone who wears leather is into S&M (sado-masochism: the use of pain as a sexual stimulus); or B&D (bondage and discipline); like S&M there are some that

are heavily into it, some who avoid it, many are in between. Not everyone who wears leather has whips, chains, slings and other "toys." Some have a lot, some have none, many have a few. Not all leathermen limit themselves exclusively to their favorite "leather sex;" many enjoy more conventional styles of regular gay sex.

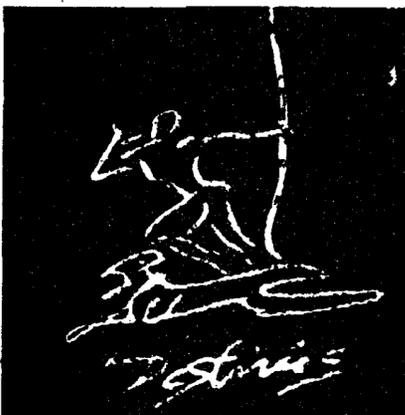
The leatherman is not defined just by the clothes he wears, but rather the underlying personality. A leatherman while not wearing his leather is the same person. I find leathermen more accepting, honest and understanding than others (both gay and straight). We are friendly and like many of the same things you do. We go out dancing, we like to shop, enjoy meeting new people and making new friends. Don't be intimidated by the clothes we wear, we're just people like you.

If you would like more information on the leather scene in Rochester, you can write to the Rochester Rams (P.O. Box 1737, Rochester, N.Y. 14603), or better yet, come to the Bachelor Forum the third Saturday of the month when we hold the Rochester Rams Bar Night, from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.



Leather people at the 1990 Pride Rally.

Photo by Ellen Mahaffy.



MASSAGE FOR WOMEN

I Will Travel
In Rochester And
Surrounding Areas
(Call For Seasonal Discounts)
442-6399

Don't miss the Summer fun!

Clambake & Team Games

to benefit AIDS Rochester

Sunday, June 23, 1991
Ellison Park "Old Meadow" Pavilion
1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

featuring the band "Lightning" and
D.J. Jim Fien of Cheap Trax

\$25 per person/\$10 for children under 10
Reservations required by June 20
Call 232-3580

Dr. Paula DeChelly
is a sensitive, compassionate psychotherapist who is dedicated to creating safe, nurturing environments for personal discovery, transition, healing and exploring matters of the soul.

Individual and couples therapy for men and women

244-0613

Serving Rochester Since 1983

PET EXPRESS
OF WESTERN NEW YORK, INC.

Gail Schneider, President

Professional IN HOME PET CARE & TAXI SERVICE

- Feeding, exercise & personal attention
- Animal transportation to & from veterinarians, groomers, kennels, etc.

442-9381



TORONTO WEEKEND

(any 2 nights)

\$59⁹⁵*
from U.S.

PRICE PER PERSON INCLUDES

- 2 nights at Historic Hotel Selby, (Toronto's only Entertainment Complex)
- Continental breakfast daily
- 2 drink coupons
- Limited free parking
- FREE 24 hour coffee and tea
- Health Club privileges, pool

- based on double occupancy
- Taxes extra



Your Rosedale Valley Inn

HOTEL SELBY

**FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 1-800-387-4788
OR FAX US AT (416) 923-3177**

Home of Boots and Buds Bars
592 Sherbourne St. Toronto, Ontario.

Three views of the National Lesbian Conference

Failures & pain, successes & joy

By Lucinda Sangree

As I write, I look out my window and see a car pull up in front of my house. The woman in the passenger seat leans toward the man behind the wheel and they kiss and embrace. She gets out of the car and goes into her house across the street. A lover's kiss. Not a farewell, affectionately brushed across the cheek of a friend or relative. It is the middle of the afternoon.

Visibility. Few lesbians would feel free to give such an ordinary public embrace and kiss to her lover.

Perhaps that is why the preoccupation of the National Lesbian Conference with the visibility resonated so in the hearts of us all, and enabled us to call up reserves of patience and forbearance with each other's anger and pain. Patience and forbearance as we tried to create a safe place for the expression of creativity, and anger, and love from all of us. There were failures and pain. There were also successes and joy.

This all began in the foundation, the planning, for the National Lesbian Conference (NLC). Invisibility might occur, but it was not to be acceptable.

In the early planning sessions in Durham, N.C., those who gathered were brought up abruptly by the challenge. "Is this to be just another conference where the voices and faces of many of us are not going to be heard or seen? Or is this really going to be a conference of lesbians in all our diversity?" If we are to survive, moreover to thrive, and if visibility is an important element in our empowerment, then we must first become more visible to one another, and learn how to be allies for one another.

The concept of multicultural parity was agreed upon and stated thus: "With regard to decision making, all national committees, leadership, entertainment, workshop presenters, and panelists, the same parity will be maintained."

The parity to which the statement referred was defined as 50 percent lesbians of color; 20 percent lesbians with disabilities; five percent old lesbians actively working on ageism, with at least one lesbian of color.

The Conference's statement of policy reads: "The National Lesbian Conference is committed to fighting racism, classism, ageism, anti-semitism, homophobia, and oppression in all areas."

The organizational structure of NLC was diagrammed and posted on the third day of the conference. Five dimensions were identified. The regional and local groups working with parity, raising issues and proposing how and where to hold the conference, were the first dimension in the diagram. Proposals from these groups gave rise to the caucuses (e.g. Old Lesbians Caucus, of which I was a

part); and to the workshops (e.g. white women working on their own racism, of which I was a part); and networking (e.g. the Women's Peace Encampment "allies" and friends getting together for a couple of hours to talk about the Encampment's future, of which I was a part.)

Issues and concerns were channeled from the workshops, caucuses and networking groups into the next dimension, into what were called pre-plenary sessions. There, working with parity, women were to formulate proposals to be taken to the plenary sessions. In fact, however, these pre-plenary meetings were often by-passed, and workshops, caucuses and networking groups took issues directly to the floor of the plenary sessions. This happened because the caucus meetings were often exciting, and went on and on; because unexpected caucuses of meetings were arranged (e.g. the Young Lesbians asking for a special meeting with Barbara MacDonald and other Old Lesbians, to challenge the uses of the concept "ageism"); and because sometimes the pre-plenary sessions did not have parity and thus no decisions or proposals could be drafted. This was not surprising, as these sessions ran at the same time as a lot of interesting workshops and presentations.

The conference focus was naming our own oppressions, finding our allies, learning how to be an ally to lesbians with oppressions other than our own. Ending invisibility and taking action. In my own case, I am white, middleclass and 60 years old. I examined ageism in company with other Old Lesbians, and worked on presenting that experience to Young Lesbians. But I also worked on discovering my own racism, anti-semitism, and ableism, and tried to take steps to learn how to be an ally to lesbians with different oppressions than my own. Listening, listening, listening.

Actually, the conference was one big workshop, for we had to experience and live out what happens when we try to understand and seriously address what divides us, how these divisions keep us from confronting patriarchal values, and allow us to be co-opted into patriarchal actions.

For example, plenary sessions were halted when the Lesbians of Color Caucus raised issues of scheduling mistakes that resulted in 1) invisibility of the Latina lesbians, and 2) a scramble to compensate for this, which resulted other disappointments in workshop and presentation arrangements. Charges of racism, insensitivity flew fast and hard, as staff accountability was demanded.

To the credit of all women there, the conference did not disband, caucuses did not leave Atlanta, expressions of hurt and pain were heard. The overburdened staff did not fall into a mire of hurt feelings and indignation; there developed a willingness on the part of the Lesbians of Color Caucus to let go of pain and move on.

I had to leave Atlanta on the last day of the conference, so I could not be there for the last plenary session. I have checked by phone with a few persons to find out what happened on the last day. Not unexpectedly, an issue that had been simmering underground finally erupted; there was a confrontation between lesbians in the military and lesbian peace activists. This was not resolved; one of the women became ill and had to leave the plenary meeting. But how could it have been resolved? This issue is just beginning to be recognized as one with potential divisive strength that we may have underestimated (see the current Ms. Magazine article "Pat Schroeder: Fighting for our Military Moms" by Anne Summers).

To my knowledge, the conference has not resulted in the beginning of a national lesbian organization, nor was a set of resolutions produced. But the NLC has demonstrated how we can work together locally, regionally, even nationally, to name our issues, find our allies, learn how to be allies.

The beautiful image and resounding voice of the conference that keep returning to me are from the evening that Urvashi Vaid addressed us all. She reminded us of what we as women, as lesbians, want, and reminded us of how we work and play together when we are living at our best. Then she pointed out that those very things, and those ways of being together, are what is needed if this planet is to survive and people are to live in peace with justice. *This, she said, is our Lesbian Agenda.* We have, she continued, a responsibility to make it visible and to act on it.

Wish you were there...

By Diane Conway

If you were a closeted lesbian in the U.S. of A. before Apr. 24, I bet you've stepped out of that stuffy closet for the National Lesbian Conference, and refilled it with clothes upon your return, leaving no room for yourself or the mothballs. After all, isn't that what closets are made for, clothes?

I just don't know where to begin with this outstanding, fierce Lesbian Herstory event. Shall I first mention the green electronic

billboard that greeted us upon reaching Atlanta, in a heavily congested downtown area, in the nation's bible belt city, that read:

WELCOME... NATIONAL LESBIAN CONFERENCE ATLANTA WELCOMES YOU Or should I mention how the five day event, between Apr. 24-28, attracted over 5,000 womyn from all over the country and from Europe?

I know... I can talk about the networking systems and tasks that were set up, along with the problem solving, for well over 235 workshops and caucus groups. These groups included the Older Lesbian Organization Conference (OLOC), Lesbians of Color (LOC), Jewish Lesbians, Lesbians of Hearing Impairedness, Asian Women's Panel, Lesbian Sexuality, Lesbian Mothers, Lesbians with AIDS. Workshops also varied: Lesbian Moms and their Male Children, "Baby Dykes" and Issues for Young Lesbians, The Interracial Lesbian Couple, Jewish Women Identity, Lesbian or Bisexual (What's The Difference?) and Incest Survivors, just to name a few.

Mmm, or maybe I should mention how caucusing was formed on the first day to discuss the surrounding issues of that particular group, leaving the remaining days for discussion and problem solving for that caucus to communicate about? Later on, solutions were presented to the closing plenaries. Some groups had a representative to voice their concerns, while others had more than one.

Although lesbians were able to set up successful networks, there still remained faults in NLC's two-year planning and organization. Many lesbians of color, particularly the Native American sisters, felt that their voices were still not being heard, even though it was quite clear to see that NLC tried giving LOC wimmin space for expression and grouping. Scheduling workshops at the same time also caused problems, and meant that some things had to be missed.

Yeah, the lesbian politics really got steamy in Atlanta, and yours truly just left all that for fellow National Dykes to sweat out. This lady had better things to do, like pull a few dates here and there, and go boogie woogie in the over-packed, well equipped bars.

Shame on me, however, with all that social conversing and boogie woogie I missed out on the New Festival National Gay and Lesbian 1991 Film Show. Yes, gay movies here in bible belt city! This film festival included: *Parting Glances*, *Night Out* (New

Zealand film); *Looking For Langston*; *Desert Hearts* (We're all familiar with that one, I hope.) Also shown was *Common Threads*, a documentary focus on five people who have died of AIDS; *Another Way* (Hungary), this one's a lesbian love story, and the list can go on and on. If you're wanting a list of all the films, you can write to me in care of this publication.

I also found myself entertaining the National Lesbian crowd along with a Rochester friend, Anne Seale.

Oh sweets, let me inform you about the entertainment showcase and performers. For starters, I want to let you all know that Rochester, N.Y. was well represented by Anne and me. Although I did find the preliminaries to be a bit steamy at times, performers such as Lea DeLaria, Teresa Trull, Sue Fink, and Two-Spirited/Thunder People, just to name a few, had sisters either laughing or shaking off that cold sweat. I also, unfortunately, missed a very, very successful kiss-in held in broad daylight at The Underground, Atlanta's biggest popular shopping entertainment center. The event was put on by Queer Nation.

Oh and don't allow me to forget the presence of Elana Dykewomon of *Sinister Wisdom*, CNN news coverage, *Outweek* magazine writers, just to name a few; and I mustn't forget the sweet presence of a liaison from New York City Mayor Dinkins' office, Dr. Marjorie Hill. Dr. Hill sat in with the LOC caucus and also gave a workshop on *Stone Wall 25*, an event that has been organized to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Stonewall in June 1994, in NYC. I hope to see you there, but as for this past Lesbian Herstory event, all I have left to say is... wish you were there.

to my whole family?" "Well, I'm not going to miss the workshop on female ejaculation, for sure!"

I find out we can't check in until after noon, so we register for the National Lesbian Conference (NLC) and check out the market, a convention-center-size room with merchants selling lesbian books, clothing, jewelry, music, etc., etc. Meet up with Diane who has arrived the day before with Cindy and Kris. She will be reading her poetry later, and is excited. I browse the market. Sasha looks at silver rings in depth. I buy earrings, triangles of course, but not pink. I stake out a still-empty table, deciding to bring down my t-shirts and flyers after the performers' meeting at 3 p.m.

I stop at the Ladyslipper booth and get detailed instructions on how to apply for distribution of my album when it comes out. Ladyslipper is the big distributor of women's music. Go back upstairs and check in. What a room they give us! We have a private patio right on the swimming pool, which is in an atrium under a huge domed sliding glass roof. This must be what heaven is like, my corner of it, anyway. We grab some lunch. I have collards and ham which I love.

The performers' meeting isn't really a meeting at all, but a roomful of confused women who are trying to find anyone who can tell them about available sound equipment, lighting, etc. I join the throng and meet Deborah, the young woman with whom I have spoken many times while arranging to perform. She is wearing the Sex For Breakfast t-shirt I sent her. After being assured that everything is ready for our performance tonight, we turn to leave and run into Lea DeLaria, who stayed with me last spring when she was in Rochester to perform at the Lesbian Affairs. She says she's looking forward to hearing us. Wow! I run to the room, grab some t-shirts and flyers, and head for the market. I fear I will be thrown out, since I didn't reserve a table, but nobody bothers me. I hand out flyers, ask passers-by to come to the performance, sell a few t's.

After a while, Sasha comes by with writer and former Rochesterian Shelly Rafferty, who has flown in from New York City, where she now lives, and is rooming with us. It's good to see her! I close up shop, and we share beers and a swim until time to get dressed for the show. We take the t-shirts, flyers and piano and head for the grand ballroom, renamed "The Labrys Lounge" for the conference. I decide to put a flyer on every chair. This takes a while. Soon the audience starts dribbling in. I wave to Cindy.

Diane precedes me on stage. She is well received. Then we are on, and launch into "She Snores!" Whew, they're laughing. (This is my first out-of-town audience, and their laughter is proof that my material is good. Guess I've always had it in the back of my mind that the Rochester audiences were all my friends and were laughing to be polite.) Our timing is right on. They laugh long and hard. I make the required number of flubs, including holding the mike too close to a speaker and temporarily deafening the audience *not once but twice*, but they recover.

After the show, Lea comes up to say she and her friends loved it, especially "Lesbian Cemetery." Another couple orders a tape, but they point out that the lyrics to "Sex For Breakfast" are offensive to fat women. I apologize. Sell four more t's in the lobby on the way back to the room, to women who didn't even see the show. Eat two pieces of cold pizza that Sasha and Raff ordered earlier, and talk until 3 a.m. when they both fall asleep. I am still wired, do crosswords for about an hour before dozing off.

FRIDAY
Up early and to the market with great enthusiasm. My table has been usurped by its rightful owner, so I set up against the back wall, hanging some t's from a grill of some sort. Get lots of comments and "loved the show!"s, but little business. All the merchants are complaining that nobody is buying...

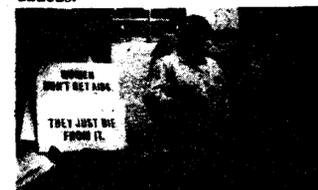
Sasha spells me at 1:30 so I can attend a couple of workshops, "Lesbian Writing" and "Lesbian Plays." The play workshop is led by Rebecca Ransom, an Atlanta playwright/producer, and director of the Gay and Lesbian arts organization here. Her goal and Lesbian art organization here. Her goal was to make participants aware of the in our communities.

The Lesbian Writing workshop was led by Elizabeth Meesy and Sandy Huss, from the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. The chosen topic was erotica, but since the workshop was not labeled as such in the conference guide, they let participants decide what would be discussed, which included markets for lesbian writers, and whether a lesbian writer is copping out if she uses a pseudonym.

In the few minutes that were left, one leader read a few passages from a literary criticism of lesbian erotica which she had written. One participant said that she hesitates to write erotica for fear of censure by other lesbians. Another, a Texan, said that she writes it, but "so far, it has stayed in my notebook."



Two members of the Old Lesbians Caucus.



Preparing to demonstrate at the Center for Disease Control.

Neither workshop had much relevance to my life right now, but I made some good contacts, including Jody Lane, a former librarian who now lives in Seattle, and is in great demand all over the country for stage design in women's theater.

Back to the market. Sasha has sold no t's, but has made more good contacts. We take the stuff back to the room and go to dinner with Raff and her friend Carrie, to a gay restaurant called "The Gallus." Very elegant, and the food is wonderful. I have broiled sole and asparagus. Drive back to the hotel for the big dance, with "Yer Girlfriend," a band from Kentucky. Raff and I quote from *Cabaret*, "... even the orchestra is beautiful!" They are very good, especially the lead singer. The giant room is filled with hundreds of lesbians, many dancing, others listening or talking.

I see Diane and ask her to dance, but two women grab me to talk about the show, and by the time I turn back, she's dancing with someone else. Kris gets me a glass of juice. There is no alcohol or smoking allowed at the conference at all. In fact, we have been all but forbidden to wear cologne or anything scented, including chapstick. I

Continued on next page

cheryl amati martin
Photographer
(716) 271-7983

ARTISTIC LIFE PORTRAITS
sensitive, candid, casual

specializing in...
gay individuals and couples
families
children
pets

tastefully done in an environmental setting or location of your choice

FINE ARTS COLLECTION NOW ON EXHIBIT AT WHISPERS, 104 PLATT STREET

Missed it in March?
Anne Seale
with Sasha Hedley at the keyboard and Marz on guitar
we're doing it again!

