

*Russell*



ENTERTAINMENT

**The Gaylaxians are out there**

■ A gay s.f. convention Page 10



PICNIC PINUPS

**Family Album**

■ Thousands socialized gaily at the GAGV picnic on June 23. Page 15

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# THE EMPTY CLOSET

Number 282

July 1996

New York State's Oldest Gay & Lesbian Newspaper

## Gay Men's Chorus, Women's Chorus head for Tampa, Fla.

Over 5,000 singers set for GALA Festival

By Susan Jordan

The Rochester Gay Men's Chorus and members of Rochester Women's Community Chorus will take part in the world's largest gay and lesbian choral festival this month.

The GALA Festival will be held July 6-13 in Tampa, Fla. As the latest issue of "Keynotes," the RGMC newsletter, remarks, "35 groggy members of RGMC will gather at the airport. For a 6:25 (a.m.) flight. To Florida. For a week. In July."

It takes real dedication to face Florida's summer humidity, but the RGMC has been a prominent member of GALA Choruses (Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses) since its 1986 event in Minneapolis; when RGMC made history by having all members learn to sign their version of "Kumbaya" in ASL, an incident recorded in GALA's official history (and the only mention of a specific chorus in that history.)

The Festival will include a keynote address by author Maya Angelou, with Harvey Fierstein as opening ceremonies m.c.; and appearances by Holly Near, Romanovsky and Phillips, cabaret singer Ann Hampton Callaway, rock trio BETTY, and over 110 choruses and small vocal groups from gay communities all over the country, as well as Europe and Australia.

More than a dozen new choral works will be premiered by approximately 5,000 singers. Estimates of the potential audience run to 30,000 people. "It's huge," said Jim Clark of the Tampa-Hillsborough Convention and Visitors' Center. "It's one of the biggest meetings we've ever had in Tampa." The event is ex-

pected to generate 10 to 20 million dollars in business for the local community.

Kenneth Cole, executive director of GALA Choruses, said, "GALA officials initially considered other locations when Tampa voters in 1992 repealed the city's amendment to its human rights ordinance banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. They decided to remain in Tampa, though, when the city put the law back on the books in October 1993, after the courts determined that 462 signatures that forced the vote were invalid."

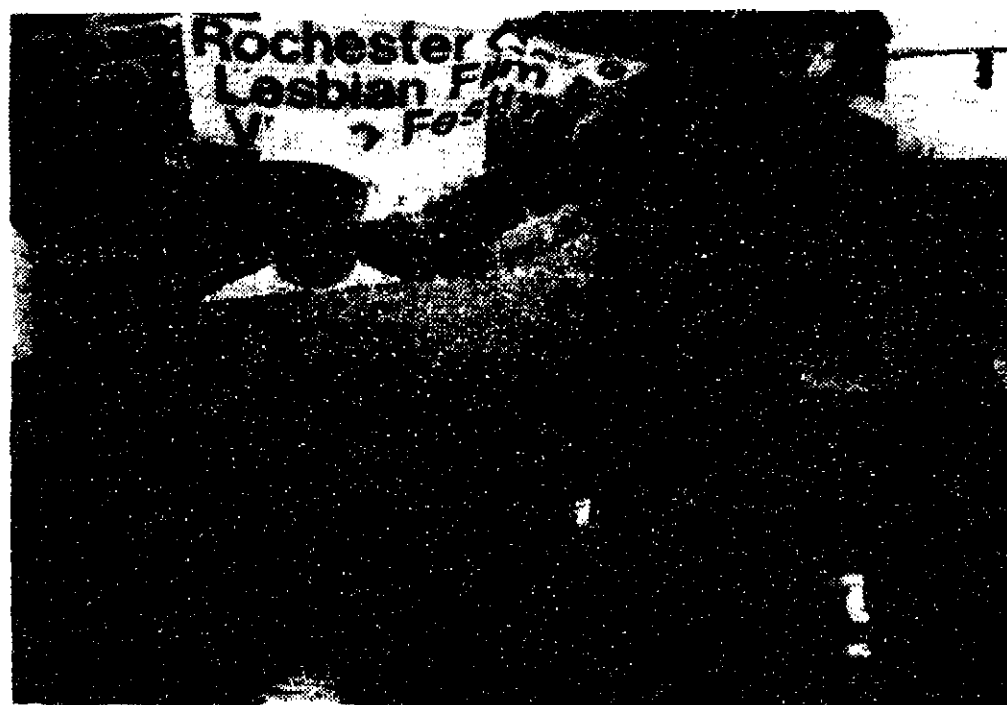
Gays and lesbians who attend the Festival will be able to consult "The Florida Boycott Handbook" which lists local businesses which respect equality and have policies banning anti-gay discrimination, as a guide on where to best spend their money.

Thirty-six concerts will be held in the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center, and related events will take place at other sites, including the Busch Gardens theme park, which has been rented for the night of July 11 for a concert including gay comics Robin Tyler and John McGivern, and the a cappella group The Flirtations. An all-women concert featuring Ysaye Barnwell of Sweet Honey in the Rock will take place on July 12.

RGMC director Nick Williams said that he is looking forward to a rare musical treat. "What excites me most is the level of musicianship I'm going to hear. All the choruses are amateur, but some of them are among the most-recorded choirs in the U.S. this decade.

Chorus continued on p. 3

## Pride Parade '96



Pride marchers head down Main St. on June 22.

## Over 2,000 gays, lesbians, bis, friends march for pride

Over 2,000 people marched from the Liberty Pole to the High Falls Bridge on June 22 in a colorful Pride Parade featuring elaborate floats, the Rochester Lesbian Firm marching band, and delegations representing almost every segment of the community, from the Gay/Lesbian Business Forum to the International Lesbian Organization, and from church groups to the leather community.

The Grand Marshalls were Casey and Mary Ellen Lepata of PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). "This celebration underscores the dignity of our lives," Mary Ellen said. She said that Pride Weekend means celebrating "the values that each and every one of us brings to our community... the love of our families... the wonder of ourselves."

Groups and businesses taking part included: The Gay and Lesbian Business Forum (organizers), the Buffalo Lambda Business Club, Diversity Integrity, Lambda at Kodak, GALAX (Maroon), International Lesbian Organization, Club Atlantis, Club Marcella, Rochester Rangers, Queer Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf, Pride Connection, AIDS Resource, Gay Fathers, 19th Ward group, Lake Ave. Baptist Church, Buffalo Community College gay students/faculty, Open Arms MCC, Main Festival, Irt's Biting, Rochester Custom Leathers, Gue's Auto, Health Sciences group, COAP Political Caucus, GAGY, St. Mary's Cathedral, First Unitarian Church, Utica University, Inter-Community, St. Michael's, and the Buffalo Lesbian Community.

## Rep. Barney Frank to host fundraiser for Slaughter

By Susan Jordan

Congressman Barney Frank will host a community fundraiser for local Congresswoman Louise Slaughter on July 19 at 7:30 p.m., at a private home in Corn Hill. (For location, call 232-2410 or 288-7267.)

Rep. Frank, of Massachusetts, became the nation's first openly gay member of Congress when he came out in 1987. He is a leading advocate for equality and Democratic voice in the House of Representatives, and is a ranking member of the Constitution Subcommittee of the

House Judiciary Committee.

Congresswoman Slaughter is currently finishing her fifth term, and has a nearly perfect voting record on issues of concern to the lesbian, gay and bisexual community, according to the Human Rights Campaign, a Washington, D.C.-based gay rights organization. According to a recent report in *Congressional Quarterly* magazine, she may be in line to assume the chair of the powerful House Budget Committee if she wins re-election, and the Democrats take back the majority of seats in the

House of Representatives.

Mark Siwiec and Cheryl Camillo, co-chairs of the event, said, "With religious political extremists advancing their hate-filled, discriminatory agenda through Congress, it is important to re-elect advocates for fairness like Representatives Slaughter and Frank. We invite all members of the community to participate in her campaign by joining us for light food and drink on July 19."

Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased by calling the Louise Slaughter Re-election Committee at 232-

2410, or Cheryl Camillo at 288-7267.

Rep. Frank told the *Empty Closet* about why he supports Louise Slaughter: "Because I never have to ask her. I have a lot of colleagues who I lobby about whether gay men and lesbians deserve the same rights as everyone else. With Louise, I never have to ask. She's fundamentally a decent human being who does things because they're the right thing to do, which is good for us and a

Frank continued on p. 3

## NewsFronts

LOCAL AND STATE

### Elisha House appeals for volunteers, funds

Elisha House is a terminal care home for patients suffering from AIDS, and it is in great need of volunteers.

Priority is given to AIDS patients because only two terminal care homes locally accept AIDS patients.

"The other homes discriminate and do not accept AIDS patients," say Elisha House spokespersons. "Ironically, these other homes are very well financed, and staffed with a pool of hundreds of volunteers. In the last five years we served 70 patients in their journey toward peace, and 50 of those patients had AIDS. We are in desperate need of volunteers and donations to continue to serve the community."

Elisha House serves a population that has little in financial resources. The project is depleting its resources much faster than it is able to secure grant funds. "We do not charge patients for their stay, nor is there any reimbursement from insurances or Social Services," the group says.

Elisha House has room for two patients at any one time. Each patient has their own private bedroom and there are sitting rooms and a kitchen available to family and friends. The house is staffed 24 hours, seven days a week. Currently the organization relies on an aide agency to fill the evening hours due to a lack of volunteers. Each shift is four hours. The day and weekend hours are the most needed hours. Elisha House has training available for interested volunteers.

"Our mission is to provide comfort care to make the patient's last days as joyful and comfortable as possible. We offer unconditional love and compassion for ALL patients in our house," the group says. Please call Lynne McNulty at 464-8852 to inquire further. Donations may be sent to Elisha House, 370 Chili Ave., Rochester, N. Y. 14611.

### Bikers ride for cancer research

By Aron Blocher

Come greet the "Pony Express Tour '96" as it passes through our neck of the woods on July 20. If you haven't yet heard what the tour is all about, allow me to introduce you.

In continued efforts to raise money for the Susan G. Komen Breast Can-

Local news continued on p. 3



# Perspectives

viewpoints that matter

## Seeing ourselves — and each other

Susan Jordan

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia seems to see the gay community as made up entirely of well-to-do upper-middleclass white people. In his dissenting opinion in the recent overturn of Colorado's anti-gay Amendment 2, he claimed that gays are a small but highly concentrated urban elite who possess unlimited wealth and influence — or "raw power," as Ellen Yacknin wrote in last month's "The Law and Us" column.

Therefore, Scalia claimed, since we queers have all this "disproportionate" influence and wealth (not unlike politicians, judges and CEOs, one might think), it is fair and just for Coloradans, and presumably all Americans, not only to hate us, but to manipulate the Constitution to deprive us of the rights enjoyed by all other American citizens, in order to compensate for the enormous, unfair power we supposedly wield.

Fortunately for American civil rights, the six majority justices did not agree with this highly skewed perception. Scalia commented bitterly that the majority justices were influenced by political rather than judicial motives in their decision. This is a strange conclusion to draw, since the majority included both liberal justices and Ronald Reagan appointees hardly known for their progressive views, while the three minority justices — Scalia, Rehnquist and Thomas — are self-proclaimed warriors in what they, following Bismarck (trying to wipe out German Catholics) and Hitler (trying to wipe out Jews) call the "Kulturkampf" — the "culture war" against gay Americans which the Radical Right has invented in order to impose their repressive control on our society. This is judicial objectivity?

As a dedicated agent of "traditional forces," of course, Scalia could be expected to uncritically accept and promote all negative stereotypes of gays pushed by the Right, whether of the Pedophile, the Effeminate Queen, the Lesbian Witch or the Wealthy Powerbroker — whichever seems most useful for their propaganda-of-the-moment. Another factor may be operating here, as well. In our society, gays and lesbians, working class people, people of color, women, the disabled and all others who are deemed powerless are generally treated as if they were invisible. Scalia, even though he comes from a working class immigrant background, has adopted the values of the power elite, and all powerless members of society, including heterosexuals, are probably invisible to him (with the possible exception of heterosexual working class Italians).

But Scalia is not the only one wearing blinkers. There is a school of thought within our community that feels the only form of oppression that should concern us as a movement is the one that

affects middleclass white gay males or females. Once society has come to accept them as gays, as far as they are concerned, the need for social change will be over.

Often such single-issue gays find it impossible to "see" those (including other gays) who are not affluent, did not receive a college education, did not grow up in suburban neighborhoods, are not white or male or professional or "straight-appearing" — and who therefore are invisible and simply don't count. And the image of the gay community and the gay liberation movement which has often been projected to the public at large is an image of people who are Caucasian, straight-appearing and upwardly mobile — "just like heterosexuals." That is, just like the heterosexual white upper-middleclass males who control society.

So if we are stereotyped by Radical Right mouthpieces like Scalia as too influential, too wealthy, too powerful — rich kids whining about "special rights" — maybe we have only ourselves to blame. When the most-oppressed, most-powerless members of our own movement and community become visible to the rest of us, then maybe heterosexual society will also be able to "see" that most of us (millions of us) are ordinary Americans of many diverse backgrounds, not especially wealthy or influential, and certainly not just a small elite working in the shadows to manipulate a helpless society for their own personal benefit.

When our movement becomes truly inclusive, then it will not be only middleclass white gays and lesbians who are visible, who are leaders, and who set the agenda for everyone else. And when the true diversity of gay America becomes visible, then the bigots who are trying to take away our rights will have lost the battle. Because then it will be clear to Americans of ALL classes, races and backgrounds that, in most of the ways that count, we really are just like them.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:** The opinions of columnists, editorial writers and other contributing writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the collective attitude of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley or the Empty Closet. We will print letters at the editor's discretion and on a space available basis. We will not print personal attacks on individuals, nor will we be a forum for ongoing disputes between individuals. We reserve the right to edit for space and clarity. We will print anonymous letters if the name and phone number are provided to the Editor; confidentiality will be respected. Submissions are due by the 15th of the month at The Empty Closet, 179 Atlantic Ave., Rochester NY 14607-1255

### From Our Readers

#### A political event without political content?

To the Editor:

Many people have asked me why I did not march in the Pride Parade this year, and I would be happy to have an opportunity to explain. I decided not to march as a protest against the poor timing of the march, and the lack of political content in the following Cultural Festival.

For me, there are two purposes for a Pride Parade; first, to feel pride in our identity instead of the shame inculcated by society, and second, to show that pride to the heterosexual community and to closeted gays and lesbians — to be visible. On a summer Saturday night downtown, few people were on the streets, and the march was largely invisible to that audience.

Also, at 7 p.m. the 6 o'clock TV news had just ended, and stations could not send "Live Eye" cameras to provide coverage. Only the comparatively small 11 p.m. viewing audience saw the coverage by Channel 10 and Channel 9. The march was invisible to a wider TV audience.

Who did see the Rochester Pride Parade? Essentially, only the marchers themselves, their friends and supporters.

Finally, the decision to have a Cultural Festival rather than a rally meant that marchers were asked to be passive consumers at yet another "party." Although the parade's title referred to "our families," marchers were not asked to think about why they were marching, how our families are threatened, or how we can resist — even why we should want to resist. How did this help gay families?

I am not suggesting that there should have been hours of boring rhetorical speeches instead. There are many ways of getting political ideas across, which can be informative, unthreatening, even exciting and inspiring.

The Business Forum organizers are clearly well-intentioned, but equally clearly they have much to learn about political organizing — and maybe even about the need for it. They do not seem to understand that our mere visible presence on the streets is a political act (as is our very existence). If it weren't for the courageous, committed activists of the past 20 years, there would be no pride parades or gay employee networks — much less freedom rings and rainbow flags.

Unfortunately for us, our opponents on the Right are not interested in parties, nor are they the least bit afraid of political content and commit-

ment! I hope a more politically-aware group will step forward to take responsibility for the Pride Parade next year.

Sincerely,  
Ariel

#### Reader criticizes timing, location of Pride Parade

To the Editor:

I am appalled by some of the decisions that were made by the Gay and Lesbian Business Forum Pride Parade planning committee for the Rochester Pride Parade 1996.

It is my understanding that participants in this event marched downtown, from the Liberty Pole to Brown's Race, at 7 p.m. on June 22. How can we be visible if we're marching in a ghost town? Who would be downtown watching the parade at that time of the night?

When I expressed my concerns directly to two men from the Rochester Gay/Lesbian Business Forum who were involved in the planning of the event, I was told that the reason for choosing the evening time was because the LPGA would be golfing during the day! Excuse me, but I thought the priority for gay pride was VISIBILITY, not leisure.

"Of course," one of these men condescendingly explained to me, "we will get ample coverage of the event in the news..." Even if this is the case, 10 seconds of air time at 11 p.m. cannot replace the euphoria and empowerment I felt last year when I marched with my friends down Monroe Ave. during business hours. People had to take note of our existence, whether they wanted to or not. On the other hand, an intolerant homophobe could easily change the channel on the TV.

Of course, the lure of the dollar remains quite powerful. After the march, there was a "Cultural Festival" where affluent gays and lesbians purchased freedom rings, t-shirts, and all kinds of nice dainties and kitsch items so they could feel good about themselves. This practice of buying pride is not so different from forms of idolatry that were honored by Christians throughout Europe during the Middle Ages. But this is not Medieval Europe, and thankfully not all gays/lesbians/bisexuals/drag queens/leathers/queers are Christian either.

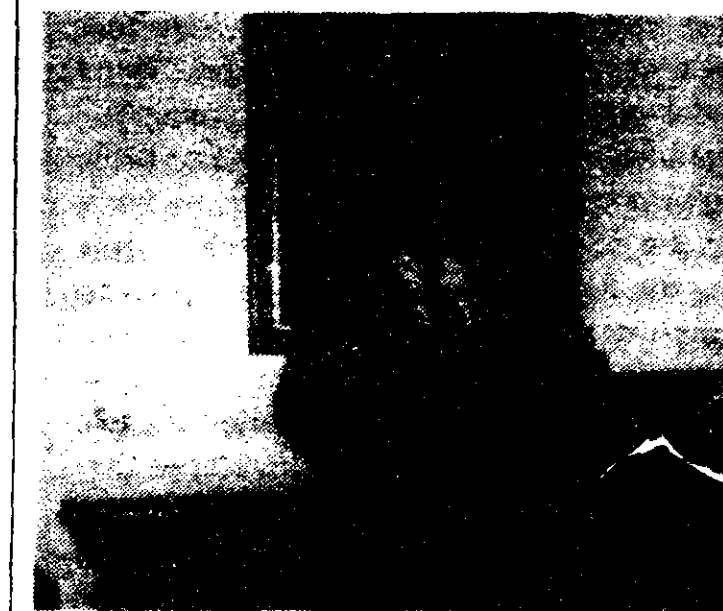
I am all too aware that the members of the Parade planning committee might defend their position by saying that I could have participated in the planning of the event if I have so many gripes

Letters continued on p. 9

# Newsfronts

## LOCAL AND STATE NEWS

### Ray Mosher receives award as RPD liaison



Ray Mosher



Robert Warsaw

Capt. Ray Mosher, head of the Downtown section of the Rochester Police Department, is liaison with the gay community. The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley presented him with a special award on June 20 at Harro East. Chief of Police Robert Warsaw commented that the relationship between the RPD and the gay community should be used as a model for the rest of the nation. Speakers included Christy Simons of the GAGV Community Education Project, which holds sensitivity training sessions for the Police Academy.

leave a message on my voice mail, 234-7075, and I'll call you back. I will be riding a leg of this tour in Florida, so be patient. I will get back to you.



The Rochester group at the Capitol.

### Rochester gays make a difference in Albany

By Cheryl Camillo, Field Manager, Empire State Pride Agenda  
On June 4, Rochester area residents Don Bielek, Tom Privitera, Coke Seawart, Kathy Hart, and Tom Krolik woke up before dawn so that they could meet at the Gay Alliance Community Center before 5:30 a.m.

No, they weren't participating in any undercover shenanigans; they were embarking on one of the most powerful activities available to American citizens — they were heading for

Albany to join Jennie Bowker and Maura Lynn Wegman and over 100 other lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and "straight, but not narrow" New Yorkers to talk to their state officials in Albany about the concerns of the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender community. Their day was so empowering, they wanted to share it with you.