SEX FOR BREAKFAST

Hear all your favorites:
• I Get a Rash from Relationships
• Body Hair
• A Lesbian Cemetery
• Waiting for Corinna to Come
And more, more, more

Friday, June 14 — 7:30 pm
Sign interpreted \$ 5.00 At the door

JUSTICE
Women's Dance Club and Networking Alternative
85 Liberty Pole Way • Rochester N.Y. • (Office) 262-3660 • Hotline 454-HOTT

* Get your "Sex for Breakfast" T-shirts at Wildseed Bookstore now!

Downtown Presbyterian Church
121 N. Fitzhugh St. (across from City Hall) 325-4000

"Since 1979 the Downtown United Presbyterian Church has been part of a national network of Presbyterian Churches welcoming bisexual, lesbian, and gay people into full participation. As a 'More Light' Church, we believe that such persons add insight to our faith community, and we value this new illumination. Join us with your light!"

Patricia Van Bortel
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
385-7501

Mr. Jean Thibodeau
STAFF ACCOUNTANT
388-0673

Tax Services	Small Business
Individual Corporation Partnership Estate Electronic Filing	Start-Up Payroll Sales Tax Reports Computerized Acctg. Financial Statements

*FREE CONSULTATION

Accounting & Income Tax Preparation

COOK
Accounting Services
235-2674

• Personal
• Partnerships
• Businesses
• Corporations

■ FREE CONSULTATION ■

THE MOST TALKED-ABOUT FILM OF THE YEAR

Poison
A FILM BY TODD HAYNES

GRAND JURY PRIZE 1991 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

*** STARTLING AND IMPRESSIVE
THERE ARE THREE STORIES GOING ON IN TODD HAYNES' LANDMARK FILM "POISON" AND YOU MAY WANT TO SEE IT JUST AS MANY TIMES.
Jan Stuart NEWSDAY

INTENSELY SENSUOUS AND DISTURBINGLY VISCERAL
"POISON" HAS AN EXTRAORDINARY CUMULATIVE POWER.
J. Haberman VILLAGE VOICE

BRASH AND HAUNTING MR. HAYNES' ACCOMPLISHMENT AND FUTURE ARE BEYOND DOUBT
Caryn James NEW YORK TIMES

the Little theatre

Scale continued from previous page

never had to feel guilty about using strawberry chapstick before. I am still reeling from the fat issue, and wonder how many other things I will have to deal with here.

We watch the dancers. There are lesbians in every style of clothing imaginable, from prom dresses and tuxes to shorts and lacy brassieres. I marvel at the diversity in ages, sizes, attitudes. Most are in couples, and it strikes me that, almost always, the two in a couple resemble each other in a lot of ways. I ponder on this for a while. Raff says good night. She's coming down with a cold. Diane has gone off to a bar named Traxx with someone. Kris and I watch the dancers for a while, then poop out about the same time.

SATURDAY
Sleep til 8 and off to breakfast with Raff. Stop and buy postcards and cold medicine. Back to the room with breakfast in a bag for Sasha. She asks me where the legs to the piano are. In the bag, I say, No, she says. Aargh! the crew must have forgotten to put them back in after the performance.

I run down to the ballroom. There is a big anti-oppression session going on. I poke around some sound equipment in a corner, but no piano legs. I give up and set up in the market again. My neighboring merchants greet me. On my right is a woman selling "Bridges," a publication for Jewish women. At left is another t-shirt exhibit, beautifully hand-painted. My white on black ones look

drab next to them. I have put some studio rushes on a tape, and play it loud to attract attention. I get smiles and nods, but no buyers.

I resolve to attend the "political correctness" workshop at noon, but don't make it because Sasha comes to the market, and we decide to get the piano and do a few songs. But by the time I get the piano set up, the market is all but empty. Everyone has gone to workshops. We sing anyway. The merchants applaud. I pack up and decide to still try to make a workshop.

I stick my head in a few rooms. In the ballroom is a huge session on Lesbian Sexuality, must be 500 women in there. As I listen, a speaker proposes the use of three particular sign language interpreters at some future date, and say "For?" Almost everyone claps. She says "Against?" No-one claps. "Motion passes," she says. There is a stunned silence, and the whole room breaks out into wild cheers and applause. The speaker says into the mike, "I can't believe we passed something!"

I leave and run into Deborah. I ask her if she knows where the piano legs are. In the bag, she says, No, I say. She tells me to meet her by the ballroom door in an hour, and when I do, she has the piano legs slung over her shoulder. She remembers putting them in, but took them out again when the bag wouldn't close. I forgive her. I find the room where Dian Hamilton from NYC is supposed to be performing her "Dyke-a-Roonie" show. I met Dian at the Women's Playwright conference in Buffalo in '89, where we bud-died around together. But I can't find Dian

or the show. Something else is going on where she said it would be, so Sasha and I walk over to the Hilton for a showing of the film, "Sappho Goes to the Movies," a survey of the treatment of lesbians in movies and television. They are running late, however, and a film called "Orgasm" is just starting as we get there. It's very graphic, and we don't mind having to watch it. "Sappho" is entertaining too, with lesbianic scenes from "Julia," "Lianna," "The Group," "Life in the Glitter Palace," and many others I never heard of. It's sort of like leafing through books and reading only the juicy parts.

Back to the Radisson at 6:30 to be stopped in the lobby by a representative from "Lesbian Connection," who says she loved the show and asks if we would be interested in doing a fundraiser for them next May in Lansing, Mich., for traveling expenses and half the door. We try not to let her know it's the best offer we've had all day. Back in the room, Raff is in bed, drowsy from a slug of Nyquil. She still intends to go bar hopping tonight as planned, but is not up to going out to dinner, so I walk across the street to a thriving take-out, and buy wings. Honest. "Buffalo-style wings" in Atlanta, Ga.!

It's pouring when I emerge. I wade across the flooded avenue, good thing I'm wearing flip-flops. Eat and swim and spend 20 minutes in the whirlpool. It's funny to look up and see the lightning and rain pounding on the now-closed glass roof. My mind runs back to the film "Orgasm." The bubbles in the whirlpool suddenly feel like tiny hands. There is one other woman there, and she looks mighty good to me. Of course, under

the circumstances. Godzilla would have looked good to me (to all the women who think they resemble Godzilla and have taken offense, I apologize.)

Back to the room and a cold shower. Sasha and Raff are watching "Crocodile Dundee." A little after 9, we take off for a woman's bar called "The Other Side." It is very nice, half of it a disco, and half a cabaret. Raff heads for the disco, and Sash and I settle ourselves on a cushy sofa in the cabaret where a jazz singer named Octavia Jones is doing some nice stuff. She is accompanied by an excellent pianist, Bill Wilson, who is, we later learn, the son of jazzman Teddy Wilson. Somebody tells Octavia that we are performers, so she comes over to talk during an intermission and asks if we would do a few songs. We say okay and perform four numbers for a very appreciative audience. Somebody hands me \$2 as I sing. My first tip! I feel like one of the lip-synchers at Whispers. After the set, I split it with Sasha. Octavia loves "Body Hair." She says she was watching the audience, and they started listening politely, thinking, "Here's a lady who will probably sing some sweet songs," and then they started laughing, saying "Hey, she's nasty!" Bill comes over to say that he knows a bit about song structure, and mine are tight and well-arranged. Sasha and I glow. At 2 a.m., we pry Raff from the disco where she is dancing with a butch from Alabama named Eunice, and call it a day.

Letters continued from p. 2

Phone sex ads not right for EC

To the Editor,

I am happy to have this opportunity to express my views regarding the explicit sex advertisements in the *Empty Closet*, but first let me say that I am very pleased with the paper in general.

As you see from my response to the "Phone Sex Ads: Readers' Poll," I firmly prefer that the phone sex ads (and other ads consisting of "adult material") not be in the *Empty Closet*. The questionnaire asks if the *Empty Closet* should "ban" these ads. This is not an issue of banning material, rather an issue of forcing such material intended for a limited adult population upon a general audience.

Censorship is not an issue here. Those ads may be published, but they would be more appropriately seen in a magazine for adults only. The fourth paragraph of the information about the *Empty Closet* states "Part of our purpose is to maintain a middle position with respect to the entire community." Also, the newspaper is to consider "the views of all—... young and old, and those from various walks of life." These phone sex ads (and the other "adult ads") are not in a middle position; many of them state that they are for adults only, therefore they are inap-

propriate for a newspaper targeting an audience of all ages.

To continue with the statements published in the *Empty Closet*, the advertising policy restricts nude drawings or photographs and restricts the printing of advertising that suggests that you will "get" the person pictured in the ad or that the person is for sale. The people pictured in the sex ads in the *Empty Closet* are sometimes virtually nude except for a jock strap, or are in a pose which hides whether the person is even wearing that — the person appears to be nude. These sex ads encroach upon the fine line drawn in the policy statement and subjectively seem to be in violation of it.

Putting these sex ads in a four page supplement would not create anything different from what we have now, if we would have to lose articles when pulling the supplement, or have to see the sex ads when keeping the supplement in order to retain the articles. Furthermore, a supplement would still place these ads intended for a limited audience into a newspaper intended for a general audience.

The phone sex ads and other adult oriented sex ads definitely should be not left in as they are now. I grant there is some advertising money acquired through these ads, but a newspaper that is acceptable for all ages and situations is more important, especially since the *Empty Closet* apparently is not dependent on moneys from these ads.

Again, we have a good paper now, but it would be so much more appropriate for all

of us without these ads. Thank you for considering this matter.

Sincerely,
Jeff Markarian

Trading sexuality for legitimacy

To the Editor,

I'm concerned about the apparent controversy developing about the phone sex ads in the *Empty Closet*. Whether or not a particular person finds these ads offensive, I believe there is something larger to be considered here.

I've noticed an attitude the entertainment industry seems to have developed toward women: tough, strong characters who appear butch have very obvious heterosexual relationships, while the few lesbian or bisexual characters seem pretty "femme." Apparently, it's OK to look like a dyke as long as you really aren't one, and OK to be a dyke as long as you don't look like one. In my mind, this is hardly liberation.

Women have been pushed into making trade-offs for their freedom, juggling concerns carefully so as not to appear frivolous, promiscuous, bitchy or militant. Feminists too often find themselves having to show their respectability in every other way as they try to do one thing considered radical.

The issue of phone sex ads is one in which gay men are being asked to consider a trade-off, sometimes by their own gay brothers.

Preserve the legitimacy of the gay lifestyle by denying one of its basic elements — sexuality, in all its diverse glories. Such a trade-off is not a step toward gay liberation; rather it's a meager step sideways, and will bring us no closer to our goal.

If we want to truly live as full citizens, we must demand all our rights, not just a few we believe may be palatable to the straight community. If we want the whole loaf, then that's what we must ask for. We must be satisfied with no less.

Sincerely,
Nina E. Leibowitz

Tanning ad hazardous to health

To the Editor:

I picked up the April issue of the *Empty Closet* recently. I was particularly interested in this issue because its focus was health. There were several articles on health promotion, illness and health care. I found the pieces on cancer to be informative as well as provocative. There was certainly a lot of food for thought. I appreciated much of what I read.

I am writing to register my approval. I am also writing to register my disapproval. On page nine of the April issue, there is an advertisement for a tanning salon. On the very next page is the article on cancer. Since ultraviolet rays, whether solar or artificial, have been shown to be carcinogenic, I was surprised to find this advertisement.

I am a staunch advocate of free speech. I am also devoted to health and its promotion. Naturally, I do not want to tell you who should advertise in your paper. But I do want to at least point out the contradiction. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Maureen P. Scabill

PAINTING PLUS

- PAINTING
 - ROOFING
 - WALL PAPERING
 - Free Estimates
 - Insured
 - Quality Work
 - Woman Owned & Operated
- 865-9219**

JOHN A. MITCHELL, Ph.D.
Licensed Clinical Psychologist

Sensitive, confidential treatments tailored to the needs of the clients. Evenings and weekend appointments available.

100 White Spruce Blvd. 272-9430

MIKE'S
FOR THE GOOD TIMES!

Coming in July

- Charity Car Wash
- Ladies Hot Bod Contest

Plenty of Free Parking
In Rear

- Mon thru Fri after 5:30 PM
- Sat & Sun All Day

\$3.00 Cover Fri & Sat Nite after 9 PM; includes First Drink
139 State Street, Rochester, NY Phone 232-9303

Hot Summer Specials

Monday — Beer Nite \$1.50 Domestic 9 PM till

Wednesday — \$1.50 Well Drinks 9 PM till

Thursday — Super Softball Thursdays
Come Support the M&M's at
The Crittenden Road Softball Field

Friday — Tank-Top Nite
\$25 Cash Prize for Hottest Tank-Top
\$1.00 Shots Kamekazes

Saturday — Ladies Leather Nite
\$25 Cash Prize for Hottest Outfit
\$1.00 Shots Alabama Slammers

INFINITY

SUNDAY, JUNE 30
First Comes the Picnic ... Then Continue the Party with Us at INFINITY
Doors open at 6:00 • Party till you drop
Direct from DC, the one and only Miss Donna Nicole
Former Miss Rochester 1989 - 1990
Entertainer of the Year DC
Miss Ziegfeld

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3
1st Annual Gay Independence
Doors open at 10:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 25
INFINITY Presents ...
1st Class Male Revue in Their Only Western New York Appearance
A Male Strip Extravaganza
Doors open at 10:00 p.m.

PERFORMING IN JUNE	
Sun, June 9	Chanel Wellington One night only
Sun, June 16	Maria's Birthday Blow-Out
Sun, June 23	Darlene - Beware
Sun, June 30	Donna Nicole
Thurs, June 6	Maria What You See is What You Get
Thurs, June 13	Heather - Happy Birthday to Me
Thurs, June 20	Queen of the Universe Preliminary • This Month Miss Mars
Thurs, June 27	Tuesday Kicks Off Picnic Weekend
Sundays	Rochester's Finest Female Impersonators 2 shows 11:00 & 12:30
Tuesdays	\$1 Cover • \$1.50 Well \$1.50 Genny 12 Horse
Thursdays	Rochester's Finest Female Impersonators 2 Shows 11:00 & 12:30
Fridays	Top 40 All Night 1:00 "Infinity Time Machine" with D.J.'s Henry and Hector Dancing till 3:00 a.m.
Saturdays	90's Dance with Mark Andrus Dancing till 3:00 a.m.

171 St. Paul Street Rochester • Information 232-1600 • Office 232-4370
17 & Over Always Admitted with Proper ID

ONEIDA CAMP
In northeast Pennsylvania

Under the moon & stars or tucked in under the trees, it's camping at its best on 100 acres with clean lake swimming, two ponds & nature trails.

75 Spacious Sites*Weekend/Season Lodge with Private Rooms* Cabins
Water/Electrical Hook-ups
Modern Bathhouses* Flush Toilets
Stage*Dancing*Video*Volleyball
Refreshments

Camping as it should be, there is only one such place: Oneida Camp! Located between Scranton/Binghamton I-81 exit 67. Go right, then 0.7 mile go left, then 2.3 miles, on right.

* Socialize • Party • Grow *
SASE to PO Box 537, New Hartford, PA 16834
717-488-7011

CARPET CLEANERS

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE BEST IN DRY FOAM EXTRACTION SYSTEMS FOR YOUR UPHOLSTERY NEEDS IT WELL. AND... WE PROTECT WITH DUPONT'S TEFLOX FRONK & FIBRE PROTECTANT

654-5728

WE PROTECT TOO! THE SPRING IS FREE! THE PERFORMANCE IS FANTASTIC!

Local News continued from p. 3

More Light Conference backs change

One hundred and sixty representatives from 50 congregations of the Presbyterian Church (USA) gathered for the More Light Conference in Rochester May 3-5, and endorsed the General Assembly Special Committee Report on Human Sexuality.

Half of the regional bodies of the Church have already urged the annual General Assembly to reject the report, which asks for a more open attitude to sexuality in general, and to gays and lesbians in particular. "The report is doomed in its present form," said Newport Beach, Calif. Pastor John A. Huffman.

Dr. Letty Russell, professor of theology at Yale Divinity School and keynote speaker at the More Light conference, said, "The report is a prophetic statement of the need for justice and love in human relationships. Whether or not the Presbyterians can identify with the language, the report still goes to the heart of the matter, which is need for a new understanding of the nature of sin in the Christian faith."

At the 203rd General Assembly on June 4, 700 commissioners, representing the Presbyterian Church (USA), will determine the disposition of the report. They will be under intense pressure to reject it.

More Light Churches are Presbyterian churches which believe that the position of the U.S. Church in refusing to ordain gay men and lesbians is contrary to God's justice and love; they, therefore, welcome persons of all sexual orientations into their congregations. Some are also willing to ordain lesbians and gay men as elders and deacons, and to call gay and lesbian ministers to serve in their churches.

The consensus of the More Light Conference was, "This report is long overdue. The church historically was slow to include Blacks and women in full membership. The full inclusion of lesbians and gay men may also be slow in coming, but it will come."

Black Gay Women

By Diane Conway
Black gay women
Who and where
Are you?

I'm lying here
Looking at
The white skin ...
The symbol
Of our oppression
But here I lay
Holding the
Oppressor
In my arms,
Looking through
The blue eyes.
My long dark fingers
Run through her
Long blond hair.
"I'm sorry Lysah, but I can't ..."
She touches my arm
Too scared to feel
My hair
Too scared to seek
My love.

I feel almost
Lost
Entering every oppressor's
Bar & restaurant,
But because
I can't find you
I suppose the oppressor
Will have to do
Oh black gay women
Who and where
Are you?

An organization is desperately needed for Lesbians Of Color here in Rochester. If you are a Lesbian Of Color (Afro-American, Native American, Asian, Arab, Indian, Hispanic, Chicano etc.) and would like to help me in coordinating a Rochester Lesbians Of Color Organization (RLOCO), please give me a call at 244-9564, and let's locate ourselves and unite in RLOCO!