9:30 a.m. Arrived in Albany's mammoth Empire State Plaza state government complex.

9:45 a.m. Found Hearing Room C in the Legislative Office Building. Met dedicated activists arriving from Buffalo, Plattsburgh, Long Island, and points between. Participated in legislative briefing information session with Empire State Pride Agenda lobbyists. Ate bag lunch.

12 p.m. Had open information-sharing dialogue with sincere freshman Assemblyman David Koon of Fairport. Offered examples of how lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender people contribute to society in living their everyday lives. Tried to meet with Senator Alesi. Nobody was available.

12:30 p.m. Met with Assemblyman Joe Morelle who consistently votes in favor of the Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimina-

Albany continued on p. 9

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### THE EMPTY CLOSET

Editor-in-Chief Susan Jordan  
Business manager Harlow Russell

Advertising policy: The Empty Closet does not print advertisements that contain drug drawings or photographs, nor does it print advertising that uses the person pictured in the ad as for sale, or that you will "get" that particular person if you patronize the establishment advertised.

Advertisements that are explicitly racist, sexist, ageist, ableist or homophobic will be refused; advertisements from organizations that are sexist, racist, ageist, ableist or anti-gay will also be refused.

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

Publication information: The Empty Closet is published 11 times a year (December and January combined) by the Empty Closet Press for the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, Inc. Approximately 5000 copies of each issue are distributed during the first week of the month, some by mail in a plain sealed envelope. The publication of the name or photograph of any person or organization in articles is not an indication of the sexual or

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affectional orientation of that person or the members of the organization. For further information, please write to the Empty Closet, 179 Atlantic Ave., Rochester NY 14607-1255, or call (716)244-9030.

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

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

The opinions of columnists, editorial writers and other contributing writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the collective attitude of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley or the Empty Closet. No being person's HIV status will be published without written or typed permission from that person.

Frank continued from p. 1

good example for our colleagues."

Frank said that he regards Slaughter as a friend. "Louise and her husband Bob and my partner Herb and I have socialized on occasion. There's a fairly small number of male spouses (of Congressmembers), and Herb and Bob have become friends and have that in common."

Frank said that the "Defense of Marriage" Act (DOMA) is moving so quickly through Congress because the Republicans are pushing it as an election year ploy. "It's moving so fast because it's not dictated by real issues, it's a Republican effort. It's not Defense of Marriage, it's Defense of Republican Election," he said.

Asked why heterosexuals are so obsessed with the issue, Frank said, "Why are people so bothered? That's a good question. Andrew Sullivan argued in his book that it would be a better issue to focus on because it's less disruptive than asking people to hire gays, work with them etc. But marriage is a very, very important issue in our society. People are paradoxically troubled by the state of marriage and want to do something even when there's no logical reason.

"There is a separate issue of states' rights. I think Lambda (Legal Defense and Education Fund)'s mistake is in emphasizing that the decision of the Hawaii State Supreme Court would be binding for all states. I don't think that's true. States can pass legislation to deny recognition, and some of them have. The states wouldn't have to abide by it. My advice would be to concentrate on Hawaii's rights, not on how this would be binding on all the states."

Commenting on the proposed plan to include the Employment Non Discrimination Act in DOMA, Frank said, "I don't think the votes are there. It's an interesting idea, but with Republicans controlling the Senate, we don't have the votes."

Frank said about the Supreme Court ruling on Amendment 2, "It's a terrific decision. Very well done and made it very clear to people that not being discriminated against is a right... The three dissenting justices are unreachable... Kennedy and O'Connor were the critical votes; they represent respectable conservative opinion."

Chorus continued from p. 1

"The level of musicianship among these gay men and lesbians singing together is so high it's phenomenal."

Many choruses have commissioned new works which will premiere at the Festival.

Williams said that RGMVC will be involved in a premiere. "We're going to be part of one of nine festival choruses. We had a choice of which we wanted to join, but just by the luck of the draw, we're in the choir that will do "Loving Again" by composer Joseph Jennings (a member of the singing group Chanteclear) with a text by African American poet Gloria Wade-Gayles.

"It's a very simple text, but a very passionate text. It's about making love, where you wake up in the morning and there's the person you spent the night with, and their eyes open and you re-create the glory of the night before. It ends with an orgasm written into musical format. It's beautiful — simple musically but stunning, a glorious piece of music. It's very singable, understandable, accessible. That's the one we're doing. Rochester Women's Community Chorus are doing another by Ysaye Barnwell of Sweet Honey in the Rock, called "Sound Bites from Beijing."

Bikers continued from p. 1

cer Foundation; Sue Stae and Gin Shear, founders of the Women's Motorcyclist Foundation, have come up with the big one! It is a national tour, with corporate sponsorship, which was not only born in Leroy, N.Y., but will be passing through surrounding areas and stopping for an afternoon event in Churchville-Chili.

This is what it's really about. A 14,300 mile route begins in St. Joseph, Missouri, on June 29. It will then drop down to Houston, Texas, and from there circumnavigates the United States, ending in Dallas, Texas on Aug. 18, where the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation is located. The tour is split up into "legs," consisting of 100-300 miles each. Riders of this tour will pass a medalion and a scroll with names of victims, supporters and survivors from motorcycle to motorcycle as they make their way around the country.

Now, here's the part where Rochester and its surrounding areas can enjoy both greeting the tour, and helping to support the effort. It's a "Ride-n-Breakfast," as we call it (they are happening in many cities throughout the country), where a diverse coalition of people on motorcycles will ride in from everywhere, gather in Leroy to organize a parade led by the Pony Express Tour, and head to the Churchville-Chili Middle School to meet the media and have a blast. This is our way of bringing all types of people together on common ground to help battle this terrible disease. Remember, breast cancer strikes both men and women every three minutes. Every 11 minutes, someone dies from this disease. It is the number one killer of women between the ages of 34 and 55, and last year alone, we lost 46,000 loved ones to breast cancer.

You don't even have to have a motorcycle to enjoy the festivities at this event. There will be live bands, Wanda Miller of WROC Channel 8 TV as a guest M.C., a bike show, dancing, clowns, prizes and more. You can even vote for the best bikes in the show, or race on a wooden scooter in the gym against the bikers. There's all kinds of things to do. For a donation ranging from \$5 to \$15, you can join us at the school to await the riders. The fun starts at 11 a.m. The Churchville-Chili Middle School is located on Fairbanks Rd., off Rte 33 between Churchville and North Chili. If you would like a more personal review of the events, or have any questions at all, please

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# Newsfronts

## NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Gays protest signing of anti-marriage bill

Since May, gay voters have been swamping the Democratic National Committee office with angry protests about President Clinton's signing of the so-called "Defense of Marriage" Act (DOMA).

Clinton said in May that he has always opposed same-sex marriage, and stated that DOMA will only "make it clear that states can deny recognition of gay marriages that occurred in other states." He added, "If that's all it does, then I will sign it." Christian Coalition leader Ralph Reed told the *New York Times* on May 30 that his group will push to get the bill on Clinton's desk for signing by Labor Day.

Melinda Paras, director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), called Clinton's stand "a slap in the face" to gay citizens. Former Clinton friend and Democratic gay activist David Mixer said on CBS's *Face the Nation* on May 26 that Clinton's position is "unconscionable." In Seattle, Tina Podlowski, openly lesbian City Councilmember who was the chair of the Washington State Clinton campaign, resigned her position, saying that Clinton's position amounted to his "sticking a finger in my eye," although she would continue to

support him for president.

However, Urvashi Vaid, former director of the NGLTF, said that although she feels she "can't vote for this guy... in the long haul" she is "sure" that she will. She told the *New York Times* that she will vote for Clinton, "but I don't have to say I like him or like doing it."

Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole is also opposed to same sex marriage, and was in fact the co-sponsor of DOMA. In February during the Republican primaries he signed an anti-gay-marriage pledge. And far from opposing only gay marriage, he opposes all forms of gay rights; at a speech before the Catholic Press Association in late May, he stated that "restoring our social and moral order has got to be somewhere near the top of the list" of national priorities. However, Dole has not made anti-gay statements in the last month, which adds credibility to the charge by gays that Republicans are trying to drive a wedge between Clinton and gay voters.

The bill is moving toward Congressional approval faster than most legislation does, despite the efforts of Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass) to strike sections of the bill or render it only temporary. The House Judiciary Subcommittee approved the bill on May 30 and the full Committee approved it on June 12.

The Human Rights Campaign and a coalition of gay groups have asked Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass) to attach the Employment

Non Discrimination Act (ENDA) as an amendment to the Defense of Marriage Act when the bill reaches the Senate floor this month. HRC's Daniel Zingale says this will "call the bluff" of those who say they are for DOMA but not anti-gay. It would also mean that anti-gay job discrimination would be debated on the Senate floor. President Clinton supports ENDA.

In other marriage-related news, currently there are 35 anti-gay marriage bills under consideration in state legislatures. Of the 35, 19 have died, 11 have been enacted, one has cleared both chambers, one has cleared one chamber, and three are pending floor action. -Lisa Keen, *The Washington Blade*

### Lesbians killed on Appalachian Trail

Two Vermont women murdered on the Appalachian Trail on June 1 were lesbians, and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is concerned that investigators including the FBI have not taken the women's lesbian identity into account as a possible motive.

The bodies of Julianne Williams and Lollie Winans were found by park rangers at a secluded campsite in Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. Both women's throats had been slashed. FBI agent John Donohue is on record as ruling out bias as a possible motivation for the killings. He did not indicate what factors led the FBI to rule out bias.

Melinda Paras, executive director of the NGLTF, wrote in a June 7 letter to Attorney General Janet Reno, "We are asking for your help to insure that the FBI and the National Park Service are diligent in investigating all aspects of these crimes, including the possibility that the murders were motivated by anti-lesbian bias."

"These are the facts as we know them. The women were traveling together and both

were lesbians and involved in an intimate relationship with each other... According to members of their home communities, the women were involved in gay organizations. There was no robbery involved in the incident. There is no known motive at this point, which can be a bias indicator in itself. It is possible that their killer or killers believed them to be lesbians...

"According to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, 59 gay men and women were the victims of hate crimes in national parks in 1994. The Shenandoah slayings remind us of another attack on a lesbian couple eight years ago. In 1988, Rebecca Wight was murdered and her lover Claudia Brenner was severely injured, on the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania. Claudia Brenner's willingness to go public with her ordeal was a defining moment in passing the Hate Crimes Statistics Act...

"Another fact is that at least one FBI spokesperson has already dismissed the possibility of a hate crime. Unless there are facts to support this conclusion, we are deeply alarmed by such an announcement... Exacerbating our alarm is a conversation NGLTF field organizer Tracey Conaty had with Agent Donahue. During this conversation, Mr. Donohue indicated that he was unaware that the victims were lesbians and that he had not heard of the Rebecca Wight/Claudia Brenner incident."

Paras asked for a meeting with the FBI official in charge of the investigation. -National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

### Hungary permits gay common law marriage

The Hungarian Parliament approved on May 21 an amendment to the civil code which will allow gays and lesbians to enter common-law relationships.

### Bishops drop heresy trial against Righter

The amendment was approved by a vote of 207 to 73, with five members of Parliament abstaining. The amendment will let gay common-law partners share the same rights as heterosexual common-law partners, including the right to inherit property and a deceased partner's pension.

"We welcome the fact that Parliament passed this law," said Geza Juhasz, a member of the gay group Szivrvany ("Rainbow.") "But I don't think this proves that most (legislators) are more enlightened... The law was actually imposed on the parliament by the Constitutional Court."

The court ordered in March 1995 that common-law relationships be extended to same-sex couples. -Christopher Jones, *The Washington Blade*

### Oregon hate group drops ballot measure attacking gay rights

The anti-gay Oregon Citizens Alliance has dropped plans for another ballot measure asking state voters to write anti-gay discrimination into the Oregon constitution. The announcement came on the heels of the Supreme Court's ruling against Colorado's Amendment 2.

"It's not often that Lou Mabon and OCA make our day!" said Julie Davis of Basic Rights Oregon. "While the high court's ruling affirms our belief in the judicial system, recognition of the legal rights of all Oregonians won't happen in the courts alone. We've got a lot of educating to do throughout the state. Recent surveys show that 80 percent of the public doesn't know that it is currently legal to discriminate against gay men and lesbians in Oregon."

-Basic Rights Oregon

### Anti-gay school board agenda loses in New Hampshire, New York

Recent defeats of anti-gay policies and school board candidates may indicate that the religious right is losing ground in their national attacks on gay rights and free speech in schools.

The anti-gay censorship policy in the Merrimack, N.H. schools was repealed on June 3, as the religious right lost control of the school board. The policy had banned all classroom discussion that could be regarded as presenting homosexuality "as a positive lifestyle alternative." The Merrimack school board voted 3-2 to overturn the censorship policy, after a moderate candidate, Rosemary Rung, defeated a right wing candidate.

Jesse Greenman of PERSON (Public Education Regarding Sexual Orientation Nationally) said, "I'd like to say we've turned a corner, but maybe we're at the point where we can see the corner."

Also in early June, five of six openly gay community school board candidates were elected in New York City. The five won seats in three Manhattan districts and one Brooklyn district, all of which are regarded as politically liberal. But even the candidate who lost did well in a conservative Staten Island district, coming in 12th out of 28 candidates.

Doug Robinson, one of the gay winners, and parent of two adopted children, says he intends to seek sensitivity training sessions for teachers and administrators to help them deal with gay students and children of gay parents. "The public has realized that we have a lot to offer... That's a major step forward," he said. "Ten to 20 years ago, who would have thought we'd be on school boards today?"

-Peter Frieberg, *The Washington Blade*

### Supreme Court reverses Cincinnati's anti-gay measure

The Supreme Court followed up on its May ruling against Colorado's Amendment 2 on June 17, by overturning a federal appeals court's 1995 upholding of an anti-gay city charter amendment (Issue 3) in Cincinnati, Ohio. Issue 3 had been invalidated in 1994.

The Court's action sends the case back to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, signaling that the appeals court's reasoning was flawed and must now conform to the Constitution's grant of equal protection.

"We convinced the federal trial court in 1994 to strike down Issue 3 based on the same longstanding constitutional principles set out by Justice Kennedy in the Colorado case," said Patricia M. Logue, managing attorney for the Midwest regional office of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. "We are grateful that Judge Arthur Spiegel's thoughtful decision, although reversed by the Sixth Circuit, has now been vindicated by the Supreme Court."

Suzanne B. Goldberg, staff attorney for Lambda, which was co-counsel in both Colorado and Cincinnati cases, said, "The Court today shows the power behind its ruling last month... the equal rights of lesbians and gay men must be respected at all levels of government... After weathering a nationwide onslaught of anti-gay and anti-civil rights measures, we are beginning to emerge triumphant in this arena."

Issue 3 would have amended the city charter to ban any city laws or policies that would prohibit discrimination against gays and lesbians in employment, housing, etc. -Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund

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# OPINION

## The '96 vote: time to move forward

By Michael Rosano, Political Director, Empire State Pride Agenda

This year, we face hotly contested races for the New York State legislature and for the U.S. Presidency. The outcome of these races may well determine the course of the lesbian and gay rights struggle, in this State and nationally, for years to come.

In order to maximize the power of the lesbian and gay vote, the Pride Agenda's immediate priority is a massive voter registration drive. We have launched this effort in virtually every area of the State, from Erie to Suffolk Counties, by working in partnership with local lesbian and gay political organizations. Our ultimate goal is to register approximately 5,000 new voters.

A major component of our voter registration drive is to mobilize our newly registered voters to get out to vote. To achieve this goal we will keep a list of new registrants so that we can contact them during our Get Out The Vote (GOTV) effort for Election Day. This is the most effective method to ensure a significant turnout of the lesbian and gay vote.

The Pride Agenda will also focus a considerable amount of time, energy and resources on the reelection of pro-lesbian and pro-gay N.Y. State legislators, all of whom are up for re-election this year.

We need to maintain our Democratic majority in the New York State Assembly. Many of our friends in the Assembly have been targeted for defeat by the Republican Party. Approximately 20 Assembly Democrats are in danger of losing their seats. If these vulnerable Assembly members are defeated, we may very well lose our ability to pass the Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Bill (the Civil Rights Bill) and other legislation important to our community. We will also work to defeat a host of anti-lesbian and anti-gay Assembly members.

In the coming year we must continue to increase

the election of pro-gay N.Y. State Senators, both Democrats and Republicans. Some supportive members of the Senate face difficult races this year. We will be actively involved in these campaigns as well as in campaigns to defeat anti-gay incumbents.

As we head into this election season, we need your help now more than ever. Currently, we are pushing our field operation in place. In every region of the State, we are recruiting a Voter Registration Coordinator, a Pride Agenda Membership Coordinator, a Campaign Volunteers Coordinator (for our endorsed candidates), a Media Coordinator and an Action Mobilization Coordinator.

These coordinators are vital to organizing a corps of dedicated and motivated volunteers to ensure a successful field structure. If you are interested in helping our movement during this crucial election year, please consider volunteering for one of these positions in your area.

We will also produce a Pride Agenda "Voter Guide" listing all of our endorsed candidates for both the Assembly and the Senate. This will be available by early October '96.

For the first time in its history, the Pride Agenda will be actively engaged in the U.S. Presidential campaign because so many of the issues we care so deeply about are under attack from the Christian Right. These include lesbian and gay civil rights, reproductive freedom, HIV/AIDS funding, health care reform, and affirmative action. Although we have not yet made an endorsement, we will shortly render one.

We have much to accomplish between now and November. The Pride Agenda invites you to join us to maximize our strength by getting involved in the electoral process. We need your help to register and mobilize voters and work on the campaigns of our friends. Please give us a call at (212)673-5417, or (716)271-2420.

Help us, as we work in partnership with grassroots organizations throughout the State, to elect our supporters and defeat our enemies. With your dedicated and generous assistance, we are certain to prevail.



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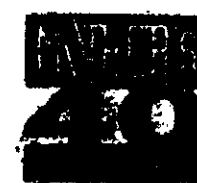
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Letters continued from p. 3

about their choices. This is true. But, like most queers, I am too busy trying to make my visibility count elsewhere... like at work, with friends, and in (against) the cultural mainstream. No thanks to anyone from the Rochester Gay/Lesbian Business Forum.

Tony Leuzzi

### Why should we vote for Bill Clinton?

To the Editor:

On the very day that the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the 1992 Colorado anti-gay state amendment, Bill Clinton announced that he would sign the Defense of Marriage Act, a national ban on same-sex marriage.

Yet, coverage in the *Empire State* suggests that it is the Republicans who would polarize voters in an election year. And what about our lying president? It is quite clear (for once) where he stands on an issue. So... where's the polarization?

Let's not forget: Clinton has backed off from or dodged every campaign promise he made to secure our votes. Will the gay and lesbian community continue to be willing ass-lickers of the Democratic Party in 1996? I sure hope not.

Louis Richards

(See article in *Newfronts*, page 4.)

Albany continued from p. 3

tion Bill. Discussed his support for involuntary HIV testing which the Empire State Pride Agenda opposes. Left hoping that he would reflect upon our arguments.

Met with Greece Assemblyman Joe Robach. Unfortunately, he reaffirmed his opposition to non-discrimination legislation. However, he did indicate that he opposed the anti-gay marriage bill in its current form. There is always hope.

1 p.m. Met with Senator Richard Dollinger's Chief of Staff. Thanked his office for his consistent support on almost all issues of concern. Discussed the possibility of state grants to community organizations like the Gay Alliance.

2:45 p.m. Followed Assemblywoman Susan John's staffer through the office complex to the Assembly chamber. Met Susan John in the Assembly waiting room and thanked her for her support of our issues. Discussed her position on the bill mandating HIV testing of criminal defendants.

3:10 p.m. Found our way back to Senator Alesi's office. Tried to get a meeting with him or a staffer. Were told to call his district office in Rochester.

3:30 p.m. Took photo in front of the State Capitol.

4 p.m. Attended a de-briefing session to report on our visits and strategize about follow-up.

4:30 p.m. Attended reception and conferred with others about their visits.

5:30 p.m. Left for Rochester. Wrote this diary in the van.

To conclude, lobbying is as easy as finding your official's office and talking to him/her about what concerns and affects you. It can be done in Albany or in Rochester. All it takes is a little bit of time. It's fun, too.

If you would like to lobby, or at least learn how, call me at the Empire State Pride Agenda at (716)271-2420.

### Pride Agenda announces delegates

The Empire State Pride Agenda, New York State's lesbian and gay political organization, announced today the selection of a record 17 openly lesbian and gay delegates to the Demo-

cratic National Convention this August. In addition, two key positions on the platform and rules committees will be held by lesbian and gay representatives.

The delegates who will represent our communities in Chicago this August are:

**District delegates by county** - Dale Getto (Albany), Alan Fleishman and Lola Simmons (Kings), Sue Cowell (Monroe), Donna Schwartz (Nassau), Rachel Lavine, David Smith and Doug Sterner (New York).

**At-large delegates by county** - Crystal Paris (Bronx), Larry Adamczyk (Erie), Tom Duane and Deborah Glick (New York), Patricia Hayes and Martin Sternberg (Queens), and Steve Henaghan (Suffolk).

**Standing committee members** - Platform: Jeff Soref (New York); Rules: Barbara Kavanaugh (Erie).

Fred Hochberg, who by being a member of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) is automatically a delegate, completes New York's representation.

Last November, the Pride Agenda, working with the New York State Clinton/Gore reelection campaign, secured nine open lesbians and gay men to run as delegates in the March primary. This number represented a major increase over the lone lesbian delegate who participated in the 1992 convention.

But the work to secure more delegates went beyond the Democratic primary. Executive Director Dick Dadey and Pride Agenda Political Director Michael Rosano continued meeting with the Clinton/Gore campaign up until the time of the Democratic Committee State convention on May 31. At that time the rest of the delegates were selected.

### Women plan Peace Walk, land trust

The Women's Encampment for a Future of Peace and Justice is sponsoring the Barbara Deming Memorial Peace Walk, July 19-Aug. 26, from the Women's Encampment land in Romulus, N.Y., to New York City.

The Women's Encampment collective says, "For the past few years we have been going through a major transformation. Despite rumor that we have disappeared or disbanded, we are continuing as a land trust, open to women of peace, called Women's PeaceLand. We are building an international community with political action and retreat at its center, a change which we believe is necessary to create a sustainable and meaningful future for this much-beloved place."

The Peace Camp started in 1983 when a series of actions by women took place protesting nuclear proliferation and militarism at the Seneca Army Depot, in solidarity with the Greenham Common Women's Encampment in England. The late Barbara Deming, author and longtime peace and civil rights activist, was one of the chief inspirations for the Encampment. Many thousands of women gathered in the summer of '83, and at the end of the summer, some women decided to stay on and build a permanent peace presence and open women's land alongside the now-closed Army Depot (then a major storage site for nuclear weapons).

During 1990 and 1991, women met to determine the future of the land. A decision was finally made to transform the anarchic and transitory Peace Camp into a women's land trust and international participatory community. The Women's PeaceLand Collective is in the process of applying for non-profit status and is working on details of expansion and policies on building new structures. Some dreams include a pond, a retreat center with accessible and environmentally gentle buildings, a consignment craft shop, etc.

Volunteers are needed to help with grantwriting, tax accounting and repair work on-land. There are three categories of membership: supporting members, lease holders (women who live on the land) and collective members (women who are part of the decision-making body.) Visitors are also welcome.

Women and children may camp on the land or sleep in the house (depending upon space availability), and there is a modest overnight fee based on income. Exchange of services is also possible. Accessibility is limited and changes constantly due to weather, on-going structural work, etc. It is important to call ahead if you would like to visit.

For information on Women's PeaceLand, call (607)869-3801 or write Women's PeaceLand, 5440 Rte. 96, Box 34, Romulus N.Y. 14541. Their Web site can be accessed at <http://www.rpl.edu/~mccabd> (for information about the Barbara Deming Memorial Walk.)

### Law firm opens doors

A new law firm, Olver, Korts, Korona and Russell LLP, has opened its doors for business at its offices at 10 Tobey Village Office Park, Pittsford. Its members are Melvin L. Olver, Janet H. Korts, Matthew M. Korona and Kimberly P. Russell.

In announcing the beginning of the new practice, Ms. Russell stated, "All of us share a common goal of providing quality legal services to our clients - individuals and businesses - on a very personal and personable basis. It makes a difference that we all enjoy working together - we feel that translates into a favorable working environment for our clients."

A resident of the Town of Chili, Mel Olver serves as Town Justice for that town. He is also Planning Board Counsel for the Town of Riga, Deputy Village Attorney for the Village of Churchville, and Attorney for the Presbytery of Genesee Valley. Engaged in the general practice of law, Mel has concentrations in the areas of estates and trusts (planning and administration), real estate, municipal law, and business and corporate law (both for profit and not-for-profit). A member of the Gates Chili Counsel of the Greater Rochester Metro Chamber of Commerce, Mel has served on its Board of Directors for the past six years.

Janet Korts was admitted to the practice of law in 1987. A member of the Law Guardian Panel for the Appellate Division, Fourth Department, Janet is engaged in the general practice of law, with concentrations in the areas of domestic relations and family law, which encompasses an expanding mediation practice. A resident of Penfield, she is also active in the areas of estate planning and real estate transfers, including lender closings.

Matt Korona was admitted to the practice of law in New York State in 1986, after practicing for several years in Ohio, where he was admitted in 1979. Matt, who lives in Penfield, engages in the general practice of law, with concentrations in the areas of general corporate and business law, commercial transactions and real estate.

Kimberly Russell was admitted to the practice of law in 1992 after graduating with honors from the University of Delaware and the University of Buffalo Law School. Kimberly is engaged in the general practice of law, with concentrations in the areas of real estate law, covering all aspects of residential and commercial transactions, including lender closings, estate planning and small business transactions. Kim resides in the Town of Mendon and is a contributing writer to this newspaper with articles addressing the special needs of gay and lesbian individuals.

Linda Armstrong also joined the firm on March 1 as a senior paralegal. Linda, who lives in Ogden, received her Paralegal Certificate in 1986 and has practiced in the areas of domestic relations and family law, litigation, trusts and estates, real estate and collections. She has been a member of the Paralegal Association of Rochester for 10 years, serving as past Vice President of the Membership Committee and currently on the Nominating Committee for the 1996 Board of Director positions; a past member of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America and a current affiliate member of the Monroe County Bar Association. Linda also brings to the firm an extensive and personal knowledge of issues facing gay and lesbian individuals.

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# Making the Scene

OUT & ABOUT IN ROCHESTER

## Social notes: a union ceremony



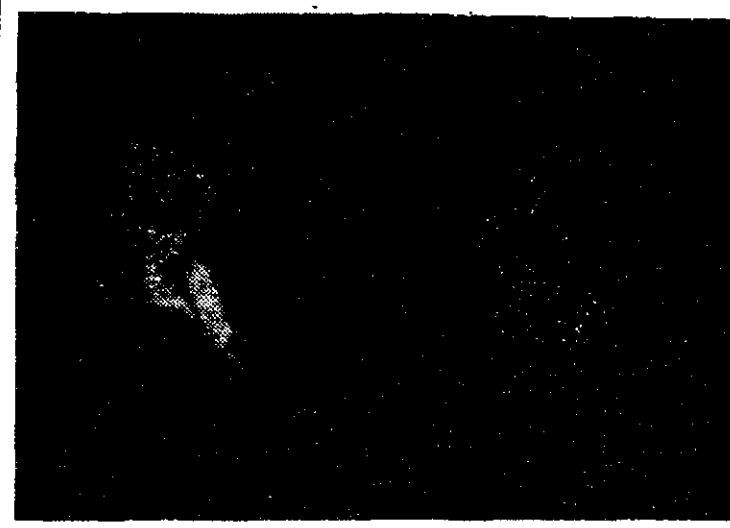
Regina Resnick and Michelle Lynn Wise of East Irondequoit announce their union ceremony, which took place on May 25 at the Rotary Club Lodge of Greece Canal Park.

Regina, who graduated from Rutgers University in 1990, is physician assistant in the Department of Surgery at Rochester General Hospital. Michelle is a habilitation aide at Continuing Developmental Services. She is attending Monroe Community College.

Regina is the daughter of Herman and Vivian Resnick of Northfield, N.H.; her birth mother, Marcia Resnick, is deceased. Michelle is the daughter of John and Nancy Fribance of East Irondequoit; her birth father, William U. Wise, is deceased.

The witnesses or "best women" were Amy Hazard and Rose Husted. The union was performed by the Rev. Gini Keck, and the couple honeymooned in Key West, Fla.

## The club scene



Aggy Dune (left) and Darrienne Lake (right) with June of the Pointer Sisters at Club Marcella.



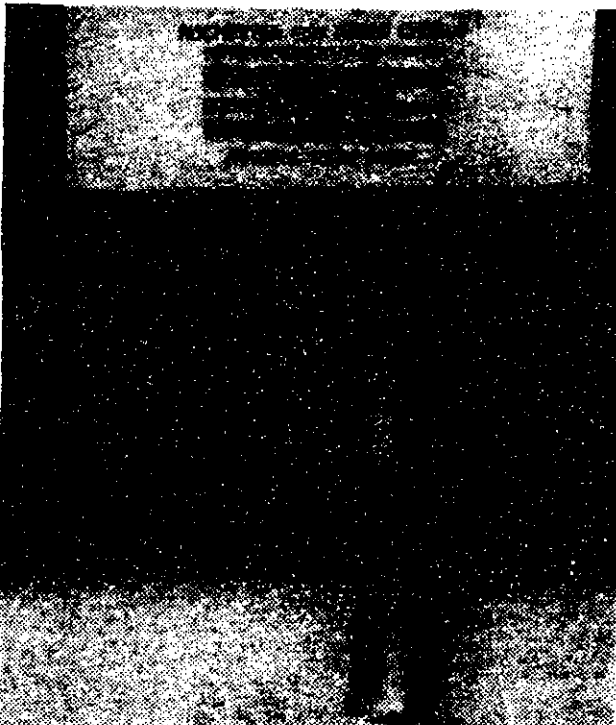
At the White Party at Club Marcella.



At the Off-White Party, Club Atlantis.



**BLUE SKIES:** The Rochester Gay Men's Chorus and Women's Community Chorus presented a concert on June 15 at the Eisenhart Auditorium of the Museum and Science Center.



RGMC producer Dave Pellow introduces the concert; behind him is the new RGMC banner.

## WALK THE TALK

Right: Club Atlantis staff celebrates at Cobbs Hill Park after the June 2 AIDS Walk, which raised over \$116,000 for AIDS Rochester and others.

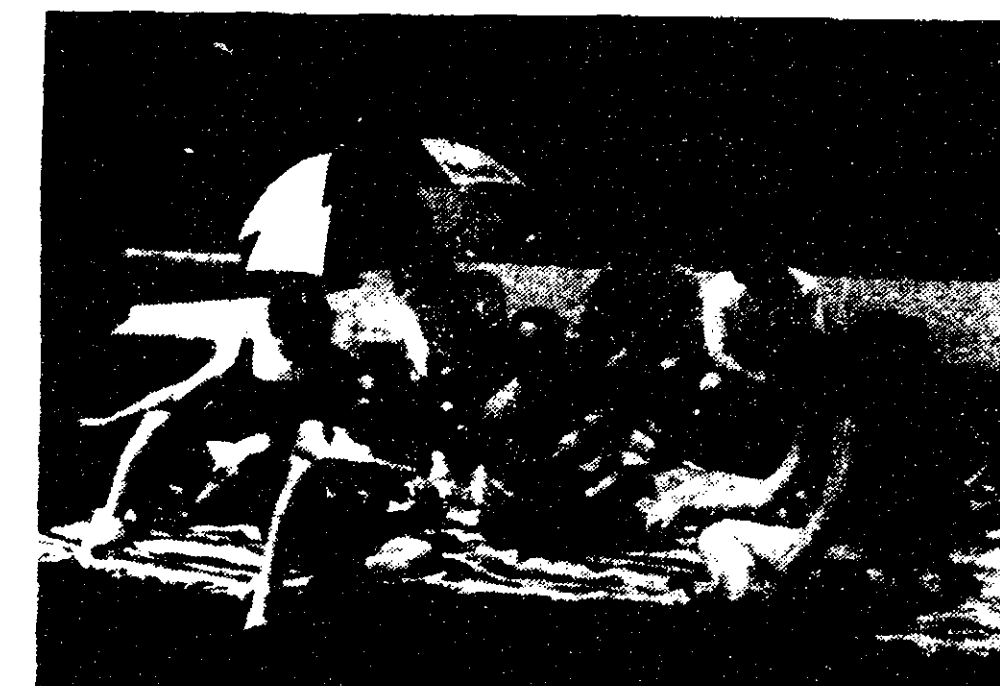
# A Picnic Album



All photos this page by Ron Clark



**ON SHOW:** Photographer Cheryl Amat Martin at her exhibit "The American Way" at Gateway Poster and Framing Co.



An estimated 4,000-plus people attended the GAGV picnic on a beautifully clear and sunny day at Genesee Valley Park on June 23. (More coverage in the August Empty Closet.)

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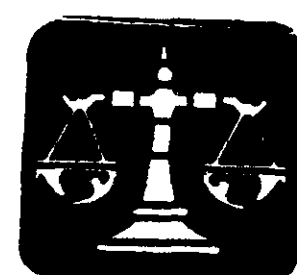
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# Entertainment

for the cultured queer & elite

**HAVE YOU GOT THE SCOOP?** Share it with the rest of the gay community! The Empty Closet is always looking for information regarding events and social activities. If you know something, send it to us! Submissions are due by the 15th of each month at: The Empty Closet, 179 Atlantic Ave., Rochester, NY 14607-1255. Or call 244-9030.

## Gaylaxians: Out of the Closet, Into the Universe

The Gaylaxians are coming — but they don't want to be taken to our leaders. However, they do recruit.

The Gaylaxians are a gay, lesbian and bisexual social organization for those who enjoy science fiction, fantasy and horror, and they are flying in by starship and broomsuck to their annual convention in Burlington, Mass. on July 7-9. Their motto: "Out of the closet and into the universe."

The Galactic Network coordinates local chapters nationwide to promote inclusion and positive portrayal of gays, lesbians and bisexuals in books, films, TV shows and other entertainment genres. They have lobbied the various Star Trek features through letter-writing campaigns for some years, and their efforts seem to have paid off, notably in the recent *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* segment which featured the lesbian lover of Jadzia Dax. The organization on an international level, with a chapter in Manitoba, Canada, is now known as *Gaylaxians International*; membership dues are \$10 for U.S. residents.

Gaylaxian activities also include organizing gay and lesbian programming tracks at the World Science Fiction Convention (and at local conventions), do-

mination of gay-positive genre related books to gay youth assistance services, publishing local newsletters and a *Gaylaxian International* quarterly newsletter, *The Gaylaxian Gazette*, and much more.

The upcoming Gaylaxicon VII marks the 10th anniversary of the Network, and will feature panels, workshops, art, readings, video room, gaming, a chocolate symposium, and more. Costumes are encouraged, though the group says "Our weapons policy is quite strict!" (No Romulan disruptors allowed?) It will take place in the Burlington Marriott Hotel, about 10 miles northwest of Boston, and rooms cost \$65 per night for up to four people. Those under 18 must attend with a parent. The charge for admission is \$35 at the door.

Since the Galactic Network is an umbrella organization, people must join their regional chapter. In New York State, that is *The Alternate Universe: Gaylaxians of Upper New York*, based in Albany. For their address, or for more information about any aspect of the Gaylaxian cosmos, contact *The Galactic Network, Inc.*, P.O. Box 127, Brookline, MA 02146. E-mail [Gaylaxians@Gaylaxians.org](mailto:Gaylaxians@Gaylaxians.org)

## Image Out Presents Two Vintage Films

**Image Out:** The Rochester Lesbian and Gay Film and Video Festival presents a screening of two Hollywood vintage films on Aug. 15 at the Little Theater, beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per film.

In an attempt to re-examine films from Hollywood's past, the festival presents its first of the *Vintage Series*: films that have been noted either for their queer texts or subtexts within a contemporary look back. We are excited to bring to Rochester *The Hunger* and *Crucising*, two films from the early '80s which have a history of their own. This month we will talk about the film *The Hunger*; next month we will discuss the reexamination of the film *Crucising*.

*The Hunger*: Catherine Deneuve is Miriam, an elegant vampire, who goes on the prowl for a new mate after her 200-year-old lover suddenly ages. Her affections find their way to Dr. Sara Roberts (played by Susan Sarandon), who has written on the subject of accelerated aging. Soon after their eyes meet, Deneuve's vampiric sexual powers overcome the intrigued Sarandon, and seduction triumphs over the supernatural in this chilling story where blood ex-

change is the norm.

Dripping with cinematic style and chic sexual intrigues, *The Hunger* is less a vampire horror film and more a sensual drama of lesbian attraction and desire. The infamous sizzling scene between the two distinguished actresses and a striking performance by David Bowie make this one film not to be missed on the big screen.

Other festival notes include the availability of advertising either in our program or on-screen at the Little. Over 70,000 patrons saw the on-screen ads last year and 42,000 programs were distributed. For further details and rates, please call the festival office at 271-2640 and leave a message for advertising sales; someone will get back to you quickly. Also, we are always looking for film suggestions and input, leave your thoughts on our hotline at 271-2640.

Finally, we would like to extend a thank you to the members of *Out and About* who made a generous donation to the festival. Also, kudos to Jane Moyer who has been working hard to secure a computer for us. Receiving support from other places in the community means a great deal to all of us!

## PERFORMING ARTS

# The Search for Identity

By Michelle Hurt

"Mother Hicks," a production by the Women's Community Performance Project, was an engrossing play pregnant with symbolism and multiple themes.

Even though the play is set in the Appalachian Hills a good number of years ago, it mirrors a number of issues that the community is wrestling with currently. We follow a "misfit" as she tries to find her identity as an individual, as well as with a family. In the end, her idea of what a family is is redefined and she starts on the right path of self-discovery.

One of the unique points of this production is that it was bilingual. For every character there was someone speaking and signing the dialogue in American Sign Language (ASL). In fact, the narrator is Tuc, a young orphan boy who is deaf.

I applaud the director's use of a chorus of animal spirits as the link between the languages. At first I thought the spirits suggested an Native American origin until one of the spirits became part of a scene. I realized that the wolf, owl, fox and raccoon are the animals one would normally see in the Appalachian Hills where the play is set. Apparently in the original play the townspeople were the voice of Tuc. According to the director, Maria Scipione, using the spirits kept the isolation of Tuc

*Mother Hicks*, a play by Sarah Zeder, was presented by Wild Wimmen at Writers & Books in May. Above: Nicolette Mansur.

from the town more apparent. She likened Tuc to a secretary, someone people talk around as if they are not there. All the while Tuc probably knew everything about the town.

The play revolves around "Girl," an orphan younger than Tuc whom the town has taken pity on, and takes care of on a rotating basis. Her name is "Girl" because no one bothered to give her a "real" name. She is having a difficult transition in her new home. For me, watching *Girl* take incredible offense to

simple requests like washing and no chewing of tobacco was angering. It was obvious that the wife, Alma, wanted to care for *Girl*. But she was fighting for the freedom that as a tomboy she'd become accustomed to. At this point *Girl* thinks she should find her birth parents. Her only link is a handkerchief with initials on it. This is where the legend of *Mother Hicks* comes in.

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## Switch hitters

By Tony Leuzzi

*Switch Hitters: Lesbians Write Gay Men Erotica; and Gay Men Write Lesbian Erotica.* Carol Queen and Lawrence Schimel, eds. Pittsburgh: Cleis Press, 1994. \$12.95, paperback.

Four years ago I attended a creative fiction writing workshop. Among the more adventurous, though not always

successful, writers in the class was a heterosexually-identified woman who one day introduced her new work to the group: "a piece of erotica," she proclaimed somewhat defensively.