With Care ...
Your Afro-American Sister,
Diane Conway

Claudia Brenner speaks on hate crimes

By Karin Baker

On Apr. 28, the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Friends Association (GLBFA) invited Claudia Brenner to the University of Rochester to speak on hate crimes — crimes directed against specific groups of people based on race, sex, or in the case of her discussion, sexual orientation.

Brenner speaks from experience. On May 13, 1988, her world was shattered by the bullets from the gun of Stephen Roy Carr. Stephen Roy Carr stalked her and her lover Rebecca Wight on the Appalachian Trail and shot them both. Brenner survived with five bullet wounds. Wight died in the woods.

Brenner began with a piece she had written which documented in slow detail what happened as the five bullets were shot. The audience was left speechless. The shock and the trauma of what happened to her and her lover struck the students and members of the community which were in attendance. Brenner expressed concern over members of the gay and lesbian community becoming paralyzed by their fear. Her intention was not to instill more fear into people.

She helped lighten the tensions by discussing the details of how Carr was brought to justice. She opened up the floor to create a discussion atmosphere. She encouraged the audience to discuss their reactions. She also discussed the Hate-Crimes Statistics Act in New York State and how important that was as a start to dealing with the problem.

She credited the National Gay Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) for their wonderful support throughout her experience. They helped find her lawyers, funds, and emotional support. She claims she was lucky. Her assailant was found and tried. Many hate-crimes go unreported, or if brought to trial, often have unfavorable results.

Brenner encouraged people to be "out." The invisibility of remaining in the closet only helps to create an acceptance of hate crimes. If we are out and proud, then it won't seem as acceptable to perpetrate hate crimes against us.



Claudia Brenner. Photo by T. Cvetan

Brenner's visit was part of an inter-collegiate student group reception. She stayed around to informally talk with the students there, and wish them luck as they finished out their semesters.

Topfree activists to perform & picnic June 19

By Laine Dexter

I attended my first Topfree Equality Picnic in 1987. It began, for me, as simply going along with a friend. I agreed to attend the picnic, but as the event drew closer, I started to really think about it, and the implied prospect of removing my shirt!

My initial reaction was "not me, I'm no exhibitionist." As a matter of fact, I'm very private and relatively shy. Another thought that occurred to me was, "not this issue, there are far more important issues which should concern me."

But then something remarkable happened. I realized that this is an important issue. It is not merely being allowed by the law the same freedom that men now enjoy. It is a personal expression of self-esteem, being comfortable with my own body despite what I have been taught by society.

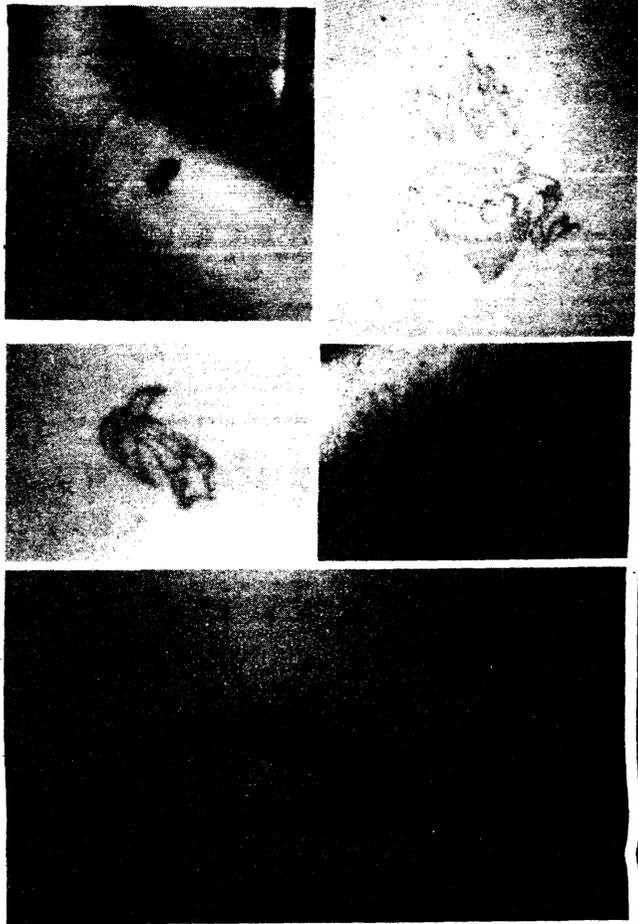
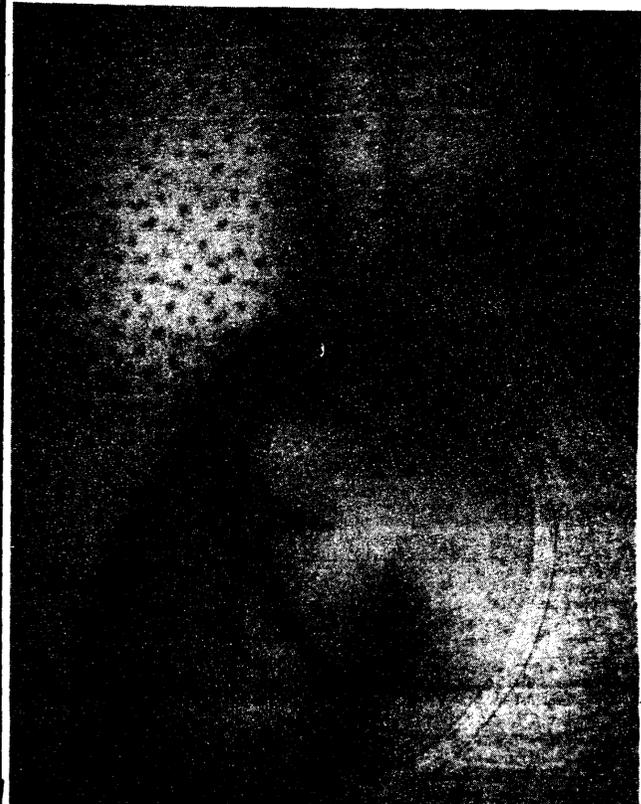
Being a female consumer has always meant "look better," "smell better," try anything and everything to be "better" than I am... someone different than I am... someone who I could never really become, yet always feeling as though I should.

I would like to welcome you to attend the sixth annual Topfree Equality Picnic on June 29, at the Red Creek Shelter at Genesee Valley Park. T-shirts, as always, are optional!

Views of tattoos

This is the first in an ongoing series of photo essays on Rochester women and their tattoos. If you would like to be included in a future issue, please call Peggy at 461-4612.

Just for fun, can you match up the tattoos with their wearers' occupations? Real estate; corrections officer; optical engineer; deli technician; sales; winery lab supervisor.



photos by Peggy

TARA

153 Liberty Pole Way (716) 232-4719

TARA

- **HAPPY HOUR**
Monday thru Thursday 4 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday & Saturday 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Well drinks & domestic bottled beer \$1.75
All schnapps - \$1.50 Hors d'oeuvres
- **EARLY BIRD SPECIAL**
Monday thru Friday 12 - 4 p.m.
Well drinks, Bud, Miller, Genny Beer \$1.00
- **2 FOR 1**
Wednesday 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.
Friday & Saturday 10 p.m. - 12 a.m.
- **SATURDAYS**
Euchre Tournament 1:30 p.m.
- **SUNDAYS**
Seasonal "Special" Drinks 12 - 8 p.m.
with our Happy Hour from 4 - 8 p.m.

Frankly my dear, we do give a damn!

picnic

GAGV

Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley

ANNUAL PICNIC

Sunday, June 30, 1991

Starting at Noon
Genesee Valley Park

Menu

Barbequed Chicken • Hamburgers
German Potato Salad • Pasta Salad
Vegetarian Dishes • Fruit Salad
Other Assorted Salads

Entertainment

Gay Men's Chorus
Disco (Courtesy of Infiniti)
Others to be Announced

\$12 Advance

\$15 At the Gate

LYNNE McSLOY

Real Estate Counselor
Sales, Leasing, Rentals

ERA DeVILLE

REALTY, INC.

325 Park Avenue
442-3318

Call us for a free estimate
Eugene Snyder • Rick Brown
716/924-4822 or 716/672-0756

SNYDER
CARPENTRY

LANDART
DESIGN

THE
COOPERATIVE
EFFORT

PLAN
CONSTRUCT
RENOVATE

JUNE

The Gay Alliance of Genesee Valley (GAGV) is located at 179 Atlantic Ave. Peer facilitators hotline, Sunday-Friday 6:30-9:30 pm, 244-8640.

SATURDAY 1

Rochester Gay Men's Chorus. "Broadway" concert, 8 pm, Xerox Square Auditorium. \$10. Fundraising reception to follow.
Womyn's Pride Prom. 8:30 pm-11 am, Langston Hughes Center, 25 High St., Buffalo. Sponsored by Wild Wimmen. \$5. Oldies music; formal wear optional. Smoke free.

SUNDAY 2

Woman, Word and Song. 7:30 pm. Woman-created and directed Christian worship. Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St.

MONDAY 3

Care Cuts II. 10 am-8 pm, all Continental School locations: 633 Jefferson Rd., 49 Stone St., Culver-Ridge Plaza. Proceeds from haircuts to benefit AIDS Rochester. 232-3580.

TUESDAY 4

Rochester Rangers business meeting, 8 pm, upstairs at Tara, 153 Liberty Pole Way. Visitors welcome. 251-2122.

WEDNESDAY 5

Relationships: a discussion series. "Coupling history - gay and lesbian role playing." 7:30 pm, Open Arms MCC, 243 Rosedale St. 271-8478.

THURSDAY 6

"Intolerance." WXXI TV, Channel 4, 8-11 pm. Featuring Allan Richards of the Gay Alliance and Queer Nation, footage of Pride marches, etc. Last hour is live call-in.
Out and About bicycle trip. For time and place call Bob, 442-7185.
AIDS Remembrance Park committee. Meeting, 7:30 pm, Gay Alliance, 179 Atlantic Ave. For information call 889-8050.

FRIDAY 7

Maria Gillard. Original folk. 8 pm, Wild Seeds Bookstore and Cafe, 704 University Ave. 244-9310.

SATURDAY 8

The Arena Group: 40 Years of Modern Art in Rochester. June 8-July 7, Pyramid Arts Center, Village Gate Square, 274 N. Goodman St. Opening reception June 8, 461-2222.
Lesbian Writers Group. "Fantasy Vacations" 4 pm, Gay Alliance, 179 Atlantic Ave.
Out and About hike. Keuka Lake outlet, near Penn Yan. Two hours. Call Bob, 473-9384.

SUNDAY 9

Omega hike. Mendon Ponds, 2-5 pm. Call Beth, 442-7613.
Friends Day. Open Arms MCC, 243 Rosedale St. 6 pm. Video 7:30 pm. 271-8478.
Casino Night at Tara. To benefit AIDS Rochester. 5-10 pm. \$1 door donation.

FRIDAY 14

Dignity-Integrity Cabin Party. 6:30-10 pm, Camp Eastman Park. 328-9758.
Sex for Breakfast with Anne Seale, Sasha Hedley, marz. 7:30 pm, \$5, Justice, 88 Liberty Pole Way.
Elena Levy & Safiya Henderson-Holmes. Poetry. 8 pm, Wild Seeds Bookstore and Cafe, 704 University Ave. 244-9310.

SATURDAY 15

Joyce Ann Brown. Details to follow! Wild Seeds Bookstore and Cafe, 704 University Ave. 244-9310.
Empty Closet copy deadline. For articles, letters to the editor, classified ads, non-camera ready ads. 244-9030.
Nutritional needs of HIV+ people. Discussion, 9:30-11:30 am, Incarnate Word Lutheran Church, corner of Goodman and East Ave. Nutritional information and food-buying club. For information call Rick Erickson, 244-6065.
The Power of Friendship. 5 pm-9:30 pm A HAPPE program. 251-4111.

TUESDAY 18

Greater Rochester Alternative Business Association. Meeting, 6 pm. For location call Sean O'Donnell, 671-1855.

THURSDAY 20

Empty Closet deadline. Camera-ready ads, photos. 244-9030.
East Coast Lesbians Festival. June 20-23. Includes International Lesbian Information Service (ILIS) conference, performances by June and Jean Millington, Sue Fink, Faith Nolan, Washington Sisters and Melanie Mon-sur, more. At Camp Poyntele, PA. For more information call (718)643-3284.

FRIDAY 21

Lambda International Radio Club. Dinner/meeting. Call Dave, 359-3337.
Women, War and Resistance. Meeting, 7 pm, Wild Seeds Bookstore and Cafe, 704 University Ave. 244-9310.

SATURDAY 22

Sex for Breakfast tape signing with Anne Seale. 1 pm, Wild Seeds Bookstore and Cafe, 704 University Ave. 244-9310.
Rochester Rangers Carnival Night. Inside and outside at Tara, 153 Liberty Pole Way. 9 pm-2 am. Games, prizes, surprises. 251-2122.

SUNDAY 23

National Assoc. of Black and White Men Together. "Living, Loving and Working Together." Convention '91. St. Regis Hotel, Detroit, Mich. June 23-30. (313)569-8595.
Clambake. Fundraiser for AIDS Rochester. Ellison Park. For information call 232-3580.



MONDAY 24

Activists' Night Out. Sponsored by Greater Rochester NOW. 7-9 pm. Satire by Capitol District Ladies Against Women. For location call 594-2480.
Empty Closet layout and paste-up of July issue. 5-10 pm, 179 Atlantic Ave. 244-9030.

TUESDAY 25

Empty Closet layout and paste-up of July issue. 5-10 pm, 179 Atlantic Ave. 244-9030.

WEDNESDAY 26

Lesbian Resource Center. "Gay Pride Games." 7:30 pm, gay Alliance, 179 Atlantic Ave.

FRIDAY 28

Empty Closet Mailing Party for July issue. 7-9 pm, Gay Alliance, 179 Atlantic Ave. (Upstairs), 244-9030.
Golden Threads. Celebration June 28-30, Provincetown Inn, Provincetown Mass. For lesbians over 50 and those interested in them. For information write Christine Burton, Golden Threads, PO Box 3177, Burlington Vt. 05401-0031.
Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Pride Poetry Night. Michele Moore and Jack Bradigan-Spula, 8 pm, Wild Seeds Bookstore and Cafe, 704 University Ave. 244-9310.

SATURDAY 29

Topfree Equality Performance Art Picnic. 11 am, Red Creek Shelter, Genesee Valley Park.
Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Pride Parade. 3 pm. Gather at Park Ave. by Berkeley St., march to Cobbs Hill Park for rally. Call 473-9948 or 244-9310.
Summer's Eve Dance. Stardust Ballroom (Edgerton Community Center), 8 pm-midnight. Tickets \$15. Sponsored by Omega.

SUNDAY 30

Gay Alliance Picnic. Noon, Genesee Valley Park (same site as last year). Major fundraiser for Gay Alliance of Genesee Valley. Rochester Gay Men's Chorus, Infinity disco, barbecued chicken, more. \$12 in advance, \$15 at event.
International Lesbian/Gay Association Conference. June 30-July 6, Guadalajara, Mexico. For information call Robert Bray, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, (202)332-6483.

ONGOING SUNDAY

More Light Support Group for gay and lesbian people and friends, 12:30 pm, second and fourth Sundays. Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St. 325-4000.

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. St. Luke's-St. Simon Cyrene Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St., 2:30 pm. Last Sunday, 865-0120.

Dignity/Integrity. St. Luke's-St. Simon Cyrene Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St., 5 pm. Every third Sunday, potluck dinner after Mass. 328-9758.

Metropolitan Community Church, 243 Rosedale St., 6 pm. 271-8478.

Rochester Bisexual Women's Network meeting and potluck supper, 6:30 pm. Second Sunday. Location, info: 244-7159.

Gay Men's Cooking Group. 7:30 pm. Fourth Sunday. 244-8640.

Men's Group meeting, Gay Alliance, 179 Atlantic Ave. 7:30 pm. First and third Sunday. 244-8640.

Gay Men's Alcoholics Anonymous. St. Luke's-St. Simon Cyrene Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St., 8:30 pm. 232-6720.

Lesbian and Gay Youth of Rochester (LGYR). Group for people 16-21, meets Sundays 3-6 pm, GAGV, 179 Atlantic Ave. 244-8640.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Friends Association (GLBFA). U. of Rochester. Sundays, 7:30 pm, Morey 402.

ACT UP/Western New York. Meets every Sunday night at 7 pm at Langston Hughes Institute, 25 High St., Buffalo. Meetings free and open to public. 1-854-8020.

Rochester Lesbian Action Coalition. Gay Alliance lounge, 179 Atlantic Ave., 7 pm. Third Monday. Tanya, 256-1202.

Friends Support Group, sponsored by AIDS Rochester Inc. for friends of people with AIDS or ARC or who are HIV positive. AIDS Rochester, 20 University Ave., 7:30 pm. Second and fourth Monday. 232-3580.

Gay Women's Alcoholics Anonymous. St. Luke's-St. Simon Cyrene Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St., 8 pm. 232-6720.

Positively Sober. 7:30 pm. For location call 423-0690, 328-2220 (days) or 442-8134 (evenings). Closed meeting. AIDS, HIV and alcoholism recovery issues.

Rochester Lesbian and Gay Political Caucus. Every second Monday, 7:30 pm, Gay Alliance, 179 Atlantic Ave. 244-8640.

Support group for parents and friends of Jewish lesbians and gays. First Mondays. For time and location call Michele Ruda at Jewish Family Service, 461-0110, or Elaine Elkins, 244-4837.

Women's Basketball. Monday nights, Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St. Non-competitive hour, 7-8 pm; competitive hour after 8 pm. Call Ramona, 244-1640.

GLBFA Women's Group. Every Monday at 7:30 pm, WC 507.

Mending Hearts, AIDS bereavement support group, 7:30 pm, Our Lady of Victory Church, 210 Pleasant St. 671-3777 or 248-3780.

Lesbian Resource Center. Gay Alliance, 179 Atlantic Ave. 7:30 pm. Fourth or last Wednesdays. 671-3294 or 244-8640.

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

Lesbian Parents Group. First Wednesdays. 7:30 pm, GAGV, 179 Atlantic Ave. For current and prospective mothers and partners. For information call Lisa and Dusty at 385-4496.

Out and About Seniors Group. Various activities. Brita, 647-9141.

Queer Nation. 7 pm, third Wednesdays. GAGV, 179 Atlantic Ave.

Rochester Gay Men's Chorus, Cavalry St. Andrews Church, 68 Ashland St. at 95 Averill Ave., 7:30 pm. 251-2077.

Sexual Compulsives Anonymous. For those desiring their own personal sexual sobriety. 7:30-9 pm. For place call 244-8640.

BIG/LA. RIT. Every Tuesday night 7-9 pm. For location call 475-3209. Interpreted; all are welcome from community.

Gay Alcoholics Anonymous. 8 pm, Genesee Hospital, 224 Alexander St. 232-6720.

Gay Men's HIV Negative Support Group. Second and fourth Tuesdays. Call Andrew Durham or Richard Natoli-Rombach at AIDS Rochester, 232-3580.

Rochester Historical Bowling Society, Clover Lanes, 2750 Monroe Ave. 8:30 pm. 654-6461.

Men's Writing Group (Gay Writes). 8 pm, Gay Alliance, first and third Thursdays. For more information call 244-8640 and leave a message for Jeff Lehigh, or write to Gay Writes, care of GAGV, 179 Atlantic Ave., Rochester NY 14607-1255.

GLBFA Hotline. Thursdays, 8-11 pm. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Friends Association, University of Rochester. 275-8341 (ex. 5).

Sexual Compulsives Anonymous. 5:30-7 pm. For location call 244-8640.

GLAS. Gay-Lesbian Alternative Social. 8 pm-midnight, Universalist Church, 150 S. Clinton Ave. Until end of June.

Rochester Rams Bar Night. Every third Saturday, Bachelor Forum, 8 pm-2 am. 271-6930.

Lesbian Writers Group. 4 pm, every second Saturday. GAGV, 179 Atlantic Ave.

Affirmation, gay/lesbian Mormons. 544-0043.

Sunken Room Coffeehouse. 8 pm, Genesee Co-op, 713 Monroe Ave. \$3 cover. Folk musicians, other performers. 454-4674.

WEDNESDAY

Rochester Women's Community Chorus, rehearsals, Pinnacle Place, 919 S. Clinton Ave., 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Gay Alliance board directors meeting, Gay Alliance, 179 Atlantic Ave., 7 pm. Second Wednesday, 244-8640.

Mending Hearts, AIDS bereavement support group, 7:30 pm, Our Lady of Victory Church, 210 Pleasant St. 671-3777 or 248-3780.

Lesbian Resource Center. Gay Alliance, 179 Atlantic Ave. 7:30 pm. Fourth or last Wednesdays. 671-3294 or 244-8640.

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

Lesbian Parents Group. First Wednesdays. 7:30 pm, GAGV, 179 Atlantic Ave. For current and prospective mothers and partners. For information call Lisa and Dusty at 385-4496.

Out and About Seniors Group. Various activities. Brita, 647-9141.

Queer Nation. 7 pm, third Wednesdays. GAGV, 179 Atlantic Ave.

Rochester Gay Men's Chorus, Cavalry St. Andrews Church, 68 Ashland St. at 95 Averill Ave., 7:30 pm. 251-2077.

Sexual Compulsives Anonymous. For those desiring their own personal sexual sobriety. 7:30-9 pm. For place call 244-8640.

BIG/LA. RIT. Every Tuesday night 7-9 pm. For location call 475-3209. Interpreted; all are welcome from community.

Gay Alcoholics Anonymous. 8 pm, Genesee Hospital, 224 Alexander St. 232-6720.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Tel (day) _____
Address: _____ X _____
City: _____ Zip _____ (night) _____

Total registration package (All events, including Banquet) — \$65
(Banquet limited to first 800 registrations. Dress up, please!)
Please check choice of main dish:
 Chicken Piccata Vegetarian

Registration fee (for all events except banquet) — \$35
Convention T-Shirt (special pre-convention price) — \$9
Please circle size: M L XL

I am enclosing a contribution to help others attend:
 \$10 \$20 \$30 more \$ _____

Payment by:
 Check (made payable to GAGV)
 Credit Card: Please circle one: Mastercard Visa

Card number _____
Expiration date: _____ Signature: _____

I do not want my name on any mailing lists

SPECIAL SERVICES
All major events and many others interpreted for the hearing impaired. The Holiday Inn is accessible to the handicapped.
For child care or financial assistance call (716) 232-2255 by August 15.

Mail to: Pink Flamingos & Purple Hearts P. O. Box 1536 Rochester, NY 14603
Confirmation by mail. Pick up ticket package at registration desk.
REGISTER EARLY! ONLY 2000 REGISTRATIONS! 800 BANQUET SEATS!
*Please copy this form and give it to your friends.

ANONYMITY ASSURANCE
THE CONVENTION WILL BE IN A PRIVATE SPACE
No one will be allowed in without a conference name tag.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS
Please make your reservations directly with the Holiday Inn Downtown.
Phone: (Worldwide Reservations) (1) 800 465-4329
Local (716) 546-6400

PINK FLAMINGOS

PURPLE HEARTS

THE 1991 ROCHESTER GAY & LESBIAN CONVENTION

Holiday Inn-Genesee Plaza

"One comes from a family in which the gays outnumber the straights"

"One came out of the closet at the age of 37"

"One took his boyfriend to the high school prom"

"One was an MP in the army"

THE FABULOUS FLIRTATIONS

"One actually thinks size matters, and four of them are lying"

"One looks fabulous in size 10 heels"

For more information: (716) 251-2460

PINK FLAMINGOS

PURPLE HEARTS

1991 CONVENTION

AUGUST 30, 31, SEPT. 1

HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN

ROCHESTER, N.Y.

Convention Hotline (24 hrs) (716) 251-2460

CONVENTION SCHEDULE	
FRIDAY	
8:00 p.m.	Opening ceremonies Speaker: Ann Northrop
10 p.m.	Dance to a Latin Band or enjoy "Open Mike" in lounge Talk-a-Thon (open forum discussion)
SATURDAY	
8:30 a.m.	Aerobics, meditation, or singalong
9:15-12:30	Panel; workshops
12:30-1:30	Lunch (on your own)
1:30-3:30	Cris Williamson & Tret Fure in concert
1:30-4:30	Safer Sex Workshop for men
1:45-5:00	Workshops
6:00-8:00	Banquet (limited to 800) Entertainment by The Flirtations
6:00-10:00	Piano bar in lounge
10:00-11:00	Two Dances—Big Band sound & rock Talk-a-Thon (open forum discussion)
SUNDAY	
9:00 a.m.	Aerobics, meditation, or singalong
9:30-10:45	Spiritual panel
11:00-12:30	Political Panel—Elected gays Tim Maina, Deborah Glick, Keith St. John
11:00-12:30	Workshops
12:30-1:30	Cash brunch
1:45-2:45	Closing Ceremonies Speaker (with Q&A): Michael Callas

Workshops and other events include:

- Gay and lesbian history
- Motorcycle etiquette
- Health issues
- AA & AI-Anon room
- Political panels
- Spirituality & sexuality
- Co-dependency
- Writers' groups
- Gay/lesbian oppression
- Partnership agreements
- Parenting
- Bisexuality
- Relationships
- Coming out
- Performance art
- Snake dance
- Film festival
- Women's/men's choruses
- Dream workshop
- Hospitality suites
- Photography booth
- Ice cream sundae bar

and that's not all!

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL LEIGH ANDREWS 232-2255

Tear here and return right hand portion

Columnists

Borrowed time

By Eric Bellmann
I cried on page 25 of Paul Monette's *Borrowed Time*, a book I read over a three-day period during every available spare moment. My eyes often glazed over, lost focus.
I've returned to page 25 to discover what triggered my tears, and I find nothing notably wrenching. The truth is that, from the first sentence and in every paragraph after, there is pain and rage of such dimension and intensity that release is why I wept; water slopping over the sides of a full sink.
It's a remarkable memoir. One could shriek through it or bawl, gasping for air, and continue sobbing for days afterward. I found no liberation through catharsis. Instead, numbed, I turned each page to read what I thought I knew all about, to learn how little I knew. My heart grew heavy and I slid into depression. I was familiar with Monette, the witty author of *Taking Care of Mrs. Carroll* and *The Gold Diggers*. I understood this book was different, and had avoided it for a year. A few weeks ago I found it re-remained in a Manhattan bookstore, and failed to resist the bargain. This book will flatten your spirit, shove you into despair. Nothing anymore, not even this book, comes cheap.
Borrowed Time is the first AIDS memoir to be published... a supremely moving love story, a chronicle of deeply-felt commitment and devotion. Roger Horowitz and Paul Monette met in the mid-'70s and moved eventually to Los Angeles, where, a decade later, Roger was diagnosed with AIDS. Paul helped his "beloved friend" through a terrifying history of ailments. "We never lost the will to win, and thus never lost a minute of the whole 20 months." These notes from the book's jacket barely hint at its content or impact.
In it there is frustration and deception in coping with the medical services, and there is family loyalty and sibling indifference. At the center are two handsome men so alike that they didn't buy separate wardrobes; they came to feel they were one person. They traveled together, read to each other. They were a model other gay men could admire and wish to be like. Then their life became a nightmare. Roger's death does not end the story; Paul is HIV positive.

Once I would have insisted that suffering can be transformed through Art. Word choice, sentence structure — the very craft of writing — could reveal inner truth, and poignant examples of valor would impart meaning to the desperate chaos of life. In this book, brilliant sentences flow in close succession. Monette's writing is passionate, clear and rich. Raised consciousness, facts about the plague and awareness of the victims' lives — goals addressed through the vehicle of art — are of no consequence. Art will not save the day. A smart scientist with a test tube is what we need. Otherwise there is no solution, no hope.

GROWING UP by Eric Bellmann

Anne Frank became a universal symbol through her diary. Time has eased white fear of Eldridge Cleaver. Today Malcolm X is a saint. Faggots will remain faggots and not be so enshrined, not in my lifetime. If yours is the ostrich posture, and you skip this book, don't worry, there'll be others. The archive shelves are going to sag under the weight of what's still to come. This is just the beginning.
I am more sensitive to AIDS today because several peers have recently died. Men I loved, men I avoided, Queens I knew from Day One, faces I passed in bars without speaking. All have been survivors overcoming, to some degree, the constrictions of the closet. Each built a life in this city. Of itself that is a heroic accomplishment, but one with a price. Enemies are made. Some were known to be "difficult," others cut sharp corners reaching for success, some had the rough edges indicative of an uneasy coming to terms with sexual identity. Their full stories remain untold. Yet they had careers, danced and drank, fell in love, and all the while asserted a right to be. Then they died. The middle years, 40 to 50, are feared as the end of life in gay mythology. Not young. What we dread. These men were cheated of the chance to grow old. They cannot guide us into what we hope will be a time of greater freedom.

I think of Norman, an impulsive, generous man. Handsome (he looked like Clark Kent) and a good cook, he was also devious and capable of stormy bursts of temper. What distinguishes Norman in memory is that he loved men. Really liked them a lot. He was appreciative (and aggressive), unashamed of his enthusiasm, when most of us were hesitant, insular.
Ron, a designer, survived upheaval after downfall and remained chic, cool, amused by life, and he is dead too. He died a recluse, bewildered and ashamed by his diagnosis. And one hairdresser, a tough Queen I knew for 25 years, who sailed through bars with panache and energy, lost his business, his home. He did not leave this earth in a state of peace, cried at the end, "Why me?" Some have seen friends near the end huddled in bed clawing at their eyes (a slipped contact lens no one remembered), or wide-eyed, croaking "I'm not dead yet!" to a former lover who could not grasp that his mentor was dying. I ask Baby Jane about others and she answers "Not yet." She is angry when I ask.
And what of the puppies, those hunks now wrapped in rumors? Once the mere sight of them made me drool. The pipe line cautions us to awareness, reminds the dinosaurs that one must always be alert, on guard. At a fast food joint I see a man about whom I've heard gossip. He is sitting with a muscular, handsome man who looks happy to be on a date. My appetite vanishes.
Letters to authors are forwarded by publishers. I've written, and to my pleasure a friendship formed through correspondence. When Andrew Holleran wrote he thanked me for my comments. Otherwise, he said, writing was like dropping a stone into a bucket of water, plunk, no ripple. I'm not tempted to write Paul Monette. What would I say? Yet I think of him. Reading his story has locked me into an emotional space with him, a spiritual state similar to prayer.
My columns get feedback. Some people have told me I must be sick for writing intimately about a miserable youth, addiction, loneliness. I've had obscene phone calls. One man asked for my secret to snagging

straight tricks after "Dark Stranger," and that's not all he asked. Older readers enjoy my recollections of how gay life in Rochester used to be.
For a time, a closeted cleric in a small town wrote encouraging letters, grateful for the glimpse I provided of living openly gay. I suppose it all evens out. Early on, I hoped strangers would invite me out to dinner. That hasn't happened. Because I am precise and articulate, strangers assume I'm more together, less vulnerable. I remain solitary. But I choose to write. And one aspect of that role is to be witness.
The comments that have been infuriating have come from my therapist. "You sound so sad!" Once he added that I sounded as if I regretted being gay. He said that only once. I slammed him *barra* (he can handle that, he's used to it). I hope it was just another of his strategies designed to rechannel my anger toward more positive growth.
I don't regret who I am. I regret things that happened to me. I regret wrong-headed choices and lapses of nerve and blind alleys, and well, yes, I am sad. Not for *who* but instead for *why*. Who wouldn't be sad living in the eye of a storm, in the midst of a plague that is decimating the best of the last and much of the rest? That I don't stand wailing in public pulling out my hair, beating my chest, screaming and screaming into the dark night, is a mercy.
Faced with the death of dreams and friends, what charm does life hold? Sex used to thrill me. I'd joke that when I made it to the nursing home, no intern would be safe. I'd have an ooga horn fastened to my walker. The zing when I see pumped arms, hard pecs, fizzes fast today. The vapid hunks on the campus hold interest only for a few minutes. I have even less enthusiasm for street trash. Oh, the buffed yuppies scurrying about in the supermarket on a weekend afternoon cause me to flutter a bit, but that may be due more to the air conditioning there, or the fact that shortly I'll be having dinner. There are no more dream boats. The dreams' pieces are in shambles. Foolish fancies fail to enchant me. Time now to mourn the dead and use the present.

Hick Dyke

By Susanne Justice
My name is Hick Dyke. Everybody calls me H.D. You'd better, too. I have waited a long time to write this column. I can't really say that Susanne gave me permission to do this, but "Maybe Dyke" was my idea, and you note that she did not mention me, not once. So I will write this myself.
Susanne says I am a character she created in her writing. That's just not so. I drug my boots across her computer screen one day and said, "Look here. I must have pissed God off bad because she has sent me of all people to teach you of all people how to be a real dyke." She cringed at the word "dyke," and I knew this chore was going to be like trying to teach a pig to sing.
Real dykes know how to act at any time. It's all in the *Dyke Handbook*, which gives clear instructions on every aspect of dyke life. For instance, buying a car. First of all, real dykes drive trucks. Make: American. Color: black.
Or getting a tattoo. Do get one that will be visible from a distance. Don't get butterflies or roses. The *DH* even includes advice on girlfriends. (You'll just have to buy the book to find out that part.) What could

be easier than a book to live by? I, of course, was not surprised that Susanne had never heard of this book. I told her answers to dyke life would not be found in *Southern Living*. She said she could not imagine being a dyke like me. I understand that, but as much as she (or her friends) talk about her striving for perfection, she could at least try.
I knew my friends in LeeRoy would want to be in on trying to turn this trendy dyke into a real one. Not that I needed help, you understand — real dykes don't ask for help. I merely wanted to share the entertainment with them. They could not believe that Susanne had never read or even heard of the *Dyke Handbook*. We agreed a momentous task was ahead. (Susanne says all my friends are also characters she has created, but those voices she keeps hearing are not us.)

a table turned over, and all of us thrown out again. If it's one thing I like, it's a lively discussion with friends.
RaeNelle said Susanne just needs to make up her mind. Be feminine or be butch. One or the other. Can't be both. Doesn't make sense. She'll upset the status quo. Some folks don't know what they want and you have to tell them. RaeNelle went to an ACOA meeting once. Came out of there in a snit. Folks told her life wasn't black or white. She stormed out, telling them she did not have to take that from anybody. Hadn't been back. Far as she's concerned Susanne ought to grow up and trade in her neon shorts for black ones. She's liable to disgrace the community by driving her Honda, liking lace and God knows what else. Can't have her breaking all the dyke rules.
LuAnn said she didn't much trust a dyke who'd never worked construction. Or didn't know how to ride a motorcycle. (Susanne wrecked one 32 days after she bought it; need I say more?) However, dykes now seem to wear what they want, unlike real dykes who know that black is always fashionable, as are dyke manners and behavior. Hard to say what these new ones will do. LuAnn said she'd heard those of us hard-line dykes might have to be a little tolerant of these others. That's when the fighting started.
Stella was at J.D.'s. Why, I don't know. She

overheard our conversation and interrupted me. Me, H.D. She's a study in living on the edge. Anyway, her unsolicited opinion was that Susanne and any other dyke ought to be allowed to express her love for women in any way she chose, without those of us from the nether regions of dykedom telling her how to live.
That's when the serious fighting started. Imagine every dyke living like she wants to without patterning her life on *Adventures in Dykeland*. Well, I never heard of such a thing. Seems like a shame and a disgrace to me. As long as there are dykes like Susanne, there'll have to be dykes like me. Truth to tell, she wouldn't have known a real dyke if she tripped over one before I got here. Somebody's got to teach her. So far I've taken all her pink socks and those awful dangly earrings. And that's just the beginning. She needs a real haircut, and then I have to do something about all those pastel hats. When will this dyke duty end? Stay tuned.