Although I was already an out gay man at the time, I was no stranger to pornographic literature geared primarily to a heterosexual audience. Before I knew gay smut existed, I devoured a number of "man-fucks-woman" books; I even read romance novels for the generic — but highly arousing — descriptions of rugged heroes. Hence I read this woman's heterosexually-referenced story with all the expectations of

getting hot, because for me that is the sole criteria of good erotica. If it doesn't get me to a point where I want to get off, or — to be slightly less blunt — if it doesn't pull me into the heat of the sexual situation, then it's not really erotic. Keeping in mind that the determination of what is/is not sexy literature is a highly suggestive matter, I nonetheless felt (and feel) that a piece that calls itself erotic should include enough space in it for a wide ranging audience to enjoy.

When I evaluated this woman's work as a failed story, I emphasized its inability

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## CHECK THIS OUT

### Lesbians to Present Dramatic Readings of Poetry & Prose

Local lesbian actors will present "In Our Own Voice," a collection of prose and poetry in dramatic readings, on July 18.

Works by local writers will be included. The event, part of the Visual Voices Readers' Theater series, will be held at Writers and Books, 740 University Ave., at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 general, \$4 W&B members. For information call 473-2590.

### Columnists

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Mother Hicks is a witch. At least that is what most of the town thinks. She was a midwife who was unfortunate enough to be blamed for the scarlet fever deaths of some of the children she helped deliver. We've seen this part of the story throughout history. A woman who has developed a degree of respect or influence may be seen as a healer or a midwife. Something "unexplainable" happens and she's a witch. Sound familiar... Europe, Salem, Washington.

An interesting twist that the play addresses is, what makes a witch and is that a bad thing? When Mother Hicks' career as a midwife is over, she spends her days healing animals in the woods. She is also the only one of the townspeople who even makes an attempt to truly communicate with Tuc.

Girl buys into the witch myth and wants the power and respect the town bestows on Mother Hicks. Believing that she is the child the town says Mother Hicks gave away, her legacy is becoming a witch. Through a series of events she spends time with Mother and Tuc in the hills. To Tuc's delight she is now part of their family — the family of misfits that is closer than most because they are bound by the same needs.

During that time together Girl learns the truth, that Mother's real child was also victim of the scarlet fever epidemic. There is a very powerful set of scenes where Mother ritually goes to the cemetery and lays out the baby's clothing on the ground as they would be worn. It was a very intimate look at this woman's pain. How could the town think she would cause something that would take away a child she obviously loved so dearly?

The ending of the play gave no easy resolutions, which in my opinion made it less like a fairy tale and more like reality. Girl did not have the power of a witch or any blood relatives to speak to of the two things she thought she truly needed. The metaphor used was that she needed to find a name for herself.

Realizing that everyone has a power and using it to carve your niche. Lessons I think we all can learn from.

Book review continued from p. 17

ity to arouse me, to which she replied, "What do you know about this kind of stuff, you're gay anyway?" I wonder what she would think of Cleis Press' new offering, *Switch Hitters*, an anthology of sexual fiction where gay men write lesbian erotica and lesbians write gay erotica. The scope of this book challenges traditional conceptions of "dominant" and tackles that dreaded concept — voice appropriation.

Second only to plagiarism, voice appropriation is said to be the greatest sin for writers in most fields. For years, women have (often rightly) accused men of failing to represent their views, concerns, and ideas adequately in writing (and vice versa.) What is more, class is a concern; even a great and politically aware writer like Virginia Woolf, for example, tended to draw condescending portraits of lower class Brits. The problem, of course, extends to race as well, where "white" representations of African American and other voices have been challenged as inauthentic. So, what are we to do with a book that states outright that its authors are attempting a kind of literary transvestism? The only solution is to read the book, regardless of any biases you might have initially fingering its pages.

I myself was too intrigued with the concept of the book to delve right into the stories. Editors (and also contributors) Carol Queen and Lawrence Schimel co-authored an outstanding, six-page introduction to the anthology, where a brief history of such "switch hitting" is placed in cultural and historical contexts. I learned that countless women, regardless of their orientation, have been writing in gay-male porn mags under pen-names for many years. The reason is unsurprising: more pay, of course. It is less common to find gay men writing lesbian erotica, but both reading and writing this genre is actively (and sometimes notoriously) enjoyed by heterosexual men. In fact, the issue of "cross writing" has already been the subject of critical study in a number of previously published

books. But there's no reason to get too Meta here, since the stories speak for themselves.

For once, I started with the lesbians! My reading preference as a gay man is of course gay male subject matter. (And usually this is done by gay men.) Here, 10 lesbians do a fine job creating gay scenarios, portraits, and situations that simply sizzle in a variety of settings. Carol Queen's "Poster Boy" and Cecilia Tan's "Daydreaming" depict masturbation/fantasy as necessary erotic release for sexually underexperienced men. Leather enthusiasts will find current *Drummer* editor Wicki Stamps' "Predators" and Jenne Blade's "Everything I Needed to Know I Learned in a Sling" real gems. Black men loving other Black men is explored in Blake C. Aarens' "Posing"; and a somewhat eerily erotic AIDS history is presented with unrelenting honesty in Robin Sweeney's "Dress Leather." All of these stories were hot, to varying degrees, and — needless to say — in quite different ways.

The editor's picks were based not only on social and ethnic representation, but politically marginal material as well. For instance, the unsafe sex fantasy is explored in full in Lucy Taylor's "In Heat." And why not? I'm not the first man to fantasize about fucking without a condom, am I? I credit Taylor for knowing the right strings to pull in luring her audience into this taboo but sultry territory.

But this is only half the book... and this is where things get a bit thorny. It took some work to read the lesbian stories, even if they were written by gay men. I'm just not all that turned on, or even interested, in two women having sex. When telling one of my friends I was reviewing this book he said, "I don't think I know enough about female equipment to write a good lesbian porn story... and I'm not about to do research." Is he very different from

most gay men? To their credit, Queen and Schimel explain in the introduction that one need not know the biological apparatus of the opposite sex to write effective erotica. Still I was more than hesitant launching into territory that promised little — if any — space for my desires. Therefore, I was quite amazed at the level of erotic interest many of these lesbian-referenced stories actually held for me.

Kevin Killian is a particular favorite of mine, so I perused with some critical attention his story "Renga" about a closeted lesbian poet. And you know what... there's tons of sex here! Passion runs amuck in this writer's colony, where the poet fucks her maid. And the opening line might just as well have been lifted from gay male pornography: "I could hardly stand up I was so horny and drunk, and I couldn't get the satisfaction I craved no matter how long or hard I rubbed myself raw..." Gay men would be liars to say they couldn't relate to this.

Larry Townsend is another master of gay-male porn. Here a lesbian-sex excerpt from one of his early leather novels, "Boss Lady in Bondage," is included — and to good effect. The S/M action between the two women parallels S/M activity in the gay community, and reinforces the notion that leather culture has a contingent that transcends gender.

Although the stories are evenly distributed between gay and lesbian subject matter, I admit that I didn't read all of the lesbian sex passages (weak stomach? chauvinism?). Nonetheless, I urge people to buy this book. After all, summer is the season for sex. Get into the spirit. More importantly, *Switch Hitters* is an important anthology, if for nothing else than its attempt at bridging the serious gap in queer culture between gay and lesbian consciousness.

**Facials, etc.**  
by Jeanine

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**Growing Up**  
By Eric Bellmann  
Romance



"Be careful. This man is not what he says he is," the Japanese woman whispered to me as she shook my hand goodbye. Refusing to release her hand I replied, "I know," and quickly asked, "but how can you tell?"

"His answers are too slow. He should know more." Then she turned and walked away.

He and I had wandered into an art gallery to while away part of the afternoon. The paintings were amorphous blobs in bright colors and I'd used my meager grasp of his language to make joking interpretations: this one is two eggs on top of an orange, that one is a chicken in the road. I know those simple words. I do not know enough grammar to ask, "Why aren't you at work today?"

I noticed the Japanese woman across the gallery and asked her to take our photograph. Mistakenly I assumed she was a tourist. Married to a rug dealer (of course), she had lived here several years and spoke the language. I needed her help.

The wise travel writer Jan Morris tells us that "Strange people go to strange places so they won't feel so strange." I love being in a foreign place. I am free to become a different person. Remember Katherine Hepburn in *Summertime*? She was a spinster transformed by her adventures in Venice. (Actually her heart was broken, but then it was only a movie.)

So it was with nothing more than freedom from my own identity — which can pass for happiness — that I wandered a wide pedestrian boulevard one balmy spring evening. The street was dense with tourists ending package tours, free for a few hours. They are a curious lot oddly dressed in garish warm-up suits, peering warily into shops, chattering about the exchange rate, calculating prices in their own currencies. They are not at all interesting. The men I watch in this male-dominant culture are distinctive; lean, dark, severe — they rarely smile. It is they who absorb my attention. Some people find them forbidding. Not I. Their reserve allows my imagination full rein.

During an evening stroll one moves leisurely. There really isn't any place to go, no need to hurry, nevertheless one is alert, eyes open, marking time, searching.

He looked at me. I had surrendered hope for this evening and was heading back to my hotel. I was not prepared. Caught off guard I spun around foolishly in the spot where I stood. The street was jammed with people. That face had vanished. I looked at my feet headed now in the wrong direction and sighed, amused by my private drama. And there, to my left, he stood. I smiled at him as he browsed books in a stall, his eyes above the pages, gazing directly at me. He was quite handsome.

The next moments were delightful, awkward and familiar. He knew hardly any of my language. That is a blessing. People here who speak English often want to sell a rug or leather jacket, things I don't want. Or if they are interested in sex (and offering it for sale), they may be effusive, excessively charming, too slick, too professional, yet at the same time distracted — their eyes flickering beyond me for other prey. He stood next to me; an unspoken declaration. As I stepped forward, he walked beside me. Suddenly we were a couple united by nothing more than a look. I have learned a few words, some innocuously pleasant, others more pointed. I have learned, too, that while this culture is conservative, the guilt and shame that are well known to me, are absent here. He smiles agreement in response to my vulgar phrase.

As we walk away from the crowd, he gestures towards a park along the river's shore, a place I am not familiar with. I am sensibly edgy. With trembling hands and wide eyes I pantomime fear. (Maybe in a previous life I was a silent film actress. Interior monologues are very normal in circumstances like this; one remains oneself endlessly that one is not lunatic.) He draws in his breath, offended that I should question his character. He thumps his chest to signify he is honest, reliable. To support his claim he pulls from his breast pocket a government ID card. I can see his pho-

# Columnists

EXPAND YOUR MIND

**Please Take Note**

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

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tograph, read his name, his father's name (I smile, such a sweet, curious custom), his date of birth (I shudder). I accept this novel evidence and opt to remain calm, to behave as if at ease. We proceed into the night. Is it the dream of romance or only the surcease of boredom that has enveloped me? To have a chance is a miracle, to take a chance with a handsome man is beyond miraculous. I am in another world, exactly where I want to be.

The sympathetic traveler observes the local customs. There is one detail that must be addressed, a delicate topic not easily understood by foreigners and often offensive to people burdened with a puritanical mind. Over time one has learned that sexual liaisons upon occasion involve a shift of cash between participants. Out of courtesy and with intention to avoid embarrassment I ask in advance. He is, I think, mildly surprised and hesitates a moment then says yes. It is my turn to be surprised. How much? He declares his price speaking in English: seven dollars. It is the first clue and I ignore it. (I can count to five in his language and I know the word for 10, the other numbers are a jumble. Could he be similarly ignorant?) This insignificant amount is barely the cost of a cheap dinner at home. I do not object. Later that evening I hand over a bill worth twice that amount.

The evening in the park is fine. We begin our return and he veers toward a street I do not know. A deserted, gloomy street. I imagine bandits and goblins lying in wait. I will not walk that way. (Lillian Gish refuses to step onto the ice floor.) To reassure me he hands over his ID card. I shove it deep into my pants pocket. I will return it when I am safely home. I reap the benefits of this transaction and feel closer to him, closer now than during sex. We say goodbye a block from my hotel. I gather he would prefer not to be observed by the ever present security stationed in the lobby. He suggests we meet the following day. (Katherine beams, her *Summertime* holiday is becoming a treasure.) I haven't a care in the world.

At 11 a.m. he is waiting for me. I am faced with an unsettling observation. He is wearing the same clothes he wore the night before and has not shaved. That unshaven look is common here but the shirt and trousers cause me concern. Otherwise he is well groomed, neat and clean so my doubts — the questions I cannot ask — slide to the back of my brain. It's a glorious day, sunny and cool. We pass the hours aimlessly enjoying the mild spring air, drinking tea in a garden, fitfully thumbing my phrase book then slapping it down and laughing.

When it's dark we return to the park. Lightly I inquire about money (using foreign words sounds less crass). Why am I surprised he answers yes? Then, matter-of-factly he adds, "I am gigolo." Despite the evidence in support of that claim, I am taken back. He is not my idea of a prostitute. I've talked to many men who have used the word gigolo cheerfully. They have no reservations about their status; they are, in fact, proud. They are tedious, too, for all the obvious reasons. Moreover, at the prodding of a highly moral friend I have resolved, this visit, to avoid commercial sex. Now I must conclude I have been dallying with a whore. I'm caught in romance, a fool.

In the afternoon as we sat in the tea garden he had written his name, address and two phone

numbers, home and office, on a scrap of paper. I handed him my business card. We looked at my map of the city and he pointed to the quarter where he lives, then to an area slightly beyond the city limits, near the airport by the shore and gradually I understood that it is a place where we can stay together, he suggests, for a week on my next visit.

The trouble with dreams, formless little things, is that they take shape, get hard. To prod them into probabilities only serves to introduce anxiety in the ugly guise of hope. A traveler should have no hope beyond the day. I smile at his suggestion. (Later, at night, he adds that our week by the sea will "be without charge.") I regard my companion with a cooler eye. His face has an earnestness I find disconcerting. It means something. It is a piece that doesn't fit. He needs me. He is a whore, yet he is unsure of himself. He has always been there waiting for me when I arrive for our rendezvous. I am getting a very American headache.

By the time we stumble on the art exhibit I have resolved to disentangle myself. I want to be free again. I use the Japanese woman who has taken our photograph to interrogate him. I want some answers. I inquire about his family, his birth town, his military service. And why, I ask, is he free during the day when he should be at work? She translates that he has taken the day off to escort me, the foreign guest. And his job, where exactly does he work? At home. He is a freelance accountant. Is such a thing possible? (Everything is possible here — that's what the smiling guides declare.) We talk a bit more, three nationalities, three languages and before we part, she warns me softly, "Be careful, this man is not what he says he is."

Hearing this warning, you might expect I'd be frightened. Instead I say in an off-hand manner, "Yes, I know he is not an accountant. Probably he has no job at all, but if he wants me to believe that, I will."

If that is the worst — that he is not an accountant — I can live with it. She cannot know that the last three nights we have had sex under a canopy of black trees along the river bank, smoking cigarettes on a bench, watching the stars above minarets. Occasions for danger have come and gone.

But it is a confusing situation for he grows more friendly, more intimate with every passing hour. We link arms now as we walk. He points out a notable building. He leads me past a street where there is a famous bordello. He tells me he likes sex with me.

When we travel dreams become possible. Desire, whether for romance or simply excitement, is not buried deep. As we plod up the steep hill past the whorehouse I stop to catch my breath and the thought comes to me. For all my anxiety I have overlooked one fact in plain view. He is nice. In this place where anything is possible, where things may not be what they seem, this man has dreams of his own. My boyfriend is a gigolo wannabe.

**The Law and Us**

By Ellen Yacknin

**Court says forget it**  
Sometimes significant events occur in the judicial arena that don't directly involve the legal rights of gays and lesbians, but nevertheless have a profound

impact on all of us. A recent decision by New York's highest court is one of these events. Unfortunately, the opinion in *Mixon v. Grinker* reflects the darker side of our judicial system.

Homelessness, a shameful and needless problem in a civilized society, has swelled exponentially throughout the country in recent years. New York City, home to thousands of the world's wealthiest people and hundreds of thousands of America's poorest, has an inordinately large number of homeless citizens. It is estimated that there are from 60,000 to 80,000 homeless persons in N.Y.C., 25,000 of whom are in shelters on any given night.

The City has responded to the crisis, but only incrementally, and only reluctantly after a series of lawsuits brought by homeless people. New York's obligation to provide shelter for the homeless emanated from a 1981 consent decree in a 1979 lawsuit, *Callahan v. Carey*, in which the City agreed to provide shelter to homeless men. In 1983, *Eldredge v. Koch* extended the city's obligation to homeless women (it's remarkable, isn't it, that even in the 1980s it took another lawsuit beyond *Callahan* to get the City to open its shelter to women.)

Finally, in *McCain v. Koch*, New York's highest court, the Court of Appeals, ruled in 1987 that where a government agency has undertaken to provide emergency housing for families (another four years to add the kids) New York courts have an obligation to ensure that the emergency housing satisfies "minimum standards of sanitation, safety and decency," is "minimally habitable," and is "free of potentially significant health threats."

*Mixon v. Grinker*, the most recent of the homelessness lawsuits, was brought in 1988 on behalf of a group of homeless people even more stigmatized than women and children — homeless individuals with HIV. By 1988, of course, AIDS could no longer be ignored as a perilous epidemic within N.Y.C., and it was clear that thousands of homeless New Yorkers had HIV and AIDS.

Before *Mixon* was filed, the City had adopted a policy of providing homeless PWAs with individual housing units or rent subsidies to enable them to live apart from non-infected persons. The same was not true of homeless people with HIV related illnesses, but not symptomatic AIDS. The *Mixon* suit was brought to compel the City to provide noncongregate (you know, not barrack-style) shelter for homeless persons with HIV related illnesses, similar to that provided for PWAs.

Almost immediately after the suit was filed (funny how sometimes defendants "see the light" just after a lawsuit is filed) New York City devised the "Comprehensive Care Program," in which segregated space in five City shelters was to be set aside for people with HIV related illnesses, and for other homeless individuals in frail condition. However, these spaces would be dormitory style, with up to 12 people in a room. No one with HIV related illness would be required to reside in this space, but anyone seeking admission would have to submit to a skin test or X-ray for tuberculosis. If tested positive, a person would be referred to a hospital, and not admitted to the shelter. (As usual, it was established that such tests cannot always determine the existence of active TB in a person with an HIV infection, particularly in persons with multiple drug resistant TB.)

People in the CCP would still share common eating and communal facilities with other shelter residents, but would have enhanced nutrition and special social services. Moreover, medical clinics, open every day, would be established in each shelter with a CCP.

While the CCP had some noteworthy aspects, the City acknowledged at trial that it simply did not have the resources to provide such housing on a non-temporary basis, nor was there any prospect of providing enough housing (either temporary or permanent) to all homeless New Yorkers with HIV related illnesses.

Because the CCP was created after *Mixon* was filed, the *Mixon* plaintiffs amended their complaint to respond to the CCP. They contended that while generally a good start, the CCP policy of housing persons with HIV related illnesses in congregate settings, as opposed to individualized shelter which would segregate them from individuals who might expose them to infections, presented a serious and immediate threat to their lives. The most dangerous health risk, they argued,



was the CCP's failure to adequately address the spread of TB among those in the CCP.

In 1983, Justice Edward Lehner held that while persons with HIV related illnesses are not entitled to the same type of shelter as PWAs, the CCP policy of barrack-style housing was nonetheless irrational. He directed that no more than four persons should be placed in one room, that CCP beds should not be less than eight feet apart, that ventilation in such housing should meet minimum standards, and that plaintiffs should have access to separate eating and bathroom facilities in City shelters.

As is often the case in these split decisions, no one was happy and everyone appealed. Plaintiffs contended that four persons in a room was too many. They also appealed Justice Lehner's ruling that people with HIV related illnesses were not entitled to the same shelter as PWAs. Defendants appealed because they contended that, as the government, they had a right to set up a CCP program with 12 persons to a room. Both plaintiffs and defendants agreed that there was no factual basis in the record that the "four-person solution" would meet "minimum standards of sanitation, safety and decency."