LESBIAN VIEWS by Susanne Justice

When several of us were at J.D.'s one night, we discussed Susanne and how in the world there are lesbians in the world who do not know how to be real dykes. It was a typical real dyke discussion — at the end of the evening there were two broken pool cues.

Omega* presents...



At the **Stardust Ballroom** (Edgerton Community Center near Jefferson High School)

Saturday, June 29
(after the Pride March)
8 pm to midnight

Live Music by **Duke Spinner's Band**
Hors d'œuvres by **Details Catering**

*Omega is an organization for gays and lesbians over 35. This dance, however, is open to all friends.

Tickets \$15 at the door, \$12 advance sale at the GAGV, Gay Pride March, Silkwood, Wildseeds, and from Omega members.

For more information, call Beth 442-7613 or Maria 244-2769

AFTER HOURS TRAVEL
Open 5:00 - 11:00 P.M. - Monday - Saturday
434-0948 1-800-869-1445
"Serving Our Community"
For All Of Your Travel Needs
Airline Tickets, Gay Cruises, MEMBER
Specialty Gay Or Lesbian Travel
Call Howard Ford For Information

WILD wimmin's
June 1st Wimmin's Dance
You won't want to miss the social event of the year...
Dust off those dancing pumps, get that gown out of the closet, and get ready for the first ever wimmin-only
PRIDE PROM
A WILD EVENT
June 1
8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.
NEW LOCATION!!!
LARGER SPACE!!!
ROOM TO DANCE and MINGLE
\$5 - More if you can! Less if you can't
Langston Hughes Center
25 High Street
Easy Access from the Allen-Hospital Metro Station
or the Main Street Bus Line
Plenty of Parking
Buffalo, New York
SMOKE FREE
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE
LIMITED NUMBER OF WORK EXCHANGES
SIGN UP BY CALLING ENMA - 865-2285

WHISPERS

104 PLATT STREET
...at the Pont de Rennes Bridge...

- MON MODERN MUSIC "FOR YOUR MIND" with/DJ DV8 75 cent Rolling Rock Bottles
- TUE Top 40 Dance Music All Night!! \$1 Well Drinks and \$1 Domestic Beers
- WED Classic IMPERSONATOR Show PERFORMANCE STARTS AT 11:30 PM
- THU GAME NIGHT at WHISPERS 75 CENTS - ROLLING ROCK - 75 CENTS
- FRI AND SAT NEW YORK STATE'S FINEST FEMALE IMPERSONATORS HOT DANCE MUSIC DRINK SPECIALS ALL NIGHT

JUNE 30TH
AGGY DUNE & TOM HOEY'S
SPECTACULAR 10TH ANNIVERSARY
GAY PICNIC SHOW & PARTY

FRIDAY, JUNE 14th and FRIDAY, JUNE 28th: 5-9 PM
CONGENIAL LADIES HAPPY HOUR

COMING SOON: THE PATIO!! at WHISPERS

Recorded Information Line: 262-5092

נְעִים
A Group for Jewish Gays and Lesbians
נאימ
OF ROCHESTER
For more information:
Beth Bloom 442-3363
or write:
P.O. Box 18053
Rochester, N.Y. 14618-0053

Alan
Copenhagen
115 Basket Road
Webster, NY 14580-9751
(716) 265-0826
Haircutting
for 1991 and beyond...
A comfortable setting
with one-on-one attention
Acorn Cuts

Is drinking a problem in your life?
AA can help.
Call 232-6720, 24 hours a day.
Or come to Gay AA
at St. Luke's Church
on Thursdays at 8:30 pm.
Sign language interpreted,
last meeting of the month.
For gay women only:
Mondays at 8:30 pm.
For gay men only:
Sundays at 8:30 pm
Gay Al-Anon
Saturdays at 7 pm
Unitarian Church

Feeling loss

By Timothy Schapp

We are not a community without the opportunity for loss. On Mar. 11 of this year, I lost yet another friend to AIDS.

This disease, along with the many other losses we experience in our journey as gay men, requires us to be pretty capable of dealing with loss. Robert Bly has told us that the most significant emotion of men today is grief. I'm having no difficulty believing that right at this time in my own life.

I have known my friend who died since I was 14 years old. He was the first person to take me to a gay bar when I was 15. Ironically, my first article for the *Empty Closet* in May 1990 alluded to "my stories of the Blue Chip and Martha's at age 15." Well, those stories all included this friend. Many stories include this friend. What do I do with all of them?

We are fortunate here in Rochester to have the array of support systems that we do have — AIDS and non-AIDS related. We have organizations, agencies, churches and individuals readily available to offer support. If it weren't for some of these, I'd still be stuck on a treadmill going round and round in my mind, not realizing how much I needed to verbalize to another what was in that treadmill.

It never ceases to amaze me that the spectrum of loss and grieving spans from the profound to the silly. I participated in a beautiful service in the same Roman Catholic church my friend was baptized in, and read a psalm his family asked me to read. Then I stood up at the end when we were given the opportunity to share thoughts or memories of Danny and I told everyone he was the first person to show me how to tease my hair. In a Catholic church?

I am by no means done with my grieving. There is still more I need to get out, both profound and silly. There are more tears, many more tears still to come. I will still need help from our community's support systems and my friends. But what about when I'm home alone, without any of these support systems or friends, because I just need to be alone? Well, I'll tell you "what about then." I reach for my now tattered little paperback friend *How to Survive the Loss of a Love*. When I bought it many years ago, I found it to be the best \$2.95 I'd ever spent, and it

FEELING FREE by Timothy Schapp

still is. As self help books go, this one is a jewel. It is co-authored by a psychologist (Melba Colgrove), a psychiatrist (Harold Bloomfield), and a poet (Peter McWilliams). It is like having a friend by your side at a moment's notice. It has calmed me down, validated me, reminded me I'll survive, centered me, encouraged me to cry and made me laugh. Not bad for \$2.95.

I feel grateful that someone turned me on to this book years ago, and with my friend's death I am again indebted. So I wanted to share it with you. One of the reasons I like it is that it can be read in one sitting. Another reason I like it is that it isn't wordy. A third reason I like it is that each chapter is two pages — one page is psychological stuff and the other page is a poem pertaining to it. The final and main reason I like it is that as I read it, I feel as though it knows what I'm going through and what guidance I need.

This book talks about there being three stages of recovery: shock/denial, anger/depression, and understanding/acceptance. These take time and patience. While there is a process to grieving, we each must go about it at our own pace. We don't finish one stage, then go on to the next. We go back and forth, in and out of them all.

I have often heard my clients think they're regressing because they find themselves back

in a stage they thought they were done with. That isn't regressing; it's simply part of the process. And the greater the loss, the longer the grieving will take. But that's natural, and our way of honoring in our grieving the importance of what is lost. To survive, heal, and grow takes time.

My little paperback friend tells me a lot about surviving the loss. It tells me I must recognize my loss and expect to be in shock for a while. I need to be with and admit my pain. I am not alone — loss is a part of life, of being alive, of being human. I am a good, whole, worthwhile human being. I will get better, I will survive. I need to give myself time to heal.

The healing process has its progressions and regressions. Tomorrow will come. I need and deserve lots of rest. I also need to stick to my schedule. I need to keep decision making to a minimum. It's OK to need comforting. I must not be afraid to seek the support of others. I should not isolate myself from life. I have an opportunity to reaffirm my beliefs. Surviving takes a lot of faith and energy.

The book then talks of healing, not just surviving. I am not to postpone or deny or cover or run away from my pain. I am to be with that pain — now. I am to be very gentle with myself and let the healing process run its full course. I am to invest my energies in healing and growing, in new relationships and in life. If mementos or photographs are helpful, use them; if not, don't. I should anticipate a positive outcome. It is OK for me to feel depressed. It is OK to feel anger. Everyone gets angry at loss. I shouldn't pretend to have more energy or enthusiasm or happiness than I actually have.

I need to eat well. I should remember in these days of stress and recovery that I am vulnerable. I should pamper myself. (The authors came up with more suggestions on self-pampering than for any other section of the book.) I should keep a journal. There is a certain beauty in sadness, meaning genuine sadness, not self-pity.

Overall, I must heal at my own pace. Although some people may demand it, I

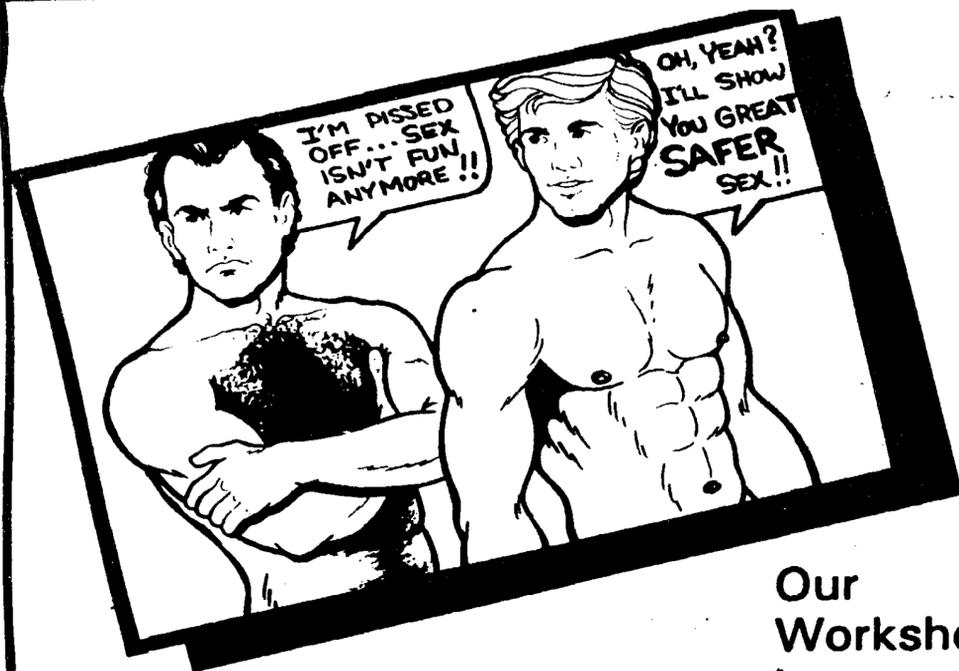
should not feel guilty if I fail to immediately "understand" why the loss has happened, or instantly "accept" the loss gracefully. I am not to succumb to such pressure, and devise a plastic "skin" to cover my wound, and hear myself say "That's life," or "Oh, well" or "It doesn't matter." The book tells me that it is my right to experience the stages of loss. It is my right to gain my own understanding and realizations in my own way. It is my right to also do it in my own time.

In closing I would like to include one of Peter McWilliams' poems:

and
through
all the tears
and the
sadness
and the
pain
comes the
one thought
that can
make
me internally
smile again:
I
have
loved.

Please honor your grief, for it is your tribute to having loved. This article is dedicated to Danny Scipione, born May 3, 1950, died March 11, 1991. I loved him. I will miss knowing he is alive. I have much to grieve.

Feeling Free is a column on mental health issues, with a focus on sexuality and relationships. It is written alternatively by Barbara Debes and Tim Schapp. Readers may send questions to them through the Empty Closet.



Men With Men Eroticizing Safer Sex

A sexual enrichment workshop
for gay and bisexual men.

Our Workshop is Positively Erotic

You probably haven't thought
of half the things you can do
with other men practicing
safer sex! But we have.

Join us for a very special sex-
positive learning experience.



A program
of the
John Washburn
Library at
Community
Health
Network

Friday evening, June 7, 1991
Registration - 6:30pm
Program - 7:00 to 10:00pm

or

Saturday morning, July 13, 1991
Registration - 9:30am
Program - 10:00am to 1:00pm

Community Health Network
758 South Avenue

Please detach and return to
Community Health Network
758 South Avenue
Rochester, New York 14620

Name _____

Address _____

Date you wish to attend:
June 7 _____
July 13 _____

Phone: Day _____
Evening _____

Do you need a sign language/voice
interpreter? _____

An open letter to the gay community

By Jeff Kost

Dear Friend:

There are times in every writer's career when the creativity, the motivation and the words just do not translate to paper. This column is from my heart, and I beg your indulgence.

I find myself planning several special events to benefit AIDS Rochester between Memorial Day weekend and the end of June. You probably ask yourself, "how many events can I support?" Or maybe you say, "I gave last month," or "I gave at the office" (which may well be true as the United Way campaign comes to a close), or just plain "how much more can I be expected to give?"

If I had the answers, life would be a breeze. But the truth is, no one in this field has all the answers, and no, life is not a breeze for people challenged by HIV. People who I see every day in both my professional and personal life. So that is why people like myself continue to ask for your help.

No, HIV isn't the only problem in the world either. I don't think I'm going through life with blinders on my head. But it is a problem that has affected the gay and lesbian community harder than anything in my lifetime. Do not think that the gay and lesbian community is the *only* community we

ask, either. We are busy asking groups, businesses and individuals from all walks of life who may be sympathetic to our work. My hands are always out.

Next time you see an ad for a special event to benefit an agency like AIDS Rochester, please don't dismiss it without considering how much you will be helping to provide the wide array of direct services, education and support which we can only continue to offer through the generosity of donors like yourself.

AIDS UPDATE

by Jeff Kost

Consider your options this month alone: Casino Night at Tara, June 9 (to benefit AIDS Rochester and Community Health Network); Care Cuts II on June 10, a day of hair-cutting when stylists donate their time and you donate \$20 for a haircut (call your own stylist for an appointment), and an old-fashioned Clambake and Games on June 23 at Ellison Park. Decisions. I trust you will make the right ones.

Agencies like AIDS Rochester increasingly turn to our friends in the community for financial support to help sustain the quality and quantity of services needed by our HIV challenged brothers and sisters. In this time of recession and problems within all levels of government budgeting, we are thankful for the support we have received in past years. I hope we can continue to rely on it as we face a second decade of living with AIDS.

I welcome your comments. I thank you for your faith, commitment, and hope.

AIDS DIRECTORY

Free testing for HIV exposure is available from New York State: call 1-800-541-AIDS (1-800-541-2437). Other organizations which provide AIDS-related services are as follows:

AIDS Rochester, Inc., 20 University St., 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. 232-3580 (V/TTY) or 232-4430 (V/TTY).

Helping People with AIDS, Inc. is a non-profit volunteer organization that raises money to fund those who provide services to HIV-infected individuals. P.O. Box 1543, Rochester N.Y. 14603; hotline 987-1853.

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

AIDS Coordination Project of Monroe County, run through Monroe County Department of Health and AIDS Institute of New York (State Department of Health) provides information, education and training, and maintains a resource library. Sue Cowell, 274-6114 (V/TTY).

Community Health Network, Inc. (CHN), 758 South Ave. HIV testing; medical, experimental and pentamidine treatments; John Washburn Library; support groups; social work and case management services. Emphasis on early intervention for all aspects of HIV and AIDS. 244-9000.

Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency provides medical literature and newspaper clippings as well as demographic and statistical data for use in developing health care services. 461-3520.

Greater Rochester AIDS Interfaith Network (GRAIN) provides lay and professional care through healing and memorial services; training of friendly visitors for visiting homes, hospitals, hospices and prisons; information about pastoral resources and advocacy on behalf of people affected by AIDS. 889-8050.

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

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, 275-0526. Department of Psychiatry, 275-3379. AIDS Training Project, 275-5693.

Mending Hearts, AIDS bereavement support group. Meets Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., at Our Lady of Victory Church, 210 Pleasant St. 671-3777 or 248-3780.



Discovery®

Huther-Doyle

We listen... We Care

- Assessments • Referrals • Interventions • Codependency
- Awareness/Treatment Groups • Significant Other Groups

671-3591

licensed alcohol/substance abuse clinics... medicaid & private insurance... sliding scale fees... **confidential**

IF YOU ARE HIV POSITIVE

DON'T GET AIDS GET MEDICAL CARE



Community Health Network Inc.
758 South Ave. at Caroline St.
(716) 244-9000

a not-for-profit health care facility

No one should have to face AIDS alone. At Olsten, our concern and commitment to the patient, the family and the community are real.

We can provide compassionate care 24 hours a day, 7 days a week when family or friends are unable to do so, at home or on a private duty basis. Olsten's staff of professionals includes:

RN's and LPN's
Physical Therapists
Certified Home Health Aides
Personal Care Aides

Our employees receive highly competitive pay rates, a broad range of benefits, work schedules that are tailored to the needs of the client and the care of the provider, professional support and on-going training from a nursing supervisor who has experienced first hand the anguish of this terrible disease.

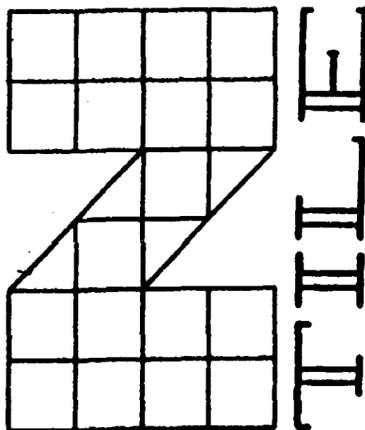
Olsten has made a commitment to provide quality care and help whenever it is needed.

We hope that your concern and commitment will be the reason you call us at 473-1890.

OLSTEN HEALTH CARE

686 South Avenue

EOE M/F



CERAMIC

CUSTOM CERAMIC INSTALLATION & REPAIR

Commercial • Residential

Fully Insured • References Available
Guaranteed Craftsmanship

"Look To The Last Letter For The First Word In Remodeling"

254-4128

ASK ABOUT OUR OTHER SERVICES

June

By Laurie Twilight

ARIES: March 21 - April 20

Keep the ram's hoof out of your mouth. You are quick to speak now and could regret it later. Instead use this impulsive time for sports or play. Creativity continues to be on the upswing. Pursue your ideals in a passionate and playful manner. Listen to your instincts as your senses are keen. Your hunches could turn to gold anytime this spring through summer. Whatever you want, now is the time to pursue it. There is no stopping you.

TAURUS: April 21 - May 20

Spend some time alone. This period, if not handled properly, could bring emotional unrest personally and or professionally. Taurians born in April may be feeling a bit frustrated. You need to question if what you are doing really suits who you are. Get on track with what is in your heart, not just what helps you feel materially secure. Career shifts and adjustments could be in order this year. The cards are in your hands. It's up to you to make positive and useful changes. In June you become more of your social self. You are learning to harmonize your emotions with other facets of your life.

GEMINI: May 21 - June 20

As in the unification of Germany, your twins need to join forces. One side is getting more serious, especially Gemini's born in May. The other side wants to play and travel. One resolution might be to travel for some learning experience, or study a subject that aids in journeying with the mind. Expanding ideas, experiences and your philosophical outlook is appropriate for your present planets. Consistency and a positive mental attitude are important factors in this period of personal growth. Explore your interests by travel, writing, or inquiry into new subjects.

CANCER: June 21 - July 22

People are beginning to recognize your underlying strengths. Express your talents for others to see and appreciate. Finances continue on a positive course. Now is an excellent time to do some financial planning for the future. Look for the work that pleases you, as well as offers some future security. Be careful that the crab claws don't snap back too quickly at others. Your intense energy could also bring on new attractions. This spring could be full of surprises!

LEO: July 23 - August 22

Intuitions blossom. Your ability to make use of gut feelings is uncanny. Inner resources can become outer manifestations. The work you've done over the past year and a half is revealed in your deeper levels of self awareness. This yields confidence in you, and an openness you haven't experienced in a long time. You are becoming aware of endless opportunities. Seek others who can assist your goals. Passions are unbelievably high in June. Tempers could also be high. Do something physical to channel your energies.

VIRGO: August 23 - September 22

Integrate healthier routines into your lifestyle. It's time to break bad habits. Consider a physical self-improvement plan to quit smoking, eat healthier or exercise regularly. You could become more sensitive, thus more easily thrown off balance. A key to improving the physical is paying attention to the psychological. Consider an AIDS test to clear your conscience. Physical and mental health are opposite houses to each other

in astrology. Thus they effect each other quite powerfully. Both these houses are currently under stress. This brings greater awareness to these areas and thus opportunities for growth.

IN YOUR STARS by Laurie Twilight

LIBRA: September 23 - October 22

Now is a test of your balancing prowess in relationships. Let your Libran love of justice include fairness for yourself, not just a loved one. Assert yourself. Make sure the ball is in your court equally. Any martyrdom with a partner needs re-evaluation. Be clear that your values about others are the same for yourself. Social activities continue to be a highlight for June. This is an especially good time for gatherings with friends whom you enjoy. Open up your social calendar.

SCORPIO: October 23 - November 22

Those born from Nov. 9 through 16 are in for some startling changes. You may need to re-evaluate or even let go of an old relationship you've held onto for too long. Are you being too co-dependent? Free yourself of your traditional ways of thinking and behaving. Make changes that feel right for the person you are becoming. Business is your strength this spring. Time to expand, as yields could be profitable. Your goals should be high in June. Don't hold your ambitions back.

SAGITTARIUS: November 23 - December 21

You are ripe for adventure. Your passions are high. Amorous activities entice you to explore another's feelings more openly. Your sex appeal soars as others find you irresistible. Pursue whom you like, but remember to keep it safe. Confidence is boosted, especially for those born before Dec. 10. Your mission, if you choose to accept it, is to find love this springtime. Sudden attractions are strong. Watch out as the planets reveal an opening for falling in love later this month.

CAPRICORN: December 22 - January 19

The mountain goat that you are is a bit feisty now. Be direct with your feelings. Don't hold back your anger, but balance it with gentility. Your energy is high. Romance is on your horizon. A budding relationship could gain more solid ground. You are progressing with a capacity for deeper levels of intimacy. Give more time to relationships to insure this happens. The emphasis on yourself has shifted to focus on partners. Show others how much you care. Give a loved one something special.

AQUARIUS: January 20 - February 18

This spring is highly electric. There is a push-pull between self focus and relationships. You need to pause and reflect on your past accomplishments and failures. A re-orientation of your goals is necessary for you all year long. Presently you are also plummeted into working on relationships. Balancing your time along with time given to partners. With some effort, relationships promise to reach a new potency. Watch your temper in June, for those born before Feb. 10. Use this energy for something constructive instead.

PISCES: February 19 - March 20

Let your child out. It's time to play. Your creative waters are flowing. Give your imagination room to grow. Children could help to bring out this side of you. As you learn to relax doors will open for you. This joyous aspect in your life could bring pleasant benefits to your work and health. A positive

mental attitude aids in enhancing your physical well-being. Now through the summer is an excellent time for diet and health improvements. If your inner voice says make changes, listen to it!

In June, communications are strong. From the 5th through the 19th, Mercury, messenger of the gods, will be in its ruling sign of Gemini. This should enhance your objectivity and clarify thinking. In mythology, Mercury is a courier traveling with messages from one god to another. This is similar to Jung's thinking that we don't think new thoughts, we simply open our minds to hearing them.

June is the time to open up to Mercury's messages, crystallize new ideas by initiating projects, especially on the morning of the new moon on June 12. Do something physical in mid-June to utilize excess energy. On the evening of June 26 there is a full moon, and a lunar eclipse in the sign Capricorn. During this eclipse, be more concrete regarding what you really want or care about. At this auspicious time you may choose to make use of the Tibetan belief that prayers are manifested thousands of times.

Introducing...

OUT LAW

by Andrew S. Dunn

Problem: you get sick or injured and cannot communicate with your doctor — and your doctor will not listen to your lover's explanation of what you would want if you could communicate.

Solution: a Health Care Proxy.

On Jan. 18, a new law went into effect in New York state which allows every adult in the state to appoint someone else to make health care decisions in the event they are unable. This law is like a Power of Attorney for medical and health care related decisions.

It is important to understand the history of the law and its purpose. The new "Health Care Proxy Law" is a by-product of the Right To Die movement. New York has been dealing with the issue of the right to die for a long time, and the issue has been heating up considerably in the past 10 years. Initial attempts to secure a person the right to die included the creation of a statement of intent, called a Living will, which expressed in writing a persons' desire not to be kept alive by artificial means. Since these documents usually refer to "artificial life support" and "heroic measures," both of which are hard to define, New York has consistently refused to enforce the popular Living Will.

The Living Will is still important to show your desire not to be kept alive by artificial means or life support systems. This is not usually enough evidence. It does, however, show the court that you considered the issue and discussed it with someone who can be called as a witness.

In June 1990, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the *Cruzan* case that a person does have the right to die. The ruling also said that it is up to the state, not the U.S. Supreme Court, to determine what evidence will be necessary to show a person's desire not to be kept alive. The right to refuse medical treatment was recognized many years ago.

While many people argue that New York was already well on its way to passing the Health Care Proxy bill before the *Cruzan* case (and given the amount of time it takes to pass legislation, I would have to agree), *Cruzan* was enough to push the bill through the state legislature.

The Health Care Proxy law goes beyond the right to die. The Proxy Law allows each adult to appoint someone to make medical decisions in the event that they are unable. That means if you step in front of a bus tomorrow (and are knocked unconscious), your proxy takes effect, and your agent can tell the doctors what your wishes would be if you were conscious. The moment that you regain consciousness, your agent's power to make those decisions stops.

The law requires that the person making the proxy be over 18 years old (but the person who is appointed does not have to be over 18). The law also requires that the proxy be signed in front of at least two witnesses, who must also sign. The person who is appointed cannot be one of the witnesses. The proxy does not have to be notarized.

While the Proxy will give the person you appoint as your agent the right to make health care decisions for you, you can limit what they can do. You can expressly limit the powers of the agent. If you do not expressly limit an agent's powers, they can make decisions regarding medical treatment, services, diagnostic procedures, and treatment of mental conditions, as well as decisions to remove or withhold life-sustaining treatment. It is also very important that you indicate on the proxy whether you wish to have artificial feeding (nutrition and hydration) withheld. Unless it is expressly stated on the proxy, your agent will not be allowed to withhold or withdraw any artificial feeding.

The New York State Department of Health distributes copies of the form with a brief explanation which concludes that "(even) after you have signed, . . . you have the right to make health care decisions for yourself as long as you are able to do so, and treatment cannot be given to you or stopped (by your agent) if you object. You can cancel the control given to your agent by telling him or her or your health care provider orally or in writing."

The Health Care Proxy Law allows alternative households to create part of what heterosexual marriages ensure — the right to take care of the one that you love. Although this proxy can be completed without an attorney (but I would not suggest it), it should not be taken lightly because it does carry the full weight of the law behind it. Before listing someone as your health care agent, you should know what it is that you want, and make sure that your prospective agent knows (and is emotionally capable of carrying out) your wishes. Choose your agent carefully, because some family members may not be able to handle the stress — or have the strength — to follow all of your wishes.

The Health Care Proxy is only one of four important personal legal documents. The other three include a Last Will and Testament, a Living Will, and a Power of Attorney (because if you can't make medical decisions, then you can't write a rent check, or make a car payment either). You should discuss these four documents with a lawyer — preferably one who understands gay and lesbian relationships.

(Author's note: This article is just a bare skimming of the potential uses of the Health Care Proxy and other documents. It should not be considered definitive, or as legal advice. Remember, before signing legal papers, for anything, consult with your attorney. It will usually save you money in the long run.)



David A. Bischooping
Richard Fenwick
CONTRACTORS

Older Home Specialists

Design • Drywall • Painting
Carpentry • Decks
Roofing & Gutters
Additions

Repairs to full replacement
Any size jobs at all •
Free estimates
Call & leave message

325-1198



TIMOTHY SCHAPP, M.S. ED., NCC
Medical Arts Psychotherapy Associates

Nationally Certified Counselor offers
individual, couples
and group counseling and support.

325-4090

Medical Arts Building • 277 Alexander St.



**CONTINENTAL
TIRES**

- all sizes including Hybrid
- natural rubber
- much rounder
- polyamide casing

FREEWHEELERS



THE CHOSEN FAMILY



THE CHOSEN FAMILY

THE Call



HOT TALKING PERSONALS!

Thousands of "Talking Personals" in over 25 Gay Categories For Dating and Friendship The POSSIBILITIES Are ENDLESS! Fun-Safe-Easy-24 Hrs.

CONNECTIONS USA

SOMEONE'S WAITING TO MEET YOU...

1-900-646-4646

Gay owned and operated. \$2/min. More info: (306) 566-4455, Ext: 2488

America's Most Provocative Gay Phone Line

TAKE YOUR CHOICE!

MEET REAL PEOPLE IN THESE CATEGORIES:

- 1 LEATHERMEN RUGGED TOPS AND BOTTOMS
- ABC 2 CROSSDRESSERS EXPERIENCE THE SENSATION
- DEF 3 BLACK HEAT MEN OF COLOR & THOSE SEEKING THEM
- GHI 4 YOUNGGUYS

60 DIFFERENT TALKING PERSONALS DAILY

1-900-990-HEAT

\$2 per min. • \$1 connect charge

REALLY CHEAP GAY OR STRAIGHT 412-243-1170 303-595-0051

Isophone Trivia Games SPORTS • TV • MOVIES • ROCK MUSIC \$1.00 95 min. 1-800-888-7888 \$1.00 95 min. 1-800-888-7888 \$1.00 95 min. 1-800-888-7888 \$1.00 95 min. 1-800-888-7888

Francis Drake Daily Horoscope 1-900-329-SEER 95c min.

GET LUCKY NUMBERS Numerology 1-900-420-4747 \$2.00

Superstar Confidential



hottest stars tell all.

Hear The Fantasy.

1-900-258-8525

CALL 24 HOURS JUST \$2.00 PER MIN. ADULTS ONLY

FREE* GAY PARTY LINE

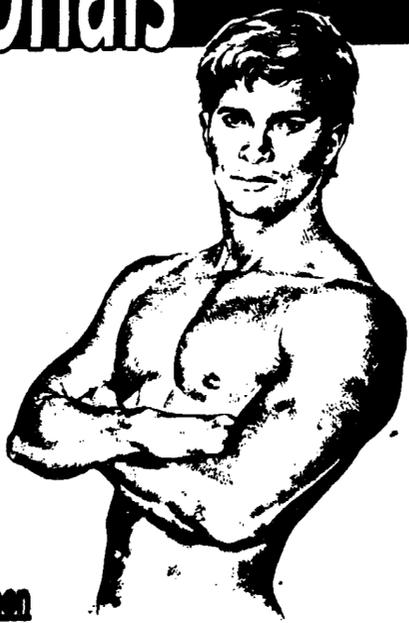
SPEAK TO MEN FROM ALL
OVER THE WORLD...
NO RESTRICTIONS!!

011- 599- 6868

*regular international toll charges apply.

ROCHESTER Phone Personals

A Phone Personals,
dating & friendship
service exclusively
for gay & bi men
in Rochester and the
surrounding areas of
New York.



Quick Code 8

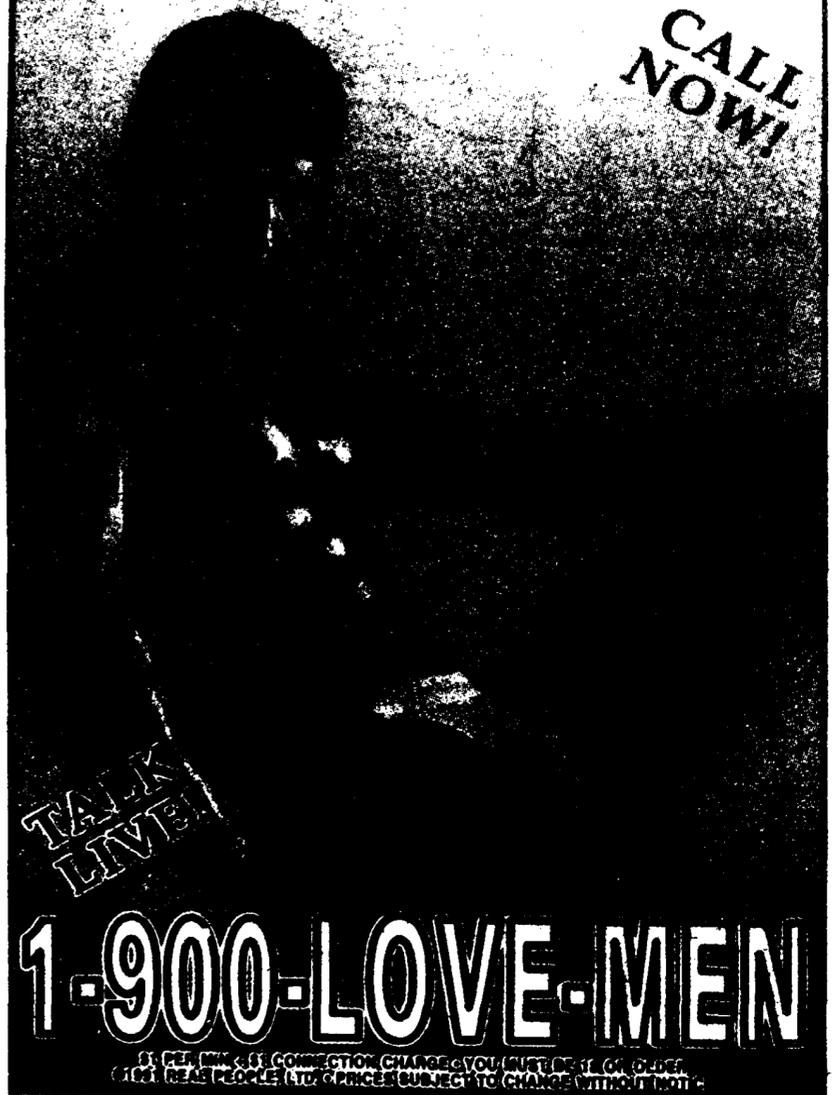
- ▼ 'Talking' personal ads from local men
- ▼ Optional voicemail guarantees privacy
- ▼ Your ad on-line for 30 days
- ▼ Cancel anytime for any reason!

.95/MIN

1-900-454-3445

I WANT YOU!

CALL NOW!



TALK
LIVES!

1-900-LOVE-MEN

\$1 PER MIN. \$1 CONNECTION CHARGE & YOU MUST BE 18 OR OLDER.
CALL REAL PEOPLE LTD. PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

Gay Groups

Men's Chorus

By Chuck Collins, Rochester Gay Men's Chorus

When Peri Jude Radicec of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force addressed the annual leadership conference of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA) in Chicago last year, she clearly stated the importance of their movement: "The gay and lesbian choruses are vital to our political struggle in America today. They stand before the public and sing about our love and romance, our sorrows and losses, and our anger with injustice. Through the language of music, they proclaim the realities of our lives, which are so often denied by straight society."

During a period when gay artistic expression is being attacked by right-wing politicians, the gay and lesbian choruses are growing in number and influence throughout North America, Europe, and Australia.

Rochester is fortunate to have one of the most highly-respected small choruses in GALA. During its eight year history, the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus has represented our community in Minneapolis, Seattle, Vancouver, Toronto, Philadelphia, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Syracuse, Buffalo, and on campuses in Oswego and Brockport. RGMC has performed in the Rochester Chamber of Commerce building, the Eastman Theater, Highland Bowl, and City Hall. Its audience includes people from all walks of life.

Yet in spite of these successes, RGMC continually faces challenges to its very existence. The state of the economy has resulted in a 50 percent decrease in assistance from Arts for Greater Rochester. Staff turnovers and a shortage of available replacements demand that staff salaries increase. Costs of performance rights, insurance, rehearsal and performance space, and production have continued to rise, consuming all of the ticket sales from holiday and spring concerts. Most troubling is that the pool of available singers is diminishing when the Chorus is desperate for new people.

The Rochester Gay Men's Chorus is one of the few groups in Rochester which represents gay men and lesbians to the general public and affirms its gayness by ti-

tle. There are those who are critical of inclusion of the "G" word in the title, saying that it limits potential contributors, dissuades some men from participating, and stifles publicity. Nevertheless, the Chorus has remained committed to its role as an open representative of the Rochester gay and lesbian community both locally and throughout the GALA network. RGMC could not have succeeded in that role if it were not for the generous support of our community.