In 1995, the intermediate appeals court in New York City disagreed with plaintiffs that people with HIV related illnesses were entitled to the same shelter as PWAs. The court agreed, however, that the 10-volume trial record demonstrated persuasively that neither the City's CCP nor Justice Lehner's plan would adequately protect plaintiffs from TB, and thus did not meet minimum constitutional standards. The appellate court remanded the case to trial court for further hearings, but the defendants appealed first.

This June 11, in what Housing Works Inc. (a N.Y.C. non-profit that works on behalf of homeless PWAs) called a "clearly political move," the N.Y. Court of Appeals reviewed a year's worth of litigation, 10 volumes of trial testimony, and two carefully constructed court decisions, and threw the *Mixon* plaintiffs out of the courts altogether.

The High Court did not bother to look at the merits of the case. Instead, it held, in a two-page decision, that because the City established it, a court had no authority to review the adequacy of the program, no matter how poor or dangerous it might be. In other words, the court said to the plaintiffs, "So long, farewell, and close the door behind you."

The good news is that the plaintiffs and their attorneys, while disheartened, are not going home. "Conditions in the shelters are worse than ever, and we're going to challenge the City again and again until they meet their legal and moral obligation to all homeless persons living with HIV illness," said Ginny Shubert, one of the plaintiffs' attorneys.

The other good news is that while the *Mixon* decision reveals what is despicable about the courts at times, the litigation reflects what is good about lawyers at times. (No jokes, please, I've heard them all.) Throughout its protracted history, private counsel from a large firm, Kornstein, Veisz and Wexler, have represented plaintiffs "pro bono" (that's "for free" in Latin), and they're committed to carrying on the fight. That's good, because the *Mixon* decision is sure to guarantee that the fight will continue for some time.

### Political Update

By Andrew Lee

#### DOMA and ENDA



For the past several weeks the lesbian and gay community has witnessed a piece of major anti-gay legislation, erroneously named the

"Defense of Marriage Act," speed through Congress. Even usually gay-friendly politicians have been jumping on the bandwagon of this bill which attempts to negate the U.S. Constitution's "full faith and credit clause" at the same time it legislates discrimination against same-gender couples.

Despite campaigns to flood Washington with letters, phone calls and faxes urging representatives to oppose this bill, nothing seems to be able to stop it. Until now, that is. A bold strategy has recently emerged to put the proponents of the anti-gay "Defense of Marriage Act" (DOMA) on the defensive — amend ENDA to DOMA.

ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (S. 932/H.R. 1863), would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the workplace. It is a carefully drafted piece of legislation which specifically prohibits both preferential treatment and quotas. It also exempts small business, religious organizations and (of course) the military. It does, however, ensure millions of Americans of fairness in the workplace.

The anti-gay supporters of DOMA constantly tout polls showing that 70 percent of all Americans are opposed to same-gender marriages. These supporters claim they aren't anti-gay but just doing what their constituents desire. They are ignoring a recent *Newsweek* poll showing that nearly 84 percent of Americans oppose discrimination against lesbians and gays in the workplace. Amending ENDA to DOMA calls the bluff of those claiming they aren't anti-gay. Anyone who is not anti-gay can easily support a fair bill like ENDA. In addition, unlike DOMA, ENDA serves an actual need. Currently none of the 50 states allow same-gender marriages. However, in 41 states (including our own New York) it is legal to fire an employee solely on the basis of sexual orientation.

ENDA has a real chance of passing in the Senate. It currently has 30 cosponsors in the Senate, as well as support of many Fortune 500 companies and several governors, including Republican Governors William Weld (Massachusetts) and Christine Todd Whitman (New Jersey), and President Clinton. By amending ENDA to DOMA, the Senate will finally be forced to vote on this legislation.

In order to succeed we need to contact our senators by calling the U.S. Capital (202-244-3121)

and urge Sen. D'Amato and Sen. Moynihan to support ENDA as an amendment to DOMA while at the same time opposing DOMA. (Yes, in the world of Washington it is possible to oppose a bill while at the same time supporting an amendment to it.) In addition we need to write our senators at U.S. Senate, Washington D.C. 20510. A brief sample letter would read:

"I urge you to support ENDA (S. 932) as an amendment to DOMA (S. 1740) and to oppose DOMA at the same time. While ENDA addresses a real need, the protection of lesbians and gays in the workplace, DOMA is an unconstitutional attempt to discriminate against same-gender couples. While no state currently recognizes the rights of same-gender couples to marry, job discrimination against lesbians and gays is widespread.

"I along with nearly 84 percent of Americans believe lesbians and gays should not lose their livelihoods because of discrimination. Because of this I urge you to support ENDA.

"I also believe marriage is a basic, fundamental human right. The decision of whom one should marry is an intensely personal one. The federal government has no right making that decision. Nor does the federal government have any right telling states which laws of other states they can ignore. Because of this I urge you to oppose DOMA.

"As one of your constituents, I look forward to hearing your views on these two important issues."

The letter can be as brief or as long as you wish; the important thing is to write it.

### Woman to Woman

By Jamiyah Miller

#### Keep the faith



As women we are well acquainted with the pressures of day-to-day living. We worry about the future, about job se-

curity and about being able to pay our bills. We're concerned about our health, personal relationships and the welfare of our families.

Our worries are global too: the quality of our water and air, the overall status of our community, state, country and the world at large. While it is true that there isn't enough common sense, justice or love at work in this world, it is also true that we do have the power to make things right.

Living hasn't been very easy for many of us. It also wasn't easy for those who cleared the path for us. Crisis is nothing new in our community. In many ways we have always been under siege. But today we are experiencing a crisis not just from outside forces, but internally as well... we are losing hope.

Suppressing negative thinking is a constant struggle, a struggle I've been engaged in most of my life. I worry, even though I know that it doesn't make a situation better or that problems will dissolve. Worrying clouds our vision, confuses our minds, weakens the body and kills the spirit. When that happens we become ready receivers for doubt, fear and depression: those things that constantly gnaw at us. We become stuck instead of making necessary moves to correct what is not happening in our lives or in the world. When we lose hope, we disconnect from our power. We stop imagining a brighter future that we can create because we don't see our present situation as what it really is — an opportunity to bring about change.

By definition, change is upsetting. And people will go to extremes to avoid being upset. ("Things are fine," "There is no problem," "I don't want to make waves"). We avoid thinking about or discussing a problem until it has become too big or too urgent to ignore. We bury ourselves in work, partying, drugs or anything to avoid that uncomfortable feeling.

We honestly believe that the art of living is found in the seeking of pleasure and the avoidance of pain, when the very reason for our being is to be present now... to experience whatever happens to us and around us so that we can grow in awareness, courage and wisdom.

In every crisis there is a message. Crisis is life's way of forcing change. Change is inevitable. Change is about breaking down old structures and shaking loose negative habits so that something new and better can take their place. Do not get me wrong. Crisis is painful, but new life is rarely possible without them.

Life is about change, so it is a waste of precious time and energy to worry about or to resist that which is central to life — the very thing that orders and governs the universe. We must get into the flow, do the work that is necessary to direct and shape life's changes so that we will benefit rather than be battered.

We are one another's hope and we are sustained by an awareness that despite appearances, there is a master plan and a divine order at work. If we trust in that, we can turn our fears into arrows of purpose with faith as our guiding aim. Keep the faith.

### The Authentic Self

By Thomas Fronczak, ACSW

#### How we care

At a recent open forum at the Gay Alliance Community Center (May '96), Bill Kelly and I presented on issues of *Sex, Love, and Commitment* in male-male relationships.

Of interest as we were discussing relationship was the notion that before relationship could occur there had to be a *meeting* of two men. As we discussed the methods and skills involved in meeting and engaging others, the notion of "expected rejection" came up from a significant number of the participants in the discussion. It seemed important enough to follow up this important topic here and perhaps in a future open forum.

As we went around the room discussing how men approach others to meet (if they do at all), what was painfully clear was that for many the act of risking to engage another can bring up significant fears. Many of these fears are based on past relational experience, some are created (as "stories" or

"fantasies") in the mind of those involved as to what outcome *may* be, and others are realistic assessments based on factual data. For many the experience of being hurt in the past became pivotal in their decision to put the effort forth to connect or not. It is almost as though there is a sense of protectiveness or guardedness that one learns in order to survive.

What we did not have ample time to get into in depth at the open forum, but which is not to be lost here, are the significant violations (abuses) that gay men and lesbians have had to contend with, growing up in a culture which will not recognize them, at the least (Clinton's non-support of same sex marriages, and the humiliating "don't ask, don't tell" military policy), to outright physical abuse and violence for being, or being perceived as gay (*Empty Closet*, 5/96 cover story about gay bashing of several members of our community).

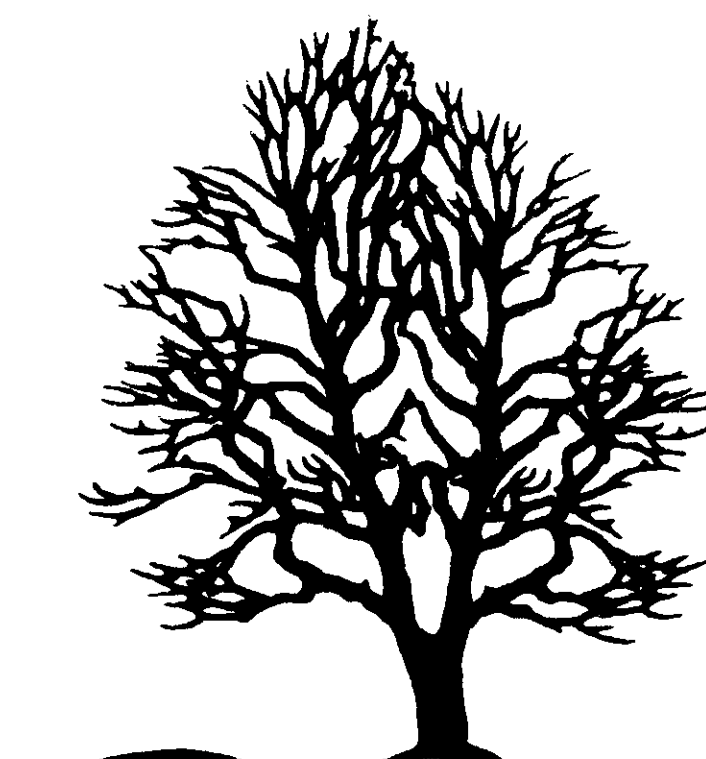
The experience of growing up gay is one of going into hiding of one's true Self in order to survive. Fearing abuse or abandonment, the lesson was "don't let them see who you really are." The message to Self was that "who you are is not OK." While most gay men and lesbians are able to overcome this mindset as their adult Self becomes more securely developed through experience in living, and through support of a larger community, few ever forget what the experience of being ridiculed, teased, mocked, called degrading names, being excluded, or being abused for being gay ever felt like.

This is true with any marginalized group. The pain, hurt, and tears of growing up different from the cultural "norm" and feeling excluded are also experienced by other marginalized groups (i.e. African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, women, Deaf, those living with physical challenges). We live in a culture that can be far too unkind to those different from the majority. What the larger culture teaches is a sort of fundamentalism that states that there is one true way, and if you diverge from that, you are wrong or not to be included. This is an elitist power-over model that dictates victimization. It does not just occur in our own community, but it happens.

What is even more painful to me is the fact that members of our own community continue to judge, mock, and exclude our own brothers and sisters. How many times in our OWN community do we hear someone making fun of an effeminate man, a cross-dresser, or someone into leather, drag or the transgendered community? The other night at one of the dance clubs I was next to someone who was mocking out the way one young man was dancing, because his style was unique. I made it a point to confront the mockery, reminding this person that each person has their own style, and that dancing is about self-expression.

I have had men in my private practice share their hurt, pain, and fear of rejection at feeling "too old" and not being seen as attractive as they age. Some have actually shared comments others have made referring to them as "trolls" and "chicken hawks." The pain is sometimes so severe that some have gone to the point of considering plastic surgery. I have overheard conversations criticizing the way someone dressed, because it was different than the way their victimizer dressed. Other similar comments have been made about someone's hair style, or the fact that they do not look like the guy on the cover of *GQ*. I recently commented on a very attractive man I noticed while out to dinner, and the person I was with commented "Yeah, but his legs are too white." Too white for what and whose standards? I see people compulsively exercising at the gym and dieting in unhealthy ways to mention taking (non-prescribed) anabolic steroids so that they can look like some ideal "their mind."

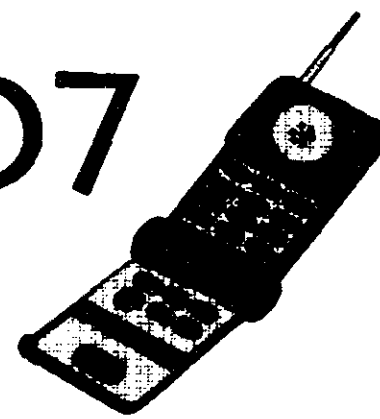
The open forum also touched on the issue of monogamy/non-monogamy in male couples. Differences of opinion were to be expected. The men actually listened to each other fairly well, in an effort to learn about each other. Some held some pretty rigid ideas on the topic. This is fine for them, and I would not minimize anybody's feelings or values on the topic. I ask however, do we have a right to judge someone who is different than ourselves? Our community can be very judgmental of the sexual practices of others (as if this is



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body's business). Persons who express their utility in variant forms (at bath houses, S/M, D, leather, in group scenes, with multiple partners, casually with friends, anonymously, or with different fetishes) have not only been judged, but abated.

Who sets the norm here? Each person defines their OWN sexuality and expression of that. Quite personally I do not care how many people someone is sexual with or in what ways or places they choose to be sexual. What seems to be more important is that the person is in OWNERSHIP of their sexuality and aware of CHOICE. The hope is that the experience is one that is validating, feels good both during and afterwards, whether it be in the context of play or intimacy. Does the person use their voice to communicate their needs and interests? Are the individuals responsible to Self and their partner (i.e. safer sex) with a sense of mutual relational responsibility to who the other person is and how they feel both during and afterwards? Most importantly DOES IT FEEL GOOD, and is this about sexuality in celebration of Self.

One of my greatest concerns is the way that society has been so unkind and outright hurtful to those living with HIV/AIDS. The experience of finding out that one is HIV positive can be initially life-shattering and so emotionally charged that disclosing such information takes place usually only in relationships where there is a significant amount of trust. The tragedy is that a significant secret shared with a friend, is then shared with his friend, and his friend shares it with his friend, etc. The control of who knows is now out of the individual's hands.

People gossip, I believe, about this topic because it is so emotionally charged for everyone involved, whether HIV positive or negative, that the anxiety of the situation needs some outlet. However I would ask that you have respect for the individual living with HIV and allow them to control the disclosure. Needing an outlet for yourself is necessary and perhaps asking permission from the person living with HIV to share the news with a friend is a first step you could take. I have

heard the pain in the stories of men living with HIV when it comes to dating and disclosure. There is almost always feared rejection. A similar fear that often came with coming out is revisited all over again. I suggest we have the greatest of sensitivity and compassion to this issue. After all we have felt the similar fear of rejection growing up gay.

How can all of this happen? Why do members of an already civilized group continue to criticize their own kind? The answers may be as different as those involved. I do think that there is an identification with the abuser that occurs in such situations. Often lacking in self esteem due to abuses by a larger society, I think people find that if they can put someone else down, then that raises not only their sense of self, but sense of power and control. It is really this notion of power-over. The victimizer or larger society is seen as powerful, and to identify with them and put down others is a way of being different from those being excluded and ridiculed. It is most often these people who are being judgmental, critical, and outright unkind who have a lower sense of self esteem. People most often abuse as they have been abused. The cycle continues.

As a community, I suggest that we personally look at ourselves and the comments we make about others. I would suggest not getting involved in conversations where someone is being mocked or put down, and if you find yourself in the middle of one of these conversations, I would suggest confronting not only the issue but the person making the comment. The change takes place with ourselves first before the larger community can change. I suggest we have a responsibility to each other and our community to not replicate the abuses we have all experienced growing up. Perhaps if we make the world more kind through our caring, the fear of rejection that many face when meeting others can be lessened, since we will all meet within a relational field of caring versus "one-up, one-down." After all, it is the rainbow flag that we claim with PRIDE to represent our diversity. Let us all acknowledge and make room for the diversity, not only within our community and each other, but within ourselves.

(A special thanks to one of the participants of the open forum for helping me with the idea for this article. As always, your input is welcome.)

Thomas Fronczak, CSW, ACSW, is NYS certified social worker, in the fields of relationship and sexuality concerns, HIV, and chemical addictions. You can contact him through his private practice at White Spruce at 258-0022 ext. 2323, or e-mail at T.Fronczak@multicom.org

## Womanspirit

By Dr. Paula deChelly

### Best-kept secret

The scarring and wounding of women are not new. Abuse of women and children has gone on for centuries in one form or another, in one place or another. Indeed, the abuse of women is our civilization's best kept secret, and it is a secret that, however unconsciously and unknowingly, we have all agreed to keep.

This changed as the second wave of feminism began to wash over us in the late 1960s, and to leave in its wake a clear picture of the ways in which a woman's world has been more intellectually limited, culturally deprived, socially atomized, geographically restricted, and economically dependent than a man's. The movement of women to redefine (and transform) our history, our daily lives, and our relationships has, among its other gifts, revealed the systemic, pervasive, global nature of abuse of women.

Feminist historians have traced the structural underpinnings of abuse in patriarchal societies; feminist social scientists have uncovered the sociocultural workings of abuse and its repercussions among society's different social/familial groups. At the same time, feminist psychologists have identified the ways in which individual women are wounded by abuse and how the wounds might be healed. There have been spiritual dimensions to all these investigations as feminist theologians have searched for models of spiritual life that do not perpetuate abuse by erasing women from a particular cosmology, promulgating an anthropo-

morphic dominance-submission model of deity, or effacing the body and the earth in their relationship to spirit.

These more scholarly investigations have everywhere been informed, motivated, and/or supplemented by less formal handings together of women to fight for their rights, heal their wounds, and carve out lives for themselves that do not collude with abuse. Women have formed self-help groups, safehouses, consciousness-raising groups, professional/associational support groups, events that showcase women's culture, rape crisis hotlines, historical archives, and myriad other collective endeavors to meet women's needs.

Women's literature (as well as other media) and feminist literary criticism have spoken eloquently of abuse, and it is in this area that women's most personal, deeply felt stories of abuse and male domination have been told. This holds true for contemporary women as well as for women of other ages, although these latter women often veiled their perceptions in imagistic and symbolic code.

The end results of this movement of women to know themselves, heal themselves, claim their inheritances, and live fully in the world has been that the silence that has shrouded abuse for generations has been broken. During the past 20 years, women have been telling their stories and the world has not been the same. What we had been taught to believe about our lives, our families, and our societies was not true. Our abusers turned out to be the people and institutions whose very charge was to protect us and advance our interests.

Telling the truth about our victimization (and our collusion with it) has empowered us. As we began to realize that our experiences as abused women were shared by others, the possibilities for our healing changed and expanded. Recognition of this shared experience has also enabled us to face the ways in which we internalize our oppression and to ask, what psychological characteristics do we have in common that derive from our subordinate status in society?

Dr. Paula deChelly is a psychotherapist in private practice in Rochester, specializing in women's healing.

## RESOURCES FOR WOMEN

### HEALTH:

Monroe County Women's Health Partnership, 1441 East Ave., Rochester NY 14610; (716)473-2652. Comprehensive breast cancer screening services for uninsured and underinsured women.

Elizabeth Wende Breast Clinic, 1351 Mt. Hope Ave. 442-2190. Dr. Wende Logan-Young and an all-woman staff provide mammograms.

AIDS Rochester Women's Health Outreach, HIV prevention. Contact Jamiyah Miller, 442-2220, ext. 3026. AIDS Rochester, 1350 University Ave. ARI also has other services for HIV positive women.

Community Health Network, 758 South Ave. 244-9000. Support group for HIV positive women, "Making Connections." Contact Lyn Blackburn. Meets first and third Mondays, 9:30-11 am. Pre-interview required. "Moms Etc." support group for all female caregivers: contact Sydney Metzger. CHN has many other focus groups and services for HIV positive women and HIV negative partners.