There will always be an RGMC. A dedicated core of men will continue to sing, if only for their own enjoyment. But if our community values its contributions locally, within New York state, and across the country, we must support the Chorus with renewed interest.

RGMC needs your help in finding new voices to replace members taking leave of absence and leaving the Rochester area. RGMC needs your financial support so that it can attract and maintain an adequate staff and cover growing production costs. RGMC needs and deserves your active appreciation for its contributions to our community in Rochester.

To borrow a phrase from Holly Near, RGMC is "singing for our lives." Can we afford to let this voice go silent?

Please call the RGMC Chorus Line at 251-2077.

OMEGA

On June 9, Omega will be hiking in the wilds of Mendon Ponds, from 2-5 p.m. For details, call Beth at 442-7613.

On June 29, Omega is holding a special event in celebration of Gay Pride Week: a Summer's Eve Dance at the Stardust Ballroom (Edgerton Community Center). The Duke Spinner Band will be featured; performing music of the Big Band era. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be available. Tickets are \$15 per person. See the ad for the dance elsewhere in this issue of the *Empty Closet*.

Omega is a state-chartered organization committed to recognizing and meeting the unique needs of older gay men and women in the greater Rochester community. We welcome members 35 years of age or older

to join us in our activities. Guests are always welcome.

Later on this summer, we will have a major picnic and other events you won't want to miss! For information about Omega, write to us at P.O. Box 23042, Rochester, N.Y. 14692, or call Jan, 223-1748, or Larry, 442-8270.

Out & About

Out and About starts off this month with weekly bicycling, every Thursday at 7 p.m. Our first trip is June 6. We usually bicycle at a leisurely pace, covering less than 10 miles, and always try to top off the trip with ice cream. For more information, call Bob at 442-7185.

We have a hike planned for June 8. This month we will hike along the Keuka Lake Outlet near Penn Yan. The hike will take about two hours, and you should plan on packing a snack and something to drink. It's a worthwhile hike, and if you're interested, call Bob at 473-9384. See you Out and About!

Multicom

By Chuck Antonelli

Multicom-4, Rochester's only all-gay/lesbian/bisexual bulletin board system, has done it again! On May 8, eight more lines were added to the system due to usage demand.

There are now 16 incoming phone lines! Not only is it the largest free gay bulletin board system in the United States, it's also the largest free BBS in New York State (according to our records).

For more information on the Multicom-4 BBS system, read the May 1991 issue of *The Empty Closet*, page 17, or call our NEW voice number — 716/442-1669 (Monday-Friday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.) Multicom's data access number is 716/473-4070. Be sure you are using 300/1200 or 2400 baud modem.

Gay Writes

By Jeff Lehigh

Gay Writes, the men's writing group, meets the first and third Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. at the Gay Alliance, 179 Atlantic Ave.

All writers and poets are welcome to attend and bring their work to share, in any stage of development.

The planned discussion for the month of June is "The Future of Erotica and Gay Porn." Plans for the Pride Parade and Picnic will also be discussed.

Come and join Gay Writes, release the writer or poet within, and meet other writers and poets. Look for future discussions to be mentioned in this space.

GLAS

By Dale Brown

Looking for something different to do on a Friday night? Do you need a place to let your hair down after a tough week in the trenches? Maybe the Friday Night Social is for you!

Some of the weekly activities include board games, sing alongs, watching TV, swapping recipes, exchanging fashion tips, kibitzing, or snacking on some of those simply divine fresh baked goods which never seem to last but a moment. Every fourth Friday is pizza night; we supply the dough and sauce, and if the spirit moves, we ask you to bring your favorite topping (something edible of course!)

The Friday Night Social continues to grow and flourish (much like the lilacs here in Rochester) because of all the support received. We wish to thank: Universalist Church for opening their hearts and doors to G.L.A.S.; Bob, Peter, Andy, Dereck, and Scott, for the fresh baked goods; Bill and Wayne, for distributing flyers and handbills; Lew for the VCR tape rewinder; Craig for schlepping the Closed Captioner each week; Sandi for the stereo; Doug for the board game; Paul for the board game, and the use

*Offering Therapy & Support for
Individuals, Couples & Groups*

RUTH M. WILLIAMS, M.S. Ed.
Psychotherapist

385-4735 (V or TTY)
Proficient in Sign Language

LYN PEZZULO, M.S.Ed.

Counselor

*Specializing in alcohol-drug abuse, eating disorders
All emotionally-related concerns*

247-1741



**Wild Seeds
Bookstore & Cafe**

704 University Avenue
Rochester 14607

244-9310

feminist lesbian & gay multi-cultural progressive politics kids books

Vegetarian Cafe
Entertainment Weekly

**MARCH FOR PRIDE ON
JUNE 29! Pride Parade
T-Shirts Available**

**TUESDAY-SATURDAY: 11-7/SUNDAY: 12-5
MONDAY: Closed**

FOR YOUR HEALTH

K^m is a liquid blend of 14 different plants, each rich in vital nutrients: vitamins, minerals and essential trace elements.

Your Satisfaction Is Guaranteed 100%

Dawn Slanec, M.A., L.M.T.
(607)522-4849 / (800)487-8137

Roman Catholics - Episcopalians Other Gay Christians Join Us!

Dignity-Integrity/Rochester is an ecumenical organization open to everyone who wishes to worship in a pleasant, non-threatening atmosphere. We invite you to join us for our weekly celebration of the Eucharist, followed by a social hour, or one of our many special events such as a pot luck supper, picnic, retreat, etc. A Roman Catholic mass is celebrated each Sunday of the month, except for the fourth Sunday when mass is celebrated in the Episcopal tradition.

Pastoral and Peer Counseling is also available

Sunday Schedule
Liturgy-5:00 p.m.
Social Hour-6:00 p.m.
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
17 S. Fitzhugh St.
(between Main St. & Broad St.)
Phone 328-9758

dignity-integrity rochester



of his TV and VCR; Bob S. for playing the piano; Tom and Lynn for helping in the kitchen; all the singers, for serenading us with some marvelous showtunes; GAGV Info Line, for spreading the word via the telephone; Susan and the entire E.C. staff, for all you do to make us look good in print; everyone for your laughter, smiles, support and love.

We have formed a theatrical group, G.L.I.T.S. (Gay Lesbian Impact Thespian Sensation). Our first production will be "The Faculty Lounge," one man's story of his gay pride and how it affects those around him. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll ponder (we hope!) Performance date: Friday June 28—(Gay Pride Week)—8:30 p.m. at the Lilac Palace.

So remember, if you're looking for something different, why not check us out. F.N.S. Friday evenings 8 p.m. - 12 midnight, at the Universalist Church, 150 Clinton Ave. South. See you there!

Open Arms MCC

Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church invites the community to a variety of upcoming activities.

Our Relationship Discussion Series will be continuing on June 5 with the topic "Coupling History—gay and lesbian role playing." This will be an open discussion on the past and present roles we play in relationships. It will begin at 7:30 p.m. and is open to all.

Friends Day, June 9, is a celebration of God's love for us as expressed through our gifts of friendship. Join up for this special worship service beginning at 6 p.m. After the service there will be a reception with plen-

ty of munchies. Beginning at 7:30 p.m. the same evening, there will be a special video presentation of "God, Gays and the Gospel — This is OUR Story," a stirring story of the Metropolitan Community Churches and a moving affirmation of gay/lesbian spirituality and love.

All worship and activities are held in our Chapel at 243 Rosedale St. Sunday worship services are held weekly beginning at 6 p.m. Further information about these and other church activities is available by calling the church office or writing to Open Arms M.C.C., 243 Rosedale St., Rochester N.Y. 14620.

Open Arms M.C.C. is the gay-affirming Christian Church open to all people.

LRC

The Lesbian Resource Center, an organization that provides opportunities for lesbians to socialize, learn, and compare notes, will have its June get-together on June 26, at 7:30 p.m.

The group meets downstairs in the Gay Alliance Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. on the last Wednesday of the month. Watch the *Empty Closet* calendar for each month's date.

In June, we will be celebrating Gay Pride Week with some rousing gay pride games followed by a social. There will also be a short business meeting.

All lesbians, and especially those who are new to the community, are invited to join us at the Lesbian Resource Center. For more information, contact Anne Seale, 671-3294. To arrange for a sign interpreter, please call at least a week in advance.

LG YR

The Lesbian and Gay Youth of Rochester (LGYR) provides a casual place where bisexual, gay and lesbian youth (ages 16-21) can meet. Our activities and discussions vary greatly, according to the needs and desires of the members.

We meet on Sundays from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, 179 Atlantic Ave. All questions/comments may be sent to LGYR c/o GAGV, 179 Atlantic Ave., Rochester N.Y. 14607-1255, or call 244-8640.

Now that it is summer we plan to the beach and take some road trips. Want to go to the Falls (no, Niagara!) or Letchworth State Park? Somewhere else? Come to the next meeting and see what we have planned. Bring your ideas, too. This group is yours; you make the agenda!

Hello Syracuse and Buffalo youth groups! We were glad to have you here for our dance. It's definitely time to get together again. Hope to see everyone (LGYT in Toronto, too) at the Gay Alliance Picnic on June 30!

Lesbian Writers

The next meeting of the Lesbian Writer's Group will be at 4 p.m., June 8, at the Gay Alliance, 179 Atlantic Ave. Lesbian writers at all stages of expertise are welcome to join us to share a project, or just to listen.

The topic for the session will be "Fantasy Vacations." Write something in any form about a vacation you would take if money, time, etc. were no object, and bring it to share. An open reading will follow.

We will also have a sign-up list for "womanning" the LWG table at the annual gay picnic on June 30. Get involved in the Lesbian Writer's Group. It's fun!

For more information about the writer's group, call Anne Seale, 671-3294.

Dignity-Integrity

Dignity-Integrity's May Cabin Party was postponed due to bad weather. It has been re-scheduled for June 14, from 6:30 to 10 p.m., at Camp Eastman Park.

All are welcome to join in the fun. We will be having food, music and games. For more information, call the DI Hotline at 328-9578.

Our 5 p.m. service on every third Sunday of the month at St. Luke's/St. Simon (Cyrene) Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St., is now interpreted for the deaf.

Rochester Rangers

By Michael Winton

In June the Rochester Rangers will be hosting another Carnival Nite at Tara, 153 Liberty Pole Way. On June 22, starting at 9 p.m., the carnival goes all night til 2 a.m. with games, prizes (lots of stuffed animals), food, and a lot more. Circle your calendar now to join us for evening of fun. We hope to see you there.

The membership of the Rochester Rangers is very pleased to announce to everyone that our spaghetti dinner for the Vinnie/Vicki Cup awards on May 19, was a huge success.

We served over 125 meals. Thanks, Arnie and Dick, for the use of your kitchen. At the end of this event, President Michael W. presented the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley with a check for \$200 to be used for the building fund. Thank you again to everyone who came down to the Forum and enjoyed the afternoon with us.

In July the Rochester Rangers will be taking a little break. We will be back in August with another event. Watch our bulletin boards at your favorite bar for our plans.

Until next time, we remind everyone, "It's up to you, stop AIDS; use condoms and play safe."

Michele Tofany
Ed.D. N.C.C.

Offers: Individual • Couple
Family • Group Counseling
to persons living a gay,
lesbian or bisexual lifestyle

ADJUSTABLE FEES
458-0533

WELLESLEY CENTER
442-2986

Lesbian & Gay
Therapists offer
individual, couple &
group counseling in a
discreet setting.

Barbara Debes, M.S., C.A.S.
Horace Lethbridge, M.A.

Scott E. Miller, CSW
Counseling & Psychotherapy

Southview Commons, 100 White Spruce Blvd.
Rochester, NY 14623
(716)475-1120

PERSONAL GROWTH THROUGH SELF-EXPLORATION

Richard Lenhard, MS. Ed.
Counseling Service

Evening & Saturday appointments available
442-7225

WHITE SPRUCE ASSOCIATES

Addressing the needs
of gay, lesbian &
bisexual individuals
& their families

Providing individual, couple & family therapy

- Alcoholism & co-dependency issues
- Sexuality & gender-related concerns
- Relationship problems

Martha M. Howden, CSW, CAC
Credentialed Alcoholism Counselor

William Kelly, CSW, CAC
Credentialed Alcoholism Counselor
Certified Sex Therapist

Steven D. Davis, CSW, CAC
Credentialed Alcoholism Counselor

496 White Spruce Blvd. 272-7210

B.O.O.K.S

Silkwood

VIDEO RENTALS

NO MEMBERSHIP FEE

633 Monroe Ave.
(1 block west of Oxford)
473-8110

A GROUP FOR MEN

AN ONGOING GROUP FOR ADULT MEN FOCUSED ON INCREASING SELF ESTEEM IN A CONFIDENTIAL SETTING. WE WILL COME THROUGH MEMBERS EVERY 12 WEEKS. NEXT SESSION BEGINS ON SUNDAY JULY 14TH.

LOCATION: WELLESLEY CENTER
TIME: SUNDAYS 6:00 - 7:30
GROUP FACILITATORS: MICHAEL SULLIVAN, C.S.W. & HORACE LETHBRIDGE, M.A.

CALL NOW 442 2986

SLIDING SCALE FEE FOR SESSIONS \$15 - \$25

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Classified ads cost \$5 for the first 30 words and \$1 for each additional 10 words. Send check or money order and ad, typed or written legibly, to: E.C. Press, 179 Atlantic Ave., Rochester, NY 14607-1255. Ads will not be accepted over the telephone.

The Empty Closet will not accept classified ads by mail unless they are accompanied by a name and telephone number. The number will not be published, but we will call to confirm the ad placement.

We accept personal ads, but the advertiser must use his or her own box number or address. We publish personal ads from prisoners on a space-available basis. If you have a problem with a pen pal, let us know. The Empty Closet cannot be held responsible for any financial loss or physical injury that may result from any correspondence.

Announcements

Peer facilitators. Answer the Gay Alliance hotline on a regularly scheduled basis, both evenings and during daytime hours. Good listening skills a must! Will train. If interested, call the p.f. line 244-8640, leave a message on the tape. A peer facilitator will get back to you.

Delphi Drug Abuse Center, Inc. 55 East Main St., Webster NY 14580. 265-4150. We offer the following services on a sliding fee scale to meet your needs: drug and alcohol evaluations and counseling services, including DWI referrals; individual psychotherapy for children, adolescents and adults; couples and family therapy.

Men interested in personal growth and increasing self-esteem wanted for a new group. The "group for men" is professionally led and offers a confidential setting. Call 442-2986 for information.

Loving dog needs loving home. Female, long haired German Shepherd. 436-2034 (leave message).

Silver-white purebred Shepherd. Female. \$50 or best offer. Needs loving owner and lots of room to run! Call Brenda or Tammy, 254-7566.

Male & female musicians wanted. Keyboardist, lead and bass guitarist, drummer, to form a diverse musical group. Sound includes... rock n roll, dance, progressive and industrial. Originality a must! If interested, please call Diane, 244-9564.

Center for Youth Services needs families to temporarily host homeless and runaway youths. Families in City of Rochester especially needed. For more information, call Leah Warnick, 473-2464, or write Center for Youth Services, 258 Alexander St., Rochester NY 14607.

Wild Wimmia Productions seeking lesbian artists, craftswomen and performers to participate in a coffeehouse/art show to be held in September. Please contact Liz at 881-1574.

Black gay men's journal. "Other Countries" seeks submissions to their second journal, focusing on AIDS. Deadline June 15. Poems, stories, interviews, art, etc.

Send material with stamped, self-addressed envelope to Other Countries Journal, PO Box 3142 Church St. Stn., New York NY 10008-3142.

Short fiction by women, new magazine, seeks short stories, novellas, novel excerpts by women. Send typed, double-spaced ms. with SASE to Rachel Whalen, Short Fiction by Women, Box 1276, Stuyvesant Stn., New York NY 10009.

Lawn care. Professional mowing. For a cut above the rest. Free estimates: 225-6475, or 647-3266.

Help Wanted

City Councilmember at large needs parttime staff assistance. Good clerical and organizing skills a plus. Flexible time essential. Call 232-6825.

Women contractors for all kinds of work. Some opportunities for immediate work. Various experience levels acceptable. Would like to form a women's contracting network. Call 865-9219.

Office manager. 20 hours/week. Starts 7/29/91. General office skills, typing 30 wpm, computer experience, well-organized, good communication and interpersonal skills. Commitment to social change. \$8,000 plus health insurance. Resume by June 14 to Metro-Act, 36 St. Paul St., Suite 106, Rochester NY 14604.

Financial services needed. Individual or business to provide financial services for the Empty Closet and the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley. Call 244-9030, or call 244-8640 and leave message for Betty.

Personals

Do you know your HIV status? Community Health Network, 244-9000. Rochester NY 14616.

Female to female: white feline, early 30s, large framed, a bit shy. Seeks warm Caucasian cat who meows the truth, has been declawed and enjoys cuddling. She doesn't need to be a young kitten. Mail me your pawprint and we can purr over a bowl of milk together. City Newspaper, Box 1082, 250 N. Goodman St., Rochester NY 14607.

J.O. Group. Why play with yourself, by yourself? Join hot, like-minded men and share safe fun. Founded June 1986. Please send a SASE for details. Boxholder, Box 10514, Rochester NY 14610.

Dixie and Mandy. We forgot to give you our phone number when we left Kathy's. Give us a call sometime and we can all get together. 315-536-9349. Barb and Tammy.

GWF, 31, 5'2", large build. I am warm, sensitive, and fun-loving. I have deeply passionate brown eyes and can hug you with my soul. I am looking for a gentle, loving GF who is open to feeling her own inner beauty. No expectations and no limitations. Don't be afraid to write: A.O., PO Box 6, Clifton Springs, NY 14432-0006.

GWM, 44. Mature professional guy, slim, handsome, curly-haired Italian, re-locating to Rochester from Los Angeles in June.

Looking for GWM, 18-25, slim, clean-shaven, for friendship and goodtimes possible relationship. I don't know anyone in Rochester. Please send detailed letter and enclose recent photo and phone number. Joe B., PO Box 19682, Rochester NY 14619.

Desperately seeking Julie the schoolteacher. We met at the RGM/RWCC More Light Concert May 4. Beth from Omega introduced us. My name is Debbie. Please come to Omega's June events.

The following prisoners are lonely and seeking correspondence with anyone who will write:

Incarcerated, lonely, gentle, compassionate. Seeking friendship. Black, 5'11", 174 lbs. Like politics, religion, music and nature. Estee Harris, 187896, PO Box 4569, Lucasville OH 45699-0001.

Black male, age 37, 5'11", 147 lbs. Seeking sincere, faithful companion, will answer all letters. Michael Watson, 178072, PO Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699-0001.

Reaching out. 24, 5'9 1/2", 158 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, love to write. Kemuel Murrell #196 941, PO Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699-0001.

Looking for special friends. I am 32, 145 lbs., have degree in business and in culinary arts. Have modeled, love to travel, enjoy sports and the arts. Returning after release in 10 months; need friendship. James Streeter, PO 3310, Oshkosh, WI. 54903.

Roommates/ Housemates

Roomie. Share a wonderfully large three-bedroom two-bathroom apartment, on a pleasant East Side street. Looking for mature, working females to respectfully share a fully furnished home with cable, washer/dryer and all the lesbian luxuries. Will consider a couple or singles; must love pets. \$250-300. Call 654-5728.

Roommate wanted. Share comfortable 5 room apartment with two gay males and 3 cats. \$145/mo plus. Laundry in basement, convenient to downtown. 454-1053.

Roommate wanted. Get away from city apartments and room with me in a Pittsford apartment in a country setting. Comfortable and quiet. Laundry and parking. \$250 includes all. 248-8611.

New Age feminist, socialist lesbian seeking same or gay males for roommates, Aug. 1. Meet now, find residence together. Pets OK, smokers OK. Maturity, employment, a must. 244-0815 evenings.

Wanted: gay male or female to share 4 bedroom home in Henrietta. Convenient to U. of R., RIT, Marketplace Mall and expressways. Must be gainfully employed and responsible. Details and amenities, call 359-3382.

Woman wanted to share house with other women, Monroe Ave. area. \$270/month. Call 442-0051 or 442-6628.

Non-Smoking Male resident, grad student, mature undergrad to room in pleasant SW city home convenient to U.R., St. Mary's Hospital. Write Boxholder, Box 1406, Downtown Stn. Rochester 14603.

For rent

Rooms for rent, close to downtown. Large room: \$250/mo includes all, plus access to backyard, large kitchen. Male preferred. Smoker OK — no dogs! Smaller room: \$250/mo includes all. Access to front porch, large kitchen, backyard and laundry. Smoker OK. Female preferred. Must be animal lover. No pets! Both available immediately. Call Tammy or Brenda at 254-7566.

Looking for a room? We have one for rent. In Charlotte area, on bus line, full house privileges, laundry, fireplace, cable. Gay male preferred. \$75/week includes all. Call 663-0873.

Bright, spacious 2 bedroom apartment in Park Ave. area. Hardwood floors, dining room, balcony. Laundry. \$615 includes heat, utilities, parking. Available June 15. Professionals preferred. 271-6034.

For sale

Victorian Queen Anne. Impeccable circa 1800's. Two fireplaces, lots of original wood, pantry, large private yard. Lynne McSloy, ERA-DeVill Realty, 442-3318. **Brighton:** 2/3 bedroom storybook Cape, large grand room, neutral colors, fenced-in yard. Perfect for couple, small family or single. Lynne McSloy, ERA-DeVill Realty, 442-3318.

'67 Cadillac convertible Deville, piss elegant white on white on white. Truly old lady's Florida car. Body perfect, new paint on stripped body, mech. EC, mostly new. Interior and top still need redoing, which is why price only \$5000. Irene, 1-658-4321, Mt. Morris.

Friday Night Social

Every Friday
8:00 pm - 12:00 mid
Sept-May

The Lilac Palace
150 Clinton Ave. S.
Rochester, NY*

For more info:
— call —

Gary 482-6365
(voice)

Dale 232-6031
(voice/TDD)

*Located at Universalist Church

ROCHESTER CUSTOM LEATHERS

CUSTOM LEATHER WORKS & NOVELTIES

VILLAGE GATE SQUARE • 274 N. GOODMAN ST., ROCHESTER NY 14607 • 716/442-2323

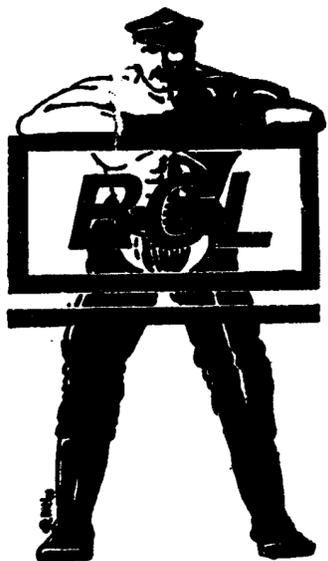
Video Rental: 2 Nights for \$3.⁹⁹ Gay/Bisexual/Lesbian Documentary
MOTORCYCLE JACKETS MADE IN THE U.S.A.
Largest Selection of Gay & Lesbian Magazines in Rochester
Wide Selection of Leather Accessories

Gay Owned and Operated

Open Mon. to Thurs. 11 am-8 pm, Fri & Sat. 11 am-10 pm, and Sun. 12 pm-5 pm

Take 490 East to the Goodman St. exit, turn North (left)

One block North of University Ave. on the right.



MAKE OUR BAR YOUR BAR...

ANTHONY'S

522

MON-FRI SPECIAL
NOON TO 5 PM

From \$5.00

PHONE PERSONAL ADS!

HOW TO PLACE YOUR OWN FREE PERSONAL AD

First it may be helpful for you to jot down some notes about what you'd like to say about yourself and the individual qualities, interests and life-style of the person you want to meet. Then just call 263-7900. There is no charge to call 263-7900!

Follow the voice instructions to place an ad. You will instantly be assigned a voice box number. The system will ask you to recite your ad for the paper. Then you will record your SCANBOX greeting. The SCANBOX lets callers that don't have the paper browse through the ads. This allows you to entice the scanner to stop and respond to you, before your ad is published! The last recording is your VOICEBOX greeting. Once a caller responds to your ad in the paper, or your SCANBOX ad, they are directed to your VOICEBOX. This is where you can ask them to leave information you want to know. You will not be asked for your name, address or telephone number! This service is totally automated and 100% confidential. Your ad will appear in the next issue of The Empty Closet and Freetime Magazine.

LISTENING AND RESPONDING TO PHONE ADS

It is possible for you use our new Confidential Date-Line Personals System with or without having a copy of the newspaper in front of you.

WITH THE PAPER, read through the ads to find the specific ones that interest you. Then call 971-9977* from your phone (it must be touch tone). Follow the voice instructions to respond to an ad. You can listen to your message and change it if you'd like before it is actually delivered to the box holder.

WITHOUT THE PAPER, call 971-9977* and use the SCANBOX feature. SCANBOX plays through all of the active personal ads in your selected area of preference.

HOW TO BEAT THE PRESS

Plus, since it takes time to insert the new printed ads into the paper, by using SCANBOX you get a jump on all the competition by hearing all the new ads before they get printed.

RETRIEVING YOUR MESSAGES

Simply call 971-9977*. Follow the voice instructions to enter your box. You will be asked to enter your security code. Once you're in your box, you will be able to listen to your messages, change your security code or you can select 'The Confidential Connection Option'. This option enables you to receive calls at your phone when a caller enters your box number. The system will allow the caller to be connected directly to you, or to leave you a message. No one ever knows your phone number. You may enable or disable this feature as often as you wish. The best part of all is, when a caller reaches you directly, you don't have to pay to listen to their message.

*\$1.50 per minute will be charged to your RTC phone bill for calling 971-9977

CALL 971-9977 TO RESPOND TO ADS

\$1.50 per minute will be charged to your phone bill as 971-9977

MEN

GWM 36, looking for other GWM over 60 only. Clean and discreet for fun and fantasy. #3847

BIWM Early 40's heavy, clean, discreet. Looking to meet other bi or straight acting males for good times. #3909

BIWM 171 lbs, 27, 5' 6.5" seeks other bi or GWM from the ages of 18-30 who likes video games, movies. #3891

GWM Hi, I'm 6'2", 190 lbs, 34 years old, and if you like the pleasures of a nose to toes full body hot oil rub I'm the one for you. I'll also play out your fantasies if you want. If you're between 18-35 give me a call. #3886

GWM 30 years old, 5'9", 170 lbs., brown hair, blue eyes, real, emotional, stable, physically fit. Would like to meet real men, no fats, ferns or druggles, for healthy, alive, robust relationship. Sincere only. Thanks. #3884

GWM 19, blue eyes, blonde hair, 5'8", 145 lbs., looking for 21-27 blonde hair, blue eyes, 6 foot. #3877

GWM 27, brown hair, blue eyes, looking for males my age that like to have wet and hot times. #3867

GWM Hi, I'm 28 years old, self-employed, looking for a friendship, possibly a long-term relationship. I'm looking for someone who is 25+, financially secure, emotionally stable, and not afraid to commit and explore new things. If you're interested I'd appreciate hearing from you. #3857

GWM I am the overweight lover Tony D. I prefer a hairy chest. Looking for fun, exciting, sexual encounter. I am very well hung. Please call me. #3851

BIWM 38, would like to meet other males bi or gay for fun and games. No drugs, B&D, S&M. A good time. #3832

GWM 26 years old, 5'8", 145 lbs., looking for attractive GWM with bigger build ages 25-35 for possible relationship. #3815

GWM mid-30's, 5'7", I'd like to meet a she-male or cross dresser for some talk and to see if we can get together. #3811

GWM 25, wants to be servant and slave to dominant, muscular, long blonde haired male with motorcycle 18-27. #3804

GWM early 20's looking for a good time. #3979

BBM single, interested in meeting GWM 25-35 for special times, no drugs or bars. #4011

GWM Mid-30's, good looking, professional, sober. I'd like to meet an 18-30 mature friend and/or lover. #3773

SM 30, 5'10", great looking, great shape. Straight up to now. Would like to meet a man to please. Very clean and discreet. I am willing to do anything. #3774

GWM 30, professional, looking for other males 22-32 for fun and friendship. I love sports, music and a sense of humor. #3769

WM Hi, my name is Mark, I'm 38 years old. I'm into garer belts, black stockings, good times and good people. Good safe clean fun. #3767

GWM I am a 36 year old, 5'11", 195 lbs., looking for friendship or possibly more with latin or white male 18-24 only. #3757

GBM 22, interested in meeting GWMs who are out going, have a great personality, and who are interested in meeting me. #4054

GWM 25, looking for other physically fit males for adventures. #3998

BIWM 32, would like to meet other BIWM 25-35 for a lot of fun times. #3981

GWM 23, looking for a GBM, young, good looking, nice person, kind. #3970

GWM 18, My name is Kevin, a football player and local college student. I am 5'11", very muscular and very good looking. Looking for men between 18-30 who want good times. #3968

BIWM 21, local college student, 6' tall, 180 lbs., hazel eyes, blonde/brown hair. Seeking men between 18-26 who are well built for a possible relationship or friendship. #3967

MWM My name is Mike, I'm looking for a man between 27-35 interested in a discrete first time experience. #3950

GM 19, dark black hair, I like music and computers and I'm looking for a younger person to keep me company at home. #4086

BIWM 33, long blonde hair, brown eyes, 5'10", 170 lbs., I'm looking for a guy with real long hair for fun and friendship, between 18-30, blue eyes are a plus. #4081

BIWM 5'11", 165 lbs., 39, looking for guys 25-40 that are in good shape, and into levi/leather scene. #4079

GWM 25, 180 lbs., 6'2", good looking professional, looking for relationship with straight-acting professional male, under 35, for friendship and possible relationship. #4078

BIWM 27, 5'7", 171 lbs., would like to meet another BIWM or GWM for first time encounter. Also would like to hear from box #3748 as I have been unable to contact you. #4075

GWM 28, 6' tall, brown hair, brown eyes, would like to meet a fun loving, out going man 20-35, for friendship or relationship. #4069

BIWM 26, 5'10", 185 lbs., looking for guys 21+ for hot times. Must be clean, discrete and open minded. #4063

BIWM 22, straight acting, looking for other BIWM or BBM that are serious and interested in meeting a friend for safe and mutual pleasures. If interested leave me a message. #4451



MULTICOM-4
THIS AREA'S FIRST AND LARGEST FREE GAY, LESBIAN AND BI-SEXUAL COMPUTER BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEM AVAILABLE 24 HRS A DAY 16 LINES !!! 473-4070

GWM 30, 6'0", brown hair, beard and brown eyes. Masters level professional. Good humor. Seeks friendship and possible relationship with man 25-35. Enjoys romantic times, long walks, movies and good conversation. #4448

GM I would like to meet other young submissive males 18-32 for a good time. #4442

GWM late 30's, interested in meeting similar males, professional preferred, for fun, fantasy, etc. #4430

GWM 6'3", 180 lbs., slim build, light brown hair. Looking for friendship from other GWM or BIWM between 23-27. #4406

BIWM 29, 6'0", 190 lbs., good looking professional, would like to meet other BIWM between 18-32 for a first time experience. Let's be clean and discreet. #4403

GBM interested in meeting a male who is not into head games, who wants a serious relationship, somebody not out there just for a quick one night stand. If this sounds like you give me a call, race age unimportant. #4402

BIWM 22, 5'10", 140 lbs., brown hair, hazel eyes. Into just hanging out, and if you're between the ages 20-28 please call. #4392

GWM 21, tall, attractive, out going, into music, hanging out, having fun. Looking for similar male 20-25. #4381

BIWM 21, 5'6", 150 lbs., looking for other BIWM or curious straight males 18-23 for friendship and possible relationship. #4389

GWM 30, good looking, brown hair, 5'10", 150 lbs. I'm interested in meeting BIM or perhaps a BIC to experiment. #4380

GWM 19, discreet college student, good looking, with attractive constitution and body. I'm seeking a built GM for fun times, intelligent friendship, and possible relationship. #4389

GWM 33, pretty good shape, works out, good looking, healthy. Into many things, hope to hear from you. #4374

BIWM 29, 6'2", 185 lbs., am new to this scene and would like to meet someone who will help a first timer through this. Please respond to my voice box. #4368

BIWM 32, safe, clean, discreet, looking for same ages 21-40 for good times. #4363

BIWM 32, professional, clean, discreet, seeks same 21-40 for first time encounter. Safe fun times. #4361

BIWM 34, 5'7", 160 lbs., good looking and in good shape. Looking for a first time experience with another male. Please give me a call. #4359

BIWM mid 30's, 5'7", 155 lbs., looking for a first time encounter with another BIWM or GWM. #4355

GM interested in meeting someone special between 28-44. If this sounds like you and you're sincere and honest, give me a call. #4350

GM fine, sexy, outgoing, interested in meeting somebody who is not into head games, drugs, somebody who is into starting a new life, and somebody who is honest and outgoing. If this sounds like you, give me a call. #4346

GWM 21, 6'1", incredibly healthy and handsome, body of death, can go on and on, not interested in anything but breakfast in bed, in fact take all meals in bed. #4331

BIWM 24, looking for other BIM or straight male looking to have a good time or just talk. #4330

WOMEN

GF single, looking for a female who wants a lifetime commitment and is success serious and loves children. #3879

BIBF single, attractive, professional, 35, seeking attractive professional sincere female between the ages of 35-40 for friendship and fun. #3775

BIF 32, blonde hair, brown eyes, intense scorpio, and I'm into arts, music, theater, water sports, laughing, having fun, intelligent conversation, and I'm not into head games. #4031

MWC and **SWM** looking for a BIF to join us and finish out our foursome. Must be clean and discreet. If interested, leave us a way to contact you. #4443

BWF single, attractive, mid 30's, professional with a zest for life, loves nature, sports and conversation. Looking for physically fit, intelligent counterpart for friendship and potentially more. #4445

GF 25, I'm a cat and modern rock lover, attractive, I can be discreet, am fairly intelligent, have a sense of humor, am monogamous, versatile, outgoing, and I am seeking the same 21-28. I am looking for a relationship, but friendship is good. Serious inquiries only. #4386

Call 263-7900 to place a FREE personal ad (the call is FREE too!)

INTRODUCING The GAB LINE 971-1500

Talk with other Rochester men LIVE!

only 50¢ per minute

These are only a small portion of the ads. Call 971-9977 and use the Scan Box to hear all of the ads.

JUSTICE

WOMENS DANCE CLUB AND NETWORKING ALTERNATIVE

Friday, June 14th – "Sex for Breakfast"
with Anne Seale. Doors open at 6:30.
Show at 7:30

Sunday, June 30th – Justice welcomes
Donna Nicole for a post gay picnic bash.
Doors open at 6:00. Show at 8:00.

Wednesday, July 3rd – Come party at
Justice for an Independence Day Blow-
out. Dancing until 2 a.m. – \$1²⁵ Genny
Lites. Shot Specials All Night Long

Join Justice Every Thursday for Open
Mike Night hosted by Kathryn MacIntyre.
Show at 9:30, Musicians, Poets, Comics –
All Welcome for Fun and Music.

THURSDAYS

OPEN 9-2 (Upstairs only) • Open Mike Night
2-for-1 Cocktails • \$1⁷⁵ Molsons.

FRIDAYS

OPEN 9-3. D.J. Jackie

SATURDAYS

OPEN 9-3 • Beer and Shot Specials
D.J. Sammy

88 LIBERTY POLE WAY
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK
OFFICE: 232-5070
HOT LINE: 454-HOTT

HQ
76.5
7.44

RECEIVED
1991
LIBRARY
**THE
EMPTY
CLOSET**

NEW YORK STATE'S OLDEST GAY & LESBIAN NEWSPAPER

No. 226
June 1, 1991
Rochester, NY

**CELEBRATING
OUT
DIVERSITY**

LESBIAN, GAY & BISEXUAL PRIDE

1991

Rochester

NY