Alternatives for Battered Women, 232-7353. Shelter, counseling. Lesbians welcome.

POLITICAL:

Women Against a Violent Environment (WAVE) Issues of violence against women. PO Box 15650, Rochester NY 14608. 234-9709. www.rochester.edu/SBA/95-75/wav.html

National Organization for Women (Greater Rochester NOW) PO Box 93196; (716)461-

1310. E-mail: RochNOW@aol.com Web page: www.rochester.edu/SBA/95-75/rochnow.html

### SPIRITUAL:

Womynspirit. Celebrating woman-centered spirituality. First, third and fifth Thursdays, 7-9 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 248-3391.

### CULTURAL:

Rochester Women's Community Chorus, 473-7365. (See Ongoing calendar, page 31.)

Eve's Dropping. Locally produced cable TV show by, for and about women. City channel 15, 8:30 pm Sundays; 10 pm Tuesdays. Write 200 Park Ave., Rochester NY 14607.

Lesbian Writers Group. All levels and types of writing. Meets third Mondays, 7-9 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. (On hiatus until fall.)

Silkwood Books, 633 Monroe Ave., Rochester NY 14607. 473-8110.

Women's Performance Project. (Wild Wimmen) All-female performance group. 235-4182.

Iris Rising Productions. Lesbian-based company offers B&B, speakers, retreats, unions, lesbian performers, special events. Write PO Box 254, Rochester NY 14601-0254.

GENERAL:

Women's Resource Center. YWCA, 175 N. Clinton Ave. 546-7740.

Check our monthly and ongoing calendars for more groups and events, and call the GaySource Infoline for referrals, at 244-8640. And send us your information!

sure viral loads above 400 per milliliter. There are variations on this test but they all use essentially the same method.

The second type, bDNA, directly measures the amount HIV RNA. Because it counts the number of pieces of RNA without copying it first, it was initially only accurate for viral loads above 10,000 per milliliter. Scientists have developed better versions of this test that are now being used for research. These new bDNA tests measure viral loads down to 500 and will be available to the public this summer.

Until recently each type of viral load test had its advantages and disadvantages, but these differences have been resolved. Many new tests will soon be available; it is important to know that they all measure the same thing.

What do the results mean?

There are two important measurements of how severe HIV infection is. One is T cell counts and the other is viral load. T cell counts tell how much damage has been done to the immune system at any given time. If T cells are low then some type of therapy is needed to prevent the onset of opportunistic infections. The significance of viral load test is that, unlike T cell counts, they can predict how severe the infection will be in the future. In other words, if viral load is high, the HIV is doing damage to the immune system and will lead to AIDS sooner than if it is low.

The best way to understand this is through an analogy. Pretend that you are riding in a car that is heading toward a wall. Your T cell count tells you how far from the wall you are, so if you have a lot of T cells you are far away. Your viral load tells you how fast you are going, so if you have a high viral load it means you are going fast. Net result: you want to be far away from the wall and going slow.

Before, when all that was available was T cell counts, the only information we had was your distance from the wall. But now with the advent of viral load tests we can tell how fast you're moving. This is crucial because it enables a doctor to say, "The infection is moving too quickly" and then make an effort to slow HIV down, or "It is moving very slowly" and continue to monitor the status of the infection.

The first type of test uses PCR to make millions of copies of the virus's operating instructions known as RNA. By making lots of copies, it is easier for the scientist to estimate how many viruses there are. This is the type of viral load test that was approved by the FDA. It can accurately mea-

sure viral loads above 400 per milliliter. There are variations on this test but they all use essentially the same method.

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## AIDS Directory

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

AIDS Rochester, Inc., 1350 University Ave., provides education, referrals to appropriate service agencies, client and family services, advocacy for people facing HIV-linked discrimination, and other services, including financial assistance and a public education speaker bureau. (716)442-2220 V/TDD (business line) or (716)442-2200 V/TDD (hotline).

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

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

HIV/STD Coordination Project of Monroe County, 855 W. Main St., run through Monroe County Department of Health, provides information, education and training, and maintains a resource library. Sue Cowell, (716)274-6114 (V/TDD).

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

Rochester Area Task Force on AIDS (RATFA) is a collection of agencies providing a multiplicity of resources and services to the upstate New York community. Their offices are located through the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency, which also provides medical literature and newspaper clippings, as well as demographic and statistical data for use in developing health care services. Kelli McMahon, (716)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, hospices, and prisons; information about pastoral resources and advocacy on behalf of people affected by AIDS. (716)989-8050.

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

Monroe County Health Department, at 111 Westfall Road in Henrietta, offers testing and counseling for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. (716) 274 6146.

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

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

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

New York AIDS Institute Experimental Treatment Infoline. Up to date information on clinical trials and expanded access programs. Touchtone phone. 1-800-MEDS-4-HIV; (212)239-5523.

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

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

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

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# GAY GROUPS

IT'S ALL ABOUT HAVING FUN

## Meet People

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

## Empire Bears

The Empire Bears plan a camping summer. On July 12-14 we will be at Jones Pond. You're welcome to visit or share our site. Call Gary at 637-6101 for details, or contact Jones Pond to reserve a space.

On Aug. 23-25 we will be at Camp Hillside in Pennsylvania for their second Bear Weekend of the summer. Four of our members were at the first in June and had a great time.

Our first annual Empire Bears picnic will be held at a private campsite in Orleans County on July 27. We'll supply supper and Sunday breakfast. You supply your own snacks, beverages and overnight gear. Call 637-6101 to register and find out about prices.

If you're thinking of attending our July monthly meeting, take note: it will NOT be held the first Wednesday at the GAGV Community Center. Instead, it

will be at a member's home on Weds. the 10th. Call 637-6101 for directions. See you there. WOOF!

## Basically Treblemakers

Whew! What a pride season it's been! Basically Treblemakers have put in appearances in Washington, D.C., Boston, Buffalo, Rochester and N.Y.C. Playing at a pride parade with tons of adoring fans is just one reason why we love to play.

However, our next big project is gearing up for the Fall Lesbian and Gay Bands of America Conference which will be held in Rochester this September. The highlight of the conference will be playing at the annual Dining for Dollars Helping People with AIDS fundraiser. Over 100 musicians from across the country will be providing a unique experience.

July is our month off, but practices resume again in August. Call 242-0237 if you would like to play with us. We are a community band whose members have a wide range of playing abilities. Basically Treblemakers is open to new members at any time. Come out and join us! Some loaner instruments are available.

Our practices are held at School 12 (The J.P. Duffy School) on South Ave. opposite Highland Hospital from 7-8:45 p.m. on Monday nights. Look for us onstage in the cafeteria. Call 242-0237.

## Summer biking

Summer biking continues for the month of July. We meet Mondays at 7 p.m. at lock 33 on the canal path across from the Jewish Community Center on Edgewood Ave.

Thus far, the turnout of both men and women has been good. On our various trips we have cycled to Fairport and downtown, always making a special stop for ice cream! Beth and John look forward to seeing you. For more information, call 271-5209.

## Boating Club

By Joe Molare

The boats are all back in the water! Summer is here!

Our first event for the '96 season was a rafting expedition down the Genesee in Lechworth State Park. Eight people turned out for the event and all had a great time. We had two of the eight rafts in the Bouilla. Following a three hour trip along the gorge, we enjoyed a picnic dinner in the park before returning to Rochester. It was a great day. Thanks to Chris for organizing. It was so much fun we are planning our next rafting trip in the spring of '97.

Some other events include a boat rendezvous in Irondequoit Bay in August. Call 271-4482 for details and a complete list of events.

## Lambda Car Club

July 4-7 finds classic car lovers from

all over the U.S. converging in Denver, Co. for the "Rocky Mountain High-Great"/LCCI Grand Invitational.

Advance registration is required, but if you simply must go, call Rob for details at 225-0769.

July 11-14 is the "Casino Royale" theme chosen for the Freewheelers Car Club (San Francisco) West Coast meet. Held at the Embassy Suites in San Luis Obispo, Calif., advance registration was required by 6/15 and is sold out.

On July 27, the Lambda Car Club Finger Lakes Chapter will be joining the Rainbow Boating Club at Durand Eastman Park and Beach for a picnic and boating. Call Rob at (716)225-0769 for details.

## Brothers United

Brothers United's membership drive continues through July 28: "a reaffirmation of commitment."

We are pleased to be in our sixth year. All are welcome. For an application call 461-3814. Brothers United's Pride Celebration Week runs from July 25-28.

July 25 (Thursday) Spades Tournament, \$100 first prize, Club Obia, 532 Upper Falls Blvd., 8 p.m. \$5 entry fee.

July 26 (Friday) Lazer and Crystal Showtime, Club Obia, 532 Upper Falls Blvd.; 11 p.m. until?

July 27 (Saturday) - Brothers United fifth annual picnic, Mendon Ponds Park, 12 - 7 p.m. Free. Bring a dish to pass.

July 27 (Saturday) - Post Picnic Jam, Club Obia, 532 Upper Falls Blvd., 11 p.m. until?

July 28 (Sunday) B.U. Brunch. Location and cost to be announced. Call 461-3814 for details.

## Dignity-Integrity

Many gays, lesbians, and bisexuals and transgender people grew up in churches that condemned their sexuality. Thank God there are churches

today where all are welcome — and among these special churches is Dignity/Integrity.

We encourage one and all to attend our services in July on Sundays, 5 p.m. at St. Luke-St. Simon Cyrene, 17 South Fitzhugh St. Some exciting events are being planned for Dignity/Integrity in the future. There's a new Community Council brimming with new ideas.

Some of the things possibly in the works include forums on homosexuality and spirituality; outreach programs to gay youth; discussion groups on the Bible, Christ and homosexuality led by expert theologians.

So if you ever felt turned off by church in the past — why not give Dignity/Integrity a try? Dignity/Integrity Rochester is a faith community of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender people and friends. We worship in the Catholic and Episcopal traditions — but welcome all regardless of religious affiliations. Every 5 p.m. Sunday mass is followed by a joyous social hour. JOIN US! For more information, please call 262-2170.

## Women's hiking group

A new women's hiking group is now forming. It will offer brisk hikes and walking adventures on local trails.

The group will meet on Friday evenings. For more information, call 247-3299.

## PLAGAL

Pro-life? A support group will be starting soon.

For information, contact PLAGAL (Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians), P.O. Box 10035, Rochester N.Y. 14610, or P.O. Box 33292, Washington D.C. 20033; (202)223-6697. The group's motto is "Human rights start when human life begins."

## Men's Chorus

"Heigh ho! Heigh ho! It's off to Tampa we go!"

Well, maybe the verse doesn't scan, but it's the sentiment that counts. On July 6, 35 sleepy (the plane leaves at 6:25 a.m.) but excited members of the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus will take wing for a rendezvous with 5,000 other mostly gay and lesbian singers at GALA V, the quadrennial gathering of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses.

This expedition is the end result of over a year of planning, organizing, fundraising, e-mailing, and patient explaining to Chorus members by Neil Houghton and his indefatigable committee, and it is hard to believe that it has actually arrived.

More details about GALA V appear on page one of this issue, and we shall share the story of all (well, maybe not all) of our adventures in the August Empty Closet. But we especially look forward to July 7, when we shall be carrying the new RGMC banner, made possible in part by special gifts from Arnie Pegish and Marty Dolan of Bachelor Forum, in the Tampa Gay Pride March.

Then the next day we present our program in a morning session along with major men's choruses from Chicago, San Diego, and San Antonio. Even though this is not a competition, we want to do our very best to represent Rochester proudly, so light a candle or stroke your crystal and send your good vibes southward on Monday morning.

On June 15 we gave an enthusiastic,

standing-room-only Rochester audience a preview of our GALA program at the Eisenhart Auditorium of the Rochester Museum and Science Center. Guest artists were the Rochester Women's Community Chorus and their extremely well-received Quintet. RGMC's music director Nick Williams tried something different with Pablo Casal's version of "O Vos Omnes;" he has the men stand in facing pairs throughout the audience and has us sing this harmonically intricate and beautiful piece with eyes closed without direction from him. Many in the audience found this to be the emotional highlight of the evening.

But, as usual, the inimitable Rochettes (John McIntyre, Steve Price, David Skinner, Caryl Waugh, and Nick Williams) stole the show with their toe-tapping renditions of sisterly irreverence. It can't be explained; you had to be there.

Now is the time to think ahead to your fall schedule (Tuesday evenings) and ask yourself if the time has not finally come for you, too, to become a member of RGMC. Pavarotti you don't need to be; many of us in the Chorus had had no prior choral experience, but Nick Williams is such a great vocal teacher that together we can make a beautiful sound that we can't make individually. And ain't that really what it's all about? See this article in the August EC for the times for voice placement, or call the Chorusline at 423-0650 with questions, and we'll get back to you.

## Rangers

BIG NEWS! Check out <http://fangz.com/~rangers> because the Rangers have gone world wide!

We have created a homepage detailing the community services in which the Rangers are engaged. With a simple click of your mouse, you can find information on past and future events, how to join or help, biographies on the members, and a guest book which you can "sign." Included are many interesting "links" to other local sites, and "anchors" for services and businesses who have helped the Rangers throughout our 10 years of fundraising. Color photos from events are to be added in future along with an on line application form for those interested in becoming a member. Many thanks to Jim Wegman for his countless hours of preparation and technical expertise in creating our web page. Multicom4 is currently installing new hardware and should be up and running soon. Be a Cyber Ranger and visit our site often!

The June Scavenger Hunt benefit for Alternatives for Battered Women was such great fun that the hunt will now be an annual June event to benefit a worthy cause. Although there was low participation turn out, those who did had a riotous time searching for clues in the six participating host establishments. Special thanks to Anthony's 522, The Avenue Pub, The Bachelor Forum, Common Grounds, Mother's 40 Union, and Tara for their generous donations and for co-hosting the hunt. Hats off to Common Grounds for the wonderful bagel, coffee and mimosa bar at registration and to Jerry and Kevin at

Mother's 40 Union for the delicious buffet and great service during the finale festivities. Among the prizes awarded were a portable stereo CD/cassette/radio, a Waterford crystal clock, a Fernando Alvarez art print, a giant Igloo cooler on wheels and dinner for two at Mother's 40 Union. Kudos to treasurer and event chair Jacquie Bailey and Ranger Cheryl Marko for their tireless preparation for this event.

The Rangers will be proudly marching in this year's Gay Pride March on June 22. We will also be represented at the Gay and Lesbian Cultural Festival at Brown's Race following the parade. Stop by our table to find out more about us.

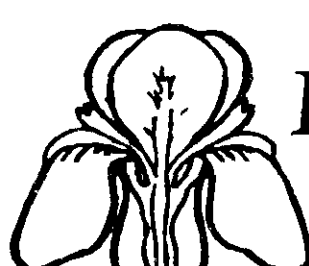
Apicnic did you say? YES! The Rangers are resurrecting our annual picnic this July 21 at Durand Eastman Park. In the past we have taken July as a sort of hiatus, but... what the heck! It's July and outdoor dining is a must. But, so the Rangers can enjoy the day as well, it will be catered. The menu includes baked chicken, sausage with peppers and onions, baked ziti, burgers, Zweigels hot, salt potatoes, mac salad, and assorted fruit! We'll also supply the kegs, soft drinks, and ice; a deal at \$10! Advance sale tickets only will be available starting July 1 at your favorite libation station and must be purchased by July 17. We'll have plenty of lawn games and contests, our famous 50/50, music, dancing, and hot summer fun! You may want to remember your picnic gear, chairs, blankets, bug spray, etc....

Aug. 18 will bring our annual Mexican Fiesta Carnival Benefit on the patio at Tara. If you were there last year you know that it's an action filled day with carnival games, raffles, valuable prizes, great music and Mexican fare. The grand prize raffle this year is for a full-sized pinball machine! So, be a clown and come to the carnival.


The Avenue Pub will host our Sept. 15 Hawaiian Luau and Tea Dance to benefit Threshold Center for Alternative Youth Services. Threshold loses much needed funding because of their pro-choice policies and provides complete health care, testing and treatment for HIV, GED programs for high school dropouts, counseling and health education for qualifying Rochester area youths. Along with Polynesian food there will be a best tropical costume contest and a limbo contest, island music, various games and wonderful prizes.

We would like to welcome our newest member, Alex Swydydnytsky. Alex was unanimously accepted as a Ranger at our last business meeting and we're sure that his desire to help in our efforts and his musical talents will be a definite asset to our group. Maybe Ivana Jackemoff will have an escort to the Christmas gala!

Watch for further details on our upcoming events in the Empty Closet, on our internet homepage, on Multicom4 local events listings and on our posters. Anyone interested in knowing more about the Rochester Rangers can write to us via snail mail at Rochester Rangers, 1361 Ridgeway Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14615, or email [rochester\\_rangers@multicom.org](mailto:rochester_rangers@multicom.org). Remember our motto "you help us help others."

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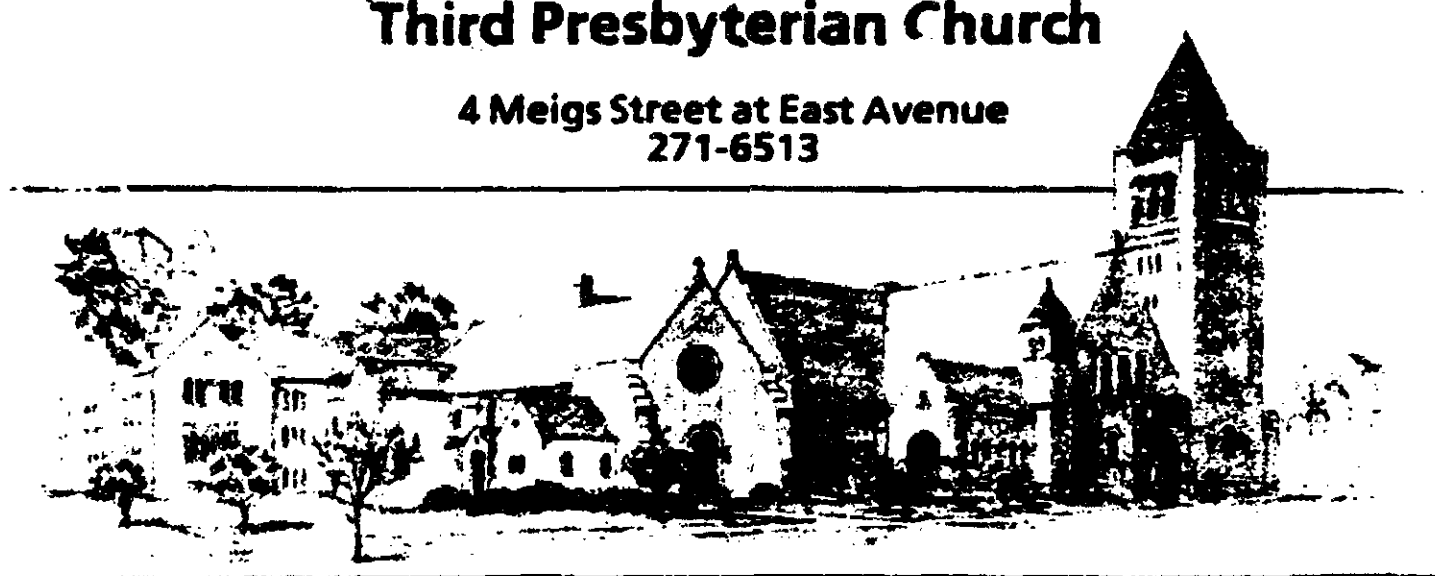
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**SAT. 20TH BOB DIETCH**

**FRI. 26TH BOB DIETCH**  
**SAT. 27TH BOB DIETCH**

Columns continued from p. 23

Here are some guidelines for judging how fast you're going: if viral load is under 2000 copies per milliliter (moving slowly) HIV is posing little threat to the immune system; under 10,000, (just rolling), HIV is probably causing minor damage to the immune system. A viral load of greater than 10,000 (casting) is causing some damage, and over 30,000, (moving fast) can result in significant damage to your immune system. Note: people with full blown AIDS can have viral load test results in the millions. Since now there is medicine available that slows HIV, you need to get a viral load test to best manage the treatment of this disease.

**How to use the results?**  
 The results of viral load tests, when considered alongside T cell counts, are a quicker and more accurate way of choosing when and what type of

therapy is necessary. For people who are not on antivirals the viral load test can suggest when to begin using them. People already taking antivirals can use viral load tests to decide if they are working, and when to switch them.

To manage HIV it is best to have a series of test results to begin with — two viral load tests and T cell counts taken two to four weeks apart is a good starting point. One test isn't going to do it because the results can vary. This series of tests will tell a person if they are stable or if HIV is damaging the immune system and intervention is necessary. If viral load has been rising or is over 30,000 or T cell counts are below 500 and have been dropping faster than 100 per year, or T cell counts are below 300, aggressive treatment is in order.

If aggressive treatment is necessary, talk to a doctor about what antiviral combination would be

best to start on. Use a combination of antivirals because it has been proven that combination therapy extends life and health far above and beyond the use of one antiviral at a time.

Before starting new therapy get a viral load test; after one month of antiviral therapy get another viral load test. If the therapy is working the results of the second viral load test will be significantly lower than that of the first. In this case you are on an effective therapy, and should stick with it, and monitor viral load by having another test every three months. If the viral load doesn't go down then the doctor should probably switch treatments.

Treatments which drop viral load are usually associated with better results, and it seems that the more powerful the reduction in viral load and the more sustained, the better. Get a viral load test now and act on the results with a doctor familiar with HIV illness and the recent developments in its treatment.

**What to watch our for?**

As HIV illness develops the levels of virus can go up and down. Sometimes after flu shots or when you are sick the results of viral load tests can go up very high; so in such cases wait a full month and get the test redone. It is unclear what these short-term rises in viral load mean, but this is one reason why no treatment decision should be based on only one test. In the case where you have one high test that is not consistent with past results, wait one month before checking viral load again. You need more than one test over a period of time so that when it comes to using viral load tests as part of treatment decisions, your doctor has an accurate picture of how you are doing.

**Other uses of Viral Load Tests**  
 When it is established how well a viral load test

can predict a person's long-term health, it could be used to drastically shorten drug studies. This may mean more and better drugs available sooner to those HIV positives who need them. Viral load tests are being used to measure the drug effectiveness in all current protease inhibitor trials. Measurements of viral load were considered along with T cell counts at the FDA hearings when deciding to grant approval for d4T, saquinavir and the AZT/3TC combination. There are additional possibilities for viral load test in the future. A PCR test which measures viral load down to 20, instead of the current 400, is now in development. A variation on the viral load test could be used to screen blood products for HIV if the FDA approves it for that specific use, and might also be used to predict the risk of transmission of HIV from mother to fetus. Most importantly, since every person responds a little differently to antiviral therapies, viral load tests will effectively individualize the treatment of HIV disease. Viral load tests make it possible to find the best drug combination for each person.

*The Boston AIDS Writers Group consists of Robert Folan and Lou Pezz of ACT UP Boston; David Soudras, Zareen Kapadia, Robert Keebs, Derek Libby, and Larry Bressler from Search For A Cure. The Review Panel consists of Dr. Cal Cohen, Research Director of CRI, New England; Dr. Ken Mayer, Research Director of The Fenway Community Health Center; Dr. Susan Baswell, Medical Director Fenway Community Health Center; Stewart Landers, Senior Consultant at John Snow Inc.; John James, Editor and Publisher of AIDS Treatment News; and Karen Timmer, Director of Education at Body Positive in New York.*

*The ideas expressed in this article are those of the Boston AIDS Writers Group and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Review Panel.*

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\$97,500

**LOCATION:**  
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**SCHOOLS:**  
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**APPROXIMATE TAXES:**  
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**SQUARE FOOTAGE:**  
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**LOT SIZE:**  
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**INFORMATION**  
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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Gay Alliance seeks donation of color TV, 24" or larger, and a VCR for use in Community Center programming and events. All donations are tax deductible. Call 244-8640. Thanks!

**Volunteer for the Empty Closet.** We need word processors, database experts, ad designers, writers (especially reporters and reviewers), mailing volunteers, artists and photographers. 244-9030.

Lesbian golfer would like to start an informal network of women to play golf with (non-competitive.) All levels, singles, couples, and men welcome. Interested? Please call Sharon at 234-1930. Celebrating the Goddess.

Women's spiritual retreat with Paula deChelly, PhD, Saturday, July 27. For information and to register call 473-3050.

**SERVICES**

**Sensual body/ muscle rubs.** Let this experienced (five years) considerate, discreet, healthy, youthful Italian male attend to your every need. I'm 5'8", 150 lbs. and built like a runner. Treat yourself, a friend or lover. You won't be disappointed! Athlete or bodybuilder? Great way to unwind after a workout! Appointments in your home or mine (no messy oils used.) Reasonable rates. Ease your anxieties, soreness, stress, worries. Please call (716)235-6688 now. Do you need encouragement in

weight management? Call 473-3050 for information.

The soil is depleted. Minerals are a key factor in good health. Are you needing to do more? Call for information, 473-3050.

**PERSONALS**

The following prisoners are lonely and would appreciate hearing from anyone who will write:

GWM, 20, 6', 190 lbs., blond, looking for someone to correspond with and possibly more. Very outgoing and fun, great sense of humor. Joshawa Reed, 280-197, PO Box 56, Lebanon OH 45036.

Reaching out to establish sincere relationship. I am 30, 6', black hair, brown eyes. Very lonely. Will answer all. Stanley M. Woodbridge, PO Box 5500 Chillicothe OH 45601.

**ROOMMATES / HOUSEMATES**

Park Ave./East, available 9/1, WM to share large four bedroom, two bath house. Washer-dryer. Non-smoker. \$350 plus half utilities. Call 473-3182.

A true child of Bill and Bob is seeking shared housing in the Park Ave. area. If you're seeking someone, please call Savannah at 783-6017.

**Non-smoking, day-working gay male to share furnished home in 19th Ward. \$250/month all. 436-6457.**

**FOR RENT**

Apartment, Oxford area, unusual, with skylights, large living space, in home with women only. 367-2784.

House for rent. Three bedrooms, one bath, garage. 19th ward west of Genesee Park Blvd. \$655/month plus utilities. Available Aug. 1. 461-2273.

Available Sept. 1. Nice one-bedroom Seabreeze duplex, yard, porch, stove, refrig, parking, short walk to Durand Beach and Park. Pet OK. \$415/month plus. Year lease, security deposit. 323-2419.

**Nice one bedroom Westside \$435.** Heat, appliances, extras. Must see. 328-1907 ANYTIME.

**FOR SALE**

Allegheny County. 14 surveyed acres, includes level grown up meadow, woods, views and small stream, on maintained town road, three miles to Jones Pond, one mile to English Hill State Forest, quick drive to Swain and Letchworth State Park. Warranty deed, owner financing, \$15,900. Owner/broker (607)562-3725.

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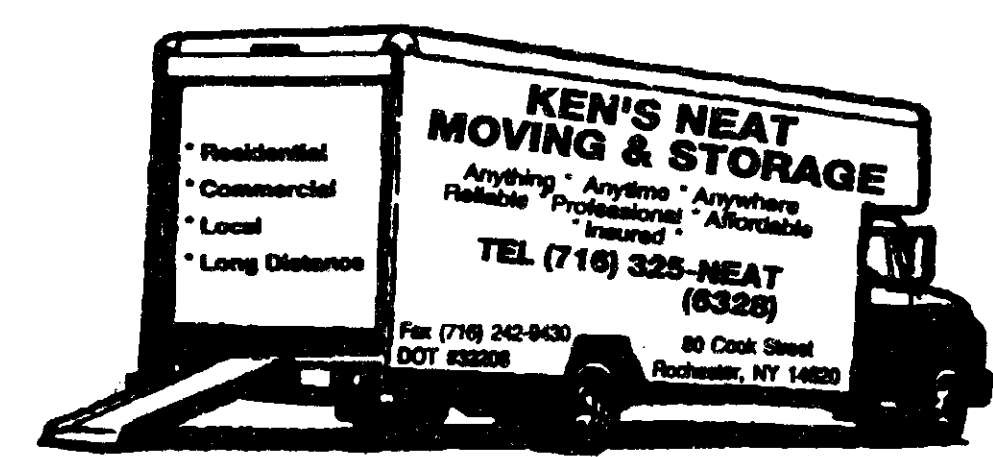
**The Right Price**

Classified ads are \$5 for the first 30 words each additional 10 words is another \$1. We do not bill for ads until they are published, so please read or bring all ads payment to the EC, 179 Adams Ave., Rochester NY 14607. The deadline is the 15th of the month. We cannot accept ads over the phone. We publish free ads for persons on a space-available basis.

**Information**

We will accept only ads accompanied by a name and phone number. Neither will be published, but we must be able to confirm placement. The Empty Closet is not responsible for any financial loss or physical injury that may result from any contact with its subscribers. Advertisers must use their own best judgment. Your Mail on request.

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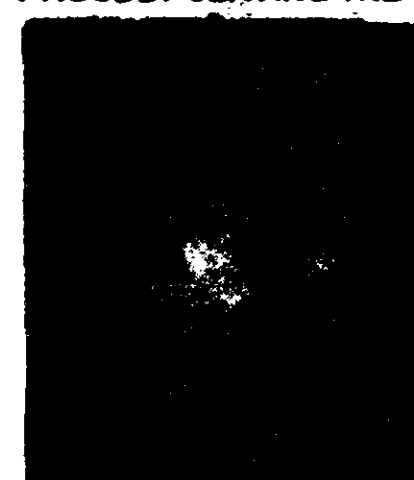
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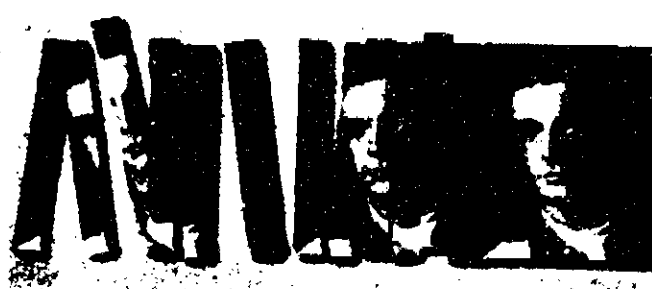
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# Calendar

FOR THE SPARKING MONTH OF JULY

**DON'T MISS THIS!**

July 19: Congressman Barney Frank hosts a fundraiser for Louise Slaughter. 7:30 pm in Corn Hill; call 232-2410 or 288-7267.

Helms Pinata Party; bring your kids. 325-2560.

COAP city hike. 10 am. Call Tom, 271-3653.

**MONDAY 15**  
Empty Closet deadline. Articles, classified ads, letters to the editor, non-camera-ready ads. 244-9030.

**TUESDAY 16**  
COAP frisbee football. 7 pm. Call Rick, 654-6479.

**THURSDAY 18**  
In Our Own Voice. Lesbian actors give dramatic readings of prose, poetry. 7:30 pm, Writers & Books, 740 University Ave. \$5 general, \$4 W&B members. 473-2590.

**FRIDAY 19**  
COAP pool party. 7 pm. Call Paul D., 442-5642.

Barney Frank fundraiser for Louise Slaughter. 7:30 pm, private home in Corn Hill. \$50 tickets available through Rep. Slaughter's Re-election Committee, 232-2410, or Cheryl Camillo, 288-7267.

**SATURDAY 13**  
COAP BBQ. 2 pm, Call David L., 271-4446.

**SUNDAY 14**  
Isaiah House Sundae Sunday. 10th annual Isaiah House ice cream social, 12:30-5 pm., parking lot of Corpus Christi Church, Main and Prince Sts. \$5/person, \$15/family. Proceeds benefit home for the dying.

Metro Justice Bike-a-thon. 10 am -noon, Genesee Valley Park Canalside Shelter. Pedal to raise funds for medical and school supplies, water project for Metro Justice Ciudad Hermosa (Sister City) El Sauce, Nicaragua. Noon: Picnic. Bring a dish to pass. 12:30: Jesse

**FRIDAY 12**  
Third Annual Jewish Lesbian Camp-Out. For Jewish lesbians and children in Huntington, Vt. July 12-14. Primitive camping, workshops, readings, music, more. Bring food. \$25-60 sliding scale. Camping for women with disabilities available. Boys welcome up to age 10. For information or to register write J.L.C., 288 Flynn Ave. #26, Burlington Vt. 05401; or call (802)864-5595.

**WEDNESDAY 10**  
Same Sex Adoption. Panel discussion of adoption by same sex couples in light of recent court decisions. Panel includes Greg Franklin, attorney; Dr. Trudy Baran, therapist; Pam Barrale and Libby Ford, adoptive couple. Moderator: Judge Karen Morris. 7:30 pm, Temple B'rith Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Ave., Brighton.

**WEDNESDAY 3**  
COAP volleyball in Ellison Park. AIDS benefit show. Club Marcella, 11 pm. \$5.

**FRIDAY 5**  
Gaylaxicon VII. Gaylaxian Science Fiction convention, July 5-7, Marriott Hotel, Burlington, Mass. \$35 at door. Write Gaylaxicon VII, PO Box 176, Somerville MA 02143. E-mail Gaylaxians@Gaylaxians.org

**THURSDAY 8**  
COAP rollerblading/biking. 6:30 pm. call Rick, 654-6479.

**THURSDAY 11**  
COAP volleyball. Ellison Park. Also July 18, 25.

an evening with  
**melissa etheridge**  
LIVE

ON SALE JULY 15!

FRIDAY AUG. 16 ONCENTER WAR MEMORIAL 8 PM

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**BORDERS AND THE GAGV PRESENT**

**TRIANGLE TALK**

JOINING THE TRIBE: GROWING UP GAY & LESBIAN IN THE '90s  
BY LINNEA DUE  
MONDAY, JULY 29, 7PM-8:30PM  
DISCUSSION LEADER: BOB OWENS, PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATIVE DISORDERS & SCIENCES, SUNY GENESEO

TRIANGLE TALK, AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION SERIES FOCUSING ON BOOKS AND ISSUES OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE GAY, LESBIAN, AND BISEXUAL COMMUNITY, IS HELD AT BORDERS THE LAST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH. THE PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

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**SATURDAY, JULY 27th, 1996**

Featuring - **THE JOHNNY BOWER BAND**

Proceeds to benefit the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation in cooperation with The Women's Motorcyclist Foundation and "The Pony Express Tour '96"

This years format is a mixed scramble, so all are welcome to enjoy the golf, food, prizes and fun!

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**The Women's Coffee House**  
music • discussion • games

Every Third Friday at 7 PM  
GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Avenue  
Sponsored by the GAGV

## The ONGOING Calendar

**Barbara Deming Memorial Peace Walk**, July 19-Aug. 26. Starts July 19 at Women's Peace Land, Romulus N.Y., ends Aug. 26, New York City. For information call Donna Marie McCabe, (518)273-4287, or visit Web site, http://www.rpi.edu~mccabd

**Empty Closet deadline.** Photographs, camera-ready ads. 244-9030.

**SATURDAY 20**  
Pony Express Tour. Ride-In Breakfast, Churchville-Chili Middle School, 11 am. 234-7075.

**SUNDAY 21**  
Rochester Rangers picnic. Durand Eastman Park. \$10.

Breast cancer benefit. 6 pm-12, Freakazoid, 169 N. Chestnut St. \$5. 288-5447.

**THURSDAY 25**  
Brothers United Spades Tournament. Club Obia, 532 Upper Falls Blvd. 8 pm, \$5 entry fee.

**FRIDAY 26**  
Brothers United Laser and Crystal Showtime. 11 pm - Club Obia, 532 Upper Falls Blvd.

**SATURDAY 27**  
Brothers United annual picnic. 12-7 pm. Mendon Ponds Park. Bring a dish to pass. Free. Post-picnic jam, Club Obia, 532 Upper Falls Blvd. 11 pm - ?

Lambda Car Club Joint event with Rainbow Boating Club at Durand Eastman Park and Beach. Call Rob, 225-0769.

Empire Bears picnic. Orleans Co. Call 637-6101.

**SUNDAY 28**  
COAP beach party. Noon. Call Steve, 787-0642.

Brothers United brunch. Location, cost to be announced. Call 461-3814.

**WEDNESDAY 31**  
Empty Closet mailing party. Help label, stuff and distribute the August issue! 7-9 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 244-9030.

COAP wok-in-the-park. 6 pm. Call Tom, 271-3653.

**SUNDAY**  
More Light Support Group for gay and lesbian people and friends, 12:15 pm, last Sundays. Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St. 271-1608.

**Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG)** 2:30-5 pm, Friends Meeting House, 41 Westminster. Last Sunday. 234-0156

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

**Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church** 302 N. Goodman St., suite 306 (at Village Gate.) 10:30 am. 271-8478.

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

**Rochester Rangers** monthly business meeting, first Sundays. 4 pm, Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave. 251-2122.

**GAGV Lesbian Gay Bi Youth Group** Ages 14-21. Every Sunday, 2-4 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 244-8640.

**Rainbow Amateur Radio Assoc.** Finger Lakes chapter. Business meeting/hunch. Call Bob, 442-7185.

**High Technology Group** Third Sundays, brunch. Call Dave, 359-3337.

**Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous** 7:30 pm. PO Box 10366, Rochester NY 14610-0366.

**MONDAY**  
Rochester Lesbian and Gay Political Caucus

Every second Monday, 7 pm social, 7:15 meeting, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 234-5050.

**Gay and Lesbian Support Group** Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Meigs St. First and third Mondays, 7:30-9 pm, 271-6513.

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

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

**COAP**  
Come Out and Play. Meeting last Monday, 7 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Russ, 473-6407.

**Lesbians Wanting to Have Children** Third Mondays, 7 pm., GAGV Community Center, call 381-1026.

**Basically Treblemakers band** Every Monday, 7-8:45 pm, School #12 (J.P. Duffy School), South Ave. opposite Highland Hospital. 442-0289.

**Summer Biking** 7 pm every Monday in June and July. Meet by lock on Edgewood Ave. 271-5209.

**American Baptists Concerned** Third Mondays, 7:30 pm. Webster House, 57 Ambrose St. 392-2998.

**Lesbian Writers Group** 7 pm, GAGV Community Center, 170 Atlantic Ave. On hiatus til September.

**TUESDAY**  
Rochester Gay Men's Chorus

Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St. 7-9:30 pm. 423-0650.

**Sexual Compulsives Anon.** For those desiring their own personal sexual sobriety. 7:30-9 pm. Write SCA, PO Box 13801, Rochester NY 14613.

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

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

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

**Getting Out** Support/social group. Every Tuesday, 7-9 pm. Tom, 473-3791.

**WEDNESDAY**  
Women's Community Chorus Rehearsals each Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 pm, MCC Chapel, 8975 E. Main St. 473-7365.

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

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

AA group, closed meetings. AIDS Rochester, 1350 University Ave. Every Wednesday, noon to 1 pm.

**The Lesbian Connection** First Wednesdays, 7 pm, Manchester. (716)289-3197.

**Partners of (Incest) Survivors Anonymous 12-Step meeting** Women's Information Center, 601 Allen St., Syracuse. Wednesdays, 6-8 pm. Kerry, (315)451-7123.

**Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost Children** First, third Wednesdays, 11 am-12:30 pm, Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Meigs St. Sponsored by Genesee Region Home Care. Free. 325-1880.

**Film Festival** Third Wednesdays, 7-8:30 pm, upstairs, Genesee Co-op, 713 Monroe Ave. 872-5788.

**THURSDAY**  
Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns

6:30 pm, first Thursday. For location call Ralph, 271-7649.

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

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

**Rainbow Boating Club** 7 pm, second Thursdays, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 271-4482.

**St. Mary's Connection** For gays and lesbians, families and friends. Third Thursdays, 7:30-9 pm, 15 St. Mary's Place (near GEVA.) 271-4241.

**High Technology Group** Third Fridays, dinner. Call Dave, 359-3337.

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

**Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous** 7:30 pm. PO Box 10366, Rochester NY 14610-0366.

**Womynspirit** Celebrating women-centered spirituality. First, third and fifth Thursdays, 7-9 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 248-3391.

**Greater Rochester Gay and Lesbian Business Forum** Second Thursdays, Memorial Art Gallery, 5:30-7 pm. 436-0422.

**FRIDAY**  
Finger Lakes Gay-Lesbian Social Group

First Fridays and third Tuesdays. Call (315) 536-5573 and ask for Sam Edwards, or write PO Box 941, Geneva NY 14456.

**Womens' Friday Night Coffeehouse** Third Fridays, 7-9 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

**Community Christian Fellowship** First and third Fridays, 7:30 pm, Friends' Meeting House, 41 Westminster. 482-0511.

**SATURDAY**  
Gay/Lesbian AI-Anon

First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Rd. 7 pm.

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

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

**Dykes on Bykes** Every Saturday, 2:30 pm, Schoen Place, Pittsford. Meet parking lot next to Wah's Ice Cream. 425-8559.

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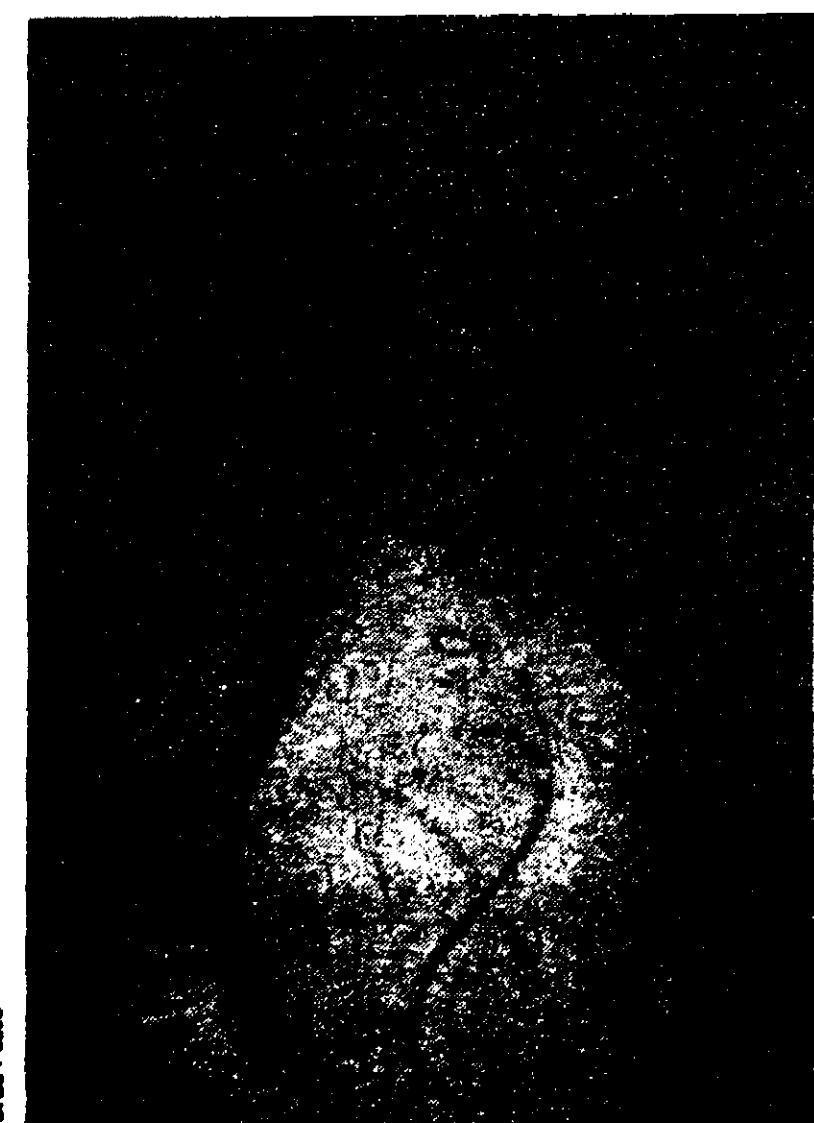
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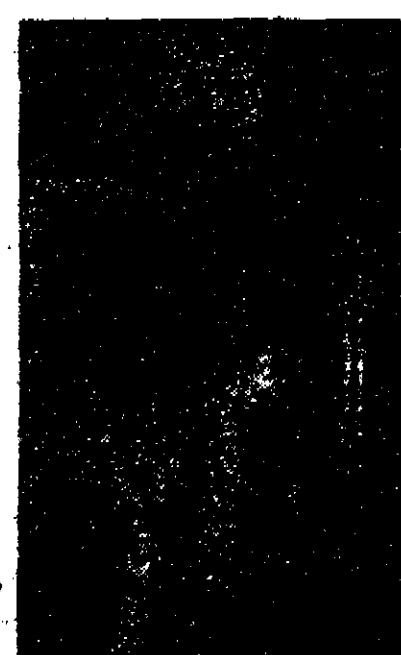
# DUNDALK NEWS

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325-2218



Heather Skye at Club Marcella



Ambrosia Salad at the White Party

# AFTERDARK CLASSIFIEDS

Special Classifieds for the first 30 weeks of the month for the following categories, and all representatives for the Classifieds section. Start or bring ad and payment to The Energy Club, 179 Atlantic Ave., Rochester NY 14607-1253.

### SERVICES

**Sexual body/massage rubs.** Let this experienced (five years) associate, discreet, healthy, youthful Italian male attend to your every need. I'm 5'8", 150 lbs., and built like a runner. Treat yourself, a friend or lover. You won't be disappointed! Athlete or bodybuilder? Great way to unwind after a workout! Appointments in your home or mine (no messy oils used.) Reasonable rates. Ease your anxieties, soreness, stress, worries. Please call (716)235-6688 now.

### FOR SALE

Full length feature gay videos. XXX gay videos - all titles - \$10 each or three for \$25. Top brand names. Call and ask for Tom only at 638-6191 at listed times only: 9 am-2 pm Thurs. through Mon. 9 am-2 pm Tues. and Weds. I will mail you the available titles upon request.

# WANT HIM? GET HIM!

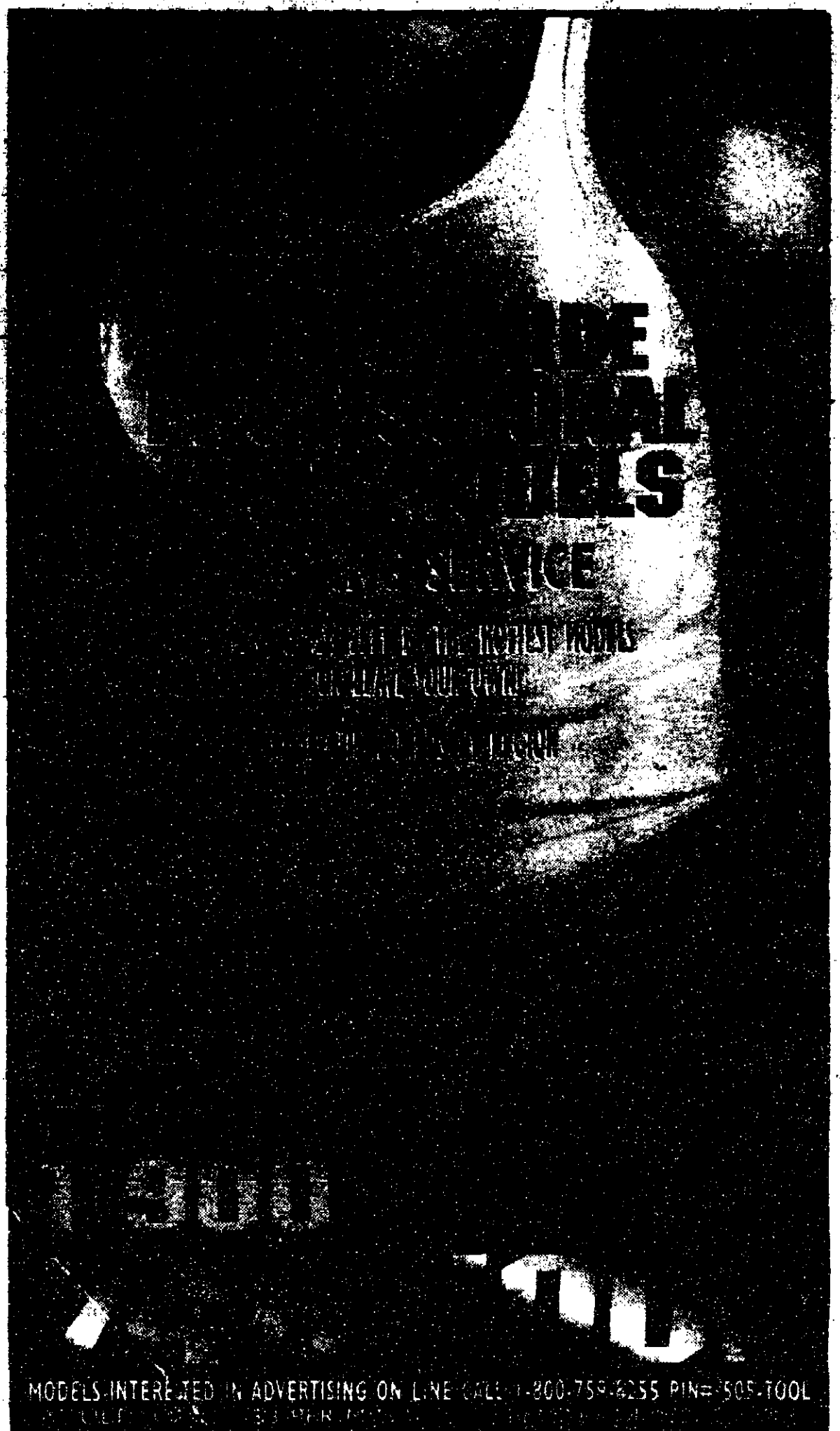


1-900-GET-HIM  
Discreetly billed as WorldInfo \$2.99 per min

**GERBIL**  
A Queer Culture Zine  
Seeks Submissions  
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Subscribe now  
www.gerbil.com

# Afterdark Scene

Afterdark Scene is a new photo feature expanding coverage of Rochester's gay nightlife.



MODELS INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING ON LINE CALL 1-800-755-6355 PIN# 505-100L

# New York Personals

Talking Personals! Hundreds of guys to choose from! Call Now!

1-800-420-2450  
Call the 900 number to respond to ads, browse unlisted ads, or retrieve messages. Only \$1.99 per minute. 18+. C/S: 415-281-3183



**BOY TO BOY** I'm a 27 year old Black male, 5'10, 175 lbs, single, looking for a serious relationship. I'm a professional, successful, and fun. Please call me at (716) 235-6688. (Ad #11287)

**YOUNG AND READY** I'm a 22 year old Black male, 5'10, 175 lbs, single, looking for a serious relationship. I'm a professional, successful, and fun. Please call me at (716) 235-6688. (Ad #11288)

**ONE SECOND ONLY** I'm a 22 year old Black male, 5'10, 175 lbs, single, looking for a serious relationship. I'm a professional, successful, and fun. Please call me at (716) 235-6688. (Ad #11289)

**BOYS WILL BE BOYS** I'm a 22 year old Black male, 5'10, 175 lbs, single, looking for a serious relationship. I'm a professional, successful, and fun. Please call me at (716) 235-6688. (Ad #11290)

**LET'S PLAY & WIN** I'm a 22 year old Black male, 5'10, 175 lbs, single, looking for a serious relationship. I'm a professional, successful, and fun. Please call me at (716) 235-6688. (Ad #11291)

**NEW MASTER IN TOWN** I'm a 22 year old Black male, 5'10, 175 lbs, single, looking for a serious relationship. I'm a professional, successful, and fun. Please call me at (716) 235-6688. (Ad #11292)

**SEARCHING FOR A TEACHER** I'm a 22 year old Black male, 5'10, 175 lbs, single, looking for a serious relationship. I'm a professional, successful, and fun. Please call me at (716) 235-6688. (Ad #11293)

**I'M ALL YOU NEED** I'm a 22 year old Black male, 5'10, 175 lbs, single, looking for a serious relationship. I'm a professional, successful, and fun. Please call me at (716) 235-6688. (Ad #11294)

**WARRIOR OF A TEACHER** I'm a 22 year old Black male, 5'10, 175 lbs, single, looking for a serious relationship. I'm a professional, successful, and fun. Please call me at (716) 235-6688. (Ad #11295)

**PROFESSOR MEETS STUDENT** I'm a 22 year old Black male, 5'10, 175 lbs, single, looking for a serious relationship. I'm a professional, successful, and fun. Please call me at (716) 235-6688. (Ad #11296)

**PEPPY JOCK** I'm a 22 year old Black male, 5'10, 175 lbs, single, looking for a serious relationship. I'm a professional, successful, and fun. Please call me at (716) 235-6688. (Ad #11297)

**GUERRA** I'm a 22 year old Black male, 5'10, 175 lbs, single, looking for a serious relationship. I'm a professional, successful, and fun. Please call me at (716) 235-6688. (Ad #11298)

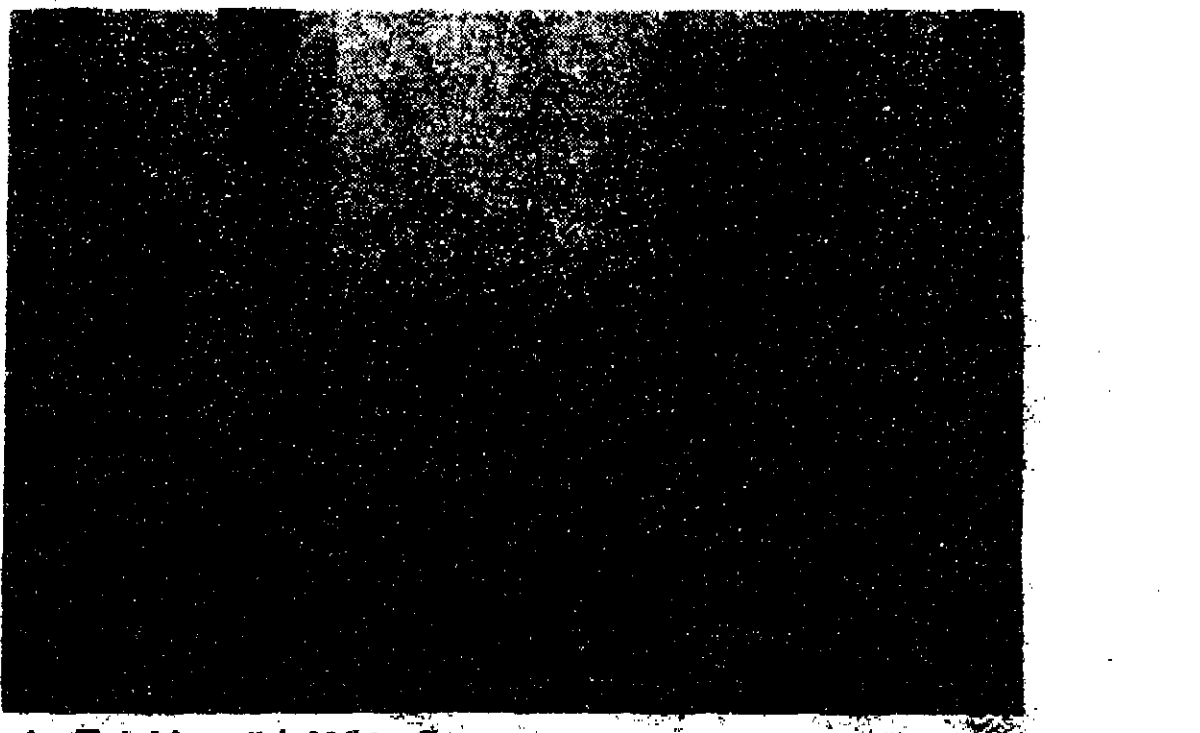
**BOY TO BOY** I'm a 22 year old Black male, 5'10, 175 lbs, single, looking for a serious relationship. I'm a professional, successful, and fun. Please call me at (716) 235-6688. (Ad #11299)

**STRAIGHT TO THE POINT** I'm a 22 year old Black male, 5'10, 175 lbs, single, looking for a serious relationship. I'm a professional, successful, and fun. Please call me at (716) 235-6688. (Ad #11300)

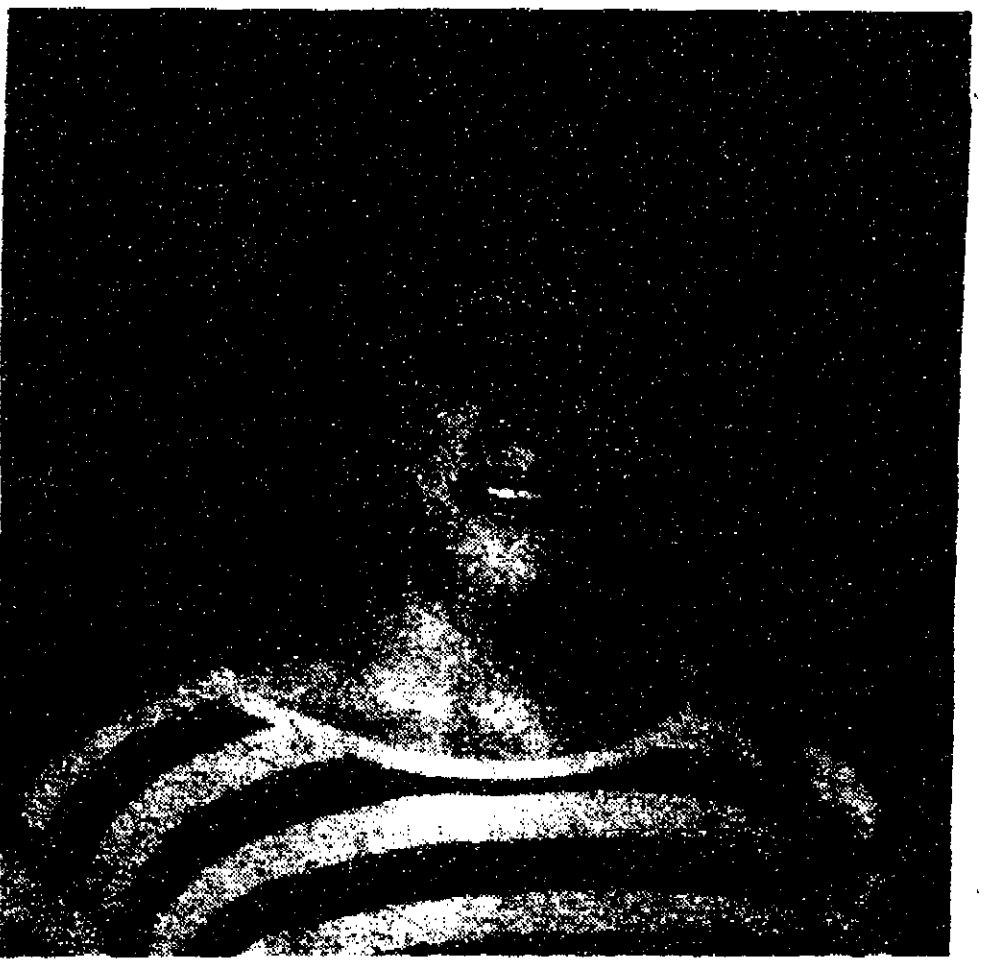
**NO NEED TO BE HONORABLE** I'm a 22 year old Black male, 5'10, 175 lbs, single, looking for a serious relationship. I'm a professional, successful, and fun. Please call me at (716) 235-6688. (Ad #11301)

**ITALIAN ROCK LOVER** I'm a 22 year old Black male, 5'10, 175 lbs, single, looking for a serious relationship. I'm a professional, successful, and fun. Please call me at (716) 235-6688. (Ad #11302)

FOR YOUR FREE AD CALL 1-800-548-6356. THE SYSTEM WILL DO THE REST!



At Club Marcella's White Party



Ambrosia from Buffalo visits Club Marcella



Mays Doughs of Rochester at the Miss Continental Pageant at Club Atlantis on June 16



At Club Atlantis's Off-White Party



